

Podcast #197 Transcription: The TRUTH About “Ghost Guns”

Jeff Anderson: Ghost guns. One of the biggest trends in the firearms world today is the concept of actually building your own weapon. Let's say an AR-15 that's 100 percent invisible to the government in knowing that you own it and 100 percent legal to own.

Now, if you've been following us for any length of time, you've most likely seen our emails about some of the reasons why you should build your own firearm. My guess is, that many of you fall into the same trap that I do. Me, not being very handy with tools, mechanical drawings, or even chopsticks. In that, you may feel like building out your own firearm is too complicated and the hassle isn't worth it.

Well, today's guest says that you may be surprised how simple it is to build your own unregistered guns. In fact, he's here to tell us how to do it. As well as, share the benefits of actually taking it on as your newest project.

Hello, everyone. This is Jeff Anderson, Editor for Modern Combat and Survival Magazine and Executive Director of The New World Patriot Alliance with another Podcast to help you better prepare for any threat you may face in your role as a protector and a patriot.

With us today to talk about the ghost gun process is Caleb Lee. Caleb, welcome to the program.

Caleb Lee: Hey, good to be here, Jeff.

Jeff Anderson: Listen, many of you have probably seen me do emails about Caleb before. He's actually new to our network and he has a lot of great information out there, a lot of great training. This is kind of his specialty area. So I'm really excited to kind of get him on here, because you've probably seen from us before, many of these emails.

Now, Caleb is the number one Best Selling Author of Concealed Carry 101 and founder of preparedgunowners.com. A site that's dedicated to sharing information about self defense, [inaudible 00:01:33] firearms training, and self reliance. He's a first degree black belt in Tai Kwan Do, he's an NRA certified basic pistol and personal protection inside the home instructor, a Concealed Carry Academy instructor, and also a graduate of the Range Master Firearms Instructor Course.

Caleb is the author of numerous online courses including, the Underground Assault Rifle course. To learn more about Caleb and especially this type of training, make sure that you go and visit him on his website at www.undergroundguns.com.

Okay, Caleb, let's go ahead and get started in this now. First of all, let's start with the obvious question. So yes, there is Second Amendment issues that are out there. There are people that are worried about having their guns taken away by the gun grabbers.

But, for the majority of Americans, we can still go into a gun store, we could go in and purchase a gun. We get it, we go home with it, done deal. Nice and simple, nice and easy, it's all good to go. So why should I even go through the time, the hassle, the effort of creating one of these unregistered ghost guns?

Caleb Lee: Yeah. That's a good question, especially now. I think it's pretty obvious that now is more of a ... When we're recording this, is probably one of the best times ever for prices of guns and everything. I think that has to do with the political environment. When that type of stuff changes, it can totally change the availability of guns, the availability of the parts, and everything else.

That's kind of how I got into it. I couldn't find an AR-15 when I wanted one. Then, I kind of discovered this whole process. But more than that, I think to me, just as soon as I heard about it. Even if I could've bought an AR-15 at that time, if they weren't sold out. Just that immediately appeals to me. I think a lot of Americans are pretty patriotic and have a pretty healthy distrust of government, or overreach, and like you said, gun grabbers and everything.

So to me, even if it's an expense and time, or effort, or money, or whatever it is, to me it just seems totally worth it. It just seems like a really unique and cool way to put power back in your hands. Kind of claim your privacy. Nobody has to know about it, like you said. To me, the way I believe, it's a fundamental self defense ... Self defense is a fundamental right, so this is just right in line with everything that I'm about. So to me, it's never really been an issue, but yeah.

Jeff Anderson: I think you also bring up an important point. Because in fact, I was in my local Cabela's on voting day for the 2016 Presidential Election and they had every single employee ready to go. Because everybody thought that Hillary was gonna win, so they had the entire back store room of my local Cabela's was filled with AR-15s. They had every single employee, mandatory you will be ... On the day after election day, you will be in the store ready to take on the onslaught of purchases.

Of course, Trump won, so now there's this big overstock of AR-15s. But, a point that you bring up is, what if it didn't go that way? This is a way that you don't know what the next election is gonna be like or the election after that. So this is a way that you can build an insurance plan, so to speak. The time to buy a weapon-

Caleb Lee: Exactly.

