



# FRONT SIGHT



2018 ANNUAL ISSUE

# HAVING A BLAST

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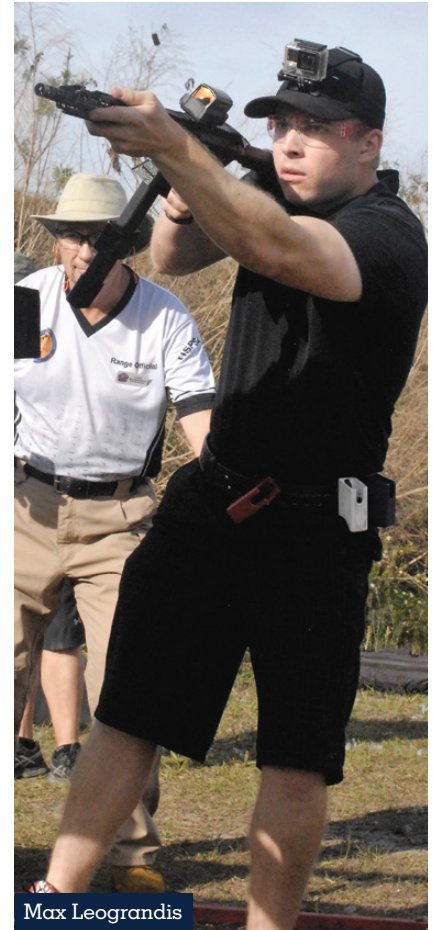


# FRONTSIGHT

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE UNITED STATES PRACTICAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION / IPSC

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Photos by Robin Taylor.

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# INSIDE USPSA

By Mike Foley, RD6 USPSA President  
 president@uspsa.org



## INTERESTED IN USPSA SHOOTING?

**W**elcome to the most fun you can have with firearms! Inside this Annual Issue, our welcoming publication for new members, you will find everything you need to know to get started competing in USPSA! Our

sport was born in 1976 from a collection of combat shooting matches around the world. Today we are approximately 30,000 members strong in the US alone! We have over 440 local clubs where you can test your skill on an unlimited number of courses of fire with many different types of guns in our 8 USPSA sports divisions, our USPSA multi-gun divisions, and Steel Challenge. We have the fastest and safest shooting sport in the world, with something for everyone. One thing that sets us apart from the others is our classification system. You can see where you rank among the best shoot-

ers in the world, and track your own improvement as you progress through the system. Again, welcome to USPSA.

Hope to see you on the range,

Mike Foley,  
 USPSA President

Frostproof, Florida USA

Shannon Smith

Frank Garcia

# 863-635-3425

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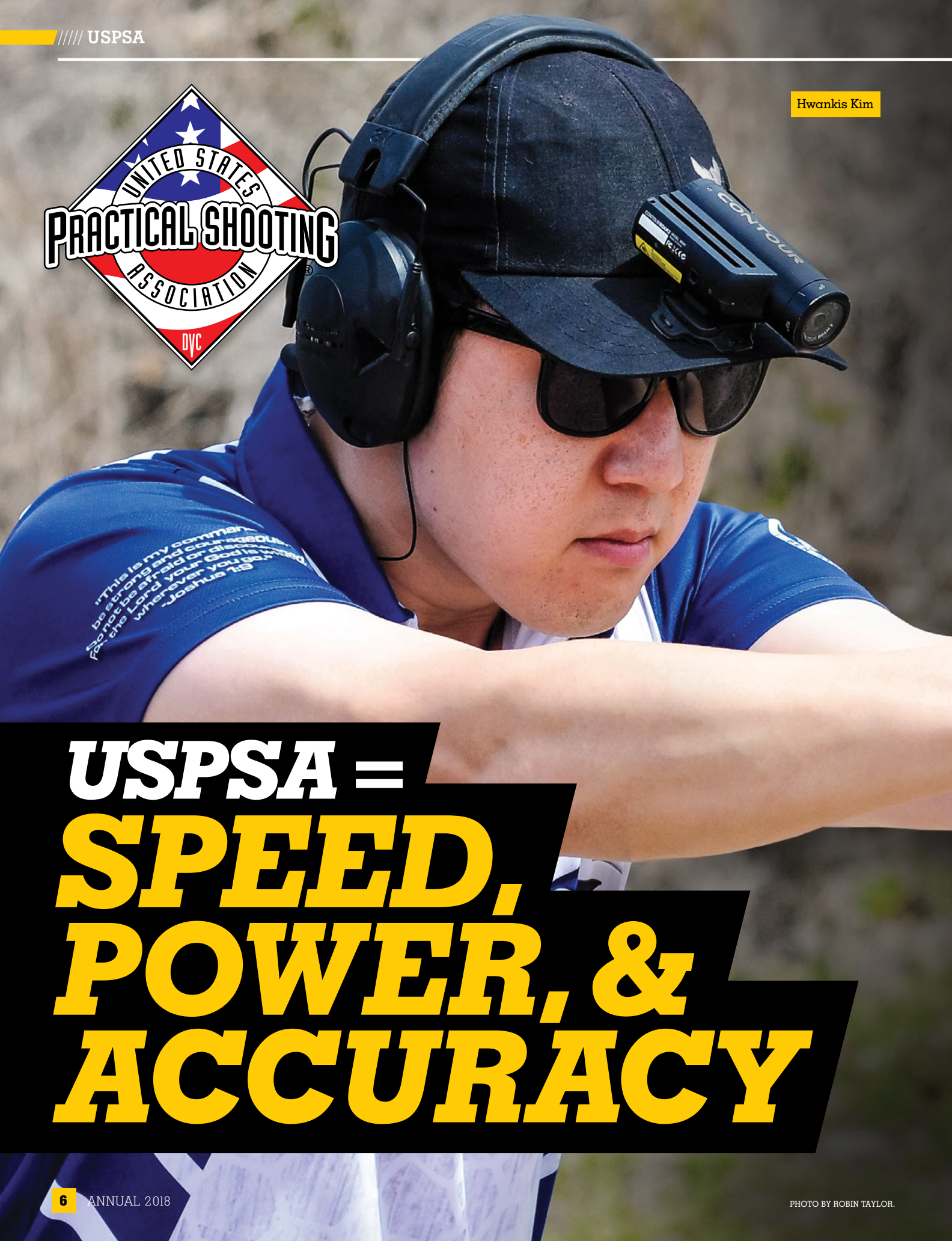
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**USPSA =  
SPEED,  
POWER, &  
ACCURACY**



# The Place For PCC

**B**lend those three elements, and you have got the most dynamic shooting sport ever devised – USPSA! Practical shooting was established as IPSC in 1976 to organize the various independent efforts to build shooting skills and train for self-defense. The early days of the sport can be traced back to the 1950's, with the quick-draw “leather slap” matches popular in the desert southwest. USPSA was incorporated in 1983, and has grown to over 30,000 members in 2017.

Early practical shooting challenged the standards of technique, training practices, and equipment. IPSC pioneers developed scenario-based competitions to accurately measure the effectiveness of their own shooting techniques and equipment. The rapid, shooting-on-the-move stages gave birth to the term “run and gun” so commonly used to describe the sport today.

In keeping with its roots, USPSA strives to offer divisions that use state-of-the-art firearms and support equipment. Everything from revolvers to the classic 1911 auto pistol, modern service pistols, custom race guns, rifles, shotguns, and carbines can be found in the hands of USPSA competitors.



**Glock 41+1 kit**  
Delrin or Red Aluminum



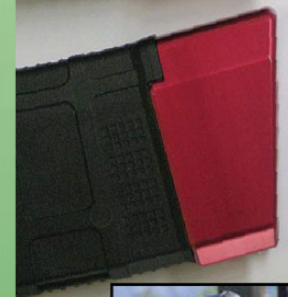
**Colt/UGI +10**  
works with factory spring



**Scorpion +10** ships with Xtra power spring



**SIG MPX +10** works with factory spring



**Gen 3 PMAG +4 stock, +6 with modified follower**



## DESIGN

Every PCC pattern (except Glock) uses a thumbscrew-and-gasket lock system. Easy on, easy off, NO TOOLS.

## QUALITY

Everything is CNC'd in-house, by shooters! 100% made in USA.

## SCORING

USPSA shooting revolves around a “points per second” concept called “hit factor.” To get a hit factor, we take into account three factors: *Speed, Power, and Accuracy.*

Each competitor shoots the course of fire against the clock. When finished, the range officers record the shooter's time (speed), and record where the shots impacted on the targets (accuracy). Penalties are recorded and points are assigned to the hits based on

## SCORING

USPSA shooting revolves around a “points per second” concept called “Hit Factor”. Here is how to determine your Hit Factor in competition.



$$\text{Hit Factor} = \text{Points} \div \text{Time}$$

example:

$$20 \text{ points} / 10 \text{ seconds} = 2.0 \text{ Hit Factor}$$



Gilbert Perez

PHOTO BY CAROLLE BRYANT



Ann Huntington

PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS

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your ammunition. (.40 S&W and larger scores as “major,” 9mm, .38 Special, and some light .40 S&W loads score as “minor.”) The resulting point total is divided by the time, and voila! We have a points per second score, or “hit factor.”

Most local club matches involve from four to six courses of fire called “stages,” and a shooter will end up with a separate “hit factor” for each one.

Scoring officials will later compare the hit factors on each course, and give the maximum points to the shooter with the highest “hit factor.” Other shooters are awarded points based on how their hit factor compares to the highest one. (90 percent of the top hit factor earns 90 percent of the points, for example.) All the points for each stage are added up, and the shooter with the most total “match points” wins! The math sounds more complicated than it really is, but there are scoring programs available to help keep it all straight.

**DON'T MISS!** .....

While it may sound like speed is everything, USPSA shooters’ favorite cliché declares: “You can’t miss fast enough to win.”

Should you leave a miss, or hit a penalty target, you will lose points rapidly. An “A” hit on the target (we score A, B/C, D) earns 5 points. For each MISS, you will be penalized 10 points. So not only do you not get the 5 points possible, you LOSE a further 10. Hits on penalty targets are worth a further 10-point penalty. Do the math, and you will see that the need for accuracy in USPSA shooting is very real.

**MUCH MORE THAN “SHOOTING”** .....

USPSA competition involves more than just “shooting.” Shooters are required to draw, move, reload, negotiate obstacles, analyze the course AND shoot. The timer doesn’t

stop until you’ve finished doing all those things, AND fired your last shot. If your gun malfunctions, it’s up to you to fix it safely — and fast. If you need to reload, same problem. There are no breaks or “alibis” for anything short of range equipment failure and safety. USPSA competition stresses gun handling just as heavily as it stresses shooting, and our courses will force you to do a lot of it. It’s thrilling, and something we’re sure you’ll enjoy.

**WHAT ABOUT SAFETY?.....**

USPSA shooters are sticklers for safety — much more so than in many other shooting sports. For example, when you attend a match and aren’t either shooting, or working on your pistol in the “safety area,” your pistol must remain in the holster, unloaded, the entire time. Breaking this rule leads to immediate disqualification. Pointing a firearm (empty or not) at yourself, at another person, or anywhere uprange of the firing line also leads to immediate disqualification, and two range officers watch you as you shoot. The same applies to a half-dozen other safety rules, all of which work in concert to give USPSA its exemplary safety record.

As a rule, USPSA shooters are intolerant of unsafe gun handling — they expect to be able to compete in a safe environment, and sloppy gun handling puts everyone at risk.

That said, don’t worry about getting disqualified. Before you shoot your first match, the host club will show you the ropes. They’ll run you through a “safety orientation” or “safety check” to acquaint you with their range and all the necessary rules, check your gear, and walk you through some shooting exercises. We all want you to succeed, and to have a good time doing it.

To find a club near you, go to the USPSA website ([www.USPSA.org](http://www.USPSA.org)), or give us a call here in Burlington, Wash., at (360) 855-2245. We’ll be happy to put you together with a handful of local club contacts. We currently have over 440 clubs across the United States, and in several countries around the world. ■

# WHEN EVERY 10<sup>TH</sup> COUNTS

FIND YOUR SIGHT PICTURE QUICKER WITH NEW SYNTECH™ ACTION PISTOL



Elevate your game and improve your score with new Syntech™ Action Pistol competition ammo from Federal®. The polymer-encapsulated Syntech™ bullet eliminates copper and lead fouling. When combined with the Catalyst lead-free primer for a cleaner burn, you'll experience less recoil, less residue, reduced report, allowing you to shoot quicker, and enjoy a better shooting experience. Ammunition specifically designed to meet major or minor power factor requirements.

  
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propellant

  
Less  
recoil

  
Eliminates  
fouling

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# LEARNING THE RULES

By Troy McManus, NROI DIRECTOR  
dnroi@uspsa.org

USPSA matches challenge you mentally and physically. Figuring the fastest, easiest way to complete a course is a big part of the game.

**R**ules are the backbone of any game, and as Director of the National Range Officer Institute (NROI), it's my job to interpret those rules for USPSA, and to assist in the training of range officers at all levels.

Since this article is limited for space, I can't discuss many details of our rules here, but I will mention that the majority of them deal with safety on the range. USPSA is a dynamic sport that requires competitors to use full power handguns (and rifles and shotguns at times), to solve a competitive shooting problem under the clock. Movement is often required, as is reloading your gun on the move, so safe



gun handling skills are paramount.

The National Range Officer Institute trains and certifies range officials for USPSA sanctioned events. NROI-certified range officers will be seen in uniform at the larger Area- and National-level events,

## HIERARCHY OF OFFICIALS

USPSA's volunteer officials come in several flavors, all of which are trained and certified by NROI.

### 1. RANGE OFFICERS

Certified by NROI, Range Officers perform most of the "refereeing" seen at a USPSA match. They carry the timer, check equipment, score targets, and help make sure the competitor plays in a safe manner.

### 2. CHIEF RANGE OFFICERS

CROs are the Sergeants of the Range Officer corps. They have supplemental training in course design and range operations. They normally serve as the chief range officer on a stage, overseeing the activities of the range officers under them.

### 3. RANGE MASTERS

Have extensive supplemental training in range operations, arbitrations, staff management, squadding, and the various fine points of the rules. RM candidates are assigned a mentor, and over the course of a year they will complete an extensive program of correspondence and on-the-job training.

RMs oversee the officials at major matches. The nationals, for example, employ two — each assigned to one half of the match.

### 4. RANGE MASTER INSTRUCTOR

The top of the RO hierarchy, the RMIs travel the United States to instruct range officers and certified range officers, and also mentor Range Master Candidates.

## SAFE GUN HANDLING | THE 4 RULES TO REMEMBER

Most of our safety rules are derived from **4 basic rules** of safe gun handling:

- Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
- Never point your muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Be sure of your target and what's behind it.



Jay Worden and Kenneth Rose

PHOTO BY TESS NASH.



PHOTO BY TESS NASH

Barry Berger, Rick Orr, Lauren and Don Olstad

safely assisting competitors in their endeavors. The entire RO cadre also competes actively but at times they put aside their guns to help run events. The range officer corps forms the backbone of the volunteer infrastructure at a great many clubs, where you will see them competing and officiating at the same event. The best ones are often asked to travel to major events, and our people are frequently tapped by IROA, the International Range Officer Association, to officiate at major matches worldwide (including the world championship matches held every three years). NROI certification carries a certain cachet within the USPSA/IPSC world, particularly if the RO develops a reputation for being calm, knowledgeable, and fair.

To become a range officer, we ask that you compete actively in USPSA matches for a period of time, enough to get comfortable with the basics of the sport and its terms. Prospective ROs then attend a level 1 certification class (usually over a weekend) where they are taught the nuts and bolts of being an official, and are tested on their knowledge of the rules. CRO or Chief Range Officer status can be gained by attending a level 2 seminar at a later date, and all officials at all levels are tested on the rules annually.

### MULTIGUN CERTIFICATION

If your interest lies in the complex world of Multigun, don't despair. The MG rules have recently been revised, and NROI has the means to certify range officials in this fast-growing aspect of our sport. If you



PHOTO BY CAROLE BRYANT

George Jones

already hold a certification, (RO, CRO, RM), inquire about getting your Multigun endorsement. If you are coordinating a seminar, and Multigun is an interest in your area, ask about adding the multigun module into the seminar.

### RESPECT AND PROFESSIONALISM

Overall, USPSA's officials are some of the most highly-respected in the shooting sports, and because of this are often sought out to help orchestrate non-USPSA events.

Their success, diligence, and professionalism as officials are a major part of what makes USPSA one of the safest, most professional shooting sports available anywhere.

USPSA sends a copy of the rulebook to all new members, or it can be purchased for a nominal fee from USPSA. The rulebook can also be downloaded from the USPSA web page, [www.uspsa.org](http://www.uspsa.org).

I encourage you to take a look at the rules if you are interested in playing our game, and ask questions of Range Officials when-

ever you need additional help.

