

**-Soldier of Fortune**  
**October 2009**

# DOUBLESTAR'S **NEW** **.45 ACP**

**DoubleStar introduces  
its first 1911  
in a big way**



**By Gary Paul Johnston**

Johnston found the Dragon to be accurate and to feed a great variety of .45 ACP ammunition without a hitch. He wears a Mark IV duty jacket from Kitanica which comes with flashlight holder, spine pads, rib pads, and rifle recoil pad. Check it out at [www.Kitanica.net](http://www.Kitanica.net).

**N**ot long ago I was telling a friend that I wondered who would be next to offer a model 1911 pistol. After all, the 1911 is the pistol that seemingly will "never die." Think about it. In less than two years, the 1911 will be

a century old, yet this gun is a hundred times more popular now than it was many years ago. Oh yes, it was indeed popular back then, because it was designed for and adopted by the U.S. Army. Just as virtually all small arms adopted by the military, the Colt Model of 1911 was an instant success. Being quite arguably the finest self-loading pistol ever designed, the Model of 1911 has remained king, and it will be a long time before it gives up its crown. This is also why it so universally copied.

One of the last things I would want to do is count the number of makers of 1911-type pistols today. In addition to the attitude of most of the mainstream gun makers, that "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em," there is the far greater number of "cottage" gun companies making 1911-type

pistols. While not all of these guns are on a par with the best, some of them will surprise you. One is the new "Dragon" Model .45 ACP from DoubleStar of Winchester, Kentucky.

After receiving a sample Dragon a couple of months after the company introduced it at the 2009 SHOT Show, I find it to be quite an impressive gun. Let's take a look.

Starting at the muzzle, we find (thank God) a standard recoil spring system. That is, there is no full-length guide rod here, but also a checkered recoil spring plug that will allow you to quickly field strip the pistol without need of tools. I always make my point by saying that (with very few exceptions) a 1911 pistol that comes with a full-length guide rod should also come with a hacksaw! Above the plug is a match grade bushing surrounding a match grade stainless .45 ACP barrel.

On the slide behind the muzzle is a genuine Novak dovetailed and pinned front sight with a white dot on the rear of its combat ramp; behind this on either side of the slide are well-designed forward slide-cocking grooves. These are the kind you can grasp, but that won't scrape up your hands after a week at Gun-site. Such forward grooves are particularly valuable for doing a "proper" pressure check, to make

**Continued on page 70**

## Kitanica Jackets *Rugged Outerwear*

All Billy John Cronin ever wanted was to make an "ultimate jacket" — what he used to call an "all-everything, everyday kind of jacket that will never wear out." Now 42 years old, the former agriculture major from Connecticut began his quest as a student at the University of Vermont. After all those years, he has finally achieved the goal with Kitanica jackets, crafted in his studio in North Oakland.

"This," he says, unfolding a black, heavyweight Cordura Nylon coat — the Mark 1 — "is a revision of a revision of the first jacket I ever made. It's something that's never going to wear out." The jacket seems to have pockets everywhere, most with a D-ring stitched inside. It zips, but also has a series of buckles in front to give it even more strength. It's not quite military-spec, but it's close enough to appeal to the types of customers who would go after something with a military style.