Jeff Anderson: ... isn't when you need it. The time to have an unregistered weapon isn't when where you desperately need to have one in your arms because laws could go into effect very quickly that could change all of that. But I think that's a really important point.

Caleb Lee: Yeah, absolutely. Not to get political about it, but people need to realize that just because of who is in the White House, under Regan some of the worst gun control laws in our country were passed. A lot of people, he's kind of a hero to the right. Then, of course, some people don't like Hillary, whatever it is. Power is power and can change at a moment's notice and you don't have control over that. The only thing you have control over is what you do now.

Like you said, it's not when you need it is when you should do it. It's kind of like, you dig that well before you need it because who knows when you will need it. So same thing with food storage. Why would you go through the expense now when I can just go to the grocery store.

Jeff Anderson: Yeah, that's a point we also try to bring out to people, as well. That it really doesn't matter who that person is that's sitting in the big chair at the White House. I think too often, people get too lackadaisical when it comes to, my guy is in the White House or my girl is in the White House, whatever side you're on.

We cater to both sides. Anybody that wants to deal with self protection. Even Trump surprised a lot of people with disparaging comments about the NRA and we thought he was in our corner, or whatever. So those are all really good points.

So, Caleb, the next question I have for you really is kind of the big one here when it comes to this topic. Can it really be legal to create an unregistered weapon? We tell people all the time, the fastest way to lose your Second Amendment right is to be a dumbass with your own gun.

Everybody is always worried about Obama is gonna take our guns, Hillary's gonna take our guns, or even Trump is gonna take our guns, California is gonna take our guns, somebody is gonna take our guns. No, the person who is going to eliminate your ability to ever own a gun is you being a dumbass with your gun.

Now we mostly talk about that from the standpoint of doing something illegal with your gun. Whether that is brandishing your firearm, pulling it out, firing a warning shot, just stupid things that average people do that they think they can do. That all of a sudden makes you a felon and you can't have a weapon anymore.

But when it comes to building your own unregistered weapon, I don't want to get in trouble with the law by having this illegal gun. So how can this possibly not be against the law to build my own unregistered gun?

Caleb Lee:

Yeah, so one of the things you first hear. You're like, "There's no way." But yeah, it's ... For one, you can go right to the [inaudible 00:07:35] website and look. They even have the frequently asked questions and this is one of the frequently asked questions, if you need a license to do that. To build your own firearm.

The first thing I'll say, so this is not legal advice. Jeff, you're not a lawyer, we're not giving legal advice. So like you said, the easiest way to lose your rights, the easiest way to lose what you have is to be a dumbass with what you already have. So you need to research this all on a personal level.

But, I guess to back up and give a 30 thousand foot view, the easiest way I've found ... because I get this question a lot, to explain this to someone. Is if in your state, your county, your town, whatever. If you can go to the gun store and buy a gun there, then it would be legally ... you would legally be able to build that yourself, unregistered, without a license, anything else.

I explain it that way because it makes it a little easier. If I live in California, I can't go buy a standard configuration AR-15 with standard capacity 30 round magazine, so that would be illegal to build in California. My state laws would still be in affect, where I'm living. All that has to be take into account.

But on a Federal level, according to the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms Bureau, yeah, you need no special license to manufacture it yourself. If you're manufacturing these with the intent to sell them, then yes, absolutely. You're gonna have to get a manufacturing license.

If you're gonna build guns and sell them, Federal Firearms license, all that stuff that you'd have to do if you were the next guy to start a Colt, or a Bushmaster, or some other company. But yeah, manufacturing for your own use, not a problem.

Jeff Anderson:

Awesome. Okay, we've been talking with Caleb Lee of undergroundguns.com about how to build your own unregistered ghost gun to safeguard your Second Amendment rights, all 100 percent legal. We have a lot more coming up, including a current listing of the type of guns that you can build.

A reality check for the not so handy knuckleheads like me, who are probably kidding themselves and thinking, maybe I actually can build a gun without looking as bad as my Cub Scout birdhouse project. Trust me, my Cub Scout birdhouse project really sucked pretty bad, it wasn't pretty.

Finally a simplified step-by-step process for building your own gun and starting out your first project. All that and more coming right up. But first, check out this special message.

