

THE WASHINGTON ARMS COLLECTORS

GUNNEWS



M A G A Z I N E

NOVEMBER 2021

VOL. 30 - #11



Collecting STAR Pistols

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NOVEMBER 2021

The *GunNews* is the official monthly publication of the Washington Arms Collectors, an NRA-affiliated organization, P.O. Box 400, Sumner, WA 98390. Subscription is by membership only and \$15 per year of membership dues goes for subscription to the magazine.

Managing Editor—Philip Shave

Send editorial correspondence, Wanted Dead or Alive ads, or commercial advertising inquiries to:
gunnewseditor@comcast.net

7625 78th Loop NW, Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 866-8478

Assistant Editor—Bill Burris

Art Director/Covers—Bill Hunt

Copy Editors—Bob Brittle, Bill Burris, Forbes Freeburg

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Office Phone Hours: 9a.m.–5p.m., M–TH
closed holidays

There is no physical office—staff may be reached by phone or email.

SEND OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE TO:

P.O. Box 400, Sumner, WA 98390

e-mail—

office@washingtonarmscollectors.org

Website: www.washingtonarmscollectors.org

Operations

Show & Operations Manager—Emma Cleary (425) 255-8410
Office Manager/Bookkeeper—Marcy Hinckley (425) 255-8410

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NRA

The WAC is affiliated with the National Rifle Association

WAC Officer & Board Positions Open For Nominations—Email or Mail

Consider running for President, Vice President, Secretary, Election Chair or a Board position; see page 7

The All-Star Issue

I'll start with an apology—the feature content of this issue is all about Star pistols—nothing but Star and more Star. Perhaps this is self-indulgent since I like the Spanish guns and collect them.

I have some excuses. I've not found much in the way of coverage on these guns and their history is unknown to most. When they were of current manufacture, there were tests in firearm magazines but finding these articles today is not that easy. For example, the 1975 "Guns Illustrated" annual leads with a story on the Star PD .45 but with questionable historical info. Pistolero and writer Col. Jeff Cooper tested the Star PD and liked it—he inspired me to take a look and buy my first Star. Many authors have been confused about the 9mm Largo caliber and assumed that guns marked ".38" were true .38 Supers. Misinformation about calibers, model names and features is more common than not.

Then, there's my pet peeve—experts who write about the Colt Government .380 as the first locked breech .380. A year ago this statement was published by a gun scribe who should have known better. Star created the first

short-recoil locked breech .380 a mere 61 years before Colt; I correct the record on pages 16-21.

Then there are the Star Supers, still one of my favored pistols in all their calibers. Worthy of discussion both for their military use and unique engineering.

And the Largo cartridge chambering for the Model A and Super A is a mystery to many and U.S.-manufactured only occasionally for a limited market. Yet this was the most powerful 9mm of the early 20th century; not enough space in this issue to cover this.

There is good information available and the best source is the 621 page volume by Leonardo Antaris, Star Firearms. Few will have this book in their library. Antaris had access to factory records and his facts are hard to dispute so I rely on his research.

Finally, rather than quote existing sources, many of which are flawed, I felt some obligation to share what I've learned by collecting the Star pistols. I don't need to speculate as I have actual examples as sources.

Well, that wasn't much of an apology. I truly hope that you'll find something of interest in this issue.

—*Phil Shave, Editor*

Proof	Year	Proof	Year	Proof	Year
A	1927	A1	1955	A2	1981
B	1928	B1	1956	B2	1982
C	1929	C1	1957	C2	1983
CH	1930	CH1	—	CH2	—
D	1931	D1	1958	D2	1984
E	1932	E1	1959	E2	1985
F	1933	F1	1960	F2	1986
G	1934	G1	1961	G2	1987
H	1935	H1	1962	H2	1988
I	1936	I1	1963	I2	1989
J	1937	J1	1964	J2	1990
K	1938	K1	1965	K2	1991
L	1939	L1	1966	L2	1992
LL	1940	LL1	—	LL2	—
M	1941	M1	1967	M2	1993
N	1942	N1	1968	N2	1994
Ñ	1943	Ñ1	1969	Ñ2	1995
O	1944	O1	1970	O2	1996
P	1945	P1	1971	P2	1997
Q	1946	Q1	1972	Q2	1998
R	1947	R1	1973	R2	1999
S	1948	S1	1974	S2	2000
T	1949	T1	1975	T2	2001
U	1950	U1	1976	U2	2002
V	1951	V1	1977	V2	2003
X	1952	X1	1978	X2	2004
Y	1953	Y1	1979	Y2	2005
Z	1954	Z1	1980	Z2	2006

C&R Information for collectors of Spanish firearms

The chart at left provides the proof letter that corresponds to the year of manufacture for Spanish firearms. On older Star pistols you may find this letter on the left side of the frame in front of the slide stop along with other proof marks. But on many pistols the letter date code is beneath the grips. There is serial number information available and this may also be used to verify the date of manufacture.

This chart is useful when acquiring or trading Spanish firearms using the Federal C&R license as the C&R licensee may directly purchase firearms that are more than 50 years of age.

Legislation & Politics



Joe Waldron

Legislative Chairman

SCOTUS ORAL ARGUMENTS—NYSRPA v Bruen

As you read this, oral arguments have started in the Supreme Court in the case of New York State Rifle and Pistol Association versus Bruen (Kevin Bruen is the current Superintendent of the New York State Police). The issue before the Court is a simple one: Does the state of New York's denial of petitioners' applications for concealed carry licenses for self-defense violates the Second Amendment?

Two fundamental rights are protected by the Second Amendment: the right to KEEP arms in the home for the purpose of personal protection, and the right to BEAR arms outside the home for the purpose of personal protection. The former was answered in *Heller v District of Columbia* (2008) and *McDonald v City of Chicago* (2010). The *Heller* decision did away with the foolishness of tying possession of firearms to service in the militia and *McDonald* spread it from the District of Columbia to ALL American citizens.

All fifty states have some provision for lawful, licensed concealed carry, or even carry without a license in Constitutional Carry states (21 of them at this writing). A small handful remain "may issue" states, meaning it's up to the issuing authority to decide if he or she wants you to be able to carry a gun. New York state is funny in this regard... Upstate – away from greater New York City – concealed carry licenses are pretty straightforward. Some jurisdictions even offer lifetime concealed carry licenses. My old boss at Second Amendment Foundation, Joe Tartaro (may he rest in peace), had one.

But if you live – and apply – anywhere where you are likely to NEED concealed carry (anywhere within a 100 mile radius of New York City), your chances of getting that license approved are minimal at best (unless you're politically connected big time).

After eleven years of silence on the Second Amendment, SCOTUS has finally stepped up and taken this next critical case. *NYSRPA v Bruen* will decide whether you have a right to carry for protection, or whether that right may be arbitrarily denied by some (usually unelected) bureaucrat.

Will the court do the right thing and decide that if a citizen meets simple, clearly defined criteria (e.g. no criminal record, of legal age, possibly a modicum of simple training), he or she SHALL BE empowered to exercise that right? They could go that far – they should. Or they may determine that other restrictive measures may be applied. And this is not solely of interest to New Yorkers...a broad decision will apply to ALL states, even the handful of restrictive ones.

A few dozen amicus briefs have been filed in the case, most presenting our side of the argument but a handful attempting to justify any and all restrictions. There will be no shortage of "court watchers" publishing opinions after oral arguments are made (everybody likes to read their meaning into the questions asked by Justices in controversial cases), but in the end only one opinion counts: That signed by a majority of members of the Court! It will likely be several months, possibly until the end of the session next June, before a final decision is announced.

Theoretically this is a conservative court (6-3 or 5-4 depending on your read of various Justices), so common sense – and the Constitution – SHOULD prevail.

SMITH & WESSON MOVING

The straw has finally broken the camel's back. After decades of dabbling in various forms of gun control and entertaining proposed new gun control legislation in Massachusetts, this has finally reached the point where a premier American gunmaker has said "Enough is enough." They announced in September they are moving their headquarters to Marysville, Tennessee.

Smith has been a solid member of the "Gun River Valley" (Connecticut River Valley) family since 1852, along with Colt and nearby gun manufacturers Winchester, Remington, Marlin, etc. If passed, the proposed legislation in question would prohibit Smith from manufacturing it's most popular products. 750 S&W employees will make the move, some manufacturing obviously will accompany the headquarters. What will remain in Springfield, MA, is uncertain at this time.

I was born in Hartford, CT, 75 years ago, barely a mile from the Colt factory, where my dad was a foreman until he enlisted in December, 1941. Then my mom went to work there. My dad's discharge certificate when he left the Army in 1946 read, "Related civilian occupation: machine gun manufacturer." I guess it runs in my blood! And S&W just up the road in Springfield is where my brothers were raised. Sadly, most gun manufacturing is moving out of that area, all due to an exceptionally hostile political climate. Maybe all these gun manufacturers should refuse to send firearms to/in states with overly restrictive gun laws. See where their cops can find guns.

CHIPMAN WHINE: THEY CAME AFTER ME

Former ATF chief nominee is making the liberal talk circuit complaining that the gun lobby was so vocal about his bias that President Biden had to withdraw his nomination. The fact is, as a paid agent of the gun CONTROL lobby, there is no way Mr. Chipman could have carried out his duties as ATFE head. Better to have his name withdrawn than have it blow up in the President's face down the road.

The administration allegedly promised to find "something for him." No word on the who's next.

SENATE PUSH FOR RED FLAG IN "VAWA"

The gun control train appears to have been stalled for the past several months with Biden's stumbles all over the place plus the liberal versus super-liberal one trillion

versus three trillion spending plans (which analysts say will climb to five trillion over time if it is passed).

According to Gun Owners of America, that stall may be ending. An updated version of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is near the top of the active stack, and a major provision of VAWA 2021 is expanded “red flag protection order” language. The bill in question is H.R. 1620.

This year’s version includes federal funding for firearm seizures, new and expanded MISDEMEANOR gun bans, increased funding to prosecute NICS denials even where the citizen is not at fault, and the creation of new gun control positions at various levels of government to go after law abiding gunowners. President Biden says VAWA is one of his main legislative priorities. While the Biden administration has proven that they can fail at almost any priority project, let’s ensure that he fails in this as well.

ARM BRACES

No word yet on which direction the ATF intends to take with regulations of firearms with arm braces. One reason for the slowed decision making is that they reportedly received more than 211,000 comments from the public in response to their published proposed action, far beyond what they anticipated and far beyond normal for most solicitation for “public input.” Recall the quote attributed to Japanese WW II Admiral Isoroku regarding the Pearl Harbor attack: “I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant.” Let us pray that is the case. Gun owners cannot afford to remain silent!

FBI UCR

Among their other responsibilities, the FBI is tasked with collecting crime statistics from all across the US. They publish these statistics annually in what they call the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). Interesting read, even if you are not a criminologist. According to the latest UCR, during 2020 legally armed citizens killed more criminals than did law enforcement officers! Armed citizens took 343 criminals off the street in 2020, compared to 298 by police. Let no one question the value and benefit of an armed citizenry.

STRAW PURCHASES & CRIMINALS

It is a federal felony to knowingly purchase a firearm for someone you believe is prohibited from possessing a gun. Doesn’t matter if he/she is a convicted felon, a domestic violence misdemeanor subject to a personal protection/restraining order, etc. A “friend” or acquaintance comes to you and says, “Hey this stupid paperwork problem is keeping me from getting a gun. Could you...?” Or, “I did this stupid thing 20 years ago and now they won’t let me get a gun, but you know me, you know I’m a good guy.” It may be a friend of a friend, or in many cases a family member of your own. Doesn’t matter. And doesn’t matter whose money is used. It’s a felony for you to make the purchase, and then a felony for the individual if they take possession of the gun. Don’t lie for the other guy. You can end up with many years free room and board at Club Fed, plus then lose YOUR firearm rights.