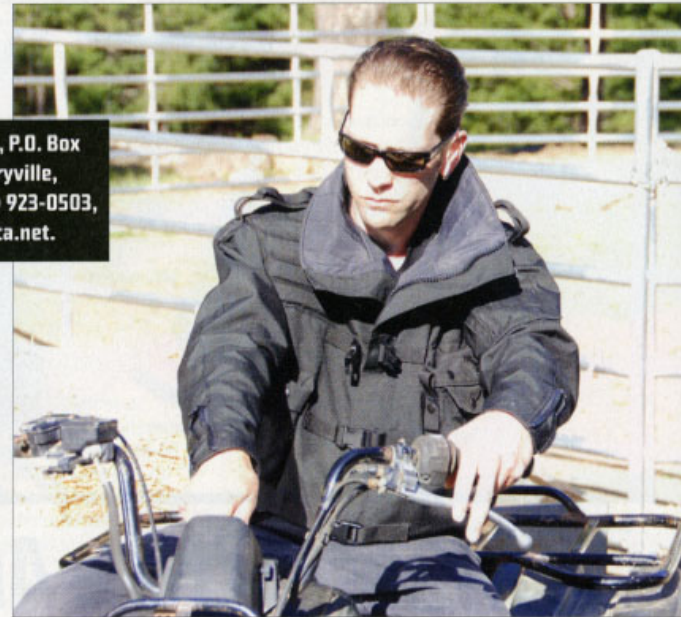
Cronin, who goes by "Beej" rather than his given name, has teamed up with his brother, 38-year-old Chris, to jump-start a company whose products are so niche that retail stores and fashionistas probably wouldn't have a clue what to do with them. Thus the sales are done completely by mail order and Internet, and the orders are coming in fast.

Cronin says the company started doing serious sales after his pal and television personality, Adam Savage, started wearing a Kitanica jacket on his show, *MythBusters*, on the Discovery Channel. In practically no time, the 'Net was abuzz with people wanting to know where to get a jacket like that.

"I knew he had a show, but I'd never seen it," says the affable Cronin, who at the time was teaching math to at-risk kids in San Francisco. "He'd bought one years ago, and I started getting weird e-mails from people wanting to know how to get one. So I put up a Web site and we fired [the company] back up. With that little push from Adam's exposure we got some juice."

Kitanica jackets sell from \$400 to \$500, depending on the model, and have become so popular that the Cronin brothers have contracted with third parties

**Kitanica LLC, P.O. Box  
99095, Emeryville,  
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[www.kitanica.net](http://www.kitanica.net).**



for the sewing and stitching. Chris Cronin, meanwhile, heads up the marketing and business end while Beej Cronin holds up the design end. A cousin, Len Riccio, also works on the project.

"It's not fashion stuff," Beej Cronin says. "No fashion people have really gotten it. This is a solid piece of gear, and we'd never really thought about that as a market segment."

—George Shirk

**-Soldier of Fortune**  
**August 2009**

# Colt's New Model 6940



**Straight from the SCAR Program, this is a Colt for the 21st century!**

By Gary Paul Johnston

**W**hen Mr. L. James Sullivan designed a smaller version of Eugene Stoner's AR-10 rifle to start the AR-15 on its long, infamous life, the M1913 rail (informally referred to as the "Picatinny" rail) did not exist. While firearms designed after 1991 have had the potential of being conceived with the M1913 rail system in mind, the AR-15, like a number of 20th century rifles, had to play catch-up. Where some other weapons truly required a great imagination to be adapted to the M1913 rail, it was almost as if the AR-15 was waiting for it all the time. Having been kept abreast of Mr. Richard Swan's quest to design a universal rail system for the U.S. military since the late 1980s, I received one of his first A.R.M.S. "Swan Rails" in early 1992. The carrying handle of a standard AR-15 upper receiver was machined off and replaced by a full-length dovetail. The new rail was permanently attached to the dovetail to create the first AR-15 flattop upper receiver. As soon as I saw it I knew it would revolutionize mounting systems...I just didn't know to what extent.

As they say, the rest is history, with Swan's flattop rail having been adopted by Canada, as well as Colt's Manufacturing. The US military also adopted the rail as the M1913, where it became a standard feature in the design of the M4A1 carbine and the M16A4 rifle for the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army, respectively. However, this was just the beginning.

