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# AMERICAN SURVIVAL

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## GUIDE



**MEDICINAL HERBS**

### AMT's AUTOMAG II, .380 BACKUP PISTOLS

**AMERICA  
THE VULNERABLE:  
Terrorist Targets**

**SKIN  
CANCER:  
Know  
The Risks,  
Avoidance  
Strategies**

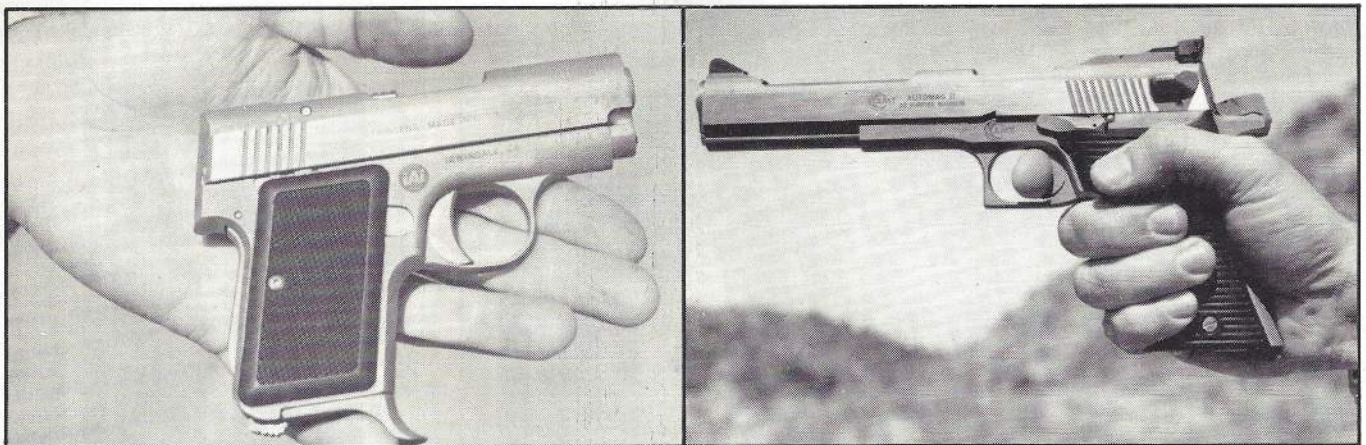
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AMT:

# Automag II .22 Magnum, 380 Backup Pistols

*Two stainless steel semiautomatic offerings from Arcadia Machine & Tool, Inc. designed for self defense and hunting, etc. . .*



The .380 Backup pistol and Automag II are stainless steel with matte finishes and black grips.

By Jim Benson

**A**MT (that's Arcadia Machine & Tool, Inc.) of Irwindale, California, has a reputation for making high quality firearms ranging from .22 rifles to .45 pistols. A new gun is chambered for the .30 Carbine round.

We recently tried out two handguns in their line, the .380 Backup and Automag II semiautomatic pistols. These were designed for self defense and, in the case of the unique Automag II, for hunting as well.

The .380 Backup semiautomatic pistol holds 5 rounds in the magazine. It's intended as a reliable pocket security pistol for civilians and law enforcement personnel. It's small, thin and easily concealable. Finish is matte stainless steel with black plastic checkered grips.

There are two safeties on the .380,



The .380 has a trigger-lock safety but it was *not* designed to be carried with a round chambered. A round should be chambered *only* when you are ready to shoot.

a grip safety like that on the 1911-A1 and a trigger lock button safety on the left side of the pistol behind the trigger. Sights are a crude notch and blade arrangement since this gun is not designed for much range.

