

PACKIN' IRON

GUNLEATHER FOR THE COMPETITIVE MOUNTED SHOOTER

By Ken Amorosano

Any misconception that all gunleather is good for mounted shooting is just that...a misconception. In this sport two pistols are drawn and holstered while maneuvering across an arena on a fast horse. This requires special equipment, especially your shooting rig.

Choosing gunleather for mounted shooting is akin to choosing a saddle for your horse. It must fit right and, most importantly, be functional for the purpose of use.

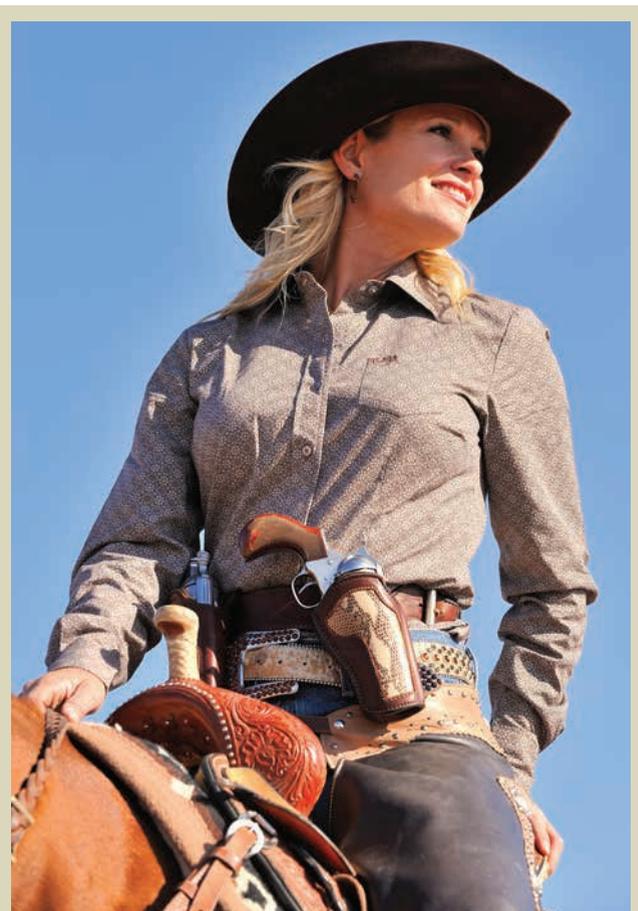
Not just any leather maker can make the right equipment for the specialized needs of the mounted shooter. When purchasing gunleather there are several things that must be taken into consideration.

First, a mounted shooting holster must be able to hold your gun in place while you vigorously maneuver courses. A mounted shooting gun belt does not need bullet loops; and many times it is designed with the buckle in the back. Some designs offer lower back support, while others are streamlined for the lightest footprint. Some are designed with shoulder straps to put your guns exactly where you want them.

Second, your body type will play a major role in the type of holster and gun belt you should consider. If you have a washboard tummy, you might consider a minimal design that fits close and tight to the body. If you have a little more around the belly button, you might consider something softer with a more comfortable spread. Women come in many shapes and sizes and should consider designs that are functional and accessible.

Today's mounted shooting holsters are also stylish and often-times colorful.

Whatever holster and gun belt you choose, however, be sure to go to a reputable maker who specializes in mounted shooting. They know things that other leather makers don't, and through years of experience they understand the sport and the special needs of the shooters. The best have developed techniques that make their holsters and belts special for mounted shooters.



Kenda Lenseigne Smokechaser

Safariland recently announced the introduction of the Smokechaser mounted shooting rig designed by World Champion Kenda Lenseigne for their Bianchi Cowboy line.

The Smokechaser holsters feature a strong-side ten-degree cant and a crossdraw twenty-degree cant in both right and left hand models. The holsters include an adjustable tension screw and are made from heavy weight 12 to 14 ounce, premium grade, full grain leather with steel reinforcements. The wide top opening design allows for easy holstering. The belt system is a two-piece design 2" wide with a 1.5" drop front piece and weight lifter style back support. The drop front is made to position the holsters comfortably and securely while on the course.

The holsters and belt feature a deep floral embossing on the cowhide portion with a lambskin white snakeskin print insert and are offered in Black and Cognac.

Rigs can be purchased at www.bianchicowboy.com