

00:00;19;19 - 00:00;43;23

Stephen Gutowski

All right. Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to another episode of the Weekly Reload podcast. I'm your host, Stephen Gutowski. I'm also a CNN contributor and the founder of theReload.com, where you can head over and sign up for our free newsletter today. If you want to keep up to date with what's going on with guns in America. For me, sober, serious perspective that focuses on hard news reporting and analysis instead of, you know, hot air and opinion, that sort of thing.

00:00;43;26 - 00:01;03;05

Stephen Gutowski

This week we are going to be taking a look at Shot Show 2025. I was not able to attend this year. It was, on a trip to the Philippines with my fiancée as I talked about before on the show and newsletter, but, that's why I want to bring in somebody who was there who I think has, quite a lot of credibility and whose videos I very much enjoys gun reviews.

00:01;03;05 - 00:01;10;16

Stephen Gutowski

I enjoy. And that's, David Blanton from The Humble Marksman on YouTube. Welcome to the show, David. Thank you so much for joining us.

00:01;10;19 - 00:01;14;27

David Blanton

It's good to be here. Happy to mix it up with you. And I'll provide the hot air that you want.

00:01;14;27 - 00:01;24;26

Stephen Gutowski

So yeah. Good, good. We'll have a nice balance then. Tell people a little bit more about yourself and your channel. For anyone who might not have heard of you for sure.

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David Blanton

So I run the Humble Marksman channel, which actually started. Life is just a place to upload match video back in the day, you know, ten or so years ago, YouTube was like the only free online storage place for large files. So, you know, when we would do competition shooting, specifically pistols US and Idfa, you know, we would upload the match footage to YouTube, just, you know, to archive it effectively because, you know, hard drives were a lot smaller back then.

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David Blanton

And kind of as time marched on, there were only, I don't know, 7 or 8 big gun channels at that point. And they started to be competition models of pistols and the guys who were not competitive shooters would put out videos about products, saying, these are great for competition. And at the time, the feature set made them basically illegal for competition.

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David Blanton

So like I kind of stuck in my craw and I was like, well, I'm going to throw my hat in the arena. I've got an iPhone and started recording terrible iPhone videos. You know, talking about the different aspects of competitive shooting and the products that it would be used in them, and as it progressed, just kind of got more into it and decided to kind of branch off into giving it a more serious run at like, you know, just widening the base to not just competition specific stuff, but just kind of general handgun, red dot stuff and, started, you know, investing in cameras and editing computers and now it's an actual channel that

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David Blanton

makes media. So, but yeah, I'm, been competing in handgun competitions for about the past 13 years. I'm a master across five divisions and two sports. So, you know, pretty good shooter. But focusing largely on the kind of hand gun and specifically the red dot space, which at this point basically synonymous with just handguns because they all come red equipped to this point, it feels like.

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Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, the market has said and the, the, gun culture has really moved in that in your direction. I guess we're closer to the what makes, some of the advantages that competitive shooters have, have enjoyed for a while now. Everybody's kind of adapting some of those things for, you know, everyday shooting and carry on especially red dots.

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Stephen Gutowski

But, yeah, I mean, that's what I've really enjoyed about your channel over the years that I've been watching it is sort of your informed approach to gun reviews that, you know, really, can tell that your expertise comes through, you know, a lot of these reviews. And so that's you know, that's one of the and also, like, you're not part of the industry.

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Stephen Gutowski

You're not somebody who works for, a gun company or whatever. Not that there's anything wrong with that, but sure. But, you know, you take a, you have a bit of an outsider perspective, and an expert perspective. Somebody who's been a competitive shooter has a good grasp on what makes a handgun. You know, useful in competitive settings.

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Stephen Gutowski

And, and then, you know, defensive shooting settings as well. So, yeah, that's why I wanted to have you on. And you were just that shot show. You made some interesting videos on it. And, I wanted to just discuss a little bit of that, starting with just first off, you know, I've been to that show a bunch of times now, and, it's very exciting.

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Stephen Gutowski

The first couple times you go, it's in Las Vegas, they have a range day where you get to shoot a bunch of guns for free. A lot of times the companies will will bring out, like, flashy stuff to to draw people to their booths like machine guns or even mini guns or whatever. Like it's although I have to say that has been waning a bit since the pandemic, you know, I used to have like cars with like Vulcan cannons on the top of them and stuff like that, the wild stuff.

