

HANDGUNNING



THE WEARING OF THE GREEN

Two CCW holstermakers have made the discreet packing of a Viridian C5-mounted pistol a reality.

WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT IN THE house, the obvious thing to do is get some light. In handgunning, that vital light often means a laser. The problem? Handgun and laser are often kept separate. Sure, there are holsters that allow you to pack a handgun with a laser attached, but they've traditionally been duty holsters. Try to pack a laser-mounted handgun in a duty holster, concealed, and it'll look as if you've developed a rather alarming growth.

Viridian has unveiled its C5 Series in conjunction with holsters to fit it. The C5 lasers are small enough to be unobtrusive, and the holsters that will let you pack them will—as opposed to a duty holster—go unnoticed.

The C5 is Viridian's green laser (in case you hadn't noticed, the company is big on green, and for good reason). It's the only subcompact green laser to be had. Green shows up better; your eyes are built for green. Your digital camera, for example, uses an array of four blocks of color, and two of the four are green, because

the human eye *sees* more green. So a green laser works better in situations where red lasers sometimes fade out.

There are two holsters for the C5—the Tacloc and a Galco IWB. Both are Viridian-specific.

To test them, I dragged a Springfield XDm Compact workhorse out of the safe and hauled it off to the range. The XDm is a test gun on long-term loan from Springfield for just such situations. At the range I installed the Viridian C5 on the gun (piece of cake), then test-fired the combo and wore it while working with other firearms. The Tacloc is a Viridian-made holster that holds in the pistol with a latch that fastens onto the trigger-guard like a frustrated salesman to a likely prospect.

On the draw, you use your straight trigger finger to stroke the lever and unlatch

COOPERISMS

⊕ “This proliferation of reduced-size .45 autos is an interesting development. There are those who insist that increased recoil, which must be an aspect of miniaturization, is a step backward. I used to think so at one time, but no longer. The essential element of a defensive handgun (apart from reliability) is convenient portability. A defensive pistol situation is normally experienced at arm's length, or a little farther. You do not have to shoot tight groups if your adversary threatens you across the room, but you do have to hit him hard—hard enough to stop the fight immediately. We cannot expect 100 percent perfection in this regard, but with the .45 ACP cartridge in its military version, we will achieve what we want about nine times out of ten.”—Jeff Cooper, *September 2002*



BIRCHWOOD
CASEY



The target with more lives than a cat.

Only Birchwood Casey® Shoot•N•C® targets bounce back from bullets. Self-adhesive backing makes them easy to put up. Hits explode in color you can see downrange. Then, stick our repair pasters over the holes and do it again. For a free sample or catalog visit birchwoodcasey.com or call 1-800-328-6156.



Shoot•N•C®
Targets

→ HANDGUNNING



Please leave the light on: The Viridian C5 green laser is compact enough to ride full-time on the XDm compact.

it from the triggerguard. The trick here is to keep your finger straight, and it will swipe the lever open. If you try to curl your finger to stab at the lever, as often as not you'll miss and your draw will consist of self-administering a wedgie.

The Galco IWB is simplicity itself. The friction of the holster (adjustable by means of a Chicago fastener in the holster, right behind the triggerguard) combines with the clamping action of your belt to keep the gun secure. If you need more security, tighten the screw on the fastener, *not* your belt. Tightening your belt simply causes increased blood pressure and an inability to breathe deeply.

In test-firing the C5, I had no problems, nor had I expected any. The evolution of

handgun-mounted lasers is well enough along that we can safely count on them working as-designed. While occasionally you might have to wipe powder residue off the front lens, mere recoil isn't going to make a modern laser unit stop working.

Mainly, I worked around with carry comfort and draw practice. The first thing you have to learn about concealed carry is the "concealed" part of the equation. While there may be times and places where flashing might be shrugged off, in many places it can get you considerably more than a visit to the principal's office. For that, the Galco shines. Tuck it inside your waistband (that's what the "IWB" means) behind your cellphone, and it is likely to pass



The Kydex Tacloc rig employs a latch to hold on to the triggerguard for security.

PURSUIT™ ULTRA LIGHT

TRADITIONS' LIGHTEST
MUZZLELOADER EVER.

At only 5.15 lbs, the NEW Pursuit™ Ultralight from Traditions is by far the lightest muzzleloader in the world. With a new Ultralight tapered barrel, Premium CeraKote™ finish, LT-1 Alloy Frame and award-winning Accelerator Breech Plug, the Pursuit Ultralight delivers full-featured performance at a cost that's sure to hit the mark.



.50 Cal /
MO Treestand™ Camo*

PROVEN ACCURATE BEYOND 200 YDS



PREMIUM
CERAKOTE™

AFTER 3500 SIMULATED HOURS
OF EXPOSURE TO EXTREME
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Pursuit Ultralight
Barrel with
Premium CeraKote™

Stainless Steel
Barrel without
Premium CeraKote™



Accelerator
Breech Plug



Lightweight
LT-1 Alloy Frame



Speed Load System



Traditions™
PERFORMANCE FIREARMS

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE.

Visit your local dealer or TraditionsFirearms.com to learn more.



Find us on
Facebook

*Scopes sold separately

HANDGUNNING



The Galco IWB clips on to your belt and holds the laser-mounted XDM snugly as well as unobtrusively.

unnoticed until you need it.

As with all IWB holsters, you should wear trousers bigger than your actual waist size to give the pistol some room. I found that the small added bulk of the laser presented no problem in sticking with my normal waist-size/carry formula. On the draw, the laser unit presented no difficulties with my hands, belt or cell phone.

On the lift, I was clearing my cell phone enough so that the laser (which isn't even flush with the muzzle anyway) wasn't a hindrance. But what *does* take a bit of transition work is learning how to get to the laser's On switch as quickly as possible.

The Tacloc is a larger thing to conceal, as it goes outside your belt, not inside. This requires a more thought-out jacket choice. However, as a sometimes-concealed/sometimes-not holster, it rocks. As a carry holster back in my gunshop days, and for the drive home and walk into the house, it'd be great. And a jacket would have covered it just fine.

On the draw, the latch was no big deal to press and allow drawing. The holster alone has enough friction to keep the pistol in place. Not that I do handstands anymore, but if I did, I have no doubt the Tacloc would keep the XDM in place, even without the latch.

For those who believe in lasers (I'm still working my way there), there is no need to have gun and laser separated. Kudos to Viridian and Galco for teaming up and to Viridian for coming up with a comfortable and concealable way to pack its C5 unit in a Kydex rig. GA

FREE PADS *plus* FREE PILLARS ON 700 BDLs

HERE'S JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE STOCK THUMBHOLES FOR
Rem 700 ADL/BDL/SPS - Weatherby Mk V / Vanguard - Ruger 77 MkII - Savage 10/110
Winchester Model 70 - Mauser Mark X - T/C Encore - Ruger Mini 14/30/1022 - Rem 7600



Bobby Hart Laminated Target / Tactical
FREE Decelerator® Pad - Exclusive Vertical Grip Design
FREE Aluminum Pillars in Remington 700 BDL Models



Long Range Sporter Thumbhole (Varmint Available)
FREE Decelerator® Pad - Precision Thumbhole Design
FREE Aluminum Pillars in Remington 700 BDL Models

Remington
Factory Installed
Aluminum
Bedding Pillars
WHILE THEY LAST!

Stocky's
Phone (561) 584-8500
America's Gunstock Specialist!



NewRifleStocks.com