



THE .22 SURVIVAL PISTOL

by Paul “Many Rifles” Laster

Growing up, my Old Man had an old Iver-Johnson Model 55A .22 revolver that always seemed to be there on our outdoor adventures. The lore is that it came from his dad, who originally got it from his dad, who used it as his walking around the farm gun, but that may be just the romanticized version of the story. In either case, it taught me early about the value of having a good .22 pistol in your woods kit, and that lesson has stuck with me ever since.

The classic survival manual, *Six Ways In & Twelve Ways Out*, describes the authors choice

for an all-around survival gun, and his go-to is a “heavy barrel, match grade .22 caliber pistol,” with a red-dot scope and mounted flashlight. He goes onto describe all manner of game taken with these pistols and the list is exhaustive. Specific reference is made to Ruger, and Smith & Wesson models citing reliability as being of supreme importance.

Unlike a rifle, shotgun, or a carbine, the size of a .22 pistol means it’s a piece of survival equipment that’s easy to carry along with you on the trail. The lighter recoil of a .22 helps the user get a sure shot