



LOUDER 2 Than WORDS

THE LTW GANG CONTINUES TO GIVE —
AND YOU CAN WIN ONE OF THESE GUNS!

Jason Burton

With the advent of the Internet many things in life have changed, some for better some for worse. One of the things that has been a benefit to shooters is the appearance of Internet discussion forums. Nowadays you're just a "mouse click" away from any number of discussion forums to exchange ideas and philosophies about your favorite gun, shooting sport and more. Most of these forums are basically alike, some more elaborate than others, but they all essentially focus on one main subject. And then you have Louder Than Words (www.louderthanwords.us).

Louder Than Words (LTW) was founded just after the 2004 SHOT Show and touts a member list made up of today's highest echelon in custom gunsmiths and holster makers. The core of LTW includes Ted Yost, Lew Bonitz, C.T. Brian, John Harrison, Ned Christiansen, Stan Chen, Don Williams, Chuck Rogers and





probably the foremost icon in custom holsters, Lou Alessi. The main goal that brought these men together is quite simply — to give something back.

Good Guys All

LTW members have all benefited from the custom-gun business and all felt their success and skills could be an excellent vehicle to become a working bridge between the custom-gun industry and charitable organizations. Through their labors, LTW seeks to support worthy charities that not only work on the behalf of children, but are gun-friendly as well.

The way LTW does this is by donating one-of-a-kind custom firearms, built by LTW member gunsmiths, to be raffled off by a charity with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting said charity. The members of LTW take no money, no reimbursement, and no compensation for their work or parts used. Quite simply, this is a donation in the truest form, with nothing other than good will and a sense of accomplishment as payment for the work of the LTW membership.

At the same time LTW strives to further support, elevate and inspire the custom-gun industry by promoting excellence in the custom-gun arena. The work of LTW members exude, the very highest standards of quality and innovation and it's through this that LTW is leading by example and setting a new benchmark in the custom-gun industry. One of the ways LTW does this is through an Internet discussion forum where end users can communicate with not only LTW members but other custom-gun makers as well. The LTW Web site is *the meeting place* if you want to talk about custom guns, see the work of some of the

best the industry has to offer, as well as see for yourself the generous outpouring from LTW members.

The First Success

LTW had a phenomenal showing at the 2005 SHOT Show where a check, in the amount of \$20,000 from the raffle of the LTW No.1 pistol, was presented to Ted Nugent to benefit his namesake charity, Ted Nugent Kamp for Kids. This go-around, LTW is again donating the product of their labors to Kamp for Kids, but in an effort to top their own legacy the LTW membership has decided to make this raffle even bigger.

In a drawing to be held during the 2006 SHOT Show two names will be drawn, one grand prize winner and one runner up. The first name drawn will be the grand prize winner and he or she will be given the opportunity to choose between a custom pistol and a custom

rifle as the prize. The second name drawn will be the runner up and will be the recipient of the remaining prize. So everyone who buys a raffle ticket now has two chances to win.

The Guns

The rifle is a Signature Grade Ted Nugent Special built by Tim Cronin, gunsmith at Yost-Bonitz Custom. The rifle is based on a Remington 700 action chambered in .243 Winchester with the following work preformed:

- Action trued, bolt lugs lapped.
- Stainless steel match barrel with 11-degree recessed target crown.
- Fluted barrel.
- Trigger tuned to three pounds.
- Synthetic stock, fully bedded, painted w/ Zebra pattern and recoil pad.
- Two sling swivel studs.
- Leupold scope base & rings.
- Leupold VXII Ultra-light 3x9 scope.

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A "Ted Nugent" original is up for grabs too!

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LOUDER

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- Satin matte finish on all steel.
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The Yost-Bonitz shop worked very closely with Ted Nugent in order to produce a rifle that would be both classic and true to Nugent's individual style. On a recent trip to the Phoenix area Ted Nugent paid a visit to the Yost-Bonitz shop where he picked up his own copy of this rifle, an exact twin to the one being raffled.

The pistol is equally special. After the overwhelming response and success of LTW No.1 the craftsmen at LTW really pushed the envelope in an effort to top their own legacy. This time, the pistol work was performed by John Harrison and Ned Christiansen, both men — masters of their craft — were able to complete his work on the gun without compromising each other's style.

The pistol started life as a bone-stock GI 1911A1 from Springfield Armory and first up to bat would be Ned Christiansen, with his work focusing on the bottom end of the gun. Since his beginnings in the custom-gun crafts Ned has become well known for thinking "out of the box" by developing what are truly unique methods for metal working that have culminated into never-before-seen metal. With the gun at his shop Ned performed the following work:

- Dehorn frame inside and out.
- Radius corners, de-burr and reduce knife-edge junctions inside the frame.
- High cut front strap.
- Machine Conamys on the front strap and main spring housing.
- Perform "girth reduction" on pistol frame.
- "FLH" (Fairly Large Hole) mag-well treatment.
- Thin-out, fit, texture and bevel Duty Rated G10 stocks.
- Fit and blend CMC beavertail grip safety.
- Fit STI S-7 tool steel sear, disconnect and CMC EDM tool steel hammer and set pull to four pounds.
- Fit and further lighten black anodized trigger with solid over-travel stop.
- Refit factory thumb safety, set detents and texture underside.

From there the gun moved on to John Harrison's shop. John is widely known among shooters for building true-to-form classic 1911s and Browning Hi-Powers, ranging from basic carry conversions to full-blown, jaw-dropping classic beauties. Elegant and graceful, John's guns have won accolades for being as "clean" as they are functional, and the magic he worked on this pistol holds true to his previous accomplishments. With the gun at his shop John performed the following work:

- Fit Kart match grade barrel and bushing.

