

JURRAS' SUPER-CUSTOM .357 AUTO MAG

# GUN WORLD

AUGUST, 1975  
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Serial No. 1 of 25  
Jurras Custom Model 200/International Auto Mag  
w/detachable shoulder stock

00230R10



In England, the sporting rifle had received little attention, but new events in the making would change that. Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 and soon married Prince Albert. Together, they often visited Scotland, especially Balmoral. The prince was fond of deerstalking and it was with his royal stamp of approval that hunting became popular.

At the same time, the British Empire in India was coming to full flower. In the jargon of those halcyon days of Pax Britannica, big-game hunting was one of the top-rated "pukka" sports, meaning superior or first class. Within the ranks of the aristocratic British officers, it was comparable in importance with exploration. And when the two were combined, this was pukka personified.

Let it be made clear that the hunting fraternity owes a great debt of gratitude to those intrepid British officer-hunters. No matter in what far-

flung corners of the world they were posted or took leave, they managed to explore what then was unexplored and, if there was any wild game to provide sport, they found that, too.

In addition to getting credit for many geographical finds, they discovered new species of fauna and flora which, in some instances, were named after the finders. The sable antelope originally was called the Harrisbuck after Captain William Harris.

The fame of the early hunters and explorers in Africa, as in other parts of the world, was in direct proportion to their skill in wielding the pen. There may have been other and better hunters in South Africa before Harris but, as his is the first written account of big-game hunting for sport, we are stuck with it. African explorers such as Mungo Park, Livingstone, Stanley, Baker, Burton Speke and others all had one thing in common: a positive way of letting the world know about

their accomplishments, some flamboyantly, some with humility. But whatever the method, their fame has been as much derived from what they wrote as by what they discovered.

William Cornwallis Harris was a British officer in the Indian Army and was the man most responsible for opening Africa to big-game hunting. In India, it was considered quite the style to boast of having bagged "a tiger before breakfast." And there was great rivalry to seek unusual big-game trophies in far-away places to have something new to tell about in the officer's mess.

The easily accessible game in India was dwindling fast. The Indian lion was about gone and the few Asiatic rhinos left had retreated to little-known haunts. Even the tiger and elephant were getting wary and difficult to bag. There were rumors of great sport to be had on the Dark Continent; of game in large herds; elephants bigger than the Asian species, with huge tusks; fierce lions; massive buffaloes; rhinoceros; and a great variety of antelopes and other game.

Harris, at 29, could not take the tropical climate of India and a medical board ordered him to South Africa for the two-year leave. Harris was delighted. He had read an account by Nathaniel Issacs, a roaming trader, about the vast quantities of game in South Africa. His imagination fired, Harris sailed for Africa with great eagerness, arriving at Algoa Bay — where Port Elizabeth now stands — in 1836. He was accompanied by William Richardson, whom he had met on the voyage to Africa and persuaded to join him.

They acquired two wagons with spans of twelve oxen and supplies for six months. Harris had a grooved double-barrel percussion rifle in 8-bore, a muzzleloader that shot two-ounce bullets using 10 drams of powder. The muzzle velocity was about 1650 fps. The muzzle energy was about 5200 foot/pounds, holding up to 2050 foot/pounds at 150 yards. Trajectory was 2.2-inch drop at one hundred yards, 5.9-inch drop at 150 yards.

Among the supplies was a barrel of gunpowder, 18,000 bullets and extra pig-lead and moulds. There was no intention to run short of ammunition.

The expedition got off to a slow start, with a variety of misadventures. Finally, they reached the frontier village of Graaff Reinet, two hundred miles inland. There more supplies were bought, native helpers hired and final arrangements made to head into the little-known country to the north on September 1. The party totaled eleven.

