

60 VEHICLE-CONCEALED



By R.D. VanOrsdale, Captain, USA, Ret. (dsbl)

Many of us who have concealed-carry permits often cannot carry on our persons; we are forced by law to leave our handguns in our vehicles. I like to call this perturbation Vehicle-Concealed Carry. Teachers, those who must go into post offices, and those who must go into governmental and court buildings that are screened by metal detectors – all must vehicle-concealed carry. We could use a “paddle holster” and doff and don the piece accordingly, but such doffing and donning can be a tremendous pain in the neck. Moreover, and when in a hurry, could cause us to forget to remove the holstered handgun. (This is especially true if one has discovered an extremely comfortable mode of concealed carry!) I am NOT going to recommend to anybody to devise a spring-loaded board with pistols held in clips thereon, like is seen in the 1946 Bogart movie “The Big Sleep.” Instead, in this article I will explore various ways we can carry concealed handguns in our vehicles, and leave you to choose which method is best for you.

The first and most traditional place to carry a handgun is in the glove compartment. The glove compartment’s location, lockability and size make it the ideal place for vehicle-concealed carry. The

pocket behind the passenger seat, also, is a great place for a driver to right-hand draw a vehicle-concealed handgun, as long as the pocket is not too deep. For those of us with large vehicle cabins and small arms – pun intended – we must use another method. (Photos 1 & 2)

A center console is essentially a glove compartment located between the front seats. If your center console isn’t filled with CDs, cell-phone chargers, or other things that would interfere with drawing the pistol, your arms are not long enough to reach the glove compartment, and your handgun is small enough, then I suggest the center console. (Photo 3)

Thirty-odd years ago, I drove a Chevrolet Silverado pickup with a small glove compartment, no passenger side pockets and no center console. In those days, the only place I had to vehicle-concealed carry was the soft pocket located on the door below the manual roll-up window handle. Also, I only had two major-caliber handguns: a .45 ACP Colt Combat Commander and a six-inch-barreled S&W Model 28 Highway Patrolman. Neither one was very conducive to carry concealed on my person, especially if it was summer and I was going out into the hot desert. The driver-side pouch was perfect for concealing both of

