

BE CLASSIC, BE DIFFERENT



Two proven designs with three new innovations—let's check 'em out!

By Bob Arganbright

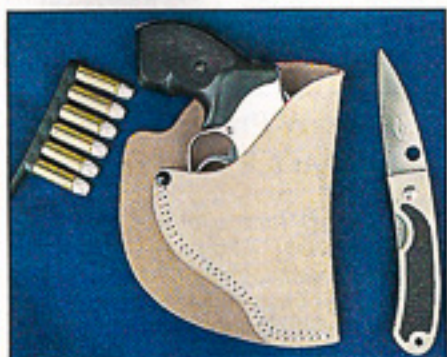
In this HANDGUN HIDE we'll check out a new inside-the-pants hip holster for the Colt Gov't Model from Bulman Gunleather, as well as two pocket holsters for two-inch J-frame Smith & Wessons, these from DeSantis Holster & Leather and Kramer Leather.

Bulman

The inside-the-pants holster is one of the best means of concealing a full-sized handgun like the Colt Gov't Model, which is still instantly available, and the new rig from Bulman Gunleather is one of the best I've seen. Of special note it's made from two thin pieces of cowhide so that both the inside and outside surfaces of the pouch are smooth side out. This smooth interior surface works and exacting wet molding ensures the gun is held



Colt Gov't Model easily conceals in this Bulman inside-the-pants holster.

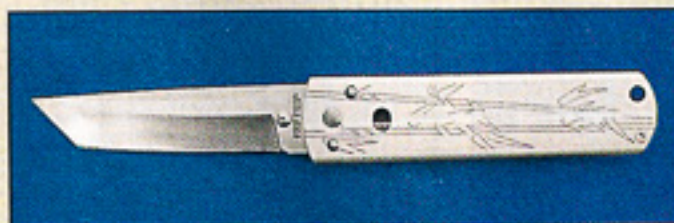


Author's favorite S&W J-frame rides securely in DeSantis pocket holster.

securely with minimum wear to the gun finish. A metal band around the top of the holster pouch facilitates one-hand holstering. The pouch is cut to present a complete shooting grip upon contact while fully enclosing the trigger guard to prevent premature access to the trigger. Securely stitched rails provide a front sight channel to safeguard a target front sight and a tab extending upward at the top backside of the pouch ensures maximum comfort. A removable double strap belt loop attaches to the face of the pouch so that belt loops for different belt widths can be interchanged. Bulman has

Cold Steel's Triple Action

Cold Steel has recently introduced a new folder, their "Triple Action", which stands for the three steps necessary to go from folded to opened knife. The handle's top and bottom halves are made of aircraft aluminum. To open the blade, which is fully enclosed in the handle, one starts by pivoting the bottom half of the handle outward with the weak hand while holding the knife in the strong hand. The thumb of the strong hand then pivots the blade to the fully open position, using the thumb stud. The weak hand then pivots the bottom half of the handle back to the closed position, which locks the blade in the open position. As long as the knife hand encircles the handle, the blade cannot close. Each knife comes with an



Cold Steel's unusual new Triple Action folder has a tanto-point blade with a plain edge.

illustrated instruction sheet and, be advised, one may seriously cut themselves on the razor sharp blade should the Triple Action be handled incorrectly. The handle is roll engraved with a bamboo stalks design, and the top and bottom handle flats have cross grooves that extend the full length for an enhanced grip. As the Triple Action doesn't have handle liners, it weighs only 3.5 ounces. There's a thong hole

and a pocket clip carries the knife in a point-down carry. The four-inch blade has a plain edge tanto-point made from AUS 10A stainless steel, which is hollow ground to be razor sharp. Like all Cold Steel knives, the Triple Action is brute strong and as near fail proof as possible. It should be noted that it requires two hands to open and close the Triple Action. I like this unusual new folding knife from Cold Steel. For more information contact: Cold Steel Inc., 3036-A Seaborg Ave., Dept CH, Ventura, CA 93003; 800-255-4716; www.coldsteel.com

finished the holster in an attractive red-brown and all edges are nicely burnished. This is an excellent concealment holster for large-frame autopsists.

The Pocket Holster

In the last few years we have seen a revival of interest in the pocket holster. Whether as a primary or as a backup, a snubnose revolver can still be carried in a pocket. However, it's best to carry the pocket gun in a specially designed holster that ensures the little handgun remains properly positioned in the pocket. After alerting to trouble, the strong hand can unobtrusively find the pocketed handgun. In a worse case scenario it's possible to shoot without drawing the gun from the pocket, which favors hammerless revolvers for pocket carry.

From DeSantis

Holster design pioneer Chic Gaylord was the first to offer a modern pocket holster that he called the "8-Ball" as in "the eight ball in the side pocket." This was a very simple deep pouch holster for small snubbies with a fairly large tab extending from the rear edge to position and stabilize the revolver in the pocket. Today, DeSantis Holster & Leather makes an excellent copy of the 8-Ball, out of lightweight cowhide, with the



rough side to the outside. Thus, wear on the gun's finish is minimized and the holster is kept from shifting in the pocket as the nap of the leather tends to stick to the pocket material. My favorite Smith & Wesson Chief Special seats deeply in the pouch, which encloses the trigger guard and the hammer spur. The main seam of the pouch is double stitched for endurance with the top end of the seam reinforced with a rivet. DeSantis has given us an excellent example of a user-friendly pocket holster.

From Kramer

Kramer Handgun Leather takes an approach that differs from other pocket holster makers. To understand the design of their pocket holster, one must

Kramer's pocket holster would have been a favorite with Old West pistoleros for their Colt Sheriff's Model.

look at it from the backside. The horsehide pouch is faced with plain black Kydex, which keeps the handgun from printing through the pocket. The pouch is exactly hand molded for my two-inch Smith & Wesson J-frame, fully enclosing the trigger guard and the hammer spur. The top-grade horsehide, a Kramer trademark, is neatly edged and beautifully finished in a mahogany color. This unique pocket holster should last a lifetime. Kramer Handgun Leather has another winner with this one. ●

For more information contact:

Bulman Gunleather, P.O. Box 361, Dept CH, Newry, PA 16665; 814-696-8615; www.bulmangunleather.com

DeSantis Leather & Holster Goods, P.O. Box 2039, Dept CH, New Hyde Park, NY 11040; 516-354-8000; www.desantisholster.com

Kramer Handgun Leather, P.O. Box 112154, Dept CH, Tacoma, WA 98411; 888-572-6371; www.kramerleather.com

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