

ri and Kydex and Earl, Oh My! ²¹

spacers inset there working with these set screws to draw or ease the holster into a perfect fit. I never had to touch them. The belt clip works for belts up to one and three-quarter-inch size and is made from some sort of rugged seeming and good-looking injection molded plastic. I don't think different size belt clips are offered for a better fit on narrower belts, but who knows if that may be coming? I'll let you know right here if it does. It's possible, because the clip is screwed into position and would be removable. The nuts that anchor the screws are beneath a depression under the actual holster lip, denying the possibility of any scratching of your firearm's surface.

As is mandatory for a Glock holster, there is full coverage for the trigger guard, yet the design allows a full combat grip as the pistol is drawn.

The body side of the holster is built up, interposing a portion of the Kydex holster between the wearer's gun and the wearer's body. It should go without saying that the Triton holster is designed with a perfect FBI cant to keep your gun within your body plane for enhanced concealment. I rarely mention price in my writings, but this holster has a suggested retail a nickel under \$50. Oh! And, there's a molded in sight channel, too.

The Triton inside holster from Galco is a superior piece of concealed carry equipment. But, really, what else would one expect from Galco International?

Another fine firm you can always count on for quality and for standing behind its products is North American Arms (northamericanarms.com). NAA is known for its small, defensive handguns, like the original Mini Revolvers and its extremely successful Guardian .32 and .380 pocket autos. What is probably the most practical of NAA's handguns for plinking fun or even taking small game with a gun from the tackle box or glove compartment is the new NAA Earl.

NAA's largest revolver, the gun gets its name from the NAA gunsmith whose idea it was. His name is Earl! It's a five-shot revolver with an actual four-inch barrel, available either as a .22 Magnum or with a pre-fitted .22 LR extra cylinder. The Earl has the look of a miniaturized mid-19th Century revolver. In a way, the Remington-like web functions like the ramrod on a percussion revolver; but, with the Earl, it serves as the means by which to get to the cylinder base pin, which

allows removal of the five-round cylinder for loading and unloading. This is a most interesting arrangement and actually quite a bit easier than removing the cylinder base pin in a typical Mini Revolver. Merely grasp the forward portion of the "ramrod" and pull the spring-loaded latch rearward as you swing the ramrod/web downward to a position that is at a right angle to the barrel. The barrel

is octagon shaped, which is at once traditional looking and attractive. The frame top strap is deeply notched and serves as a quite decent rear sight to work in conjunction with the elevated bead that is the front sight. The grip frame is standard North American Arms bird's head, but the grip plates form a classic plow handle shape by extending below the recurving base of the grip frame. These grips are made of laminated wood and are very attractively figured.

The Earl is pleasant to shoot in the extreme and lends itself very nicely to use from a dueling stance. With either cylinder, I was able to keep all my shots about where I wanted them at ranges from almost point blank to 30 feet. Functioning was perfect, of course.

The Earl's appearance is both unique and attractive.

The trigger pull — single action only, of course — seemed a little heavy to me, but was perfectly serviceable. Made from 17-4 pH stainless, the Earl's overall length is 7-3/4 inches and empty weight is 8.6 ounces.

I tested the Earl with an interesting mixture of old and new ammo. The long rifle ammo was at least 10 years old and from Federal. The .22 Magnum ammo was brand new 30-grain .22 Winchester Magnum High Velocity JHPs, marketed under the Winchester Supreme label.

I noticed when looking at NAA's website that the firm offers a full flap holster for the Earl, which would make this a great little companion piece to be worn for some Western-style

shooting events and would certainly make a good holster if you were carrying the Earl as you tramped around in the woods.

The Earl is staying in the Ahern family inventory, filling the role of .22 LR plinker and, should it prove necessary, a .22 Magnum handgun for emergency use on small game. You'll like the North American Arms Earl.

Visit jerryahern.com today.



1) The Earl shown with the spare LR cylinder beside it. 2) With the hammer at half cock, Ahern prepares to lower the lever. 3) The lever lowered, the cylinder base pin visible. 4) Ahern withdraws the cylinder base pin. 5) The pistol disassembled for loading, unloading or cylinder swapping. 6) Once the cylinder is loaded be careful to lower the hammer from half cock into one of the safety notches between the cylinder's charging holes.