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You can also find our "DEAL OF THE WEEK" there.

Go to: northernplainsgunworks.com

All About Truck Guns

A lot of interesting conversation may revolve around truck guns. It seems some base their choice upon an apocalyptic nightmare that never comes.



For many of you, it will be a trunk gun. However, today folks engage in the practice who were not once “gun folks.” Events such as Katrina and other natural disasters, mixed with a bit of mob rule, have convinced these good folks that a spare tire and a gun are a good combination.

Prepare for Wear and Tear

Truck guns once hung on a rifle rack in the rear window of a truck. Those days are gone as we may as well hang a sign on the gun saying, “steal me.” If the truck is dedicated to the farm or ranch, fine, but otherwise the firearm should be deployed in a low-key manner.

Personal defense wasn’t the issue for the most part. These firearms were used to take out pests, varmints, and occasionally a predator that would take the chickens or calves; or to dispatch livestock had to be put down.

A good .22, a shotgun, or a .30-30 were common options for truck guns. There are firearms that remain more useful to most of us than an AR-15 rifle or a pistol caliber carbine. You may not care to leave your \$2,000 rifle in the trunk of a vehicle. But a handy .30-30 lever gun will solve a lot of problems and take game efficiently. And never discount a .410 shotgun. If you have used a .410 slug on coyote, you know exactly what it can do. A thinking person today may just deploy the SKS rifle instead of a .30-30. Load it with Hornady’s accurate JSP loading and you will have a fine combination.

Another reason we do not wish to keep a nicer example of the gunmaker’s art stashed in the trunk is wear and tear. These things tend to get beat up, dinged on the vehicle door as they are deployed and generally mistreated. The trunk gun needs to be a model of reliability and low maintenance. This leaves out a number of the modern self-loaders. Optical sights do not survive well bouncing in the trunk of the highlander.



Resistance to corrosion is another factor. It gets damp and humid over the course of our four-season climate. An occasional wipe down shows respect for a reliable friend, but the trunk gun isn’t going to get a lot of attention.

The trunk gun should be short and fast handling. A carbine (shorter barrel than a rifle) is indicated if you deploy a cartridge gun. A shotgun should also be short and light if that is your pick. A “Bullpup” shotgun is a great choice.

A good .22 rifle is a versatile and viable choice and can be useful in many situations. The caliber of the centerfire would depend more upon available ammunition than anything else. Any good centerfire beginning with the .223 Remington is viable, given a good marksman. The .30-30 is useful and the .357 Magnum carbine has much to recommend. Pump-action rifles in .223 and .308 Winchester are wonderfully accurate, but perhaps a little more expensive than the concept allows.

When we look at truck guns, we realize that we do not need match-grade accuracy — we simply need something that will get the job done. Fast handling and quick into action, the lever-action carbine has much to recommend. So does the pump-action shotgun. Personal defense becomes more important in times of crisis. Human predators and animals seem to thrive on natural disruptions. If you are armed with a handgun, you have thought ahead, but the long gun will be a better choice if you face multiple assailants (especially if they are heavily armed). If something is standing in your way of getting home, you want a reliable and powerful firearm capable of tilting the odds in your favor.



There are many different choices and many are as good or better than others. As long as the firearm doesn’t have extraneous and fragile gear hanging off of it, and it may be deployed quickly, it is a good choice.

Utilitarian is good, but you should have something more than a single-shot shotgun or rifle.

Safety is important. It only takes a moment to make a bolt gun, lever-action rifle, or a pump-action shotgun ready. It is quickly done as you bring the piece to the shoulder. If you keep the long guns behind the seat in a padded bag in the appropriate size, with the end unzipped, the deployment is only slowed a little.

Handguns as truck guns often have a different meaning. These are often a less-expensive or less-valued handgun that may be left stored in the vehicle, as when one is at work or traveling. They are not so expensive that their loss would be an economic hardship. The handgun as a truck gun is a fertile field for discussion. Keep in mind what your State laws are regarding the transporting of handguns in a vehicle.

Different Firearm Actions Explained

A long conversation with a new shooter can include both excitement and frustration. One major complaint is the lingo and terminology that comes with the gun world. Try to stay true to your roots and remember the days when you first really started shooting. Can you remember those days of nodding along with a conversation, but in the back of your mind asking “What the heck is he talking about?” One thing that seems to always be part of that is firearm actions.

Without some basic explanation, it can be confusing because it actually covers two different aspects of a gun. The first action to talk about is related to the trigger and what the trigger does in the gun.

