



SAGA SNIPPETS

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8 Checks to Run Before Firing Your New Gun

http://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2016/3/11/8-checks-to-run-before-firing-your-new-gun/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0316

by B. Gil Horman
Friday, March 11, 2016

In pursuing both personal and professional shooting endeavors over the last several years, I've prepared a fair number of new and used firearms for first-time trips to the shooting range. Experience has taught me that one can never assume a gun is ready to shoot until it has been thoroughly checked out. While some gun problems will not present themselves until the gun is fired, many potential issues can be resolved or avoided if they are identified before the trigger is pressed. Here are a few important steps to take before loading a new gun, or a used gun you have never fired:

1. Verify the Accessory Set

If the gun arrives in a box or a case, go through the contents to verify that all the bits and pieces are present and compatible with the firearm. It's unusual to get an incorrect component, like a .40 S&W magazine shipped with a 9 mm pistol, but it does happen. A more common occurrence is for something to be missing, such as receiving only one magazine instead of two. For new gun purchases, the best time to verify the accessories is at the gun shop before you buy it and take it home.

2. Read the Owner's Manual

Instruction manuals are boring. I know because I've read so many of them. Gun manuals in particular are notoriously inconsistent in their quality and usefulness. Some will leave the reader feeling like they are ready to field strip the gun blindfolded while others are about as instructive as a set of prehistoric cave paintings. Nevertheless, it's important to take the time to read the manual from cover to cover. More often than not the subtleties of loading, operating, and maintaining a gun will be hiding in that little booklet along with some of the sticking points that can be avoided if you read the fine print.

If it's a used gun that has no manual, then get one. Several companies now provide printable copies of their manuals online. If you inherited a dusty musket that was built before the invention of movable type, it would be wise to take it to a qualified gunsmith to look it over. It may be a valuable antique that should not be shot in order to preserve its value, or it could be too old to shoot safely with modern ammunition.

3. Clear the Bore of Obstructions

Recently I looked through the barrel of a test rifle using a bore light to find an object that shouldn't have been there. A few strokes with a cleaning rod revealed that the 2" polymer chamber flag shipped in the rifle's chamber as a safety measure had been 6" long

before it broke off leaving a 4" chunk of plastic stuck right where the bullets would fly. A shiver ran down my spine as I imagined the "educational opportunity" I had just avoided by taking the time to conduct this simple check.

4. Give It The Once Over

Although some mechanical problems are blatantly obvious, others can be subtle or hard to find. I remember an old CZ 52 pistol on display at a local gun show. It looked solid and the seller's price was very reasonable. But despite the desire to just snap it up, I took the time to examine it more closely. As it turned out, there was a fine, nearly invisible fracture in the frame running from the center of the dust cover back towards the trigger guard. The CZ 52 is chambered for the potent little 7.62x25 Tokarev cartridge, so I had no desire to be holding the gun when the frame finally gave out. Once the seller saw the crack, the pistol was removed from the table and a potentially dangerous gun failure was averted. A few minutes spent in giving a gun an examination is time well spent.

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Continued.....8 Checks to Run Before Firing Your New Gun

5. Strip, Clean & Lubricate

When it comes to gun safety, we like to stick to simple, easy to remember absolutes like, "Treat every gun as if it were loaded." So here is a new one to add to the list: "Treat every unfamiliar firearm as if it were dirty." Factory-fresh guns contain manufacturing residues to some degree or another, usually in the form of metal shavings and grinder grit held in place by oil or grease. Used guns are often fouled with powder residues, free of lubrication, or clogged up with lubricants that hardened into tar a long time ago.

So go ahead and field strip the gun according to the manufacturer's instructions and give it a good bath even though you will have to do it all over again after shooting. While you are in there, look over the components for any visible cracks or breakages just as you did with the exterior. Finding a flaw before the gun is fired should help to convince the manufacturer that they have a warranty issue to resolve instead of a customer who abused their product.

6. Give It a Twist

All kinds of firearm components, great and small, are designed to be removed and replaced. It's not uncommon for those parts to shake loose and get lost. It's impossible to count all of the adjustable sights and grip screws that have fallen into the dirt never to be seen again. To avoid the hassle of dealing with a lost component down the road, it makes sense to check the tightness of the various screws and twistable bits before heading to the range. If you have

any parts that look as if they are prone to wandering, take the proper tools along for the first shooting session and check them as you go. In some cases, a drop or two of a liquid thread locking compound may be needed to solve the problem.