-GN-

STRAIGHT FROM THE HOLSTER

J.T. HOLSTENBERG

Well, it’s feeling a little more normal, with two shows already and Puyallup in a couple of weeks. (Writing this on 10-4). Unfortunately the 100% masks rule has kept a few of our regular vendors at home, probably only watching football reruns from the last 10 years. But, with increasing age comes memory issues so they probably don’t remember who won anyway.

I attended both the Elma and Monroe Shows finding the bargains already “gobbled up” as I arrive after 2-2:30ish on Saturday, having been up all night Friday, as night security, getting relieved at 0700, then to the sack for a few hours sleep.

Especially at Monroe, the tables were piled high with goods from our vendors having acquired, saved and cleaned out of their garages, to get back to our shows. I even saw a few new vendors getting into our buying, selling, trading events. Very nice to see this even with the mask mandate. Put on that stupid mask and wander around for an hour or two. There are bargains to be had or trades to be made or get rid of that old gun you’ll never fire again. Make Momma happy.

Remember as a Marine how you would welcome the 4 or maybe 5 hours of sleep in a 24 hour period, even though it might be in 3 or 4 tries in that 24 hours. Oh yeah, any inside corner of a building was a place to prop yourself up and check your eyelids for leaks. Yeah, you grab a few winks when and where you can.

Okay, back to the shows. At Elma two fellas sought me out, to comment on my writings. Kinda nice to hear but the one started out by saying “you’re nuts.” He was referring to my sleeping on the ground, with only a poncho and two Army blankets (found out later he wasn’t in the service, only the Air Force). He said he tried it one summer weekend, he froze his “tootsies” and didn’t get much sleep, with all the night noises. Oh, he spent only one night there, packing up about 4 in the morning and heading home where he was “safe” with Mommy. We had a lengthy talk about the outdoors, hunting and fishing, etc. Oh yeah, I was picking on him and he was advised he’d be in the next column. I assured Glenn that he’d remain anonymous, too! HA.

Next, we're back in Monroe where I always have lunch at Denny's Restaurant prior to heading to the show on Saturdays. Being a creature of habit I always sit in the same booth, ordering the same meal. The same fella taking orders from 18 months ago waited on me and even though I was masked up, looked at me and asked "Lumber Jack Slam, right?" Darn, this guy was good, as was the meal.

At the show, between 2 and closing at 5, four separate folks approached, asking if I was responsible for this column. They were complimentary, finding the random topics enjoyable, saying they looked forward to each issue and to see who would be "picked on." One fella asked if I ever took guys hunting, kinda like a guide service. Yes, I did a couple years ago. The guys were missing a limb apiece from combat in Afghanistan, but I found it far less than enjoyable. Let's say I got burned and vowed to not do that again, 'Nuff said about that.

Anyway, technically I'd need a guide license if I did it for money and I'd sure as heck not do it for free. Yes, with the license I'd need insurance (with the proliferation of starving attorneys anymore) make it costly. This fella then produced two hundred dollar bills, asking if it was enough for him and his buddy. I told him it was 200 apiece, for a Saturday and a Sunday, payable one week before that weekend, that I'd give him a call. My schedule allowed for September 32nd or October twenty-tenth. He just looked at me and grinned, realizing it would never happen. I told him I'd provide him with a map to any government land, where I hunt, but then he's on his own.

Just like when asked how I reload cartridges or the muzzle loaders, I'll always advise "how I do it" rather than telling how someone else should do it. There's a difference. Yup, a liability issue, just like when I sell one of my muzzle loaders or black powder revolvers. I always recommend a mild recoil, accurate load, much less than book listing of loads.

Which brings to mind, a gun sale I made years ago to a family. This fella, about 50-55-ish, was most adamant, wanting the brass frame 1858 Remington "Buffalo" revolver, the one with the 12" barrel and adjustable sights. He bought it and I started to advise what loads would be correct. He stated he'd never shoot it, just wanting it to "play cowboy." O—kay!

I acquired one of these brass Buffalo revolvers once, either given to me or that I bought for a buck or two. Shooting mild loads the brass frame can last forever but with hot loads it stretches, opening up the cylinder/barrel gap--gas loss, lousy accuracy and lead

spitting. This gap should be a max of 6 thousandths of an inch. But this gun was so frame stretched the cylinder pin could not be withdrawn and cylinder gap was about the thickness of a fat nickel. The frame top strap was so stretched, holding the gun normally, the bullet would probably hit the ground about fifty feet out. The previous owner said it was his "deer gun." I bought it for the internal parts and declined to sell him another revolver, seeing how he abused this one. Yup, a liability thing.

Here's another puzzler. I got this Patterson revolver, the .36 caliber job with no trigger guard and no trigger showing until cocked, at which time the folding trigger drops down. Anyway, a previous owner had used a bluing remover (sold by Birchwood Casey) to "antique" the weapon, doing a lousy job. The weapon appeared loaded. I attempted to fire it off (at home of course) with negative results. I tried to pull the bullets, again negative. I removed the five nipples and used a punch to drive out the lead balls, having to collapse each, the only way to do it. There were three lead balls jammed into each chamber, with no powder (?). What the heck (family magazine) was this guy thinking? Was he also playing cowboy ensuring that nobody would mistakenly load this gun or maybe he'd offer it to the other guy in a duel? Coincidentally, the nipples appeared to have never been fired (?) as did the hammer nose.

Once, at one of our shows, I bought a Patterson from a vendor and asked if he had the trigger guard also, knowing this model has none. He looked in a couple boxes and pawed through some loose parts, finally realizing I was messing with him. He grinned and call me a non-family magazine name.

In our last GunNews issue the photos and comments on Larry Schlotterbeck's .256 Ruger Hawkeye, makes me ponder about a couple of revolver frame/barrels I see in a box under by bench. These are .44 caliber, .44 caliber or .45 Colt, with only the extraction system puzzling me. Should I take it on? The 12 inch frame by an unknown Italian firm, stainless steel, the cylinder rotating parts missing, but who cares as it would be a single shot needing only the hammer, mainspring and trigger. Hmm – I see a project. Anyway, this column should hit the mail a couple weeks after our Puyallup show, after deer season. Hopefully, we'll do good at each.

See you at the Show.

-GN-

WAC Nominations Open for Officers & Directors

This is your opportunity to participate in the management of the Washington Arms Collectors. Consider running for an open position or talk with fellow members whom you may wish to nominate—ensure that they will accept the nomination. All Officer positions are open; three director positions are open. The following current Officers and Directors named below fill positions that will expire in March 2022; each of these positions is open for nominations:

Directors:

Jim Weaver
Tani Iwashita
Karen Jennings

President: Bill Burris

Vice President: Boyd Kneeland

Secretary: Forbes Freeburg

Election Chair: Kate Freeburg

Washington Arms Collectors 2022 General Election Nomination Form

All director/officer nominations except Election Chair require that the nominee must have been a member in good standing since at least November 2018, and currently a resident of Washington State. Nominees for Election Chair need only be a current member in good standing.

The following member is hereby nominated for the position of (check one):

() Director () President () Vice President () Secretary () Election Chair

_____	_____	_____	_____
member name/nominee	member number	email	telephone

This nomination is being made by:

_____	_____	_____	_____
member name	member number	email	telephone

member signature

Nomination seconded by:

_____	_____	_____	_____
member name	member number	email	telephone

member signature

When completed, transmit this form or a digital copy to the WAC office via email (office@washingtonarmscollectors.org) or by postal mail to PO Box 400, Sumner, WA 98390. It may also be delivered in person to the WAC nominations meeting on December 12, at 12:00 noon.

Nominations must be received by Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 1:00 pm to be valid.

Truly Super Star Pistols

—The Spanish High Power—

©By Phil Shave, Editor



Modelo Super A, 9mm Largo, marked "E.T.", Ejercito de Tierra—military issue

When a manufacturer applies the label “super” to a product, it is intended to denote superiority, something that is at the very pinnacle of design and execution. When the Spanish manufacturer Star first labeled their new pistol the Super in 1945, they were promising their customers the best firearm they had ever made. Here’s the story of how the Star Super pistols delivered on that promise.

Star pistols followed the John Browning designs and many call them 1911 clones although they differ significantly in both size and detail. Star did copy Browning’s short-recoil system that used a swinging link beneath the barrel. From the Model 1920 and through subsequent improvements, the models 1921, 1922, 1931 and 1940 and the commercial models A, B, P and M, the Stars operated much like a Colt 1911.

Then, in 1945 Star introduced an astonishing new pistol—the Super A.

Below—a close-up of the takedown lever that is on all Super models; this example is a Super SM.





Left—Star Super SM .380 in factory chrome with original walnut stocks.

The Super models were made in calibers .32, .380, 9mm Parabellum and 9mm Largo.

All Supers, no matter the caliber, use the linkless Browning High Power type of short recoil locking system.



Above—The Super A had white dot sights front and rear.

Right—A blue Super SM .380 imported by Garcia. Note the adjustable rear sight. Aftermarket stocks.



The Super A adopted the link-less short-recoil design as first seen in the Browning High Power of 1935. But there was much more that was new about this pistol and it is the combination of innovative features that made these “super” handguns.

Military Trials—the Super A

The Spanish military had adopted the clunky but sturdy Astra M400 back in 1921. By 1945, they were ready to move on to a more modern handgun. While several manufacturers submitted pistols for trials, it was the Star Model A and Super A that came out on top. The Model A was a conventional linked Colt/Browning-style pistol that shared standard Star design elements with the new Super A—there was no grip safety, the thumb safety locked the hammer rather than the sear and the caliber was the official 9mm Largo. In testing, the Model A actually out-performed the new Super A. Setting aside the objective results, the Commission of Armament and Materials selected the Super A as the official military pistol. According to Leonardo Antaris in Star Firearms, “...the mechanical advantages of the Super A were viewed so favorably that the Commission chose...” the Super A.

Star justified the Super name by including several novel, practical and desirable features:

- Disassembly of the Super was revolutionary—a lever on the right side is flipped down and forward to allow the slide to be removed forward off of the frame. There is no slide stop to push out and no struggle with a barrel bushing or recoil spring to strip the gun for cleaning. An inserted magazine prevents unintentional unlocking of the take down lever.
- The short recoil operation was link-less, a Spanish copy of the Browning High Power. A lug beneath the barrel had a machined slot that cammed the rear of the barrel down to unlock it from the slide.
- The Super would not fire with the magazine removed. Some may not like this feature but a magazine safety was at that time seen as a true safety feature and was soon to become standard on many new pistols. Unlike the High Power magazine safety, the Star design does not interfere with the trigger pull.



Above—The Star Super barrel is at top and the Browning High Power barrel is below—not much difference.

Below—The recess on the slide top allows tactile use of the loaded chamber indicator seen to the rear of the barrel hood.



Right—The butt on a Super B is marked with "B" but a Super A is usually just "Super."

Below—The shiny tab protruding indicates that the magazine is fully loaded—and fully seated.



- White dot sights were standard. The front sight is a slightly angled post with a central dot. The rear sight has a dot directly beneath the notch. The result is a dot-over-dot sighting system (see p. 9 photo).

- There was a raised matte-finished sighting rib on the top of the slide.

- A loaded chamber indicator could be both seen and felt on top of the slide. The visual indicator is a red-highlighted post visible just to the rear of the chamber. In the dark, one could place a finger over a recess in the slide and feel the indicator proud of the slide if a round were in the chamber (p. 10 photo).

- A loaded magazine indicator at the mag base plate could be felt when a fully loaded magazine is inserted and locked into the Super A; reassurance that the magazine is fully topped-off. (The loaded mag indicator debuted in 1940 in the little Star .380 model S.) See photo at bottom of p. 10.

