



SAGA Snippets

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Extra Ammo? Why Not?

By Sheriff Jim Wilson
22 June 2024

We know that the vast majority of citizen-involved shootings are resolved with the ammunition that is in the gun. I strongly suspect that that is also the case with most shootings involving law enforcement. Why, then, do the vast majority of us strongly recommend that an armed citizen carry at least one reload at all times?

Well, the most important reason I can think of is that your gunfight might just be the exception to the rule. There is nothing more disappointing than to run out of ammunition while the fight is still going on. One of the truest statements is, "the fight is going to be what it is going to be", and you simply can't predict what will be required to deal with that particular fight decisively. But, there are other things that can go wrong and may do so at the worst times.

Some years ago, I was told about a police officer responding to a shots-fired call. Somehow, as he exited his vehicle, the magazine release on his pistol was activated and, when he drew his gun, the magazine fell out. Fortunately, this officer was immediately aware of the problem and performed a speed reload from his mag pouch. Semi-automatic pistols may malfunction and pistol magazines may malfunction. Often, the quickest way to get back into the fight involves loading a spare magazine.

And revolver shooters don't get a free pass either. Have you ever loaded a round with a high primer into your revolver? Or how about a round with a damaged cartridge or improperly seated bullet? It is time to clear the gun and get a fresh load out in there, soonest.

When carrying a semi-auto, I always carried at least one spare magazine in a mag pouch on my left hip. And, at times, for various reasons, I would often put on a double mag pouch and even drop a third spare magazine in my jacket pocket.

With revolvers, my minimum load out is one speed loader and one speed strip. The speed loader for when I run completely empty and the speed strip for when I need to do a partial reload. Again, a couple of extra speed loaders and speed strips are comforting and don't take up all that much room.

Operator error, ammo problems and pistol problems are all reasons for carrying extra ammo. And I'll close with one of my favorite quotes from Col. Jeff Cooper, "When the fight is over, be sure to reload. It is just unseemly for a gentleman to walk around with an empty gun on."

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/extra-ammo-why-not/>

SAGA Snippets June 2024

Special points of interest:

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SAGA at Tactical Handgun Open Day

The Tac-Sport Tactical Handgun Shoot (Open Day), expertly facilitated by Dean Nieuwoudt (Fundikhono), was held on Sunday, 23 June in Durban.

Ridwaan Syed of Tac-Sport noted that, "Our primary goal for this event was to unite and share our club values with the dedicated gun handling community, be it civilian or duty personnel. The focus was not on identify-



us, as this represents the Tac-Sport way. Our club is all about member development and not showing-off.

Congratulations to the Highest Scorers - you inspire us to train harder!

We commend everyone for adhering to the principles of Concealed Everyday Carry (EDC) and Duty Carry respectively. Special thanks to Dean and the team of Range Officers (ROs) for their exceptional work. Stay safe and keep training," said Ridwaan.

ing the best individual shooter, but on fostering a spirit of teamwork and striving for collective excellence. It was well attended by numerous gun owners, CPF/Neighbourhood watch members, Security and Police members."

He extended a special thank you to SAGA for unwavering support, not just on the day of the event, but for their continuous efforts on behalf of our community. He also thanked everyone who participated.

"We sincerely hope this experience has inspired many to join

For more information on the club, please contact any of the following:
Ridwaan: 072 32 47 357 or Dean: 082 651 8068 or Brandon: 083 307 8684





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Continued...SAGA Corporate Membership

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The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cell-phone number **066 003 9226**.





Top USA Firearm Manufacturers of 2022 Report



By Guy J. Sagi
28 May 2024

Orchid, a leader in FFL technology, payment processing and firearm and explosives compliance services, has published a comprehensive analysis of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) 2022 Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Report. It provides an in-depth breakdown of the top 30 firearm manufacturers overall, as well as a number of detailed charts categorizing the leading manufacturers by pistols, rifles, revolvers and shotguns.