Single Action

The single action is a classic design that dates back to the 19th century. In this mechanism, the shooter must manually cock the hammer before each shot. When the trigger is pulled, it releases the hammer, firing the round. So in this gun, the trigger has a single action. That is to release the hammer.



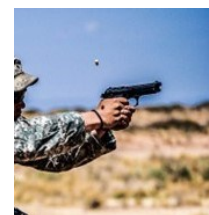
Double Action



Unlike single-action guns, double-action guns allow the shooter to both cock the hammer manually or simply pull the trigger to both cock the hammer and release it. This dual functionality provides versatility and convenience, as it eliminates the need for manually cocking the hammer before each shot. In this design the trigger actually both cocks and releases the hammer.

Double Action/Single Action

Guns in this category provide you with both options. A good example of this is the classic Beretta 92. On this gun, you have the option of thumb cocking the hammer and then pressing the trigger, or just pulling the trigger. These guns by design will have two different trigger pull weights. The first pull that cocks the hammer before firing is significantly heavier than the following shots where the hammer is automatically cocked.



Striker-Fired Actions



With the introduction of the Glock 17 in the 1980s, we essentially had to make a new action category. Striker-fired design pistols use a spring-loaded striker to hit the primer of the cartridge. When a shooter racks the slide to chamber a round on a striker-fired gun, an internal spring is partially cocked. Once the shooter pulls the trigger, the spring is cocked the remainder of the way, causing the striker pin to hit the cartridge and fire a round. There are variations of this mechanism. For example, some guns fully cock the striker spring when the slide is racked.

The second action we will discuss is a reference to how the gun cycles or feeds ammunition.

Bolt-Action Rifle

Bolt-action rifles are renowned for their accuracy and reliability, making them a popular choice for hunting and long-range shooting. In this mechanism, the shooter operates a bolt handle to manually cycle the action. This movement lifts the spent cartridge, ejects it from the chamber, chambers a fresh round from the magazine, and locks the bolt back into place. The shooter then pulls the trigger to fire the rifle. Bolt-action rifles are prized for their simplicity, robustness, and precision.



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Different Firearm Actions Explained

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Semi-Automatic



Semi-automatic guns utilize the energy from the fired cartridge to automatically cycle the action, eject the spent casing, and chamber a new round from the magazine. This mechanism is achieved through the use of a recoil or blowback operation. When the trigger is pulled, the firing pin strikes the primer, igniting the propellant and firing the bullet. As the bullet travels down the barrel, gases are generated, which drive the slide or bolt rearward, extracting and ejecting the spent casing. The recoil spring then returns the slide or bolt forward, stripping a new round from the magazine and chambering it, readying the gun for the next shot.

Pump Action

The pump action is a type of manual firearm action that is operated by moving a sliding handguard on the gun's forestock. When shooting, the sliding forend is pulled rearward to eject any expended cartridge and typically to cock the hammer or striker and then pushed forward to load a new cartridge into the chamber. Most pump-action firearms use an integral tubular magazine, although some do use detachable box magazines. Pump-action firearms are typically associated with shotguns, although they have been used in rifles, grenade launchers, as well as other types of firearms. A firearm using this operating mechanism is colloquially referred to as a pump gun.



Lever Action



A lever action is a type of action that uses a manually operated cocking handle located around the trigger guard area that pivots forward to move the bolt via internal linkages, which will feed and extract cartridges into and out of the chamber and cock the firing pin mechanism. A firearm using this operating mechanism is colloquially referred to as a lever gun.

Understanding the different firearm actions is helpful for anyone interested in firearms, whether for recreational shooting, hunting, or self-defense.

Each action has its own unique characteristics, advantages, and applications. Now, go forward with your newfound knowledge and share it with friends and family.



Safe Firearm Storage Strategies to Prevent Unauthorized Access

An important part of responsible firearm ownership is safe gun storage. Every person who owns a firearm is responsible for its safety, regardless of whether it is in the home, a vehicle, or anywhere else.

Safe Firearm Storage Strategies

Fortunately, many companies specialize in making products to help gun owners keep their firearms safe and secure. But before we discuss some options, let's briefly discuss safe gun storage, what it means, and how to achieve it.

If you Google "safe gun storage," most of the first handful of links you'll find lead to anti-gun groups like so-called Everytown for Gun Safety, Johns Hopkins, and even whitehouse.gov. Don't take their advice. They would have you render your firearm so inaccessible that you could never access it in a self-defense situation.