Military adoption of the Super A by both the Spanish army and navy ensured its production. These contracts were followed by civilian commercial models sold throughout the world.

Most Super A's are marked "Modelo Super" on the right side of the slide and it is reasonable to use that as their model name since most do not have the "A" anywhere on the pistol, just Super on the butt. Nearly 50,000 were produced. While the designation letter A was for those pistols in caliber 9mm Largo, there may be a few exceptions that are 9mm Parabellum. The military Super A will be caliber marked on the left side of the slide with just "CAL.9m.m.". Because the Spanish military used only the 9mm Largo in their handguns there was no confusion as to which 9mm was to be used in the Super A (see the photo on p. 11).

Spanish military-issued pistols will be marked with "E.T." to indicate Ejercito de Tierra, literally the army of the territory. On complete pistols that have not been rebuilt, expect to see matching property numbers on slide, frame, under-barrel lug and magazine. This is an inventory tracking number that is in addition to the serial number that will appear on the frame. Some Super A's will have the "E.T." with number only on the frame and barrel lug. The Super A remained the standard Spanish military pistol until the 1960's when NATO participation required a transition to 9mm Parabellum. The model letter "A" was not placed on most pistols.

Markings on Super A pistols imported for commercial sale in the U.S. vary with the year and importer. The caliber imprint on the left side of the slide of commercial pistols (as opposed to military) will have the caliber rollmark "CAL.9m.m. .38". The 1968 Gun Control Act required that the importer add their name to firearms. The importer of Star firearms in



Above—The military Largo caliber model Super A pistols are marked simply "9m.m.".

Below—The 9mm Parabellum model Super B is distinguished by the caliber marking of "9M/M P".



the U.S. was Firearms International Corporation (F.I.C.) up until that company became part of Garcia circa 1970-1971. The final importer of commercial Stars was Interarms (IAC). All Star production ended in 1997.

Super Models

A few more words on the disassembly mechanism engineered by Star. This feature puts the "Super" in every Star Super. The slick, right side, take down lever releases the slide with a simple down-and-forward rotation. Then the slide simply slides forward off the frame. Nothing crude or glitchy, no struggle to first remove a barrel bushing or hold the slide at the right spot to push out the slide stop, no springs that might fly out—just an easy fool-proof operation with no lost parts. The magazine must be removed before the takedown lever will operate. Mechanically, the takedown lever cross-pin takes the place of the slide stop in a 1911—the barrel cams up and down on this piece. The Super takedown feature encourages

frequent maintenance and damage-free disassembly and reassembly.

The Super A was the first Super model, but Star soon applied the technology to its small .32 and .380 pistols and then to its 9mm Parabellum, creating a comprehensive line of Supers. Supermodels like Gisele or Elle are a fantasy seen on magazine covers and shop posters but the Star supermodels are a reality we can own and shoot.

The Super B Parabellum

Only two countries, Spain and Denmark, adopted the 9mm Largo cartridge, AKA Bergmann-Bayard. The Largo was primarily a military round and never became popular as a civilian cartridge. In other European countries, the 9mm of choice was the Parabellum/Luger. Export of Star Supers eventually required a version in 9mm Parabellum. On the military front, the NATO adoption of the 9mm Parabellum was in the immediate future. Thus, in 1954, Star produced the Super B in 9mm Parabellum and over the years made 55,802 in this caliber (Antaris, p. 466); there are even more Super B's than Super A's.

Externally, there is little to differentiate the B from the A. A Super B will have a caliber marking "CAL. 9M/M P" on the left side of the slide—"P" for Parabellum—and the slide and the right side of the slide on earlier models will have the rollmark "Modelo Super". On the butt behind the magazine well will be "Super" under the letter "B" or just "Super". A late Interarms Super B will not have "Modelo Super" on the slide; the right side of the slide will have the Interarms name. Size is identical to the Super A and weight close enough not to make any difference.

There is an important magazine difference between the Super A and B that is critical to function. The shorter Luger cartridge does not feed well from a Largo magazine. Star modified the Parabellum magazines, first by placing a metal strip at the rear of the magazine to hold cartridges forward. Later, Star deleted the filler strip and instead extended the feed lips to better hold the shorter cartridge. The difference between a Largo mag and a Parabellum mag is difficult to discern and either mag will usually function in either gun...but not perfectly. Many import and surplus guns have mismatched magazines that impair reliability.

A note on how Star labeled their models. While the Modelo Super name was applied to their full-size Super pistols, the actual model designations are letters that were applied in a sometimes inconsistent manner—the model letter is not

Military Markings—At top right is a Super A with only the left frame inventory number. Below that is an example with only the right frame numbered. Next, a Super B with both slide and frame numbered. At bottom is a Super A barrel with the barrel lug marked with inventory/property numbers. There is variation in Military markings.



always present. The model was stamped into the butt of the frame behind the magazine well, so that is where you'll see "B" over "Super." Or on a Largo pistol, "A" over "Super." Sometimes on the A, the butt will just be marked "Super." The barrel chambers were not originally marked for caliber, however, importers have etched "9mm Largo" on barrels and frames of surplus pistols to ensure that proper cartridges are used.

Super S, SI and SM

In 1949 Star applied the Super system to its compact pistols in .32 and .380 ACP. Please see the accompanying article on the locked-breech .380's for more detail on these. The High Power style link-less short recoil locking and quick takedown features were used on Models Super S, Super SI and Super SM. These miniaturized Supers featured most of the same deluxe features as the Super A, including the takedown lever, loaded chamber indicator, magazine safety and matte-finished rib on the slide. While only a few Super SI .32's were built, the .380 Model Super S and SM were very popular and can be found in blue and chrome finishes. Sometimes these guns are offered for sale in "nickel" but these are really chromed pistols as Star did not use shiny nickel as a finish on Supers. Late Interarms guns may be seen in both blue and Starvel, a finish that appears to be electroless nickel.

Rare Supers—the C, P, M and BM

If you're a collector looking for the rarest of Star pistols then either a 1947 Super P .45 ACP or 1950 Super M in 9mm Largo would be your *rara avis*. The Super P (558 guns) and Super M (342 guns) (p. 460, *Antaris*) are totally different pistols from the Super A or B; they are the same size as the Colt 1911, thus a wider and heavier pistol. Some of these Super P .45's went to Cuba and Argentina so they might have made their way north at some time.

Apparently, there might have been a Super C, Browning Long, at least on paper. The Super BM is a prototype—only one was built.

Collecting Supers

The Super Stars in all sizes and calibers are desirable pistols. Firearms International Corporation, Garcia and Interarms imported the Super A, Super B and Super S, SS and SM models made for commercial sale—these have the best finish and the highest quality blue. And the early guns will have color case-hardened hammers and strawed extractors. They also often have rather attractive checkered plastic grips. Commercial pistol finish is comparable to U.S.-made handguns of the same period. If complete with their

attractive red/maroon or yellow/blue cardboard boxes, cleaning rods and owner manuals, any Super would be a very nice package. Interarms pistols were delivered in green or blue plastic boxes. Interarms imported nicely made Stars but their period of importation lasted until the final days of Star production and the later Interarms Star Supers are well-built but not as nicely finished; don't be surprised if a Star collector considers them of lower value.

Military and police import pistols are historically interesting and the value depends largely on the condition and originality. Star finished the military Super A pistols using a hot (salt) blue but most will be worn and will likely have barrels damaged by corrosive Largo ammo. Corrosive ammunition may also have damaged the breech and firing pin hole. Look for "E.T." imprint with property numbers on the Army pistols and matching property numbers on the slide, frame, barrel lug and magazines. At this late date, a pistol with matching numbered magazines would be very unusual! According to *Antaris*, some military issue Super A's will have the property number only on the frame and I have examples marked on either the right or left side of the frame. The Spanish navy adopted the Super A and these will also have property numbers. Many surplus imports have been rebuilt with miscellaneous parts. While military Supers were originally equipped with checkered wood grips, many now have ugly replacement plastic grips. Surplus guns may be described as having a parkerized finish but if so, this is a refinished gun as Star did not use parkerizing for their pistols; even those for military contracts are blued. The majority of military surplus Super A/Modelo Super pistols seen for sale are marked with the import name, "IAC Alex VA" and these pistols often have matching slide and frame property numbers and the original corroded bores. As the supply of Super A pistols has diminished, many of the auction-available guns are cosmetically and functionally damaged, while at the same time the prices have elevated beyond a reasonable value as either collectible or shooter. I can only advise that you wait for a decent example.

Super B's in 9mm Parabellum often have very good bores because of the change to non-corrosive ammo. Military or police pistols will have property numbers in addition to the serial number. The Spanish military did NOT officially adopt the Super B although they did have Star convert some Super A's to 9mm Parabellum and issue additional Super B's; thus there will be 9mm Parabellum B pistols with property markings and with the "E.T." rollmark. There were some military contracts for Super B pistols, notably Syria and Guatemala.

F.I.C. and Garcia Super B commercial pistols with their superior finish and packaging are much more desirable than either surplus guns or the later imports. In the U.S., Interarms was the last importer of commercial Super B's and the late guns will have a lesser finish that was neatly done but with visible polishing grain and the slide stop and hammer will be a dull gray; white dot sights are not present. Another late change on the Interarms Star Super B was the adoption of a flat-sided hammer rather than the spur; functionally the late hammer is fine but it is not as attractive. There were some late Super B pistols done in an electroless nickel called Starvel that some confuse with stainless steel. Look for an Interarms Star Super B in the sturdy and attractive blue plastic box with manual and cleaning rod.

The Star .380's, the Super S and Super SM, are neat little pistols and are not uncommon as large numbers were sold commercially in the U.S. They have often been treated with little respect over the years so a pistol in excellent condition is a good find. Star made quite a few of these guns in chrome finish which is fairly durable—it doesn't peel like some nickel guns—but it is easily scratched. There are Guardia Civil marked Super S pistols—they may have a crest with a crown over the letters "GC". In about 1975 the commercial model SM's were equipped with very nice checkered walnut stocks rather than the plastic thumbrest style; a pistol so equipped is very attractive. The Super SM was produced primarily to meet U.S. Import requirements and these are the most deluxe of the .380 caliber Supers.

In recent years, importation of surplus Star pistols has resumed as they are unearthed in armories around the world. Unfortunately, few of these are Supers. These days importers are defacing the pistols with etched importer names, sometimes in very large lettering on the slide. Even worse is the crude removal of police/military markings—such guns have value only as shooters or parts guns. For example, a shabby Super A in 9mm Largo, if it has a decent barrel, would be a fun shooter for an ambitious reloader but will never be a collector firearm. I've seen

END OF AN ERA

Last Of The Legendary Model Bs

High costs of time-honored, traditional methods of forged steel production and the recent fad of lightweight pistols has, regretfully, forced Star to discontinue the manufacture of its historic large-frame B Model service pistols. Model Bs are superior in strength and durability to the current crop of flyweight pistols which, while comfortable to carry, are punishing to shoot and prone to failure under the rigors of

extended combat service. The heavy-duty Model Bs are built tough with the robust stability that only forged steel provides. You'll find no aluminum alloys or plastic internal parts here. They're designed with the strength and balance to be shot comfortably and reliably all day long. This is the last opportunity to own an all steel Star Model B. Last chance to own a legendary factory-new "Big" Star.



STAR MODEL Bs

For over 50 years a trusted sidearm of armies, police forces and government agencies worldwide. The Model B is admired and highly sought-after for its rugged design, high quality materials and beautiful workmanship. In WWII the German Wehrmacht procured over 35,000 Model Bs for its Army and elite *Kriegsmarine* under the *Heerwaffenamt* designation "Pistole Star Kaliber 08". The Model B was so highly respected that after the war it was adopted by the West German police in Berlin.