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Stephen Gutowski

And you don't get quite as much of that anymore, but you still get some machine guns and, and, you know, suppressed full auto. And yeah, there's still fun to be had certainly a range day, but but after a while it becomes, you know, this is a trade show and it's sort of part of your job. It's six, seven days time, you go.

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Stephen Gutowski

And one of the things you start to notice as well, I think, is trends. There's a lot of trends in the gun industry that it's a very trendy industry where everybody's sort of copying each other and trying to get in on the latest, like, hot thing to do. Did you notice any of that this year? Chat show in 2025?

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David Blanton

This year, I would say it was most the most obvious. It's been, you know, the kind of the theme for the past couple years has been kind of the emergence of through really good CNC machining, people discovered they could make 20 elevens for not as much money as they typically were trading for, kind of that 2 to \$3000 price point.

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David Blanton

Now we're starting to see, you know, with the advent of the prodigy, drag the price way down on that and live free. Armory jumps in and has like a sub \$1,000 gun. And the, you know, the Turkish companies jump in well under that price point. So everybody was making single action guns. And then at this point, everybody this year specifically, it felt like if they didn't have a gun with a compensator or ports, the handguns.

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David Blanton

Anyway, then they just painted a gun like gold like that was it. But generally everybody had, the comps and ports on the guns and that was kind of thing. So like what we traditionally have thought of is like a full featured firearm now has ports and caps on it, which is interesting because, you know, there is the kind of the contract, hard to use side of the world.

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David Blanton

And then there's kind of the civilian side of the world. And I mean, they work compensator and ports absolutely work, but they also lower kind of that operating window for when a handgun will function reliably. So, you know, you're gaining performance, but giving up potential reliability as the gun gets grayer dirty. So far this year, it definitely like everybody had compensated in port guns except for staccato.

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David Blanton

And their big schtick was they reintroduced the series eight firing pin block and had a Glock mag in their, new duty carry single action only gun. So,

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Stephen Gutowski

The series 80 that didn't hit that well.

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David Blanton

They, they figured out a good way to slick it up to where you don't notice the firing pin block on the trigger break. You do notice it on the reset, which doesn't really matter.

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Stephen Gutowski

I shouldn't say everybody. I have my my Remington 1911, that's all painted in the up in the corner of the shot. Here is is a series 80. A lot of not not in modern Nike elevens had that, that firing pin block safety.

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David Blanton

They're not preferred by enthusiasts, I'll say that. But at the same time, staccato couldn't get on the list for some of the big agencies because they didn't have firing pin locks. So now they do have firing pin blocks. That's why it's the most common magazine that you can have.

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Stephen Gutowski

So, okay. And so, you know, I definitely I've noticed myself the sort of race to put a compensator on everything. I mean, I carry a gun with the compensator. Yeah, right into the slide. The X macro, my X macro has one. Right. So I guess that's been, I guess. And that keeps your gun shooting a bit flatter.

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Stephen Gutowski

Is the idea, right?

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David Blanton

Yeah, absolutely. I mean, so I mean, the physics, if we dust off our high school physics educations, it's not just the bullet leaving the barrel. It's the bullet, plus all the burned up gunpowder. And so you're able to redirect the gas up. Then there's less recoil coming back directly straight back at you, so there's less energy moving the slide.

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David Blanton

And to the extent that it, you know, forces the barrel to stay down. I'm not a fluid dynamics, I couldn't tell you, but I do know that it affects, how much is coming out of the muzzle so the slide doesn't, you know, come back as hard so it doesn't bottom out on the spring as much so it doesn't lift as much.

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David Blanton

So it's a little bit more stable.

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Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. And you've shared that in a number of your different reviews that I've seen that know, you know, you'll, you'll show the video side by side of them with the compensator and one with that one. And, and there is a, there is a difference. You can practically see it.

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David Blanton

About 20 to 30%. You can like in a vice, you can get up to like 40%. But a vise is not a human grip that is actually returning the gun from firing. And the in the hand. I think probably the 20 to 30% is probably what you can see in a reduction of muzzle climb. And I mean what goes up has to come down.

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David Blanton

So the amount the slide dips when the slide closes is reduced as well. So the sight picture resolves faster. That's kind of the appeal of a compensated firearm.

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Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Makes sense. And so that's that was the big thing that you notice is like everybody's moving towards that.

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David Blanton

Oh yeah.

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Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. It's like standard feature more, more. And you.

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David Blanton

Know I mean I would say the other trend is that basically used to just be ports when they would drill a hole in the top of the barrel, but the rifling continued underneath the ports. And now basically since monsoon Tactical started, you know, counter boring the underneath the port so that the rifling stops. So now everybody's calling that a compensator as well, which isn't technical.

