

**Rangemaster Firearms Training Services**  
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## **SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

### **DRILL OF THE MONTH**

Throughout 2024 we will be running a Drill of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The goal is help motivate folks to get to the range and actually shoot their defensive weapons, and to have some fun in the process. Each month we'll post a drill or a short course of fire. You are encouraged to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rangemaster/> .

### **Rangemaster Advanced Bullseye Course**

**This course of fire is intended to test your accuracy with both hands, dominant hand, and non-dominant hand under time pressure. It is a pretty good test of all around pistol performance.**

**NRA B-8 or B-8C, or FBI-IP1 bullseye target used.**

**Only hits in the 7, 8, 9 and 10 rings count. Outside the 7 ring are misses.**

**All strings begin at Ready, gun pointed at the ground.**

**25 yards 5 rds 30 secs freestyle**

**15 yards 5 rds 12 secs freestyle**

**7 yards 10 rds Start with 5 in gun. Fire 5, reload, fire 5  
all in 12 seconds, freestyle**

**5 yards 5 rds 4 secs freestyle**

**5 yards 3 rds 3 secs Dominant hand only**

**5 yards 2 rds 3 secs Non-dominant hand only**

**30 rounds total 300 points possible 270 or above to  
pass at instructor level**

**Video demo here: <https://youtu.be/H5bppEq1BEk>**

## **Pay Attention!**

In June, a hate-filled, rage fueled mental case wandered around a crowded grocery store in the daytime, carrying a large butcher knife in her hand, openly. The knife was not in a plastic encased display card like one for sale in the store, it was a large, naked blade in hand! Lots of people were around, but apparently, no one noticed her strolling around, evaluating victims. She selected a mother and her

toddler son, followed them out on the parking lot, and attacked them.



The mother was sent to the hospital with life threatening injuries, but the innocent 3 year old child was murdered, stabbed repeatedly, to death. The offender was captured by responding police, literally caught red handed.



“Why would you wear a gun to go to the grocery store?”, the incredulous sheep asks. I guarantee you, every time you go to your local grocery, you are in there with violent offenders who are out on parole, probation, or bail; offenders wanted by police but not yet apprehended; or violent, unstable, extremely dangerous mentally ill subjects. Here are some other examples:

June 23, 2024 4 killed, 9 wounded in grocery store in tiny Fordyce, Arkansas

Mar 16, 2022 10 killed in supermarket in Buffalo, NY

[500 Shootings at Major Supermarket Chains Since 2020 - Insider WEB](#) Jun 1, 2022 · When a white supremacist gunman murdered 10 people at a Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo,

New York last month, the **store** became just the latest retailer to experience a deadly **mass shooting**. In ...

Accept that if you are in public there is a risk of violence. Be prepared.

## **Second Amendment Foundation**

The legacy media and leftist politicians relentlessly condemn the NRA and blame it for all of the pro-gun success we've had in recent years. They do this because the NRA is the largest gun rights organization, and the NRA's internal problems make them an easy mark.

The truth is, for the past decade or so all of the heavy lifting has been done by the Second Amendment Foundation. The SAF has filed the majority of the lawsuits that led to gun rights victories and borne much of the cost of litigation. The NRA typically jumps in with a "me too" amicus brief after SAF has done the hard work. Court decisions such as McDonald vs Chicago, Ezell vs Chicago, Palmer vs DC, etc would probably not have been won if not for the efforts of the SAF. Currently, SAF has over 40 cases pending in federal and state courts.

Donations to the SAF are tax deductible, and are their only means of financing these legal crusades. Please consider donating. Even \$20 or \$50 could make a real difference in securing our self defense rights. Thanks!

<https://saf.org/individual/>

## Concealed Carry Tips

I have been wearing a concealed handgun every day for over 50 years, all over the US. That makes me sometimes take for granted information and practices that newer concealed carry folks may not know. Even if you've been carrying for a while, it won't hurt to briefly review some basic truths.

First, successful concealment is less about gun size (within reason) and more about holster design and clothing selection. Once you make a decision to take responsibility for yourself and your family's safety, you have to eye new clothing with the added requirement that you have to be able to conceal a handgun in that clothing and access the gun instantly in an emergency.



