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RANGE • MASTER

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# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS  
FOR THE REAL WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## THE BIG BAD BUG BY TOM GIVENS

I get a lot of questions about my back-up gun, which is currently a Kahr P9. Since these same questions are asked frequently, here are the answers.

**WHY A BUG?** In just about every class, I see at least one student's primary sidearm break in the middle of a drill. All makes and models break. Handguns are machines, and machines that are subjected to high pressure stress every time you fire them. Use them enough, and eventually a part will fail. The BUG is insurance against such failure.

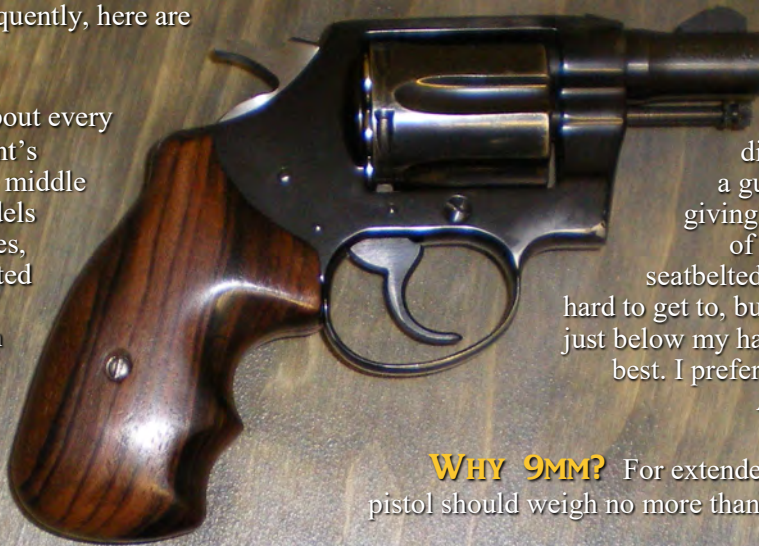
**WHY A KAHR?** The P9 is a polymer frame single stack 9mm that is extremely lightweight and flat. It has good sights, enough grip frame to get all my fingers on, and a decent double-action only trigger. The P9 is only 9/10ths of an inch wide, which makes concealment in an ankle holster easy. I get 8 shots of 9mm+P ammunition, which is 2 more rounds than the Colt Cobra I used to carry, and modern 9mm+P ammo is more effective than anything out of a 2" barrel .38 Special. My Kahr has been 100% reliable and is plenty accurate for a BUG.

### WHY AN ANKLE HOLSTER?

A black gun, in a black ankle holster, against a black sock, is about as low profile as a second gun can be. In a ground fight, I have two different places I can try to reach a gun, on the belt and on the ankle, giving me better odds of reaching one of them. When seated in a car and seatbelted in, the handgun on the waist is hard to get to, but the ankle holster is right there just below my hands. For me, ankle carry works best. I prefer the DeSantis Apache rig, or an Alessi form fitted ankle holster.

### WHY 9MM?

For extended wear on the ankle, I believe a pistol should weigh no more than about one pound. More weight than that on the ankle can screw up your gait and eventually cause back problems. In a compact, one-pound gun, 9mm is far more controllable than a .40 or .45, plus it gives me more rounds in the magazine. I use ammo loaded with the Barnes all copper hollow point loaded to +P pressures. This gives me good terminal performance, and the +P ammo provides a bit more slide velocity. This helps ensure function if the gun is dry or dusty, common circumstances for an ankle gun. ■





# THE THINKING GUNMAN'S BOOKSHELF

by Tom Givens

As a serious “student of the gun” for over forty years, I have always sought out information on every aspect of armed self defense. Sadly, I frequently encounter people who own guns, ostensibly for self defense, but they have no knowledge of defensive shooting technique or equipment. Others know something about their handguns and may even be good shots, but have never actually considered the moral, ethical and legal ramifications of using a firearm in self defense. Still others have some understanding of these issues, but have no idea of the rich history of armed self defense in this country, or the evolution of the techniques we take for granted today. If self defense against dangerous criminals is your goal, some understanding of the criminal’s mentality could be very useful. Finally, some understanding of the wounding mechanisms of handgun ammunition and of human anatomy are important pieces of the puzzle. In my view, a well rounded handgunner should have some basic knowledge and understanding in each of these areas of study.