STAR MODEL B SUPER

Almost identical to the Model Bs, the Super version boasts the added refinements of Star's ultra-modern 2-second take-down and 2-second reassembly, a solid-cam barrel locking bar that eliminates the more fragile M1911-type swinging link, a loaded chamber indicator and a high visibility white dot sighting system.

CALIBER:
Guns For All
8-Round Magazine

LENGTH:
Overall - 8 1/2 inches
Barrel - 5 inches

WEIGHT:
38-Ounces, Empty

CONSTRUCTION:
Frame, slide and barrel all milled from solid steel forgings for strength

FINISH:
Commercial Blue Steel



MODEL B SUPER
TWO-SECOND TAKEDOWN
TWO-SECOND REASSEMBLY

Just drop the magazine and flip the take-down lever; slide and barrel assembly glides off in an instant.



PRICED AMAZINGLY LOW
FOR SO MUCH VALUE!
SEE THEM AT THE FINEST
GUNSHOPS EVERYWHERE
ASK YOUR DEALER TODAY!

Last chapter in the history of one of the world's great handguns. Here's the final, limited production run of the rugged, hard-hitting sidearm of the German *Wehrmacht* and Spain's elite *Guardia Civil*... plus countless combat-tested veterans all around the world. Once these are gone, we close the book on real craftsmanship as it used to be. There will be no more... and you'll not see their equals soon again. As the experts say... that's a shame... this pistol is one of the nicest of the 9's.

INTERARMS

NUMBER TEN PRINCE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313
WRITE FOR OUR FREE 32-PAGE FULL COLOR CATALOG

Super A pistols with crude refinishing and re-blue marketed as "arsenal" refinished guns—well, somebody's arsenal perhaps but certainly not Star refinished. A recent browse of auction sites reveals few Supers of any model worthy of acquisition; local gun shows and private collection disposals are more likely to yield decent firearms.

Since Super production began in 1945, many of the pistols are Curio & Relic eligible to licensed collectors. Included on page 3 is a table of Spanish proof marks used in each year of manufacture which will aid in the identification of C&R eligible guns. These proof marks are usually above the trigger guard or beneath the grip panels.

Shooting the Supers

Those who wish to shoot their old Supers should do so. A few caveats—like all vintage guns, the pistol may have been modified or "improved" by a previous owner or gunsmith. Or a surplus pistol might have been assembled from random parts.

- A very light trigger or very stiff safety is often the result of ambitious stoning or improper modification.

- Don't carry an old Star with the hammer down on a live round—many of these guns will not have an inertia firing pin.

- Old wood grips may allow the grip screws to contact the magazine—use washers under the screws rather than shortening them.

- Old plastic grips have often shrunk or cracked but replacements are available in both wood and plastic.

- A broken firing pin can be replaced but this requires the rear sight to be pushed out and should be done by a gunsmith as these are very tight; slides have been destroyed by improper sight removal.

- I do not recommend amateur disassembly of the Super takedown mechanism.

- Aftermarket magazines are of much lower quality than the originals and don't work well.

- Use appropriate ammunition—the Super B will accept any modern 9mm Parabellum round; the Super A performs best with the Largo cartridges and I do not recommend using .38 Super factory rounds.

- Verify that a Super B has the correct magazine for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge rather than the Largo.

Conclusion

All of the Star Supers in .32, .380, 9mm Parabellum or 9mm Largo are interesting pistols that have unique features that were quite advanced when first introduced. Their design and ergonomics still seem modern which makes them attractive as shooters. The Supers were successful as both a military and civilian handgun which broadens their appeal to collectors.

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References:

- The author verified information and based much of the article on actual examples in his collection.

- Star Firearms, Copyright 2001 by Leonardo M. Antaris, Firac, (the book appears to be in print at \$150 on Amazon.com). All the production records and dates cited in this article are from this original publication. Antaris is the acknowledged expert with access to the Star company records.

- Internet information is available but some is incorrect. One source is: star-firearms.com. This site lists proof marks and date stamps in a very accessible manner.

- Peter Kokalis wrote a fine article on Star history, "The Fallen Star" which may have been published in "Soldier of Fortune" or "Firearm News" magazines. Kokalis died in 2017 at age 82. Those who read SOF or participated in SOF matches will know of him. The original copyright of this article is to Intermedia Outdoors 2012 but the article without illustrations may be read at: thefreelibrary.com

-GN-

The Largo Comes to America

The Bergmann-Bayard cartridge was originally developed for the Bergmann Mars pistol of 1901. In 1905 Spain adopted the "Pistola Bergmann de 9 mm Modelo 1908". Today most know this caliber by its Spanish name—9mm Largo—because of the cartridge's 50-year service to the Spanish military in both pistols and submachineguns.

U.S. Importation

The 9mm Largo cartridge was not produced by U.S. ammunition companies so when Firearms International and Garcia marketed A and Super A pistols they had a very real problem—there was no available ammunition. The solution was to provide U.S. buyers with pistols that would chamber the .38 ACP or .38 Super. Looking at one example of an FIC imported Star, the box is marked "Model A Caliber .38" and the pistol in this box is a Largo chambered gun. Examination of the barrel hood reveals a small circular relief to accommodate the .38 ACP/Super semi-rim. Star created a multi-caliber pistol by making this modification.

Many Star Model A and Super A pistols have the ambiguous caliber marking: "9m.m. .38." A pistol so marked is chambered in 9mm Largo. Based upon observation, measurements and research—I believe the ".38", sometimes "-.38" marking was added for export purposes to those countries in which the Largo caliber was unknown. Leonardo Antaris, writing of surplus pistols, states that, "Pistols *adapted* to .38 ACP ...had their slides marked with a "-.38" suffix." The "9mm .38" rollmark is seen on many A pistols and even in Star advertising, so it is a factory marking. I have several Super A's marked with just the "9m.m."—these were for the Spanish military, where there would be no confusion as to caliber. But if the Super A were to be sold elsewhere then additional clarification was necessary, thus the "-.38" or ".38" .

Are There Star .38 Supers?

The Star factory manual included with a Garcia-imported pistol states that they are in ".38 auto or 9mm Bergmann Bayard." The manual further specifies that the cartridge was a "130 gr. bullet at 1206 FPS" muzzle velocity with a chamber pressure of "29,157 p.s.i." The standard .38 Super load is a 130 gr. bullet at 1215 FPS—almost identical to this spec!

An old "Gun Digest" magazine test states, "It (*the A*) functions perfectly with 9mm Long, 38 ACP and 38 Super Automatic factory loads," and, "...the guns are intended for use with both cartridges, and that they are proofed with loads developing 150% of 38 Super pressures." Garcia marketed the pistols in the U.S. calibers; however, other than the extra rim relief in the chamber, the pistols have Largo chambers. Antaris had access to company records and he does not document any A or Super A pistols chambered in .38 ACP or .38 Super. FIC and Garcia marketed the Star A pistols as .38 ACP and .38 Super but the chambers measure as 9mm Largo.

-GN-

The First Locked Breech .380 Pistols—STAR



A genealogy— From 1922 to Today

©By Phil Shave, Editor

In the beginning...there was the .380 ACP cartridge. It burst forth upon the world in 1908 as the finest pocket pistol cartridge of the time. Like a virus, it spread throughout the world from John Browning's Ogden, Utah workshop. In Spain it was the 9mm Corto, in Germany the 9mm Kurtz—it has many names but now we just call it ".380." Pistols worldwide were designed around this fine little round. So it is that the .380 begat many excellent handguns.

But the .380 has always been a 'tweener—not a little .32 weakling and not a powerful 9mm. The caliber was big boy stuff at .356" but the bullet was a rather lightweight 95 grains, about 2/3 of a typical .38 Special. Pressures were reasonably stout for the early 20th century at 22,000 PSI (note that the "powerful" .38 Special boasts a pressure limit of merely 17,000 PSI). Most pistol designers looked at the compact cartridge, about the same length as a .32 ACP, and built simple

blowback pistols which were compact and efficient. Blowback actions worked fine but it is true that they require a fairly heavy slide and a stiff recoil spring to keep the pressures contained. Thus many classic .380's have a reputation for heavy manipulation and surprising recoil.

The Browning Short Recoil Patent

John Moses Browning perfected his earlier short recoil designs with the Colt 1910/1911 which used a single swinging link beneath the chamber to tilt and draw the rear of the barrel down—this short-recoil, tilting barrel system patented on Feb. 14, 1911, is so effective that it is still used today.

But here we're talking about the little .380—why even consider the Browning short recoil locking system? Because today it is the accepted and most common mechanism for MODERN .380 pistols. Most

Title Page—Two Star DK pistols. The DK has an alloy frame and weighs about 14 oz.

Right & Below—The Super SM was Star's ultimate evolution of the locked breech .380. All steel, in blue or chrome, with adjustable sights. The Super pistols used the High Power style camming lug beneath the barrel.



Below—The left side view of the Star DK with the Star rollmark and caliber. The name "Starfire" was applied to the right side of the slide, see p. 16. The anodized aluminum frame was available in several colors.

Below—On Star pistols the model letter is usually on the butt as on this Super SM. Note the flared magazine well, a feature seen on even older Star pistols from the 50's.



recently introduced .380's are locked breech pistols of Browning design. Here's a short list of just those that are both locked breech and 1911-pattern single action autos: The Colt Government (1983) and Mustang (1986), SIG P238, Kimber Micro, Browning 1911-.380, Springfield 911, and more.

Genealogy: *"A line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor."* Yes, that's what we're talking about—tracing today's locked breech .380's back to their ancestor.

Patents? Not in Spain

Much like today's Chinese product counterfeiters, ~~early Spanish firearm makers~~ had little respect for patents. Spanish patent law is an obscure specialty but a little research reveals that foreign patent holders seeking protection were required to register and manufacture in Spain; lacking a patent-holder doing Spanish manufacture, Spanish gunmakers were free to copy designs without fear of legal interference. This "Wild West" legal environment stimulated a thriving firearm industry in the Basque region of Northern Spain. A multitude of small cottage manufacturers cranked out thousands of firearms in the early 1900's. ~~Many of these guns were made in~~ near the city of Eibar which has been the center of Basque arms manufacture since the 1600's. (While we consider arms from this region to be Spanish, they were in Basque provinces—an area with its own distinct culture and a language unrelated to Spanish.)

Why is this of any relevance to the history of the locked breech .380 pistols? The freedom to copy other firearm designs encouraged one creative Spanish gunmaker—Star—to copy the John Browning short recoil system and apply it to .380 pistols.

Star

Although the Bonifacio Echeverria company had existed since at least 1905 and the Echeverria family were firearm makers in the 19th century, it was not until 1919 that the Star name was applied to Echeverria-made firearms. It is revealing that the registered name was Star rather than the Spanish "Estrella." This would indicate that the intention was to market internationally and to English-speaking countries. Worldwide, the Bonifacio Echeverria firearms are marked and known as Star.

The usual complete rollmark on an older Star pistol is "Star—B. Echeverria—Eibar-Espana—S.A." Many misinterpret this as a model name but the "S.A." is merely the Spanish language statement of incorporation—Sociedad Anónima.

With the adoption of the Star name, Bonifacio Echeverria distanced his company from the legacy of not-so-good "Ruby" pistols that had been made by so many Spanish gunmakers, many not much more than home workshops. By the time that the Star name was applied to their firearms, they were of high quality.

The Star Model D of 1922

1922—the year that Star Bonifacio Echeverria introduced the the first .380 ACP pistol to use the Browning short-recoil system. The pistol was the Model D in which the slide and barrel are locked together by lugs on top of the barrel that engage recesses in the slide; then when a cartridge is fired the case remains in the chamber as the bullet exits the bore, pressure drops, the slide and barrel recoil rearward about .10", at which time the link attached to the barrel pulls the rear of the barrel downward, allowing the slide to travel to the rear. Basically, the operation of the Model D was just like that of the .45 caliber Colt 1911.

