

GUNS

®
\$4.95
OUTSIDE U.S.
\$7.95
NOVEMBER
2011



GUNSITE SCOUT
RUGER
IM77
.308 WIN



.308 WIN

MATCH GRADE
Nobler Custom

SXS ELEGANCE
FAUSTI **28 GAUGE**

RIMFIRE EXTRA
• BROWNING 1911-22
• COLT 1911-22

HANDLOADING
THE **.338 WIN**

PETITE DEFENSE
S&W BODYGUARDS
.380 ACP & .38 SPECIAL

SERVING SOLDIER'S
CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

OUTTM of the BOX

MIKE CUMPSTON

THE SMITH & WESSON BODYGUARDS

Your choice of pocket-size semi-auto or revolver comes complete with an integral Insight laser sight.

About a half-century ago, Smith & Wesson began a numerical designation of the growing range of handgun models largely abandoning the familiar cognomens of the early 20th century. Handgun enthusiasts took this in stride and soon became walking encyclopedias of model numbers and the dash-numbers appended to designate variations.

As of late though, purpose-oriented model names have reappeared in the line. The demographic of gun users has undergone a profound shift. Practicality rather than enthusiasm is the motivating factor for many gun purchasers today. The name "Bodyguard" may speak to such buyers much more clearly than a mere number.

Responding to the demand for lightweight concealment arms of the smallest practical size, Smith &

Wesson fields the J-frame 5-shot .38 Special and a pocketable .380 semi-auto with a maximum capacity of 7 rounds. Both are products of 21st century design making use of plastic, aluminum alloy and stainless steel. Both models were co-designed with the Insight Laser Company and are equipped with dedicated, fully adjustable laser sights. The provided Laser Adjustment Table is superior to most laser sight instructions.

The semi-auto Bodyguard is



The S&W Bodyguard 380 (above, middle) compares favorably in size to the FN Model 1910, also in .380 ACP (above, top) and the .25 ACP Baby Browning. The disassembly lever of the 380 is hard to unlock, but after it is down, the pistol strips easily (below).



a double-action-only, concealed hammer, locked-breech design with features common to full-sized pistols. These include positive slide lock, a left-side safety as well as a passive firing pin block internal safety and the favored grip-mounted magazine release. Held up next to similar-sized Ruger LCP and Kel-Tec, it appears to be the same size, though measurement shows it is about a 1/4" longer and a 1/2" taller than the LCP. The difference is insignificant in terms of concealability though the taller grip proved advantageous in terms of shooter comfort. The sights, compared to other pistols of this size, are highly visible; both front and rear are dovetail mounted and driftable for windage adjustment.

I had a comprehensive supply of Buffalo Bore .380 ACP loads on hand, including standard- and high-velocity loads. Tim Sundles, the CEO of Buffalo Bore, anticipated the recent ammunition shortage and by laying in components well in advance, managed to keep .380 ammo in stock throughout the crisis. The Bodyguard was 100-percent functional with all of these rounds and perhaps, incidentally, they all struck usefully close to the same point of aim.

I shot the pistol through the Texas



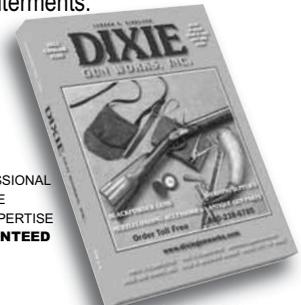
Teresa Gold was very impressed with the Bodyguard 380. The moderate felt recoil and smooth trigger function translated to a tight, evenly spaced group at close range.

DIXIE

Everything Blackpowder

From replica firearms of yesteryear to today's blackpowder hunting and sport equipment...

Dixie's 2011 catalog is packed with more than 10,000 items including blackpowder shooting supplies, antique gun parts, and accouterments.



PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND EXPERTISE GUARANTEED

VIEW ITEMS AND ORDER ONLINE!
www.dixiegunworks.com

Major credit cards accepted

FOR ORDERS ONLY (800) 238-6785

DIXIE GUN WORKS, INC.