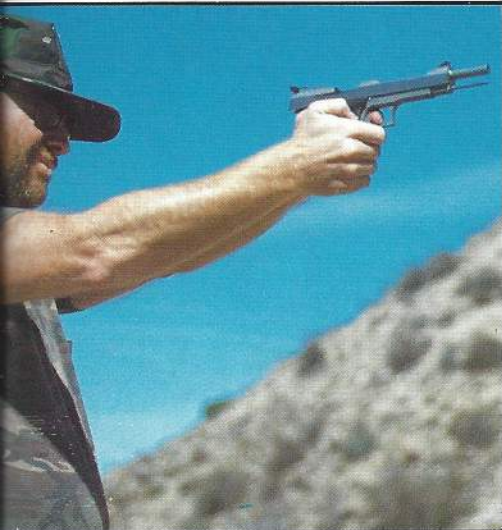
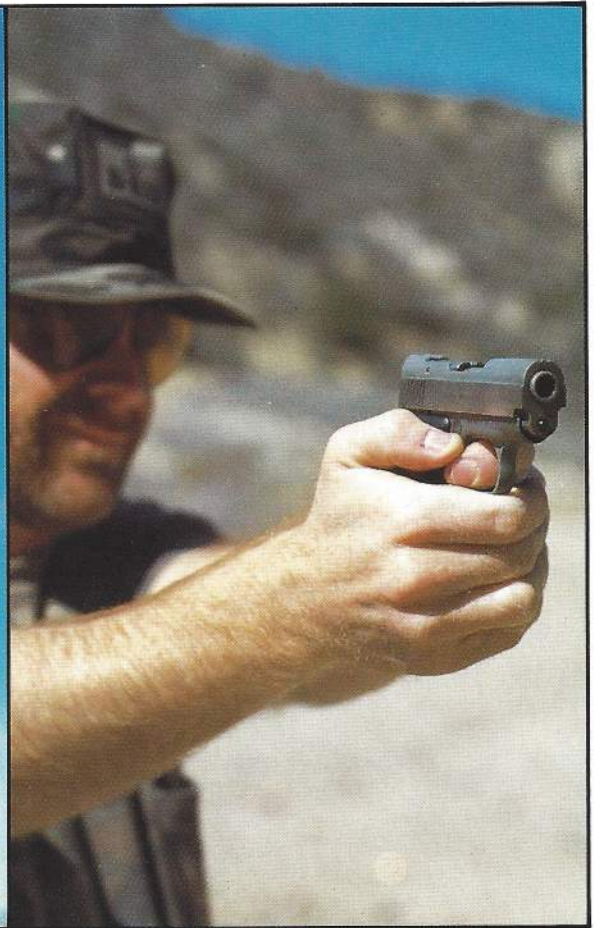
It is made to fire .380 Automatic full metal jacketed ammunition but will also fire some hollow point cartridges. Our gun was throated to handle the potent Winchester Silvertip hollow

point round. This is a minor gunsmithing job and can be done quickly by a competent gunsmith. This handy little pistol has been around for nearly 15 years now and has proven itself as a compact, reliable backup gun for self defense.

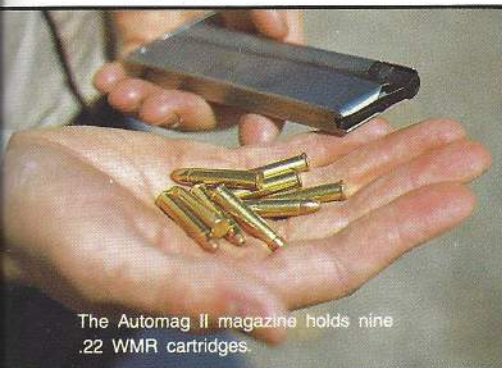
The Automag II is, as far as we are aware, the only semiautomatic .22 Magnum (Winchester Magnum Rim-

*(Continued on page 52)*

AMT's .380 Backup pistol provides five shots and is easily concealable in a pocket.



The Automag II .22 Magnum pistol utilizes a unique gas-channeling system for smooth, reliable operation.



The Automag II magazine holds nine .22 WMR cartridges.

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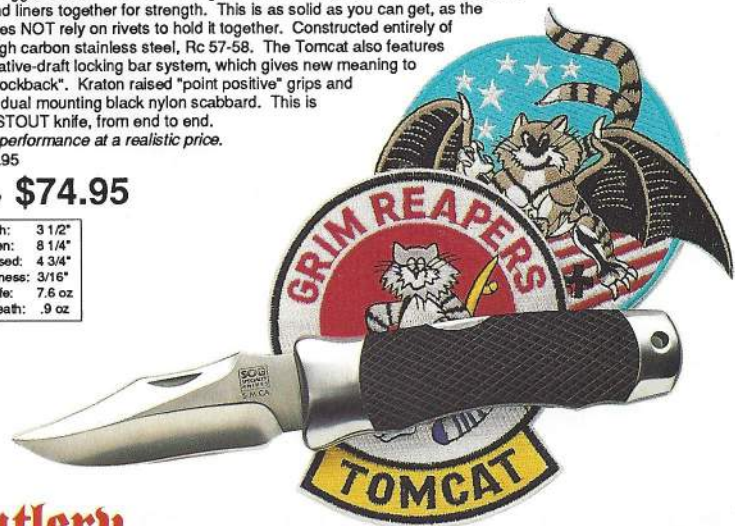
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Blade thickness:	3/16"
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Weight, sheath:	.9 oz