Although Dick Swan envisioned his rail to be used for every conceivable mounting solution for a weapon, not all of the firearms industry was quick to understand the ramifications or the application. The top rail soon evolved into an extended top rail and then side rails and a bottom rail, and the "quad-rail" was born. With this system, not only could optics be mounted on the top rail with a true return to zero, but also other sight-

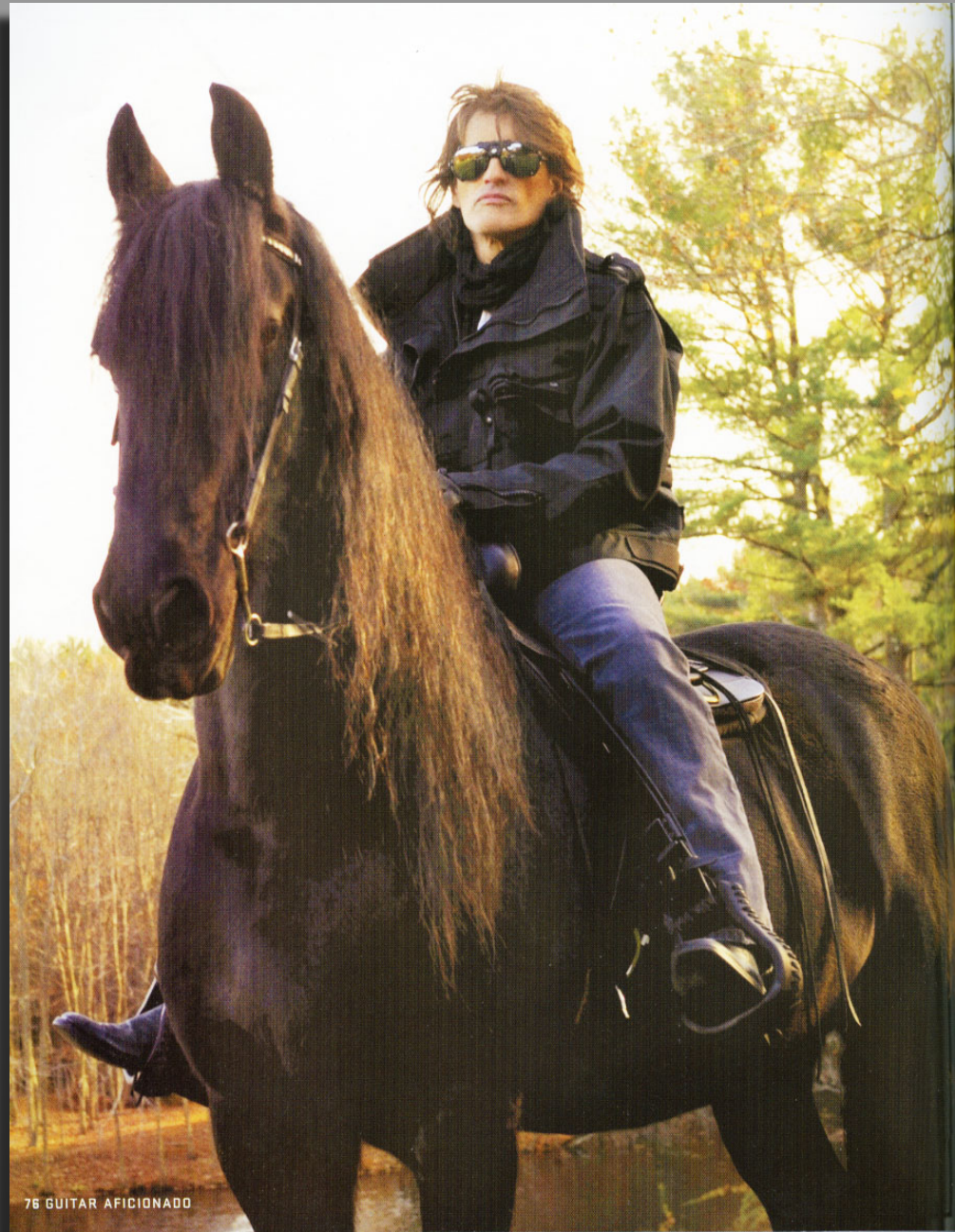
Johnston tested the Colt LE 6940 for accuracy using the USMC's Trijicon 4x32mm ACOG scope. The gun lived up to its reputation in accuracy and reliability.

