Brian Enos’ Slide-Glide

By Duane Thomas

Grand Master shooter Brian Enos is now selling a very interesting gun lubricant called Slide-Glide. This product exists because Brian has a friend of 20-plus years named Keith Lewis who just happens to be a retired engine development engineer at the GM Proving Grounds...and an avid shooter. Enos describes Lewis as, “real intelligent, super-merciful, just a no-BS engineer kind of mentality.” Lewis studied experimental and applied tribology, which is the science of lubrication, friction and wear through the University of Michigan. When Brian told his old friend he was trying to develop his own firearms lubricant because he wasn’t happy with what was already on the market, Lewis told him, “You know, it might work a lot better if you just told me what effects you want, and then let me do it for you.”

The first thing you notice about Slide-Glide is its color and consistency: red and thick. Slide-Glide is red, according to Lewis, “Basically because I liked the color. Several of the compounds I was already using had a red tint, so it was easy to pump that up to bright red. The red dye in Slide-Glide is the same stuff that’s used in automatic transmission fluid, which has a couple of characteristics I liked. (1) It’s non-staining; (2) typical clothing cleaning products will take it out.” This means you don’t have to worry about Slide-Glide giving you indelible “shooter’s ink” stains if you get some on your clothes.

Lewis describes Slide-Glide as “a dual soap-based grease blend, with some base petroleum oils and proprietary extreme pressure compounds, typically referred to as EP additives, which boosts the ability of the oils in the grease to withstand extreme pressures. If this proprietary compound were available on the market, it would sell for about $150 a gallon. I haven’t found anything that can surpass it for pressure characteristics. It gives the grease a very stringy, tenacious character that really makes it stay where you put it.”

You know how, after you’ve lubed a gun with standard oil or grease, a few hundred rounds later you can take the gun apart and see the wear on the moving parts because the lubricant just doesn’t stay put? It pushes out into the grooves and recesses of the gun, and you have to clean and re-lube frequently. Slide-Glide doesn’t do that; its “stringy” characteristic just pulls it back into place, even on sliding surfaces in contact with each other, instead of being forced away. Therefore it never stops lubricating, never stops working.

Two versions of Slide-Glide are available from Dillon Precision: Slide-Glide Standard is for general use, in decently warm weather (60-plus degrees Fahrenheit), for semi-automatic, center-fire weapons. Slide-Glide Lite is a thinner viscosity, and is appropriate for lower temperatures (30-plus degrees) in shotguns, bolt and lever action rifles, carry guns, or any sort of semi-automatic that doesn’t generate much in the way of slide velocity like compguns or .22s.

Years ago, early on in testing this product for my own use, I decided to put a couple thousand rounds through a Slide-Glided 1911. Accordingly, I cleaned my Wilson .45 and lubed with Slide-Glide Standard. Actually, by the time I was through, I’d fired almost 5,000 rounds of lead-bullet handloads without cleaning and without malfunctions. Now, I have to say that part of that had to do with the fact that I was firing Laser-Cast bullets, which are harder than the hinges of Hell, and Tite-group powder which I found very clean burning, but a lot of it was the Slide-Glide which simply doesn’t, when mixed with powder fouling, form that sticky crud we’re so used to seeing with conventional lubricants. Really the only reason I eventually broke down and cleaned the gun was because I had it apart to replace the recoil spring, and I said to myself, “Okay, as long as it’s apart anyway….” But the point is I didn’t NEED to clean it; the slide action was still smooth.

Slide-Glide seems to have a real cushioning effect on the recoil stroke. It feels like, at the end of its travel, the slide hits “stringy” Slide-Glide instead of metal-to-metal. Shortly after I first Slide-Glided my 1911, an experienced gunman, when cycling its slide, said to me, “I’ve never felt a gun this smooth before.” Enos says he’s gotten the same reaction many times from people who handle his guns, partly because, “I’m not afraid to fill ‘er up.” He uses a lot more Slide-Glide than most people. With standard lubricants we’re sternly warned against using too much lube because it’ll leak out, and into places it shouldn’t be. Slide-Glide stays in place, so you can apply much more lube, and thus get the maximum benefit from its cushioning effect.

Slide-Glide is available from Dillon in 15-milliliter (aka 1/2 ounce) tubes with a narrow nozzle to apply lube even in tight nooks and crannies. Areas to coat with Slide-Glide would be everywhere in the gun’s top end – barrel bushing, the barrel where it rides the bushing, the top barrel lugs and the corresponding lugs in the interior of the slide. Enos says he gets especially good effect from coating the recoil spring, guide rod, and the interior of the recoil spring plug. Also slide and frame rails receive a generous coating of Slide-Glide. This has been my own primary gun lubricant for years, and I can’t say enough good things about it.