P.O. Box 130 Dept. 2 Union City, TN 38281

INFO PHONE: (731) 885-0700 FAX: (731) 885-0440

E-MAIL: info@dixiegunworks.com



The gun-buying frenzy of recent months has subsided, but the demand for compact, lightweight and economical handguns is stronger than ever. In the spring of 2011, the Smith & Wesson Bodyguards (above) —particularly the .380 ACP—are flying off gunshop shelves. The Bodyguard 38 revolver (below) utilizes an innovative double-ratchet cylinder rotation complex.



Concealed Handgun Proficiency Demo which includes timed fire at 3, 7 and 15 yards using a mix of the Buffalo Bore loading. Forty-five of the 50 rounds landed in the 10- and X-ring with the outliers being very tight 9-ring hits. While some shooters complain about the long and heavy trigger pull, I considered it just about right for a pistol possibly

carried with the mechanical safety disengaged. I handed the pistol off to friend Teresa Gold, who found the trigger quite manageable. Her hits on the B-27 target were well centered and free of the vertical stringing normally signaling difficulty with trigger control. Pocket .380s have a reputation for being uncomfortable to shoot. Neither Teresa, nor the

BODYGUARDS

MAKER: SMITH & WESSON

2100 ROOSEVELT AVE., SPRINGFIELD, MA 01104

(800) 331-0852, WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SMITH-WESSON

Bodyguard 380	MODEL:	Bodyguard 38
.380 ACP	CALIBER:	.38 Special
6+1	CAPACITY:	5
2.75"	BARREL LENGTH:	1.9"
DAO semi-auto	ACTION:	DAO revolver
11 pounds	TRIGGER PULL:	10.5 pounds
Ramp front, notch rear	SIGHTS:	Fixed, ramp front
5.25"	LENGTH OVERALL	6.6"
11.25 ounces	WEIGHT:	14.3 ounces
Polymer & stainless steel	MATERIAL:	Stainless steel, aluminum alloy, polymer
Matte black	FINISH:	Matte black
\$399	RETAIL:	\$509

Notes: Both Bodyguards have an integral Insight laser factory installed.

REST ASSURED



Call Us Today For Your Free Brochure

1-800-821-5216

993 North Industrial Park Road
 Orem, Utah 84057

FORT KNOX
 SECURITY PRODUCTS

"THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN SECURITY"

www.FtKnox.com

other shooters who fired this pistol experienced discomfort from recoil.

The laser sight activation is via an ambidextrous switch on the front of the unit. Activation is best accomplished with the thumb of the support hand and requires significant pressure. Pressing the button twice puts the laser in strobe mode with a third press shutting it down. The unit automatically switches off after 5 minutes and is rated for 3 hours maximum use from a pair of fresh No. 357 silver oxide batteries. Sighting in is via a supplied Allen wrench and adequately covered in the owner's manual. We found the laser to be completely invisible in bright or overcast midday conditions regardless of distance to the target. It is very bright indoors and could be very useful in low light given the time to activate it.

Some of the first Bodyguard 380s were prone to spontaneous partial disassembly due to unseating of the disassembly lever. The problem has been corrected though it now requires considerable pressure to rotate the lever to 6 o'clock for removal. The plastic toe of the magazine extension is useful for this. To reassemble the pistol with the barrel and takedown pin in correct register, it is very advantageous to align the slide/barrel assembly onto the frame as it would appear in final assembly and partially insert the takedown lever before drawing the slide to full lockback and fully snapping the lever into place.