The Model D .380 was named the "Modelo de Policia y de Bolsillo" which is in English, the "Spanish Police and Pocket Model". These are forged steel pistols of compact dimensions. The magazine holds six rounds and the barrel length is 3" with an overall length of about 5.5" and weight just over 17 ounces. The D was rather small for holster carry and about the same size as other "pocket" pistols of the era. The first variation used a hammer blocking safety in the same location and shape as their larger pistols (and looking much like a Colt 1911). The second variation changed to a sear blocking safety located on the left side in front of the grip panel. The third variation reverted to the hammer blocking thumb safety. According to Leonardo Antaris, author of Star Firearms, total D production from 1922 to 1947, was 40,416.

I'll mention one other early locked breech .380 that arrived in 1936—Llama, also a Spanish manufacturer, copied Star when they built the Llama III .

The Star Model S, SI, SS and SIS

The Star Model S .380 was introduced in 1935. The letter "S" is said by Antaris to have honored the designer, Valentin Suinaga. The S was intentionally a larger pistol than the D, directed at police and military use. (Interestingly, Star made a Model SI in .32 ACP and it was also a locked breech, short recoil pistol; these may be the only locked breech .32 ACP's ever made. I have not collected the .32 ACP versions of the Star and even though it appears that they were imported to the U.S. they are not common; all the information here on the SI is from the Antaris book.)

The Model S variations have a barrel length of 4" and an all-steel weight of 22 ounces. The entire gun is about 6.5" long. The magazine holds 8 rounds in .380 and 9 rounds in the .32 Model SI. All the S models were popular with Spanish police and military organizations and some with agency markings, including those with the Spanish Air Force logo, have been imported. West German police bought the .32 SI (in addition to the larger B model pistols in 9mm Luger); these are marked "LPN" for Landespolizei Niedersachsen.

Looking like baby 1911's, the S models use the John Browning swinging link beneath the barrel to delay unlocking of the barrel and slide. The safety looks like a Colt but actually locks into the hammer rather than just blocking the sear. The other controls—magazine release, slide stop—are Colt mimics and takedown is just like the Colt.

The 1968 Gun Control Act severely impacted handgun imports. Many guns were banned and others were modified to meet the new point system that mandated size, sights, grips and safeties. The S models were at that time 33 years old. Initially they were unable to meet the new requirements but after only a few modifications, import to the U.S. was allowed: The grip panels were replaced with a left side thumb rest version and a screw adjustable rear sight was added. I suppose that this made them "target" pistols, if only in the eyes of the regulators. Model S production ended in 1968 when they were replaced with the GCA-compliant models with a magazine safety—the Models SS .380 and SIS .32 (The letter "S" added to a Star model denotes a magazine safety).

Aesthetically, the Stars have the appeal and classic look of a Colt 1911. Even better, the S models are ergonomically excellent, although large-handed folk will not like the slender single-stack grip. The little pistol points naturally, the safety is in the right location and the magazine release is just as we would expect from any modern pistol. Sights are low and small but the sight picture is square and visible; very early guns have the old rounded front sight but later guns have a semi-Partridge blade.

The Star .380's carry well. The slide is an ultra-slim .70" wide. At the grips the width is about one inch. The single action mechanism demands a holster for safe carry as most would choose to carry cocked-and-locked (Chamber empty and hammer down is always an option. Early Stars used a positive ignition—the firing pin would rest on the primer when the hammer is down so

they must not be used "hammer down on a chambered round." This was changed in later models but I can't verify a date.)

There are quite a few Model S and SS pistols here in the U.S. What most don't know is that many of these guns are refurbs, police and military trade-ins. Interarms, the post-Garcia/FIC importer—was offered police trade-in pistols and specified that the SIS and SS pistols be factory reconditioned and re-blued, with some in electroless nickel. The slides were re-surfaced and rollmarked with "Interarms Alexandria Virginia." They should all have magazine safeties that prevent firing unless a magazine is inserted. Technically SIS and SS production continued up until 1991 but the later pistols were made up from parts or trade-in guns.

The Star Super Models

Like their fashion runway sisters, the Super-model Stars are quite beautiful—svelte, graceful thoroughbreds. The petite Star Super .380 pistols are exceptionally attractive. They use the Browning High Power improved short recoil system—the under-barrel



Above—The linked barrels of an S, top, and a DK, bottom—conventional Browning short recoil system.

Below—The Browning style linkless barrel from a Star Super SM (top) compared to a SIG P238 barrel.



link is replaced with a slotted lug that cams the rear of the barrel down. And all Supers display an attractive and functional take-down lever on the right side of their slim frames—just flip that lever down and the slide glides off the frame like a supermodel exiting the runway. Super SM's are shown on p. 17 in blue and chrome.

Here's the Super chronology: Introduced in 1950, the Model Super D is the rarest of the Star .380's, with only 101 produced—almost a prototype. This unique pistol introduced in the .380 the Super-style take-down lever of the larger Super A 9mm Largo of 1946. Then there was a short lived Model Super SI .32 ACP, only 475 were made. But the Super S .380 numbered 40,785 pistols made right up to 1979 (U.S. Importation stopped in 1968).

The Model Super SM is the ne plus ultra of the Star locked breech .380 pistols. It is the Super SM that was specifically designed to meet 1968 GCA requirements and did so with the addition of the adjustable rear sight, magazine safety and thumb rest grips. Many were chrome plated and later imports often had nicely checkered walnut stocks which did not have a left side thumbrest. Production was from 1971 to 1981.

The Star Model DK

While all of the Star locked breech .380's are the ancestors of today's .380 single action pistols, the most direct connection can be traced through the tiny Star DK. Produced from 1956 to 1987, Star built 35,515 of these little pocket pistols; more, if one were to count the later DKI and DKL models.

The DK was way ahead of its time: First, it was built upon a Duraluminum frame; second, it used a captive recoil spring and guide assembly; third, frames were available anodized in colors black, gray, blue, green and gold; fourth, it was the smallest and lightest .380 made at a mere 14 ounces. Most are marked "Starfire" on the right side of the slide. This six-plus-one capacity semiauto was a potent backup or pocket pistol. Importation by Firearms International ceased in 1968—you know why. The DK is shown on pp. 16-17 in blue and chrome.

Colt Wants a 1911-Style .380

Finally we get to the Colt .380 pistols. Colt had not marketed a .380 since production of the blowback 1908 Pocket Hammerless was discontinued in 1945. Since many .380 pistols here in the U.S. were imports that had been banned from the U.S. market in 1968, Colt had an interest in re-entering this newly opened market. Here's a piece of history known to only serious

Colt collectors: In 1972 Firearms International Corporation (F.I.C.) made 50 (some sources specify 47) prototype pistols and marked the slide "Colt Pony" and sent them off to Colt for evaluation. These prototypes were Star DK-based clones with F.I.C. frames. (Some back story—Colt had a history of placing their name on a Spanish pistol, the little Colt Junior/Astra Cub. F.I.C. was positioned to import the parts for a similar program based upon the Star DK.)

Colt decided not to market these locked breech .380's. I speculate that the project was shelved because the cast steel frame was a serious downgrade from the original Star DK Duraluminum and Colt did not appear interested in building their own steel or aluminum frames. They also may have feared further Federal control over the size and safety features of the pistols—there was a lot of pressure at the time to label all small firearms as "Saturday Night Specials" and prohibit their manufacture. In any case, these prototypes would be the very first Colt locked breech .380 prototype pistols.

Colt abandoned this project in 1974 and is said to have retained 10 of the Pony pistols, with 37 returned to Firearms International. F.I.C. then sold the pilot project pistols to dealers. The Collias-Lawing Gun Shop in Charlotte, bought perhaps 20 of the F.I.C. guns that were equipped with F.I.C.-marked slides. Colt collectors pay attention—not much later the shop received assembly number-marked "Colt" slides that were then matched to the correct frames. I don't have a Colt Pony but wish I did.

In 1983, Colt announced the Colt Mark IV/ Series 80 Government Model—.380 Auto. Colt's pistol was a ¾ scale 1911 with a locked breech on a steel frame. There's a lot of Star in this pistol—there is no grip



Colt Pony prototype

safety and the backstrap is arched like the Star. The barrel is 3-1/4" so the size is midway between the Star S and DK models. The frame is steel so the weight is up to 22 ounces. The magazine holds 7 rounds vs. the Star's 6 (DK) or 8 (Model S). The front sight is a nearly invisible ramp. The Colt slide is slightly chubby at .76" wide. Aluminum frames later became available with the introduction of the Pocketlite. The first Colt .380's were discontinued (most sources say that production ended in 1999) and then later reintroduced and there have been variations in grip frame, barrel length and receiver material (both alloy and polymer). The Mustang and Pocketlites are the most compact and most like a Star DK. Today, Colt will sell you a new .32 ACP model 1903 but not a .380.

Side-by-side, the Colt is a Star clone, not the other way 'round. Many still believe that the Colt was the first of the locked breech .380 pistols even though Colt introduced their pistols 61 years too late to be considered pioneers.

Firearms International Model D

Since import of the Star DK was prohibited in 1968 and Colt had declined to market the Pony, Firearms International Corporation decided to market their own Model D pistol. This DK copy used Star parts on a cast steel frame. Build quality was not bad but the added weight and bulk of the cast steel frame was not an improvement. And FI added a lanyard loop to the butt; exactly what is not needed in a pocket pistol. Still, this was a small locked breech .380 1911-style pistol. The F.I.C. pistol later morphed into the Iver Johnson Pony. I've owned Garcia/FIC and Iver Johnson versions and while interesting guns, they are not of the same quality as the Star DK.

The .380 Renaissance

With the new millennium, concealed carry exploded. John Browning's little .38 caliber cartridge became an overnight sensation as an almost infinite variety of concealed carry .380 ACP pistols were introduced. Some of these pistols were copies of old standards with blowback operation but others were nearly ground-up designs made to be smaller and lighter than ever, often with polymer frames and much safer actions.

The 1911 pistol craze created a huge market for 1911's in many calibers, by a multitude of manufacturers. One could credit Jeff Cooper of Gunsite or IPSC competitive shooting for the re-emergence of single-action semiauto pistols; whatever the cause, if a gun looked and worked like the old 1911 then it had a competitive edge.

SIG Sauer had a history with the .380, having offered the beautiful P230 for many years. But as 9mm Luger

pistols began to shrink, many were of the same size and weight as the all-steel P230. In 2009, SIG took a huge leap and introduced the P238—a small 1911-style .380 pistol. The timing was great, Colt had given up on their Government/Mustang/Pony pistols and the market was primed for a high quality, cocked and locked .380 pistol.

The SIG P238 is a small Star. Need some proof?—the Star DK magazines fit, lock in and feed perfectly in the P238 (Colt mags will also work in the SIG, I tried one). The pistols are nearly identical—P238 size is within a few millimeters of the Star DK. Although there is a single locking shoulder on the SIG barrel instead of the two lugs of a DK or the three lugs of an S, the P238 is a Browning-style locked breech. The P238 short recoil mechanism is link-less like a High Power or a Star Super SM. The frame is aluminum as was the Star DK. The P238 is a very cool, reliable, small Browning style pistol manufactured using modern methods and materials.

The others followed. Colt, late to the game, offered the Mustang again in 2012 but later discontinued it. Want a slightly larger 85% 1911?—Browning, circa 2015 gives us the "1911-380" with beavertail grip safety and a real Colt look. There's the Rock Island/ Armscor Baby Rock, the Kimber Micro, the Springfield 911—and some more that I've probably overlooked.

