



above and right: What looks like an ordinary pair of jeans transforms into an ideal solution for pocket carrying larger pistols.

CCW BREAKAWAYS JEANS

[BY DON STAHLNECKER]

The good news: I'm not the only person who has spent the last couple of years pestering Jay French to add jeans to his excellent CCW Breakaways product line.

So I was thrilled when he handed me a pair at this year's tactical conference in Memphis. And let me say, these jeans are nice. First, they look exactly like any other pair of high quality jeans. Nobody would guess from looking that the front pockets are actually holsters designed to conceal a firearm.

Second, they work really well. In fact, this design may offer the fastest and easiest draw yet of any of his products. He has some videos on his website demonstrating a draw of less than one second.

If you're not familiar with the CCW Breakaways product line, you need to go check out the website <http://www.ccwbreakaways.com>. Jay has developed a line of clothing designed to solve two of the biggest problems with simply throwing a gun in your pocket.

A gun dropped loosely into a regular pocket can get flipped, twisted, and turned around. There is no telling

which way it will actually be pointing when you reach for it. Jay solved this by configuring a holster-pocket that reliably orients and secures the firearm with the muzzle pointed down. Now when you reach for your firearm, you are sure to pull it out by the grip and not by the barrel.

The second problem is that most pockets are not very large. Certainly if you wrap your fist around the grip of a handgun in any regular pocket, you're stuck. You're not going to get your fist back out of that pocket any time soon.

The top edge of the pocket on the CCW Breakaways is designed to open up or "break away," thus increasing the size of the pocket opening when required. This means you actually can get a proper firing grip on the firearm while it is in the pocket and still draw the gun.

THE BAD NEWS

Jeans by their nature are sleeker and

trimmer than dress pants. So it is harder to conceal a larger handgun in these jeans than in the other options available in Jay's line of clothing. While I can conceal a full size 1911 in my CCW Breakaways khakis, even the Glock 26 was a little too fat to work effectively in the jeans. Standing, the Glock disappears completely. But when sitting down, some printing happened at the edges of the hard blocky corners. This is because the jeans don't have the pleating like the dress and cargo pants do. Pleating allows those pants to remain loose even when sitting. Jeans, of course would look terrible with pleating, not like jeans at all. Consequently the fabric tends to pull tight around the thighs when you sit down.

However, if you like to carry a J-frame revolver or a slim semi-auto pistol like the Kahr PM9 or the Ruger LC9, these jeans work great.

So even though I won't be able to wear my new jeans to carry my beloved Glock 26, I'm still overall quite pleased. In fact, they give me an excellent excuse to purchase one of the new M&P Shield 9mm pistols which I've been drooling over. So thank you, Jay. You've done an amazing job. ★