Looking over my personal reference library, I found over two hundred books dealing with the topics listed above. Generally, they can be divided into two categories: “software” and “hardware.” The “software” volumes deal with such issues as developing a

proper defensive mindset, understanding the criminal mind, and basic understanding of the legal issues involved in using force. The “hardware” books deal with handguns, holsters, and other equipment and with the specific techniques involved in using these tools efficiently. I’ll break these further into sub-sets based on content and make some recommendations for your reading list. Space constraints keep me from being able to give you a real book report on each, but I’ll highlight why I think some of these books are so important to you.

## SOFTWARE

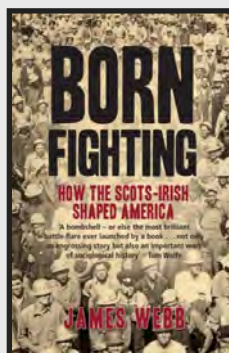
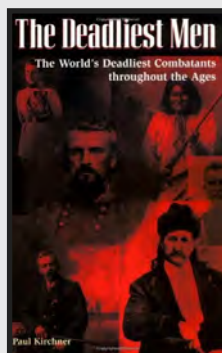
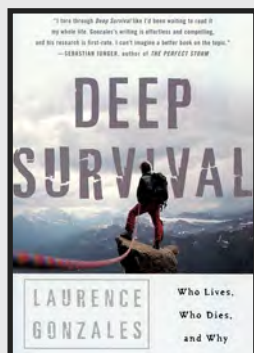
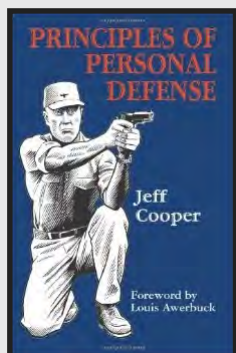
The first book on my list should be required reading for every person who even thinks about carrying a handgun for self defense. Principles of Personal Defense was written by Jeff Cooper in 1972 and is a very brief work outlining the seven guiding principles of personal combat. It is available in booklet form from Paladin Press. Jeff authored a number of books in his long career and many of them contain great insight into both shooting technique and mindset development. Another one of my favorites by Cooper is Fireworks, a Gunsite Anthology.

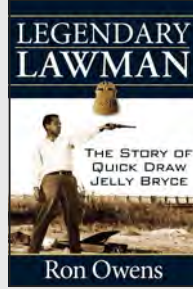
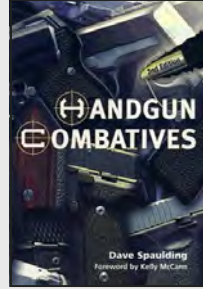
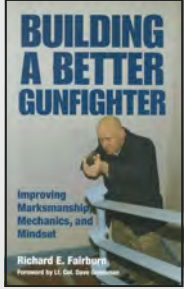
Born Fighting. How the Scots-Irish Shaped America (by James Webb) has

been described as “popular history at its finest” by the American Library Association. Webb traces the influx of Scots-Irish immigrants into the US and how their input shaped the American working class’s strong sense of individualism, persistent egalitarianism, and personal honor.

Deep Survival: Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why (by Laurence Gonzales) is a vital description of the mental, emotional, and character issues involved in surviving catastrophe, whether natural or man-made. Many years ago Jeff Cooper wrote that “the world is divided into two groups, copers and non-copers.” The purpose of training and personal development was to become a “coper.” According to Gonzales, it appears Jeff was correct.

Continued next page...





The Deadliest Men, by Paul Kirchner, is a fascinating look at some of the most skilled and successful warriors in history. Paul spent five years researching this material and has offered some real insights into the character and actions of some of the best known as well as some relatively unknown fighters. From well-known folk heroes like Sgt. Alvin York and James Bowie to some less well-known gunmen like Delf "Jelly" Bryce and Lance Thomas, Kirchner gives us a look at what makes real warriors.

To this list I would add two more works dealing with the emotional and mental aspects of law-enforcement-involved deadly force incidents. Both offer a great deal of information on what you can expect during, and as importantly, after a defensive shooting. They are Deadly Force Encounters, by Dr. Alexis Artwohl and Loren Christensen, and Into the Kill Zone, by David Klinger.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Without comment, here is a good starting list for learning about the history and development of gunfighting in the US. Many are available as low cost re-prints, or you can scour gun shows and estate sales for original copies. You can often find used copies on Amazon or at Gunbroker.com.