There you have the genealogy of the locked breech, 1911-pattern .380 pistol—from Star to Firearms International, to Colt and... "to infinity and beyond."

Model SS—a miniature 1911.



References:

- Based on examples from the author's collection.
- Star Firearms, Copyright 2001 by Leonardo M. Antaris, Firac, Production numbers and dates are from this publication.

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Innovation in Design—the Star Pistols

The question is, “What do you see in those old Spanish Star 1911 copies?” There are a lot of ways to answer that but my best response is that Star originality, innovation and engineering make these interesting pistols. While Star was very adept at copying others good designs, many Star pistols have introduced concepts that much later showed up on other firearms. We’ll just focus on some bits and pieces of specific models.

Warshal’s in Seattle—what a neat downtown store that was—I walked in and saw a Commander-looking pistol under the counter—a Star model BKS. This compact alloy frame pistol was both lighter, more compact and slimmer than a Colt Commander...and no grip safety! Here was a pistol that felt right and needed no modification before use—I was sold.

The Colt Grip Safety—Deleted 1921

Why a grip safety? Colt added it to John Browning’s 1911 to meet Army requirements and his High Power doesn’t have one. In any case, it requires gunsmith fitting, doesn’t allow average size hands to obtain a proper grip on the pistol and prevents the use of the firearm in a less than perfect situation (such as a fumbled draw). Not that long ago, pistolsmiths did a decent business in pinning down the grip safety for serious users of the 1911, then liability reared its Medusa head and seldom will anyone do this today. Now we have replacement grip safeties with improved beavertails, speed bumps to improve function and various “fixes” of the 1911 design.



The Star single action autos in .22 LR to 9mm Largo — none have a grip safety. The Star single-action autos are intended to be carried cocked and locked, or chamber empty and safety

off—no grip safety needed. The first Star-designed pistols without grip safety were made circa 1921-23.

A Real Safety

Think about how a Colt safety works—you know, the real safety, the thumb safety. A tiny bump of metal interferes with the sear. Nothing blocks the hammer. Alright, it’s not horrible...but it must be hand-fit to ensure that the safety does engage properly with the

sear. These parts wear—with the safety “on” (unloaded gun, safe direction!) press the trigger on many 1911’s and you’ll see sear movement—not good.

Is the Star thumb safety a counterfeit Colt? No—despite visual similarities, it is an original design that uses the safety lever cross pin as a hammer block. When applied, this safety is in full contact with the hammer, actually lifting it off the sear. Look carefully as a Star safety is applied and you will see the hammer move back slightly. The cross pin upon which the safety rotates is 1/4" diameter, a sturdy unbreakable part. The contact surface that engages the hammer is a shelf about .346" wide. If the hammer were struck hard enough, the hammer itself would break before the safety failed. The surfaces are large enough that neither the hammer nor safety will wear out.

The detents that hold the safety in a safe or off-safe position are also a departure from Colt. You’re familiar with that plunger tube assembly on a 1911 that does double duty to tension both the slide stop and the safety? Clever but also a weak point as the tube is riveted on and the two plungers may not apply enough tension to keep the slide stop from popping up or the safety from wiping off inadvertently. A single-action safety should positively lock in the safe position, requiring intentional effort to wipe off. The Star design uses a spring and plunger that applies pressure to the backside of the safety lever, engaging two detents. This makes the Star safety tune-able—easy on, hard off.



Remember the 1968 Gun Control Act that assigned points to safety features? Firearms that scored below a threshold were denied importation to the US. Here’s the BATF conclusion after they were asked to review the Star SS 380 pistol safety: “After a careful review of Star’s safety lever that directly blocked the hammer, it was decided to allow these guns the additional 10 points usually reserved for pistols having a separate firing pin block or lock” (Star Firearms, Antaris). The hammer blocking safety was invented in 1921 and I’ve not seen a better one for 1911-style pistols.

1922—The First Locked Breech .380

.380 auto pistols used to have a reputation for stiff slide operation because of the strong spring required

for blowback designs. Take for example the FN1910 or Colt M1903/1908, Walther PP and Mauser HSc pistols. Most manufacturers took the easy path and adapted their .380 pistols from .32 caliber blowback designs by simply using a very stiff recoil spring.

Star took a different approach and downsized the John Browning short-recoil locked breech, tilting barrel system (from the 1911 45ACP) for use in the first locked-breech .380 pistol. When did this happen? In 1922! The Star D, DK, S, SI, SS, SIS, S and SM Super—basically all Star .380's—are locked-breech pistols. See the full story in this issue on p. 16.

The Full-Length Recoil Spring Guide

A Star invention? Maybe, at least as applied to 1911 style pistols. In the 1950's the Star DK .380 had a contained recoil spring system with a full-length



spring guide (photo above). The pioneering model BKS in 9mm was introduced in 1970 with a captive recoil spring assembly that permitted easy takedown without tools or flying springs (the BM, BKM pistols also use this system). The famous Star PD .45 ACP had a similar recoil system with a built-in buffer. Of course, the 1911 aftermarket introduced many different captive and full-length recoil spring systems but most don't achieve the goal of an easy takedown.

1946—The Linkless Barrel System

As most are aware, the Browning High Power short-recoil tilting barrel system of 1935 eliminated the link in favor of a camming slot. The Star Supers in calibers from .380 to .45—S, SM, A, B, P, Modelo Super, etc.—all use a locking system like that of the Browning HP with a camming slot machined in the barrel lower lug. The Star Supers introduced in 1945-46 are elegantly simple and effective. The elimination of the barrel link addresses several weak points of the original Browning link system.

Star was one of the first to apply the principle to their own original design. In fact, the SIG P210 of 1949 used a camming slot and in 1975 CZ applied the concept to the CZ75. Today, nearly all modern pistols use a similar locking system.

The "Super" Model Lever Takedown

1946 brought us the first 1911-style pistol with an effective quick takedown feature. Magical. The Star Super models have a lever on the right side of the

frame that is pivoted forward to release the slide from the frame. There was nothing like it in 1946 and none of the subsequent pistols that feature a takedown lever are as slick as the Stars. There are modern pistols with some kind of takedown lever but I can't say that they work as well as the Star Supers of 1946. See the story and photos on pp. 8-15.

Alloy Frames

Pistol designers didn't think much of lightweight aluminum frames for pistols until Colt led the way with the Commander of 1949-50. Well, there were some aluminum PPK's from 1944 and in 1963 Walther built aluminum P-38's. Right now I can't think of other early alloy pistols.

In the 50's using a variant called Duraluminum (an age-hardened alloy originally applied to aircraft), Star innovated with aluminum frames. Production of the little CU .25 ACP and DK .380 ACP began in 1956. This was followed by the 9mm BKS of 1970. The famous alloy PD was not a Commander copy—it weighed less than 25 oz. and was much slimmer and shorter than any other .45 pistol.



Left—Star was an early adopter of alloy frames—this is a model HK .22LR.

The Star alloy frames have proven durable; one of my most used and abused 9mm Star BKM's is on its second slide and barrel but the original frame is undamaged. The .45 PD's had a light slide and were hard on frames so the factory designed-in a buffer; the original buffers failed early but the Interarms replacements were improved (the buffer is a maintenance item and should be replaced at 1000 rounds). The PD frames do hold up to .45 recoil.

While not the first, Star was an early adopter of aluminum alloy framed pistols, especially full-power pistols in 9mm and .45.

Elimination of the Recessed Magazine

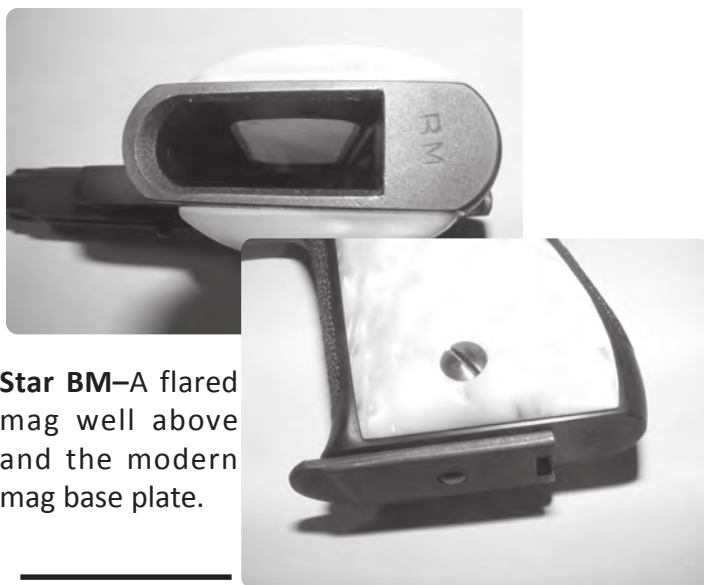
Bump pads are a standard addition to everyone's 1911 magazines...because they are a necessity to avoid a reload failure in the form of an unseated mag. Name one good reason that the mag floorplate should be flush within the frame? This is a design flaw in a defensive pistol. One should be able to simply slap

the mag in and have it lock. Star started with the recessed Colt-style mag but by the 50's had introduced magazines with a broad floorplate that stopped on the bottom of the frame. All modern pistols have mags that work just like the old Stars.

1958-The Beveled Magazine Well

Combat competition shooting brought speed reloads to the forefront. Shooters found that some of their loads were fumbled when the magazine hit the mag well of their 1911 pistols. Well, of course, Colt put a nice sharp edge at the insert point. Look at it—it makes no sense. Custom 'smiths began to bevel and funnel 1911's for smooth, quick reloading.

Star began putting a beveled or funneled mag well on pistols in 1958. Even the little model F .22 plinkers and the .380's are so built. I believe that the first factory beveled magazine wells were from Star.



Star BM—A flared mag well above and the modern mag base plate.

Improved Non-Tilting Magazine Follower

Here's a funny story—When SIG Sauer came out with the neat little P238 .380 a few years back I bought one. Since it was a Star DK copy it was irresistible. The first range session revealed that the magazines would not reliably hold the slide stop up at the last shot. SIG had followed Colt practice and used a stamped steel follower that could tilt within the mag body. I sent a letter to SIG, asked them to consider the Star DK magazine design with a fully guided, non-tilting follower (I'm sure they had other complaints and my letter was just one of many.). Later they sent me their improved magazine which does work well and follows the Star design. (Yes, the P238 is very similar to the old Star DK. The Star mags even insert and lock into the P238.)

Standard 1911 magazines have a follower that can tilt down in front resulting in failures to feed and failures to hold open. As bullet shape has become more complex, consistent feeding now requires a better magazine design...one like that of Star pistols. Search for modern 1911 mags by Ed Brown, Wilson, Metalform, Checkmate, MecGar and others and you will see that most feature some kind of non-tilting follower that addresses the problem. Well, Star did this years ago. My research doesn't reveal a date for the improved magazines but I've seen them on US commercial imported guns from somewhere in the 1940's and on.

“New” Round-Top Mag Followers

Have you seen new 1911 magazines with a round-top magazine follower? The theory is that the round top holds the last cartridge up at the proper height and angle for feeding. Some guns do feed the last round differently or even fail to fully eject the last casing. The worst-case scenario is that the casing remains in the port on top of the magazine. The round-top follower is one answer. Where did we first see these “new” round-top followers? In the Star BM and BKM pistols.

Left—Star round top follower.



Star non-tilting follower—Star on left, Colt at right.



Magazine Loaded Indicator

Many who own Star pistols are not even aware that most Star magazines have an indicator that tells you if the magazine is fully loaded. At the rear of the magazine base is a slot. A tail on the mag follower will protruded below the mag base when the mag is fully loaded and inserted. For reassurance run your finger over the magazine base and you can feel the little tab. This feature seems to have been introduced in the Super A/Modelo Super in 1946 and then later applied to all Star magazines. Photo on p. 10.

