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Choosing A Holster

The information in this series should get you on the right track to successful pistol shooting. Time to look at a next step.

Holsters are a natural extension for most pistol shooters. Either they are getting into one of the handgun shooting sports or the mystique of the holster is raising its head. We need to explore the issues related to determining the best holster for you.

Prior to buying the holster, you need somewhere to hang it. You can certainly hang most holsters off any old belt, but do yourself and the holster a good turn, buy a really good belt. I use and highly recommend the AA 2 belt set. The one I am using now has over 3 shooting seasons on it and it is like new for stiffness. The holster and mag pouches are rock solid on that belt. The Velcro is almost like new and I can't see the replacement date for it in the future. Very well priced is another asset to go with the longevity.

I mentioned mag pouches, or revolver speedloaders. For a semiauto you will need at least 6 magazines for competition. I recommend another separate 3 for practice only.

Without having shot revolvers in competition for a LONG time, I think about 50% more speedloaders for competition is about right. Get good quality magazines and speedloaders. You heard it before, buy cheap, get cheap. And when they fail in the heat of competition, how big a bargain were they? Exactly.

What type of holster is best? The Double Alpha Academy(AA) RaceMaster has proven to be the best holster and rig I have found since starting with a Bianchi thumb snap in 1976. The gun is held firmly ready and precisely positioned for smooth and efficient draws time and time again. If your budget allows a bit less, try the new AA Racer holster. Very much like the RaceMaster but with a few less features. Budget is a big part of shooting.

I also use a Blade-Tech Drop Offset Holster(DOH) hip holster for the CZSP01, Glock and SW M&P. It holds the gun firmly but with less range of angle to facilitate a fluid draw. Having said that, my best draw time from a AA is .64 seconds. With virtually no training and just messing around at the range during a class, I hit a .90 second draw. It's not .64, but sub-second is workable. You can buy one of these for around \$80.

That is enough to keep you busy for a while.

Finally, regardless of what I have written, I always tell my students and clients, "The best reason in the world to buy a pistol, is that you have the money and you like it." It's only a gun, not a marriage. Sell it when the fun ends. And remember, the rule is that you only sell one gun to buy two more. Honest, I didn't make that up! :-)

See you at the matches,
Murray "DOC" Gardner.