

ROL FOR NDPs & CBAs²¹

read the accident reports. (Or read as many as it takes before you finally get the picture, and admit the truth – the Glock is a leg-shooting gun, a fool-facilitator.)

Jeff Cooper called the Double Action Auto “an ingenious solution to a non-existent problem.” I disagree, because I think Cooper mis-perceived the problem. The problem was presented to him by the advocates of Double Action Autos as “accidental shootings from dropped guns.” That happens so rarely that it is practically non-existent, as Cooper said. The real problem, though, is “accidental shootings from Rule-Three violations,” specifically, “NDPs who put their fingers on the triggers despite all their training.” The Walther P38 and all its progeny (SIG, Beretta, H&K, etc.) mitigated that problem, but in exchange for other problems. Remember, a military pistol should be easy for an NDP to hit stuff with. Most DA/SA pistols have an on/off switch, what Cooper called a “dingus” – some sort of lever that needs to be operated before the pistol can be fired. In a hurry, under stress, NDPs often forget to operate the dingus. Even if they don’t forget, the dingus usually is placed on the slide, where it

requires changing the firing grip to operate, thus slowing the operation down just when it needs to be speeded up.

Pistols that are DA for the first shot, and SA for subsequent shots, are the hardest pistols to shoot well, especially for NDPs. Any Enthusiast can identify a target shot by an NDP with a DA/SA pistol: one group low left from the DA shots, another group above and to the right from subsequent SA shots. Also, DA/SA pistols still have the original problem of finger-on-the-trigger after that first shot. Private Numbnuts shoots the pistol, then as the smoke clears, he lets another one go accidentally, into the ground, or into something or somebody he really did not want to shoot. Or, he (or she) tries to put the pistol back in the holster, forgetting about the extra step of dropping the hammer with the dingus. Leg shot. NDPs don’t need extra steps.

I really like the S&W M&P. If I were not so invested in the 1911 platform – if I were just starting into shooting today – that would be my choice – for Enthusiasts, not for NDPs. Because some M&Ps still have a safety that you need to remember to disengage to start shooting, and that you need to remember to re-engage when you are done shooting. Extra buttons are bad. Private Jessica is going to need her pistol to save her life some day, and she is going to forget to disengage the safety and get killed. Or she will remember

to disengage the safety, shoot and save her life, then forget to re-engage it, and shoot herself or Private Numbnuts as she moves across the room or tries to reload.

What then?

Thank you for asking.

The right pistol for the Army is a double-action only autopistol, with no manual safety. I repeat, the point is not that the trigger be particularly heavy, but that it be long. The NDP needs something to remind him or her that the finger is on the trigger. Resistance and movement from a DA trigger is a better reminder than a bang and a hole with blood seeping out. A long revolver-like trigger pull, the same for each shot, is much more forgiving of Rule Three violations than a short trigger pull. With DA-only, there is no thumb safety to remember; there is no hammer-dropper to remember. Fewer levers is a good thing.

Furthermore, DA-only guns are easy to hit with. NDPs can use them efficiently, yet they are no impediment to experts (witness the PPC/Bianchi Cup folks). DA-only autos are even easier to hit with than DA revolvers, because there are no

“hitches” in the trigger pull.

The weight of trigger pull in a double-action revolver changes along the way, as the mechanism cocks the hammer and advances the cylinder. DA-only autos are straight through, same weight of pull all the way, and thus smoother.

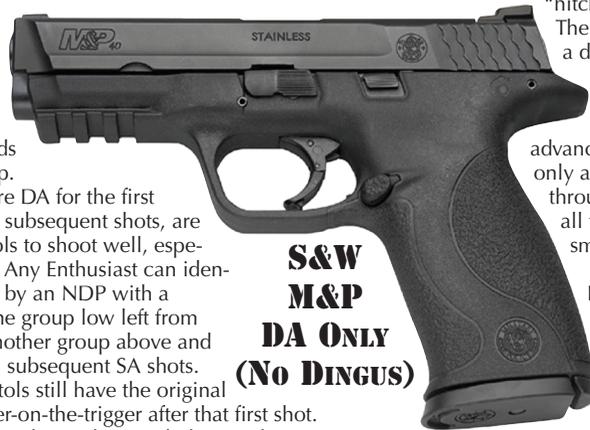
The best trigger-action I have seen so far is the SIG DAK system. I have two (229 and 239).

There are other things about SIGs I don’t like (the axis of recoil is too high above the hand,

for example), but the trigger system is ideal. It’s long enough to prevent or at least greatly minimize Glock Leg; it’s smooth and easy to shoot and hit with, for both NDPs and CBAs. No safety, no hammer-dropper. Pull the trigger; that’s it.

My recommendation for a military pistol: A S&W M&P DAO with a SIG DAK trigger and no external safeties.

It doesn’t matter what I think, anyway. Nobody at the Pentagon cares what I think. Besides, everybody knows the contract is going to the company that promises to hire union workers in the district of the Congressman who has the juice on the selection committee. Completely by coincidence, and totally unrelated, that union will make a substantial donation to that Congressman’s campaign fund.



**S&W
M&P
DA ONLY
(No DINGUS)**