The mishaps they suffered in getting away from Graaff Reinet would have tried the patience of Job and defeated the faint-hearted. At departure time, they discovered that half the muskets they had supplied to their Hottentots had been pawned and the

*Continued on page 80*

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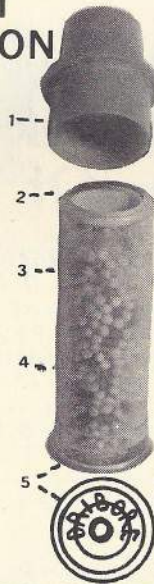


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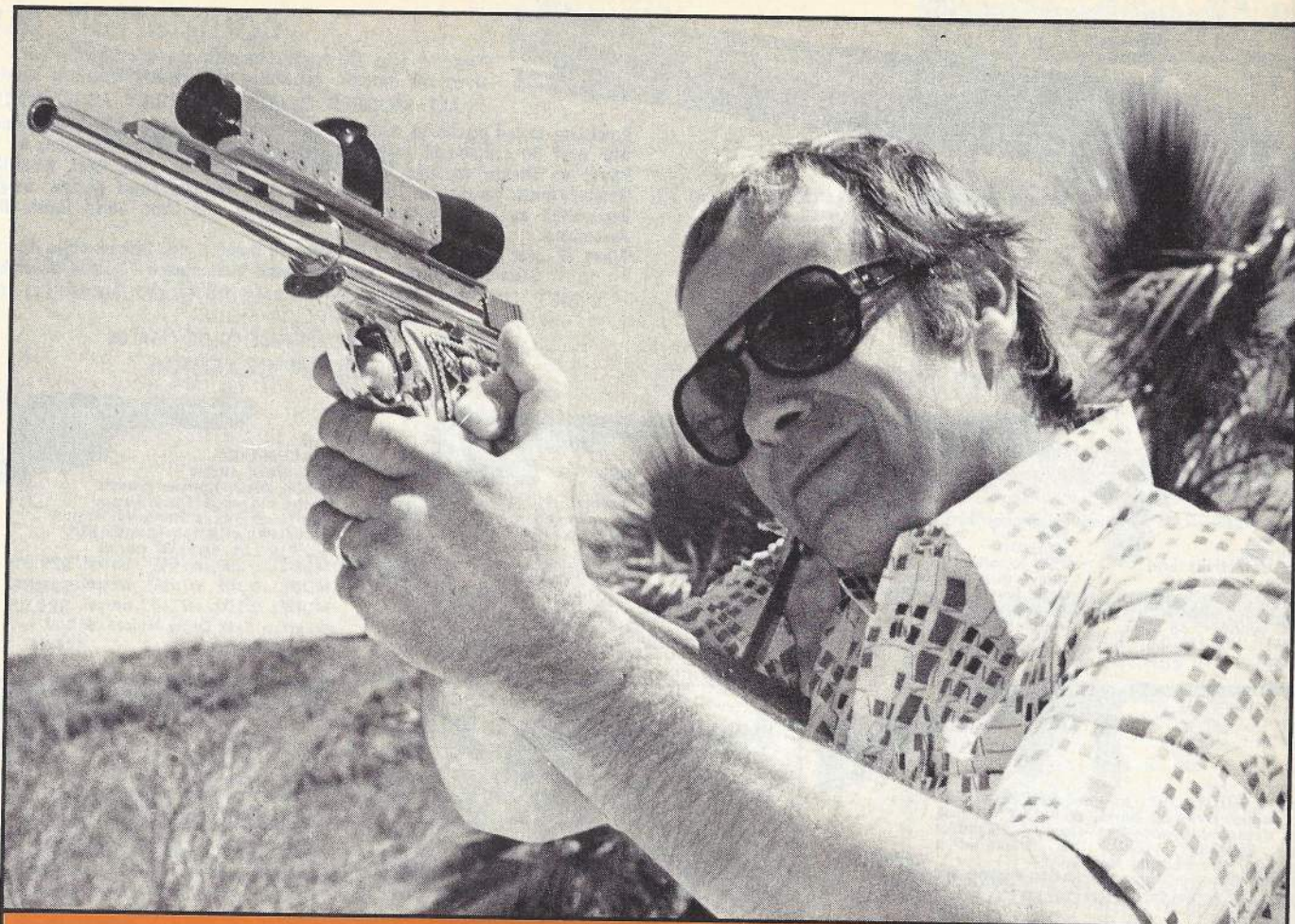
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# THE ULTIMATE AUTO MAG

Details On An Elaborate Pistol You're Not Apt To See  
In The Window Of Your Local Pawnshop!