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David Blanton

I don't I don't agree with that definition, but the rifling does stop underneath a very large port at the front of the gun, and that's becoming really common. That was on several different guns at the show.

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Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, yeah. And then what were some of the guns that you, that you were able to fire at Range day or just handle on the show floor that, that were most interesting to you?

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David Blanton

I wasn't able to make it out to range day, so, I mean, I've shot some of these guns prior to and since, shot show, but at the same time, the gun that I was most surprised by because they did a good job of, I mean, in this day and age, if you pay attention to the internet, there are leaks basically everywhere of, you know, somebody getting ready to release a gun and can which is standing up a U.S production factory that mirrors their Turkish factory, and the nine Prime, which has three ports, which they're calling a compensator because the rifling stops, at the top of the gun and they're claiming that

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David Blanton

it is the least recoiling slim carry gun in the whole spectrum. So we'll be putting that to the test when that comes out in earnest, later this quarter. But that was the most exciting to me. Just because it's a \$650 gun comes with night sights. It's got the recoil reducing compensator. They enhanced the grip texture, borrowing from kind of the T combat that they released last year.

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David Blanton

And they're putting that on the carry gun because that that is a problem with the little skinny carry guns is they usually slick them up. Too much of the grip stops at the mag release, and kind of the top of the grip is the most critical point in your support hand stopping the rotation of the gun lifting. And so for a snappy slimline gun, you really do want good grip, and you want that if you can get it and not erode the performance of the gun, you know, some kind of recoil mitigating thing is nice to have too.

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David Blanton

And this kind of checks all those boxes, and it's at a price point that is very attractive for a lot of people can reach it. So that was probably the most exciting.

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Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Okay. Genic has really been, I think, the most successful of those Turkish brands.

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David Blanton

Oh easily.

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Stephen Gutowski

Awesome. Yeah. By far. And and I'm, I imagine for a lot of American gun buyers, having them move here and make their guns in America will probably boost, their reputation a little bit as well. But primarily it's just that they, they make really good takeoffs of other kind of stands, right? I mean, they're not they're kind of, not, you know, not total knock offs necessarily.

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Stephen Gutowski

Things. But you get a lot of design cues from other gun companies like Walther in a lot of.

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David Blanton

They've they've also been staffing up as well. Like they've hired some product guys and engineers from other big name companies, that you would recognize. So, you know, their testing protocols and all that kind of stuff are getting a lot more air tight and like more in line with what, like military contracting standards would be. And so they're not as much like an import company as they are.

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David Blanton

Like, at this point, it's like a multinational gun company.

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Stephen Gutowski

I mean, they've just been very impressive in my personal view, as far as like they're making very affordable guns with the features that everybody wants. And, and especially their triggers have been really impressive, even though they seem like, you know, you look at them, they're like, okay, that's like a take off of, Walther design or whatever, but they sure, they do.

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Stephen Gutowski

A good job of it is.

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David Blanton

They do? Yeah, they're excellent at it. They make great guns at this point. So.

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Stephen Gutowski

And what, so what other other than that Karnik. Although I also like the kanika. What is the meta was their first entry, and I thought that thing was kind of fat and. Yeah. And heavy for in.

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David Blanton

This one is too, because they only have one magazine design. So it's the same size magazine as their full size guns would take. So it's not it's like a one and a half stack. It's not like a single stack kind of design. So it is going to be on the heavier end and probably the bigger end in that segment.

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David Blanton

But at the same time, it's, it's, it's close enough to where, you know, it's sub Glock 19 size and it's, but it probably weighs about, what, a Glock a lot of I don't know the specs on that particular gun, but I would imagine it's probably pretty close in weight. But it look 17 rounds.

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Stephen Gutowski

Your view on that one. What what were some of the other ones that, that you saw?

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David Blanton

So, another one I liked is the, Walter f comp, PGM comp that they just came out with. It's a collaboration, like collaboration. That was the other big trend this year is collaborations. And there were a few of them. So like Parker

Mountain Machine is collaborating with Walter, and, they're releasing, you know, a series of guns with the PMD cops installed.

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David Blanton

Obviously Ruger and Mag Pull collaborated on the, RZiM. Yeah. That's they don't like it when you say Wrexham. If you just say it phonetically. But, so there were those kinds of collaborations kind of going on. And from what I'm hearing, there are more of those kinds of things in the pipeline of, you know, to go Glock in the Koa from AME point, like, you can't, you can't buy the site, you can't buy, you know, any gun that has that optic cut?