"Our goal is to provide the firearm industry with the most accurate and detailed information available," said Leland Nichols, chief strategy and business development officer at Orchid. "By analyzing the ATF's data and presenting it in an accessible format, we aim to help manufacturers and FFLs stay informed and competitive."

According to the company's findings, the top 10 manufacturers overall (volume of handguns, rifles and shotguns combined) were - in descending order - Ruger, SIG Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Savage Arms, Springfield Armory, Palmetto State Armory, Glock, Mossberg, Henry Repeating Arms and Heritage Manufacturing.

In rifles, again starting with the frontrunner, Ruger, Savage Arms, Henry Repeating Arms, Springfield Armory, Smith & Wesson, Radical Firearms, Palmetto State Armory, Diamondback Firearms, Mossberg and SIG Sauer led the way in 2022.

Mossberg was tops in shotguns, followed by Savage Arms, RemArms, Beretta, KelTec, Legacy Sports International, Outdoor Colors, Henry Repeating Arms, Smith & Wesson and Accord Manufacturing.

For pistols it was SIG Sauer, Ruger, Smith & Wesson, Glock, Taurus, Springfield Armory, Kimber, Palmetto State Armory, Beretta and SCCY.

And in revolvers Heritage Manufacturing claimed the gold medal, followed by Smith & Wesson, Ruger, Colt, Kimber, Diamondback Firearms, North American Arms, Standard Manufacturing, Bearman Industries and Automated Finishing.

Orchid is an industry leader in providing firearms compliance solutions. Through innovative technology and expert insights, it empowers FFLs to streamline their operations and maintain strict compliance with ATF regulations.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/top-usa-firearm-manufacturers-report/?utm_source=newsletter

Concealed-Carry at the Small of the Back: Pros & Cons

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/concealed-carry-at-the-small-of-the-back-pros-cons/>

By Frank Melloni
18 June 2024

If you've taken a cruise down the holster aisle, you've likely already come to the realization that there are numerous ways to keep your defensive pistol concealed along your waistband. Given that there are as many ways to carry as there are body styles and firearms, naturally, some are going to be the focus of debates. Of them all, the small of the back (SOB) seems to draw the most attention, and rightfully so. When your pistol's at your six, it's hidden from plain sight and relatively accessible. However, depending on how you look at things, it could be considered hard to grab or even downright dangerous. Let's take a look at some of the pros and cons.

I'd like to begin with what I consider to be SOB's greatest asset, and that's its concealability. Human nature leads us to focus greatly on the front side of another person, with an emphasis on everything above the belt. Therefore, if you're wearing something a bit tighter than your usual carry-wear, it's an excellent option to keep from printing. When you are viewed from behind, the grip of the pistol will fall into the natural curve of your back, and an untucked shirt will bridge the gap between your shoulders and rear end.

On the subject of curves, SOB carry can be exceptionally comfortable sitting down, just so long as the proper considerations are taken, and you're not committed to reclining. This is largely because the same gap that helps you conceal your pistol offers relief against the seat cushion. This method excels in an office setting when you are perched up straighter to view a computer monitor. However, if you're kicking back and watching a movie, you might experience a little poking.



Above all, choose a holster that rides as high as possible and ensure that your firearm doesn't have a barrel length that precludes this method altogether.

As a left-handed shooter, I probably think about ambidextrous features more than the next person. To that end, small-of-the-back carry is one of the most balanced positions on your body, allowing you to access it with either hand in an emergency. If you dedicate this as your preferred carry method, it's a good idea to work alternate hand drawing into your routine just to understand the changes that occur should you have to resort to weak-side access.

Just as I've stated in the introduction, SOB carry isn't all sunshine and roses, especially when we consider the greatest issue, and that's the potential for serious injury. Keeping a chunk of metal or hardened polymer pressed against your spine could be asking for trouble during an altercation, particularly if you land flat on your back. It might sound like extreme advice, but consider enrolling in a martial arts course, as one of the first lessons taught is how to take a fall. This will help mitigate injury not only when you're carrying a gun, but throughout your day-to-day activities as well.