Continued on page 70

**-Guitar Legend and  
Kitanica customer  
*Joe Perry of  
Aerosmith***



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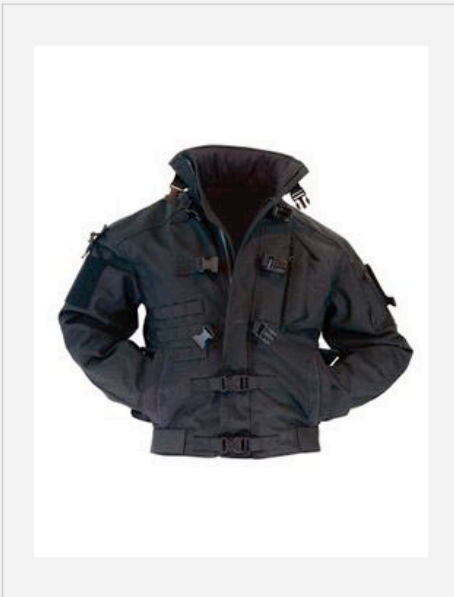
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**THRILLIST NATION**

Emailed on: WEDNESDAY MAY 27, 2009

**Kitanica**

Science fiction has taught us that in a desolate, post-apocalyptic landscape, humans inevitably forgo functional clothing for punk-ish flash, but where will you keep your house key when all you've got on is assless chaps and spiked hockey pads? For a utilitarian take on gnarly looking survival gear, check out Kitanica.



Designed as "exoskeletons for humans", Kitanica melds classic and futuristic aesthetic elements with ultra-durable fabrics and construction, creating chic [jackets for dominating](#) the outdoors, the vision of a master's degree'd dude who teaches at-risk youths...so, *The Substitute's* Treat Bersenger? Their newest model, the MARK I, rocks a rugged shell stitched from heavy weight, abrasion resistant 1000 denier Cordura, and drops b-loads of handy features including an epaulette that functions as a hands-

free flashlight cradle; cinching cuffs/collar/waist straps for weather protection; US Army-patented nylon webbing for attaching essential gear; and a double-reinforced "drag strap" on the rear of the collar, good for lugging felled game, though should they wake up they'll be angry and have a flashlight. There're also 11 specialized pockets, from a cargo chest number with internal D-ring for tethering equipment, to two vertical waist jobs (also w/ D-rings), to four interior compartments, to a shoulder pocket pimping pen sleeves, because in the [harsh and lonely](#) wilderness, the only naked women you'll find are those you draw for yourself.

For an even harder-core steez, check out K's original Mark IV, which features strategically placed rib padding for "side impact and protrusion resistance", a rifle recoil pad, and an articulated pad running down the back, which will protect your spine from bat wielding mutant freaks whose fiery anger only stems from the sand constantly grating their bums.

Get all "America, F Yeah!" and survive everything but your own bumbling incompetence with a jacket from [Kitanica.net](#)

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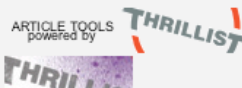
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## Kitanica Jackets

Every once in awhile we like to show something kind of high end. Kitanica's jackets aren't military but have features found in many tactical clothing products. In fact, the company name is derived from the word Chitin (pronounced Kai•tin), which is the structural component of insect exoskeletons.

Mythbusters fans will recognize the Kitanica brand, not necessarily by name but by sight. Host Adam Savage wore one of the coats that looks like a cross between a motor cycle jacket and a flight jacket out of a sci fi movie. In fact, Adam's use of the jacket on the show led to the resurgence of the brand which had gone into hiatus while owner Beej Cronin pursued a career in teaching. Interest became so great that Beej started the company back up along with brother Chris and their cousin Len Riccio.



**-MAY 2009**



**E-ROAD - Electric Bicycle**

## Kitanica



**Kitanica** introduces the MARK I jacket. This tactical utility jacket is equipped with features unavailable on any other jacket. With 8 pockets, PALS webbing and a universal hands free flashlight shoulder mount, the MARK I is more than a jacket, it is essential equipment. Available in Black and Foliage colors...

