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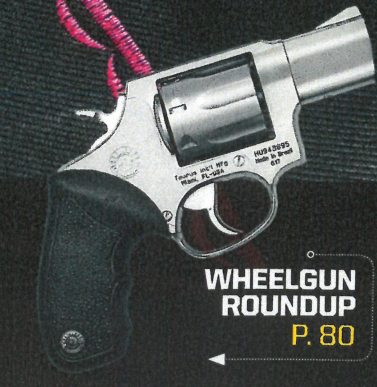
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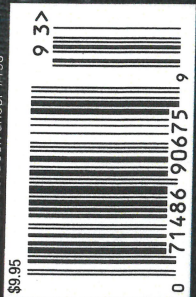
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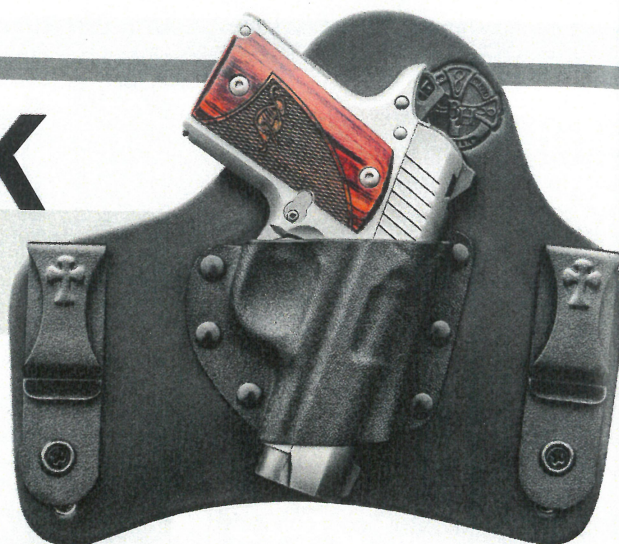
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SUPERTUCK DELUXE

CrossBreed combines Kydex and leather for the ultimate in IWB carry.

BY T. LOGAN METESH



FINDING THE RIGHT HOLSTER can be as difficult as picking the right gun—if not more difficult. Most gun owners have several holsters that didn't make the cut.

This can be an expensive trial-and-error process, but if you've decided that a hybrid inside-the-waistband (IWB) rig is the way to go, I can save you time and money by recommending the SuperTuck Deluxe from CrossBreed Holsters.

The SuperTuck Deluxe combines the form-fitted shell of a Kydex holster with a traditional leather holster backing. High-end leather holsters tend to have a well-shaped pocket for your gun, but the thermoplastic Kydex provides a degree of fitting leather cannot match. But, although Kydex provides a better fit than leather, it's a hard plastic that can be uncomfortable when worn during IWB carry. With a leather backing, the SuperTuck Deluxe keeps the Kydex away from your skin. Plus, the rigidity of the Kydex allows for easier reholstering than you can achieve with leather in an IWB position.

The holster is held in place by two powder-coated steel belt clips that are incredibly durable. CrossBreed calls them SnapLok clips, and I'd say that term is accurate. The clips are modular, so you can adjust the rig's cant and ride height. I moved mine to provide deeper concealment. The clips also have only one contact point with the holster. This provides the "tuck" portion of the SuperTuck. You can tuck your shirt in front of your gun and behind the clips to provide the best concealment. Drawing from concealment is as easy as pulling your shirt to untuck it and revealing the gun, then drawing like you would typically do.

Make It Your Own

The SuperTuck Deluxe also offers a lot of customization. Without customization, the holster costs \$69.75. If you'd rather not have the standard clips, you can substitute them for J-hooks, which ride behind the belt and use J-shaped lips to prevent the holster

from coming out when you draw your gun. If you wear a Velcro-backed tactical belt, you can get V-hooks, which are designed to work with Velcro belts. The J- and V-hooks are \$10 options.

You can also customize the leather. The standard option, which I chose, is hand-dyed black cowhide. You can upgrade to premium cowhide, which provides a better degree of moisture resistance. Horsehide, which is tighter-grained leather, is another option that offers even better moisture resistance. These upgrades can be had for \$10 and \$15, respectively.

After you choose your leather, you can also choose your cut. The standard cut provides a bit more leather protection between you and the slide and grip of the gun, but it sacrifices a bit of speed when drawing the gun. You can opt for the combat cut, which removes some of the leather from the slide and grip area of the gun to facilitate a better grip during the draw. That costs an additional \$7.50 because each cut is specific to the model of the gun.

Discreet Carry

Although the holster looks like a big monstrosity that would be difficult and uncomfortable to conceal in your pants, I found it to be the opposite. I got one designed for the Glock 19, and it practically disappeared when I put it on. The added width of the holster helps distribute the weight of the gun, making it more comfortable to wear. I've tried other IWB holsters that are basically just a leather or Kydex shell and a hook, and I find them to be uncomfortable. The extra width of the SuperTuck Deluxe's leather backer also adds to the comfort. Because the leather flexes, the holster fits your body.

Within two days of wearing mine, I saw the leather was already taking on my shape, and I noticed that it got more comfortable the more I wore it. In fact, I took a nap and even went horseback riding with this holster on—something I could never do with others. That brings me back to the standard

cut versus the combat cut. I opted for the standard cut, per CrossBreed's advice. That means some of the leather comes up above the top of the slide. As the leather formed to my body, that uppermost portion started to fold down over the slide. It's not a big deal, but I think I'll attempt my own homemade version of a combat cut at some point.

Molded By Hand

CrossBreed says each holster is hand-molded to fit your firearm. However, that's the area I found lacking on the holster I received. A good holster is supposed to retain your gun. I have an outside-the-waistband (OWB) Kydex holster that was also hand-molded, and the fit is impeccable. I can turn the holster upside down and the gun stays put. Unfortunately, that was not the case with my SuperTuck Deluxe. When I'm wearing the holster, the tension from my waistband and belt help keep the gun in place. When I'm not wearing the holster, there's almost no retention to the holster. Forget turning it upside down—a 45-degree angle is all it took for my gun to slide out.

Luckily, Kydex is easy to manipulate when you add heat. I took a heat gun to the trigger-guard area of the Kydex shell and worked it so it provides more contact and resistance on the gun. After I did that, the SuperTuck Deluxe had a retention level comparable to my OWB Kydex holster. Was this a big deal? No, but I didn't expect to have to modify a new holster that was hand-molded to my firearm.

Ultimately, when the rubber meets the road (or, in this case, the leather meets the Kydex), I love the CrossBreed SuperTuck Deluxe. It's by far the most comfortable holster I've ever had. Folks say carrying a gun is comforting, not comfortable. I agree, but you're a lot more likely to carry if it's comfortable, too. CrossBreed offers a two-week trial period and a lifetime warranty for as long as you own the holster. With a guarantee like that on the SuperTuck Deluxe, there's no excuse not to carry. For more information, call 888-732-5011 or visit crossbreedholsters.com.