

one misfired, jammed, etc., the first time out. I especially like the Manurhin-Walther double-action .380s, but they still jam at least once in every 50 rounds, and this is unacceptable in a self-defense arm. Do I just have bad luck, or are autos basically unreliable?

Leo Hamel, San Diego, CA

A: You seem to have remarkably bad luck with your auto pistols. With the right ammo, good quality autos are extremely reliable. For instance, I bought a Manurhin PPK/S .380 last year, and it has never jammed in my hands, and I have put 550 rounds through it so far. My guess is that the root of your problems may lie in improper gripping technique. Auto pistols need a hard, firm grip and a rigid wrist to provide a solid gun mount for reliable functioning. You may be using too loose a grip or allowing your wrist to "break" on recoil. Possibly a knowledgeable shooting partner could serve as a coach and help you in this matter.

CYLINDER PLAY

Q: My Ruger .44 Magnum Redhawk has developed some cylinder movement. It moves forward and rubs the rear of the barrel. Do you know any way to solve this problem without sending it back to the factory? Also, a friend of mine told me about a type of foam material that could be cut and placed at the rear of a lead bullet to absorb some of the heat and help prevent leading. Can you tell me about this material and where I might purchase it?

Randy Poole, Gaffney, SC

A: It is not uncommon for magnum revolvers to develop a certain amount of fore-and-aft play in the cylinder with heavy use. Trapper Gun (Dept. GA, 18717 East 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026) offers special washers that fit between the cylinder and crane to correct this problem and maintain uniform headspace.

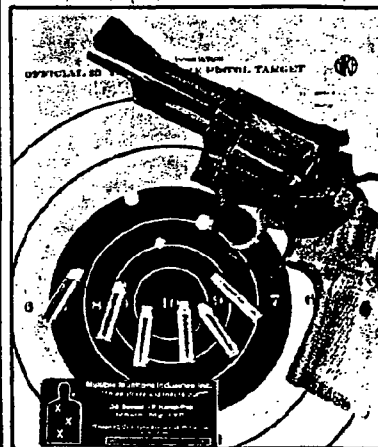
A generation back it was a common practice to use a grease or graphite wad behind a lead bullet's base to prevent leading. Improved lubricants and the increased use of gas checks and harder alloys have made this practice a thing of the past. Some shooters

like to use polyester fibers as a filler, but this is primarily to aid uniform powder ignition. However, I am not familiar with any foam material used to prevent leading. Perhaps one of our readers could enlighten us?

MMI AMMO

Q: I have recently acquired a box of three-projectile, 250-grain ammunition in .38 Special caliber. This is manufactured by Multiple Munitions Industries, Inc., (MMI) in Gretna, LA 70053. Can you give me some information on the ballistics and stopping power of this round?

F. Garcia, M.D., Brooksville, FL



A single, three-projectile MMI cartridge printed this pattern at 25 feet. This specialized ammo should be great for home defense.

A: According to MMI, tests conducted by the H.P. White Laboratories showed that their multiple projectiles travel at over 800 fps for over 350 foot pounds of muzzle energy. Those I tried gave very effective patterns at normal combat ranges. (Longer barrels gave greater dispersion, probably because of higher velocity.) The concept is really not new, being a reversion to the old "buck and ball" loadings of the muzzle-loading era, and these MMI loads should be highly effective for defense use.

RANDALL PARTS

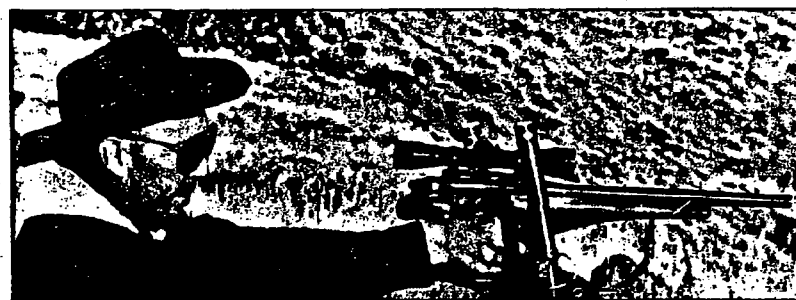
Q: About a year ago, I bought a Randall stainless steel .45 auto. I have been very pleased with this pistol, but recently I heard that Randall is out of business. Is this true? If so, where can I get parts and service for my pistol?

Morton Stern, Beverly Hills, CA

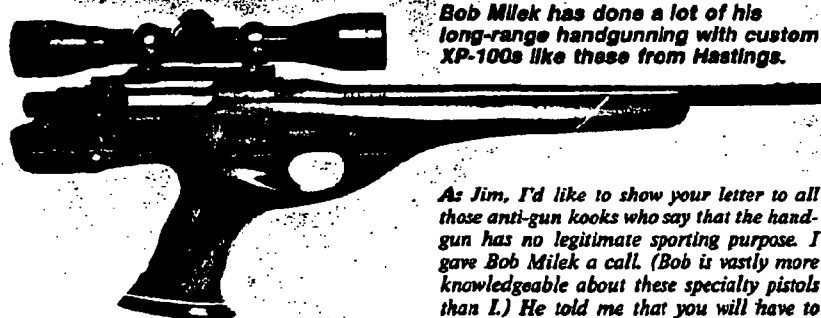
A: Unfortunately, Randall has indeed gone out of business. More's the pity, as they were nice pistols. However, parts and service for Randall auto pistols are being offered by the firm of Randco, Dept. GA, P.O. Box 1981, Monrovia, CA 91016.

S&W M-29 GRIPS

Q: I enjoyed the article, "Come to Grips With Your Handgun," in the June 1985 issue. continued on page 94



Bob Milek has done a lot of his long-range handgunning with custom XP-100s like these from Hastings.



.300 HERRETT

Q: I'm a quadriplegic—the result of a swimming accident—and I've been confined to a wheelchair ever since. I love to deer hunt, but a rifle is too long for me to handle anymore. So I would like to build a custom single-shot pistol on a Remington XP-100 action in .300 Herrett caliber. Could you or Bob Milek tell me what I should do and where I can buy an XP-100 action and trigger assembly? What should the rifling twist be for the .300 Herrett? What would the best bullet weight and load be for mule deer?

Jim Brown, Lawndale, CA

A: Jim, I'd like to show your letter to all those anti-gun kooks who say that the handgun has no legitimate sporting purpose. I gave Bob Milek a call. (Bob is vastly more knowledgeable about these specialty pistols than I.) He told me that you will have to buy a complete Remington XP-100 and have it rebarreled and restocked; no actions are available from the factory. Bob thinks that a 1-in-12 rate of twist would be best and suggested that 125 to 130-grain bullets would be the best choice for mule deer at .300 Herrett velocities. You will have to work up a load yourself to find the one that gives top performance from your pistol. If you haven't lined up a gunsmith, I suggest contacting Bob's own smith, Ralph Hastings, at Diamond R Gun Repair and Sports Center, Dept. GA, 717 Broadway, Thermopolis, WY 82443. I don't know of anyone better qualified for such work.