

Home Defense Gun Rig

by Nolan Wilson

Today, a large percentage of Americans have a gun in their home. Whether or not it is kept close at hand for home defense is another matter.

While a shotgun is sometimes considered for home defense, the typical choice is a handgun. Here, the choice is varied from .22 rim fire to big bore machines. Although the choice is a topic by itself, this article is focusing on how and where the handgun is stored and accessed.

People seem to be such predictable creatures and where they keep their home defense gun is included. Some examples: Top dresser drawer under whatever's in that drawer, under the pillow, in the headboard of the bed, in a bed-side table — just to name a few.

If small children are in the home, that only adds to the situation. Guns and ammunition, in any combination, should be stored in a manner that any child can't wander upon them, as they explore your home. This storage must, also, meet any applicable state law to which you might be obligated.

To store the gun with a trigger lock, pad-lock through the cylinder, etc. while the ammunition is in yet another locked cabinet, almost defeats the purpose of a home defense weapon.

What we are attempting to accomplish in this article is to construct a gun rig, containing what you might need for home type emergencies and that can be found in one place. It is not uncommon to go for your gun in the middle of the night and find that you forgot where you put it! Or, learn that your wife decided to move it to a place less accessible to the grand-kids. Just one thing — she forgot to tell you!

What we want to do is to make you think and, if desired, put together a rig that meets your established criteria. Look first of all for a large spare belt (that fits). Sturdy is the first consideration.



For illustration, this “rig” was hastily thrown together from what was available in the “goodie box.” Three spare magazines may be overkill. A more practical set-up would be a holster without magazine pouch, unlike the above one, and perhaps only one spare magazine pouch on the opposite side

For women and smaller people, the huge Streamlight 5 cell flashlight could be reduced to a much smaller LED unit and the handgun switched out to a lighter one of sufficient caliber

Another consideration for the belt is its buckle. It should be strong and not make noise when attaching. The buckle on the rig in the photo above is a Nylon, push and snap together. It has a bad feature — it makes a distinct, “clicking” sound when attached.

The next consideration should be the holster. It might just be a spare one you've had for years. It should fit your chosen handgun reasonably-well and have a security strap. The weapon in the photo is a 1911 Colt carried in condition one (loaded, cocked with safety on).

Whether or not you add a spare magazine pouch is up for debate. The semi-auto pistol shown above, contains 8 rounds of .45 ACP ammo. Many knowledgeable firearms instructors will advise more rounds only if you plan on missing a lot!

The same can be said for a revolver with either 5 or 6 rounds at your disposal.

This might be a good time to examine some typical home security breaches and what your reactions might be.

To predict just how and when trouble might find its way to your home is almost impossible to state. In my own life, I have been involved in 2 instances where deadly force was an ingredient. In both cases, what happen was so unusual and unpredictable that no prior “drill” could have been applied. You can almost expect that anything you might encounter will be accordingly.

Your home is vulnerable to be broken into and burglerized when no one is home. Naturally, only physical security will be of value in these cases. Only if you walk in and surprise the criminal in the act, will you need a weapon. Hopefully, you will be carrying concealed and adequately-trained for such encounters.

A more typical situation is where the criminal intends on doing you physical harm, such as rape and/or robbery. To gain access to your home, one or more ploys can be used. The most common is to knock on you door and seek help. (this can happen in broad daylight as well as late at night).

If your home is located on a road without nearby neighbors, the ploy might be their car broke down or has a flat tire and they need to use your phone. Another ploy is to smear ketchup or other “red” on their face and seek first-aid.

They are counting on the reactions of most normal people and that is to offer help to those in need. However, in today’s world, awareness is the order of the day. Every home should be equipped with a well-locked, security screen door providing a barrier between you and them. Preferrably, one with a small opening, through which a portable phone could be passed. It might be better for you to simply call 911 for them!

The really dangerous criminals will use a helpless-looking girl or woman to knock on your door; while the more powerful, accomplice awaits, hidden from view. Should you allow access to the woman, her “assisstant” will bolt past her and now you have two strangers in your living room! A helpless situation to be avoided.



While security screen doors are available in many ornate designs, consider construction and strength first.

Now, lets re-enact this scene — only this time you are equipped with your home rig.

At about 2:30 AM your door bell rings. You allow a few seconds to become more awake. You slip your feet into substantial slippers, awaiting by your bedside. Your home defense rig is waiting in the specially-designed cabinet you made for it. You press the secret, mechanical, childproof lock, remove the rig and secure it around your waist.

As you silently approach the front door, you remove a portable phone from its cradle and drop it into an awaiting pouch on your belt. At the front door, you silently look out the peep hole. You should have a small, photocell controlled light that illuminates your front door at night. If not, switch on the front outside light, lighting up the bell ringer.

At this stage of the game, you now determine if the person is a neighbor, friend or family member. If so, your

stage of alert can be cranked back a notch. However, in this case, lets say that the bell ringer is a thin, young woman, with a black eye, disarranged hair and a story of how her boyfriend tried to rape her before kicking her from his car!

DO NOT, I repeat: DO NOT open your door to her. Make a 911 call yourself, repeating her story to the police. If cold weather, get an old coat and offer it to her with your free hand — your shooting hand is on your pistol, still holstered, but un-strapped, ready to be drawn.

While this may seem to be a cold and calloused action on your part, consider it this way — If honest she now has help on the way and a warm coat — definitely a lot better off than before. However, if this was merely a ploy for her and an accomplice to gain access to your home, you have thwarted the action with a minimum of violence. In either case, the police are on the way.

Your most vulnerable position was when you opened the screen to hand her a coat. It would have been at this point that the accomplice would have rushed at the opening. Your mental preparedness should have taken over the monent you detected his presence. You have only a split second to determine if he has a weapon. He may be holding it out of sight. One thing you’re sure of — A ploy was in place to gain illegal entrance into your home. During this time you have drawn your weapon, and fired two rounds into his chest area. He falls and the gun he was holding falls free of his hand or worse yet is still in his hand. Don’t take your eyes off his hand and/or gun. At the same time, be aware of his female accomplice who might flee, or worse, go for the gun herself. In that case, she becomes target number two!

If she flees, let her go. You have stopped the deadly action against you and the police should be arriving soon. Leave the scene exactly as it happened. Never try to re-arrange things in an attempt to make yourself look better.

Hopefully, I have given you a lot of food from thought — use it.