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Photos: Ichiro Nagata

A SILK PURSE

Redefining "Perfection?"

If you're a student of firearms, you continue to be amazed at the technical, design and production breakthroughs emerging at an ever-increasing pace. One of these is the use of plastic in firearms. The very idea of this seems a paradox, but the truth is, plastic is king — or is it?

When the Glock 17 first rocked the firearms industry nearly 25 years ago, a friend of mine, Reiner Ruhnke, a German police officer in what was then West Berlin wrote me as follows: "I have fired this new Glock pistol — ugly, but works. Remember, we had it first." The last words of this were a quip Rainer threw at me on a regular basis. You know, the "German stuff is better" thing. What's more, he was almost always right — almost.

The Glock has always been an impressive pistol and has taken simplicity and reliability to new levels, at least in its 9x19mm platform. I bought my first 9mm Glock 17 in the early 1980s and both my wife, Nancy, and I carried it and shot it for many years (mostly Nancy, who was on it like a frog on a June bug from the start). Since then I've owned and tested a couple dozen Glock pistols (factory and custom) and have had good results from most of them.

However, as with anything in this world the Glock is not perfect, in my opinion. Well, maybe not anything. My wife is perfect (yes, honey, I swear it's true), being a cop for 28 years was the perfect job (wasn't it?); being born in the USA was perfect. Well, you get the drift. Now where was I? Oh, yeah, the Glock.

Over the years I have written a number of times about my amazement of a man with little or no experience in the firearms business developing a design such as the Glock. Think about it, this pistol incorporates rock solid principles together with the most modern technology. If you're not impressed, consider the overwhelming number of police agencies, abroad and U.S., that have adopted or approved the Glock for carry. It's accurate, reliable and has metallurgy that's nearly indestructible.