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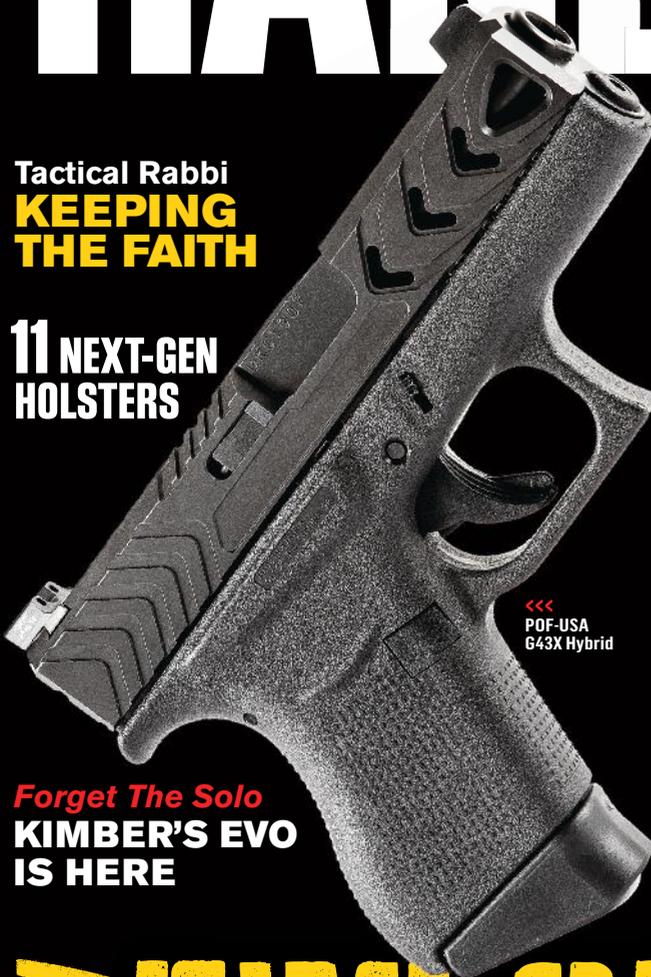
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CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUNS™

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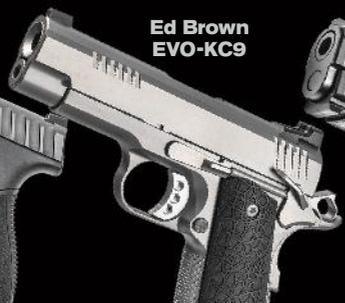
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# KAHR TURNS 25

AND IT'S CELEBRATING  
ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY  
WITH A SPECIAL **K9**

BY MIKE DETTY • ALEX LANDEEN PHOTO

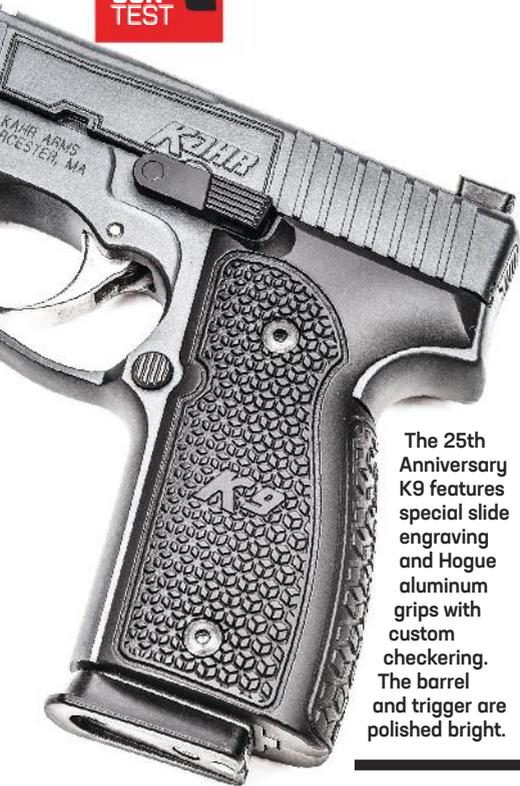
**IN** 1994, I had been a gun writer for less than two years and had published less than a dozen articles. But I saw something at the SHOT Show in Dallas that would shape the future of concealed carry in a huge way. With the passage of the Brady Law and the Crime Bill looming (signed into law on September 13, 1994), the show was busy with dealers trying to get guns before they'd be outlawed. Sales for the moment were brisk, but no one knew what the future held. For the next 10 years or forever, as far as we knew, magazines would be limited to 10 rounds. My gloomy outlook brightened for a moment when I found a single booth in the basement of the Dallas Convention Center.