To all appearances, the Bodyguard 380 is a very sturdy example of new-tech craftsmanship. It is built for the long haul with recoil bearing surfaces of stainless steel securely bolted to the polymer elements of the frame. The entire package is configured to deliver significantly better accuracy, range and shooter comfort than the general

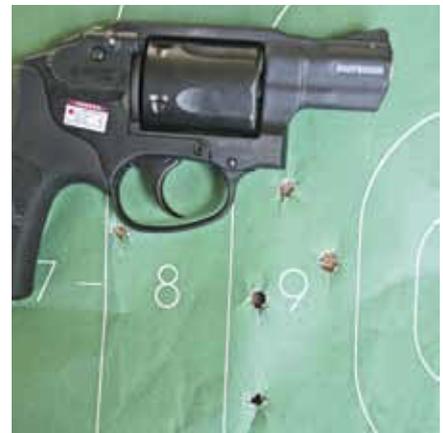


Much more user-friendly than most of the sub-compact .380s, the S&W Bodyguard produced a perfect score for Mike on the Texas Concealed Handgun Proficiency Demo. This 3", 25-yard bench group from the Bodyguard .38 Special (below) is well within the accuracy standards set forth in the owner's manual. Point of impact is significantly leftward of the sight picture.

run of pocket pistols.

While superficially resembling traditional J-frame revolvers, the current Bodyguard 38 is a complete departure from earlier models. The barrel and cylinder are of stainless steel—both encased in an alloy frame, which is rigidly bolted to the polymer grip frame. The cylinder rotates clockwise in the Colt revolver pattern. The cylinder locks up on two points: the cylinder bolt and an odd circular breech-mounted ratchet that engages with the cylinder "star."

This element replaces the hand and rotates with trigger pull to advance the cylinder. The cylinder latch is on the top of the grip frame accessible to both thumbs, though the shooter would have to be a juggler to enjoy the benefits of any ambidexterity this might afford. The firing pin is of the inertia-type, reminiscent of the very early S&W Safety Hammerless Revolver. The Bodyguard does not have the once-ubiquitous key actuated lock. The Insight laser is mounted on the right rear of the frame and has the same features as the one on the



.380. The activating button is easily accessible to either the shooting or support hand.

Our sample revolver worked perfectly when dry cycled. In live fire however, after the initial shot, it required two pulls of the trigger to rotate the cylinder and discharge subsequent rounds. Apparently the ratchet elements were being knocked out of sync by recoil. Two identical revolvers available locally functioned perfectly and we acquired one of them to complete our evaluation. Bench rest accuracy was in the vicinity of 3" at 25 yards, but the groups were centered 5" left of point of aim and as much as 7" high, depending upon the load in use.

The trigger pull was smooth and produced good on-target results as long as we put the correct bias on the sight picture. With both standard- and high-velocity loads from Buffalo Bore, the Smith's grip arrangement moderated recoil noticeably more

**.380 ACP BUFFALO BORE
FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE**

LOAD (BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	ENERGY (FT-LBS)
90 JHP	979	192
95 FMJ	810	138
95 JHP+P	1,039	278
100 cast FP	915	186
100 cast FP+P	1,046	243

**.38 SPECIAL BUFFALO BORE
FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE**

LOAD (BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	ENERGY (FT-LBS)
125 Low Flash Powder	942	246
125+P	1,036	298
150 Wadcutter	923	284
158 SWC HP	852	255
158 SWHP+P	1,020	365



These bullets were recovered from water after passing through raw beef brisket. They are the standard pressure/low-flash/short-barrel loads from Buffalo Bore loaded with bullets carefully selected to perform at such velocities. The .38 Special 158-grain lead hollowpoint from Rim Rock (left) performs well at the standard and HV level. The .38 Special 125-grain Gold Dot load (middle left) produced mild recoil and full expansion. Both the Buffalo Bore .380 ACP loads feature the 90-grain Sierra JHP.

effectively than other snub revolvers of similar weight. Unlike many short-barrel revolvers, the Bodyguard has sufficient ejector length to positively clear fired cases from the cylinder.

The .38 Special revolvers with nominal 2" barrels are quite popular and Buffalo Bore ballistics are based on performance from the snubs. Notably, those loads designated "standard pressure," record velocity and energy stats normal from revolvers with 4" to 6" barrels. Both the standard and high velocity loadings of the Rim Rock 158-grain gas-check hollowpoint have gathered a significant following and have proven effective "on the street." The standard pressure loading of the 125-grain Gold Dot produces very mild recoil and the full expansion expected of that bullet. All of the rounds display a very prominent roll crimp and none were prone to recoil/inertia bullet pull from the lightweight Bodyguard.

