



Real World CARRY GEAR

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Armalaser, CCW Shirt, Liger Gun Belt, SureFire U2 Ultra



ARMALASER

Lasers definitely have their place in the concealed carry arena. However, until recently, there were very few compact guns that could be equipped with a laser, and even fewer pocket-size guns. Lasers available for pocket guns were often bulky, or they completely changed the method of carry for the gun, often preventing the use of a holster. A new company, Armalaser, has changed that with their new laser system that mounts compactly under the dust cover of small autos and attaches securely to the trigger guard.

The Armalaser unit is easily user installed and takes about 10 minutes. Once in place, this rugged little unit is strongly attached, and seems like a part of the gun. The added weight is minimal and the gun handling characteristics are unchanged.

The laser is activated by a touch sensitive area on the rear of the unit, just in front of the trigger area. The laser stays on with continued contact, and shuts off automatically 12 seconds after the last contact with the switch area. If you want to deactivate the laser temporarily, there

The market for concealed carry related gear has exploded in the last few years with the proliferation of concealed carry legislation across the United States. Some of the gear works and some doesn't. This regular feature in CCM offers my perspective on products I have actually used and tested in everyday life. This month features a variety of useful products.

is a kill switch on the underside of the unit. The laser projects a large, bright red, easily visible dot that is steady-on, with no flashing or pulsing. The laser's point of aim is adjustable (for windage only, not elevation), using the provided allen wrench.

I found the Armalaser unit to be very intuitive to use and easy to see at reasonable combat distances and beyond. Adding a laser to my Kel Tec P-3AT was particularly effective, since the factory sights on this small gun leave something to be desired. My only real criticism of this product is that the space inside the trigger guard is slightly reduced, which crowds my large trigger finger a bit. All in all, however, it seems to be a small price to pay for the increased tactical advantage of a laser.

The Armalaser is available for the Kel-Tec P-32 and P-3AT, the Kahr PM-9 and PM-40, and for Glock models. Prices at press time were \$159 or less for any of the units, which makes this product very competitive in the laser market. I carry my Armalaser P-3AT on a regular basis, and find it to be a quality product made by an up-and-coming new company. You can find more information at:

www.armalaser.com.

Of course, you will also need some custom leather for your Armalaser equipped gun. K&D Holsters is leading the charge in providing such holsters. The holster pictured above is my K&D Holsters Pocket Defender, a great choice for pocket carry. The additional weight and bulk of the laser is almost unnoticeable for pocket carry in this rig. You can obtain additional information at: www.kdholsters.com.

THE CCW SHIRT

Finding the right holster can be a struggle. Those who carry concealed in non-permissive environments have a special need for deep concealment, giving rise to a variety of tuckable holsters, below the waistband holsters, and belly band type holsters. The CCW Shirt, made by The BuilderTech Company, is a great example of a new approach to deep cover holsters.

The CCW Shirt is, in essence, a holster shirt. The holster is integrated into a very high quality, mesh undershirt. The effect is very similar to that of a shoulder holster. Now, I have to say that I have never liked shoulder holsters very much. It is amazing how much more comfortable the CCW Shirt makes this type of carry. The weight is well distributed over the entire shoulder and chest area, as opposed to thin straps cutting into your shoulder. I was frankly amazed at just how comfortably a full-size handgun could be carried in this rig. While under the arm carry takes some time to get used to, it is actually quite comfortable, so long as your gun isn't too thick and doesn't have any sharp edges.

One of the things that impress me about the CCW Shirt and The BuilderTech Company is the level of service and customization. Each shirt is hand made for a particular customer, to fit the customer's





exact measurements and handgun application. As a result, the shirts take about two weeks to arrive, but you have a custom fit, as opposed to trying to fit yourself into a particular size. Proper sizing is critical to proper comfort and support in a shirt holster.

I found my holster shirt to fit a variety of handguns because of the elastic nature of the holster and the adjustable Velcro retaining strap. The side opposite the handgun holster is designed to carry two extra magazines, or other gear of your choice. The CCW Shirts are available for left- or right-handed carry and in full- or low-neck style cuts. The construction of the shirt is top notch, and should last for a long time. Given the quality and versatility of the product, the \$54 price tag seems reasonable. I apologize for the photo, which could show the product better, but I found it is very difficult to photograph a shirt like this if you are unwilling to model it for the world!

Obviously, this is not a fast-draw holster, and by definition, it requires some type of cover garment. However, the CCW shirt could be an excellent way to carry under a uniform, in a dress shirt, or in other environments where more traditional carry methods just don't work. I use mine to carry a compact semi-auto (or the S&W Model 60 shown) when I can't carry IWB, due to clothing restrictions. If you think this method of carry might work for your lifestyle, you won't go wrong with the CCW Shirt. For more information, visit The BuilderTech Company at: <http://members.sti.net/thebrsfamily/buildertech>.