7. Double Check Ammunition Compatibility

The caliber of ammunition a particular firearm can safely chamber is not always crystal clear. Some guns can fire more than one kind of ammunition. These include AR-15 rifles chambered for 5.56 NATO and .223 Rem., the Smith & Wesson X-frame 460XVR that can digest .460 S&W, .454 Casull, and .45 Colt, and the Taurus Judge which can fire .410 shotgun shells as well as .45 Colt revolver rounds. Several of the popular defensive handgun calibers are now available in +P configurations, meaning the rounds operate at an increased level of pressure that might damage older guns. And just in case things were not confusing enough, we have cartridges with more than one designation. The 9mm pistol round is also known as the 9x19 Parabelum and 9 mm Luger but it's not the same cartridge as the 9 mm Makarov or 9 mm Kurz.

If you have any questions about what ammunition to use, refer to your owner's manual or contact the gun manufacturer directly. The importance of loading the gun with only the ammunition it's designed for cannot be over stated. The failure to do so could result in a catastrophic gun failure.

8. Run a Bench Check

A bench check involves testing each of a gun's controls and functions without any ammunition. Once you have verified the firearm is completely unloaded, go through the steps of operation such as pulling back the charging handle, engaging and disengaging the manual safety, cocking the hammer, dropping the magazine and so on. If all of the controls are working properly, then it's time to head for the range.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

Should A Doctor Be Allowed To Ask If You Own A Gun?

<https://www.nrablog.com/articles/2016/4/should-a-doctor-be-allowed-to-ask-if-you-own-a-gun/>

by NRABlog Staff

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

The "Docs vs. Glocks" discussion has popped up again as a Florida law restricting doctors from discussing the subject up will be appealed this summer.

Recent opinion pieces in *The Washington Post*, and *Boston Globe*, have advocated for doctor's right to ask about gun ownership, but what do their patients think?

Gun owners have complained for years to the National Rifle Association about questions pushing a political agenda that is not appropriate for the doctor's office. Doctors do not receive firearm safety training in medical school, and advising patients about the many nuances of gun ownership is far outside their field of expertise.

What if I answer yes to their question about firearms in my home. Do they know what is best for me and my family in terms of safety and storage?

And if you're thinking these guidelines are merely about safety, they come directly from journals that seek to treat firearm ownership as a health epidemic. Dr. Katherine Christoffel, one of the authors of an American Academy of Pediatrics' policy to advise gun-owning families to get rid of their firearms wrote in an American Medical Association journal "Guns are a virus that must be eradicated."

Many, rightly, object to this invasion of privacy. The doctor-patient relationship is built on trust that the physician is knowledgeable on the subject and has the patient's best interests in mind. A doctor who misuses their position of authority makes a gross violation of ethics. You wouldn't go to a gun store to treat a broken arm, so why would you expect a doctor to give advice on firearms?

Where are the questions about pools, stairs, household cleaners, etc. If safety is the main concern, then shouldn't they also ask about the neighborhood I live in, and if it's not safe, would they suggest I get a gun to protect my family?

The reality is, I should be able to receive medical care without



being subject to a politically motivated inquisition regarding a right guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

States like Florida, Missouri and Montana have passed laws that prohibit physicians from asking their patients about firearm ownership, but doctors in other states have vowed to keep asking until it is not permitted.

The NRA is committed to helping citizens be responsible gun owners. If I want to learn about firearm safety and storage I'll go to the most trusted source.

For now doc, just check my blood pressure.

Lessons for the Ladies

Extracted from: <https://www.shootingillustrated.com/articles/2016/4/28/lessons-for-the-ladies/>

by Il Ling New
Thursday, April 28, 2016

Most of us in the shooting community have embraced the idea that we are each responsible for our own personal safety. But if you're a woman, there might be far more to this. Not only are we responsible for our own safety, but we might very well be the final line of defense for others in our lives.

The harsh reality is that even a sub-average criminal will try to remove his biggest obstacle first - and that will most likely be any man you're with. That leaves you.

What about when you're out with the girls, or the kids? Has anyone given much thought to what to do when a bad guy appears? Well, he has. That leaves you.

Right about now, you should be getting very serious about moving forward with that plan you've been hatching - the one in which you learn more about self-defense. Specifically, the one where you learn how to use (or get better with) that great equalizer - the firearm.