In my part of the country, an outer garment like a vest or jacket would be the equivalent of a neon sign, so I tend to wear an un-tucked shirt as an outer garment. Here are some tips to make that more efficient.

Darker colors work better. Small lumps or bulges are much less noticeable in dark colored fabric. A colorful pattern will often break these up even better. If you buy the outer shirt one size larger than you would normally, it will give you a bit more slack for concealment and still not look “wrong”.

Whether you wear the gun AIWB or Boomer Carry, the length of the garment is important. With your arms hanging at your sides, the hem of the shirt should not be

lower than your fingertips. For maximum speed of draw, the hem should be even with your wrist bones. To get a shirt large enough for my shoulders, they are often way too long. I have a local seamstress shorten them to the length described above, for a few dollars per shirt.

Under that, I normally carry a black gun, in a black holster, on a black belt, with a black compression undershirt. Thus, if the outer shirt was raised for some reason, the gun is hardly noticeable. That hot pink or lime green holster may be cute, but if it is exposed the contrast will draw the eye of anyone nearby.

Worn under a shirt, the part of the pistol that usually “prints” (makes a distinctive, gun shaped bulge) is the bottom of the butt, including the magazine floorplate. A vertical holster worn on the side is very bad about this. The wearer looks in the mirror and everything looks good. However, from the side or the rear a protruding corner in the shirt gives the gun away. The FBI remedied this 90 years ago by adopting a 15 degree butt forward cant (angle). Over the years, this came to be commonly known as “FBI cant”. Depending on your build and your particular gun, you may find a 15 degree or a 20 degree cant works



better for you. This is such an individual issue that you better try both on yourself.



A quality, rigid gun belt is absolutely necessary. A proper gun belt will support the weight of the pistol, distribute the weight on both hips, and keep the gun from tilting away from your body. Don't scrimp on your belt.

Shorter handguns tend to tilt away from your body more than a longer handgun. In a full size gun, the added length of the slide pushes the butt inward against your torso, maximizing concealment. In the wrong holster, a small gun like a Glock 26 or a small revolver, will often be less concealable than a larger counterpart due to this issue. The belt pushes inward on the muzzle end of the gun, tilting the butt away from the wearer's torso. To prevent this, in an IWB holster, simply use a holster for a longer gun. For example, a Glock 19 worn IWB will usually lie flatter against your body when worn in a holster for a G17 or G34. The small amount of extra holster length is inside the pants, unseen, but the holster will lie a lot flatter. Often, little details make a big difference.

Put some thought into clothing selection and you'll find concealed carry a lot easier.

## **P365 Armorer's Notes, by John Hearne**

### **My Background**

I have been a certified armorer for a variety of weapons including Remington 870's, M-16 family, Sig Classic Pistols, and Sig P320. I took my first armorer class in

roughly 2002 and have re-certified the above weapon systems several times. I have helped maintain, inspect, and upgrade scores of firearms and have testified at departmental proceedings as an expert in armorer practices.

### **Comments**

I recently attended and completed the one-day course to certify me as an armorer for the SigP365 series of pistols. Based on this class and my own personal experience with the platform (P365, P365XL, and P365 Tac Ops Macro), I'd like to offer some comments and suggest some interesting questions.

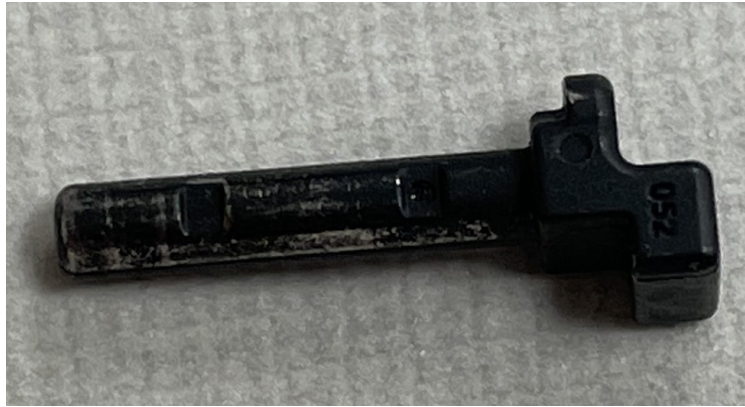
My overall impression of the P365 pistol is that the designers were mad geniuses. The unique magazine design has been called "amazing" and referred to as a "clown car of ammunition." Much like the magazine design is unique, so too is the design of the pistol. The engineers seem to have crammed an amazing number of features into an amazingly small package.