Pivoting Trigger

The Colt 1911 sliding trigger is weirdness we've become used to. All that opportunity for drag within the frame and zero leverage advantage. Dan Coonan started with a clean sheet when designing his Coonan .357 Magnum 1911 and he told me that he intentionally chose the pivoting trigger for its superiority. The Browning Hi-Power of 1935 has a pivoting trigger as well, although complicated.

The Star has an effective pivoting trigger in its 1911-style pistol and Star pistols have always adhered to this design. Little drag, simple and a leverage advantage that usually yields a decent trigger pull.

Pivoting Extractor

Smith & Wesson makes a nice quality improved 1911. So does SIG Sauer; both these guns feature a pivoting extractor. Of course the Browning Hi-Power uses a pivoting extractor. Asking the extractor to serve as both the hook and its own spring (as in a Colt) is a bit much. Traditional Browning/Colt leaf spring style extractors can work very well. But isn't it better to engineer the hook and spring pressure and use a coil spring for tension? Star did this on their centerfire 1911-pattern pistols from almost the beginning of manufacture. The extractor pivots on a pin which some don't like; I do like it as neither pin nor extractor will break.

No Screws—Modular Action Design

The Star Model 28, designed for the US Army JSSAP pistol trials of 1979 has no screws, not even grip screws. When introduced in 1978 there was truly nothing like it even though Star followed rather than originated; the Star 28 imitated some of the Charles Petter designs of 1935 and the SIG P210. The double and single action 28 has some proprietary advanced design features. The ambi safety is a dovetailed work of art. The grips are held by the modular backstrap. The action parts are all contained in a housing—

hammer, hammer spring, sear, ejector—push in a latch and the whole unit slides up and out for a no-loose-parts cleaning. There are six inches of frame rail supporting the slide. The 28 shoots like a target pistol, feeds anything, holds 16 rounds and remains an impressive pistol. The Star 28, 30, 31 and the alloy framed versions designated PK are a field-maintainable handgun like no other.

Acculine Barrel

Star introduced the "Acculine" barrel with a tapered self-centering muzzle bulge in 1989 in the model 31; it made these pistols even more accurate than the 28. The compact Firestar pistols of 1988 also used this feature. This innovation was a neat way to achieve match-grade barrel-slide fit without a hand-fitted bushing. Ask someone who owns the pocket-size 9mm Firestar; they'll tell you this little gun hits like a target pistol—the Acculine barreled Stars deserve their reputation for great accuracy. A similar bushing-less system was used in the 1976 Detonics Combat Master. The true origins of this bushing-less design were in the Colt 1900 but the Star Acculine is a perfected version.



Model 43 Acculine barrel.

Unique Design is Not Necessarily Collectible

I may have missed a few unique Star features—most of the models have something interesting in the way they're engineered. Now, this doesn't mean that these firearms are especially valuable; in fact, most aren't collectible so you might as well shoot them. If you have a Star squirreled away, take it out, find its unique features and then grab some ammo and head to the range.



*By Phil Shave, Editor
Copyright November 2021*

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Star 28/30/31—Mainspring, sear, disconnecter, hammer—all in one removable unit without driving pins.

2021 Display Show Points Criteria Guidelines

THIS IS THE SCORING SHEET DEVELOPED BY THE AWARDS AND DISPLAY COMMITTEE—PLEASE READ IT.

TITLE & LABELS: Is there a highlighted title that fits this display? Are significant items labeled, including information that shows their relationship to the title & theme? **MAXIMUM 10 POINTS**

THEME: Does the display have an overall theme? Does the material presented illustrate that theme and stay within the theme in a comprehensive & interesting manner? **MAXIMUM 15 POINTS**

RELATED ITEMS: Presence, interest & significance of non-firearm related items in the display. (Possible examples might include ammunition, holsters, boxes, documents, accessories, period clothing or uniforms or other related items.) **MAXIMUM 15 POINTS**

CONDITION: How does the condition of items in the display compare to similar items or material available? **MAX 10 POINTS**

RARITY OF ITEMS DISPLAYED: Items should be noted how rare and how many known. **MAXIMUM 15 POINTS**

COLLECTOR IMPORTANCE &/OR HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND EDUCATIONAL VALUE: Do items claiming historical provenance have reasonable supporting and accurate documentation where appropriate? Is your display educational? (Examples might include year manufactured, shipped dates, how many produced, rarity or anything extraordinary about display item.) **MAXIMUM 20 POINTS**

DISPLAY APPEAL, DESIGN & APPEARANCE: Considering factors such as neatness, creativity, general appearance, and overall appeal of the display. **MAXIMUM 15 POINTS**

Winners are determined by raw score **MAXIMUM 100 TOTAL**

Remember: There is one display for BEST OF SHOW, regardless of the category into which it is entered. The second place winner in that category wins the category and the third place in that category is awarded second in the category. Best of Show does not win both Best and a category awards.

2021 DISPLAY ENTRY FORM

Copy or tear out this form and complete to enter

Please check one category in which you will enter your display:

- ❖ HANDGUNS
- ❖ LONG GUNS
- ❖ KNIVES AND SWORDS
- ❖ MILITARY
- ❖ MISCELLANEOUS (air guns, memorabilia, tools)

How many tables does your display need? _____ Note: NO Business license is required to display, and no sale items are permitted on display tables.

Display Title: _____

Name: _____ WAC Member# _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone number: _____

If you intend to have a sale table along with a display table please advise the WAC staff so they can coordinate your tables.

DEADLINE—PLEASE ENTER YOUR DISPLAY BY November 15, 2021. Tables are limited.

Mail your form to:

Washington Arms Collectors

2021 Display Show

P.O. Box 400, Sumner, WA 98390

You may also register by contacting the office at (425) 255-8410



WAC Board Minutes

September 2021 By Forbes Freeburg, Secretary



Washington Arms Collectors
Board minutes for September 2021

Pre-meeting business:

August 31 - Motion by Director Ripley to accept the August, 2021 BoD minutes as presented
Second by Director Jennings

Votes for: Directors Bramhall, Hubbard, Iwashita, Jennings, Palmer, Ripley, Rodabaugh, Weaver, Wegner

Votes against: none

Abstain: none

Motion passed

The Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, was convened in the WAC Business Office conference room.

Meeting opened by President Burris at 6:32 pm.

Present: Officers: Pres Burris, Sec Freeburg, Treas Henson (via teleconference), VP Kneeland (via teleconference)

Directors: Bramhall (via teleconference), Hubbard, Jennings, Ripley (via teleconference), Weaver (via teleconference), Wegner (via teleconference)

Operations: Cleary, Hinckley

Absent: Directors Iwashita, Rodabaugh

Financial Report:

Treasurer Henson—Final numbers for the WAC July show in Elma, Washington, were recently received. (the financial statistics for the Elma show were delayed by late billings from the Elma Facility staff as they deal with manpower shortages). Treasurer Henson says that the July Financial Report will be emailed to the WAC Board for review once the report is ready for presentation.

Old Business:

There were no Old Business topics for Board action/discussion this month.

New Business:

1. Event Manager Cleary and Bookkeeper Hinckley present the highlights of the Monroe show. There were more than 200 membership renewals processed during the week leading up to the Monroe show, and an additional 189 new memberships and membership renewals that occurred during the show. The Monroe event was the first show in 2021 to open with members-only shopping time (from 9am to 10am). The Monroe show had 170 tables - this was because of continuing Covid restrictions on table spacing.

Disciplinary Actions

There were no disciplinary items for Board action this month.

Motion by Director Jennings to adjourn

Second by Director Wegner

Votes for: Directors Bramhall, Hubbard, Jennings, Palmer, Ripley, Weaver, Wegner

Votes against: none

Abstain: none

Meeting adjourned 6:44 pm.

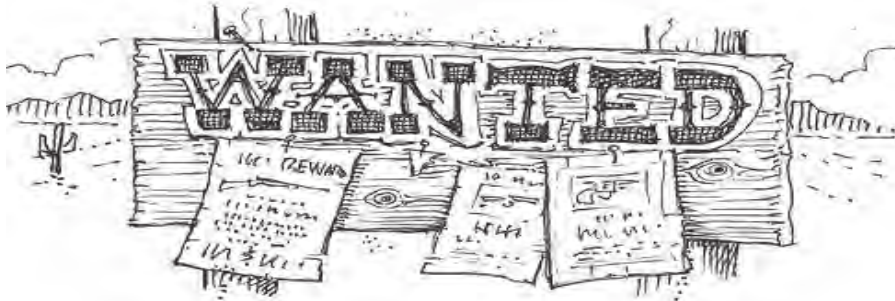
Forbes L Freeburg,
WAC Secretary

Nominations are open for both Board and Officer positions. See page 7.

Board meeting dates:

- October 19,
- November 23,
- December 28

WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE



This column is provided for non-commercial member ads at no charge. 150 words max. Member responsible for compliance with all Federal, State and Local laws. Typical format is as follows (adapt to non-gun items):
FOR SALE or WANTED or TRADE:
 •each item & description listed as one sentence
 •manufacturer, model, rifle/pistol/shotgun, etc.
 •caliber or gauge (GA)
 •barrel length (" bbl), finish, accessories or features, extras
 •condition (G, VG, Exc, NIB, or % cond), vintage/age
 •price (OBO for best offer) •name, email and/or phone.
punctuated, no paragraph breaks, CAPITALIZATION ONLY WHERE NEEDED!, avoid colors or odd fonts, no underlining.

Send this information in the body of the email message (rather than attachment) to: **gunnewseditor@comcast.net** or mail to: 7625 78th Loop NW, Olympia, WA 98502. You must include your phone and current member number for verification. **You may require WAC I.D. from the buyer but since all ads are for members this will not be stated in the ad.** Ads accepted for one month only, so resubmit as needed.

FOR SALE: Back Issues of Double Gun Journals 1995 Issues 3 & 4, 1996 Issues 2 & 4, 1997 through 2003 Issues 1-4, 2004 Issue 1. Back Issues of Double Gun and Single Shot Journals 2004 Issues 2 - 4, 2005 through 2011 Issues 1-4, 2012 Issue 1. Hard back Index and Reader 1990-1996. Back Issues \$5 each or \$250 for all. Index and Reader \$15. Steve, steveandcori@comcast.net or (360)689-3926

WANTED: Looking to replace Smith&Wesson model 39, 9mm. Walt, 425-773-4440 or lastcall01@aol.com

FOR SALE: Smith and Wesson Model 41, six inch barrel, 2 magazines, less than 100 rounds through, pics on request. \$1000 (willing to consider reasonable offers) and I am FFL so can do the transfer as part of the sale. Call 253-229-1591 or email derek@smithandwhite.com

WANTED: .410 rifled slugs, 0, 00 and 000 Buckshot. 509-662-8742 or adfired@flymail.net.

FOR SALE or TRADE: Gun Digest, 1960 issue and Shooter's Bible, 1955 Edition, both in excellent condition.

I can text pictures. 509-670-2889. Will trade for .22 L R ammo. Call 509-662-8742 or email adfired@flymail.net.

WANTED: Colt peacemaker or single action army 5.5" or 4-3/4" barrel, .45 Colt. Dennis, dennismarts@comcast.net.

FOR SALE: New unused rifle / longarm /shotgun boxes by U-Line. Perfect for shipping, storage, moving, packing up firearms. Also good for sports equipment, household items – protection for anything long. Excellent quality, 200# tested One pack of 14 @ 14 x 4 x 42" — \$42. One mixed pack of 13 @ four of 14 x 4 x 42" and nine of 14 x 4 x 52" — \$39. (willing to sell individually at \$3 each). Call Rich or Carolyn, 360-915-9893 or email: casvtdriver@comcast.net.