The Bodyguard 38 has good potential as a comfortable and unobtrusive concealment arm. HKS J-Frame Speedloaders are just right for the Bodyguard revolver. Owners are reporting that some J-Frame Holsters will accommodate the laser sight but others will not. I found my Fobus Kydex Paddle Holster for my Ruger SP-101 is a perfect fit. **GUNS**

BUFFALO BORE AMMUNITION

P.O. BOX 1480

ST. IGNATIUS, MT 59865

(406) 745-2666

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BUFFALO-BORE

RIM ROCK BULLETS

103 MAIN ST. S.W.

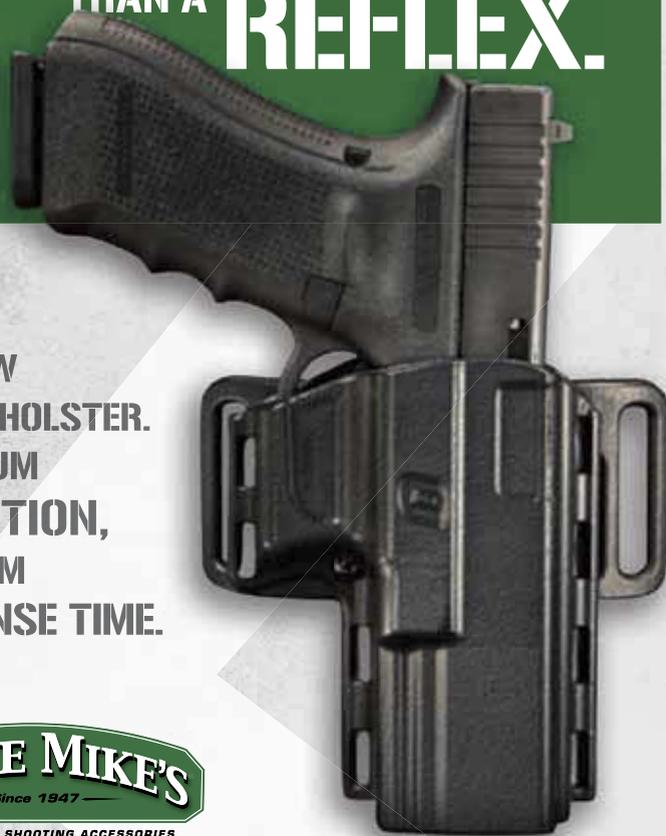
RONAN, MT 59864

(406) 676-3250

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/

RIMROCK-BULLETS

NOTHING IS MORE SWIFT AND NATURAL THAN A REFLEX.



THE NEW REFLEX HOLSTER. MAXIMUM RETENTION, MINIMUM RESPONSE TIME.



unclemikes.com/reflex



Use MS Tag Reader on your smartphone to learn more about this product.



STEEL IMPACT TARGETS



Get the free mobile app at <http://gettag.mobi>

Patent-Pending Rolling Steel Targets Actually use the bullet energy to roll downrange!

1-800-891-3660 RollingSteelTargets.com

QUARTER MASTER

SmartReloader Ammo Box 50

Jeff John

This ingenious plastic ammo box from SmartReloader comes with three stackable trays each with 12, 2" wide x 2-3/4" long x 1-7/8" deep compartments. The center divider running lengthwise is molded in and the other dividers can be pulled out to form larger compartments. The lid has a moisture tight gasket, both lid and clasps have metal pins running through the hinges and the box can be padlocked. The internal volume of the Ammo Box 50 is the same as a military .50 BMG ammo can. All three trays fit my GI Surplus .50 BMG can and are available separately for \$5.95 each. A folding tab on either side of the trays facilitates lifting them in or out. The Ammo Box 50 is rated for 70 pounds max and the handle is ergonomically designed to make toting such weight bearable.



The SmartReloader Ammo Can 50 has three stackable trays you can customize to fit a variety of tasks shooters and collectors have for range or storage.