Taking a level one seminar will not only help you become a certified Range Officer, it will help you be a better competitor, knowledgeable in our rules, and more aware of the safety aspects of our game.

We look forward to showing you what we mean! Come and see us in action at a local match, and remember, shoot safe! ■

# ASSOCIATION OF CLUBS

**I**f you're considering taking a closer look at USPSA competition, I can't urge you strongly enough to contact a local club representative and spend time on the range. They can show you and tell you more in half an hour at a match than we can tell you in this entire publication.

USPSA competition is marvelously diverse, with many subtleties that a local person can show you fairly easily. USPSA shooters are a very friendly bunch, willing and eager to help out the new shooters, so don't be bashful about asking questions.

## AN ASSOCIATION OF CLUBS

USPSA is an "association" of independent clubs as well as individuals. They all use the same rule book, but the clubs themselves are groups of local volunteers who like to shoot.

Each affiliated club has a slate of officers, and they typically appoint a contact person or two to welcome newcomers.

It's the volunteers in the clubs who make it all happen, and that's why we put such an emphasis on getting people connected with a good club near them. To find a club near you, go to [www.uspsa.org](http://www.uspsa.org) and you will see the "Find a Club" Map. Click on the state you are interested and you can enter your address, ZIP code, county or city in the box and the club finder will show you the affiliated clubs near you. The club's contact information and Club Member will be listed.

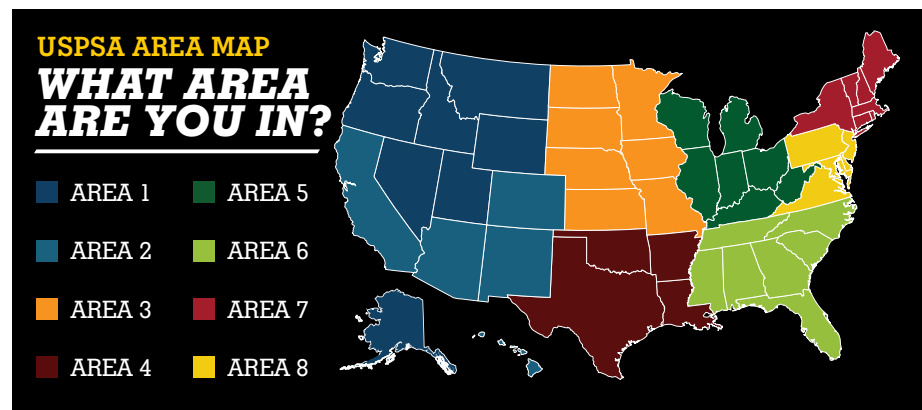
Currently we have some 440 clubs formally affiliated with USPSA. Together,

er, they offer the level playing field that USPSA shooters value so much — one that allows for fair competition throughout our national ladder.

## USPSA STRUCTURE

Affiliated clubs are typically grouped into what we call "sections." Each section has a "section coordinator" who helps orchestrate things like section championships and such joint club activities as staffing booths at local gun shows. If you asked for information from us, you should find a list of section coordinators in the packet we sent you. They can easily explain the local match schedule, and will likely invite you to attend a match with them or put you in touch with a club near you.

The various sections are grouped into multi-state "Areas" numbered 1 through 8. For example, the New Mexico and Arizona



Susan Mun

PHOTO BY CAROLE BRYANT



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.

Ryan Stinar

sections are part of Area 2, while Indiana, Illinois and Ohio sections are part of Area 5.

Every three years on a rotating basis, members of the various Areas elect an Area Director who sits on the board of directors for USPSA. They are the ones who orchestrate the Area-level championships and vote on USPSA's major policy decisions.

The Board of Directors is made up of each of the eight Area Directors and the President. The President of USPSA is elected to a four-year term by the members of the organization. It is the president's responsibility, with the help of the home office and remote staff, to orchestrate the national championship. Along with the small office staff, USPSA employees include a Director of Operations & Finance, a Director of the National Range Officer Institute, a Director of Media and Events, and a Director of Information Technology.

Local volunteers are the engine that makes USPSA shooting happen, and when you start shooting, you will be expected to help out. All of our matches, including the national championships, are run by volunteers. Our volunteers are the backbone of this organization; without them (particularly the officials, the ones who run the registration, who mentor new shooters, who check on range safety and who do the stats) there would be no matches, no competition – and no fun! ■

Scott Lewis



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS

# FOCUS ON: DIVISIONS

WHICH **GUNS** DO WE SHOOT, AND WHY?

BY TROY McMANUS

**U**SPSA shooting represents the most demanding form of **PRACTICAL** pistol competition on the planet. Manufacturers know that if their products fare well here, people notice. Problems with their designs will be exposed, studied, and repaired. If a particular firearm earns a good reputation in our sport, that opinion gets carried home by the many trainers, buyers, and officers that compete at all levels of our sport.

But what division should YOU compete in? The reasons why people pick one division over another relate to why they shoot pistols in the first place. Some are polishing their shooting skills because they might need them for self-defense. Others thrive in divisions that encourage tinkering with the guns. Still others are focused on the experience, and learn to shoot each style of pistol in turn.

As I've often told shooters who call USPSA looking for advice, the best gun to use

at your first match is the gun you already have. Unless your pistol looks like it would be at home on a Western movie set, forget about new equipment until you've got an idea how the game is played. Many of the world's top pro shooters focus on Production Division, one of the least-fancy, least expensive divisions, while others shoot space-age guns that look like race cars with a scope. The division for you is the one that puts a smile on your face — there really isn't a "best gun" for USPSA.

People choose one style over the other because they get more enjoyment out of doing it, and shooting USPSA-style is all about fun with your gun.

## ■ PRODUCTION DIVISION

Production division is limited to the use of production handguns with double- or safe-action triggers, and nicely accommodates owners of double-action 9mm or .40 S&W firearms. CZ's are popular, as are Tanfoglios, Glocks, SIGs, Walthers and a

host of others. Stock revolvers may also be used, including 8-shot versions.

As you might imagine, the Production title has a lot of marketing cachet, so you'll see many of the World's top shooters shooting Production on behalf of corporate sponsors.

Other shooting sports, such as the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) have similar divisions called "Stock Service Pistol", or something similar. Many shooters compete in a USPSA match one weekend, an IDPA match the next, and other shooting sports throughout the year.

Shooters are allowed to change sights, modify the grip, tune internal parts and exchange small parts like triggers, hammers, magazine release and slide stops, slide modifications other than milling for sight installation are prohibited. (The Production Division Appendix becomes effective May 16th, 2018).

Shooters may only load 10 rounds into

# THE DIVISIONS

## PRODUCTION DIVISION

- Striker fired or double-action firearms that appear on the "approved list." (See [uspsa.org](http://uspsa.org).)
- Shooters may modify the grip, exchange small external parts like triggers, hammers, slide stops, sights and magazine release as well as tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Max 10 rounds in the magazine
- All guns scored "Minor" (like a 9mm) – no matter how powerful the load actually used.
- Holsters and equipment must be "non-race-type" and be worn behind the hip

## SINGLE STACK 1911 DIVISION

- Single-stack Government model pistols are the only guns allowed.
- Standard-capacity magazines only (8 rounds for "major calibers, 10 rounds for "minor").
- Holsters and equipment must be "non-race-type" and be worn behind the hip.
- Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Shooters may change grips, slide stops, magazine releases, mainspring housings, triggers, etc.
- No optics, no porting, no compensators, or "devices to control recoil," such as weights.
- Guns can be scored "minor" (9mm and light .40) or "major" (full-power .40 and larger).

## LIMITED 10 DIVISION

- Single-action autoloaders
- Max 10 rounds in magazine
- Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Shooters may change grips, slide stops, magazine releases, mainspring housings, triggers, etc.
- No optics, no porting, no compensators, or "devices to control recoil," such as weights.
- Guns can be scored "minor" (9mm, and light .40) or "major" (full-power .40 and larger).

## LIMITED DIVISION

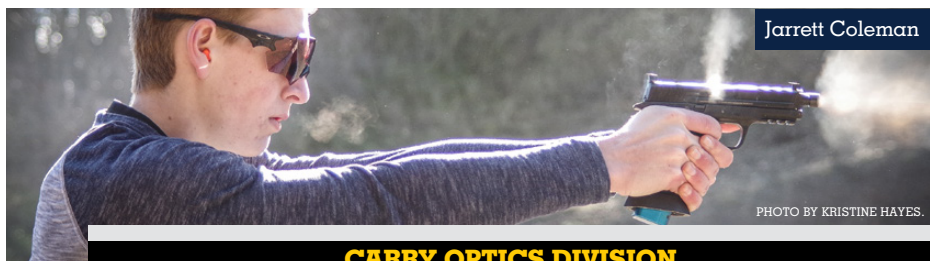
- Same as "Limited 10" except high-capacity magazines up to 140mm overall may be used (170mm for single-stack guns).
- Any gun without a compensator or optic sights fits this division; DA and Safe Action guns, along with Single Action autoloaders.
- Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Shooters may change grips, slide stops, magazine releases, mainspring housings, triggers, etc.
- No optics, no porting, no compensators.
- Guns can be scored "minor" (9mm, and light .40) or "major" (full-power .40 and larger).

## REVOLVER DIVISION

- Eight rounds (only) between reloads for "minor", six rounds (only) between reloads for "major".
- No optical sights, porting, or recoil compensation.
- May change grips, enlarge the cylinder release, change sights, chamfer cylinders, and tune the action.
- May score "major" using any bullet .355" or larger.

## OPEN DIVISION

- High-capacity magazines no longer than 170mm overall
- Optics allowed
- "Devices to control recoil" allowed.
- Guns may score "major" with any bullet .355" or larger.



## CARRY OPTICS DIVISION

- Striker fired or double-action firearms that appear on the "Production Approved List." (See [uspsa.org](http://uspsa.org).)
- Optical/electronic sights REQUIRED; must be attached directly to slide between rear of slide and ejection port
- A slide may be modified for installing optical sights. Milling or stippling on the slide to provide texture is also allowed, cuts designed to lighten the slide, such as holes, are allowed.
- Shooters may modify the grip, exchange small external parts like triggers, hammers, slide stops and magazine release as well as tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Maximum weight of firearm with unloaded magazine measuring no more than 141.25mm is 45oz
- All guns scored "Minor" (like a 9mm) – no matter how powerful the load actually used.
- Holsters and equipment must be "non-race-type" and be worn behind the hip.

## PISTOL CALIBER CARBINE DIVISION

- Pistol Caliber Carbines in 9mm, .357 Sig, .40 S&W, 10mm, .45 ACP
- Must have stock attached and be capable of being fired from shoulder position.  
*\*Note: AR and similar pistols with arm braces are not allowed.*
- All carbines are scored "Minor" (like 9mm) - no matter how powerful the load actually used, maximum is 1600 fps
- No capacity restrictions on magazines, side by side magazine coupling is not allowed
- Optic/electronic sights and lasers are allowed



Mike Moser

PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.

J.W. Aguirre



Travis Thompson

PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.



Mike Foley

PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.

their magazines, and all Production guns are scored as though they fired a “Minor” caliber cartridge (9mm) — no matter how powerful the load actually used. Holsters and allied equipment must be “non-race-type” and be worn behind the hip.

Most shooters use a standard outside the belt holster intended for daily wear, such as a Comp-Tac or Safariland lines.

### ■ SINGLE STACK

Look through any pistol-oriented magazine, and you’re guaranteed to see pictures and articles dedicated to John Browning’s signature pistol.

USPSA introduced a provisional 1911 Single Stack division in 2006, making it a full-fledged division in 2008. Single-stack Government model pistols (such as those made by Springfield Armory, STI, Wilson Combat and others) are the only guns allowed.

Shooters may use standard-capacity magazines only (8 rounds for “major” calibers — .40, 10mm, and .45 ACP, 10 rounds for “minor” — 9mm and .38 Super.) For hol-

sters, Single-Stack shooters must adhere to the Single Stack division guidelines — here, the gun rides higher on the belt, a traditional method of carry for the venerable 1911.

### ■ LIMITED 10 DIVISION

“Here in Hawaii, we’re limited to 10-round magazines by law,” says Honolulu’s Richard Abe.

Single-action autoloaders in .40 S&W and .45 ACP rule the roost here. Competitors can make various minor changes to make the gun more shootable (change sights, grips, slide stops, magazine releases, main-spring housings, etc.), but they MAY NOT add optical sights, porting (such as Mag-naporting), or a recoil compensator. The rules do a fine job of leveling out the equipment, so check the rule book for complete details.

Calibers can be either “minor” (9mm, .38 Super, and light-loaded .40S&W, for example) or “major” (full-power .40 S&W and larger).

### ■ LIMITED DIVISION

Most Limited competitors shoot wide-body

1911’s (STI, SV, Para-Ordnance), a Glock, or one of various CZ/TZ 75 variants.

“Limited lets me make the most of my equipment and skills,” says Lisa Munson, multi-year ladies Limited champion. “It lets you use the technology available today, without going all the way into driving a ‘race gun.’”

Allowable changes include all those listed for “Limited 10,” plus shooters may use high-capacity magazines no longer than 141mm overall.

### ■ REVOLVER DIVISION

Designed for stock revolvers, Revolver Division is dominated by the Smith & Wesson revolvers in minor calibers. Shooters may only fire eight rounds between reloads for minor scoring (six rounds for major), and modifications are limited. No optical sights, porting, or recoil compensation is allowed. However, shooters may change grips, enlarge the cylinder release, change sights, chamfer cylinders, and tune the action as they desire.

Revolver shooters may score “major” us-

PHOTO BY CORA MAGALYA.



Maggie Reese

PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.



Jessica Nietzel

Mason Lane



Joe Procopio

PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.

ing any cartridge firing a bullet .355" or larger, with a restriction of only 6 rounds being fired before reloading. USPSA recently changed the division rules in revolver to allow for 8 shots being fired before reloading, but competitors choosing to shoot here will be scored "minor", which makes a significant point difference for other than A zone hits.

#### ■ OPEN DIVISION

Dominated by cutting-edge high-capacity 1911's, but with many other makes holding their own, Open is the top-fuel drag racing division within USPSA.

"If you can roll it up to the line, odds are you can shoot it," says former USPSA President Michael Voigt.

Shooters can make all the modifications allowed for Limited, and add several more. Magazines may extend to 171mm overall, optical sights may be used, and recoil compensators are practically required.

Shooters may use any caliber that fires a .355 or larger bullet, including the 9x19 (carefully hand loaded). The most popular

cartridge at this writing is one of several variations of the .38 Super.

Experimenting with equipment and technique has always been a part of USPSA, since the days of Jeff Cooper and the Southwest Pistol League in the 1950s. That experimental flavor is a big part of what keeps them coming back, there's always some new sight setup, some new scope, some new idea to try.

#### ■ CARRY OPTICS DIVISION

Red dot sights are not new to competitive shooting. "Dots" have been in use in NRA bullseye and USPSA Open Division matches for over 30 years. Over the last few years, there has been a steady increase in the amount of red dot optics added to modern service pistols, and all of the major manufacturers in the firearms industry are offering more optics-ready pistols each year. USPSA responded by creating Carry Optics Division. The Carry Optics Division applies most of the Production Division rules, but with a 45-ounce weight limit on all models, requires optic/electronic

sight and additional modifications allowed. Magazines extended to 141.25mm, such as those used in the Limited Division. This division, like Production Division, is scored minor power factor only, utilizing readily available ammunition. The division has seen steady growth, and continues to be a topic of conversation with both experienced and new competition shooters alike.

#### ■ PISTOL CALIBER CARBINE

Pistol Caliber Carbines, or PCC's, have exploded in popularity in the last two years. This exciting new division has seen a tremendous amount of participation in both USPSA and Steel Challenge competition. There are numerous manufacturers and parts suppliers making competition-ready carbines and accessories. This division also uses primarily red dot optics and is scored minor power factor only, again utilizing readily available ammunition.

I encourage you to take whatever pistol you already have, and go shoot a match or two. Odds are you'll see someone shooting in a division appealing to you. Enjoy! ■

# STEEL CHALLENGE

PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.



Zack Jones

**BY ZACK JONES**  
 NATIONAL SCSA PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
 ZACK@USPSA.ORG

**D**ing, ding, ding, ding, ding! The ringing of steel plates as fast as you possibly can is what Steel Challenge is all about. Imagine hitting five plates ranging in size from 10-inch circles to 18x24-inch rectangles in under two seconds; that's what some of the fastest competitors in the world can do. Don't worry if you can't shoot that fast – there's plenty of fun to be had by competitors of all ages and skill levels!