- ♦ Fast & Fancy Revolver Shooting, by Ed McGivern
- ♦ Sixguns, by Elmer Keith
- ♦ Gunfighters, by Col. Charles Askins
- ♦ The Art of Handgun Shooting, Charles Askins (1939)
- ♦ Shooting, by J. Henry Fitzgerald
- ♦ Legendary Lawman, The Story of Quick Draw Jelly Bryce, by Ron Owens

## HARDWARE

These are current works dealing with modern, effective shooting and gunhandling techniques. Each represents current state of the art technique, but because of the different backgrounds of the authors (law enforcement, special operations military), those techniques may vary slightly.

- ♦ Stay in the Fight!! Warriors Guide to the Combat Pistol, by Kyle Lamb, recently retired from US Army Special Operations.
- ♦ Handgun Combatives, by Dave Spaulding, recently retired from a long and storied law enforcement career.
- ♦ The Art of Modern Gunfighting, by Scott Reitz, recently retired member of LAPD SWAT, winner of several line of duty gunfights and experienced trainer.
- ♦ Building a Better Gunfighter, by Richard Fairburn, a police firearms instructor, researcher and writer.
- ♦ Tactical Pistol Shooting, by Erik Lawrence and Mike Pannone, formerly Delta operators and now private sector trainers.

## WOMEN'S ISSUES IN FIREARMS TRAINING

More and more women are entering the field of personal self defense training, and they bring a unique set of challenges and needs to the modern firearms trainer. Here are some excellent works to help guide women and their trainers.

- ♦ The Cornered Cat, by Kathy Jackson
- ♦ Concealed Carry for Women, by Gila Hayes
- ♦ Teaching Women to Shoot, by Vicki Farnam and Diane Nichol

## GUNSHOT WOUNDING

Gunshot Wounds, by Dr. Vincent DiMaio, is an authoritative text by one of the most experienced and respected forensic medical examiners in the US.

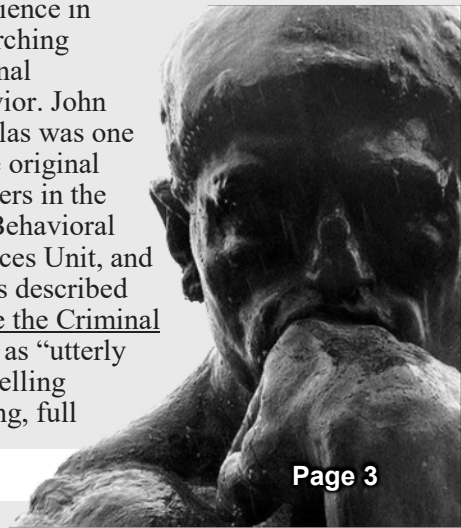
Forensic Analysis of the April 11, 1986, FBI Firefight, by Dr. French Anderson, is a detailed look at a historic shooting incident, including extensive information on the many wounds suffered by participants in this gun battle and how those wounds affected the action.

## LEGAL ISSUES

Massad Ayoob's In the Gravest Extreme is several decades old now but still has a solid foundation of information on the legal aspects of self defense. His newer work is Deadly Force: Understanding Your Right to Self Defense – updated and highly recommended. Andrew Branca also covers the legal issues in depth in The Law of Self Defense.

## CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

I also recommend the revised/updated version of Inside the Criminal Mind by Stanton E. Samenow, Ph.D. The original version was published in 1984 and became a best-seller. It was updated in 2004, after Samenow had gained an additional 20 years of experience in researching criminal behavior. John Douglas was one of the original profilers in the FBI Behavioral Sciences Unit, and he has described Inside the Criminal Mind as "utterly compelling reading, full

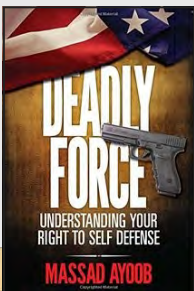
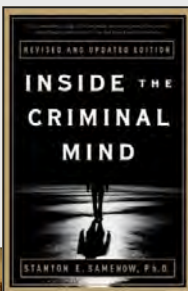
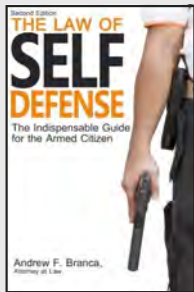
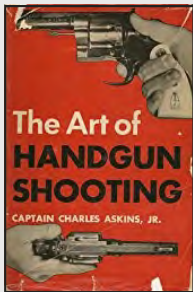
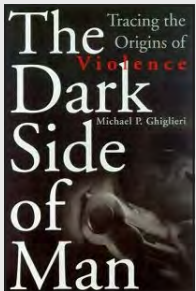




of raw insight into the dark mind of the criminal.”