Okay, we're back with Caleb Lee of undergroundguns.com, who is showing us the fun, fast, and simple way to build your own unregistered ghost guns to add

to your arsenal. So, it's time to get our hands dirty with the how-to's. But first I always have to ask, so Caleb, assuming I've dotted all my I's, crossed all my T's, and everything, what are my options for guns that I can build? What sort of ghost guns can we build? That we can find the parts for that are simple enough to put together ourselves?

Caleb Lee:

Yeah, I mean theoretically, you could build anything. But, the market kind of dictates what's the easiest to build. So when I first found out about this and started doing it, it was pretty much just AR-15s. The AR-15, as you probably know and a lot of people listening, is just so modular. People are already comfortable taking them apart and putting their own customizations on them, so it's pretty easy to see how those are easy to build.

But since that time, I've built an AR-15, I've built multiple AR-15s. I've built AK-47s, AR-308, which is like an AR-15 but shoots a .308 caliber. I've built a Glock style, I say Glock style because Glock is very protective of their trademarks. But it's basically Glock handgun. It takes all the parts of Glock handguns. A 1911 pistol, handgun. Jesus, what am I missing out on. I just finished a .22 long rifle, a semi-automatic rifle but that I haven't really released details about, so I'm kind of keeping that a surprise. But there's also that coming.

That's the really cool thing about this, is that the idea has caught on. Whether it's the, do it yourself movement, or the maker movement, or something like that, I think there's a trend in the country. People like to do things themselves. Just for all the reasons we were talking about why you would want to do this. I guess it's really gotten popular because people coming out with more and more solutions like that.

So I foresee in the future, it's just gonna be unlimited the things you can do. It's important, too, when I talk about this, some people think ... The big story a couple years ago was like the 3D printing and everything. The way that I teach people how to build ghost guns has got nothing to do with that. But I think in the future, we're gonna see much, much more of that.

You just look at our lifetime, how printers have evolved. The fact that I have one in my office now is crazy. Ten years ago, there's no way I could've afforded it, but now it's even more powerful. Same thing with the cell phones we've got, so I think we will be printing guns in the future.

But for now, yeah, there's kind of limited with the stuff you've got. Those are the major platforms, but even within each of those you can come up with different variations. Like right now, with AR-15 for example, again. The standard chamber is 5.56, .223. But you could do it in .300 blackout. You could do it in 7.62X39, which is normally the AK-47 round.

Now like Pistol Caliber Carbines are a big deal. People really like the 9 millimeter AR-15 rifles. So there's plenty of variations within that, too. So you could build however many variations of AR-15s and each one goes like that.

Jeff Anderson: I didn't realize there were that many options. I know that you have several DVDs on how to do this. I know this is a mission for you. I know that you're really trying to get this out to people for the purposes of being more prepared. I know that's the theme of your entire website and everything. But, you even made these free to people. For them to be able to get these DVDs that actually [inaudible 00:13:39]. I didn't realize there were that many options, I know you have a bunch of DVDs on this over your website.

Just once again, look for the website undergroundguns.com will help you to see more specifically exactly how to do this. But Caleb, I know a lot of our listeners are wondering about the same thing. It's fine for somebody who is like a in the actual do it yourself kind of movement. Or like somebody that is handy. I am not handy. I am the least handy person on the entire planet. So, I have to ask, what about the average Joe? What if I'm not handy and don't have a machine shop, or drill press, and stuff like that? How simple is this for people to do?

Caleb Lee: Yeah, that's also the good news. I'm kind of in the same boat. I can fumble around, I can do some things but I'm definitely ... I wouldn't call myself a craftsman by any means. I can fix some things around the house, but it's not gonna be pretty. I was definitely in the same boat when I started.

To me, guns, what happened on the inside of them was like a black box. I mean, I grew up around guns, shooting them as a kid, and all that. We went camping all the time. But literally, I had no idea how they worked or anything like that. So I started from scratch, from zero [inaudible 00:15:01]. In my early builds, you can tell, they're pretty banged together type builds.

But, yeah, so it really again, this goes with the technology thing, too. The more popularity with this, the tools are getting better. Like, I highly recommend the use of a jig. We can talk about, later, specific stuff. But there's a lot of tools to kind of help you along the path. Like you said, I've got the DVDs and everything that helps. But really just, I wouldn't be scared of it. I don't know if I would say that anybody could do it, but I don't think it's as technical as many people think.