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

A Steel Challenge match is comprised of up to eight official stages. Level 1 club matches are required to offer a minimum of two of the eight official stages, and may offer other unofficial stages in the same match. Level

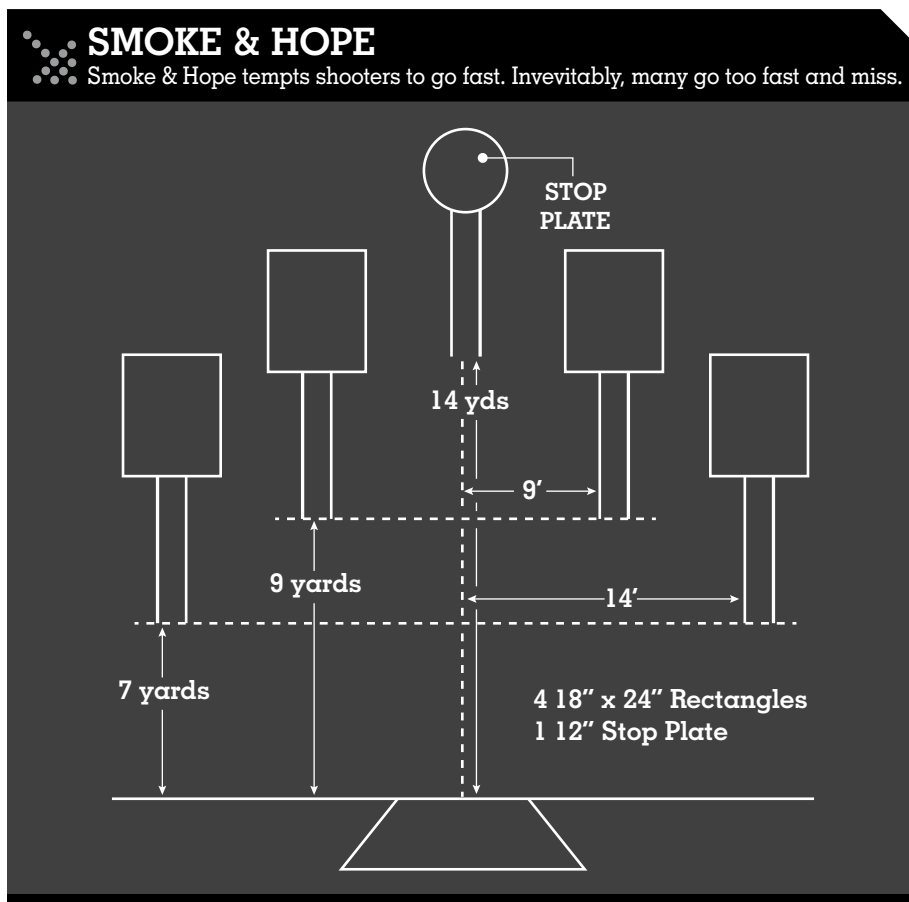
**ARE YOU  
 READY?  
 STAND BY,  
 BEEP!**

2 and 3 State, Regional, and World Championship matches are required to offer the eight official stages, and no other stages in the match. These events may also offer side matches, which are not part of the match score. When it's your turn to complete the course of fire, you step into the shooting box. A range official will issue a series of commands for you to prepare your firearm; once you're ready, the timer will beep and you'll shoot the five steel plates. Four of the plates can be shot in any order you choose. The last plate, known as the "stop plate", must be shot last. The post for the stop plate is usually painted red or some other color so that new competitors can remember which plate to shoot last. After shooting the five plates, your time is recorded either on paper or on the scoring tablet. You repeat this process five times; each run is known as a string. After the final string is completed, your worst time is thrown out and the total time for your four fastest strings is your time for the stage. The competitor with the lowest total time for all stages is the winner.

The match is divided into four separate matches. All centerfire pistols compete in the main match. Rimfire pistol irons and Rimfire pistol open compete in the Rimfire pistol match. Rimfire rifle irons and Rimfire rifle open compete in the Rimfire rifle match. Finally, Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC) Irons and PCC Optics compete in the PCC match.

## PICK A DIVISION

Equipment needs are minimal for Steel Challenge. You can compete with any rimfire pistol or rifle, a centerfire firearm, or in our most recently added division, PCC. Having five magazines is best, but you can get by with less when you are first starting out. All centerfire firearms start from the surrender position (wrists above shoulders), so you will need a holster for your firearm. All Rimfire and PCC competitors start from the low ready position; in front of each shooting box is an aiming flag or



Jim Chapman



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BROOKS.

cone which you aim at while you wait for the timer to beep, signifying the start of your run.

### EARN A CLASSIFICATION

USPSA members are eligible to earn a classification ranging from D (lowest) through Grand Master (highest) in each of the thirteen divisions used in Steel Challenge. To become classified a competitor must be a current USPSA member, and must shoot a minimum of four of the eight official stages. It does not matter which four of the eight you shoot and you don't have to shoot all four at the same match. The classification system keeps track of the official stages you have shot and calculates your classification once you've shot four stages. Classifications are updated weekly on Wednesday, so you can track your progress from match to match. As you shoot each stage faster you'll earn a higher classification.

### GETTING STARTED

Getting started in Steel Challenge is very easy. On the site [steelchallenge.com](http://steelchallenge.com) you can find a list of matches; hopefully, one is close to you. Once you've found a

Trenton Mitsuoka



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS

match, it would be a good idea to contact the match director in advance and let him know you want to shoot the match. Some ranges may require an orientation prior to competing in the match. The match director can answer any questions that you have in advance of match day. Once you've found the match, you'll want to decide which division to shoot. As previously stated, we have thirteen divisions in Steel Challenge. The centerfire pistol divisions align with the pistol divisions used in USPSA Handgun matches; the rimfire and PCC divisions are based on whether the firearm has an optic installed or not. Once you determine the firearm you want to shoot, you need to make sure to bring ammo, lots of ammo! A typical five-

stage club match requires a minimum of 125 rounds per firearm, and you should seriously consider bringing twice the minimum. You just never know when you may need to take an extra shot. If you will be shooting a centerfire pistol, you'll need a holster and for Rimfire/PCC, you'll need a suitable bag or case for transporting your firearm between stages.

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like to know more about Steel Challenge or have questions not answered in this article, please contact the National SCSA Program Coordinator, Zack Jones, at [zack@uspsa.org](mailto:zack@uspsa.org) and he'll be happy to help in any way he can. ■

Takumi Suzuki



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS

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GLENN WONG



BY TROY McMANUS

# MULTI-GUN BASICS

PHOTO BY CORA MAGLAYA

**U**SPSA has included long guns in its catalog of competition almost since the organization began. Originally called 3-Gun competition, each gun was shot separately on a course of fire designed for that gun, with barely any overlap between guns. Many participants wanted to be able to shoot all three guns in one stage, however, so due to customer demand and pressure from many so-called (but exemplary) “outlaw” matches, USPSA has embraced Multi-Gun competition. This basically means that a competitor could be called upon to solve a given shooting problem using a rifle, shotgun, and handgun, or any combination of those three. Occasionally, a stage gun is thrown into the mix for even more excitement! A few years ago, the USPSA Multi-Gun Nationals employed a full auto, belt-fed .308 caliber machine gun as part of the challenge on a stage. There were many smiling faces leaving the range each day!

Multi-gun competition is varied and intense, using the same basic principles of USPSA handgun competition, namely accuracy combined

JOJO VIDANES



PHOTO BY CORA MAGLAYA

LANNY BARNES



PHOTO BY CORA MAGLAYA

with speed. As you might imagine, different skill sets and equipment are needed to compete with all three guns, and this is what keeps multi-gun growth on the rise—the challenge of mastering three guns in one stage. Over the years, many changes have been made to the design and use of the modern sporting rifle, but one of the chief uses of the AR-15 and its variants is in multi-gun competition. Likewise, many semi-auto shotguns that were once the *ne plus ultra* of 3-gun competition have been replaced by new, faster-actioned, purpose-built scatterguns. Equipment for loading and reloading the rifles and shotguns used in multi-gun competition has likewise evolved to meet the ever-increasing demand for speed and precision in reloading while on the move. It's not unusual to see a multi-gun competitor wearing an assortment of high-tech magazine and shotshell holders, all designed to provide speed and ease on high round count stages requiring all three guns.

As with all USPSA competitions, safety is paramount, and Multi-Gun competitions have their own set of rules, most of which emulate the USPSA Handgun rules with regard to safe gun handling. A copy of the recently revised MG rules is available at: [www.uspsa.org/uspsa-rules](http://www.uspsa.org/uspsa-rules).

USPSA Multi-Gun competitions are divided into five divisions, based on type of gun used. Here are the basic requirements for each division. While major and minor power factor is still listed for each division, most multi-gun matches these days use Time Plus scoring, which depends less on power factor and emphasizes speed while shooting at the targets. This is explained further in the box below.

#### OPEN DIVISION

Anything goes, with the exception of full-auto guns. Competitors can use compensators to limit recoil and muzzle rise, any combination of scopes and electronic sights on any or all three guns. Bipods, flashlights, lasers—all legal here. Shotguns may have unlimited



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## HIT FACTOR VS. TIME PLUS SCORING

Some matches still use traditional USPSA hit factor scoring, but this is proving more difficult to do, since considerations for major pistol, minor rifle, and major shotgun (or a different combination of all three) must be taken into account. The more popular method of scoring multi-gun matches is called Time Plus, so named because misses and failure to shoot at penalties are simply added into your score as additional time, not points. This scoring method uses your time as your score, as long as all targets are neutralized. Missed, failure to shoot at, or poorly hit targets are penalized with additional time added. In this type of scoring, as in golf, low score wins. It's pretty simple and the courses of fire are much easier to score and reset. One A/B hit on a target or two hits anywhere on the target are enough to "neutralize" that target and not cost any penalty seconds. Don't shoot at one, or miss one, and that will add considerable time to your final score.

Multi-Gun matches are gaining in popularity, and growing across the country. Check your local club for the opportunity to shoot your AR and combat shotgun in competition.

ammo capacity and may be loaded fully; speedloader tubes and magazines are allowed on the shotgun.

### TACTICAL DIVISION

While your handgun must comply with the USPSA Limited Division rules (no compensator, barrel ports, or optics), the rifle may have a single optic installed, along with a small compensator, but no bipods, flashlights, or lasers. Restrictions on the shotgun include loading to a max of nine shells to start, and shotgun speedloaders and magazines are not allowed.

### LIMITED DIVISION

Same as Tactical for the handgun and shotgun. The main difference here is that only one non-magnifying optic is allowed on the rifle. That means you can use a 1X red dot sight on your rifle, but no telescopic sights.

### HEAVY METAL

#### TACTICAL DIVISION

Here the USPSA Limited 10 rules apply for handguns, with a .40 caliber minimum also required. Rifles must be .308 caliber and shotguns 12 gauge. There are limits on loaded capacity in all three guns. Rifles and shotguns follow the same compensator and optic rules as Tactical division.

### HEAVY METAL

#### LIMITED DIVISION

The same requirements as for Heavy Metal Tactical, but rifles cannot have optics of any kind and you must use a pump-action shotgun, 12 gauge or larger. You can however, use a compensator on your rifle, with size restrictions. ■

TYLER PAYNE

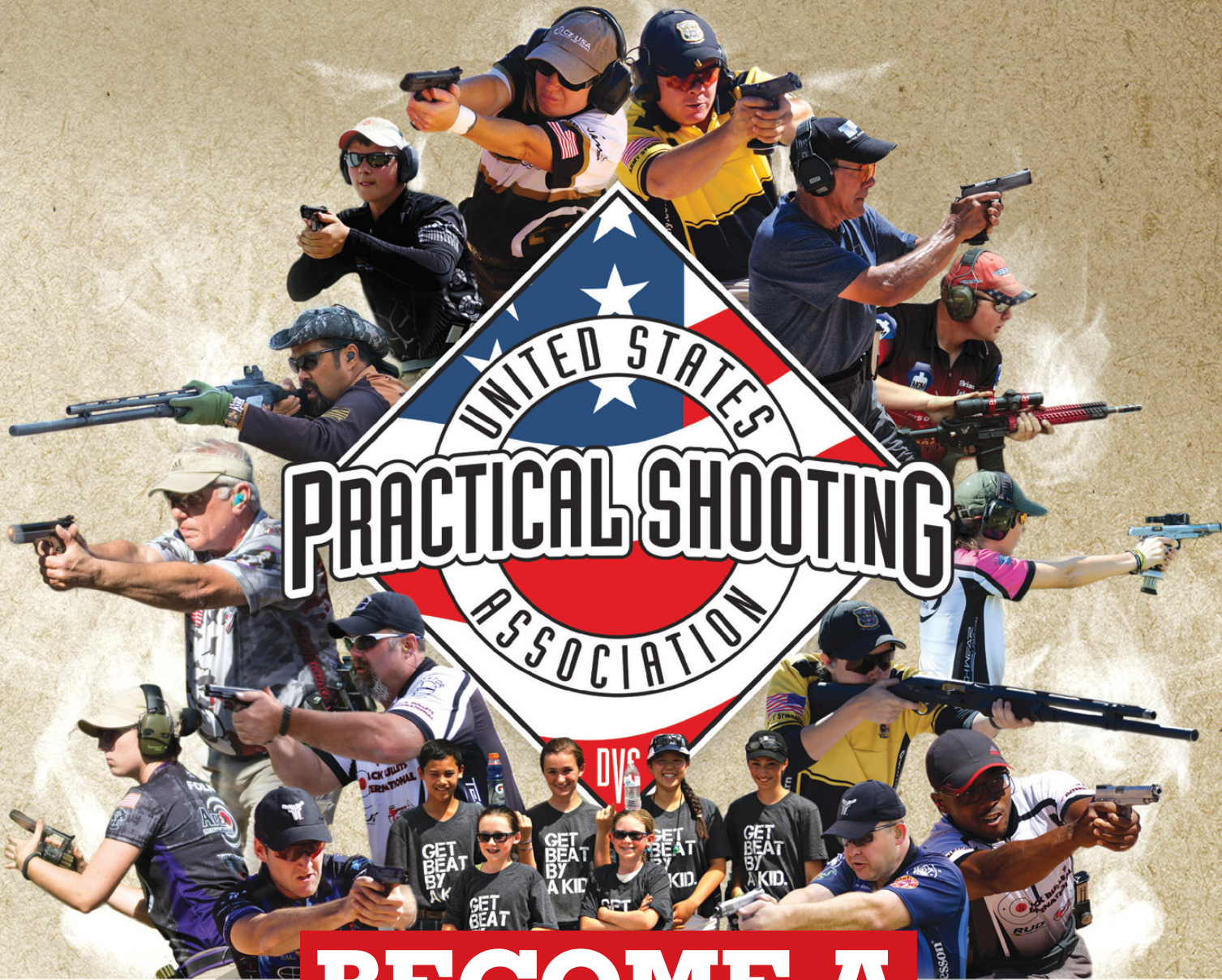


PHOTO BY CORA MACGLAYA



JERRY MICULEK

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Cody Baker



# USPSA INTRODUCES AN UPDATED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

**T**his past September, USPSA rolled out a new classification system that is updated weekly instead of monthly. The engine driving this new system, rather than using a two-file system of classifier scores and match scores, is now a single-file system using the match results uploaded by the clubs.

By using a single file, USPSA members benefit from having all their match scores and classifier scores available on the web site as soon as the club uploads them to the USPSA web site.

Your initial classification still requires only four valid scores in the system, but those new classifications are calculated each week, early Wednesday morning. There are caveats to this, of course, and the most important is that the clubs not only have to upload their match results no later than Tuesday, they also have to pay the activity fees before the classification program begins the process. Classifier scores that the club has not paid for will not be included in the calculations and will await payment by the club.

Once you are classified, the next time the program runs, the classification program will look at the best six valid scores of your most recent eight scores. If your average is in a higher class than your current class, you will be promoted to that class. At the same time, your classes in other divisions will be evaluated to determine whether a

board policy requires promotion in them as well. This policy states you can't have a classification in one division that is more than one class below your highest classification.

Because of this more frequent web-based calculation, USPSA no longer prints and mails new classification cards. However, you can print your own classification card by logging into your profile on the USPSA website. There you will find a link labeled Classification Card.

Also note that if you see an error in one of your scores or your member number, you must let the club know of the problem so they can fix it in the scoring program and upload a corrected set of results. The USPSA office does not have the ability to correct scores or member numbers on the website.

## A ROBUST, DYNAMIC SYSTEM

Someone once said that “changes aren't permanent, but change is.” Over the last 25 years, practical shooters have turned the shooting world on its ear, re-inventing the way we shoot, the way guns are built, the way holsters are made, and even what bullets we shoot in them.

Like a schoolteacher's bell curve, as the top end of our sport improves, the “high hit factor” required to achieve a “Grand Master” score improves as well. By continuously adjusting for change, our classification system has become the one

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MASTER	85 TO 94.9%
A	75 TO 84.9%
B	60 TO 74.9%
C	40 TO 59.9%
D	2 TO 40%

universally-recognized benchmark within the practical shooting world.

