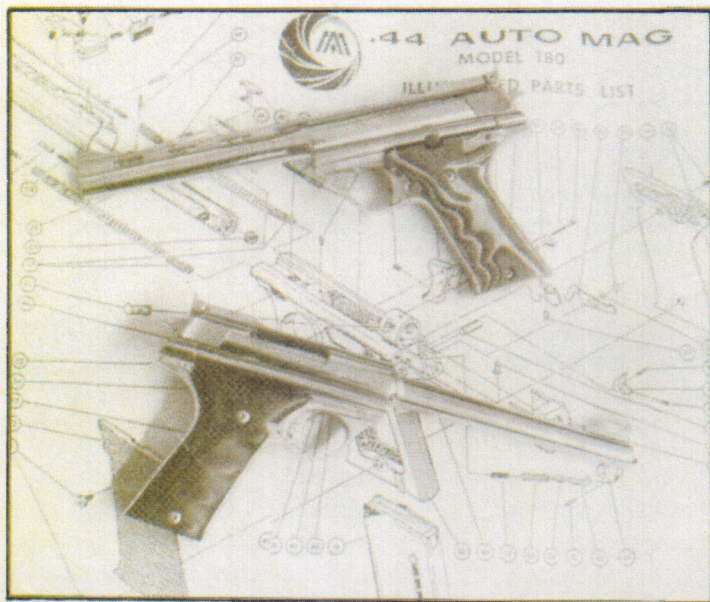


Ultra-Magnum Force:

.44 Auto Mag

A classic big bore autoloading handgun with legendary strength and performance. . .

By Jim Benson



Two .44 Auto Mags owned by Eric Kincel.



Auto Mag enthusiast Eric Kincel holds one of his guns in his office.

OVER the years I had seen pictures and write-ups of the famous Auto Mag pistols in gun magazines, and I had seen the "Dirty Harry" film *Sudden Impact* in which actor Clint Eastwood uses the .44 Auto Mag to blow away the bad guys. This film created quite a stir among gun enthusiasts who didn't know about the Auto Mag pistols.

Last year, I had the opportunity to actually shoot one of the .44 Auto Mags. This one was a customized version owned by M.C. Blair, president of Jammer Cycle Products of Glendale, California. Firing the Auto Mag with Blair's handloaded cartridges, I was impressed by the size and power of this handgun.

Recently, we obtained Blair's permission to use his gun for a test shoot and we liked it so much we have featured it on this issue's cover. This gun was made for Blair by T.D.E. (Trust Deeds Estates) Corporation, which took over production of the Auto Mag guns after the original manufacturer, Auto Mag Corporation of Pasadena, California, went bankrupt in the early 1970s

shortly after commercial production of the guns began. Our special thanks to M.C. Blair for the loan of his gun.

T.D.E. of El Monte, California, and Auto Mag Corp. were predecessors of today's A.M.T. (Arcadia Machine & Tool) of Irwindale, California, which currently produces a crop of successors to the original Auto Mags. These are known as the Auto Mag II (chambered for .22 Rimfire Magnum), Auto Mag III (.30 Carbine) and now Auto Mag IV (.45 Winchester Magnum and 10 mm Magnum).

No one is presently producing the .44 Auto Mag pistols for retail sale. But several well known names in the shooting industry, such as High Standard and Lee Jurras, were involved in producing or customizing hundreds of guns chambered for the .44 Auto Mag, .357 Auto Mag, .41 Auto Mag and other calibers. And these guns are still offered for sale in some well supplied gun stores, at gun shows and sometimes from individual gun owners. They are considered collectors guns

now, though the best of them shoot and shoot very well and many of them are regularly used for hunting and competition shooting.