Since the trays are stackable, whatever is put in them will be best protected if the contents do not stick up above the trays. The width of the trays are not great enough for a standard box of .38 Special or 9mm ammo. I puzzled over the best way to use the space as I read Duke's feature

in the October issue on VIMBAR/VIMSAR shooting matches featuring vintage bolt action and self-loading rifles. It turns out by removing every other divider, I can store 12 loaded M1 Garand clips (96 rounds) or 24 .303 British or 8x57mm 5-round clips of ammo per tray (120 rounds). In each instance, the ammo does not stick up above the tray and will remain clean, fresh and easily accessible during a match.

Another tray could be set up to hold five 1911 magazines in four compartments (20 mags per tray) or three Browning Hi-Power mags. In some cases, the compartment may only be able to hold two hi-cap mags depending on the base plate configuration.

Another way to use the trays is to keep a cartridge collection organized. Here, I've removed most of the ammo from the plastic bags I keep them in order to show off the versatility of the removable dividers. I use these rounds for reference and being able to keep them compartmentalized will be a boon. Otherwise, I have to dig in the can and sort through the bags to find what I want—which is usually at the bottom. I may have to get a few of these for my cartridge collection as well one for the range. The Ammo Can 50 retails for \$29.95 and is available in OD green or Flat Earth. Since it is an airtight "dry box," be sure to add desiccant.

SMARTRELOADER PRODUCTS
HELVETICA TRADING USA, LLC
701 LAWTON RD., CHARLOTTE, NC 28216
(800) 954-2689
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
SMART-RELOADER-MFG

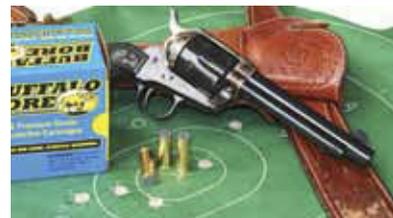
Buffalo Bore .45 Colt

Mike Cumpston

Due diligence and a keen understanding of what makes bullets work are the hallmarks of Buffalo Bore's line of personal defense ammunition. A case in point is the standard-pressure .38 Special Lead Hollowpoint. While many hollowpoint bullets are pure window dressing when fired from a 2" barrel, this soft lead, gaschecked bullet delivers profound expansion when fired into any aqueous medium. Across the board, Buffalo Bore selects bullets for optimum performance loaded to standard or +P levels and advertised velocities derive from actual firearms rather than test fixtures.

Recently arrived is a standard pressure, low flash 225-grain full

wadcutter loading designed to deliver a maximum crush cavity and deep penetration in .45 Colt-chambered revolvers ranging from the 2"-barrel Taurus Titanium through the full-sized single and double actions prized by dedicated revolver shooters. Founder, owner and CEO Tim Sundler's own Taurus snub delivers a respectable 850 fps. He derives the listed velocity of 1,050 fps from a couple of 5-1/2" single actions.



The Buffalo Bore .45 Colt full wadcutter load delivers maximum crush and deep penetration at pressure levels suitable to all mechanically sound firearms chambered for the round. It delivers about the same perceived recoil as a standard 250- or 255-grain loading and hits to the same point of impact. This group fired 2-handed unsupported at 25 yards.



Full wadcutter bullets provide optimum performance regardless of intervening barriers that might defeat standard velocity jacketed hollowpoint rounds.

My own 5-1/2" Colt Single Action Army put five across the screens at an average of 1,084 fps with a nice, consistent 31 fps spread and 587 ft-lbs of energy 10' off the muzzle. Given the expense of premium defensive ammunition, it is a much-appreciated benefit when the selected ammunition recoils the same and hits to the same point of impact as less expensive practice ammunition. With this in mind, I fired a couple of groups at 25 yards—one from a 2-hand hold and the other 1-handed as is my usual practice with the Colt Single Action. The Anti-Personnel load grouped as tightly as my 250-grain 850 fps standard loads and hit to the same point of impact. **GUNS**

BUFFALO BORE AMMUNITION
P.O. BOX 1480
ST. IGNATIUS, MT 59865
(406) 745-2666
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
BUFFALO-BORE-AMMUNITION