Today's practical shooter wields a level of technique and technology that outpaces the very best shooters of the mid-1980s. Thankfully, our system's ability to continuously re-set the standard of achievement has maintained the integrity of a USPSA classification.

In the same way a golfer must complete many rounds of golf on courses with a known “par” to earn a “handicap,” USPSA shooters must complete several courses with a known “high hit factor” to earn a classification. Once they've done so, other shooters (like golfers) can use that classification to judge their abilities, and arrange competitive classes where shooters compete against others of like ability.

That's the gist of the USPSA system. It's a robust system, and one that has served USPSA well. ■



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# STEEL CHALLENGE TRY IT OUT

BY JAMES DeLAMBERT, A71786

**F**or those of you out there who have not checked out the sport of Steel Challenge, I highly recommend that you do so. It is fun to watch and easy to understand, and it is even more fun to shoot. The organization that oversees Steel Challenge is the SCSA or Steel Challenge Shooting Association. The SCSA is owned by the USPSA, so you know that it is well run. USPSA purchased the SCSA to promote another great shooting sport. Ideally, the SCSA will attract people to the USPSA and vice versa. As a member in the USPSA, you will also hold membership in SCSA. They use your same membership

number, so things are quite simple. I shoot both USPSA and Steel Challenge, and it is great that I can hop on the computer and pull up my classifications and scores, using my same membership number and password.

Steel Challenge is all about having fun and shooting steel targets as fast as you can safely do so. I enjoy Steel Challenge because to me it is more relaxed than USPSA. I spend a lot of time getting to USPSA matches early, sometimes days early for big matches, and walking the stages to figure out the best way to run them when the beeper goes off. In USPSA, you don't know what sort of stage

you will get until you get to there and walk through them. In Steel Challenge, there are only eight official stages, and most of the time a local match will use only a couple of them, so you know what to expect. I don't need to arrive early to walk them; I know what they will be. Additionally, I've been the Steel Challenge Match Director at Holmen Rod and Gun Club for three years, so once a month I set up the stages and tear them down.

A stage in Steel Challenge consists of five white-painted steel targets known as plates. There are four standard plates, and one stop plate. The goal is to draw your weapon at the buzzer and shoot the four standard plates, then end on the stop plate. You can shoot as many rounds as you need to accomplish that, but you want to shoot the standard plates first, to avoid penalties. The penalties come in the form of time added, because, in Steel Challenge, your time is your score. The lowest score wins. You shoot five strings per stage, and the worst string is tossed out – so in the end, the time is



**JAMES DeLAMBERT**

- AGE 18
- GRAND MASTER PRODUCTION DIVISION USPSA
- GRAND MASTER PRODUCTION DIVISION SCSA



added up and the lowest/quickest time wins for that respective division. The absolute worst time one can have in a string is 30 seconds.

Steel Challenge uses three different sized plates. There are 10" and 12" round steel plates, and 18"x24" rectangular plates. There are targets in close proximity on a stage like Smoke and Hope, and there are some stages like Speed Option with an 18"x24" plate at 105 feet. It is great training for working on your draw and transitioning quickly from target to target. I notice that some people at USPSA matches freak out when there is a lot of steel to shoot on a given stage. An excellent way to remedy that is to go to a Steel Challenge match and have fun shooting steel all day. After a while, you'll look forward to the ding of the steel.

I think Steel Challenge is a great way to start shooting competitions, as it allows the use of .22 caliber pistols and rifles, whereas in USPSA the minimum cartridge is 9x19. Additionally, Steel Challenge allows the same variety of handguns as USPSA does, such as Open division, Limited division, Production division, Revolver, Single Stack, and Pistol Caliber Carabines (the new PCC division). Another reason it is ideal for beginners is

there is not the down-range and up-range movement and the running that can be required in USPSA. It's an excellent way to start out getting comfortable and proficient with a handgun or rifle.

If you start with a .22, you do not draw from a holster; rather, you start your pistol from a low-ready position. Steel Challenge places a two-foot-high flag or signs 10 feet downrange that the .22 pistol and rifle shooters point at as their low-ready position. As you get proficient and comfortable in Steel Challenge, it is a great next step to shooting USPSA. I started competing at ten years of age in USPSA, later when our club became a member of SCSA as well, I began shooting Steel Challenge. I enjoy both sports.

For those of you already shooting USPSA, almost all the commands in Steel Challenge will be very familiar. "Are you ready?", "Stand by", BEEP! "Make ready for your next string", "If you are finished unload and show clear", "If clear, hammer down and holster". This means you will have that comfort zone should you wish to shoot some steel.

At our club, it is very much a family affair. I am the Match Director, my dad is my Assistant Match Director, and my

mom is the one who helps with registration and squadding. Additionally, she cooks a fresh lunch for people to enjoy after a day of shooting, which is an excellent way to get people to stick around after a match – otherwise, we find that everyone runs off to their vehicles and goes back to their busy lives.

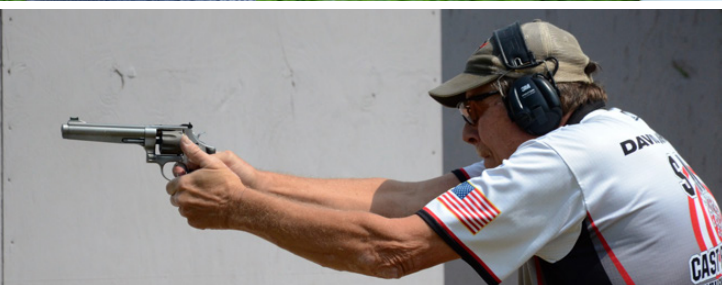
My favorite sport is USPSA, but I will continue to shoot Steel Challenge, as I like to set goals and attempt to achieve them. I just reached a goal I had set a few years ago, which was to become a Grand Master in the Production division of Steel Challenge. It seemed impossible, but each year I got a little faster. Shortly after that, I became a Master in .22 Open Rimfire Rifle when I borrowed my friend's rifle. It was a blast! I had not shot rifle in Steel Challenge, and it was a great change. I have now purchased a 1911 Single Stack gun as well, so I am looking forward to reaching Grand Master goals in those divisions. I enjoy the challenge, and that it is making me a better shooter.

I just shot the Minnesota Sectional Championship in Pine Island, Minnesota recently, and there was one long stage that was all steel targets. People said it was the toughest stage of the championship, but I thought it was great as I enjoy shooting steel. I shot it fairly well because I was not intimidated, but rather kind of excited to shoot some steel.

The great thing about both SCSA and USPSA is you can make it a family affair. As I mentioned earlier, our family works together to run the Steel Challenge at Holmen Rod and Gun Club in Holmen Wisconsin. My dad and I have squadded many times over the years at local, state and area USPSA matches. In golf, there are different handicaps, but you can play with friends and family of various skill levels. Likewise, with SCSA and USPSA, there are different classification levels, but you can still get together with friends and family and shoot and squad together.

I think you'll find that Steel Challenge is a lot of fun if you give it a chance. Check out your community online to find the closest match to you and go try it out! ■

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USPSA + NATIONALS

2017 LIMITED / LIMITED L10 DIVISION

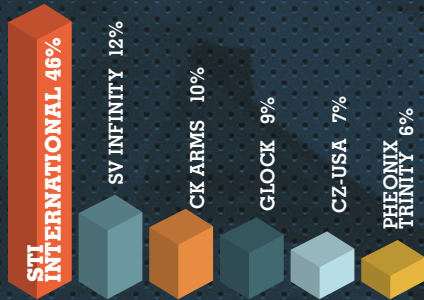
# EQUIPMENT SURVEY

THE LATEST TRENDS AND WHAT'S BEING USED

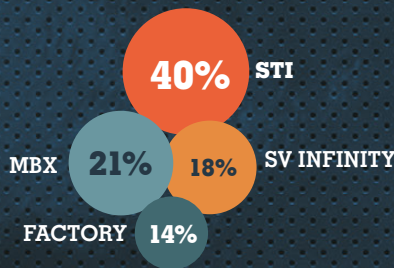


ROBERT VOGEL

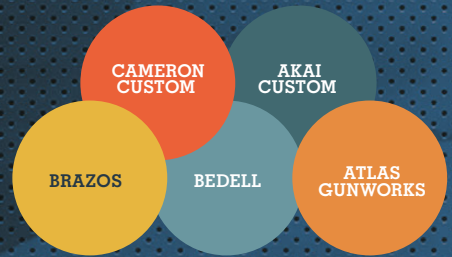
### FIREARM MANUFACTURER



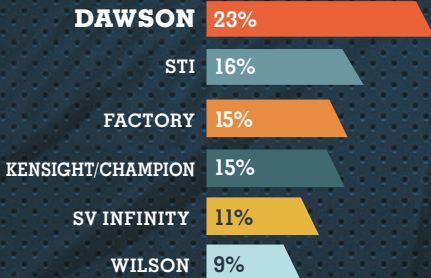
### MAGAZINE MANUFACTURER



### GUNSMITH/CUSTOM SHOP TOP ANSWER



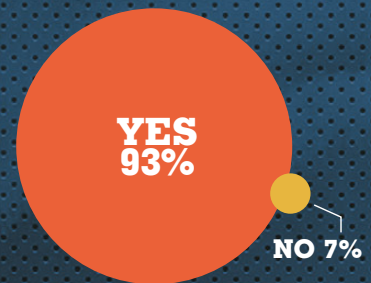
### REAR SIGHT MANUFACTURER



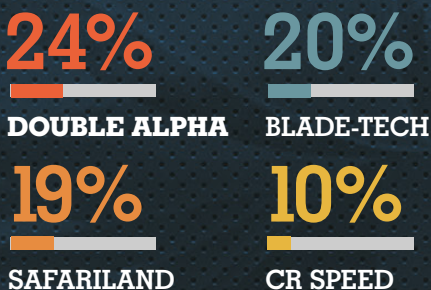
### FRONT SIGHT MANUFACTURER



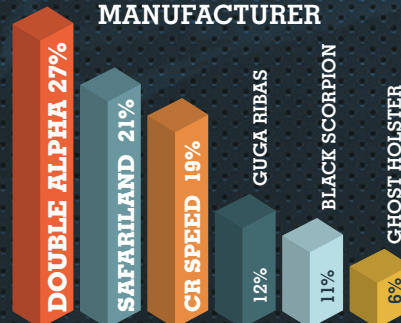
### FIBER OPTIC FRONT SIGHT



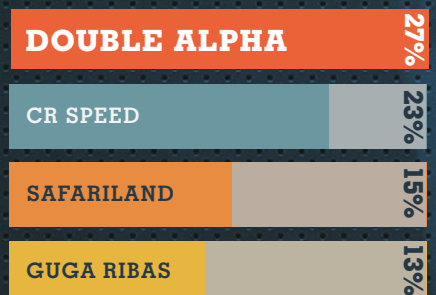
### TOP FOUR HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



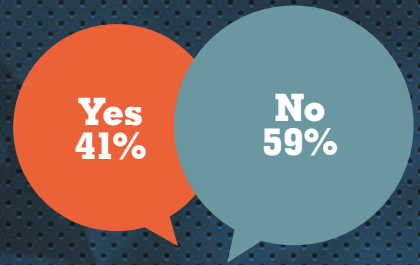
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



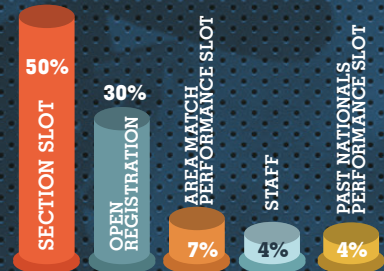
### BELT SYSTEM



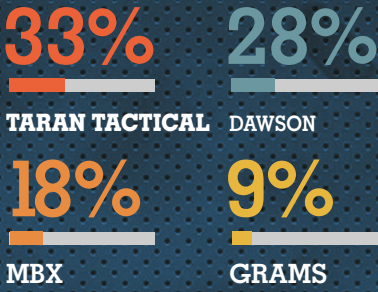
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



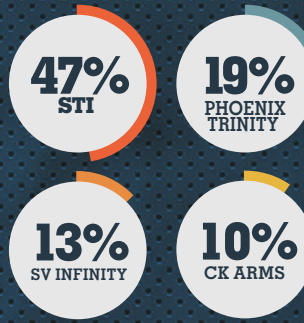
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



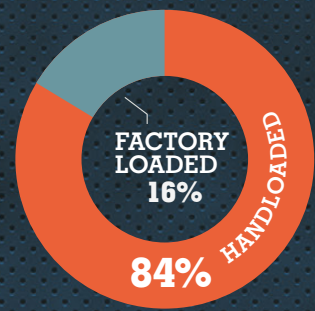
TOP BASE PAD MANUFACTURERS



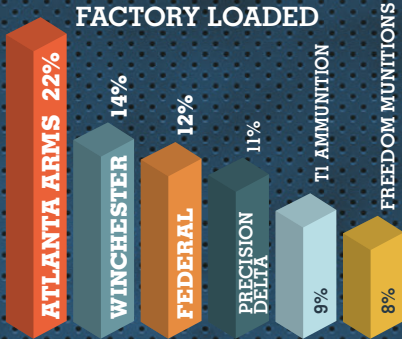
GRIP MANUFACTURER



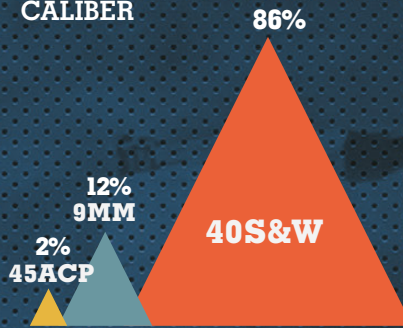
AMMUNITION



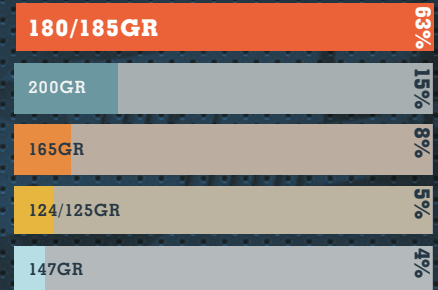
FACTORY LOADED



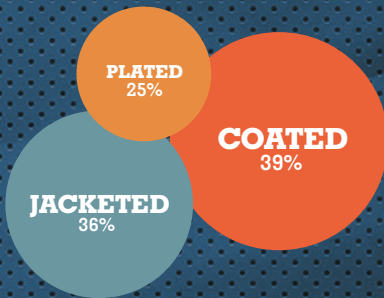
CALIBER



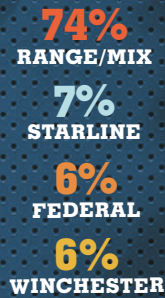
BULLET WEIGHT



BULLET TYPE



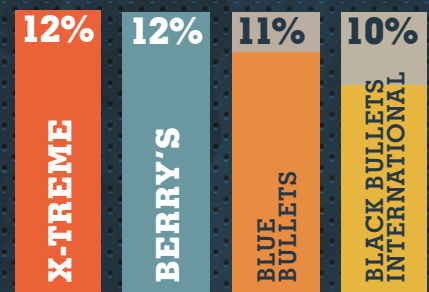
BRASS



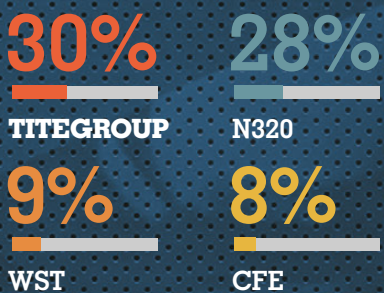
POWDER



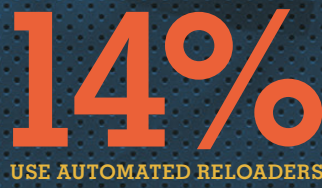
TOP BULLET MANUFACTURERS



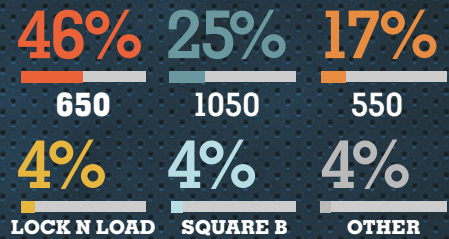
TYPE OF POWDER



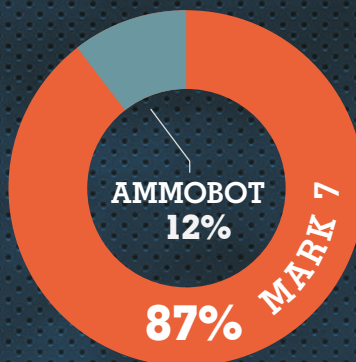
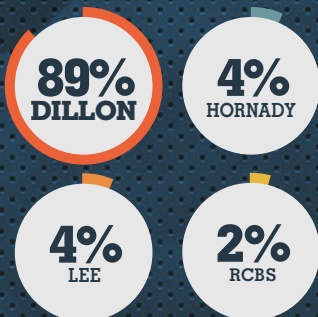
AUTOMATED RELOADER