By Dean A. Grennell

**T**AKE THE MOST expensive handgun in current production as a starting point and all the improvements and fancy touches you can think of. That's the approach Lee Jurras followed to arrive at what he calls the caliber .357 AMP L.E. Jurras Custom Model 200/International.

It's based upon the Auto Mag, of course, with an 8.5-inch barrel chambered for .357 AMP cartridge. Anchored to the top of the ventilated rib is a titanium mount and stainless steel rings, carrying a Leupold M8-2X scope; a design that has proved best-suited for standing up to the recoil stresses encountered.

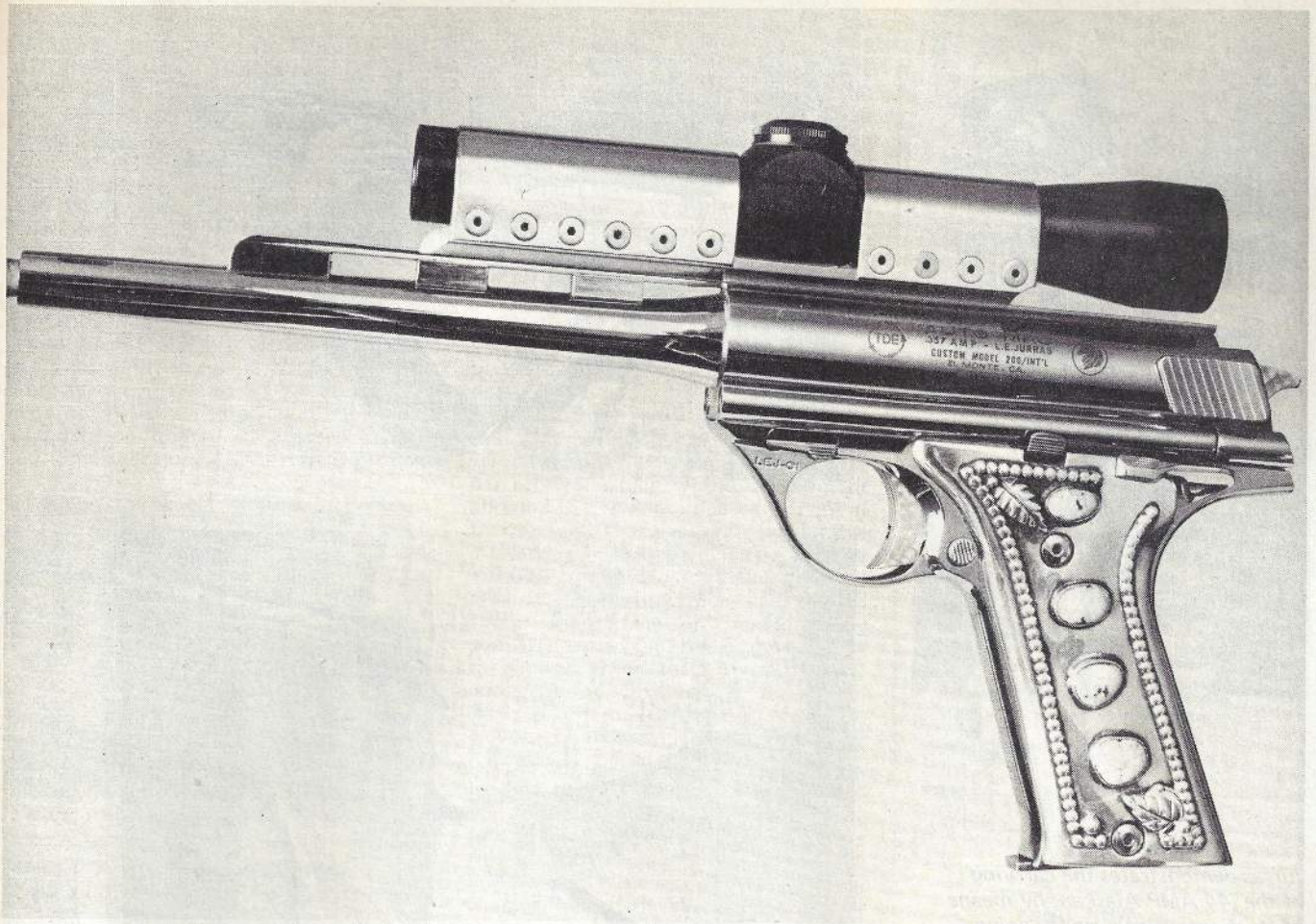
Mill a slot in the lower rear area of the grip to accept a matching shoulder stock. Since the barrel length is not in excess of sixteen inches and the action will accept other Auto Mag barrel assemblies, that involves either the holding of a Class III Federal firearms license or payment of the \$200 Federal transfer fee for legal possession and use of a handgun with detachable shoulder stock.

