

# Concealed Carry Handguns - 2010 Carry Techniques

**MASSAD AYOUB: STATE BY STATE GUN LAWS—2010 EDITION**

HARRIS OUTDOOR GROUP PRESENTS #70

# CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUNS

**EXPERT'S GUIDE TO PERSONAL DEFENSE**

2010

Tactics Proven Under Fire

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**CONCEALED CARRY**

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.40 S&W



Ruger LCR .38 Spl w/P  
with CTC Lasergrips



Magnum Research  
Micro-Desert Eagle  
.380 ACP

### 1911 THREE-GUN CARRY



Display Until Feb. 1, 2010

# HIDING THE HIDEOUTS

**Concealing pocket powerhouses with the right holsters on the ankle, shoulder, waist and more!**

By **Jerry Ahern**

Photos by Sharon Ahern

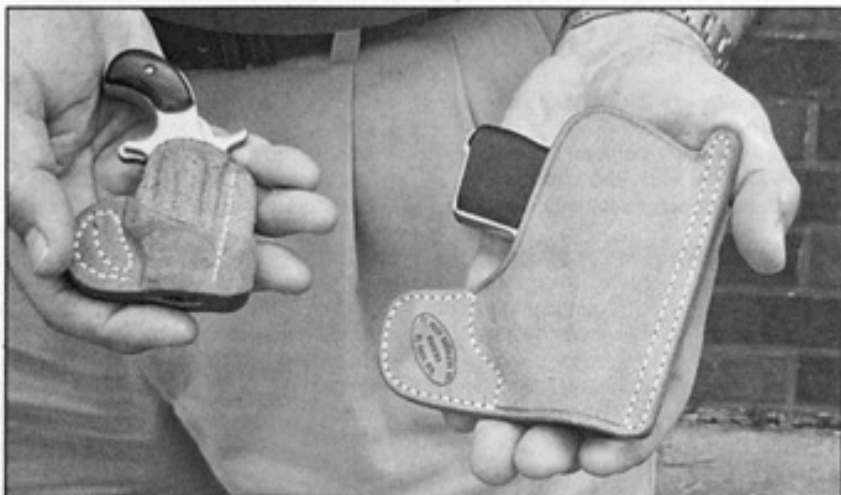
**W**hether carried by themselves or as backup to larger, more powerful handguns, the hideout guns (even though they are smaller than their full-size counterparts) still require skill and preparation for effective concealment. It must be noted that there are hideout handguns and there are handguns, which can be easily hidden. Let's use the terms "pocket pistols" and "vest pocket pistols" to distinguish between them. The old Remington derringer, which was originally released in 1866 and only dropped from production in 1935, was actually vest pocket size. The Walther PPK and semi-automatics of its general diminutive size are bigger and are not vest pocket size.

For the typical person who wishes to hide a hideout handgun, there is an array of choices better than ever before. Not too many people wear a vest on a regular basis these days so "vest" pocket pistols have become trouser pocket pistols for most of us. Carrying a handgun loose in the pocket without a holster is not a great idea. The firearm's orientation in the pocket can and will shift, and more than likely pick up dirt and lint and drawing the weapon is less reliable.

## Pocket Holsters

There are two general categories of pocket holsters, namely those for the front pocket and those for the hip pocket. Hip pocket carry presents a slightly greater risk of the weapon being noticed and absolutely demands a holster. The successful hip pocket holster should be reasonably stiff leather (at least a 5.5 to 6-ounce) and will be flat on one side, molded on the other. The molded side actually holds the pistol. The purpose of the flat side, worn facing outward is to mask shape. If built properly, the holster will give the appearance of a wallet in the pocket. If carrying in the hip pocket without a holster, almost anyone will recognize the presence of a gun.

Properly constructed hip pocket holsters are designed for a twist draw. The gun is positioned butt facing away from the body, the slide (hip pocket holsters



A Mini Revolver in a Pocket Natural and in author's left hand, an El Paso horsehide pocket holster with a Seecamp in the author's right hand.



One side of a hip pocket holster is flat and smooth... while the actual holster portion can be as detailed as one wishes, the gun a Guardian .32 ACP.



The CovertCarrier allows secure IWB carry of this Seecamp...without a holster. If wearing black slacks and a black belt, you would never spot the gun.



**Galco Gunleather's Pocket Protector holster for a snubbie revolver.**



**Ahern holds the crotch holster as it would be positioned inside his pants.**

just don't work with a revolver) facing toward body center. When you draw the gun, you slide your gun hand between your butt and the gun's butt, your hand-oriented palm outward. The gun is positioned upward, then twisted into standard presentation position before the gun hand arcs forward. Be mindful of the possibility of premature trigger manipulation precipitating an accidental or negligent discharge, resulting in shooting yourself.