In fact, safe gun storage is a personal thing. If you have lots of kids around the house, you definitely need to have firearms completely inaccessible to them. But if you live alone or with just a spouse who knows how to handle and use firearms safely, you might not want to have them quite so "secure."

One note, however: Some states have specific safe storage laws that must be followed to avoid criminal charges. Check your state regulations before choosing a safe storage method.

Note that this is just a brief overview of some available safe storage methods. Individual research will be necessary to make an informed decision for your situation.

Cable Locks

The simplest and most inexpensive solution is the lock that comes with your firearm. These locks typically have a cable that runs through the firearm's action or action and barrel and is then locked, rendering the gun inoperable.



Note that they won't keep someone from stealing your firearm (one important reason to lock it up). But they should keep an unauthorized person from being able to fire the gun.

Until you can decide what kind of storage unit you plan to use in the long run, these will keep your guns secured.

Conventional Gun Safes



Conventional gun safes are large, heavy, and, above all, very secure. They also tend to be somewhat expensive. But what price can you put on safety? Here are a few things to consider when shopping for a conventional gun safe.

Choosing the right size of safe is vitally important. While you might just have a gun or two now, there's a good chance you'll likely add to your collection in the future. I know numerous people who bought too small on their first safe and ended up having to purchase another one a few years down the road. Most safe descriptions will tell you the gauge of metal used in construction.

The security of the safe is also important. Shop for safes made of quality materials by well-known manufacturers. One thing that determines the security of a safe is the number and size of the locking bolts that extend to hold the safe closed. The bigger the diameter and larger the number, the more secure a safe will be.

Fire rating is also important. Not only because you want to protect your guns, but you'll likely be storing other valuable things in the safe. As the fire rating goes up, so does the price. Use your best judgment to determine what fire rating will be best for you.

Another factor is the type of lock. Locks can be mechanical, electronic, or even biometric. Do some research and choose the one that best fits your style.

Note that if you move often, you probably won't want to get a big gun safe. They are very heavy, and many have to be moved by professional movers who specialize in moving gun safes.

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Safe Firearm Storage Strategies to Prevent Unauthorized Access

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Modular Safes



Newer-style modular safes are becoming increasingly popular these days. They are lighter and can typically be moved by the owner. They can also be configured differently to meet the needs of different gun owners. These can also be taken down for easier moving.

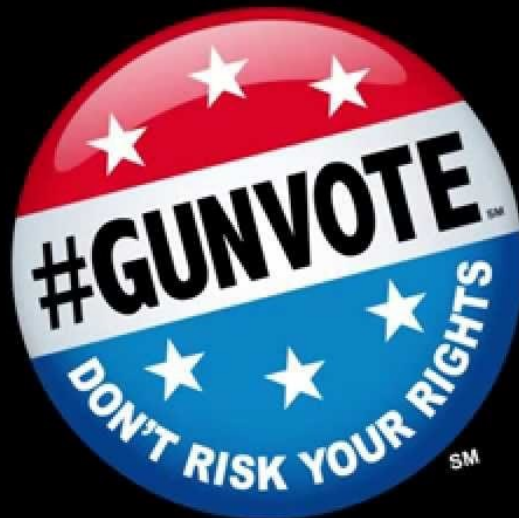
Smaller Storage Options

Many companies now make small handgun safes that use combination or biometric locks. Hornady and others make a these which can be accessed by RFID tag, keypad combination, or key.



There are also models that give users a way to store—and even transport—a handgun or two safely without breaking the bank.

Whichever storage method you choose, remember this: Safety is always the most important consideration in firearms-related matters.



[NSSF.ORG/GUNVOTE](https://www.nssf.org/gunvote)

DEAL OF THE WEEK

REVERSE AUCTION



The new firearms listed below will be reduced in price each day, from Tuesday 10/1 until Saturday 10/5. This is limited to only these firearms. When they are sold, they are gone. You can go to our Facebook page, our website, or call to find the new price each day.

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Ruger 10/22 Takedown .22LR FDE	\$ 619.00
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HANDGUNS

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Ruger LCP-380 .380 Auto	\$ 259.00
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Current processing time from submission to approval, as published by the ATF, is about 60 days for individual Form 4's and a bit longer for multiple purchases or Trusts. Processing times continue to be reduced.

If you have any questions, please contact us.



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We are a full-service gunsmith shop. We service all makes of firearms, and offer the following services:

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