Where to Begin?

First things first. Get some proper training, from professionals. You may have family and friends who are shooters. They may be sure they were put on this earth to teach you, and insist upon doing so.

But, here are some proper responses. "No." "Stop." "Don't." You get the idea.

It's not, as is typically assumed, the dynamic between husband and wife, parent and child or even friends that gets in the way of good training, although those re-



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lationships can definitely be an issue. Most parents and spouses/mates are not trained firearm instructors.

Remember, just as in driving or cooking, the fact someone has been doing something a long time doesn't mean he does it well. Even if he does it well, that doesn't mean he can teach others to do it well.

More to the point: even a friend with the best intentions can impart improper shooting technique and information. They tend to rely on what has worked for them, and may not have the benefit of having taught and watched scores of shooters learn and struggle through various issues. They may not have the knowledge, ability and training to take you through what's needed for true defensive shooting - not just drilling holes in paper at the range.

On top of all this, smaller-statured shooters can face additional issues, particularly when they are just beginning. An experienced firearm trainer can quickly identify and resolve these issues as soon as they become apparent.

You're far more likely to get the firearm education most appropriate to you and your traits when working with a good professional. You'll be off to a proper start, and will be less apt to develop poor

habits that will undermine your defensive foundation.

So go get some training. Real training. Professional training. Start with firearm safety. Then work your way into marksmanship, gun handling and other elements crucial to being able to use that tool for self-defense.

Not Just About Shooting

As you move through your firearm education, make sure you and your trainer aren't placing too much emphasis on pure marksmanship to the exclusion of the other skills you'll need to get you through a crisis. Your trainer should spend time working on gun manipulation. Also called gun handling, this encompasses everything from being able to reload quickly when you run the gun empty to clearing stoppages, figuring out where and how you're going to carry and how to get the gun out from where it is stored.

Another topic you should learn is how to avoid danger in the first place - heightening your situational awareness and thinking and behaving in ways that minimize the risks to yourself and your loved ones. You should also understand enough about ballistics and ammunition to make informed decisions about what loads to use for different purposes.

There is more, and it's not complicated. Your trainer will be able to provide you with a solid and well-rounded understanding of what goes into personal defense with your handgun. Most important, you will develop the element most critical to good defense - your mindset. My bet is, as you start to take more control of your own safety and manage that tool in the process, you'll have more and more fun, too.

Continued.....Lessons for the Ladies

Get Your Own

You need to have your own guns. Yes, plural. While it's lovely to have an excuse to go shopping, do not march out and get the first firearm that feels good in the store, or worse, accept the handgun some well-meaning soul hands off, lends or gives to you.

As I say to men and women alike, guns are like shoes. They have to fit. That means they have to fit both the occasion - training, carry, car, etc. - and the user. Much like shoes, you are the best, and possibly the only, person to judge that fit. Even more like shoes, guns are best chosen after being tried out a bit.

Ask your trainer if he has recommendations and samples for you to shoot. If not, try one of the many ranges with rental firearms available. It may take a while to settle on your choice. The more you're able to shoot a handgun, the better you'll be able to judge whether it's the one for you. Don't rush. It's an investment. But even more important, it's a tool upon which your life may depend.

Size matters. There. Not only have I said it to hundreds of women in classes, I've now committed it to print. Many gun purchasers make the mistake of trying to match the size of firearm to that of the person - big guy, big ol' gun. With handguns, however, smaller is not necessarily better. Again, like shoes, much depends on the planned use of the handguns.

Are you training to improve marksmanship? Practicing with many rounds? Smaller and lighter firearms have less mass to absorb recoil. They are also usually a bit tougher to aim. For these and other reasons, when starting out, or when you're expecting to do a lot of training and shooting, smaller is worse. While there are indeed

times when smaller is better - when you're trying to conceal a firearm, for example - make sure you're always using the appropriate tool for the given purpose.

And don't buy cheap. Just like with shoes, you get what you pay for.

Revolver or Semi-Automatic?

Herein lies an age-old conversation-starter and point of contention. There is no correct answer except perhaps, "It depends."

Each type of action has its benefits and disadvantages. As you define and refine the objective or role for each tool, you'll be able to decide which type of action you want in your handgun.