The P365 (and P320) share two features that help them stand out in the field of soul-less plastic striker fired pistols. These features directly impact end user safety. Both designs are such that the striker does not have to be released by pulling the trigger to field strip the gun and the gun will not field strip if the magazine is not removed and

the slide locked to the rear. This effectively forces the end user to properly clear the gun in order to field strip it.

While not as objective as field stripping safety, the P365 design allows for an amazingly thin pistol, one well suited for concealed carry. Finally, the design is very modular which allows for a variety of configurations to be selected without any special fitting. Since the firing mechanism is the serialized part, both the slide and grip frame/module can be swapped to whichever size is most appropriate for the desired use.

This miracle of engineering is not a free lunch. For instance, the pistol needs to be disassembled and reassembled in a very particular order and the reassembly process is not merely the disassembly process reversed. Because of the “cramming,” some parts must be removed in order to access others. Also, one of the pins used to hold the gun together doesn’t serve a singular function which raises potential questions about durability and makes reassembly more difficult. If you need a pistol of the size and features of a P365, its ability to fill this niche is truly remarkable, just be smart about it and consider having an understudy.



This is the pin, I'm talking about, the safety lever pin:

This pin pulls double duty, it allows the safety lever to pivot and the odd protrusion on one end is used to retain the lever that requires the magazine to be removed for field stripping. This aspect is mechanically "neat" and a good example of how so much was crammed into a small firing-control group.

Something else I experienced was the limited "room" or slop in the design. When I went to install a Gray Guns trigger into my personal copy, getting the trigger, trigger bar, and trigger pin inserted was quite the challenge and I ended up changing the assembly order to make it work and even then it was tight.

Another example of "tightness" is the sear spring. To tension the sear spring, you have to insert a small tool from the backside and slip the spring up on a ledge machined into the firing control unit's body. It was noted

that if repeatedly tensioned (i.e. repeated detail strips), this narrow ledge will wear and tensioning the pin will require two people or at least three hands.

The final cost of cramming everything into the design, is the quirkiness of reassembly. You need to pay attention to the potential for loose parts while reassembling. Certain pieces can shift out of proper position if you don't hold them in place while finalizing assembly. Not the end of the world but it certainly complicates the whole procedure.

It is my impression that the design is meant to be carried a lot and not shot that much. Any gun that is shot a lot will need regular service and maintenance. A detailed strip and examination is recommended every 5,000 rounds. The P365 uses a "classic" Sig feature of single-use pins that must be removed and replaced to perform common maintenance tasks such as removing the extractor which I prefer for better access. (The pins themselves can be hard to find with them not listed on Sig's website or Brownells. Several on-line stores have them at prices ranging between \$4.50 to \$8.00 each. You can also find the proper size 3/32 x 1/2" from Grainger or Fastenal for a lot cheaper in quantity)

Also, the way the striker assembly is removed does not seem to be designed for repeated checks as the retention tab is plastic and incurs wear every time it is removed and

installed. Speaking of the striker assembly, Sig has opted to treat the entire assembly as a distinct part. One does not replace individual parts in the striker assembly. If any part is worn or has reached its recommended interval for replacement, the entire assembly is replaced with a new one (\$70 from Sig's web site).