# Guns & Weapons For Law Enforcement

-April 2009

## KITANICA MARK IV

Kitanica has what may be the most advanced outdoor/tactical jacket ever. Called the Mark IV, this jacket has more useable space and places to put emergency gear than before. With center front ventilation and multiple breast pockets, the Mark IV also has a small tactical light holster, epaulets for use as drag straps and a hidden light holder to leave hands free and shoulder extensions for maximum range of motion. On the left and right sides are rib padding for side impact resistance and an articulated spine pad on the back for extra protection there.

A rifle recoil shoulder pad is constructed of EVA foam, and a cinching collar and waist retains body heat. Inside are two generous pockets sealed with Velcro closures suitable for a small handgun or valuables. The Mark IV is available in black, foliage, green or ACU Digi camo. For information, contact Kitanica, LLC, PO Box 99095, Dept GW/LE, Emeryville, CA 94662; 510-923-0503; [www.kitanica.net](http://www.kitanica.net)

Kitanica Mark IV Tactical Jacket is available in green.



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MarColMar's new semi-auto-only PKM is top notch all the way.

### MARCOLMAR SEMI-AUTO PKM

One of the finest light machineguns in the world is now available in semi-automatic only. Using a brand-new 100-percent American-made semi-auto receiver that is stronger and superior to the original, MarColMar Firearms uses new components where necessary to

create a rendition of the PKM that fires only from a closed-bolt position using a linear hammer. The only external difference is a steel tube running through the stock to the butt that houses the hammer spring and guide. All other internal parts are either of new manufacture or modified as needed, and all components are brand-new.

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## Kitanica Mark IV Utility Jacket

As spotted on *MythBusters'* Adam Savage, the [Kitanica Mark IV Utility Jacket](#) (\$600) is the perfect attire for performing your own outrageous experiments. Made from heavy-duty 1000 Denier Cordura, it's designed to be virtually indestructible, and features padded rib and spine protection, a rifle recoil pad, Maglight holster and shoulder cradles, and a ton of pockets. Buzzed hair and G.I. Joe-like posture optional. [Thanks, Michael]

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## Kitanica Mark IV Jacket

September 3rd, 2008 Posted in [Hard Core](#), [Sporting Goods](#)



If you're part Navy Seal, part Green Beret/Ranger, and part urban assault dude, then this jacket is for you. It will make you look like either a bad-as\$ mofo, or a hard-core wanna-be militia mental hospital escapee. Either way, nobody will F with you.

Pockets for ammo, pens, (and tire pressure gauge according to the picture), holsters, rifle padding, and nearly indestructible fabric, make this *the jacket*. I'm [ordering mine now](#) (\$597)- so I'll be ready for the riots (again).

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## KITANICA Mark IV

Kitanica



Kitanica's mission is to make the most durable, best fitting jacket with the best possible fabrics, fixtures and features available. Kitanica designs and manufactures all of its own products to control what they refer to as their "Chain-of-Quality". This high level of control gives Kitanica the confidence to offer a lifetime guarantee against craftsmanship and manufacturing defects. They also offer a Money Back Guarantee that allows you to return the product within 60 days of purchase for a full refund- if you aren't blown away by the quality, craftsmanship and durability of the jackets.

## Search Results

September 15th, 2008

### Kitanica Mark IV Jacket - As Seen On Adam Savage

by Andrew Liszewski



By Andrew Liszewski

If you're a fan of *Mythbusters* and have never missed an episode, you've probably seen host Adam Savage wearing a particularly high-tech looking utility jacket on occasion. Well it turns out that jacket, which looks like something the bomb squad would wear, isn't just a special one-off designed for TV hosts who risk life and limb to tackle some of life's most peculiar myths. In fact it's known as the Kitanica Mark IV, and is made in Oakland, California for those who need their clothing to conform to some heavy duty specs.