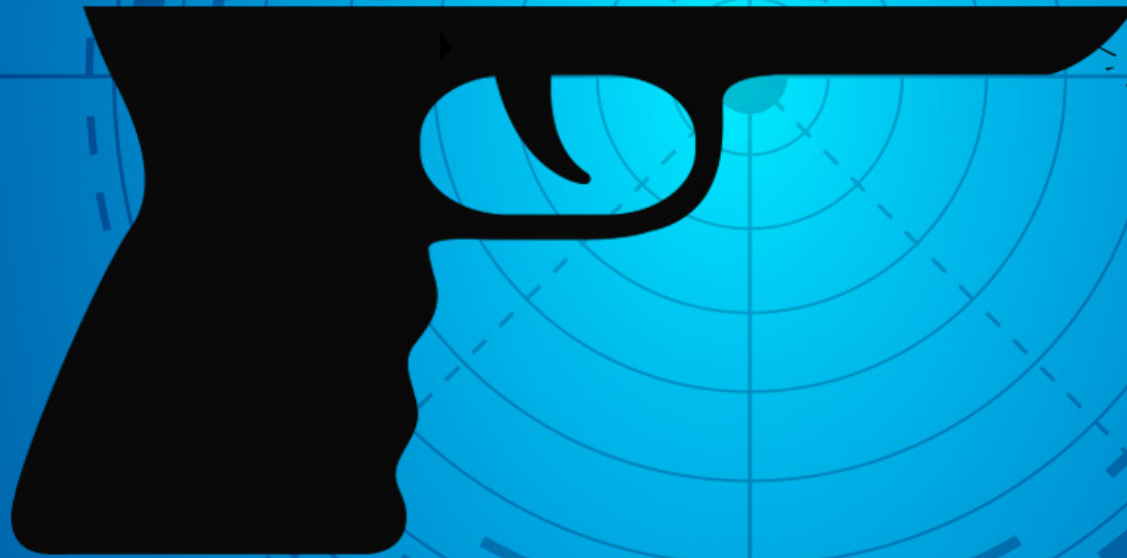


**Top Ten Tips for CCW**

# CONCEALED CARRY



**Expert** Carriers Advice for Safe & **Effective** CCW



# INTRO

## Beginner

This type of content is best for individuals that are new to carrying a concealed weapon (CCW). Basics and the fundamentals of CCW are the focus here and anyone just getting into the field will benefit the most from this type of guide.

## Intermediate

Shooters who have handled a weapon before and have at least some basic experience with CCW under their belt stand to gain the most from these guides. The tips included here will educate readers by building on the basic principles of gun ownership with more advanced drills and other helpful tips.



This eBook

## Who is this eBook for?

CCW education is a lengthy but essential process. As a result, this eBook might not be right for your skill level. Take a look at the descriptions below to see which category you fit into and if you will benefit from this guide.

