

COMBAT

HANDGUNS

SELF-DEFENSE & THE LAW

STAYING ALIVE!
DEFENDING JUSTIFIED SHOTS

4 REAL-LIFE CASE REPORTS

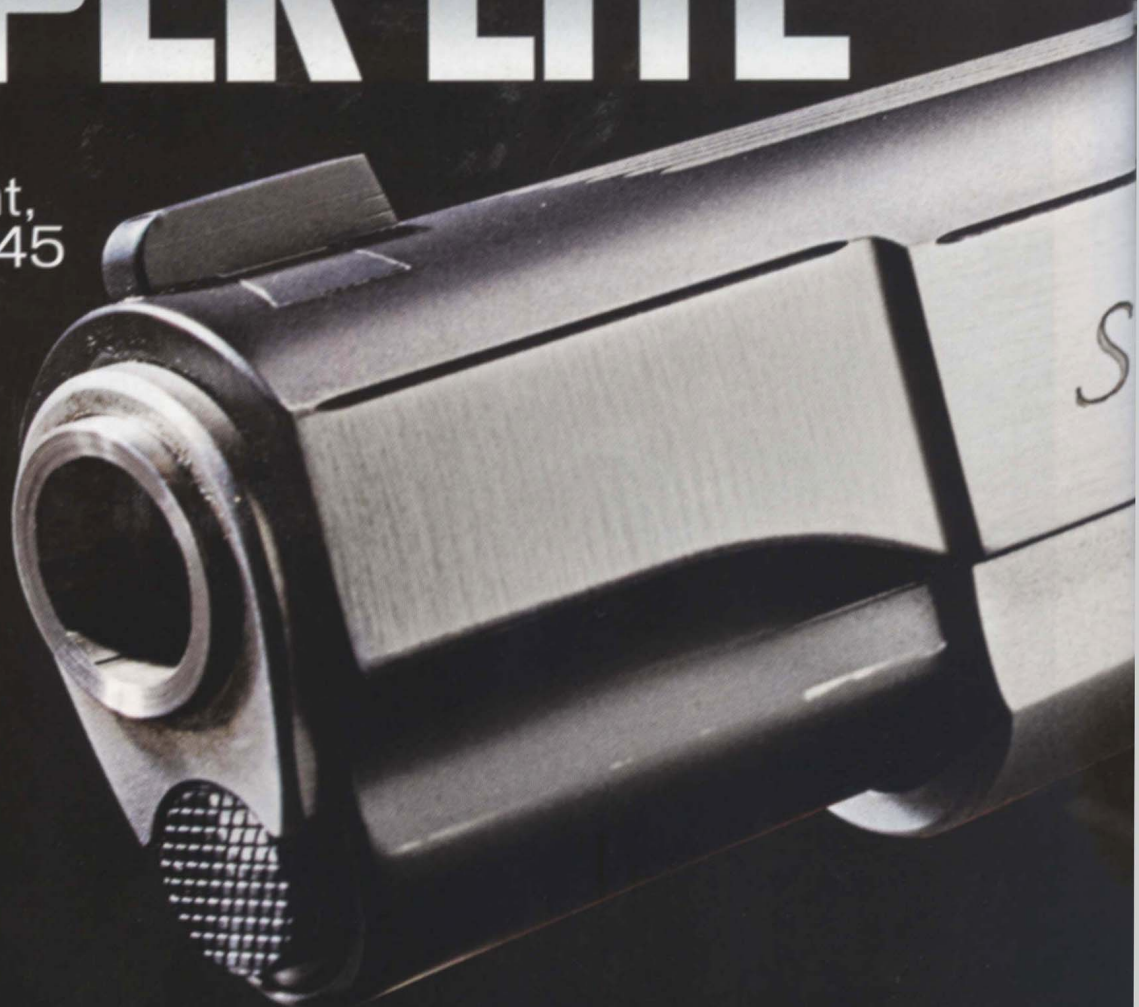


JUNE 2014

CYLINDER & SLIDE SUPER LITE

Full-size yet featherweight, this custom .45 is both carry friendly and plenty powerful!


BY ROB GARRETT
PHOTOS BY
STEVE WOODS



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Weighing 25.5 ounces, or 27 percent less than comparable Government Model 1911s, the 5-inch-barreled Cylinder & Slide Super Lite offers users both all-day carryability and full-size handling and power.

Along the way, C&S also became known for its custom work on the Browning Hi-Power. Bill developed a modification for the Hi-Power that drastically improved the trigger. He also grafted on beavertails to prevent hammer bite and performed a variety of frame treatments and internal tuning to enhance reliability. A Peerless Grade Hi-Power is a work of both beauty and love that epitomizes class.

