



IWB TIMES THREE

New rigs that really surprise!

By Dave Spaulding

The inside-the-waistband holster has proven to be one of the more stable and discreet carry rigs.

Worn inside the trouser waistband, the inward pressure of the pants material holds the holstered handgun securely in place, where all but the weapon's grip remains hidden from view, keeping it concealed beneath even the thinnest clothing.

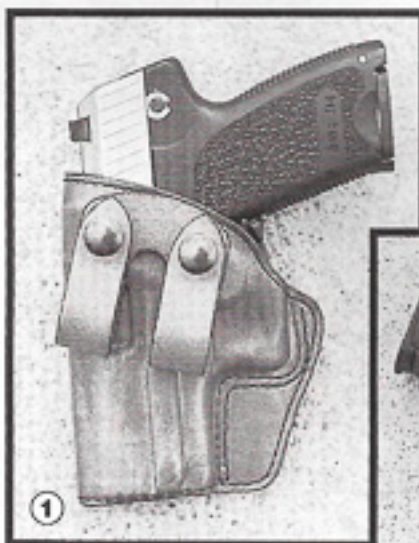
One downside of IWB carry, there has to be a certain lifestyle commitment in regards to clothing selection. Consider this. If you have a 34-inch waist, buy a 34-inch pair of pants and then try and insert an inch to two-inch-wide gun/holster combination, something has to give! If you like IWB carry, like I do, you will have to buy your pants a little larger than usual. If not, you will have to learn to suck in your gut for long periods of time. Another option is to purchase several pair of the cargo pants that are currently popular. Many styles of cargo pants have elastic waistbands that afford more flexibility in belt holster selection.

I recently had the opportunity to test and evaluate three IWB rigs that are worthy of mention. Two are from leathersmiths that may be new to many of the readers. The third is from one of the better known holster makers.

TED BLOCKER

Ted Blocker Holsters have been around a long time. They are probably best known for their LFI Rig, which was designed by Massad Ayoob. Former Gunsite Instructor Dave Harris first introduced me to Blocker Holsters in

the late 1980s. I was very satisfied with this holster and I remain a Blocker fan. The holster Blocker sent for evaluation is the tried-and-true Model 10 for my T.J. Custom Sig-Sauer P228. This holster appeals to me for its simplicity. To me, simple is good. The Model 10 is



1) The Bulman TSAT is one true state-of-the-art holster. 2) Ted Blocker's Model 10 is a simple but functional IWB. 3) The AKJ Concealco IWB is a low-bulk rig for the HK P7M8.



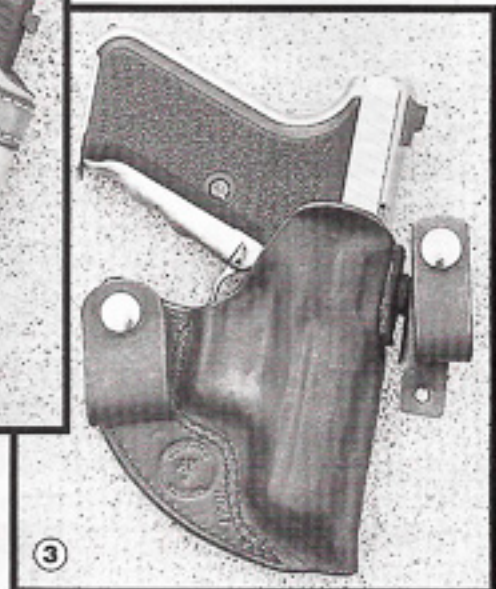
made from quality cowhide and finished in a natural color. The mouthband is reinforced with a thin strip of leather-covered metal to facilitate holster draw/insertion. The single belt loop holds the gun/holster in place (aided by the pressure of the pants and belt) for easy access. It's simple and functional.

AKJ CONCEALCO

The Andrew K. Johnson Concealment Company is a two-person holster shop located in Vancouver, Washington. Operated by Andrew and Kimberlie Johnson, AKJ Concealco puts out quality steerhide holsters, one at a time. Andrew sent me one of his IWB

holsters along with a matching belt. Made for the HK P7M8, one of the toughest handgun holsters to make, Andrew Johnson's rig proved second to none! The IWBA (inside the waistband-ambidextrous) utilizes a rear mounted belt loop to reduce bulk. The loop can be mounted for either left or right-hand carry, making it a good choice for a back-up gun for the off-hand. For ease of reholstering even with one hand, Concealco IWB rigs utilize a "frontal fold-over reinforcement" system that minimizes bulk around the top of the holster as contrasted with holsters with metal-reinforced mouthbands. The IWBA is fast, concealable and comfortable. On top of all this, the holster sells for only 50 bucks!

The AKJ Concealco gun belt



has become one of my favorites. It is made from a single piece of 7 to 8-ounce steerhide that's been reinforced with a rigid but flexible material, then lined with a 2 to 3-ounce piece of top grain leather. The reinforcement runs the entire length of the belt. The belt is topped off with a unique brass belt buckle that's becoming an AKJ Concealco trademark.



TSAT has snap-off bell loops to fit many belts.

BULMAN GUNLEATHER

As he's been making holsters for armed professionals for a number of years, I don't know how I overlooked Joshua Bulman for so long. The holster I received is called the Secret Agent-Thin, or TSAT. Designed to be as thin as possible, the TSAT still gives the same rugged performance as a thicker holster. It's steel-lined with a synthetic reinforcement band between the layers of leather. Bulman resists the use of steel mouthbands as he feels these can present problems. In case one should shoot prone, flat on the ground, and then roll over on the holster, the steel can crimp shut making re-insertion impossible. A polymer band has a memory that will retain its shape no matter what.

The TSAT's thinness derives from the absence of the bulky mouthband and the use of 6-ounce leather. Most holsters are made of heavier, thicker leather. A special tanning process allows Bulman to make his 6-ounce

leather perform like thicker stock. Whatever it is, it works! With stitched-in sight tracks and a removable belt loop, the TSAT should prove to be an IWB holster that most will find very comfortable.

If you haven't found an IWB rig that's just right, give Bulman Gun Leather a call. You might just find what you've been looking for.

For more information:

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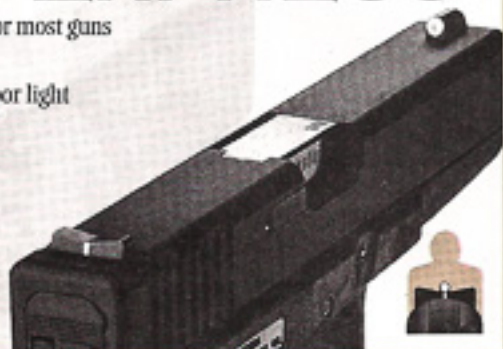
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Carrier Side View

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