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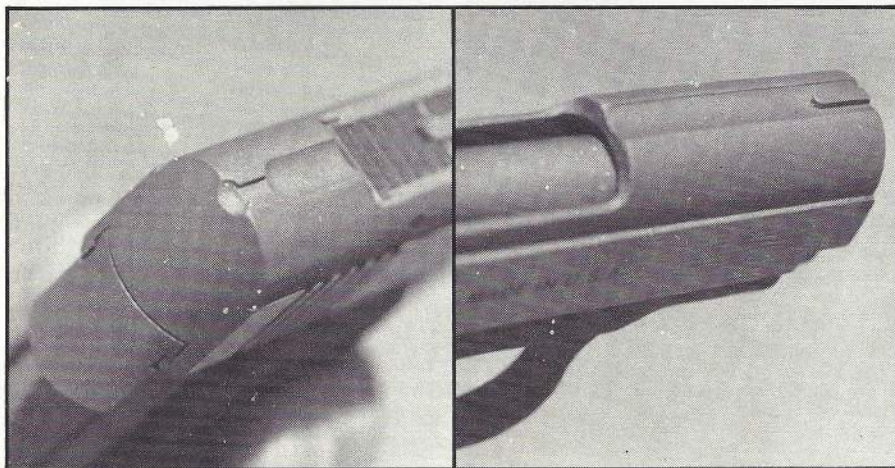
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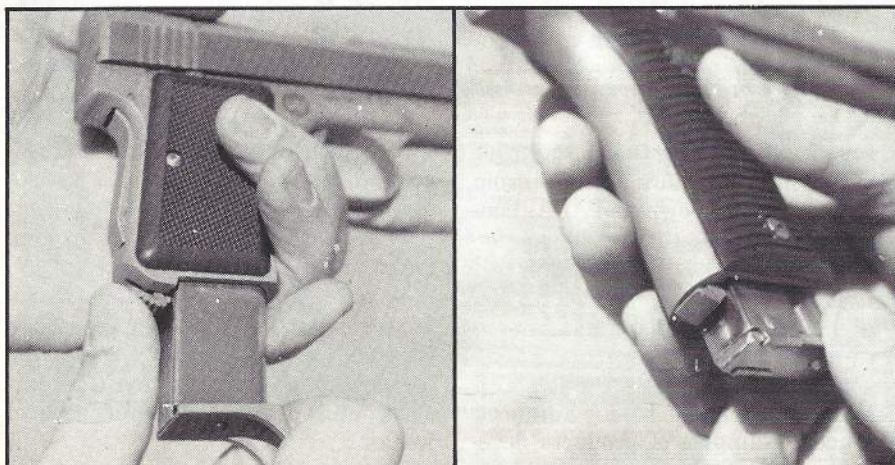
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# Automag II .22 Magnum, .380 Backup Pistols

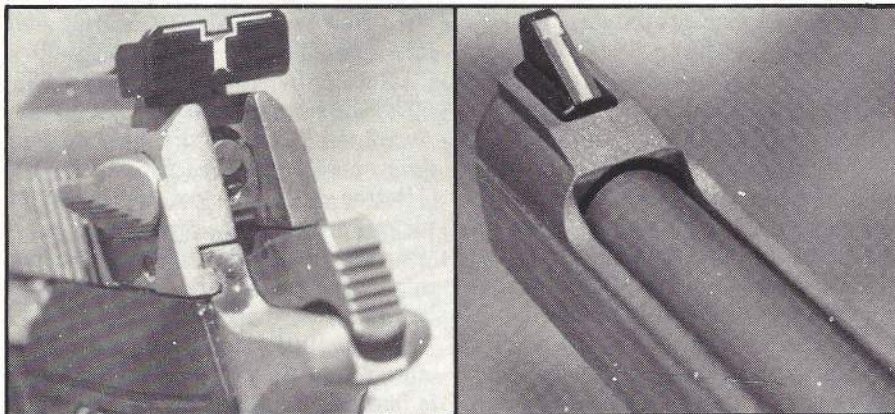
(Continued from page 24)



The sights on the .380 pistol are crude but effective for short-range shooting.



