

WILD BUNCH LEATHER

During our testing, we collected two excellent examples of period holsters that make shooting the guns more authentic.

Top, left and right: The Kirkpatrick Ranger rig (www.Kirkpatrickleather.com) features a floral-engraved belt and holster, dual magazine pouch, and silver buckle. This rig is similar to early Western rigs for the 1911, but check the rule! At a list price of \$600, this is not an inexpensive holster combination, but one that will last a lifetime. The 2.25-inch-wide belt is crafted from 9-ounce leather. Without the floral engraving, the holster combination rig lists for \$275. We definitely enjoyed this rig. One of our raters carried a similar rig at one time in police service, although his Kirkpatrick rig was crafted for the 44 Special revolver.



Bottom: The Border model from Western Star Leather (www.Westernstarleather.com) is a first-class rendition of holsters available during the Wild Bunch period. This is a modified Mexican Loop suitable for the 1911 45-caliber automatic pistol. There are several Border holsters available, but ours, the 108P, seems the most authentic. Others are available with a "US" stamped on the upper loop. Like all Mexican Loop holsters, the Border is not a snug fit, but in



this case a safety strap makes the difference. At \$145, this is a good holster that will give excellent service.