

## Podcast #218 Transcription: Pocket Pistol Tactics

Jeff Anderson: Hey there, everyone. Welcome, welcome, welcome. This is Jeff Anderson, editor from 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.

Okay. Pocket pistols. You may hear them called other names, right? So, they've been called micro guns, ultra compact, mouse guns. You'll often hear them called get-off-me guns, as like a last ditch, like close quarters weapon you can use. The fact is, a lot of gun owners really pooh-poo the pocket pistol. They're considered too small, it doesn't have enough stopping power to be used in a self-defense shooting. And, that's somewhat true.

But we just got done with our New World Patriot Alliance master class this month, so if you are a New World Patriot Alliance member, make sure that you log in there, go ahead and download the replay, so you get the whole class. But we talked about backup guns, right? And one of those back up guns we talked about were the pocket pistols. And, again, a lot of people don't consider them, you would think, right? To be like a man-stopping firearm.

And, that is somewhat true, but one thing I'll say, is that the first rule of winning a gun fight is what? It's bring a gun, right? So, at least having a pocket pistol, or having access to a pocket pistol, it's better than nothing, right? And, apparently, our gun loving public agrees, because pocket pistols really are flying off the shelves right now. In fact, I read somewhere that Ruger's LCP models of their micro guns, accounted for about half of all of their gun sales, which I find absolutely astounding.

But, I have talked to gun owners at the stores, and they say the same thing. Like, basically, everybody's coming in right now, and they are trying to buy these pocket pistols. Now, I do admit, I am a fan of the pocket pistol, under the right circumstances, which I covered last week in the New World Patriot Alliance master class that we did backup guns. But, why are pocket pistols so popular, when you consider all the drawbacks of carrying and shooting one. And there are drawbacks to carrying and shooting one, right?

So, for one thing, they're not easy to operate, right? They have a smaller grip, so especially if you have bigger hands, the grip is very small, so that's gonna give you less accuracy. It's going to give you a smaller slide to grab onto to rack it. If you need to clear any malfunction at all, again, you've got a smaller slide there to be able to rack and try and clear the jam. This thing can get swallowed up in your hands, right? Oftentimes there aren't any sights on them at all, so if you're trying to think that you're gonna use this at any sort of a distance, you might not have sights to be able to do it.

Now, you can paint sights on it. There are things that you can do there. Not all guns don't have sights, so there's there. It doesn't usually carry a lot of rounds. We're typically talking five or six rounds, usually. Again, reloading, just like clearing a jam, is gonna be a real trick there if you're trying to reload it. If you've ever tried to reload like a pocket gun, you typically only have two fingers that are on the grip ... And we're talking about auto-loaders here, typically only have like two fingers on there, so you've got these floating bottom two fingers of yours, and you try to slam another magazine in there, I can't tell you how many times I've pinched my skin when trying to slap a magazine in there. There are ways around that. We talked about that in the NWPA master class.

But, the other thing is that they aren't really all that accurate, right? If you're carrying a pocket pistol revolver, typically that is going to have a much harder trigger pull than like an auto-loader. Also, auto-loaders can be more accurate, but again, you've got this tiny gun in your hands, and it is definitely going to be harder. You also have like, it's gonna be a shorter barrel on it, so you're not gonna have that helping you out with accuracy. So, it's not as accurate, right?

Also, it has less stopping power than a larger framed gun, because most of the time you're gonna find these in either a caliber 22 or it's gonna be a .380. There are some nine millimeters out there. Again, you're getting it larger, because you're carrying a larger round in the firearm there, but it's not much larger than like a 28, so ... Or, I'm sorry, a .380. So, that is a possible option out there, but again, you're losing kinda that pocket, like the smallness of it that is one of the benefits of it, right?

So, a lot of these drawbacks, are the reason why a pocket pistol is not a good first gun to use. And I've talked with a lot of gun store owners about this, where they'll have people come in and, like especially if it's a woman, and their husband will tell them, "Well, what you really need is a pocket pistol. For one, you have small hands, so you don't need a bigger one." It can be intimidating as like a larger firearm can be intimidating as a first gun.

These little ones seem like they're smaller, especially with the 22, it's not gonna have like a lot of power behind it, so maybe it's gonna be, you know, guys are thinking that their wife, it won't be as scary to them. It's easier to fit inside of a purse. Like, there are all these reasons why people are coming in now, and their first gun that they're learning on is a pocket pistol. That's a big mistake right there.