Finally, The Dark Side of Man (by Michael Ghiglieri) is a thorough and detailed look at human aggression and violence from the unique perspective of a former combat soldier and longtime primate researcher, a protégé of Jane Goodall. The Dark Side of Man offers scientific explanation for behavior such as rape, murder, and genocide. It's not for the faint hearted.

So, this should keep you reading for a while. When you finish these, you'll have a good basic working knowledge of the many topics that are involved in self defense and hopefully, an appetite for more. Happy reading! ■



# DEFENSIVE SHOTGUN INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Oct. 21-23, 2016 | Friday - Sunday | Martin, GA (near Atlanta)

The shotgun is one of the most effective weapons available to the typical private citizen or police patrol officer. It is devastatingly effective in trained hands. It is also the one weapon system with the most myths, misinformation, and B.S. attached. This three-day, immersion-level course will acquaint students with the details of shotgun selection, modification and accessories, ammunition characteristics and selection, patterning, shooting technique, and much more. Students receive an extensive training manual and a two-hour instructional DVD in addition to three days of solid training. Students will need 250 rounds of birdshot, 100 rounds of buckshot, and 30 slugs for this course. We will have a few loaner shotguns available if you don't yet have a suitable shotgun. Advance registration is required. Please visit our website or our Eventbrite page to sign up.

RANGE MASTER

Eventbrite

## SUNSHINE SHOOTING

What better time to be in Florida than springtime? Bring the family with you and train at fabulous range facilities in the best weather in the US. Here are three training options:

Feb 3-5, 2017 | Homestead, FL  
Firearms Instructor Development Course

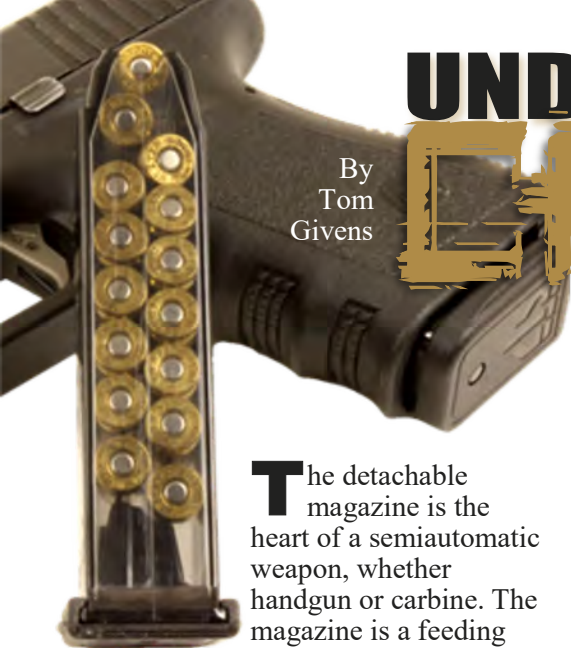
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Feb 10-12, 2017 | Homestead, FL  
Defensive Shotgun Instructor Development Course

April 1-2, 2017 | Okeechobee, FL  
Combative Pistol Course

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By  
Tom  
Givens

# UNDERSTANDING MAGAZINE CAPACITY

The detachable magazine is the heart of a semiautomatic weapon, whether handgun or carbine. The magazine is a feeding device that holds the ammunition supply for the weapon ready for use. Most defensive handguns were designed with a specific magazine capacity in mind.

First, let's set some terms. The magazine capacity for which the handgun was originally designed and intended is its "normal capacity magazine." If one designs a magazine that has the same overall dimensions but holds less ammunition than the original design, that is a "reduced capacity" magazine. For example, the Glock 17 was designed with a 17-round magazine that fits flush with the bottom of the grip frame. During the ridiculous Clinton magazine capacity restrictions, these same size magazines were limited to 10 rounds. Thus, the 17-round magazine for a Glock 17 is not a "high-capacity magazine." Instead, it is a "normal capacity magazine" or a "standard capacity magazine." The 10-round magazine for a Glock 17 is a "reduced capacity" magazine.