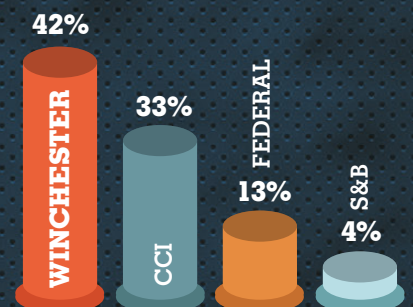
MODEL OF RELOADER



HANDLOADER/RELOADER



PRIMER MANUFACTURER



USPSA + NATIONALS

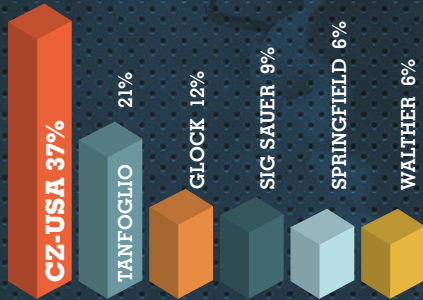
# 2017 PRODUCTION DIVISION EQUIPMENT SURVEY

THE LATEST TRENDS AND  
WHAT'S BEING USED

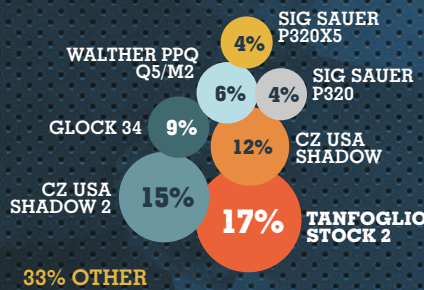


ALEX GUTT

### FIREARM MANUFACTURER



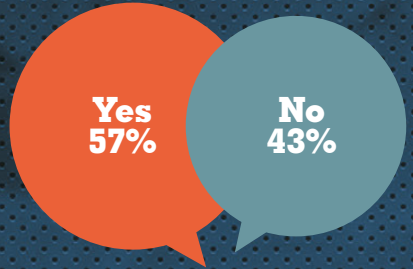
### MODEL OF FIREARM



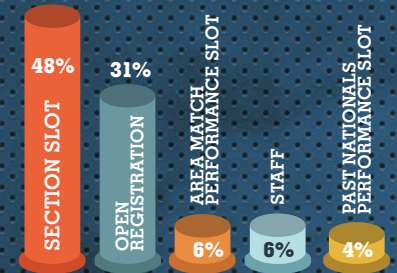
### GUNSMITH/CUSTOM SHOP TOP ANSWER



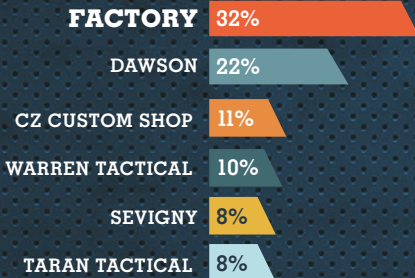
### IS THIS YOUR FIRST NATIONALS?



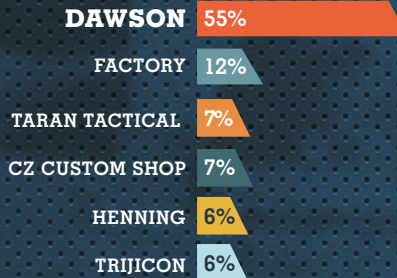
### HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



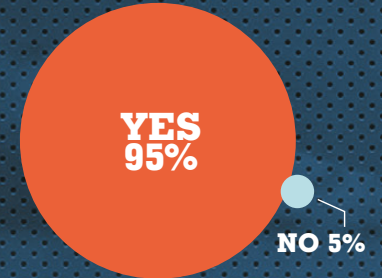
### REAR SIGHT MANUFACTURER



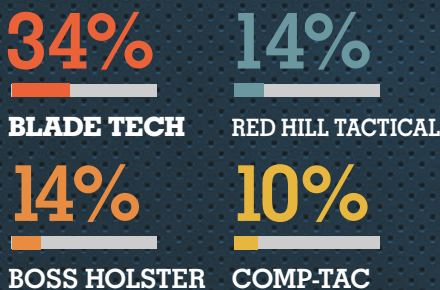
### FRONT SIGHT MANUFACTURER



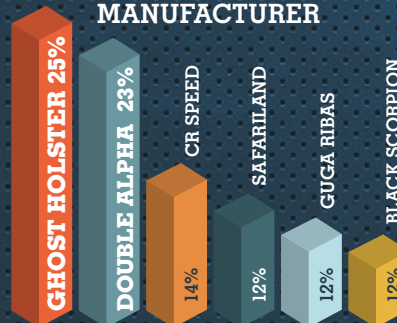
### FIBER OPTIC FRONT SIGHT



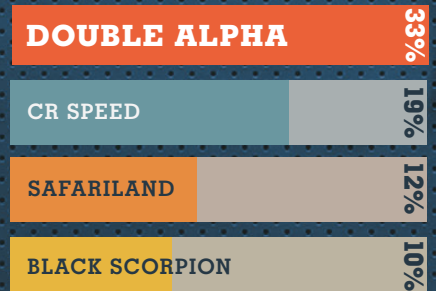
### TOP FOUR HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



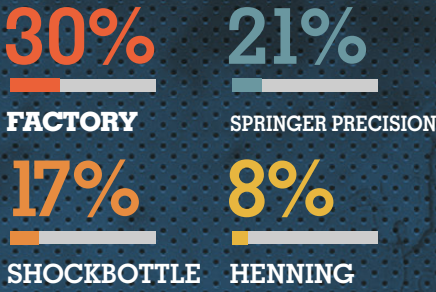
### MAGAZINE POUCH MANUFACTURER



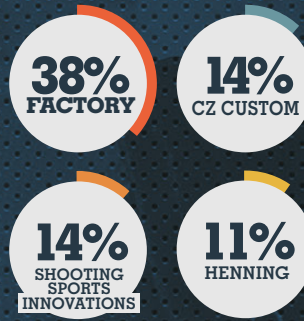
### BELT SYSTEM



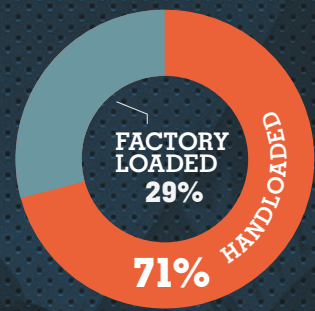
TOP BASE PAD MANUFACTURERS



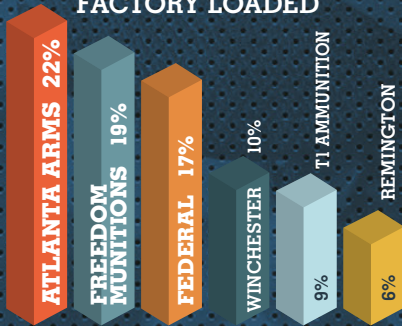
GRIP MANUFACTURER



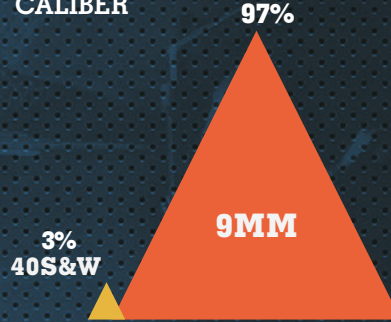
AMMUNITION



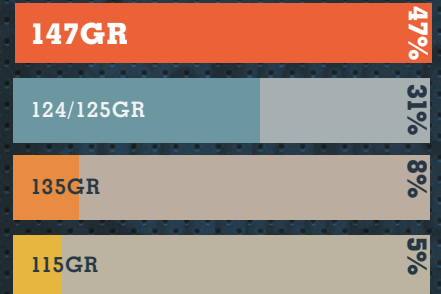
FACTORY LOADED



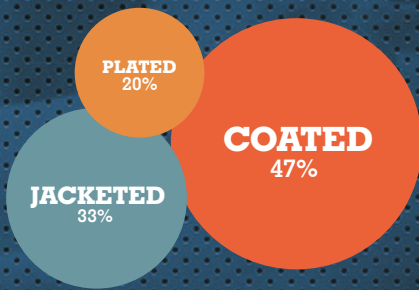
CALIBER



BULLET WEIGHT



BULLET TYPE



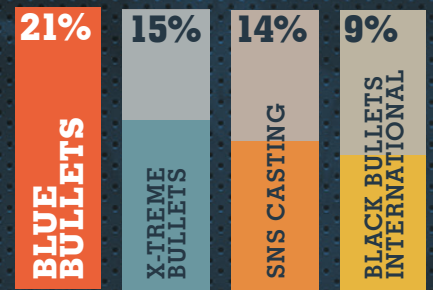
BRASS



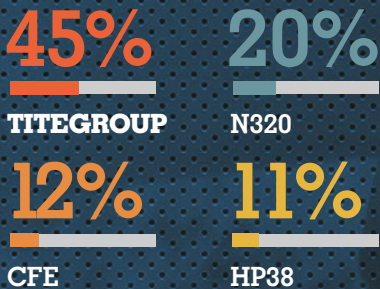
POWDER



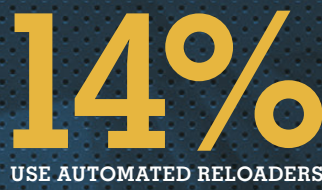
TOP BULLET MANUFACTURERS



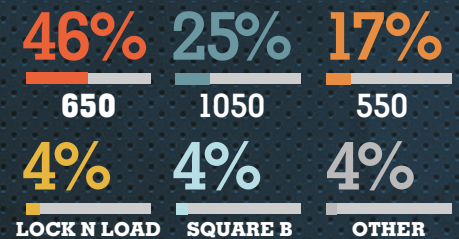
TYPE OF POWDER



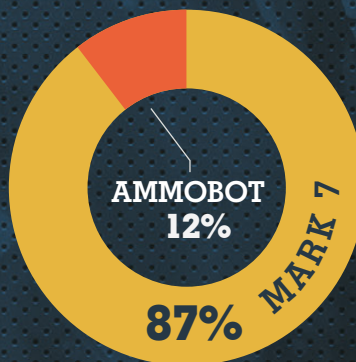
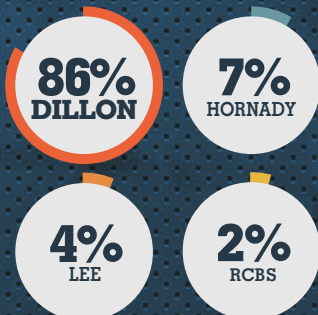
AUTOMATED RELOADER



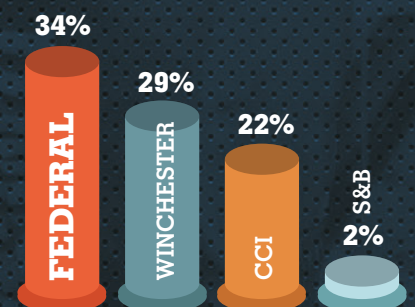
MODEL OF RELOADER



HANDBOARD/RELOADER



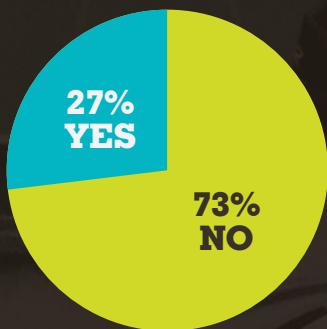
PRIMER MANUFACTURER



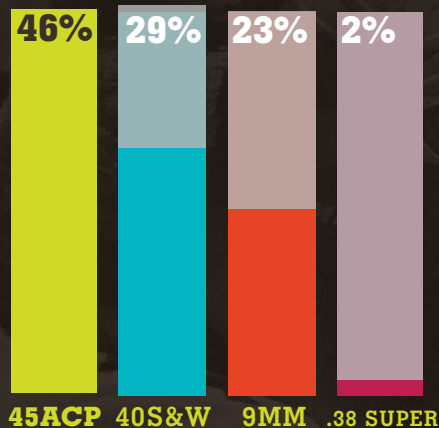
# 2017 SINGLE STACK NATIONALS EQUIPMENT SURVEY

WHAT IS BEING USED AND THE LATEST TRENDS

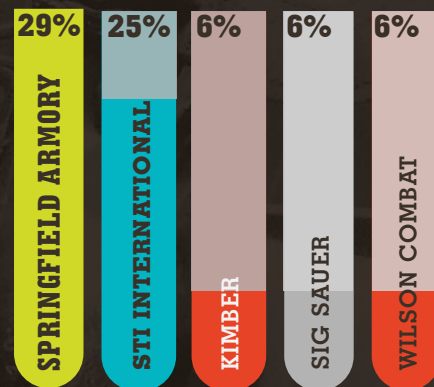
FIRST TIME COMPETING AT THE SINGLE STACK NATIONALS?



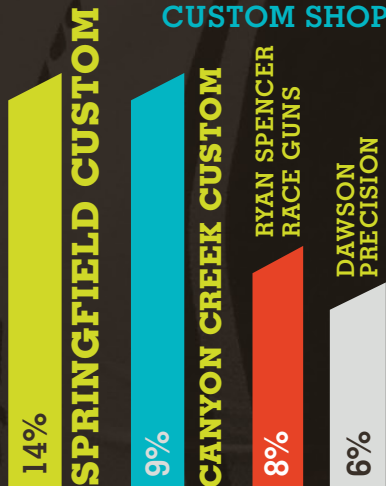
CALIBER



TOP FIREARM MANUFACTURER



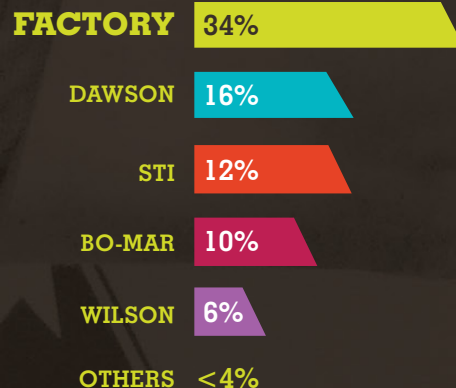
GUNSMITH/CUSTOM SHOP



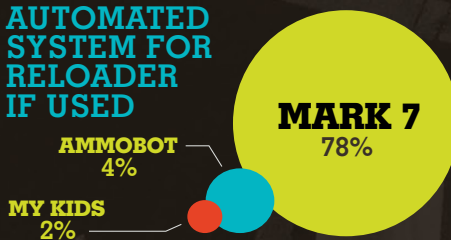
TOP POWDER TYPE



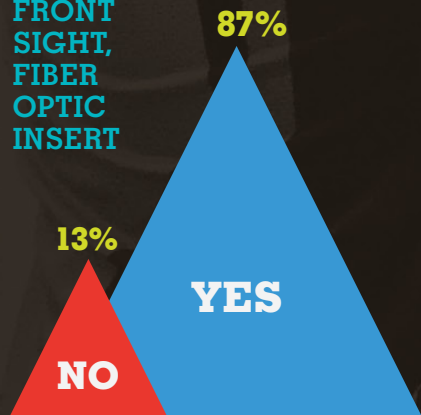
TOP REAR SIGHT



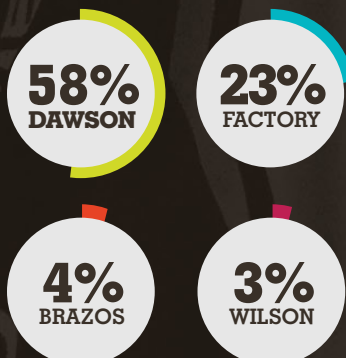
AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR RELOADER IF USED



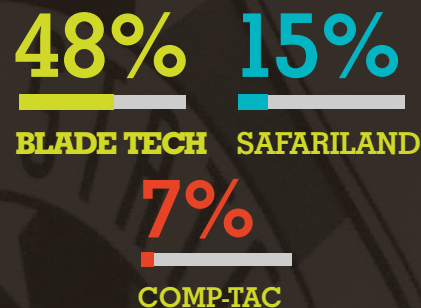
FRONT SIGHT, FIBER OPTIC INSERT



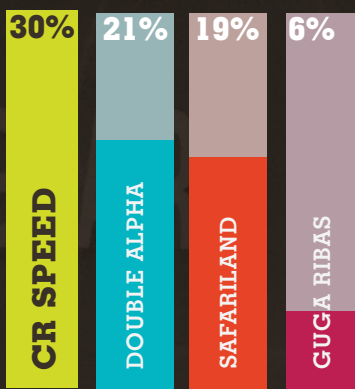
FRONT SIGHT



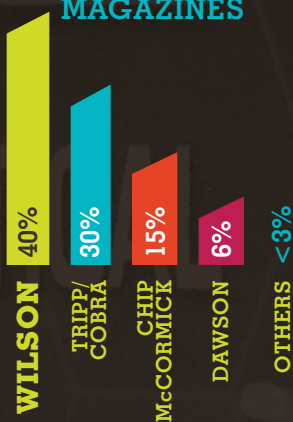
TOP THREE HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



