grip safety, all of which can deactivate the gun with fatal consequences. With a revolver, a poor grip (which is a distinct possibility during the sub-optimal conditions of combat) is still a functional grip.

23. Less likely to AD. With a long 8-pound-plus trigger (albeit a smooth one), a revolver is much less likely to accidentally or negligently discharge than a SA semi. No matter how competent you are with your cocked-and-locked 1911, you are a bumbling idiot when moused from sleep, tired, startled, or with a couple beers under your belt.

24. Stopping power available in small package. The small revolvers in .38/.357 caliber are both highly concealable and deliver potent rounds. There is a reason that the J-frame size rounds are the most popular back-ups and pocket guns in service.

25. Safer after the incident. Responding officers won’t accidentally fire your weapon when inspecting or bagging it. It happens. Really. Nor will you AD a hair trigger yourself in the confusion of the immediate aftermath.

So there you are: 25 excellent reasons to trust the revolver as a superior sidearm that is incrementally more difficult to AD, and yet still in many places, smart, street-savvy pros relied on a revolver as their weapon of choice, and I can’t recall any of them ever writing or noting that they felt under-armed as such. The only argument that can possibly be levied against the wheelgun is that it holds but six (or seven or eight) rounds. Well, the standard 1911 holds only eight, and the more compact version is less, and none of the .45/1911 ever seem to complain that they are under-armed compared to the 15+ round alternatives! And if we are talking about private citizen self-defense, which is what most of us are concerned about, then six rounds should be quite sufficient given that most encounters requiring social gunfire occur at less than five feet. Further, given the short windows of opportunity to survive at these close distances, John Farnam has correctly pointed out that you are more likely to run out of time than run out of rounds. With that in mind, what follows is Michael’s list of reasons why the revolver is a superior sidearm that I’ve encountered, and they are thoroughly convincing even to a long-time slick-slide plastic guy like me. I am now looking at my (Karl Sokol-tuned) K-frame with new appreciation, and I’m looking to build some new ones!

To set the stage, let us remember that for nearly a century (since 1911) and still in many places, smart, street-savvy pros relied on a revolver as their weapon of choice, and I can’t recall any of them ever writing or noting that they felt under-armed as such. The only argument that can possibly be levied against the wheelgun is that it holds but six (or seven or eight) rounds. Well, the standard 1911 holds only eight, and the more compact versions less, and none of the .45/1911 bigots (I say that in the nicest way) ever seem to complain that they are under-armed compared to the 15+ round alternatives! And if we are talking about private citizen self-defense, which is what most of us are concerned about, then six rounds should be quite sufficient given that most encounters requiring social gunfire occur at less than five feet. Further, given the short windows of opportunity to survive at these close distances, John Farnam has correctly pointed out that you are more likely to run out of time than run out of rounds. With that in mind, what follows is Michael’s list of reasons why the revolver is a superior sidearm.

1. Worlds safest live round indicator.

That is, you do not have to dangerous-ly fiddle with the gun (which is a fair description of a press check) to see if it’s loaded. You can see if there are rounds in the cylinder, and if the cylinder is open, you can even feel them in darkness. All this with no un-natural gun manipulation or danger to your body parts.

2. Minimum maintenance. This is self-explanatory. Revolvers don’t
Michael deBethencourt demonstrates a way to possibly get a round off if someone grabs your revolver and you are struggling for it. Let them continue to hold onto the cylinder while you rotate the frame 90 degrees around to hold onto the cylinder while you are instantly familiar with the weapon, even if you've never touched one before.

6. Fewer shots necessary to prove a semi. This gap can make it easier to pick up the revolver and get it into action.

7. Ammunition choice. A revolver will work with the next trigger pull or maybe the ammunition. The gun to your hand.

8. Misfires are reflexively corrected. Pull the trigger. Which is what you’d do instinctively anyway with any gun in the anatomy. Gymnastics and Pidgin English instructions for a lengthy series of re-function maneuvers.

9. Always available to trusted others. Everyone knows how to shoot a revolver, point and pull. There’s no gymnastics and gun handling.

10. Much easier for beginners. See above.

11. Loading is easier. You are loading the gun itself, not a separate appurtenance (the magazine). The loading of the revolver is far more instinctive than a semi. Also, you can’t load a round in backwards; you can insert a magazine in backwards.

12. Easier to unload and make safe. Two steps versus whatever.

13. Easier to grab and hold while you are instantly familiar with the revolver. No DA/SA transition is required, no safeties to manipulate, no hair trigger to worry about, no limp wrist problems.

14. Less expensive. Revolvers are generally less expensive than semi's, and many are available in good condition, used. It is good in itself, but it also means that you can more easily employ the “fire extinguisher” rule, and have guns posted at various spots about your residence, car, or business. This is hardly paranoid, and it has saved the life of several shopkeepers in some well-known incidents. And if you lose one, you don’t have to surrender one for evidence, the loss is less.

15. Greater tactical versatility. Deadly force encounters usually occur at touching distance. Revolvers can make contact shots (which are instinctive under stress at close distances, and may be necessary in any case) without jamming. Indeed, part of Michael’s course stresses contact shots and clever ways to utilize them at close distance.

16. Looks nice. Revolvers are more jury-friendly. They look all-American. They don’t look “mean.” They don’t have hair triggers. They look conservative. John Wayne and all the other Western heroes carried one. Joe Friday carried one. Bad guys in the movies carry “Death Blasters.”

17. Grips are infinitely adjustable. There is a staggering variety of grips available for revolvers, and you can fit your hand to your gun.

18. Pocket fire. With a shrouded hammer (not just bobbed) you can shoot from a pocket. It’s damned fast and it’s saved lives!

19. Four season common carry. A revolver can be carried in the easiest pocket for the strong hand to reach in all four seasons. A black or gray or a pocket carry is socially acceptable in almost any setting and with almost any clothing style (even in tuxedos, for those formal dinners that so many of us must constantly attend).

20. Cheap practice. You can get .22 caliber revolvers for inexpensive practice, all the while honing your tactics and gun handling.

21. Points well. Most people agree that few guns instinctively “point” as a good revolver. And if yours doesn’t, the pointability can be adjusted with different grips.

22. Can’t fatally foul the grip. Get a a coat outer pocket otherwise. Also, pocket carry is socially acceptable in almost any setting and with almost any clothing style (even in tuxedos, for those formal dinners that so many of us must constantly attend).

There is a staggering variety of grips available for revolvers, and you can fit your hand to your gun.

...securing it there.

...a mallet function, activate the magazine release, or fail to depress the...