Continued...Concealed-Carry at the Small of the Back

Holstering in the SOB position is also a bit tougher, as you have no natural visibility of where it's going. Even with the assistance of a mirror, one has to crane one's neck to find the holster and align the handgun with it. Be sure to practice this carefully—without ammunition present—before you attempt to do it with a loaded gun. Alternative methods include clipping the gun and holster to your belt as a single unit, or putting everything on your pants and then putting your pants on. If you choose either of these, understand that you'll be at the mercy of your holster's retention, so it might not be the best solution in every scenario.

The last downside of this carry position actually stems from one of its positives, and that would be accessing it in an emergency. Yes, it's one of the more balanced positions to draw from with either hand, but to that end, it doesn't accommodate either particularly well. Getting one hand behind your back to clear your cover garment and the other to draw the pistol takes an elongated, coordinated effort, one that's prone to failure under stress.

What's more, if you did wind up on your back during a preceding struggle, you'll have even more work to do. Sadly, there is no fix to these issues outside of routine practice. This is exceptionally important because drawing from this area is typically fraught with concerns about muzzling someone (e.g., allowing your gun's muzzle to sweep your or someone else's body) in the process. Like all carry options, perfect your draw before you even think about putting ammo in the gun.

Small-of-the-back carry can be the best choice for certain people and certain scenarios. However, like all other ways to tote a gun, it needs to be looked at closely before diving in with both feet. One of the best solutions is to purchase a multi-positional holster, as this will give you a means of testing it without going all in. Consider this method if you spend a lot of time at a desk, on your feet or if you have a dress and body style that will capitalize on this space.

Understanding Gaze Behavior

<https://www.nrawomen.com/content/understanding-gaze-behavior/>

by Jo Deering
25 June 2024

Victims of violent crime often say after the incident, "It came out of nowhere." But that's not always true. The criminal came from somewhere, and in many cases, there were pre-incident indicators that he was a bad guy or that something abnormal was going on. The victim didn't see the signs, but that doesn't mean there weren't any.

Understanding gaze behavior - yours and the bad guy's - is key to picking up on those abnormal signals and spotting crime before it fully develops. Gaze behavior is what someone does with their eyes and how their body reacts to what they're seeing. You first need to be mindful of your own gaze behavior; how you look at the world around you. That will enable you to spot when someone else's gaze is cast on you in a suspicious way.

Your Own Gaze

You already know that walking around in condition white, nose in your phone, oblivious to what's going on around you, is foolish and dangerous. Being casually but consciously aware of your surroundings will keep you safer, but this isn't just "keep your head on a swivel" stuff. You need to look beyond your immediate vicinity and know what's going on at various distances: close, mid-range and at distance.

Think about when you're driving. You don't focus all your attention on the steering wheel (very close) or on the back of the car in front of you (close) or even on the car in front of him (mid-range). You shift your gaze from the car in front of you to the side of the road, to the rearview mirror, to way up ahead, and back to the car in front of you, and every so often you repeat this sequence in some way. Why? You do this so you can spot a potential problem - say, a deer on the side of the road, or brake lights 20 cars up on the interstate - while you still have plenty of time to react to it.

The same needs to be true when you're walking down the street, through a parking lot or anywhere else. Pay attention to what's going on immediately around you, at a mid-range distance and far ahead where you're going. Who is moving in and out of each space? What problems are developing that you can stay away from? Be careful about just whipping your head from side to side as you do when you cross the street - we've all had the experience of looking so quickly that we really don't look at all, and we miss something that was right there. Consciously look around you at each distance to get a good handle on your surroundings. Let your brain register what's happening.

It's also helpful to make a habit of checking behind you, and you can use mirrors and reflective surfaces to help you do that, if available. Don't be afraid to physically turn your head and look behind you if you've just passed someone you feel suspicious of or if you have that eerie "someone's following me" feeling.