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David Blanton

That's not that gun right now, at least for the first year. So there were a number of collaborations between two different companies, which is kind of cool to see. But the PDF comp, is roughly a Glock 19 size pistol. The PD is more mild shooting than the rest of the PDP lineup. I couldn't tell you why.

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David Blanton

It just that's been my experience with it. And to have a PMD comp on there, I mean, PM has a really great compensator. So that probably is a really good gun. And Walter just puts out a really high quality product. Like when you pick up a Walter, you can tell the difference between it and its peers. Like it feels like a German gun that's, you know, finely machined and all that.

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David Blanton

So.

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Stephen Gutowski

And the F is the one designed for smaller hands, right?

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David Blanton

Correct. Yeah. The the grip is not as big as the standard PDP. So, I think it's great. I really like the profile. That's probably my favorite PDP is the PDP four inch gun. And that's what the PDP comp is going to be based off of. So that's that was kind of cool to see. I do think the staccato p Http four is interesting as well because, you know, we probably all have law enforcement friends and all of them I talk to independents.

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David Blanton

It's like it's like they asked me exactly what I would want for a duty firearm and then made that gun. And, you know, having the firing pin block is actually something that, you know, they need because they're, you know, bumping and jostling guns in the holster, you know, if they have to go hands on or something like that.

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David Blanton

So that's a desired feature. At the same time, you know, on training days, the instructors and Swat guys can share magazines with the general patrol cops if they have, you know, a class with, you know, not just the Swat guys that are blended so everybody can have the same mags and they eliminate the grip safety, which, you know, if you know a lot of those guys, they'll end up using like Ranger tape to tape down the safety or just pinned the safety on the grip.

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David Blanton

So it eliminates a potential failure point as well as, you know, increases the ergonomics because it's actually built on like

nine mil architecture and not 45 architecture because 2011 guns and nine millimeter are effectively 45 ACP guns that have been, you know, had the feed lit, our feed ramp adjusted in the lips on the magazines, tuned to accommodate nine mil.

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David Blanton

So the grip is just a little bit thinner and a little bit shorter front to back, which, you know, some medium and smaller handed people don't like how they get purchase on the 2011 grip. This this one fits a little better. But at the same time, I've got two XL hands and my hands fit on the gun.

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David Blanton

Great. It's different than a 2011, but at the same time very similar. So it's a it's a very capable firearm.

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Stephen Gutowski

Well, that's that is very interesting. We'll have to keep an eye out for some of the reviews that you get to do on these, these guns coming down the line. Know, the other thing I was interested in talking about is some of the, I guess your perspective on the industry as, as, like, maybe a bit of an outsider perspective, just in the sense that you're not, you know, work for a gun company or guns or whatever.

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Stephen Gutowski

You review guns. And one of the things you put out after shot show on your channel was a video about Glock. Right. And, sir, the failure of Glock to really keep up with the rest of the industry. And I think the, the rsum from Ruger Mag tools was one of the examples that that you brought as like, you're not sure that Glock is going to be able to maintain their, their sort of, ever present place in the market.

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Stephen Gutowski

At the rate that they're going. Can you just talk a little bit about that as well?

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David Blanton

So sure, when I say that they're going to, you know, decline, it doesn't mean that all of a sudden the Glocks are going to stop working and people are going to run out and replace them. I mean, they make a great product. I mean, I competed with Glocks for at least five years. They're fantastic guns. They just work.

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David Blanton

They're very simple to keep in operation and keeping them in operation at scale. You know, a armor with a punch can maintain a ton of firearms and not a lot of time even you have to do a full rebuild. It takes up five minutes to do on a Glock pistol. So there's a lot of strength in the Glock design, but the industry is not what it was 30 years ago.

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David Blanton

I had a recent sit down this past summer with Ron Cohen at SIG Sauer, and he was sharing with me the numbers of their contract sales, going to law enforcement agencies and the red dot percentage, you know, their initial projections were, you know, by 2023, it was supposed to be I don't remember what percentage. He said. It was maybe 20 or 25%.

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David Blanton

But in 2023, over half of the guns they were selling to law enforcement agencies were red guns. And the prop like. So Glock was timely in releasing the CoA, because one of the big failure points of the Glock pistol has been the most

system is one. Like it was one of the first, but it's also not a very good one.