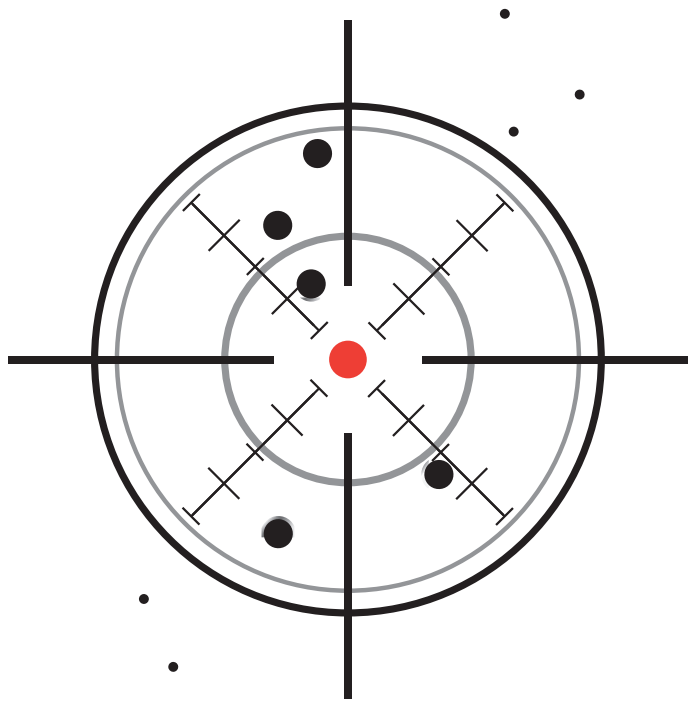
## Adept

Content covered in adept guides are meant for individuals that are far more advanced in their CCW education. This is expert material designed for users with extensive experience or who want to become true specialists in the sport. Complex guides and walkthroughs in this category might not be suited for intermediate users.

## for all your shooting needs

Find accessories, apparel, firearms and more.

- Find the ideal gun for your needs
- Pair high-performance apparel and accessories for best results
- Get answers from our pro-staff
- Watch videos and learn the tricks of the pros



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# INTRODUCTION

Being a concealed firearm owner takes confidence, education, and the ability to accurately evaluate a situation.

The tips outlined in this eBook will help you build the skills and confidence to handle your firearm responsibly, skillfully, and with respect.

**If you believe in the right to life, then you must believe in the right to have the means to defend that life.**

**Charley Reese**





## Carrying Your Weapon with Control and Comfort

**Being able to control your weapon and draw it effectively from concealment depends on the size of the firearm. Most fall into one of two varieties: either holstered firearms or pocket firearms. Each of these is determined for the most part by size alone.**

Holstered firearms will typically be on the larger side. These weapons are generally concealed in a belt holster or holsters that can be worn inside the waistband (IWB). Carriers of this type of gun can usually cover them with a jacket or a longer shirt.

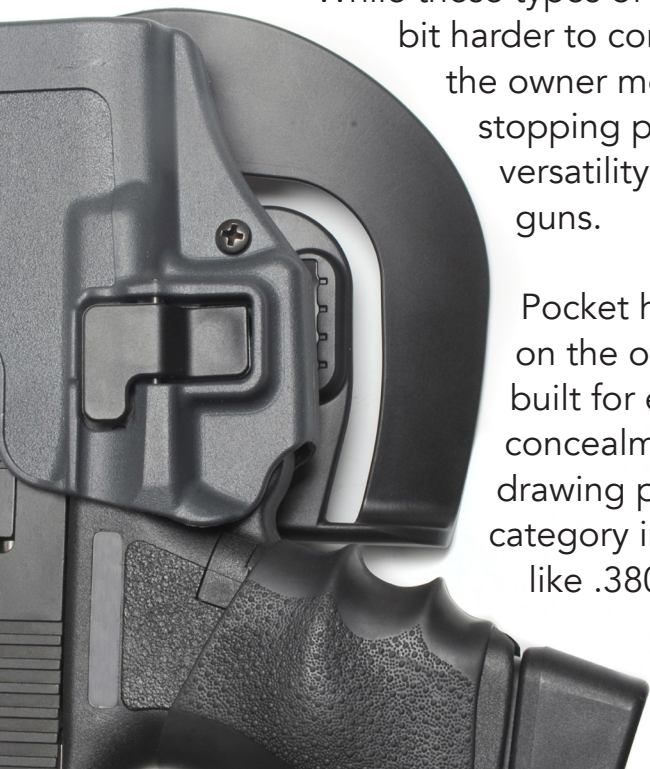
While these types of weapons are a bit harder to conceal, they offer the owner more range, stopping power, and versatility than other guns.

Pocket holster firearms, on the other hand, are built for easier concealment and quicker drawing power. This category includes guns like .380 and .25 ACPs

and are so small they can usually be tucked right inside pocket holsters. The tradeoff here, of course, is reduced range and power.

No matter which route you end up going, choosing the right holster to suit your needs is one of the best ways to ensure you feel comfortable with your firearm. Flexibility, for instance, is ideal when it comes to pocket holsters and nylon holsters rank among the top materials in that category. If you are looking for strong retention and solid construction, then plastic (Kydex) is the way to go. Leather holsters offer a classic feel and are the go-to when it comes to belt holsters.