THE LIGER GUN BELT

Experienced gun toters know that a good belt is essential to comfortable carry in a belt holster. Even a great holster is no better than the belt that supports it. You should never skimp on your carry belt.

The key to a good belt is sufficient stiffness to properly support a holster and other heavy gear. If you use a leather belt, that usually requires a "double thick" construction to resist rolling and twisting under the load. While leather is a great material for a belt, leather has its issues too, including maintenance issues.

The Liger Gun Belt is fashioned from man-made synthetics, a proprietary material called Ligerthane. I don't pretend to know what this stuff is, but it is *tough*. The Liger belt is very strong and stiff, while retaining enough flexibility for comfort and a relatively thin profile. Also important, however, is that the Ligerthane material is abrasion resistant, and nearly impervious to water, mildew, rot, solvents and other chemicals. The belt buckle is securely riveted to the belt, and is machined from a solid billet of aircraft aluminum that is treated with a mil-spec hard anodizing process. It's hard to believe that this belt won't last forever. Not surprisingly then, the belts come with a lifetime warranty.

While some may find the look of these belts a little unusual, I find them quite attractive. The Ligerthane is fashioned with a LigerDerm texture, to simulate the appearance of leather. The belts and buckles come in a variety of colors, including some non-tactical looking combinations of brown and tan. I have worn this belt for months and no one has commented on the unusual buckle. I am also happy to report that the belt sails through metal detectors without creating any undue alarm, so it is well suited for travel.

My Liger Gun Belt has become my favorite belt for casual wear and business-



casual attire. Some of the other synthetic material belts on the market just don't fit the current trends and they stand out in the crowd. This one doesn't.

Liger Gun Belts are priced at \$59.99, and should last for a long, long time. If you like the belt as much as I do, you will probably develop a collection of different colors! For more information, visit:

www.ligerproducts.com.

SUREFIRE U2 ULTRA

If you are like me, you have as many flashlights as guns. The advancements in flashlight technology in the past few years have been amazing. Each new product is better than the next, and SureFire is always blazing new trails.

The latest high tech lights use LED technology to capitalize on its benefits over incandescent bulbs, which are more efficient battery use, bright white light, and a light source that is virtually indestructible. However, many LED flashlights force you to choose between a lower output, long lasting, utility light, and a high output, tactical light. LED lights can serve either purpose very well. SureFire, however, has managed to produce a light that serves both functions well. The U2 Ultra is adjustable to six different light output levels, from 2 to 80 lumens!

At low output levels, battery power is conserved, while very useable light is generated. This type of output is perfect for reading maps, finding lost items, or maneuvering in dark areas without blinding yourself with the reflected light. At the lowest level, this light will run for more than 40 hours on its two 123A lithium batteries! At the highest level, this light cranks out 80 lumens, which is more than enough for a bright, tactical light to light up a room or temporarily blind an aggressor.

The U2 has the familiar SureFire click-on tail cap arrangement with momentary and constant-on capability,

as well as a lock-out.

However, the genius of this light's controls is in the simplicity of the twist ring that adjusts the output to six distinct levels. The controls are very intuitive and easy to use. I really like that this light has a very wide, flood-like beam that is perfect for lighting up a room or lighting up your whole field of view.

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Some tactical lights have a beam that is too narrow for good tactical use.

This light is a bit larger than your standard, 2 cell, personal light, largely because of the over-size head unit. This light also includes a pocket clip that is much better than some of the previous SureFire pocket clips. The flashlight body is aerospace grade aluminum with mil-spec hard anodization. In other words, this is a typical “built like a tank” SureFire product. The U2 Ultra’s \$279 price tag translates into a street price of around \$200. The light also comes with

SureFire’s bullet-proof customer service and lifetime guarantee, which adds considerable value to this product.

My SureFire U2 stays in my car and goes in my pocket when necessary. It is well suited to changing a tire or defending my life. Few products can do it all well, but this one does. Don’t compromise on a tool as important as a flashlight. I highly recommend the U2 Ultra. Check out SureFire’s newly re-designed webpage at: www.surefire.com.

Duane A. Daiker is a Contributing Editor for CCM, but is otherwise a regular guy – not much different from you. Duane has been a life-long shooter and goes about his life as an armed, responsible, and somewhat opinionated citizen. Duane can be reached at Daiker@RealWorldCarryGear.com. Additional RWCG columns can be viewed at www.RealWorldCarryGear.com.



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