It is interesting to note that organizations from the US Department of Justice to the Centers for Disease Control conducted extensive studies after the sunset of the 10-year magazine capacity restrictions. None of those studies found any evidence whatsoever that limiting ammunition capacity had any effect on crime. None. What such limitations do affect is your ability to adequately defend yourself in a life-and-death situation.

The purpose of higher capacity magazines is not to let you shoot more just for the sake of shooting more. Their purpose instead is to reduce the likelihood that you will have to take your pistol out of action to reload it during a fight in which a couple of seconds can mean the difference between winning and losing. Once your pistol is empty and must be reloaded, it is out of action and cannot be fired until the reloading process has been completed. Master level competitive shooters — real champions — need somewhere between 1 and 1.5 seconds to reload a semiautomatic pistol, using competition gear. A very skillful shooter working with concealment carry gear will need more like 2 to 2.5 seconds to complete a reload. Persons with less skill and practice will require even more time. In simple terms, that means that once your pistol is empty you are out of the fight for some period

of seconds until you can get it reloaded. During that time, you just might lose the fight.

The amount of time that elapses between shots is referred to as "split time." A pretty decent shooter typically has a split time around .25 seconds from shot to shot at close distances. A very good shooter will have splits around .20 seconds. These split times represent the ability to accurately fire four or five shots per second. This means that when firing at combat speed, a five-shot handgun will only be able to stay in the fight for about one second. A 10-shot pistol gives the shooter two seconds of firing before he has to stop and reload. A 15-shot pistol has three seconds of potential fighting time before it runs out. This is the true purpose of magazines that hold more rounds. Also keep in mind that there may be more than one attacker, your attacker(s) may be using cover or moving, or both, which could greatly increase the number of shots required to overcome these issues.

Contrary to what gun control advocates often espouse, higher magazine capacity is not about machismo, overkill, or excess. It's about improving the odds of survival. We can never predict whether the game-changing round will be #3, #7, or #18, so the more options we can afford ourselves, the better. ■

## LAST ONE LEFT

## Firearms Instructor Development Course

On Oct 28-30, 2016, we'll conduct the last Instructor Development Course for 2016 at the Ben Avery Shooting Complex near Phoenix, Arizona. This is a great facility and the weather in October should be perfect for training. This is an intensive three-day course that will make you a better shooter and a better trainer. Even if you have no intention of teaching others, the very best way to master a subject is to learn to teach it. Don't miss out! Visit our website or our Eventbrite page for more information or to register.

**Oct. 28-30, 2016**  
Ben Avery Shooting Complex  
Phoenix, Arizona

Eventbrite™



# TACTICAL CONFERENCE 2017

RANGE • MASTER

## REGISTRATION IS NOW

# CLOSED

# Sold Out!

Did you think we were kidding? Yes, the 2017 Tactical Conference is already sold out, nearly two months earlier than last year and a full six months before the event! If you missed out this year, we hope you'll be one of the first people to sign up for

Tac-Con-2018. The 2017 Tactical Conference will be held

at the fabulous facilities of DARC (Direct Action Resource Center) in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Formerly restricted to use by government and law enforcement organizations, we will be using this great venue with shoot-houses and multiple outdoor ranges.

Information on specific classes will come out in November. The official host hotel is the Holiday Inn Express Airport, located right by the Little Rock Airport, and only about 12 miles from the training complex. When you reserve your room, tell the hotel that you are with the Rangemaster Tactical Conference and get a special rate of \$85.00 per night. Please note that there is another conference in the area that weekend, so hotel rooms will sell out fast. See you in March!



## POP QUIZ!

Lately, there has been much debate about the police "stop and frisk" procedure that was first authorized in Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968). What is the actual legal status of the so-called Terry Stop?

The first person to post the correct answer on the Rangemaster Facebook page will be this month's winner!

- A. Terry Stops have been ruled unconstitutional, and police can no longer use them.
- B. Terry Stops are still legal, but their parameters have now been restricted by the Supreme Court.
- C. A local judge held that one police department had conducted Terry Stops in unlawful ways.
- D. Terry Stops are still legal, and police have full discretion to implement them however they want.

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