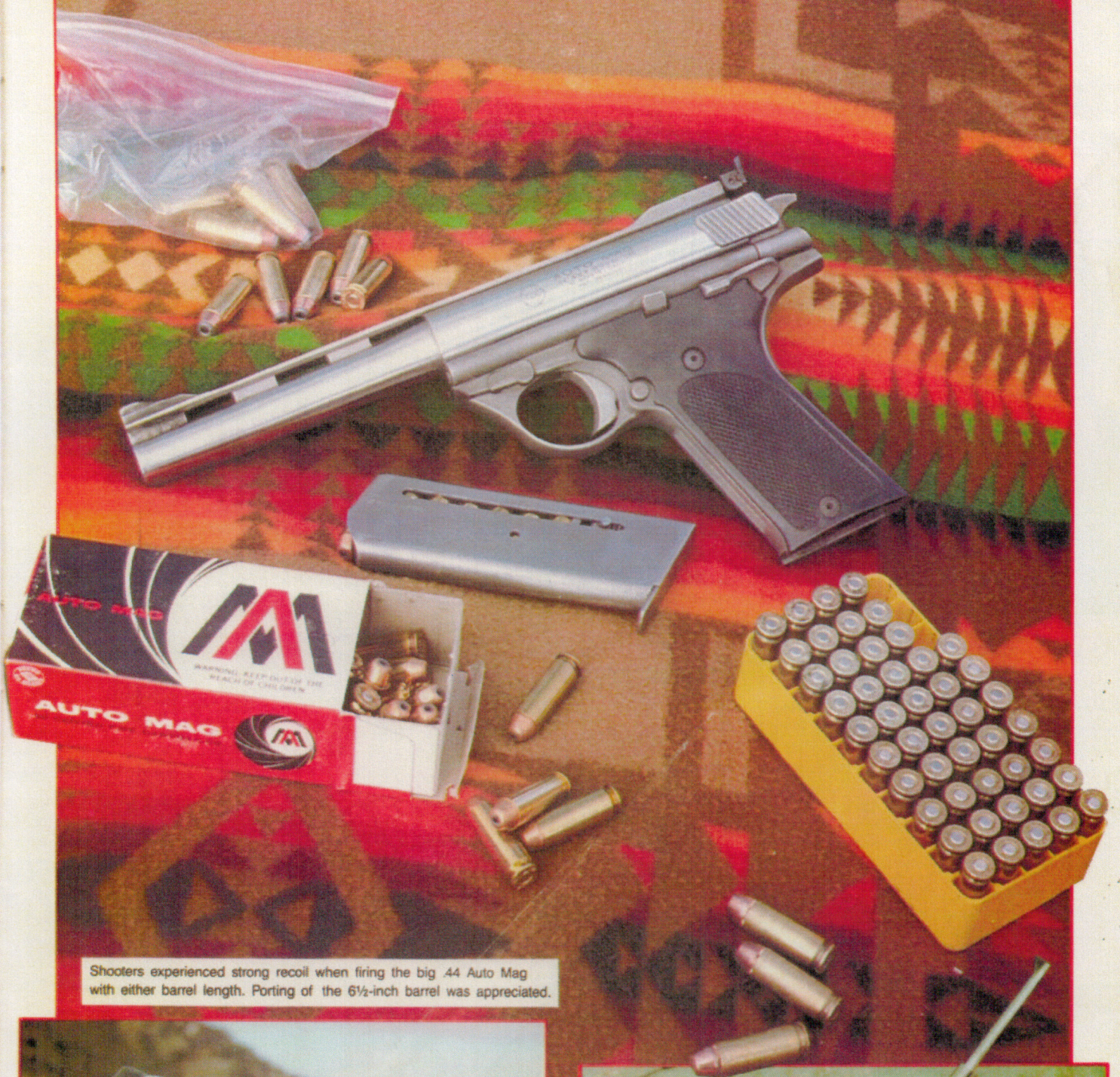
There are also companies, such as Auto Mag Parts, owned by Bruce Stark,

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M.C. Blair fires his .44 Auto Mag with ported 6 1/2-inch barrel.

The 6½-inch .44 Auto Mag with the ammunition it was test fired with.



Shooters experienced strong recoil when firing the big .44 Auto Mag with either barrel length. Porting of the 6½-inch barrel was appreciated.