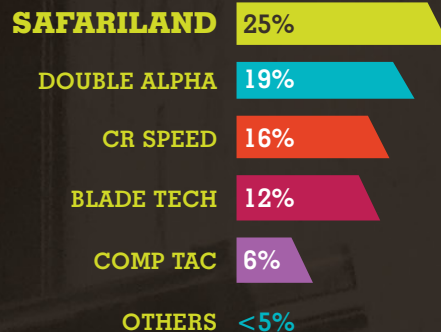
BELT SYSTEM



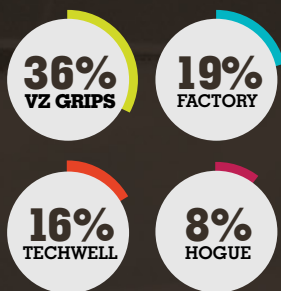
MAGAZINES



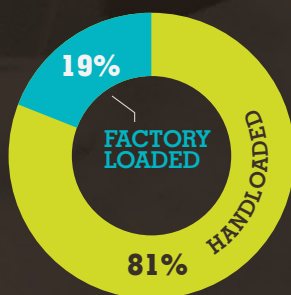
TOP MAG POUCHES MANUFACTURER



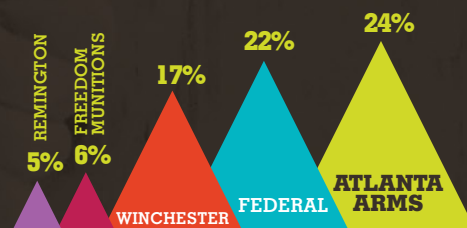
GRIPS



AMMUNITION



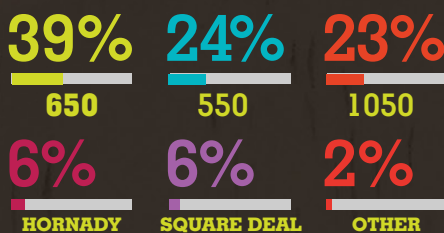
FACTORY LOADED



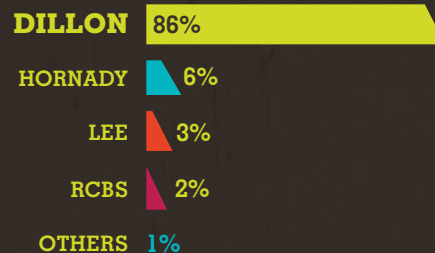
TOP POWDER MANUFACTURER



RELOADER MODEL



HANDLOADER/RELOADER



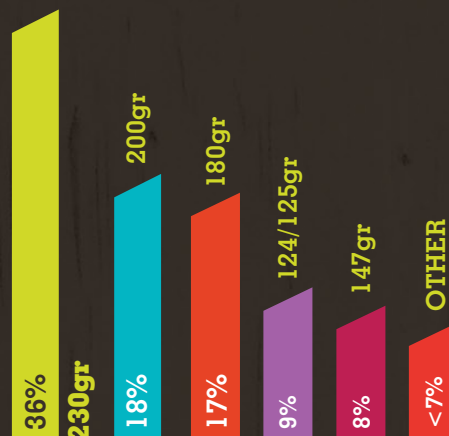
TOP PRIMER MANUFACTURER



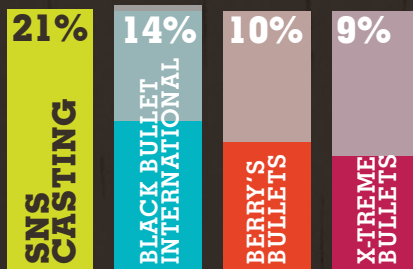
BULLET TYPE



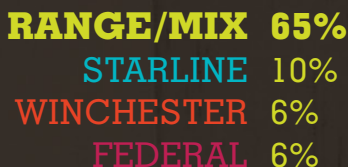
BULLET WEIGHT



BULLET MANUFACTURER



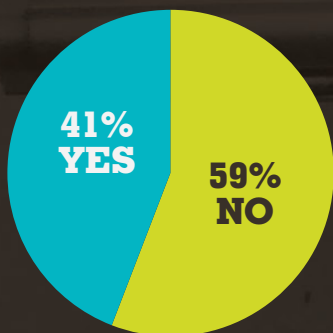
TOP BRASS MANUFACTURER



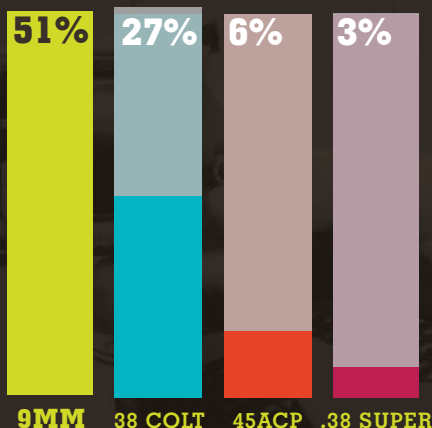
# 2017 REVOLVER NATIONALS EQUIPMENT SURVEY

WHAT IS BEING USED AND THE LATEST TRENDS

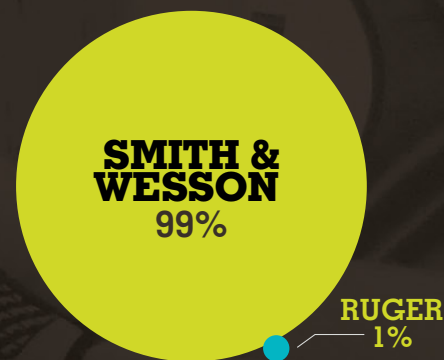
FIRST TIME COMPETING AT THE SINGLE STACK NATIONALS?



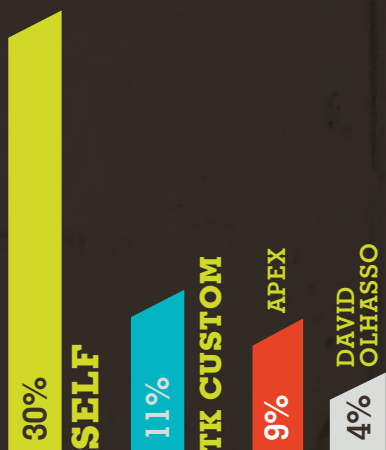
CALIBER



TOP FIREARM MANUFACTURER



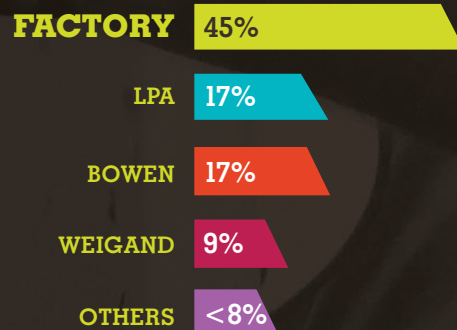
GUNSMITH/CUSTOM SHOP



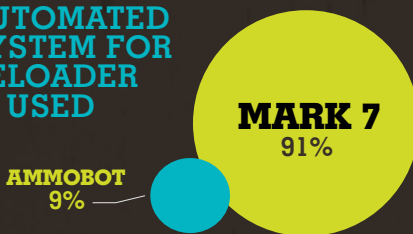
TOP POWDER TYPE



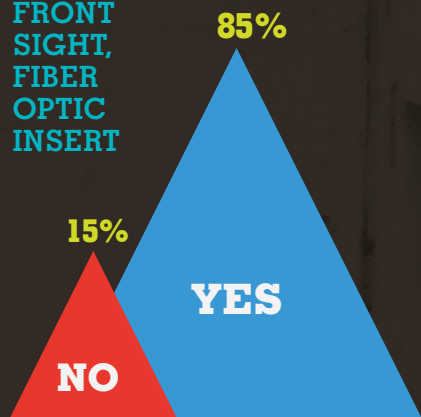
TOP REAR SIGHT



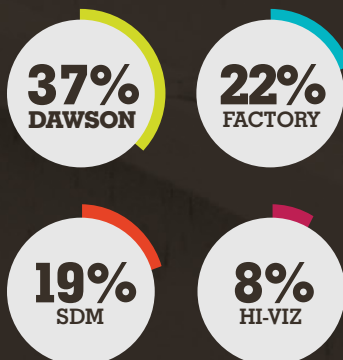
AUTOMATED SYSTEM FOR RELOADER IF USED



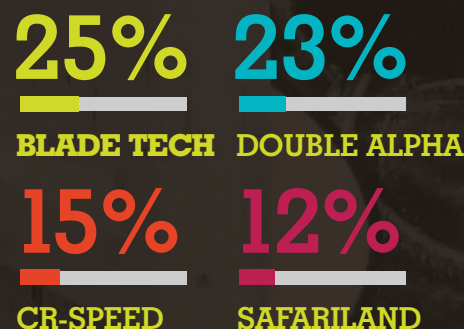
FRONT SIGHT, FIBER OPTIC INSERT



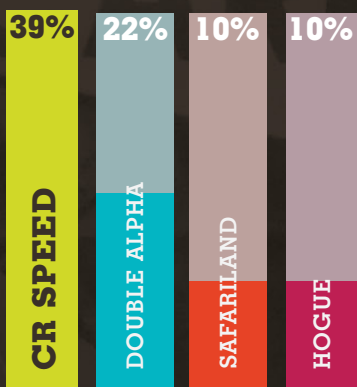
FRONT SIGHT



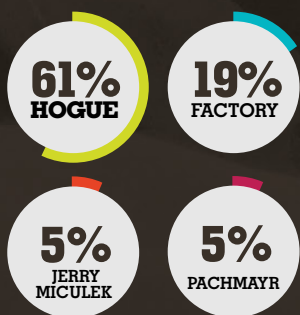
TOP FOUR HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



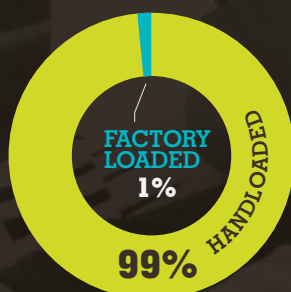
BELT SYSTEM



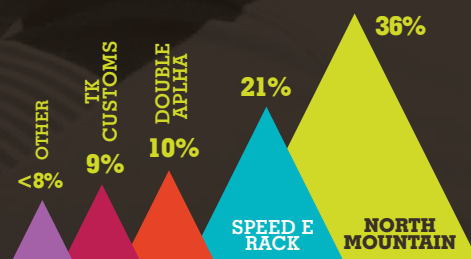
GRIPS



AMMUNITION



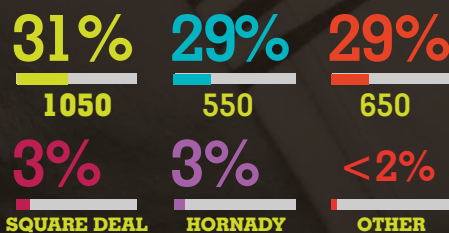
MOON CLIP HOLDER



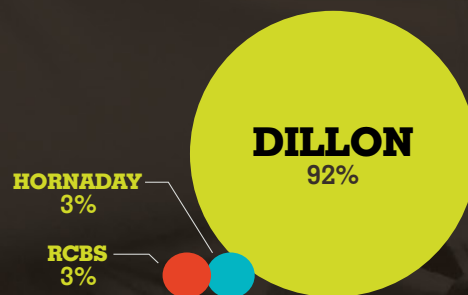
TOP POWDER MANUFACTURER



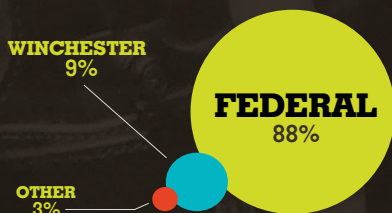
RELOADER MODEL



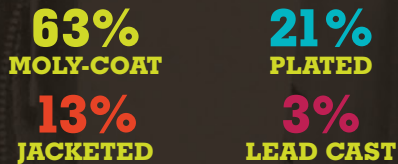
RELOADER



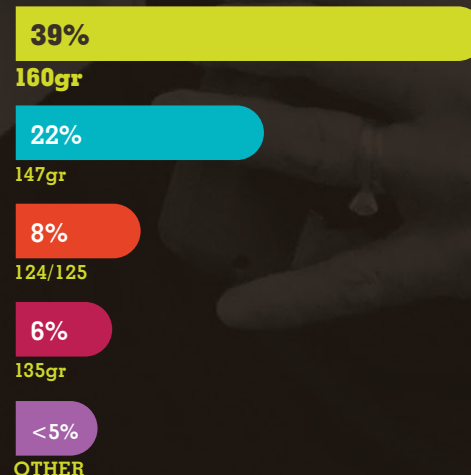
TOP PRIMER MANUFACTURER



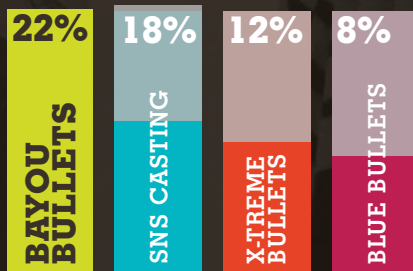
BULLET TYPE



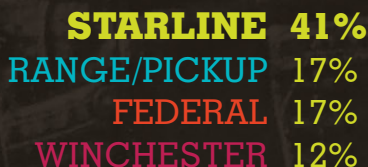
BULLET WEIGHT



BULLET MANUFACTURER



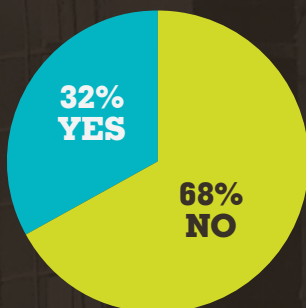
TOP BRASS MANUFACTURER



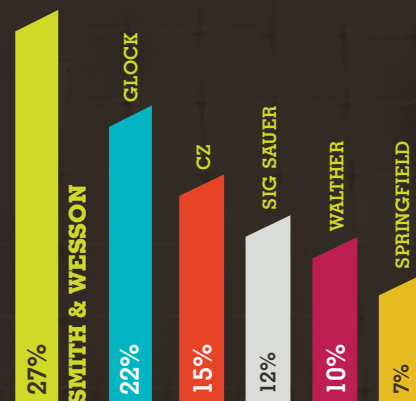
# 2017 CARRY OPTICS NATIONALS EQUIPMENT SURVEY

WHAT IS BEING USED AND THE LATEST TRENDS

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME TO A USPSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP?