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David Blanton

The problem that the system gets into is it's a sandwich plate system where, you know, the optic threads into the plate and the plate threads into the slide. The problems people run into with that are that the plates are sometimes warped, which leads to, you know, extra stress on the screws and then, you know, the optics launch off the guns.

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David Blanton

I've got several of the most guns, several with high round counts. That's not been a problem for me using the system. But, you know, if you talk to enough law enforcement guys on training days that, you know, it's not that uncommon. So the CoA does fix that for them because it is a more bulletproof optic mounting system.

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David Blanton

And that optic seems pretty good. It's mounted really low. And I mean, I think sig and I really FN was probably the first one to really put emphasis on a really bulletproof optic mounting system. But, you know, SIG Sauer with their Romeo M17, I guess I was two years ago when they brought that to the market. You know, that's probably one of the more robust optic mounting solutions.

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David Blanton

So, you know, Glock has responded to that. But the other side of that is, you know, the shoot ability and usability of the gun. The Glock has basically chosen the hill to die on that. Their grip angle is the way that it should be done, and their grip molds have largely been the same since at least Gen three.

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David Blanton

And with the foam scoop cut out going to the mag release, it kind of intuitively the wrong way to hold the gun. Like you want to fold your thumb down into that groove that they give you. The problem when you do that is it opens up the back of the grip tang. So when you're pulling the trigger, you're going to throw shots to the support hand side and potentially down because of that air gap, because a lot of other firearms, when you put them in hand, like it just informs how they want to be gripped based on how they're designed.

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David Blanton

Glock has never changed that design. And I've got, you know, some instructional videos that I've done in the past where policemen will come onto the video and thank me for making the video because they were, you know, marginal at passing call making, you know, a couple quick tweaks to their grip. They're able to significantly increase their score. And it's because if you don't hold the gun the way the gun tells you it wants to be held, you get much better results.

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David Blanton

So from a kind of an ergonomic standpoint, the Glock is a little bit behind the curve.

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Stephen Gutowski

In that regard from like a product standpoint to at least, you know, just as a, I guess, a normal consumer on my end. It seems to me like Glock rarely introduces actually new guns. Yeah, mostly just kind of mixing up previous configurations. Like they'll take the, the frame from one, numbered Glock and put it on the put to the slide from another one on there and call it a new gun.

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Stephen Gutowski

And it's like, you know, I guess, but, yeah, you know, I think that's fair, though. It often feels like they're they're not really, keeping up with the rest of the industry or feature wise. You know, there's been a.

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David Blanton

Huge push on ergonomics and, like, improved triggers, and that's like two things. The Glock is just with the Gen five. You could say that, you know, they're kind of a return to form. It's basically the gen to grip it again. But at the same time everybody's making, you know, guns that feel like they're designed for a human hand.

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David Blanton

And when you pick up a Glock, it just doesn't. It feels like a, you know, a one by force grip with the edges kind of ease. It's just kind of very blocky feeling.

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Stephen Gutowski

You know? So and then like something like, there there's just, you know, I, I carry right. And I carry, as far as handguns go, more about that single stack, nine millimeter micro subcompact class, which is super popular. Right. And, you know, it's hard for me to look at the, the 43 or 43 or whatever in that class.

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Stephen Gutowski

And, and want to go for that over like 5 or 6 other options that have better capacity, better features out of the box for similar price. It's just I don't know if, it feels like it feels like Glock is kind of falling behind in that regard and sort of resting on their laurels of just being Glock. And, and then also, like, there are so many Glock clones now available, including, you know, as you mentioned, this new one from Mag Pool and, and Ruger that, you know, or maybe looking at them on paper seem like better options than the actual Glocks.

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Stephen Gutowski

They're, they're, they're basically copying. I mean, what is that part of why you think they're, they may not have the same status that they do right now. The gun.

00:24:42:14 - 00:25:03:21

David Blanton

I mean, it's getting harder and harder. I mean, just going back to the feature set that we're talking on, the pistols, like Take the Cannick and C9 Prime that we were talking about \$650 pistol. It's got a way better trigger. It has better grip texture, it has better sights than what you would get from buying, you know, a comparable Glock.

00:25:03:23 - 00:25:27:26

David Blanton

And, you know, there's been kind of shrinkflation happening on the Glock side, too, because it used to be if you bought a Gen five most pistol, it came with three magazines and all the optics plates you could want, and that's not the case anymore. They come with two magazines now and I think you get one plate maybe. I'm not exactly sure I'm bought one in a while, but, it's not as generous as it used to be, but the price is still kind of the same.