KAHR ARMS  
WORCESTER, MA

KAHR



The 25th Anniversary K9 features special slide engraving and Hogue aluminum grips with custom checkering. The barrel and trigger are polished bright.



I picked up what I thought was a .380 ACP semi-auto based on its petite size, and it had excellent ergonomic features and an effortless striker-fired trigger. It wasn't until I turned the gun over in my hand and saw the "9x19" stamping on the breech block that I understood what this new gun really was.

"What do you think?" asked Justin Moon, then-president of Kahr Arms. He smiled while I admired his brand-new creation. It was a trim and flat striker-fired 9mm that was much sleeker than the Star Firestar I'd been using as a concealed-carry handgun. Moon went on to explain that he liked the flatness of his Glock but didn't care for the trigger, much preferring the that of his Sig P220. So, using a bit of selective breeding while

introducing some of his own well-thought-out engineering, Moon produced the K9, a gun that I considered "best in show."

► **NEW BREED**

While the original pistol possessed six different patents, perhaps two of the most important are the gun's offset recoil lug and Moon's "Safe-Cam" trigger action. Like me, Moon disliked how high Sig pistols sit in the hand. Placing the wrist closer to the bore's axis results in less muzzle flip and better control. To achieve this, Moon's design uses an off-

set recoil lug on the bottom of the barrel. Like many locked-breech designs, the barrel also uses a kidney-shaped cam that the slide stop goes through to pull the rear of the barrel down and unlock it after a round has been fired. The offset lug allows the trigger action to ride next to the lug instead of under it, and that dramatically reduces the gun's height and places the shooter's hand more in line with the bore's axis.

The Safe-Cam trigger action was another trendsetting innovation. Machined from tool steel and heat treated, the patented cam has twin lobes. When pressure is applied to the trigger, one depresses the mechanical striker block, which prevents inertial discharges, while the other lobe draws the striker back and releases it. This makes it physically impossible for the gun to fire if it is dropped, and the gun can only be fired if the trigger is pulled. The gun also has a consistent pull from first shot to last, and the trigger doesn't stack at all before the

■ **SPECIFICATIONS**

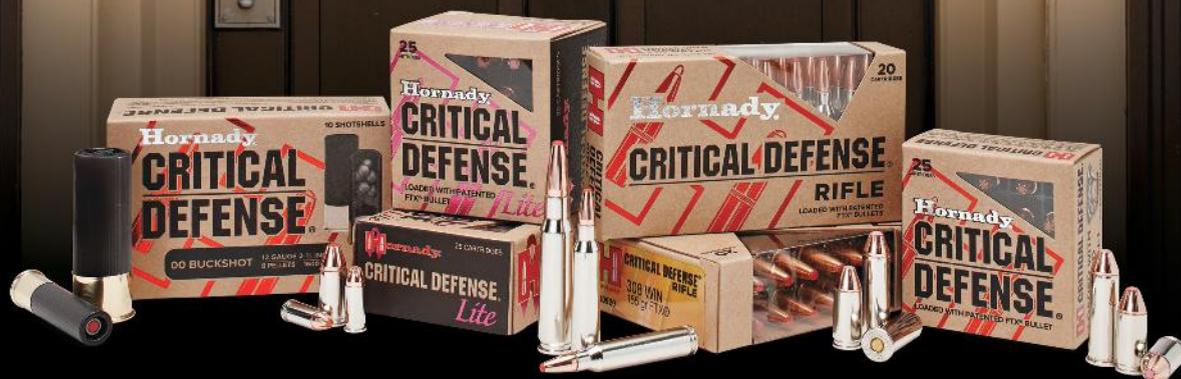
**KAHR 25TH ANNIVERSARY K9**

**CALIBER:** 9mm / **BARREL:** 3.5 inches / **OA LENGTH:** 6 inches / **WEIGHT:** 25 ounces (empty)

**GRIP:** Hogue aluminum / **SIGHTS:** TruGlu Tritium Pro / **ACTION:** Striker-fired

**FINISH:** Sniper Gray Cerakote / **CAPACITY:** 7+1 / **MSRP:** \$1,649





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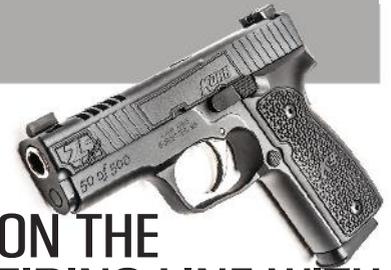
shot breaks. It is this smooth, consistent pull that makes Kahr pistols so easy to shoot accurately.