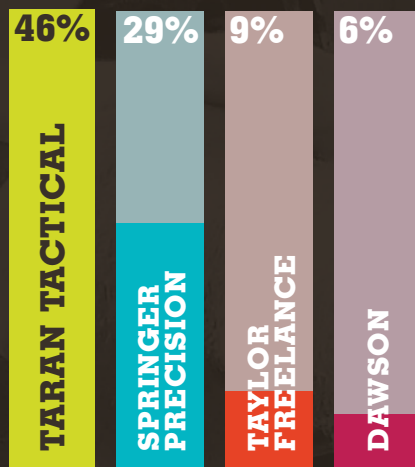
TOP FIREARM MANUFACTURER



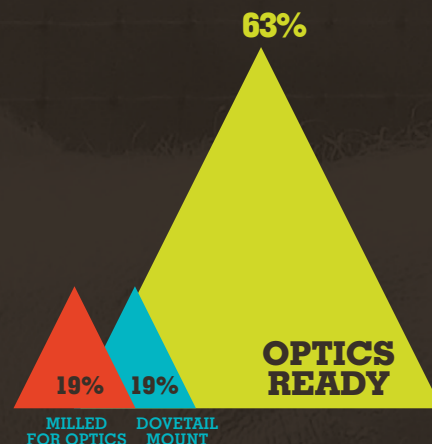
GUNSMITH/CUSTOM SHOP



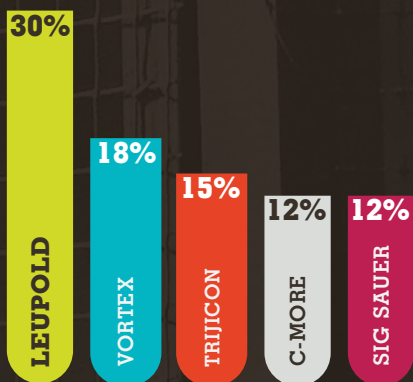
BASEPADS



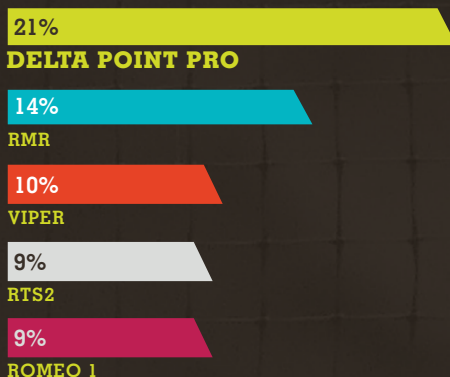
FACTORY SLIDE



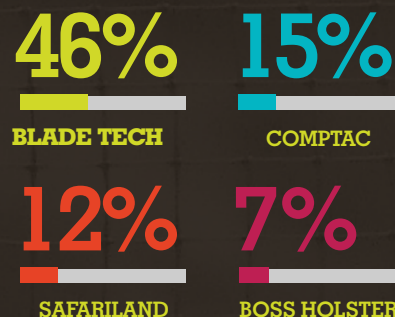
RED DOT OPTICS



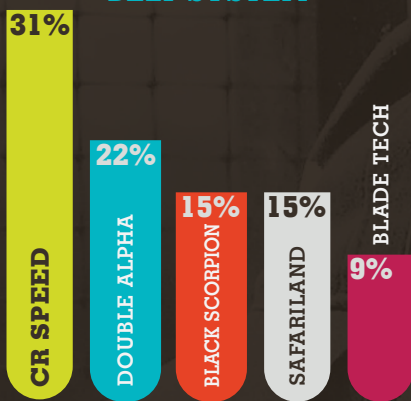
MODEL OF RED DOT



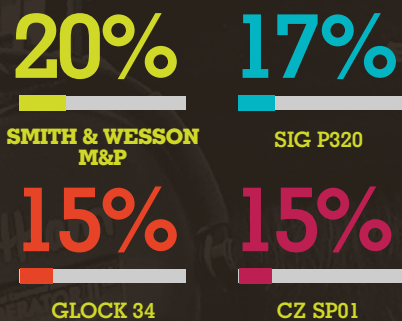
TOP FOUR HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



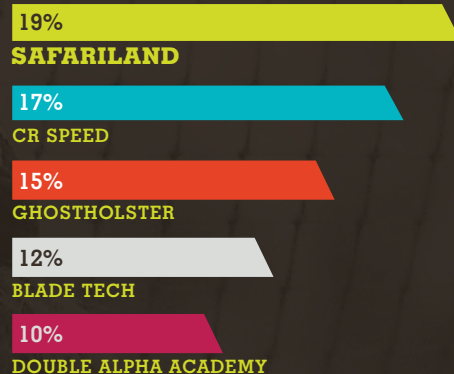
BELT SYSTEM



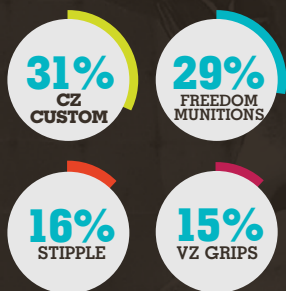
TOP MODEL OF FIREARM



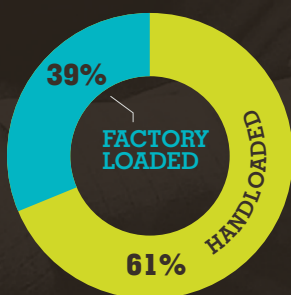
MAG POUCHES MANUFACTURER



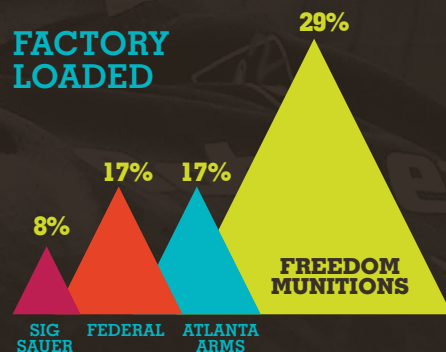
GRIPS



AMMUNITION



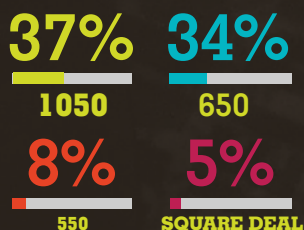
FACTORY LOADED



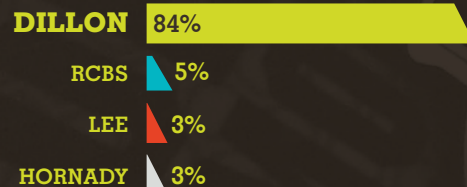
TOP POWDER MANUFACTURER



RELOADER MODEL



HANDLOADER/RELOADER



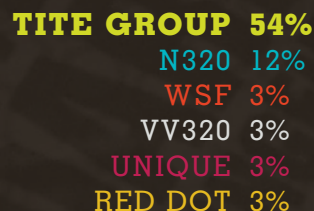
TOP PRIMER MANUFACTURER



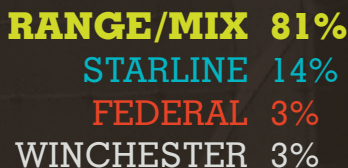
BULLET TYPE



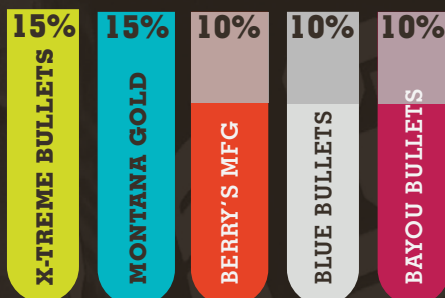
TYPE OF POWDER



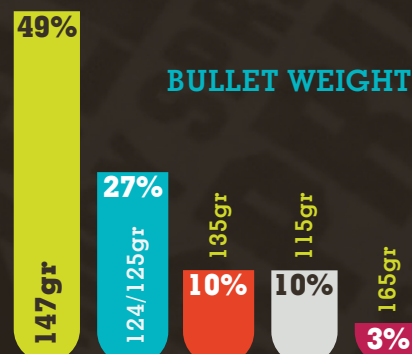
TOP BRASS MANUFACTURER



BULLET MANUFACTURER



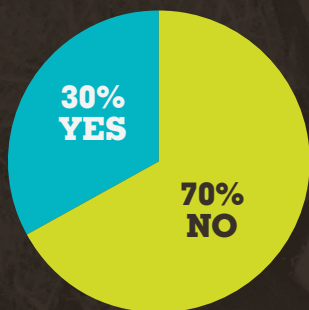
BULLET WEIGHT



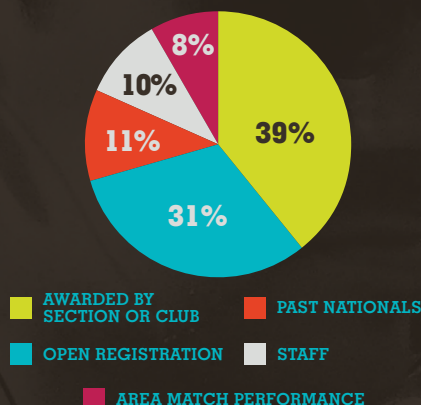
# 2017 OPEN DIVISION NATIONALS EQUIPMENT SURVEY

WHAT IS BEING USED AND THE LATEST TRENDS

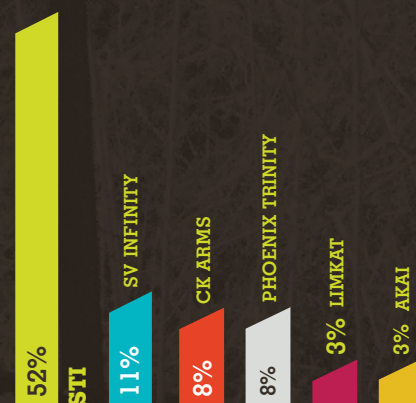
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME TO A USPSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP?



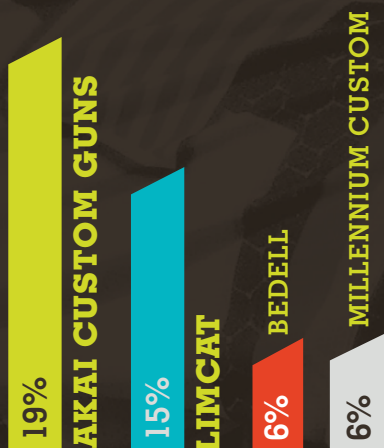
HOW DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SLOT?



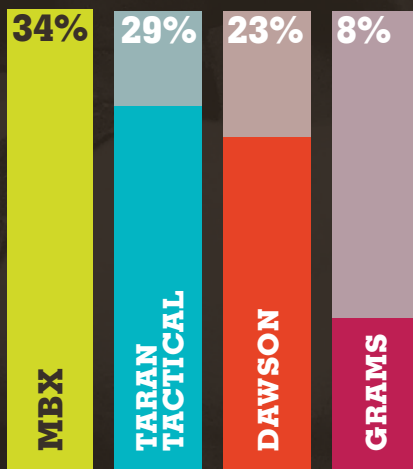
TOP FIREARM FRAME OR MANUFACTURER



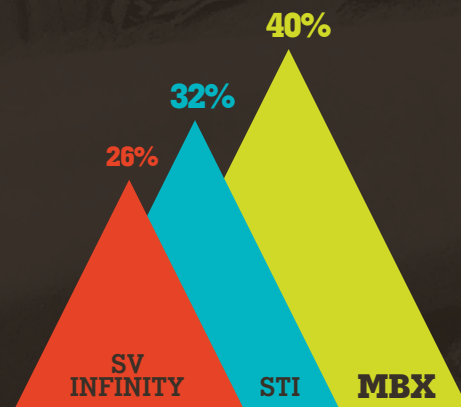
GUNSMITH/CUSTOM SHOP



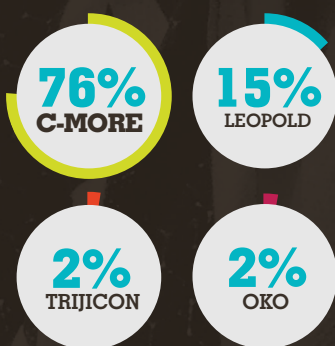
BASEPADS



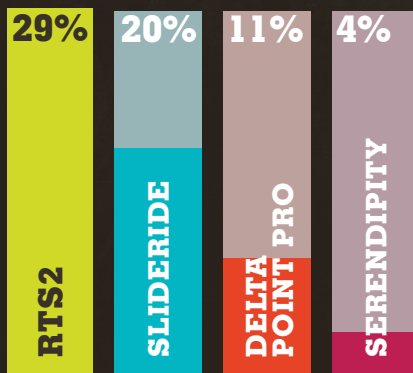
MAGAZINES



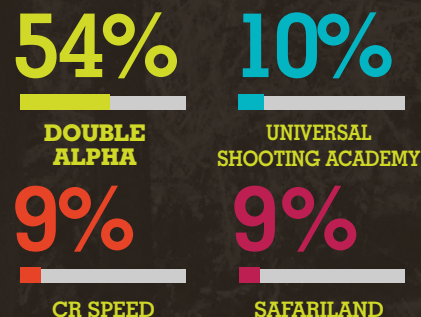
OPTIC



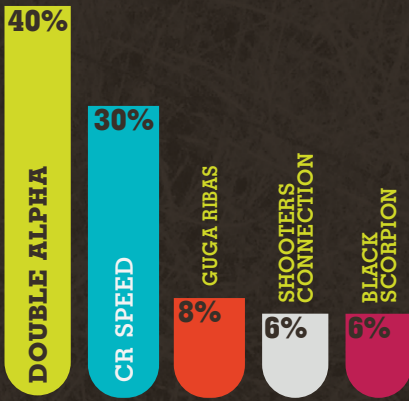
TOP MODEL OF OPTIC



TOP FOUR HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS



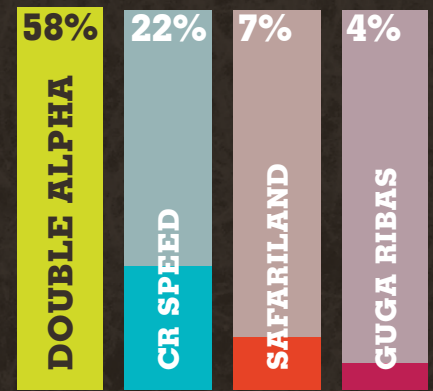
**BELT SYSTEM**



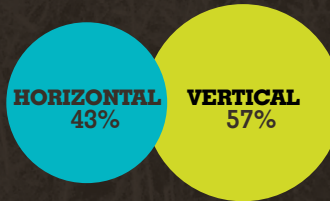
**CALIBER**



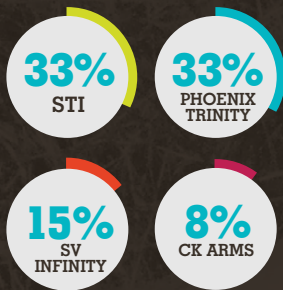
**MAG POUCHES MANUFACTURER**



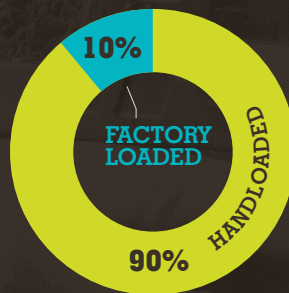
**OPTICS MOUNT**



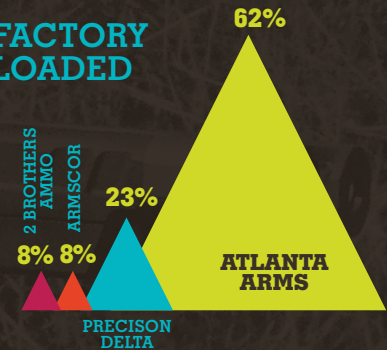
**GRIPS**



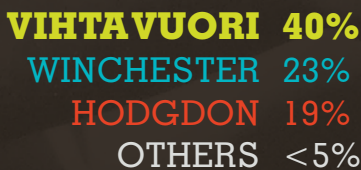
**AMMUNITION**



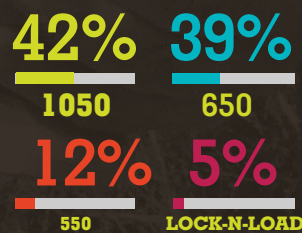
**FACTORY LOADED**



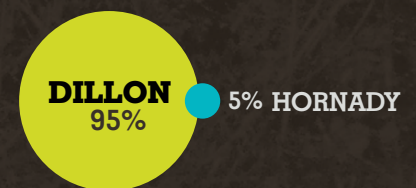
**TOP POWDER MANUFACTURER**



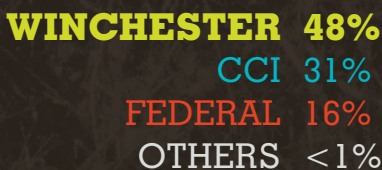
**RELOADER MODEL**



**HANDLOADER/RELOADER**



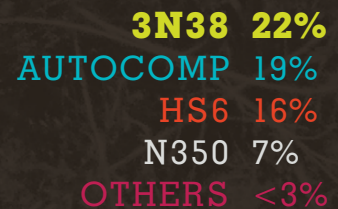
**TOP PRIMER MANUFACTURER**



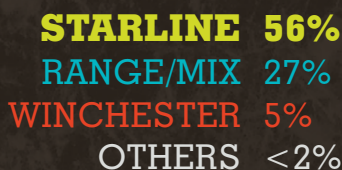
**BULLET TYPE**



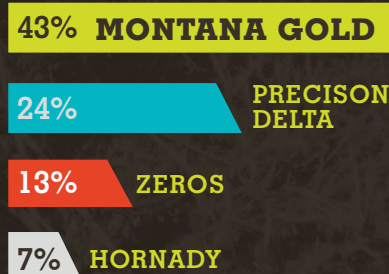
**TYPE OF POWDER**



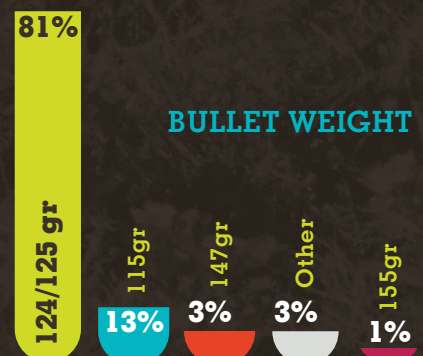
**TOP BRASS MANUFACTURER**



**BULLET MANUFACTURER**



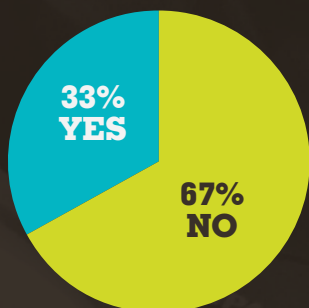
**BULLET WEIGHT**



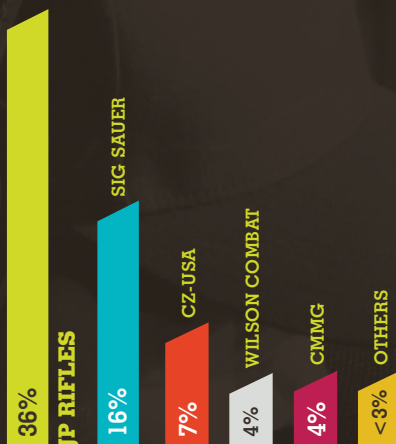
# 2017 PCC DIVISION NATIONALS EQUIPMENT SURVEY

WHAT IS BEING USED AND THE LATEST TRENDS

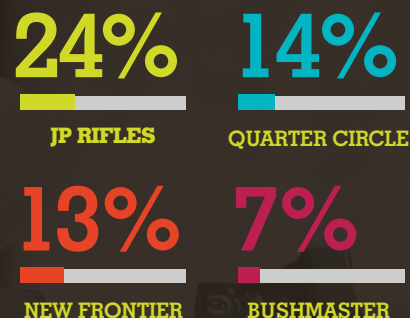
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME TO A USPSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP?



