



Lady Hawks

Prepared for Anything Out There.....

Gear Recommendations:

Over the last 40 years or so I've been involved in the shooting world, I've been consistently dismayed by the lack of readily available **quality** gear. The truth is that most gun stores are not run or staffed by dedicated shooters. They are in the business of selling easily obtained gear that works "ok". This leads to a lot of compromise and frustration by customers. If you can find good gear at local outlets, buy it. I want every gun store to prosper. With this said, here are some suggestions to get "geared-up" right.

Gear Basics:

Holsters: Every handgun that will be carried about needs at least one, if not two (or more), holster(s). Your first holster should be conducive to training with your weapon. This means that it is comfortable to wear, easy to use and easy to return the handgun to. Deep concealment holsters rarely fit this need.

Holster One: General Range holster. Worn on the outside of the belt. Polymer (Kydex) or well fit leather. Made specifically for your gun.



(Holsters, continued)

You can buy one of these type of holsters for \$25-\$50.

I recommend products from Whole Guns (above left) (Wholeguns.com – [Whole Guns](http://WholeGuns.com)). These holsters run around \$25.00 and the quality is first rate. Many similar holsters can be found on Ebay. Make sure the holster completely covers trigger guard and the muzzle (end of the slide/barrel).

Concealment Holsters: Inside the waistband holsters are the most concealable, but can be uncomfortable. I recommend a pancake type holster (above right) over an inside-the-waistband (IWB) holster.

Finally: Keep the holster **simple**. The holster should **not** include a place to keep an extra magazine, flashlight etc.

Magazine / Speedloader holder(s): You need a magazine/speedloader holder that attaches to your belt and that you access with your off hand for semi-autos and your gun hand for revolvers. Cost should be around \$20.00. Again, these are often available on Ebay or from the maker of your holster. Here are two examples:



Belt: You absolutely need a sturdy belt. Preferably one that is a double thickness of material and one that you can cinch down snugly to keep the gun from flopping around. One of the best designs is in a “instructor / wilderness belt”. Make sure you get one that is a size or two bigger than you think you need (1 ¼” wide is usually best). Cost should be around \$30.00. Companies like “Uncle Mike’s” make excellent versions. Here is an example:



Shooting Glasses: Prescription Glasses, especially Bifocals, are not the best choices for range glasses. Safety glasses, especially with amber or tinted lenses are a great choice. You can also now buy safety glasses with full lens magnification for around \$18.00 from places like Amazon. Be sure to specify “full lens” when you select these. I use 2.0 magnification and I can see my sights crystal clear.



Hearing Protection:

I strongly recommend electronic hearing protection in the form of ear muffs. You want these to cover at least 26 decibels (look for a 26 Db rating). Brands like Peltor, Howard and Walker are excellent. You can get these from Amazon, Ebay or many sporting goods stores in your area. Cost for reasonably good ones run from \$30-\$1000. I have great luck finding new ones on Ebay.



Extras:

Gear Bag: A gear bag for your range stuff is really handy. Buy one that is sturdy and preferably made for range use (with handgun storage)



Cleaning / Lubrication: You should have a small bottle of oil (like Breakfree or a Lucas Oil) in your gear bag. Basic cleaning supplies are also important, but the lube is the big thing you need at the range. A small towel

should also be handy. Things like a screw driver (the kind with reversible tips work best) and an Allen wrench tool are very useful.



Shot Timer: A shot timer emits a “beep” or beeps, captures the times of the shots fired, and allows you to practice techniques under time pressure. You can set it for any interval you wish (like you want to have a three second pause between the beeps to practice your draws etc.). The great news is that now there are several that can be added as an “app” for your smart phone, tablet etc. **These are absolutely FREE.** I use one called “Dry Fire” designed by Daring and Young. It’s a Google App from the App store. Super user friendly.

You can also buy a dedicated shot timer from companies like **Competition Electronics, PACT and Competitive Edge Dynamics.** Cost is around \$150.00. I’d go with the free app unless you are ready to go all in on one of these.