For starters, though, here are some considerations. Semi-automatics usually provide shorter lengths-of-pull - the distance your finger has to clear to access the trigger. Most models also have higher ammunition capacities than like-sized revolvers.

Revolvers, on the other hand, are simpler to use across a variety of shooting scenarios. They are less prone to malfunction, for example. They also require less room to be able to function (the semi-auto slide must have space to travel back and forth) and thus can often operate from inside a pocket or a purse.

For each type, there are many other considerations, and much to be determined by how you like shooting the different actions. Your instructor can help you work through the pros and cons, and which type best suits your shooting purposes and style.

Just Another Appliance

Do not be afraid. Remember, ladies, firearms are a part of our heritage. In the pioneer days, women treated guns like just another household tool. Pesky bear

in the garden? Grab that rifle and take care of the problem. Cupboard bare and men off in the fields? That shotgun leaned up in the corner ought to bring a bird or two for supper.

The point is, guns are not a "guy" thing. If you can run a blender and cut through a watermelon, you've got the mechanical ability and the strength to run a gun. Your instructor will show you how, and if he's experienced with teaching smaller-statured folk, he'll be able to show you how to use your body's leverage to do everything the big boys can. I promise. If not, come see me.

Do not expect to "get it" in one session. Be realistic. If defensive deployment of a firearm is something new to you, it's going to take some commitment and practice to feel confident. But that's true with any new thing. If you take your responsibility seriously, it'll come faster than you expect. This is not only possible, it's probable.

Just like with your firearm, don't skimp on other equipment, lessons or range time. Invest in making the training experience as high quality as you can, especially in the beginning. This will pay off through quicker learning, more confidence and a strong base from which you can grow and get stronger.

Last, but absolutely not least, always remember your mind is your primary weapon. A good defensive firearm course will teach you things above and beyond what you can do with a handgun. Just in the act of taking a class, you're on your way to gaining the most important protective asset of all - the foundation of a strong defensive mindset.

Learning to shoot: fun. Having my own pistol or pistols: cool. Knowing how to use it: priceless.

Keefe Report: Another “Victory” for UK Gun Laws

<https://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2016/4/19/keefe-report-another-victory-for-uk-gun-laws/>

by Mark Keefe -
Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Next time someone tells you how “great” the gun control laws are in the United Kingdom and that “we should look at them,” you might want to bring up Albert Patterson. Albert Patterson spent 22 years wearing the uniform of a British soldier. This included service with the Parachute Regiment and with the elite Special Air Service Regiment.

The 67-year-old veteran fought in the 1982 Falklands War, and a Browning High Power pistol surrendered to him by an Argentine officer was a trophy that he brought home to remember the sacrifice of his comrades - 16 men of 2 Para were killed during the Battle of Goose Green alone.

There’s a problem with that, though. Even decorated soldiers who served from the Goose Green to Afghanistan with the British

army are liable for strict prosecution by the Crown for the mere possession of a handgun. And that is what Patterson is now facing. According to a *Daily Mail* article, a court just sentenced him to 15 months in jail for the unlicensed possession of a 9 mm High Power pistol, five rounds of “expanding” ammunition, 177 rounds of other 9 mm and four Enfield World War II-era revolvers.

There’s quite an uproar in the United Kingdom about Patterson’s sentence. The voices jumping to the retired Special Forces soldier’s defense included that of Col. Richard Kemp, who commanded British troops in Afghanistan. “An SAS hero who risked his life to defend our country shouldn’t be treated like a south London drug dealer,” Kemp told the *Daily Mail*. “He should be freed immediately. The country should be grateful for what he did.”

And that Draconian sentence was handed down for mere possession of the unlicensed guns and ammunition - not that even a war hero

could legally register a handgun these days. There’s no reported evidence that Patterson committed any crime other than having them in his house. Patterson spent 15 of the last 20 years deployed overseas. His attorney, called a solicitor over there, said that he was focused on other things and there was no amnesty while he was home in the UK.

Patterson didn’t injure anyone with his talisman to the Falklands War or the three-quarters of a century old revolvers; he didn’t hold up a liquor store, all he did was possess unregistered guns.

While jailing Britain’s war heroes likely was not the intent of Parliament when its series of harsh gun laws were enacted, it certainly was the result. Remember, the “universal background checks” that are called for by politicians these days are really the first step towards British-style gun registration. Oh, and armed self-defense isn’t allowed there, either.