Cut Mag-na-port slots in the muzzle to help control the muzzle-flip and back-slam of the energetic cartridge. Hand-polish all of the moving parts to the brightest finish obtainable on the exotic stainless alloys of which the

Auto Mag is built. Engine-turn the side flats of the trigger and, as a finishing touch, install a set of sterling silver and turquoise grips.

Those are the basic steps on serial number 1 of the limited-production design and it's not for sale. Likewise not for sale is serial number 2 which, at present, is off to Italy for ornate engraving in a motif commemorating the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence. It is planned that number 2 will be used for display purposes only and Jurras says it may be donated, eventually, to the Outstanding American Handgunner Foundation for display in the Handgunner's Hall of

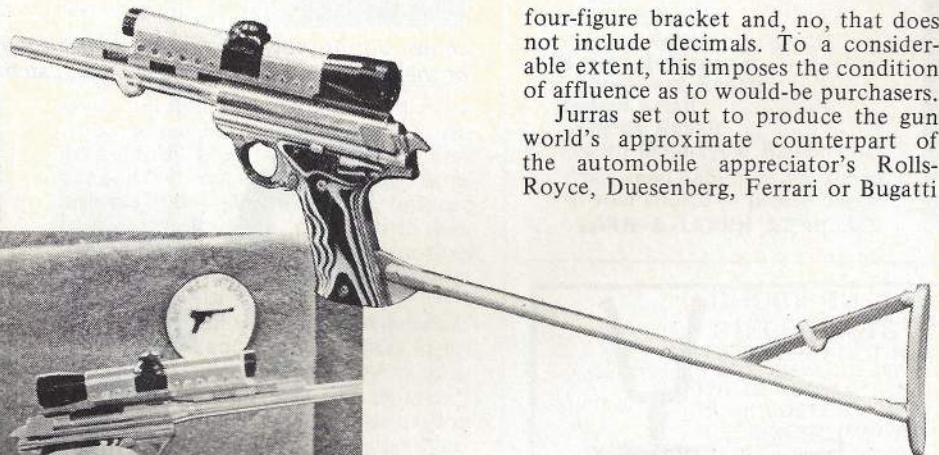




*Opposite page, skeleton stock – which is legal upon payment of \$200 Federal transfer tax – aids in a steady sight picture, with two-handed hold. Above, milled slot for stock attachment occupies area normally used for the serial number, necessitating relocation of serial to front portion of trigger guard, as can be seen in this photo.*

Fame – when and if that becomes a reality.

The good news is that an additional twenty-three specimens of the M200/International are scheduled for production and will be for sale to serious handgun hunters and/or collectors of affluent means. The less-good news is that the cost will fall in the middle



four-figure bracket and, no, that does not include decimals. To a considerable extent, this imposes the condition of affluence as to would-be purchasers.

Jurras set out to produce the gun world's approximate counterpart of the automobile appreciator's Rolls-Royce, Duesenberg, Ferrari or Bugatti