It's actually not one of the mistakes that I brought up here. I had three other ones for you. But, that is a big mistake. It's not a good one to learn on, because the fundamentals that you're learning are not gonna be as easily carried over when you do upgrade to a larger frame firearm that you can carry. Whether you're a woman, or a guy, it doesn't really matter, right?

So, that and if you're carrying like a .380, or a nine millimeter, anything bigger than a 22, the size of the weapon actually is gonna make it harder for you to ...

The recoil is going to be felt a lot more, than it is for a larger frame handgun. So, it can actually end up having the opposite effect of what a lot of guys think that their spouse should be using, as like a first gun. It can scare them more out of it, instead of guys thinking that this little weapon is gonna have that much of a register or anything.

So, you've gotta be very careful right there. But also, it's not gonna be as much fun, you're not gonna be as accurate with. And we know that part one of the things for really getting used to your first firearm is getting proficient, getting accurate with it, having fun with it. And it's not gonna be as much fun, okay? So, it's not a good first gun when you are looking to go concealed carry, all right?

Okay, so with all these drawbacks then, why do so many gun owners love pocket pistols? Well, the number one reason that I get from people is that they are super easy and comfortable to carry. And that's true, they really are. Because they're so small, they are easy to carry. You can carry them in your pocket, you can carry them in a coat pocket, women can put them inside of a purse.

Men if you wear a suit, you're not necessarily gonna wear like a tactical gun belt with your suit, right? You're going to be wearing a dress belt, typically. And so, carrying a full frame hand gun on your belt might be a little bit trickier there. A lot of the guys might go with a pocket gun they can slip inside of the front pocket, or a pocket for their slacks they use with their suit, right?

So, it is super easy and comfortable to conceal, if you carry it like I tell you to in my solution for mistake number three, in the three mistakes I'll have with you here in just a minute. It's actually faster, it's actually relatively natural draw stroke, which means that you can get to your gun faster, using the technique I'm gonna tell you about after mistake number three here, okay?

In fact, if I can't carry at my waistline, because of clothing restrictions like I just talked about, I actually prefer a pocket carry over other means of carrying, like an ankle holster. And I'll explain why that is. As usual, choosing the right gun is only part of the concealed carry equation, right? And a lot of people make some big mistakes when it comes to carrying any weapon.

And here are the three biggest mistakes that I see students make when it comes to carrying a micro gun on them. Mistake number one is they're carrying other things in their pocket along with the pistol. Now, this can be whether it's carried in a pocket of your pants, or whether it's carried in a jacket, or whether it's carried in a purse. It doesn't matter.

There are a lot of reasons why you wanna carry nothing else in your pocket except for your pocket gun. Mainly, if you're gonna be digging around for your pocket pistol, right, in a real gun fight, you don't also wanna be juggling the

change that's in your pocket, your keys, or any other obstacle that can keep you from getting to your gun, and getting it out into the fight as fast as possible.

But also, if you are carrying with a round in the chamber, which I do with my pocket pistol, you don't want any other object to make its way into the trigger and in-between the trigger and the trigger guard. Especially if you're carrying that in your front pocket and you do a lot of bending. Because, if you are carrying your pocket pistol in your front pocket, bending down, it's gonna get contorted all over the place, right?

So, you wanna make sure that you don't have other things in there that, as your contorting around there, it's gonna get lodged in there, it's gonna pull the trigger back, and you're gonna get a negligent discharge. So, you really wanna make sure that you have nothing else in your pocket. If you're carrying your pocket pistol as your backup gun, then you wanna make sure you can get it as quickly as possible. Other stuff is gonna keep that from happening. All right?

Okay. Mistake number two is people don't place enough emphasis on the holster. And the holster is just as important as your gun is. And, I mean, think about it. If you can't get the gun out of your pocket, or at least get to the trigger, because you could carry it inside of like your coat pocket, and you don't even have to draw it out of your coat pocket, right? Like you can actually have it inside of your coat pocket, you can shoot right through your coat. Blowing a hole in your nice coat is a welcome exchange for saving your life.

But, nonetheless, if you can't get to your gun, or get to the trigger, it's not gonna do you a damn bit of good. So, that holster is really important in how you use it to get to your gun. So, we said before, you wanna have nothing else in your pocket, but you do wanna be able to have this holster in your pocket, because that's gonna keep it from printing, it'll be less obvious to people that you are carrying a firearm there, for those people that can see the pocket. But also, it helps to protect the firearm as you're contorting around. It protects the trigger from getting pulled back. It protects other things from getting inside of there, but that's not gonna be an issue, because you're not gonna be carrying anything else in your pocket.