Prior to the K9, shooters often had to step down in caliber to carry smaller semi-autos. For me, this meant carrying a Walther PP, Seecamp or North American Arms Guardian in .32 ACP 25 years ago. I haven't used any of those guns since I was introduced to the Kahr K9. And yet I think the K9 also marks the beginning of the push for lighter, more compact concealed-carry pistols. The wide selection of 9mm subcompacts we now enjoy can all trace their roots back to this pup!

At the time of its introduction, the only real criticism of the all-steel K9 was its weight. This motivated Moon to introduce polymer-framed handguns. The P9 is basically the K9 with a polymer frame, and it gives the user all of the same features while being half a pound lighter. Speaking of polymer-framed guns, one of my all-time favorite Kahrs is my PM9, a gun that weighs just around a pound and carries either 6+1 or 7+1 rounds of 9mm ammo depending on which magazine I use. The PM9's tiny dimensions make it easy to carry in just about any attire as well. Nonetheless, even though Kahr has introduced bigger and smaller guns than the K9, they all share its common features and assets. That's why, to celebrate its 25th anniversary, the company has released a limited-edition K9.

► **SPECIAL EDITION**

Only 500 of the 25th Anniversary guns will be released, and each gun is individually numbered. The slide features front and rear cocking serrations, a special "25 Years" logo and dramatic lightening cuts. The barrel and trigger are polished bright while the stainless steel slide and frame wear an attractive Sniper Gray Cerakote finish. Hogue machines the aluminum grips that bear the Kahr logo. Overall, it's an attractive gun built with the same care and attention to detail as the first guns Kahr made a quarter-century ago.



ON THE FIRING LINE WITH **JUSTIN MOON**

■ **WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO DESIGN THE K9?**

When I developed the K9, there really wasn't a small 9mm out there. Everybody was talking about going down in power from the 9mm to find a gun that was truly concealable. There certainly wasn't a .380 pistol available with the 9mm's power. I wanted a gun with more power without having to step down for the sake of concealability.

■ **WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE K9 THAT MAKES IT STILL RELEVANT 25 YEARS LATER?**

The offset recoil lug was pretty significant in terms of getting a slimmer profile in the middle of the gun, where the trigger and locking lug overlap. That allowed us to get very good recoil geometry and a very low profile in terms of the bore axis being in line with the wrist. That was really a good innovation. I think a lot

of other people looked at my design and studied it, and almost every iteration of small pistol out there has borrowed from it. We're quite flattered that people have used the Kahr as inspiration to develop a whole new class of pistols that didn't exist before the K9.

There were six patents on the original K9, and of course they are now expired. If you look at the current crop of pistols, like the S&W Shield or the Sig P365, they really don't shoot any more accurately or function any better than our original K9. I think we did a good job with the original K9, and we've maintained a good following!

■ **HAVE YOU MADE ANY SIGNIFICANT DESIGN CHANGES SINCE THEN?**

Over the years, we've scaled up the design for the .40 S&W and .45 ACP, and scaled it down for the .380 ACP.

But overall, the design remains relatively consistent in terms of geometry and function. We've experimented with shorter triggers and resets, and all we did was come up with another Glock trigger. We like the safety aspect of the long, deliberate trigger pull. I think the K9 will always appeal to people who want a double-action-only CCW with a consistent trigger pull.

■ **WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE COMPANY?**

Well, you know Kahr makes a lot of handguns other than the K9. Right now, most of our growth is in the Desert Eagle line of guns and the BFR revolvers manufactured by our Magnum Research brand. Our Auto-Ordnance line of M1 Carbines, Tommy Guns and 1911s is also doing very well. We have some very interesting updates coming in terms of Kahr's CCW pistols, too, so stay tuned!