Another quirk of the design is the need to cram a trigger bar spring into the design. The spring offers a lot of tension. Getting it disengaged isn't easy and reinstalling it without specific tools is damn near impossible. (If you have the Armorer Tool Sig used to sell for its classic designs, it will be a thumb saver)

### **Misc Class Comments**

I need to mention that the class itself was very well conducted. The instructor was a retired cop and firearms instructor who is also a USPSA GM. He was very knowledgeable overall, he knew the P365 specific material solidly, and could convey what he knew very effectively. He knew just how many repetitions of a particular assembly/disassembly process were needed to be done to "get it" and was patient with the slower learners.

The manual provided was plainly outdated. It has a copyright of 2021 and doesn't mention the Macro version of the P365 or include details of the updated slides that leave the rear sight in place when the optic is installed.

The manual did include information on the optional manual safety function and the “heavy trigger” option which was developed for the NYPD.

The manual also has recommended replacement intervals for parts. Outside of the recoil guide/spring, every other part requires replacement at 20,000 rounds which makes 20,000 rounds the effective life cycle of the P365.

### **Conclusion**

My overall impression is that the P365 is a marvel of efficient design. If a stock gun fits your needs then the P365 is a good option. If you want to modify and “play Legos” with your pistol, the P365 isn’t as great a choice as others. Outside of swapping the grip module (which is crazy simple) the gun doesn’t lend itself to tweaks and modifications.

Sig’s engineers did an amazing job of cramming all the expected features and a few more into a remarkably small package. The dramatically reduced size and thinness of the P365 provides a great option for shooters with very small hands or shooters who want the smallest but most shootable 9x19mm pistol possible. This size and thinness come at the price of a more complex disassembly/assembly process and one on which it is harder to perform simple part swaps.



After posting that I had completed the armorer course, I was contacted by several folks who related failures of the FCU with higher round counts but not anywhere near 20,000. This matches the experience of other on-line friends who have had P365s fail at round counts far below 20,000 rounds.

We need to remember that reliability and durability are different aspects of design. A pistol can be very reliable without being durable. That is, it works great until it fails catastrophically. It is no secret that Sig uses MIM parts in its designs to lower costs. When a pistol is designed to use MIM parts, this is not a significant issue. The only issue with MIM is that the desire for lower cost means that the parts won't be inspected at a metallurgical level. MIM parts tend to work great until they fail catastrophically which seems to occasionally happen, especially as round counts go up.

Many wise instructors have recommended owning two copies of your preferred pistol. A dedicated carry gun and a dedicated training gun. The idea is that the training gun takes the abuse of a higher round count and the carry gun is only shot to confirm zero (especially with a red dot). If there was ever a pistol design that this advice applies to, I'd offer it's the P365. If it fits your needs the hassle is worth it.

# UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Classes will be taught by Tom Givens except where noted. Aqil Qadir teaches the Combative Pistol Courses.

Sept 25-29 Protective Pistolcraft Instr 5 day White Hall, AR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protective-pistolcraft-instructor-development-course-tickets-688836898707?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Oct 4-6 Master Instructor Mead Hall, OK

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688819005187?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Oct 5-6 Combative Pistol (Aqil) Bandera, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-729181921757?aff=oddtcreator>

Oct 18-20 Shotgun Instructor Richmond, VA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-689399120327?aff=oddtcreator>

**Oct 25-27    Pistol Instructor**

**Echo Valley, WV**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-705584150187?aff=oddtcreator>

**Nov 2-3        Instructor Reunion/Conference    Bandera, Texas**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-rangemaster-instructor-conference-tickets-688837911737?aff=ebsoporgprofile>

**Nov 9-10      Advanced Pistol Instructor**

**Decatur, TX**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-716198016547?aff=oddtcreator>

**Nov 16-17    Combative Pistol    (Aqil)**

**Cisco, GA**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-688844571657?aff=ebsoporgprofile>

**Dec 7-8        Advanced Instructor**

**Buford, GA**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-706078338317?aff=oddtcreator>

**Dec 7-8    Combative Pistol    (Aqil)**

**Dallas, Texas**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-tickets-902464945947?aff=oddtcreator>

**A RARE PHOTO OF A BABY CARROT  
CLINGING TO ITS MOTHER, BEFORE  
BEING EATEN BY A HEARTLESS VEGAN**



**STOP THIS CRUELTY NOW**