But here's the thing. Most pocket pistol holsters that are out there, kind of slide around too much. They're not made of the right materials. You wanna make sure that you get a holster that is gonna grip inside of the pocket. Now, there are some holsters that have this little catch on it that, when you go to drag it out of your front pocket, it will catch on like the little, where the stud is, or that little rivet ... Is it a ... Yeah. Like that rivet where the pocket is, and it can catch on that. It can help to pull it out. I wouldn't count on that happening. I definitely prefer that you get a grippy holster. So, something's that's made of a texture on the outside, not on the inside, because you want the gun to be able to get out easily, but you want the material for the holster to be a grippy type of a fabric. Okay?

So, Desantis makes some really good ones. That's the one that I use. It has like this special texture on the outside, I don't know what it's called, but basically, it'll grip the inside of your pockets so that only the gun is coming out there, right? The other thing that you can use if you don't use like a holster, is you can get a clip-on for your firearm. So, basically, it's an aftermarket thing, you can screw it right onto the gun. And basically, it clips on almost like a tactical folder does. It'll clip on to the outside of your ... Yeah, the clip will go on the outside of your pocket, so the gun's on the inside of the pocket.

These can work really well. Also, they work really well if you carry like, if you wear cowboy boots, like I wear cowboy boots oftentimes. So, an ankle holster isn't gonna work really well there, but if I wanted to, I could clip it on the inside of the boot there. All right? So, give some attention to the actual holster that you use. Desantis is the company that I most like. I'll put a link in the show notes, where the ... Podcast is, so that you can get a link over to the one that I carry, so you can get one of those, all right?

Okay. So, mistake number three. All right? And this has to do with where you carry your pocket pistol. And I have talked with gun store owners who only carry a pocket pistol. That's right. They don't carry an inside the waistband pistol, they don't carry an ankle holster with a larger frame gun. The pocket pistol ... Thankfully, I mean like, the ammunition these days has gotten much better, where it has more stopping power, like for a .38, than even from like a micro gun, even then, a .38 can still have good enough stopping power there. I mean, look, this is a last ditch gun anyway, right?

But, not everybody sees it as a last ditch gun. Again, I've talked with gun store owners who only carry a pocket pistol. When I asked them what they carried, they always pull it out, they always go to show it to me, and it's always in their front right pocket, and they're a right handed shooter. So, it's in their dominant side pocket that they have over there.

So, first of all, I don't like the front pockets at all, simply because it's so hard to get to. Especially if you're wearing jeans, right? Especially if you're wearing tight clothes, it's gonna be really hard to get to. Okay, so I don't like the front pocket. Now, one very famous firearms instructor believes the same thing, and their recommendation is to wear it in the offside back pocket, so that you can draw it with your other hand.

So, I'm right handed shooter, basically he's saying I would put it in my left back pocket, because as he puts it, the pocket pistol is your backup weapon, so most likely your dominant hand, or dominant arm, has been injured, and you're not gonna be able to get to it on your primary side. So, most likely you're going to be drawing it with your other hand, and then if you can switch over to your other hand, then you would do that. I don't agree with that either.

And here's where I tell people to wear it. And that is your dominant side back pocket, with the butt of the weapon facing the crack of your ass. So, it's pointed

inside there, okay? Now, to understand why, again, just like with last week's podcast episode when we were talking about ankle carry, and we were talking about backup guns, you have to compare the tactics that you're going to use, to the reality of what you can expect to be facing in a real gunfight, right?

So, those dynamics are, as we talk about in our close combat shooting program, the dynamics of a real gunfight are typically you are gonna be less than nine feet away, that's what our analysis of real gunfights has shown. It's most likely gonna be the result of either an escalated argument, or an ambush that comes without any warning. So, again, really right up and close and bad breath zone there.

And, you may very well have to fight to your gun, right? You're most likely not gonna have time to be able to get to any weapon at all, whether it's a pocket pistol or even if your main, primary weapon, you're most likely gonna have to fight to it. So, for one, you can easily reach your weapon in your back pocket with both hands, if it's in your back right pocket there. Unlike your front pocket. So, if I had it, let's say in my right front pocket, and my arm gets injured, or my hand gets injured, reaching around with my left hand to get to that weapon is really tough. Especially if I'm struggling with somebody in front of me, my hand is gonna ... I'm trying to fight this guy, having my hand down and trying to wiggle this thing out of in a weird fashion out of my right opposite front pocket, that's gonna be really tough there, right?