One trait of Bill's is his constant desire to push the envelope when it comes to new designs and models. This was never more so the case than when he decided to build the M2008 Pocket Model. Bill has always been a fan of the Colt Hammerless Pocket Models, and he wondered if he could build one in .45 ACP. The prototype started life as an Officer's Model frame and Commander slide. Bill grafted material onto the rear of the slide and frame to enclose the hammer. He also redesigned the barrel profile, hand-built the miniature sights and installed an external extractor. The result was a Pocket Model that was proportionally scaled up to accommodate the hard-hitting .45



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The Super Lite's forged slide received some radical internal machining to reduce weight without compromising the strength or reliability of the pistol. The shop installed a C&S Series 70 extractor and an extended ejector to further enhance the Super Lite's reliability. A semi-drop-in barrel was throated and re-crowned before being fitted to a solid National Match bushing. The ejection port was relieved, and the forward edge

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I recently received a new C&S Super Lite Government Model 1911. The Super Lite is aptly named due to its weight of


just 25.5 ounces unloaded! The advertised weight of a standard 1911 is 35 ounces. Doing the math, the Super Lite weighs 27 percent less than a stock Government Model 1911. As Bill put it, the older he gets, the less he likes carrying heavy guns.

● GUN DETAILS

So how did Bill and the guys at C&S do it? They started with a high-quality OEM aluminum alloy frame. The first modification was to open up the frame window under the grip panels. A steel throat was fitted to the frame for

received a bullet-nose relief to ensure safe ejection of live rounds. Richard Heinie's excellent Ultra Low-Mount Ledge sight was selected as the rear sight. The front sight on my test pistol was a plain dovetailed post. Bill can change this per customer requests. While tritium is popular, the Super Lite really deserves a gold bead. The front sides of the slide received Hi-Power-style cuts, while the top of the slide was serrated with an arrow-point pattern. A subtle French border defines the matte-finished top of the slide from the highly polished sides.

The entire pistol received a medium-carry bevel, and the frame received a silver gray Cerakote finish. The slide was polished with 400-grit paper and given a deep, lustrous blue. The combination is reminiscent of an earlier time. However, no matter how appealing the Super Lite model is, the key feature is the reduction in weight. The majority of the weight reduction came from cuts in the slide. The barrel was also reshaped in critical areas.



On the range, the Super Lite was a joy to shoot, feeding all of the ammunition used with nary a hiccup, and recoil proved easily manageable. The day's best group, 2.06 inches, belonged to PNW 185-grain TacOps.

SPECIFICATIONS

CYLINDER & SLIDE SUPER LITE

Caliber	.45 ACP
Barrel	5 inches
OA Length	8.25 inches
Weight	25.5 ounces (empty)
Grips	Wood
Sights	Front post, Heinie Ultra Low-Mount rear
Action	SA
Finish	Blued slide, Cerakote frame
Capacity	7+1
MSRP	\$4,235



Among the tests conducted by the author was a seven-round "Bill" drive from 7 yards. All hits would be in the "A" zone of a typical IDPA target.

● RANGE TIME

When I first received the Super Lite, the slide-to-frame fit was very tight and had a distinct bump as the barrel unlocked from the slide. In talking to Bill, he stated that, other than test-firing to confirm zero, the pistol had not been shot. On the range, I broke the Super Lite in with a box of standard 230-grain FMJs. Recoil, while snappy, was manageable as long as I used a proper grip and position. For the formal testing, I used two of my favorite 185-grain loads, ASYM Precision's 185 grain Barnes Tac-XP +P and PNW's 185-grain TacOps. Both loads were pleasant to shoot. The ASYM +P averaged 993 feet per second (fps) while the PNW TacOps averaged 925 fps. We also tested Winchester's 230-grain SXT load that averaged 851 fps.

Accuracy testing consisted of firing five-round groups off-hand at 25 yards. I will confess to being a little out of practice, and it took a couple of magazines to settle in to where I was getting some consistent groups. The best group was produced with the PNW TacOps ammo, which measured 2.06 inches. The ASYM produced a group that measured 2.19 inches, while the Winchester SXT group

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C&S' bread and butter has always been the 1911. A lifetime of work and research has given Bill a unique insight into the pistol. And, Bill's most recent project is a collaboration with a retired Naval Special Warfare vet. The Trident II .45 ACP is a custom-built 1911 that is designed to be 100-percent reliable in the most extreme conditions. All parts are selected and fit for both functionality and durability. The Trident II features a nickel-boron finish that resists corrosion and is self lubricating. The Trident II is currently available in 5-inch-barreled configurations. Look for a review in a future issue of *Combat Handguns* magazine.