00:25:27:29 - 00:25:50:16

David Blanton

So it's just an incredibly competitive and a crowded field because a lot of people are making pistols now. And as the contract, it's so like there's two sides, there's the civilian sale side and then the contract side. And as the civilian market kind of marches forward with all these kind of whiz bang features, the contract field kind of goes in that direction slowly.

00:25;50;16 - 00:26;08;07

David Blanton

But it does go in that direction. And Glock on the whiz bang feature side is not very competitive. So I mean, the CoA was a big step forward because their optic mounting system with the MLS wasn't great. So they've got another option. Now that actually is a great duty option.

00:26;08;09 - 00:26;08;20

Stephen Gutowski

But even.

00:26;08;20 - 00:26;09;00

David Blanton

That.

00:26;09;03 - 00:26;22;05

Stephen Gutowski

You know, like it's it's a proprietary mounting system, right. Yeah. You know, is that I don't know. Is that the best way forward to put another one of these proprietary mounting systems?

00:26;22;08 - 00:26;34;08

David Blanton

So is the SIG Glock, though. Yeah. I mean, that's proprietary to basically P3 20s. There are agencies that, you know, they've licensed that cut. Some agencies are cutting Glocks for the SIG Glock. But

00:26;34;10 - 00:26;35;22

Stephen Gutowski

It just feels like a difference.

00:26;35;23 - 00:26;36;22

David Blanton

Problem.

00:26;36;24 - 00:27;01;11

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. I mean, the more some of these companies are moving towards proprietary, optic mounting systems like that, I don't know, I mean, feels like if they could have done something to make, like a mount that can accommodate all sorts of different optics that already exist on the market, that would be more competitive than just offering a better mounting system, but only one optic for it, you know?

00:27;01;14 - 00:27;20;24

Stephen Gutowski

I mean, sure, sure, I'm sure that the optic companies will make versions for this Glock. I just I don't know, it feels like more, you know, like problem at hand of just like, all right, we're going to catch up on this regard, but only in the, you know, in the, in the most proprietary way we can.

00:27;20;27 - 00:27;37;27

David Blanton

I mean, I would guess just looking at it. I don't know that any of this to be true, but looking at the CoA, it was done the way it was done so that the optic could have more features. Because if the, typical, you know, acro rail was put on there, then you would have a higher deck height.

00:27;37;27 - 00:27;53;24

David Blanton

And the way that this is designed, with this kind of tow system, it sinks the window down, which is something a lot of

people really like about, you know, some of these things. It's getting that window as close to slide as possible. So indexes more like ions. And that's probably the why on why they didn't adopt the acro.

00:27;53;24 - 00:28;06;09

David Blanton

But yes, it's still a problem because it's another footprint we now have to deal with. So right. And it requires the rear sight being behind the optic to retain the optic. So that's another kind of confounding factor on that particular design.

00:28;06;12 - 00:28;15;10

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah I guess that's muscle Glock complaint. Maybe more of an industry complaint of like what the hell. Yeah, stop doing these proprietary standards and maybe just try to well.

00:28;15;11 - 00:28;42;19

David Blanton

Why is it RMR two? Because the RMR, screw pattern was developed for rifles, and there are very few handgun slides that are wide enough natively to accept the RMR screw pattern because like, pretty much all of the guns have to have some kind of adapter plate that makes the the back of the gun wider. And, you know, the Delta Point Pro and MSI footprints make a lot more sense on pistols than the RMR footprint does.

00:28;42;21 - 00:29;07;08

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Well, and I guess you know that was the last thing to touch on here is just maybe some, you know, just to say a little more about the industry trends here of just I don't know, one of the things that I've noticed, and you know, I don't, I don't review guns, I don't, I don't come across nearly as and put my hands on it, nearly as many new guns as you do.

00:29;07;08 - 00:29;25;10

Stephen Gutowski

But, the thing I really noticed in the last couple of years is that the industry has been releasing a lot of guns that really aren't ready for market, in my opinion. You know, like, you see a lot of guns come out and they get a lot of hype. And I'll even fall for a lot of this hype, to be frank.

00:29;25;12 - 00:29;44;27

Stephen Gutowski

And I'll get really excited about some new gun. And then, you know, and maybe it even has good reviews, makes it through that early review stage without getting too much, too many problems cropping up. And then once it gets out in wider release, you start to see some significant issues that are are not uncommon.

