

# PDW



## 2019 BUYER'S GUIDE

GUNS | SAFES | AMMO

### PERSONAL DEFENSE WORLD®

A **VIOLENT**/PROPERTY CRIME OCCURS EVERY **3.5 SECONDS**

# DON'T BE A VICTIM

## WOMEN 2A WARRIORS

- The DC Project
- Amy Robbins
- + Ladies' EDC Guns & Gear

### EXPERT GUIDES

- CAMPGROUND CARRY
- STOPPING BLOOD LOSS
- KNIFE FIGHTING 101
- SITUATIONAL AWARENESS
- HOME SECURITY

Hornady RAPID Safe 2700KP shown with Caspian 1911 and Crimson Trace Rail Master Pro

## 5 WEIRD BACKUP WEAPONS

### GUN ZEN

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# THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

## UNCONVENTIONAL BACKUP WEAPONS WORTHY OF A CLOSER LOOK

BY WILL DABBS, MD

**You scooted out to the local grocery to pick up a gallon of milk and some feminine hygiene products for your bride.** It didn't seem worth the effort to gird your loins with proper gunleather. As a result, you just dropped your new iPistol into your pocket. This single-shot .22-caliber handgun collapses to look like a cell phone.

As you make your way across the dark parking lot, you spot movement. He's compact, intense, sporting a hoodie and headed your way. The threat level instantly goes from unconscious to ultraviolet.

The iPistol was designed by a genuine

plaintiff's attorney. Transitioning the device from phone to gun mode requires seven maneuvers and a special tool. The iPistol has no sights and requires an engineering degree to reload. You drop your groceries and face the threat as he fills his hand with a small knife. Your wife's unmentionables break open and spill across the asphalt, adding an unfortunate layer of comedy to the moment.

The knife flashes in the moonlight, and you extend your arm, iPistol outstretched. In desperation, you press the button on the side. In the heat of the moment, you've grabbed your actual cell phone. It begins playing your ringtone, Randy Newman's

1977 classic "Short People." Your assailant is 5'4", insecure and an amateur cannibal. Later that evening, he retires to his apartment to dine on your liver along with some fava beans and a nicely aged Chianti.

The gun market is currently awash with some of the most delightful little novelty guns that are mechanically brilliant and just as cute as can be. I personally own several. While these nifty little heaters do peg the cool meter, they might not be the best choice for a serious armed encounter. Here are a few examples.

### ■ TRAILBLAZER LIFECARD

Available in .22 LR and .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire (WMR), the LifeCard weighs less than 7 ounces and folds up to the size of a modest stack of credit cards. It will even fit in your wallet. A single-shot

firearm, the LifeCard packs several spare rounds in its grip.

To deploy the LifeCard for firing, you press a switch, rotate the barrel assembly and manually retract the striker. Point the device at a deadly threat—there are no sights—and squeeze the trigger. The recoil is spunkier than you might expect, but at least your assailant will have to fight a lot harder to feast on your liver. ([trailblazerfirearms.com](http://trailblazerfirearms.com))

### ■ BRAVERMAN STINGER

The Stinger is a genuine pen gun that has been out of production for some years now. Made in .22 LR and .25 ACP, the Stinger carries like a pen but deploys into an angled gun shape for firing. For this reason, it does not incur any National Firearms Act (NFA) registration baggage.

To ready the Braverman Stinger for firing, you grasp both ends and pull to unlock



**BRAVERMAN STINGER**



TRAILBLAZER **LIFECARD**

the mechanism. Fold the gun and let the two halves settle into each other at an angle. This maneuver deploys the trigger. Rotate the ring safety to the “fire” position and you are finally ready to fire. This operation is, believe it or not, even harder to do than it sounds. The bad guy will die of old age before you get it reloaded.

■ **NAA .22 SHORT MINI-REVOLVER**

North American Arms (NAA) makes some awesome little stainless steel pocket pistols. The company's .22 WMR versions make superb backup guns. The same piece in .22 Short is scaled to arm your favorite toddler.

This charming little wheelgun is about the size of my thumb and

packs five .22 Short rounds on board. I once saw a guy shot in the back of the head execution style with a .22 Short, but the round just bounced off. While frankly adorable, that is not the first attribute you should seek in your defensive weaponry. However, these mini-revolvers are undeniably cool. (northamericanarms.com)



**NAA .22 SHORT MINI-REVOLVER**

■ **STANDARD MANUFACTURING S333 THUNDERSTRUCK**

Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. The S333 Thunderstruck is a clever little double-action pocket revolver in .22 WMR. Unlike most conventional wheelguns, however, the S333 fires two rounds each time you pull the trigger. The gun holds eight rounds, so that's four volleys. An embedded Glock-style trigger safety and long double-action pull keep this radical pocket gun safe.

I freely admit that it would really suck to get shot with two .22 WMR rounds simultaneously. As to whether that would suck more than catching a single 9mm defensive hollow point would be a question best left for the philosophers. Regardless, I'm buying one as soon as I can get my mitts on it. (stdgun.com)

■ **FULL CONCEAL M3D**

The mechanical savants at Full Conceal figured out a way to saw a standard Glock 19 in half and articulate it so that the grip folds up alongside the slide for easy portage. Thus configured, the new M3D can pack a full 21 rounds on board and still ride in the front pocket of your cargo pants. The mechanism is both brilliant and safe. It does take an extra



Erik Zunder Photo

**“While these nifty little heaters do peg the cool meter, they might not be the best choice for a serious armed encounter.”**

step to deploy the gun once it is retrieved. For certain applications, this fold-a-Glock is the perfect tool. However, your attacker needs to be the patient sort. (fullconceal.com)

**■ WORTH IT?**

There are practical applications for these guns. Were I being herded into a restroom

by an armed lunatic, I would much prefer my LifeCard to foul language or pleading.

However, at that moment, I'd trade my entire 401(k) retirement portfolio for a Glock 17 and a magazine full of hollow points.

Engineers make them awesome, and then plaintiffs' attorneys leave them castrated, but these strange little pistols

are still fascinating. Feel free to collect these nifty little tools to your heart's content. I do. It's simply that when you

wander out where the wild things roam, you might want to gird up with a proper combat handgun. **PDW**



**STANDARD MANUFACTURING  
S333 THUNDERSTRUCK**



**FULL CONCEAL M3D**