Both the .380 Backup and Automag II have the magazine release catches on the butt of the frame.



The excellent Millett sights on the Automag II are a white outline adjustable rear and red ramp front.



The thumb-operated Automag II safety prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin and blocks the firing pin. It does not prevent the hammer from being dropped when the trigger is pulled. The pistol should never be carried with a round chambered.

fire) caliber pistol made.

Larry Grossman of AMT said he experimented for some time before com-

ing up with the unique gas-channeling system employed on the Automag II for a smooth, trouble-free action. The gas-channeling, or gas-assisted, action is achieved by a series of three bands in the chamber, each with six small holes in it. The bands are situated so that gas from the burning powder in the cartridge case is channeled into the holes in the bands. The gas system equalizes the pressure on the cartridge case keeping it from expanding so there is smooth extraction. AMT recommends against use of CCI .22 Magnum rimfire ammo in the Automag II. The flake powder used in this ammunition may not function well in the pistol.

The thumb-operated safety lever on the left side of the slide at the rear prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin and blocks the firing pin from striking the primer. It will not prevent the hammer from dropping if the trigger is pulled, however. There is also a half-cock position for the hammer.

Neither of these pistols should be carried with a round in the chamber as neither was designed for that purpose. The Automag II is available in 6-inch (our test gun), 4½-inch and 3¾-inch barrel length. The 3¾-inch barrel model has a smaller frame for the pistol. Grossman says the 6-inch model will provide a muzzle velocity of about 1,400 feet per second. Finish is matte stainless with grooved carbon fiber black grips. Sights are Millett adjustable white outline rear and red ramp front blade.

At the range we test fired the Automag II with Winchester Super X and Federal .22 Magnum ammo, and the .380 Backup with Winchester Silver-tip hollow point and American Eagle full metal jacketed .380 ammo, as well as with some Mexican Aguila .380 full metal jacketed stuff.

The .380 Aguila ammunition was so low powered it would not cycle in the gun and we had to manually work the slide to eject the spent cartridge case and chamber a new round after each firing. The American factory ammunition was fine in the pistol and it functioned perfectly in both slow and rapid fire.

Shooting at paper targets 7 yards away we averaged 10- and 12-inch groups. The Silvertips, as expected,

provided the best accuracy. I even made hits on paper cups and bottles out to about 25 yards. If I were relying on this pistol I'd probably use only Silvertips in it.

We fired boxes of .22 Magnum ammunition in the Automag II with only one malfunction of any kind, and that was one failure to extract a spent casing. This occurred during a rapid fire sequence of shots well into test firing and I thought that perhaps the chamber was merely getting fouled. I used a knife blade to remove the casing, then continued firing, slowly at first and later after reloading I tried rapid fire again with no further trouble.

The Automag II would be good for home defense, personal defense and hunting. We found it to be powerful and very accurate out to distances of 30 or more yards. It is also very reliable. I still am not sure just what led to that failure to extract, but I don't consider it anything serious. You feel the power of the caliber in the recoil but it's nothing unmanageable. This is truly a unique and fun to shoot pistol. ●

**AMT .380 Backup,  
Automag II Pistols:  
Tech Specs  
.380 Backup**

Caliber .....380 Auto  
Action/operation ....semiauto/blowback  
Weight w empty magazine ...17.5 ozs.  
Lengths:  
Overall .....4 7/8"  
Barrel .....2 5/8"  
Height w magazine .....4"  
Finish .....matte stainless  
Magazine capacity .....5 rds.  
Price, suggested .....\$243  
Manufacturer .....AMT, Dept. ASG,  
6226 Santos Diaz St.,  
Irwindale, CA 91706;  
(818) 334-6629

**Automag II**

Caliber .....22 WMR  
Action/operation .....semiauto/gas-  
assisted blowback  
Weight  
(6") w empty magazine ...32.5 ozs.  
Lengths:  
Overall .....9 5/8"  
Barrel .....6"  
(4 1/2" 3 3/8" also available)  
Height w magazine .....5 1/2"  
Sights ..Millett adjustable white outline  
rear, red ramp blade front  
Sight radius .....8"  
Safeties .....firing pin block,  
hammer half cock  
Finish .....matte stainless with  
grooved black fiber grips  
Price, suggested .....\$329  
Manufacturer .....AMT, Dept. ASG,  
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