

THREE ON THE HIP



For full-size pistols from Bianchi, Bulman, Galco!

By Bob Arganbright

Three new cowhide hip holsters are our subjects this issue. First, for a 1911 we consider a Bianchi strong side with an innovative new retention system. Next, we will check out Bulman's leather speed rig with a Kydex liner, also for a 1911. Last, we will review Galco's new Single Action Outdoorsman cowhide holster for long barrel SA revolvers, in this case a Ruger 7.5-inch Super Blackhawk.

Bianchi M82 CarryLok

Bianchi International's new Model 82 CarryLok is a strong side high ride hip holster of a two slot pancake style. The original Baker Pancake had three belt slots with two in the leading edge for wear as strong side or crossdraw. The Model 82 has an open top pouch with a single belt slot in the leading and trailing edges, which positions the pistol high on the hip in an FBI rake for ease of draw. The triggerguard is fully enclosed to prevent premature access to the trigger as the cocked and locked 1911 is being drawn. Hand wet mold-



Bianchi's CarryLok offers exceptional security in an open top pancake style holster, shown here with Wilson Combat tuned 1911.

ing provides a glove like fit for the handgun. The gun butt is presented for a full shooting grip with first hand contact. As with all pancake style holsters, the CarryLok rides close to the body

for concealment, and the wide spread belt slots provide maximum comfort.

The heart of the CarryLok system is the Auto Retention feature, which is provided by a rigid synthetic block to

AJAX SYNTHETIC STAG GRIPS

For many years a favorite material for handgun grips has been the antler of the Sambar stag, which comes from India. Unfortunately, recent import bans have caused the supply to dry up, and genuine Sambar stag grips are very difficult to find and quite expensive. Ajax Custom Grips has stepped into the breach and introduced quality synthetic stag grips. I have recently been using a pair on a second generation Colt SAA!

In the 1950s and 1960s, there were several companies producing synthetic stag grips. Many of the B-Western stars had imitation stag grips on their six shooters. These were cast of thin plastic and were



Ajax Custom Grips offers new high quality synthetic Staglite grips.

hollow on the backside with ribs to add strength. Those I tried would eventually warp, and trying to pull them tight with the grip screw would break them. The new Ajax Staglite is very attractive and is a solid synthetic grip, so warpage should not be a

problem. As with most pistol grips today, they are shaped for larger hands and are thicker than I like, especially at the top where they mate with the revolver's frame. The good news is that the Staglite material works easily with the usual wood-working tools, such as rasps and sandpaper. I was able to shape them as I wished, and then successfully polish the reshaped area with nothing but hand tools and different grades of sandpaper. Ajax Staglite is a quality alternative to genuine Sambar stag at approximately 20% of the cost. And if you are willing to pay the cost of genuine stag, Ajax has a small supply.

For more information contact Ajax Custom Grips, P.O. Box 560129, Dept CH, Dallas, Texas 75356; 800-527-7537; www.ajaxgrips.com



This Bulman Gunleather SBS-2 is a full lined cowhide speed holster with a Kydex insert for rigidity and long life.

capture and lock the triggerguard in place when the pistol is holstered. When one inserts the pistol in the CarryLok holster, a slight upward pull will confirm it's locked in place. The CarryLok device has a relatively large release tab, which is depressed with the middle finger as the gun is grasped. It required a 10 minute practice session to make this a natural part of the draw stroke, after which it worked perfectly. The Bianchi CarryLok holster, available in black or tan finish, is a fast and concealable hip holster that also provides superior retention of the handgun.

Bulman SBS-2

Bulman Gunleather offers a superior new vertical carry strong side hip holster called the SBS-2. Of two-piece construction, it consists of a trim pouch attached to a separate hip plate with three heavy-duty screw fasteners. The hip plate has belt slots fore and aft to pull the pouch close to the body and distribute the weight of a large pistol for maximum comfort. The open top gun pouch is cut down to the bottom edge of the ejection port in the front lip for a maximum speed draw. This pouch is fully lined with cowhide and a very thin piece of Kydex rigid synthetic sandwiched in between the two layers of leather. This provides the rigidity of a steel lined holster without the extra weight. The pouch fully covers the triggerguard and presents the gun butt for a proper full shooting grip with first hand contact. Molding provides a front sight channel for sight clearance when using high visibility front sights, and a tab extending from the top backside of the pouch to prevent the thumb safety lever from gouging the user. Bulman calls this tab a bodyguard. My



Backside of Galco's new SAO holster shows unusual belt loop for strong side or crossdraw wear.

SBS-2 is finished in an attractive gloss black and includes dual adjustable tension screws to provide the desired security. The Bulman Gunleather SBS-2 provides more than adequate concealment, security as desired, and superior speed.

Galco SAO

Galco International has established a reputation for producing the very finest of holsters. Their new Single Action Outdoorsman (SAO) holster is no exception. The SAO combines traditional and modern design features to produce a superior practical holster. The traditional wraparound pouch covers the triggerguard and is wet molded for a perfect fit with my old model Ruger Super Blackhawk revolver. Security is provided by a traditional snap fastened safety strap, combined with an adjustable tension device located just below the triggerguard. The pouch is cut to just clear the revolver's adjustable rear sight. The belt loop treatment is unusual, as it combines a traditional tunnel loop which positions the revolver for a crossdraw with two belt slots that position the holster for a strong side FBI raked high ride position. All edges show the usual Galco attention to detail and my sample SAO is finished in an attractive saddle tan. The SAO lets one carry a long barreled sixgun on the strong side hip or on the offside hip as a crossdraw. Galco has another winner.

For more information contact:

Bianchi International, P.O. Box 9015, Dept CH, Temecula, CA 92589; 951-676-5621; www.bianchi-intl.com

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