► **PERFORMANCE**

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ASYM 185 Barnes TAC-XP +P	993	2.19
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However, the C&S Super Lite was designed to be a concealed-carry pistol. I know of no better personal-defense drill than Ken Hackathorn's "10-10-10" drill. The standard drill is shot from the 10-yard line and consists of 10 shots in 10 seconds. The target is a standard 25-yard NRA pistol target. Given the magazine capacity, I modified the drill to seven rounds in seven seconds. My time was just over eight seconds, and the group had an extreme spread of 3.25 inches.



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● **FINAL NOTES**

The Super Lite is a purpose-built pistol that is constructed to fill a specific need. Any time parts are lightened or modified, it can have an adverse impact on the functioning and reliability of the pistol. The lighter the slide, the faster it cycles. This can result in several types of malfunctions as well as accelerated wear on critical components. Fortunately, these are the same issues that Bill had to

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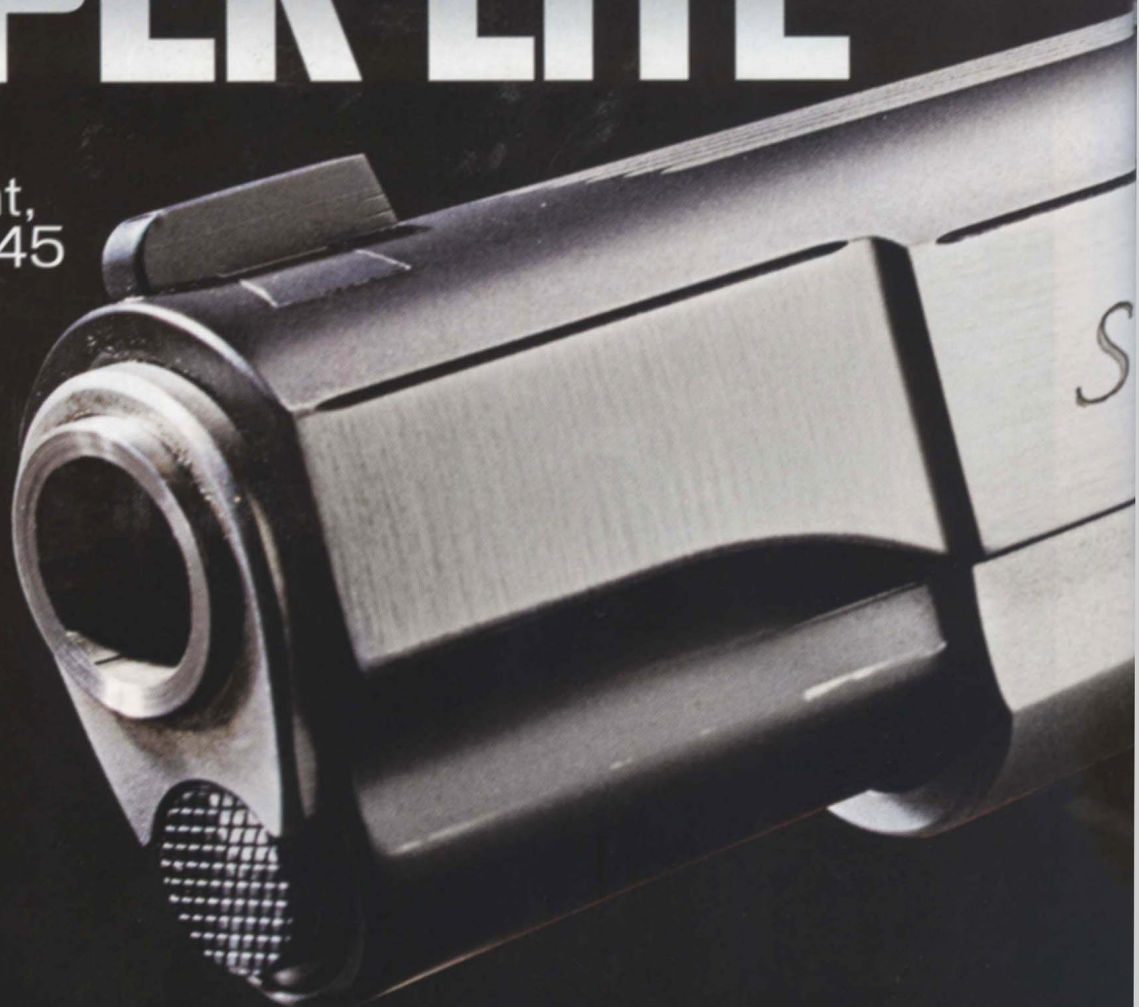
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