

LEATHER FOR AUTOS & SIXGUNS



Three hip holsters from Tauris, Bulman, High Noon!

By Bob Arganbright

This Handgun Hide will start with an exceptional hip holster for one of the classic combat handguns, by Tauris Holsters. That handgun was legendary US Border Patrol officer, combat veteran, professional exhibition shooter and gun writer, the late Bill Jordan's favorite, the four-inch barrel Smith & Wesson M19 .357 Magnum. Then we'll examine two hip holsters for my favorite serious handgun, the Colt Gov't Model, a pancake by Bulman Gunleather and an unusual inside-the-pants design from High Noon Holsters.

Tauris Ranger

While we hear a great deal about the latest semi-auto pistol in the current



The S&W M19 is carried loaded with Winchester Silvertips, in new Tauris Ranger holster.

popular caliber, there are still more than a few carrying the four-inch .357 Magnum sixgun. An open top, high-

ride strong-side design, Tauris Holsters Ranger is an excellent way to carry such a handgun. My sample fea-

SOG Flash II

SO G Specialty Knives Inc. has recently introduced a line of SAT (SOG Assisted Technology) locking folding knives. These knives are opened by the usual thumb stud. However, it is only necessary to start the blade open with one's thumb, then the SAT system swings the blade the rest of the way to the open and locked position. The Flash II has a safety lock on the side of the black checkered Zytel synthetic handle. When the safety button is positioned to show red, it allows the blade to open. When in its lower position, with no red showing, the blade is locked in the closed position, which prevents accidental opening.

The 3.5-inch blade features a slight drop point design, flat ground to a razor sharp edge, constructed of AUS8 stainless steel and available



SOG's new Flash II opens readily, thanks to SOG Assisted Technology (SAT).

with plain or half plain and half serrated edge. Measuring eight inches overall, the Flash II weighs a mere three ounces. The synthetic Zytel handle is checkered for a secure hold, with two finger grooves and a grooved thumb rest on the top front edge. A skeletonized spring steel pocket clip attaches to the butt end of the handle to position the knife in a blade point-up position in

the pocket. The Flash II locks the blade securely in the open position. A notched button on the left side of the handle, toward the front, releases the blade when it is pressed to the rear.

For more information contact: SOG Specialty Knives, Inc., 6521 212th St. Southwest, Dept. CH, Lynnwood, WA 98036; (888) 405-6433; www.sogknives.com



Bulman pancake places Colt high on hip for excellent concealment.



The tail at the rear of the High Noon Tailgunner stabilizes the Colt Gov't Model when carried inside the pants.

tures a fully lined cowhide pouch that's finished in a beautiful honey brown color. The lightly hand molded pouch fits like a glove and features a sight channel and enclosed triggerguard. The gun butt is exposed to allow a full shooting grip while the revolver is fully seated in the holster.

An adjustable tension device placed just below the triggerguard provides the desired security. The tunnel belt loop is securely stitched to the backside of the pouch, with this piece of leather wrapping around the front top edge of the pouch, ensuring easy one-hand holstering. The holster rides on the strong-side hip with an FBI rake, placed high for concealment beneath a short jacket. The stitching is neat and tight, and the edges are well finished.

Bulman FBS-H

I have been using a beautifully executed high-ride strong-side pancake holster for the Colt Gov't Model, by Bulman Gunleather, their Full Belt Slide-High (FBS-H). The front and rear edge belt slots pull the pistol close to

the wearer's body, while placing it an inch higher than Bulman's standard Full Belt Slide holster. This extra high, body-hugging carry position maximizes concealment under an outer garment. The dual belt slots position the holster with an FBI rake, easing the drawing motion. A molded sight tunnel ensures a snag-free draw, even with sharp edged target front sights. The open top pouch is hand molded for a precise fit and includes an extension from the top backside that acts as a perspiration guard. The pistol's triggerguard is fully enclosed, and the holster presents the pistol grip for a full shooting grip with first hand contact. My FBS-H holster is finished in an attractive mahogany color and has an optional full lining to minimize gun finish wear.

High Noon Tailgunner

Finally, we examine the Tailgunner inside-the-pants holster from High Noon Holsters. The Tailgunner is made of rough side out premium cowhide. The pouch has a synthetic front sight tunnel and the pouch's top lip is reinforced to prevent it from collapsing after the pistol is removed, facilitating one-hand holstering. Dual belt loops, positioned astride a trousers belt loop and attached with heavy-duty snap fasteners, hold the holster securely inside the trousers. The pouch fully encloses the triggerguard and presents the gun butt for a full combat grip. The combination of an adjustable tension device and a wet molded fit provides adequate security with the open top holster. A perspiration guard protects the pistol from the wearer while providing additional comfort. This guard is also molded to secure the thumb safety lever in the on-safe position. But what about that name, the Tailgunner? This holster takes its name from the "tail"-like extension from the bottom rear edge. This "tail" further secures the pouch inside one's trousers. ●

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