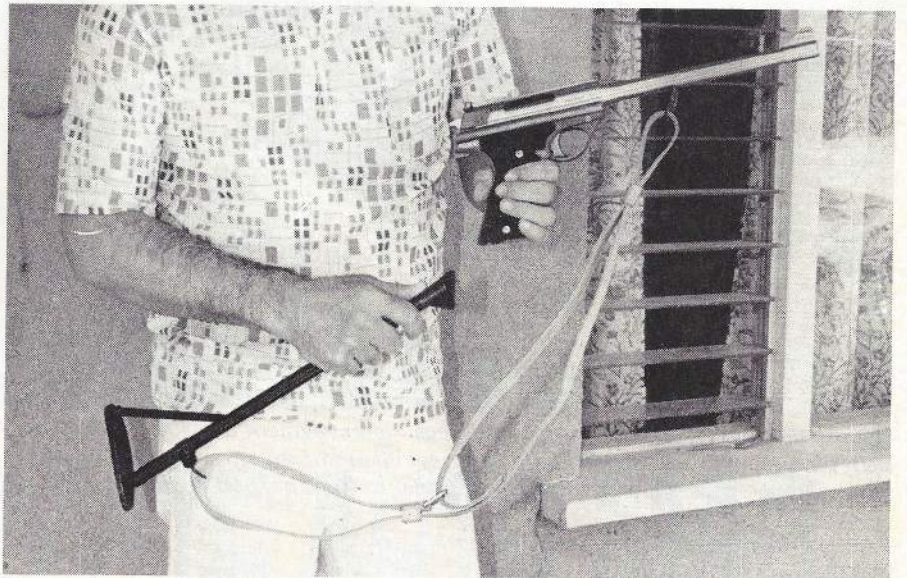
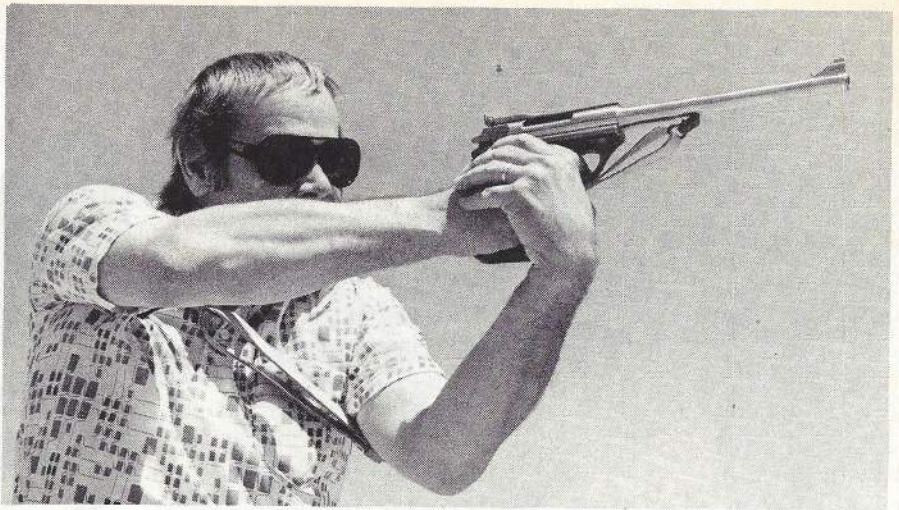


*Left, at Houston NSGA show, Jurras displayed the M200/International for the first time. It's shown above, as hung on hooks at booth display. The ornate sterling silver and turquoise grips, in photo at top of page, are optional at an extra cost of about \$650, with laminated grips, as in lower photo, being those supplied as standard.*





*Jurras demonstrates the carrying of the .44 AMP Alaskan, by means of its sling; an ideal rig for going into tough terrain for large trophies. The Alaskan, reviewed here for the first time, will be standard in .44 AMP, with 12.5" barrel and stock.*



*Upper, Jurras shows his favored stance for aiming the Alaskan, taking advantage of the sling as a steadying aid. Lower, catch permits removal of stock for carrying.*



Royale; sort of an objet d'art that shoots, you might say.

The M200/International will be furnished with a custom attache carrying case, handcrafted of a superior grade of belting leather, with compartments for the gun, folded shoulder stock, magazine, clip depressor and a box of ammunition. The magazine is highly polished and carries a matching serial number. The clip depressor likewise is highly polished. The presentation carrying cases are

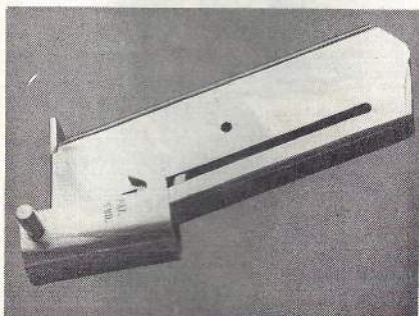
*As discussed here, skilled reloading can achieve a maximum load putting the 265-grain Hornady JSP out of the muzzle at about 2000 fps, 2354 ft-lbs. Only 100 Alaskans will be made, at a price currently pegged at about \$800.*



being produced by the Mahan Company of Indianapolis.