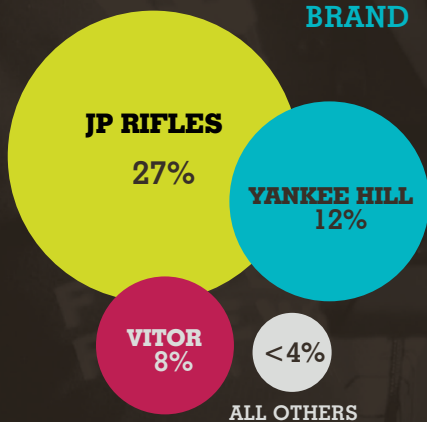
TOP FACTORY CARBINE



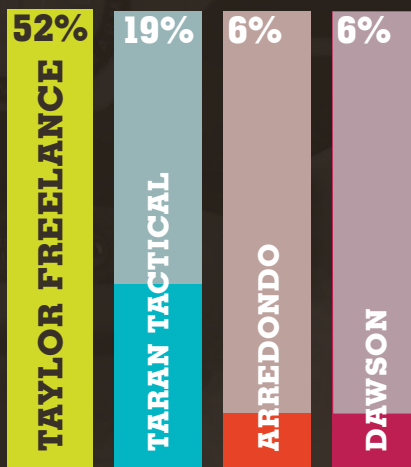
TOP LOWER BRAND



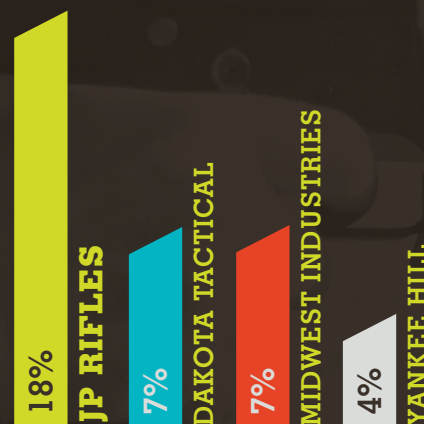
TOP RECEIVER BRAND



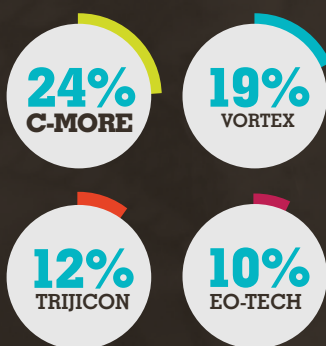
BASEPADS



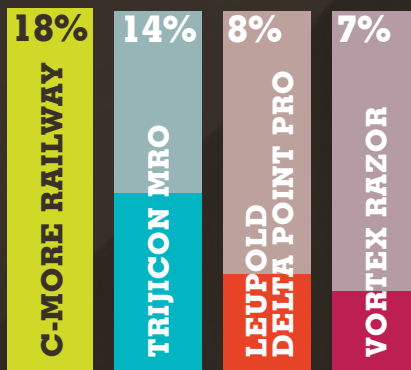
TOP FOREARM BRAND



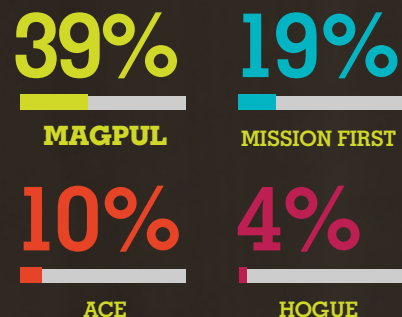
OPTIC



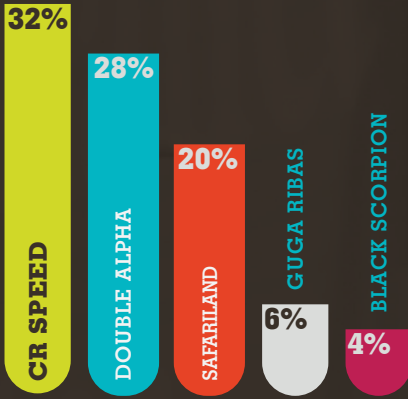
TOP MODEL OF OPTIC



TOP FOUR BUTTSTOCK BRANDS



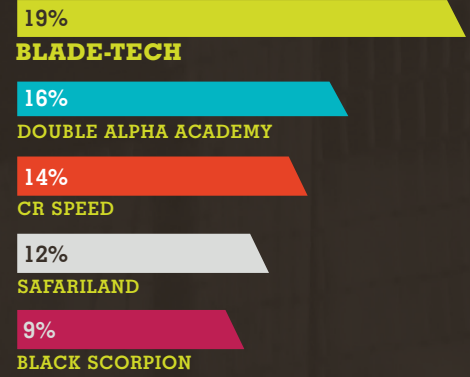
BELT SYSTEM



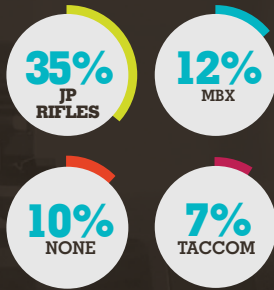
NUMBER OF AUTOMATED RELOADERS



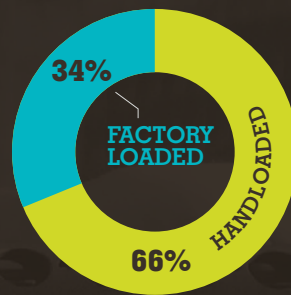
MAG POUCHES MANUFACTURER



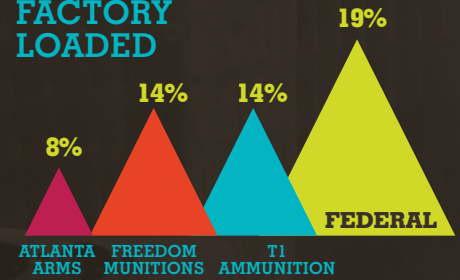
TOP COMPENSATORS



AMMUNITION



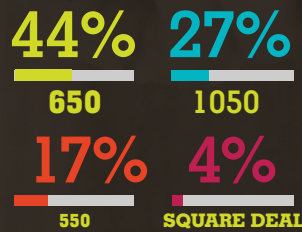
TOP FACTORY LOADED



TOP POWDER MANUFACTURER



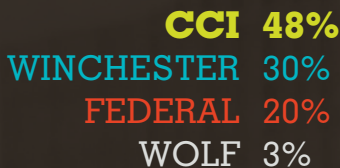
RELOADER MODEL



HANDLOADER/RELOADER



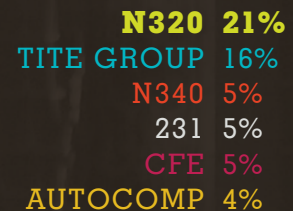
TOP PRIMER MANUFACTURER



BULLET TYPE



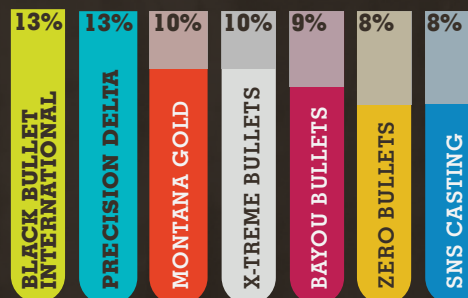
TYPE OF POWDER



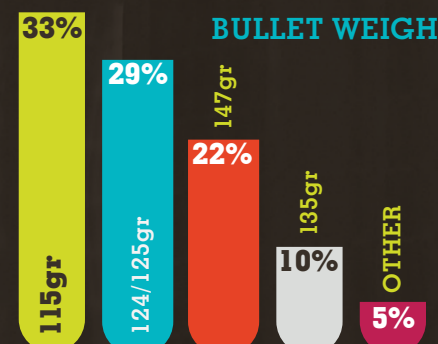
TOP BRASS MANUFACTURER

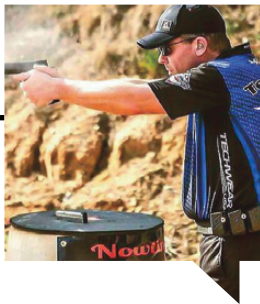


BULLET MANUFACTURER



BULLET WEIGHT





# CLUB CONNECTIONS

By Jake Martens, A52987  
*Front Sight Magazine Editor /*  
 Director of Media & Events  
 jake@uspsa.org



## CONNECTING WITH USPSA MEMBERS

USPSA'S SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY IS GREAT FOR MEETING OTHER MEMBERS, LEARNING ABOUT USPSA SUPPORTERS AND SHARING MATCH INFORMATION.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**  
[www.facebook.com/USPracticalShootingAssn](http://www.facebook.com/USPracticalShootingAssn)  
[twitter.com/uspsa\\_Shooting](https://twitter.com/uspsa_Shooting)

# #thisisUSPSA

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If you are not living off the grid, you probably have been on social media at some point and may have seen a lot of #s. These are hashtags; the hashtag is now so recognized that it was added to the Oxford dictionary in 2010 and the Scrabble Dictionary in 2014. Even as most have come to know what they are, many people still don't understand how to use hashtags. The hashtag is likely the most common means of categorizing content on social media.

It makes your content discoverable and allows you to find relevant content from other people and businesses. It also allows you to connect with and engage other social media users based on shared theme or interest.

The @ symbol is used to tag particular friends, acquaintances or businesses. Using the @ symbol will notify that person or company that you mentioned them in your post and that you want them to check it out. The person or business

will see it in their notifications that you included them in your post. Adding the @ symbol followed by the people or business (i.e. sponsor) is an excellent way to reach them with your post and comments. The possibility of getting a share (Facebook) or retweet (Twitter) is one of the many benefits of using the @ symbol on social media.

So what do you use and when? That all depends on what you want to do and who you want to reach. A hashtag for a specific event, like #uspsanats, will group everyone that is using that hashtag in their post, photos, and videos together, so that clicking on it will take you to follow along and will help get others to see your content. That is for a specific event; using a hashtag like #shooting #pewpewpew will open your content up to a vast audience. If your goal is to drive people to your company or sponsor's social media page, a hashtag probably isn't the right thing to use. Say for example in your post you put #mysponsor, clicking on that will only take a person to similar posts using that hashtag and not to your sponsor's page. This is where using the @ symbol (@mysponsor), when clicked on, will take people to their page.

I have at times received emails or messages asking me how to get a video from a match on the USPSA social media pages. I love to share your match videos on the USPSA Facebook page, but I obviously cannot follow 30k-plus members and make sure that your post is shared. I can, however, see when someone tags or mentions USPSA in their post and then look at it to share it. This is where using the @ symbol (@theuspsa) will notify us that you made a post mentioning USPSA in it.

# BEING PREPARED IN 2018 PROMOTING YOUR MATCHES



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.

Catherine Lewis



PHOTO BY ROBIN TAYLOR.

Jeff Gordon

The 2018 shooting season is here and the Major Match calendar is already very full. Many of the matches listed on there are filled or close to capacity. If you are like me, you have your calendar out and trying to figure out

which ones you already signed up for and which ones you are still trying to get into. It is going to be a very busy year.

If you are hosting a Level 2 or higher match you will need to go to the USPSA website, log in, and under *Club Resources* you will find the link for the Form C. Complete the form online and submit it for review and to be placed on the Major Match Calendar.

As a Match Director, you can also have an ad run in this magazine.

## MATCH DIRECTORS: RUN AN AD TO PROMOTE YOUR MATCH

**USPSA/SCSA MATCH ADS:** Qualifying ads must contain the USPSA or SCSA logo, and refer to it as a USPSA or SCSA match.

- **Level III** (Major Tournaments, Area Championships) may run one half-page ad free, and a second ad at half price; full price thereafter.
- **Level II** (State and Sectional USPSA or SCSA championships) may run one half page ad at half-price, full price thereafter. Note: State and Sectional USPSA championships must be Level II or higher.
- **Level I** (USPSA approved or recognized) may run one match ad at 25 percent off, full price thereafter.

## PROMOTING YOUR MATCHES ON FACEBOOK

The USPSA Facebook page is a great tool for match promotion. Whether you're holding a club, state, sectional or area match, we can share the details to our page for maximum exposure. If you'd like to share photos, videos, promote sponsors supporting the event or solicit for staff, we've got you covered! Email me, ([jake@uspsa.org](mailto:jake@uspsa.org)) and I'll get it out on the wire for your club or section.

What are you waiting for? Take advantage of this awesome affiliated club benefit today!



Frank Winn

PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.



Cooper Ray

PHOTO BY CAROLE BRYANT.



Gunnar An

PHOTO BY CAROLE BRYANT.



Cassie Burgess

PHOTO BY KRISTINE HAYES.

# GETTING YOUR MATCH SHARED

If you want to get your stage run or match video shared, here are some suggestions:



Jake Martens

### LANGUAGE:

*If it is inappropriate, it will not get shared.*

### MUSIC:

*If it is inappropriate, it will not get shared.*

### IF IT ISN'T USPSA, STEEL CHALLENGE OR USPSA MULTIGUN:

*It will probably not get shared.*

### IF YOU ARE WEARING INAPPROPRIATE APPAREL:

*It will not get shared.*

### IF THE COMMENTS IN THE POST ARE INAPPROPRIATE:

*It will not get shared.*

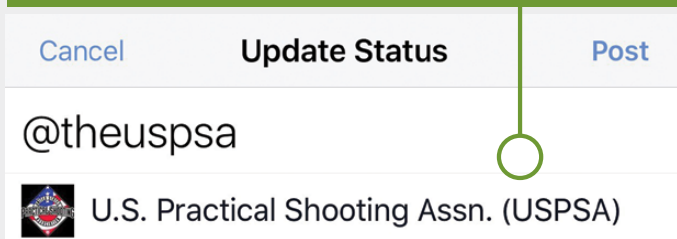
### IF YOUR PAGE IS FULL OF OTHER INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL:

*It will not get shared.*

We have 200k followers on the main USPSA page, and we use the page to promote USPSA competitions, Matches, Events and the companies that support our sport. We love to share your videos and photos about shooting USPSA and Steel Challenge. #thisisuspsa ■

## UNDERSTANDING FACEBOOK [A FEW TIPS ON SHARING]

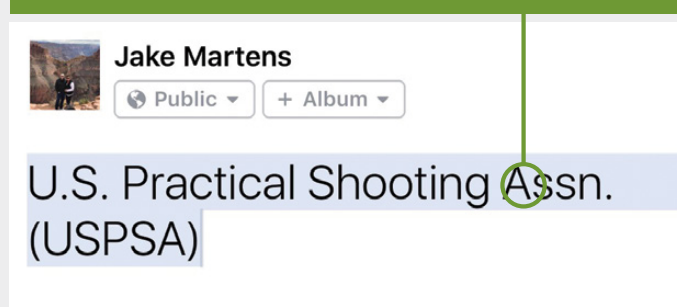
The correct way to mention in a Facebook post.



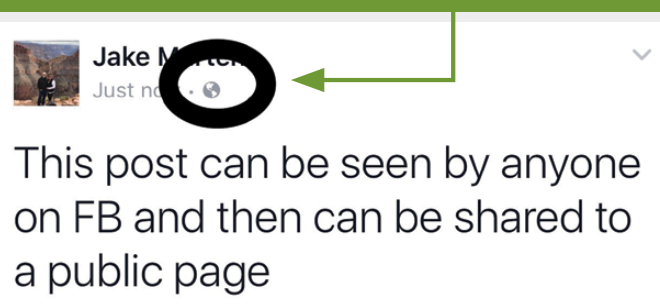
When the little people icon is displayed then only people who follow me can see this and it will not be shared publicly.



Highlighted or bold text in a post can be clicked on and linked to that person or organization's page.



The small globe icon means this is public and can be seen and shared by anyone.



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