Thankfully, you're probably not gonna have something blow up in your hands. I think a lot of people think that, too. There's ways to safely test fire these things after you get it done. So, yeah, jump in with both feet even if you don't think you've got the technical skills, because I don't think it's as hard as you think.

Jeff Anderson: Yeah, I know you've talked before, when we've talked about it, the prospect of me actually ... This has been on my project list for so long. But I am intimidated by it. It is an intimidating thing because I'm not handy. So, I know that some of this stuff can be done by local shops. There's a coordination thing that can

happen. It's not like you have to have a basement filled with power drills and things like that, but there are other alternative options that you have for those.

In fact, I think you've even done some live camps in the past. Where people have come out and you've actually built stuff right there to kind of walk people through everything. So I know there are different resources, even for those people that find themselves truly not very handy. So, Caleb, with all of this being said, let's talk about it.

We've kind of danced around. We've kind of eliminated the fear maybe that I can't do this because I'm not handy or whatever. But let's actually talk about the how-to build your own unregistered firearm. I know that your videos go into step-by-step, take you by the hand, walk you through the entire process. I know that you give it away for free also on your website.

But for those people that are listening, to kind of get them over that next hump to where they go and check out one of those DVDs, can you give us kind of a simplified, step-by-step view of how to build out your own ... Let's take an AR-15 for example, but basically, the step-by-step of it?

Caleb Lee:

Yeah, sure. We'll start with the foundation, like kind of a secret to give it away is, every firearm ... Like an AR-15, we're talking about that. You've got the barrel, you've got the lower receiver, the upper receiver, butt stock, magazine. Like, what is an actual firearm? So the ATF defines this very narrowly. It's only a certain part of each firearm, so whether that's an AR-15, AK-47, 1911 pistol, Glock pistol, anything.

They've gotta pick a certain part and say, this is a firearm. Otherwise, you have all these accessories. Everything else is pretty much considered an accessory, except for that particular part. So with the AR-15 for example, we're using that as an example, that would be the lower receiver. That's the part where all the trigger components go, and the hammer, and the sear, and all that. That's the stuff that basically, you pull the trigger, it makes it go bang. That's the part that the ATF defines as an actual firearm.

So step one would be, to get this receiver or the part that would become a firearm, but you get it in a state that's not complete yet. So again, the ATF has to decide the laws and everything. Like, at what point does a piece of metal become an actual firearm and when are we gonna start regulating it. So they've chosen this point where it is basically, they call it a stripped AR-15 receiver. Where you could easily just take the trigger, stick it in there, put in your sear, everything else, and snap together your gun and that's a firearm.

But if that lower receiver is not yet complete ... The industry has kind of come up with terms calling it an 80 percent receiver, there's no official definition. I don't think the ATF has ever really said an 80 percent receiver. But that's about

how far along it is. So you've got an unfinished receiver, basically, no matter what firearm you're building. Then, you're gonna finish it.

Step two, is to get together the tools that you need. The key point here, and I mentioned it earlier, was you need a good jig. That kind of eliminates a lot of the worries that you were talking about before. A jig just is like a device that holds the receiver and makes sure that you're drilling holes in the correct spots.

Kind of makes it brain dead simple. That way you don't have to follow blue prints and do like really ... I mean, you gotta think like how specific measurements must be in order to build a firearm. But a jig kind of eliminates most of that stuff. So getting the proper tools, I would say, is the next step.

Then, step three is really just take the tools, take the unfinished receiver, and follow a good set of instructions. At that point, it's pretty much step by step. Before long, you'll drill these holes, you'll mold out the fire control packet, and you'll have your own firearm.

You turned what is essentially, legally a hundred percent, piece of aluminum in the eyes of the law and you'll turn it into a firearm all on your own. Then, at that point, you build it however you want.

Jeff Anderson: Wow, that's-

Caleb Lee: Does that help?

Jeff Anderson: Yeah, it does. I'm trying to figure out what a jig is, but ... So for those people out there, if went to Amazon, I could find a jig, right? I could do that, right?

Caleb Lee: I think-

Jeff Anderson: Or a local hardware store? Home Depot would have a jig, right?

