

Three From The Hip

Three different hip carries—both inside and outside-the-pants as well as a crossdraw!

By Bob Arganbright

For this review we have three leather hip holsters, the Bulman Gunleather Model PDL, the Speed Classic Holster from BlackHawk and the Kramer Handgun Leather Crossdraw.

Bulman Model PDL

Bulman Gunleather's Model PDL is an inside-the-pants concealment rig similar to the classic pancake holster. However, the belt slots in the leading and trailing edges have been replaced with snap-fastened belt loops. These belt loops are securely fastened to the leading and trailing edges of the PDL with screw-post fasteners. Each belt loop uses a "pull the dot" heavy-duty snap fastener to provide easy placement on and removal of the PDL from one's belt. The leading and trailing edge tabs are shaped to conform to the wearer's hip for comfort and to further secure the holster to the waistband. The open top pouch is neatly "wet fit" for a M1911 and, with our sample, the fit with my Wilson Combat tuned Colt is very tight for security. The pouch fully encloses the triggerguard to prevent

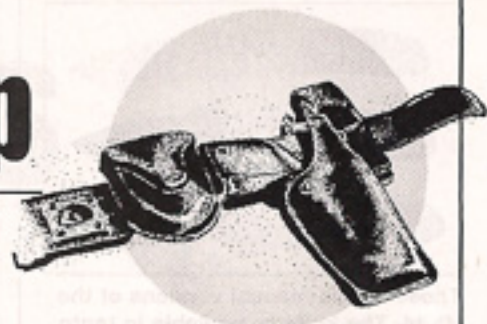


Widespread belt loops on Bulman PDL enhance carry comfort.

premature access to the trigger, while the gun butt is presented for a full shooting grip with first hand contact, where it rides at an FBI rake on the strong side hip. Nicely finished in a gloss black, the PDL has a body shield projecting from the top back side. Bulman Gunleather's PDL is an excellent concealment holster for the big Colt and its clones.

BlackHawk Speed Classic

The Berns-Martin holster company made a classic inverted shoulder holster for snubnose revolvers that was very popular. The holster was



BlackHawk's Speed Classic provides concealment with speed and security.

split down the front and fully enclosed the triggerguard. A spring held the split front of the pouch closed and one drew the concealed revolver by pulling it through the split front until the triggerguard cleared. After Berns-Martin went out of business, both Bianchi and Safariland made similar shoulder holsters. These secure, fast-into-action shoulder rigs were very popular with those who preferred shoulder holsters for concealed carry. BlackHawk has resurrected this classic in their CQC Holster line as the Speed Classic. However, now it's configured as a hip holster.

The Speed Classic is constructed

Jim Martin Custom Grips

I recently had a Ruger Vaquero SA revolver customized by Bowen Classic Arms. The result was a one-of-a-kind lightweight SA Sheriffs Model with a three-inch barrel, 1943 (the year of my birth) silver dime front sight and gorgeous Doug Turnbull Restorations color case-hardened frame, loading gate and hammer. With the big name custom grip makers having long waiting lists, I turned to a friend from Fast Draw, Jim Martin, a legendary fast gun and fancy gun handler in the 1960s and '70s. Well known for his work on SA revolvers, Jim also makes superb custom grips.

While Jim can provide most exotic



Burl walnut grips on BCA Sheriff's Model are by Jim Martin.

grip materials, I chose extra fancy burl walnut with a deep, high-gloss, hand-rubbed oil finish. The finished grips fit the birdshead grip frame as though they grew from it. The hand-filling grips are designed for heavy recoiling SA revolvers, as this .45 Colt caliber custom Sheriffs Model

will be when using heavy bullet, high velocity hand loads. And the best part, the turnaround time was several weeks, rather than many months. Truly the perfect finishing touch for my Bowen Classic Arms Ruger Sheriffs Model!

For more information contact:

.....
Jim Martin Grips, P.O. Box 1624,
 Dept CH, Cave Creek, AZ 85327;
 623-581-2366; coltfrontiersixshooter@worldnet.att.net

Bowen Classic Arms, P.O. Box 67,
 Dept CH, Louisville, TN 37777;
 865-984-3583;
 www.bowenclassicarms.com