Someone Else's Gaze

Somewhere around 90 percent of our communication is non-verbal. You can tell a lot about a person and their intentions by their body language and, for the purposes of this article, by the way they watch the world around them.

Pay attention to who is looking at you. Depending somewhat on where you live, eye contact with strangers has well-known social limits. Looking for more than a couple of seconds is staring. A short stare with a smile, followed by looking away and then making eye contact again, might be flirting. Eye contact followed by dropping the eyes can indicate fear or submission. And long stares are threatening, intimidating or at least uncomfortable. Plenty of people are socially awkward without being a threat, but take note of anyone who looks at you too long, too fast, too frequently or too intensely. None of that is normal behavior among strangers.

A quick "accidental" eye contact is awkward, so we often finish it with a smile or a



Continued...Understanding Gaze Behavior

nod to indicate that we're not a weirdo and we mean no harm. Pay attention to anyone who meets your eye for a split second and immediately shifts their gaze away, especially if they do it more than once. At that point, they're watching you for some reason that might be innocent ... or might not.

Make note of anyone who stares at you. If he's not innocently flirting, and if you're not doing anything attention-grabbing, why's he so intent on watching what you're doing? Is he sizing you up? Is he learning your patterns? Is he intentionally meeting your gaze to see if you react fearfully or confidently?

Also beware of groups of people who are together but aren't engaging each other or looking at each other. A group of young men standing around in a parking lot should be talking to each other or at least looking at their phones, probably near someone's car or the bus stop. They shouldn't be standing in silence, watching other people or staring at the store exit to see who passes through. That's abnormal gaze behavior, and you should steer clear of this pack.

Safety expert Marc MacYoung refers to a particular type of gaze behavior he calls a "witness check," which he describes in his book *Safety Doesn't Have to Be Scary* as "a fast glancing around to see if there are any witnesses or people near enough to interfere with the attackers' plans. This usually happens as they are approaching, but still sort of far out. It's a very distinctive move that if you see someone doing it in a fringe area (or a confrontation), it's a bad, bad sign."

He describes the witness check as a very fast, unfocused glance - the criminal isn't trying to recognize anyone's face, as you would do if you were looking for a friend in a crowd, so his gaze doesn't linger on each side. He's simply checking for the presence of any people at all.

The specific gaze behavior known as a witness check often happens while the criminal is still a distance away from his chosen prey, and he'll probably be in the act of approaching you while he does it. This is why

it's important for you to look beyond what's immediately in front of you and scan your surroundings at mid-range and at distance - if you can spot someone watching you and glancing around as he approaches you, you have bought yourself time to react.

If you think about it, you already know something about what predatory gaze behavior looks like. Picture a housecat stalking a bird in the front yard. What is his body doing? It's low, tense, every muscle flexed, moving quickly when he can and then freezing until the bird turns away, then creeping slowly, tail twitching. And what are his eyes doing? They haven't moved for the entire stalk. He's deliberate and focused, staring at his chosen victim.

Any person approaching you with that kind of focused gaze behavior should throw up all kinds of red flags. If he's far off, he might avert his gaze to avoid eye contact that might scare you off. If he's at mid-range, he might test you with a hard stare, hoping to intimidate you into freezing for a couple of seconds while he closes the gap. If he's close, within a few yards, he might watch you out of the side of his eyes while pretending to look at something else, or he might just plow ahead with a smash-and-grab-style attack. You want to spot him before he gets that close.

Part of keeping yourself safe is paying attention to who's paying attention to you and how they're using their gaze, especially when it's cast in your direction. And the best way to notice the signs of criminal gaze behavior is to develop your own conscious gaze behavior that has you looking and really seeing what's going on around you at close, mid-range and far-out distances. This is really just people-watching taken to a slightly more deliberate level, but it's one of the best tools you have to see trouble while it's still brewing so you can avoid it.