Caleb Lee: [crosstalk 00:20:32]-

Jeff Anderson: [crosstalk 00:20:32]- I told you I wasn't handy. Like, I have no freakin' clue what a jig is.

Caleb Lee: Home Depot would sell jigs but it's probably like a jig for cutting molding or something like that. So it's a device they build that holds the molding in a certain position so you cut it the right way. The people has this like do it yourself, ghost gun thing has kind of grown. There's people that are producing these jigs.

It's a device that kind of snaps around the receiver, and you screw it in, and it holds it in the right place. Then, it already has holes and marks for directing

where your drill bits should go and things like that. To make it easier. It's like a guide, basically.

Jeff Anderson:

Gotcha, okay. That makes it simple, yeah. If even that mystifies people, or anything, or if that's a challenge for people, there are other ... People might have friends that have these. A lot of people, in fact I've relied a lot on handier friends than me. If somethings wrong with my car, I know I'm not touching it because there's no telling what's gonna happen to it.

So people that are out there, you might have a friend that has a jig, knows what a jig is or whatever, or there might be a local machine shop also that you might be able to work with on something like this. Something that you might be able to kind of team up with somebody to be able to do this. That maybe has these, or the knowledge, or the equipment. Even if it's just the equipment, you can ask to borrow it for a little bit.

Caleb Lee:

Yeah, I'll jump in right there. I'm pretty sure it would be perfectly fine to borrow tools and things like that. The machine shop thing gets into like a gray area legally. I do know, a couple of years ago, there was some outfits out in California that got shut down.

They were letting people come in and use their C&C machines. I guess, the ATF disagreed, that pressing the button was manufacturing your own firearm, so it was kind of like they were making them for people. So there's some gray area there. But yeah, definitely having mechanically minded friends.

I've got a good friend of mine, he can come over and see exactly how I screwed something up in like two seconds and it'll take me all day. It's just some people have that mechanical mind. They're like, okay X equals Z or whatever. Yeah, people can help. Lean on your friends. But yeah, once you get the proper tools together and you've got a good set of instructions, it's really not as hard as you think. You'll kind of learn by doing.

Again, it's like anything. We couldn't walk when we were babies. You just fall down, and fall down, you do it. My first AR-15, the drilling job I did was not good. I didn't screw up the receiver, but the cuts weren't nice and pretty. But the more I did, the better I got. Doing different guns, you just kind of find out commonalities and everything.

So, I don't know, that kind of circles back to what we were talking about before. Why would you do this. To me it's like, another skill set that I've developed. Where it's like before, like I said, completely mystified by how a gun works. I could field strip it or whatever and clean it, but it was very intimidating to get to a certain point and you're like, "Oh, I'm gonna screw this thing up." Or whatever.

So doing this has de-mystifying guns, maybe understanding guns better. I think, made me a more self-reliant person. So, it's a good skill set to have.

Jeff Anderson:

Yeah, awesome. Caleb, this has been a long time coming. We should have done this a long time ago because I've been talking about the benefits of this and I keep promising everybody. Like, this is one of my projects, I'm working on this myself. I appreciate you kind of taking away a lot of the fear factor in it. So thanks.

Listen everybody, this is just kind of a simplified approach to it. This is just kind of a way to de-mys ... Actually, I think I've said that 12 times now. De-mystify this process because it seems like it's complicated. It seems like [inaudible 00:24:14]. It's really not. It isn't to me and if it isn't to me, it probably shouldn't be to you.

But again, what makes this simple is having somebody take you by the hand and show you step by step exactly what to do. Somebody that's figured out all of the wrong moves, where not to drill, how to screw up the drill, how to do everything wrong, they've already done that wrong.

This has been a process that Caleb has done. A lot of people have tried to mimic this, but he has really put together a very comprehensive step by step approach for this. His mission is to get this out to everybody, so you can actually get a free copy of this ... See exactly how to do it to de-mystify it even more. There's number 15, I said de-mystify.

But so anyway, all you have to do is go over to his website. You can go check it out at www.undergroundguns.com, and pick up your own copy, and get this started. I'd love to ... I'm gonna get started on mine here and we'll compare notes. All right, we'll compare pictures of them.

All right, awesome. Caleb, really appreciate it. Until our next Modern Combat and Survival Broadcast, this is Jeff Anderson saying prepare, train, and survive.