The end goal here is finding a holster that keeps your weapon secure, but gives you enough flexibility to draw it quickly. Choosing the right one can mean the difference between life and death.



## Choosing Your Clothing



Picking out clothing that effectively hides your weapon is one of the keys to CCW. After all, concealed carry doesn't do much if it's obvious you have a weapon on hand.

Loose pants help to keep the outline of your pocket holster or "print" from being noticed and longer shirts that extend past the waistline are a great way to hide an IWB weapon. More than anything else, try to pick out clothes that offer both concealability and accessibility. A shirt that covers your weapon entirely isn't worth the tradeoff of making it difficult to reach your gun in a time of need.

Coats and jackets make it easy to be discreet with any sized weapon but if the occasion calls for short sleeves and shorts you may be better off arming yourself with a smaller weapon. IWB holsters are great for keeping these guns hidden.

## Get Acquainted with What Your Gun Can Do


The effectiveness of a weapon goes hand-in-hand with the handler's knowledge of its capabilities. The power and effective range in particular are aspects that differ widely between guns.

Accuracy is also quite important and typically longer barreled firearms will be more accurate than shorter barreled ones. For the most part, a concealed carry handgun is meant to be used during close range encounters, a detail worth considering when you're comparing short

and long barrel weapons. Generally speaking, a small gun that's easier to handle is better than a larger one that's harder to draw and aim.

Beyond these characteristics is knowing how to actually operate the specific firearm. Single action, double action, and double action/single action firearms all offer different pros and cons.

Single actions (SA) require the hammer to be cocked before firing but allow a lighter trigger. Double actions (DA) don't need to be cocked but the trigger pull is, of course, going to be heavier. Double action/single action (DA/SA) weapons allow both methods for much more versatility.



**“Generally speaking, a small gun that's easier to handle is better than a larger one that's harder to draw and aim.”**

## Picking the Right Caliber

**Ammo caliber is another characteristic of a weapon that comes with tradeoffs. The bigger the caliber, the more powerful the shot and the bigger the gun. But the smaller the weapon, the easier it is to conceal.**

- **.25 ACP** – One of the smallest rounds on the market. Easy to hide, tough to bring down a target.
- **.32 ACP** – A bit larger and more powerful. Can still work well in close quarters.
- **.380 ACP** – This choice offers better recoil and more accuracy with multiple shots. A popular choice.
- **9mm** – One of the most powerful when it comes to lightweight options. Favored by many firearm owners across the country.
- **.40 S&W** – The ammo type of choice for many policemen and law enforcement officials.



- **.45 ACP** – Great stopping power and used by many specialists, this caliber isn't quite as quick as the 9mm.
- **10mm** – Considered by most to be the highest caliber without trading off usable handling, the 10mm is a .40 caliber with even more powder behind it.

While it might be tempting to set your sights on a higher caliber weapon, it's important to remember that skill, handling, and education can all be more useful in a situation than a large caliber.



## Practice Skills for Real-Life Situations

Although standstill practice can be helpful in improving your accuracy, most real-life encounters that require the use of a firearm have a lot of other factors that can make this type of shooting completely unlikely.



Learning how to draw and fire your weapon quickly and effectively from its holster, for example, is incredibly important when it comes to protecting yourself. Start by practicing with an unloaded gun and eventually move onto live fire. Your goal should be drawing and firing in a single smooth but quick gesture.

Another skill worth practicing is changing magazines rapidly which, depending on your weapon, can be quite tricky.

Firing under stress and while moving are other factors that require practice

to master. More likely than not, a real-world situation will involve movement, both from you and your target. As such, practicing under simulated stress and on moving targets are both ways to acclimate to the challenges of a real-world scenario.

## Practice and Perfect Point Shooting

Point shooting (also known as target or threat-focused shooting and instinctive shooting), is a way to fire your weapon in a potentially life-threatening situation without using the firearm's sights. While this is obviously not the ideal method of aiming, it might be the only thing you have time for when your life is on the line.