00:29;44;29 - 00:30;15;25

Stephen Gutowski

I and I've experienced this myself with, the early P36 fives, which had like premiere shake issues. My, the one that I bought, you know, early on in the that product's life cycle and that's it had the, had those issues and that's a huge problem for a carry gun. But you see this repeatedly with, stuff like the, the general sense H9 lot of hype and then a lot of problems and then, it's just something that seems to reoccur a lot.

00:30;15;28 - 00:30;24;03

Stephen Gutowski

Is that something you've noticed in the industry and what what are your thoughts on this? It almost feels like the video game industry where. Yeah, yeah. You know, it's not software.

00:30;24;03 - 00:30;24;27

David Blanton

It's hardware.

00:30:24;29 - 00:30:46;25

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. It's worse because the guy, you know, yeah. If you're your gun light primer strikes in a self-defense scenario, you might die. Whereas if you buy, you know, anthem from. Yeah. And and it just doesn't work very well. You might be a little bit past. Yeah. But that's so it feels like, you know, they did fix the three, six, five, relatively quickly after that.

00:30:46;25 - 00:31:12;28

Stephen Gutowski

But it's hard I don't know. I look around at these new guns and some of them seem excited me like the arcs, or something. Or some of these 20 elevens that you've, you've, reviewed, and it's like, I don't know if I can even recommend any of them to people to buy right off the bat because it feels like you should wait a year for a while, you know, until you see if anything crops up before, and wait for them to address it.

00:31:12;28 - 00:31:25;11

Stephen Gutowski

I, I don't know, that's that's the impression that I'm getting from a lot of the industry right now. And I don't know how, you know, somebody who does handle a lot of these new guns. What is what are your thoughts?

00:31:25;13 - 00:31:47;24

David Blanton

So it's difficult to say because, doing the media side sometimes there are, you know, TNT guns or review samples that are sent out and those are usually early production guns that are done in a small batch. So like the parts that are put like they're not cherry picked, but the parts that are put into those guns were produced not at scale.

00:31:47;27 - 00:32:07;27

David Blanton

And then there's the first production run, which is where everybody's firing up the machines all at the same time. And then collectively we get to understand where the wheels are going to fall off in the supply lines and the parts, because, I mean, these firearm companies generally aren't making every single part that they're putting into the guns because, you know, pins and springs usually come from one place.

00:32:07;27 - 00:32:33;11

David Blanton

And if they're using metal injection molded parts, then that's a very specialized process. It doesn't necessarily make sense to keep that in-house. So they usually farm that out. And more often than not, there are Hitchcock I won't say yeah, I would say more often than not, they're usually hiccups involved with shaking down the manufacturing operation when they go at scale.

00:32:33;13 - 00:32:55;05

David Blanton

So I think it's very wise to kind of ride the pine for the first batch of guns to get into the wild and catch the second or third production run, as that manufacturer is kind of shaking down its processes. And I think we probably all have a ton of experience with, you know, some first gen product not living up to kind of the expectation.

00:32:55;07 - 00:33:17;03

David Blanton

Right. But talking to some of these companies about kind of the why on why that happens. A lot of it does come down to the fact that, you know, they build trust with early production and then maybe their parts supplier gets overstressed. I think the Covid in recent times did a number on the supply lines a lot. You know, that we used to have a super kind of decentralized thing.

00:33:17;03 - 00:33:37;29

David Blanton

Then there was kind of a move to where a lot of the manufacturers wanted to control more of it, so started bringing it

kind of in-house, but then they couldn't keep up with the volumes they were trying to sell at. So they ended up like there's there's a dozen different reasons why it can go wrong, but I think it's generally great advice to wait for the second or third batch of production so that they can, because they'll get the fix in.

00:33:37;29 - 00:34:05;03

David Blanton

I mean, you've seen it on the sig. 365 is a good example. The, Daniel Defense H9 is another great example where, you know, they put a million rounds through the guard in testing. They thought they did their homework, and then somebody tried a projectile, but they didn't do any testing on and it would kill. So you know they've to their credit they've got a you know, a fix for it where if you got one of the early ones that will replace your barrel in your gun and update the trigger and back strap for you if you send it into them.

00:34:05;05 - 00:34:25;24

David Blanton

So you know, they're doing right by that. But you know, that's not that's not that uncommon, unfortunately. And it feels like especially with new manufacturers, people who haven't done pistols before trying to get into the pistol space are generally almost more prone to have those issues because they don't have the grooves worn through making the same product for years.