Even if I am in a ground fight or something like that, again, if it's in my front pocket, it's gonna be really, really hard to get to there. A person's gonna be sitting on me, or they're gonna be grappling with me, and in front of me, it's gonna be really tough there, okay? And getting this gun out as fast as possible is your critical, most critical most task that you need to accomplish there, okay?

All right. Also, here's the thing about the back pocket, right? So, against ... This is an argument against the non-dominant side, your offside shooting pocket, in the back pocket. What I carry in that back pocket is a dummy wallet. Okay. So, I talk about this in everyday carry, for everyday carry use for concealed carry. And in fact, there I really good, in fact I'm gonna be doing a video on this soon, but there is an off duty police officer that was robbed at a gas station.

He was robbed by three attackers, and they were armed attackers. And what he did was he put his left side forward to show, hey, I'm getting my wallet out, meanwhile his right hand is going back to his gun, and as he pulls the wallet out, he draws his weapon and basically shoots this guy dead. The other two scatter off. But, the victim here, ends up surviving. But it's a really cool trick to be able to use in a robbery, to be able to get to your gun. So, in my back left pocket, I'm carrying a dummy wallet that has fake credit cards in it, a few one dollar bills so it looks like they got some money off me, it looks like my real wallet, but it's really not, right?

So, that takes that out of use for me anyway to be able to put it back there, okay? Now, the big reason that I put it in my strong side pocket is that if you're

locked in the struggle with your attacker, okay, and your primary weapon is on your hip, especially if you're like law enforcement right? Especially for law enforcement. And you could find yourself in a situation where you're forced to fight to retain your own firearm to keep it out of the hands of your attacker.

So, if I'm grappling with somebody, and they feel my weapon there, and they try to get to it. Or, if I tried to get to it, and they saw that I had it and they managed to attack me and put me back on the defense. Or, if you're a police officer, and all of a sudden that person reaches out, they know you have a firearm there, and a lot of police officers are shot, or police officers that are shot, are shot with their own weapon, right?

We know that to be a fact. So, if you're struggling with an attacker, and if your pocket pistol is your non-dominant side, like in your back pocket, then yes you can reach it, but you have to take one hand away from the vicinity of your primary weapon. And let's just call it like if you're carrying in that 3:30 carry position, right? So ... You're a right handed shooter, you're carrying it on the back of your right hip there, right? So, if I have to reach behind my left side to get to my pocket pistol, I need to take my hand away from where I'm trying to keep this guy away from my primary weapon.

But if it's on your dominant side, if I carry my pocket pistol in my back right pocket, then while I'm retaining my weapon and trying to keep him off of there, I can trap his hands with both hands there, and I can reach just a little further back to grab my pocket pistol, that's just a few inches behind where my other pistol is. And I don't have to switch hands to engage my attacker like I would if I pulled it out with my left hand.

Yeah, I could shoot in close quarters. Obviously I could shoot right there. I could do a contact shot with my left hand, not a problem, right? But I wanna get back there, grab it, I rather have it in my dominant hand, boom, contact shot, get it in the pelvis, shoot him out there, get him off me, good to go. Okay? The other thing is that is really is a ... If I'm used to going back to that 3:30 position to draw my other weapon, it's a natural movement for me to just go a few inches back.

It's basically the same exact draw stroke, only with my back pocket there, it's not moving around a lot, it's easy to get to whether it's clipped in or whether I have it in its holster. I can go ahead and grab it very easily with my thumb, pull it out. It's a very natural draw stroke. Much, much more, than if you were to go from the other side to be able to get it with your non-dominant hand, okay? Because you're not used to being able to draw from that location back there, all right?

And, you can still reach behind you with your other hand, for me it would be my left hand, and with it positioned where the butt of the weapon is like facing in towards the inside of your body. Towards the crack of your ass. It's still an easy draw there, to be able to put your hand on it from behind, and be able to pull it

out there, and you can do it there. So, it give you flexibility there, as well. All right?

Okay. So, those are the three biggest mistakes and solutions right there for you. Now, I wanna hear from you. Do you own a pocket pistol? Do you carry that pocket pistol? Is it your primary one, or is it a backup for you? What do you like about them? What do you hate about them? And, what tactical tips do you have for concealed carry of a pocket pistol?

I would love to hear what you have to say, so please leave a comment on the blog over at [moderncombatandsurvival.com](http://moderncombatandsurvival.com), and until our next Modern Combat and Survival podcast, this is Jeff Anderson saying, "Prepare, train, and survive."