Start in the "low ready" position by maintaining a two-handed grip but with the firearm pointed slightly down but still downrange. This position allows users to quickly and accurately raise their weapon and is the traditionally taught "ready" position.

Instead of raising the barrel to eye height to align the sights though, raise the weapon only a bit higher and try to hit the target. This type of shooting does not rely on the sights and, as a result, is typically not as accurate. But in most real-world situations, it's unlikely that you'll have the time to line up all of your shots perfectly. Practicing point shooting then, can help you develop a more instinctive accuracy.

Use lasers and light aids to hone your abilities even more. Try aiming at a target and then switching on the laser to see how accurate you would have been had you fired.



## Educate Yourself on Malfunctions

A firearm is a complicated piece of equipment. And the more complicated equipment becomes, the more likely it is that something will go wrong with its operation.

Whether it's un-ignited powder, a stuck piece of brass that wasn't extracted properly, or a round that just wasn't fed in correctly - learning how to fix a malfunction should it occur, can mean the difference between life and death.



In many cases, the solution to these malfunctions can be solved by the "Immediate Action Drill." Also known as the "tap-rack-bang drill," the actions involved in this maneuver include tapping (or rather smacking) the bottom of the magazine to make sure it's seated properly, yanking the slide backwards to eject bad ammo or brass (racking), and firing if the threat still exists.





## Prepare Your Weapon for the Situation




Have your weapon ready for use whenever you are entering a particularly dangerous area. Free your hands for quicker access and stay alert to your surroundings. Also make sure access to your firearm is unimpeded: unzip your coat, release the snap closure on your holster, and make sure your undershirt or shirt tails won't get in the way of un-holstering your gun.

Entering and exiting a vehicle can pose a particular problem for access, especially with seat belts and IWB holsters. Be aware of your limitations in a vehicle and adjust your firearm accordingly.



## Stay Vigilant



If you are in a safe area, be sure not to let your guard down as safety is simply a matter of perception. Just because you don't see a threat doesn't mean it isn't there.

**"Just because you don't see a threat  
doesn't mean it isn't there."**

If you do spot a suspicious situation or individual, keep an eye on them, even if you aren't carrying. Recognizing a threat is the first step in either neutralizing it or protecting yourself.

If you do have your weapon, only use it as a last resort. Confirm the threat first, act second. Know that misjudging a situation can both escalate it and result in life-changing consequences for both you and anyone else involved.



## Close the Gap

As with any weapon, a firearm is only as effective as the situation allows it to be. If you are too far from the target, then your shots, no matter how well-aimed they may be, will never land. That's why moving in on your target is one of the best ways to ensure your shots aren't in vain.

This tactic, however, also makes you more vulnerable to fire coming from your target as well. That's why deciding if and when to draw your weapon is of crucial importance in live-round situations. Sometimes it might be in your best interest to build distance and escape the confrontation entirely.

Another tip is to train yourself to shoot effectively while on the move. That way, you can increase the odds of subduing your target and decrease the odds of being hit at the same time.

## SOME STATISTICS

**55%** of gunfights take place at a distance of 0-5 feet.

**20%** of gunfights take place at a distance of 5-10 feet.

**20%** of gunfights take place at a distance of 10-21 feet.

**95%** of gunfights take place at a distance of 0-21 feet.

(Source: FBI)

The average man can cover 21 feet of ground in 1.5 seconds.

The average man cannot draw a gun from concealment in under 2 seconds.

The average gunfight is over in 3-5 seconds.

3 to 4 shots are usually fired in the average gunfight.

Most gunfights take place in low light conditions.

On average, 1 shot in 4 actually strikes the intended target.



## Conclusions & Other Resources

Carrying a concealed handgun is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family. However, it's important to educate yourself on and be aware of individual state and municipality firearm laws.

### **It is your responsibility to follow these laws!**

Failing to do so may make you feel safe at the time but could result in fines, citations, arrest, and even imprisonment.

As such, it's up to you to protect yourself both physically and legally.

Be sure to keep in contact for regular updates and additional resources to help you expand your firearm expertise. You can follow our social media accounts, read our blog, or visit our website for a wealth of other resources.





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