00:34:25;24 - 00:34:47;15

David Blanton

So yeah, I mean, realistically, invest in training if you want a new gun and then figure out if the gun you know, is there once there are a lot of reports, not just the early review. I mean, if somebody who makes gun reviews, you really want to wait until there's kind of a preponderance of evidence out there that the things do what they say they're going to do, and the only way to do that is let other people go first.

00:34:47;15 - 00:34:48;22

David Blanton

And fortunately.

00:34:48;24 - 00:35:09;28

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, because even if you do like a 500 round burn down of a gun or whatever, it doesn't necessarily mean that the production, you know, is the production models that when they're making 100,000 plus or whatever, that there won't be some issue that crops up among, you know, even even like a, know, five, 10% failure rate, they still get 90% good guns.

00:35:09;28 - 00:35:14;10

Stephen Gutowski

But, that's pretty bad. Yeah, that's a lot. Yeah. But their guns that that make it out there.

00:35:14;11 - 00:35:33;20

David Blanton

So I mean, the Springfield Armory Prodigy is a good example of that. Like I've got three of them I bought two, they sent me one. All of them work, but it's a coat gun. So like the application of the Sarah code and how it's applied, like if you get a gun that has not as good a Sarah code job and it slows down the slide, you might get issues.

00:35:33;22 - 00:35:53;13

David Blanton

I think they figured some of that out. But you know, they also have guide rod issues where the springs binding on the guide rod. And it just kind of depends which guide rod you got. And you know there's no there's no accounting for that. Like you can't test it until you actually put ammo through it. Really. Because maybe it did shoot seven rounds at the factory just fine because they are test firing them, but they're not.

00:35:53;15 - 00:35:56;11

David Blanton

You know, you're lucky if you get a magazine.

00;35;56;14 - 00;35;56;29

Stephen Gutowski

Right.

00;35;57;02 - 00;35;57;08

David Blanton

Yeah.

00;35;57;09 - 00;35;59;13

Stephen Gutowski

It's it be hard for them to do like.

00;35;59;16 - 00;36;00;02

David Blanton

Yeah, right.

00;36;00;02 - 00;36;39;21

Stephen Gutowski

It's every gun, but. Right. And then even there, you know, and then, of course, there's even just your expected wearing period for, for a gun where when we're talking about metal on metal. Sure. Machine parts here, especially at mass production scale, where the tolerances are going to be. So, I mean, I remember I a, a three, six, five x or 320 x five and it took a little while for that to fully break in to where, it would go on the battery every time because it just wasn't the it needed to, to, you know, work out some of the, the tolerances by just being shot enough to where it's,

00;36;39;23 - 00;37;01;16

Stephen Gutowski

you know, a clean shooting gun. And so there's, you know, there's that and then there's, defects and designer defects and parts that make it out there. And. Yeah, I mean, it's it's something to I think that people have to understand. It's part of navigating and maybe to, reserve some enthusiasm for some of these brand new guns that come out, it's easy to get very hyped up.

00;37;01;19 - 00;37;18;29

David Blanton

Even even if the product is proven, it doesn't necessarily mean yours is proven right. There's one piece of advice somebody walks away from this broadcast with, it's that you do have to test your gear. You can't just slap rounds in it and throw it in a holster and expect it to be good, because you can have bad heat.

00;37;18;29 - 00;37;35;12

David Blanton

Treat on some of your internal parts, and they could snap like that. Like each part is hardened in the gun, and if they miss that mark and or you get a part that's out of tolerance, like the only way to find that out is they're using it. And don't put it into operation until you know that yours works.

00;37;35;15 - 00;37;38;26

David Blanton

So please, please, please do that.

00;37;38;28 - 00;37;55;16

Stephen Gutowski

Yes. Absolutely. All right. Well, look, I appreciate you coming on the show and giving us your perspective on this and letting us know what your 2025 is like. And, you know, just discussing the industry a bit, where can people find more,

from you if they want to do that?

00:37:55;19 - 00:38:25;29

David Blanton

So the best place to find me or I mean, the where you can see my videos is YouTube. Youtube.com. Slash the Humble Marksman, is my main page, but I'm on Instagram as the humble marksman, and I'm actually also building an X presence. It's the humble marksman, but marksman has no A's in it, so you can follow me there as well, because I think the probably X is the the platform we should be concentrating our, attention on here in the short term because the, the censorship on the other big socials is, it's a real thing.

00:38:26;02 - 00:38:27;18

David Blanton

So.

00:38:27;20 - 00:38:49;09

Stephen Gutowski

All right. Great. Well, thank you so much again for being, here with us.