Hip pocket holsters work well worn in the offside interior breast pocket of a sport coat or bomber jacket. They can also work well on the gun hand side of outerwear such as overcoats, etc. Given the proper positioning, they can make satisfactory purse holsters for women.

Something more versatile and comfortable are the front pocket holsters. With a front pocket holster (some may consider the front pocket a "side" pocket), one can carry a much wider range of handgun sizes. A well-designed front pocket holster, when the wearer properly practices their draw, will stay in the pocket when the gun leaves it. Some holsters are designed with hook-like appendages, others use fabric that has a "tacky" feel to it and clings to pocket liners. Still, the prudent pocket holster wearer will develop a draw technique. One common method involves using the thumb and trigger finger to push the holster off the gun as the remaining fingers pull the gun from the holster.

#### **IWB Holsters**

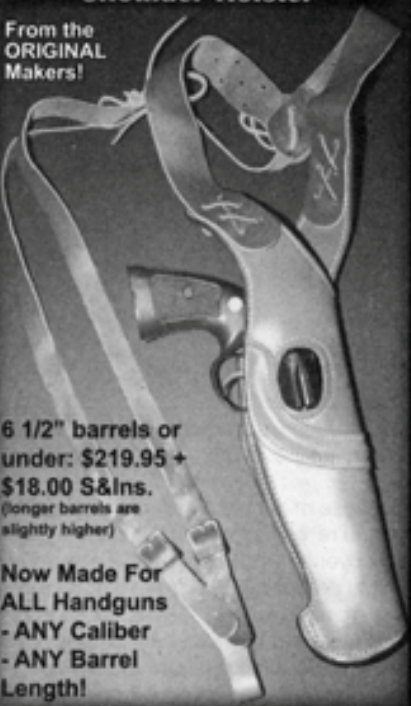
IWB (inside-the-waistband) holsters are frequently used with the smaller guns but this practice defeats the whole



**(1) Author begins the draw from the Null Vam. (2) He grasps the gun. (3) The gun is clear. (4) The gun is on target.**

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*DeSantis front pocket holster for the Guardian .380 ACP.*

purpose of such a small gun to begin with. If you're going to go through the trouble of covering up a holster at the waist, you might as well carry a larger handgun. There are means for waistband carry that do not require a holster at all. The marvelous Barami Hip-Grip replaces the factory grips on a revolver and the hook or shelf on the right panel prevents the revolver from sliding out of your waistband and down your trouser leg. It works wonderfully, costs next to nothing and wears like iron. I used the same pair on a snubby revolver for close to 20 years.

If a revolver isn't to your taste, the CovertCarrier allows holsterless waistband carry of certain semi-autos. The CovertCarrier for the Seecamp is integral to a replacement right grip panel, an exact physical and cosmetic duplicate for the original. When the CovertCarrier is worn with dark slacks and a dark belt, the gun is carried so low that it would be tough to spot.

If holstered carry on the belt were your preference, I'd recommend going to a larger handgun. But for certain applications, such as driving or being seated, the pocket carry systems are difficult or close to impossible to use. For these times, a crossdraw carry is the best choice. For this, I recommend a driving holster that will also work when you are up and walking around, many won't.



*Author draws from a Galco Gunleather Ankle Glove holster. (Right) Author wearing the Galco ankle holster on his left ankle but you can't see it.*



*A unique Null ankle rig for a Glock Model 26 and Model 27 with a pouch in the rear for a hidden handcuff key.*



*Kydex can work well for pocket holsters, like this one from Grandfather Oak for a Guardian .380 ACP.*



*The Null Vam with a 2" S&W J-frame.*

The Null Vam is my favorite holster for this application with a J-frame S&W. It is fast and reliable, but not the most concealable holster, but it will conceal.

### Unique Carry Methods

If you might need to carry multiple weapons, you might want to consider Blackie Collins Toters, a unique product. These are nicely crafted American-made blue jeans that fit great and have a multiplicity of pockets for secreting weapons on body. Even without a bunch of weapons, they're comfortable pants.

Shoulder holsters for such small guns are generally overkill, more holster than gun. When that occurs, you're probably doing something wrong. If you're going to conceal a handgun in a shoulder rig, certainly nothing smaller than a J-frame S&W or a true medium frame auto should be considered. Carrying a .25 ACP, Seecamp or Guardian in a shoulder holster makes no sense for most people. By the same token, given an odd set of circumstances, it might be a lifesaving carry.

To the best of my knowledge, very few holster makers still produce a crotch hol-



*(Left) Another DeSantis pocket holster, this one with a built in masking pad. (Center) Exposing the gun and holster, the gun a Guardian .32 ACP. (Right) The masking pad is removable.*