

MYGUNS

EMAIL NEWSLETTER - VOL 3

WHAT SHOULD MY FIRST FIREARM PURCHASE BE ?



THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF BEFORE CHOOSING A CALIBER/BORE OR RIFLE...

- **What do I want to use the firearm for?** Target shooting or hunting, varmint or game or birds?
- **What is my budget for ammunition?** You can spend anything from 5c to \$15 for a single cartridge or shell. You could consider a popular and easily available cartridge or shell.
- **What is my budget for the firearm?** You can spend anything from a few hundred, for a used firearm, to \$100K for a custom shotgun or side by side centrefire.
- **Do I need a scope? What is my scope budget?** An old saying goes - whatever you spend on your rifle, you should spend twice as much on the scope... it is very important to purchase a good scope, and a good scope can be the same cost as the rifle or more.
- **Lastly - Is it pretty and you want one?** Just ignore the above questions and buy it!



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING YOUR FIRST PURCHASE

First, decide what you want to do with your firearm, and then decide: not only what caliber/bore you want, but the actual cartridge or shell you want before you choose the firearm. Look at the make and model of a firearm that will shoot that cartridge or shell...

I recommend starting off with a Rimfire. You can pick up a new one for as little as \$350, add an entry level scope for \$100, and a box of ammo for \$5. You are ready to go plinking, target shooting and gopher shooting. Rimfire rifles like 17HMR, 22LR or 22WMR are the way to go. Remember - the 22LR ammunition is half the price of 17HMR or 22WMR rimfire ammunition. Buying a semi-auto is more fun BUT it comes with a price. You will shoot more ammo AND, on average, semi-auto is less accurate than the average bolt action. Lastly, consider a nice lever-action rimfire, as they come with a pleasant retro look and feel!



THE NEXT BIG THING - SCOPE

Please do not go buy the scope your buddy told you to get until you actually look through it! What's best for your buddy might not be best for you - some of us drive Dodge and some drive Ford for specific reasons ;) For example, make sure that the coatings placed on the scope lenses don't strain your eyes! I have crossed paths with many people who experience some blurring when looking through a scope for too long.... this happens when the coatings used on the lenses are not compatible with their eyes.

Keep in mind - having the scope mounted on your rifle can get expensive, particularly if you require special bases and rings. You could easily spend another few hundred dollars just to get it mounted.

Update from Last Newsletter:

One of our patrons informed me of a hidden gem related to ranges; the Brooks Fish and Game Association. They charge a mere \$85 a year for membership, with no wait list. The range is handgun approved, with shotgun coming soon. Targets are out to 300 yards. Their website is: www.bfga.ca.

What's new at My Guns:

1. I am still waiting for my reloading equipment from Layman USA before I can launch the reloading classes. Apologies for the wait!
2. The "Introduction to Rifle Scope" classes and "Introduction to Hunting in Alberta" will run every other week - have a look at all available classes and pricing on www.myguns.ca and contact me at (403) 919-1608 or gerard@myguns.ca to book!

In these courses I explain comprehensive topics that will vastly improve your hunting prowess, such as the deep dives we do on trajectories, ballistics, and reticles in the rifle scope course.



If you are looking for a little more punch and recoil but you're working with a smaller ammo budget - a .223 Remington is a great option. However, when it comes to hunting, you will have two choices - centrefire or shotgun... For game hunting, a centrefire cartridge is **REQUIRED** and you will need a minimum of .243 (6mm) caliber, as per Alberta hunting regulations. A nice centrefire rifle with an entry scope can be purchased for as little as \$500 during a sale. Keep your ammo budget in mind, as commonly available ammo for a centrefire cartridge can range from \$2 to \$15 per round, which adds up! Consider a cartridge that is moderately priced and easily available. As for shotguns, which you'll need to hunt birds and shoot clays, the 12 gauge is the most popular. For as little as \$400, you can pick up a nice pump action shotgun. For a few hundred more you can get a decent semi-auto.