Jurras does not plan to offer the M200/International in either the .44 AMP or .41 JMP chamberings, nor does he contemplate offering auxiliary barrels for it in either caliber. However, as was noted, the action will accept standard Auto Mag barrels and, should the purchaser wish, matching custom barrels could be commissioned on a custom basis through TDE Corporation — makers of the Auto Mag — or from a similar supplier.

Grips supplied for the remaining twenty-three M200/Internationals will be laminated of exotic hardwoods in colorfully contrasting layers. The silver and turquoise grips will not be standard equipment. If ordered as an optional accessory, the silver/turquoise



*Strong magazine spring of the Auto Mag makes the clip depressor a useful accessory. These are the polished type supplied with M200/International.*

grips would add approximately \$650 to the cost.

Jurras is reluctant to quote a flat price on the M200/International, since the remaining guns of the series will be produced for future delivery, as ordered and negotiated at the time of purchase and delivery; it would be rather unrealistic to ignore the possible effects of continuing inflationary spirals. It should be noted, however, that the \$200 transfer stamp covering the detachable shoulder stock is not included in whatever price may be quoted for the guns.

By the time you read this, L.E. Jurras and Associates will have moved from their long-time base in Shelbyville, Indiana, and will have relocated in the Southwest, the new address being Box 846, Dept. GW, Roswell, New Mexico 88201. Inquiries regarding the M200/International, as well as for other Jurras products and services, can be directed to that address by interested parties.

When Jurras wheeled his Cherokee Chief into GUN WORLD's parking lot recently, to give the staffers a look at the Numero Uno M200/International, he also unveiled another sample of things to come: his .44 AMP Alaskan.

The Alaskan likewise comes with a detachable shoulder stock, as well as with sling and swivels and Jurras plans

to standardize on a 12.5-inch barrel for the .44 AMP cartridge. He has scheduled a production run of one hundred of the Alaskans. Tentative price on these can be quoted and Jurras pegs it as being in the \$800 bracket — subject to change.

Unlike the M200/International with its Tiffany touches, the Alaskan has the look of a businesslike, highly functional item of hunting gear, relatively light and compact, for the hunter proposing to foot-pack far into steep and precarious terrain. At the same time, it retains a remarkable amount of power and put-down potential for its size, weight and portability.

Jurras cited its ability to put out the 265-grain Hornady JSP slug at velocities on the order of 2000 feet per second, which would be good for about 2354 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle. That aroused considerable interest on my part, as you may imagine, being close at the heels of .444 Marlin performance, so I pressed Jurras for details on the load. He admitted that the two-grand muzzle speed was about the outermost limit and required considerable doing and skill to obtain. He did not recall the exact charge weight, but said it

involved a compressed, capacity loading of W-W 680, with bullet seating depth so shallow it was necessary to employ mouth-lacquering to obtain the necessary degree of grip on the bullet base. With somewhat less-bulky charges, he felt the average handloader should be able to obtain velocities in the 1850-1900 fps range with the Hornady bullet in the 12.5-inch barrel of the Alaskan. With eight rounds on tap for delivery in rapid sequence, that would be capable of taking some heavy trophies, in the hands of an experienced marksman.

It is not possible to modify an existing Auto Mag into the shoulder-stock configuration, since the slot has to be milled into the lower rear of the grip and goes through the area presently occupied by the serial number. Such guns must be produced from scratch, as it were, with their serial numbers located elsewhere than in the customary spot on the lower rear surface of the butt.

The .41 JMP was mentioned earlier. The initials stand for Jurras Mag Pistol and the cartridge is formed by necking the standard .44 AMP case to take a bullet of .410-inch diameter, as used in the .41 magnum revolver cartridge. Jurras has ordered two hundred barrels in this chambering, of which he will employ one hundred for production of custom guns and will offer the remaining one hundred for sale to interested buyers on a first-come basis. The current price for the .41 JMP barrels, as available, is the same as for the .44 and .357 AMP barrel assemblies, \$185 for the 6.5-inch and \$195 for the 8.5-inch, with ventilated ribs being supplied only on the 6.5-inch. ●



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