FOR SALE: Mauser Model C96 Broomhandle Red 9 Adj Sight 9mm Para cal, replica stock & holster, 90% cond, 2 stripper clips, cleaning tool circa 1927—\$1750. Heckler & Koch USP .45cal 1-10rnd mag, 98% cond, night sights—\$750. Remington Model 51 380ACP 98% cond—\$1000. Lahti VKT Model L35 9mm Para 98% cond—\$2000. Astra Model 600/4b 9mm Para, 85% cond—\$500. MAB Model C .32 ACP 95% Cond—\$500. Colt Model 1911 .45 ACP U.S. Government, arsenal rework circa 1918 90% Cond—\$750. Mauser P08 9mm Para 95% Cond—\$900. Contact Tom 206.619.1300 or slomertm@icloud.com

FOR SALE: Lost River custom kydex pocket holsters for North American Arms PUG; 2 ea.; black; new/unused. Suitable for front or back pocket—\$20 ea. including shipping. Four boxes of .22 WRM ammo; 180 rounds—\$60. Simmons 20-60x spotting scope—\$50. Craig Spegel boot grips for S&W J-frame round butt; walnut or

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cocobolo, smooth—\$125 OBO. Smith and Wesson Model 649 stainless Bodyguard .38 Special; 1990, LNIB—\$750. Call Jack, 360-485-5312

FOR SALE: Winchester 12 gauge Super X Model 1, comes with a 30 inch skeet barrel and a 34 inch trap barrel with full choke, both barrels have a vent rib, excellent condition—\$1,200 firm. Call Cathy at 206-660-6403. Email T210Ndriver@comcast.net for picture.

FOR SALE: Powder all 1 lb. cans, WW571 (5 cans), WW785 (1), WW630 (1)—\$25 per can. Shot: 7 1/2 several bags, #8 (1), #6 (1)—\$60 per bag. WW copper plated 7 1/2, 5 lb. bags—\$20 each. Ron, 253-859-2513 (Kent). e-mail rnld_strb@yahoo.com.

WANTED: Early '90's Smith and Wesson Model 642 Airweight Centennial .38 Special. Call Jack, 360-485-5312.

FOR SALE: Grips, pellet pistol for sale. Vintage Crossman C0-2 22 cal pistol, model 110—\$50. Hogue grips for Security Six, Police service six—\$10. You can call me —206-962-7952. Dave

FOR SALE: 250 plus 45-70 cases, some unused some need cleaning—\$125. Lee 3 piece 45-70 die set—\$10.00.

Pedersoli 50 caliber flintlock deluxe with curly maple stock in excellent condition—\$800. Call John at 206-953-6164.

FOR SALE: All factory ammo: 800 rd box of .223 FMJ—\$500. 100 rd 8mm (8x57JS)—\$75. Federal hollow point S&W .40 cal, 40 rd box—\$40. Winchester FMJ .40 cal, 1000 rds—\$800 or 500 rds for \$425. Call Rob, 253-857-3343.

FOR SALE: Prepping to move sale. Colt Commander length w/Wilson Combat .22 LR Conversion kit—\$700. DPMS .223 Bull Barrel A-15, 1/10 twist, Safe queen—\$1100. Remington-Lee in .30 US (.30-40 Krag), not sporterized. C&R eligible—\$2500. FN-49 in 7.62 Nato, Argentinian arsenal conversion, C&R eligible—\$2000 w/2 mags. Stoeger Condor O/U shotgun, 12 and 20 ga barrels—\$600. Ruger New Model Blackhawk .41 mag, brass, bullets, dies—\$1100. AMMO: 375 H&H Factory Ammo 10 boxes total—\$660 for all. 20 gauge Win & Fed ammo 4x 100 rd boxes—\$40 each. 3 boxes of misc 20 gauge #6 shot 1 oz—\$9 ea. Full flat of 10 boxes 20 ga RIO ammo. #8 shot—\$110. 22 LR ammo (1180+ rds)—\$125 for all. Surplus .303 Brit ammo, several thousand rounds—\$.80/round. Some powders. Email or call Wayne for details on anything. sojerguy@aol.com 817-308-7844.



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FOR SALE: 1943 Mauser P38, 9mm. Very nice condition w/extra magazine — \$1350. Iver Johnson Safety Hammer Revolver .32 cal. first model w/single top latch, nice condition, mfg'd 1897 — \$375. Japanese Nambu Type 14, 8mm, mfg'd 1935, Includes partial box of ammo and snap caps, very clean condition — \$950. Colt Model 1902 DA "Philippine" .45 cal., US marked Constabulary revolver, very clean — \$2250. Colt Service Model Ace .22LR, mfg'd in 1943, lower by Ithaca & upper marked COLT SERVICE MODEL ACE, very nice older patina — \$2100. Savage 1907 Pocket Automatic .32 cal., very nice condition — \$475. Colt 1911 Military model .45 acp, mfg'd in 1917, very clean older patina — \$3100. Walther TPH .22LR, with original box/sock/manual/factory target, stainless steel, like new and appears unfired — \$525. Colt Gold Cup Trophy by Walther .22LR, new and unfired in box — \$550. I have a C&R for eligible firearms. Randy, 253-858-2120 or matt42mtq@comcast.net.

WANTED : Webley Revolvers MK I, MK II or MK III in .455 Cal. Original condition. Parts OK as well. Anthony, 425.205.5558 Call or Text.

FOR SALE: Christmas is coming ! Marlin 1895 GS in 45/70, 18 inch barre, beautiful stainless model with slight wear, Williams peep and front sight, big loop lever, all stock parts included, aftermarket plastic case, +P ammo available for purchase—\$1,400. Ruger Super Blackhawk Alaskan in .454 Casull, 2 3/8 inch barrel, beautiful stainless, like new, factory plastic case and case candy, ammo available for purchase—\$1,400. Remington Model 700 (1968) in 30/06, 22 inch barrel, Leupold 3X9 and

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Not Guilty jury verdicts from DUI to Murder 1

iron sights, lustrous blue, very few rounds shot, over molded black synthetic stock along with pristine walnut factory stock, factory box and aftermarket plastic case, ammo available for purchase—\$1,500. Anthony, Seattle, 425.205.5558 Call/VM or Text OK.

WANTED: Wanted to buy, Kimber of Oregon rimfire rifles. XXX wood will be a plus. I buy Collections and estates. Also looking for Quality small bore shotguns. Call Daniel Dillman 541-670-9940.

FOR SALE: NIB Kestral 5700 w/Hornady 4DPF Ballistic Calculator—\$400/trade? NIB RCBS Rock Chucker reloading kit—\$375. NIB Stainless/Synthetic Mini 14 Ranch Rifle—\$950. NIB 6.8 SPC ammo—\$20 a box/trade? Plastic pistol sale. All are EX-ANIB condition: Shield EZ 380, Kahrs, XD/XDMs, MP9c, MP40c, Glock 27s. Bolt Action M700s/M70s/Lever Action (including JM Marlins) hunting rifles for sale. Email me with your interest. All transfers done at South Sound Guns in Lacey. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net

FOR SALE: 4 Digit SN prewar Garand. No gas trap so obviously rebuilt—\$4,500. Early forged DSA FAL HB with machined in muzzle brake—\$1650. Transfers done at South Sound Guns in Lacey. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net.

-GN-

Member Renewal Info & Forms

- Membership is 12 months from when you joined or renewed last. **Check the mailing label on the back page for the expiration date. No matter when you renew you will receive 12 month membership period.**
- However, many members DO expire in December.
- The WAC urges you to renew today.
- If you are unsure of your expiration date, please check your badge or call the office at 425-255-8410.
- The Board has increased regular annual member dues for 2021 and will consider taking action on all categories of membership in January 2021.

W.A.C. - Membership Application (New and Renewing)							
Last Name:			First Name:			M.I.:	Mem#:
Mailing Address:			City:	State:	Zip:	Phone#	
E-Mail: (We will not share this with anyone.)				DL# Drivers License#			Exp. Date:
Birth Date: (Month)		(Day)	(Year)	CPL# Concealed Pistol License			Exp. Date:
				CHECK PAYMENT TYPE	New and Expired Members, if you do not have a current CPL or FFL, add an additional \$15.00 for the Initiation Fee which includes a Washington State Patrol background check.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year - \$57	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Background (if no valid CPL)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Donation	Total Amount: \$				
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years - \$114	<input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$600					
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Years - \$171	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Life \$350					
** SEE THE BACK OF THIS APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND YOUR REQUIRED							

** Read Carefully and Sign Below **

I agree to be bound by the Bylaws and rules of the Washington Arms Collectors. I also agree to obey all applicable local, State and Federal laws, ordinances and regulations pertaining to firearms, ammunition and accessories; and accept full responsibility for maintaining a current awareness of the legal restrictions, proscriptions, and penalties applicable to firearms, ammunition, and accessories.

Additionally, I am a citizen of the United States of America or a legal resident. I authorize the Washington Arms Collectors to verify the accuracy of the statements and information I have provided on this confidential application for membership. I also waive any liability that might otherwise attach to those organizations and individuals who aid in the corroboration or refutation of the data on this application or the statements attested to by me. I authorize the release of all information whatsoever to the Washington Arms Collectors, and its presiding officers that will aid in judging the merits of this application.

By signing this application I agree not to sue and to indemnify and hold harmless the Evergreen State Fairgrounds (in Monroe), The Washington State Fair (in Puyallup), the Washington Arms Collectors and all other venues, persons and organizations participating in W.A.C. events.

My Dated Signature on this Application certifies that I am presently entitled to purchase and possess firearms as defined according to all Federal, State and local statutes, and I have read and understood the W.A.C. Rules of the Road.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

** Sponsor Information Only **

Required When Sponsoring All Associate, Spousal and Junior Memberships.

I verify the accuracy of the preceding statements and do hereby sponsor and endorse the applicant for Membership in the Washington Arms Collectors

Sponsoring W.A.C. Member (Print Name) _____

W.A.C. Member Number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



GunNews

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DISPLAY SHOW—DEC 11-12, ENTER NOW—WEBSITE OR PHONE

NEW—Members-Only Hours, 9a.m.–10a.m., Saturday & Sunday

Non-members and expired members enter at 10 a.m.

- Nov 13-14—Monroe, WA, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, WAC
- Dec 11-12—Puyallup, WA State Fairgrounds, WAC

Washington Arms Collectors

 **2021** Gun Show Schedule

www.WashingtonArmsCollectors.org

OFFICE: (425) 255-8410

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

July	10 & 11	Elma
Sept.	18 & 19	Monroe
Oct.	16 & 17	Puy. Pav.
Nov.	13 & 14	Monroe
Dec.	11 & 12	Puy. Pav.

SHOW LOCATIONS

Monroe Show - Evergreen State Fairgrounds
Puyallup Show - WA State Fair & Events Center
Elma Show - Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds
Show Times: Saturday 9AM-5PM & Sunday 9AM-3PM
VERIFY ALL SHOW DATES BEFORE TRAVELING

Membership in WAC gives you free entrance to events, free ads in the GunNews, the monthly magazine either mailed to you or online and the ability to rent tables at WAC events.

Tables—Call the office to reserve, Saturday only, Sat/Sun or Sunday only. Puyallup—\$60; Monroe—\$50. Discounts for multiple tables. Members only.

Membership—Keep your membership current by renewing online or calling the office—\$57/yr. Spouse and Associate members at reduced rates.

Committees—Check the website for committee members and to volunteer for a committee.

GunNews—Missing a copy?—call the office for replacement and to verify your address.

GunNews Free Ads—Email to gunnewseditor@comcast.net or mail USPS.

Office: 425-255-8410

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