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## Heritage Safes: The Official Gun Safe of Gunblast.com

by Greg Quinn

photography by Greg Quinn & George Briscoe II

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The Gunblast brothers had several “missions” at the **Shot Show** in February. **Jeff**, as always, enjoys comparing ballistics figures with the ammo manufacturers and investigating all the new guns that are coming out where we can get our hands on them for testing and evaluation. **Boge** follows Jeff around making pictures of all the great new stuff at the Show, and trying to make Jeff look good on camera (tough job). I, on the other hand, generally go off on my own with different types of assignments. I began looking for the “best of the best” manufacturers and wholesalers in specific markets with whom I will invite to become a Gunblast advertiser, something we just started at the Shot Show this year. I look for other areas in which we can elevate the business aspects of Gunblast to generate income where we can continue to bring the Gunblast.com reader the very finest content without reservation or external influence. In other words, make money where

we can continue to “tell it like it is”; the trademark of Gunblast’s mission as the pioneer online gun test magazine. And, as always at the Shot Show, I look for new and innovative products that we can showcase on Gunblast, as well as isolate a few products with the intent of discovering the very best of their breed. It is with the latter assignment, a mission of discovery regarding what we consider the best gun safe for the money, that culminated in this article.

As Jeff and Boge got to handle all the new guns, I spent two days at the Shot Show learning all I could about gun safes, and then investigating which gun safe manufacturer offers the best features for the money. The reason for this dedication to the gun safe product is twofold.

One, more and more gun owners seek out safes in which to store their precious firearms collection. This is very smart. A quality firearm is a significant investment, and they should be protected as such. Insurance plans typically don’t provide enough coverage to replace one gun, much less a bunch of them. Additional insurance is expensive. A quality gun safe is the best bet against theft and fire and could prove to be the best investment a gun owner could purchase. In addition, if you feel a need to build up your gun and ammo investment for family protection (see Jeff’s article on [Homeland Security](#)), you need a safe and accessible place for storage; a quality gun safe is your best answer. Furthermore, it is dangerous and totally irresponsible to be a parent of small kids and have guns loaded lying around for them to discover by accident, unless you have trained them in proper gun safety. A small child must be taught to never touch a gun without permission. Still, if your child knows to never touch a gun, if he has friends over to visit, chances are that the friend has no such training. You must be absolutely certain that no unauthorized person has access to your firearms. After a child is killed or injured as a

result of a preventable gun accident, it is too late for "I wish I hadof's". Don't give the antigun nazi's another opportunity to rally for additional gun laws because of your negligence.

Therefore, if you choose to own guns and ammo at your home, you need a safe place to store them.

The second reason is a very selfish one. As the Gunblast.com personal firearms collection continues to grow, we recognized a need to house the finest of these guns in a quality safe(s) for protection from theft and fire. So, I spent a significant amount of time at the Show investigating gun safes with these factors in mind.

There are a lot of quality gun safes on the market, and some that are pretty much junk. I spent many hours at the Show reviewing the best and the worst within the gun safe market. Some of the better gun safes evaluated at the Shot Show include models from the following manufacturers: **American Security, Browning, Canon Safe, Champion Safe, Fort Knox, Frontier, Granite Security (Winchester), GunVault, Heritage, Homak, Knoxx, Liberty, Remington, Safari Safe, San Angelo, and Weatherby**. Within this group are the inexpensive (but non-fire resistant and easier to break into) products from manufacturers like **Homak** and **GunVault**, and the premium vault-like safes such as represented by most of the rest of this list. While a safe from any of these manufacturers would do the job for most firearms owners, we bypassed the lower-end safes and evaluated only premium-line safe products. These upper-end safes would all contain the following features: exceptional quality products utilized in manufacture, heavy gauge steel, superior locking mechanisms, fire certification (of at least Class II), high-gloss automotive finishes (attractive enough to please the better gender), excellence in interior design and finish, and overall value. After careful evaluation of many really nice safe products

(most of these any Gunblast reader would be proud to have in his home), we had to make a choice. We selected the product that provided superior construction, fire and theft resistance, quality components, excellent finish (interior and out), and best overall value (features per dollar). We chose **Heritage Safe** as the “**Official Safe of Gunblast.com**”. This is the safe we liked the best, and the safe we purchased for ourselves (2 of them actually).

We don't pretend to be safe experts. Yet, each manufacturer had trained sales reps that reviewed carefully with me each feature of their products. Some manufacturers were easier to deal with at the Show than others, and some had exceptionally helpful and knowledgeable reps available to answer questions. I became simply an “information gatherer”, carefully completing a list of features and benefits of each premium safe product available at the Show. After reviewing this list, I then went back and asked additional questions. Then, I compiled a “features and benefits” checklist, and reviewed again the top models. I narrowed the list to several top manufacturers of premium-line safe products. I eliminated from consideration the very top model from each premium safe manufacturer, and the bottom model from each premium safe manufacturer, and concentrated on the models in the middle of the range from the very best of the premium safe companies' product lines. Comparing feature-to-feature, I began to create a “short list” of products for further consideration. From this

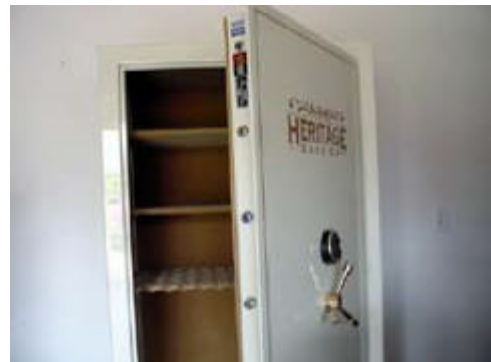
*Click pictures for a larger version.*

of products for further consideration. From this list, I then began to look at price, and determined overall value (features per dollar) to be the deciding factor from the short list of the top safe products. We chose Heritage not for one factor alone, but because we felt that their mid-line safe products represented the best products at the best overall value to the informed gun safe purchaser.

Now that I did all the painstaking comparison work for you, let me share with you the features of the products that were chosen by Gunblast.com.

First, we chose (and purchased) not one but two safe products from Heritage. We bought one big ol' safe and one mid-sized safe. We chose two different colors from opposite ends of the paint spectrum (one black and one white). Both were very heavy and very well-built products. Believe you me, before ol' Greg lays out any money, he insures that he is getting the best value for his dollar. I feel very comfortable with our Heritage purchases, and can highly recommend this product for any of our Gunblast readership.

We bought one **Model T4072** in Ivory White, and one **Model T3060** in Gloss Black. The T stands for "**Tradition Series**" safes. The Tradition Series is the middle-of-the-road safe in Heritage's line of quality safe products, and is their number one best selling safe line. The Tradition series safes by Heritage provide automotive finishes (high gloss urethane), a gold trim package, 60-minute fire protection, plush velour interior, and heavy construction as standard features. These safes feature UL listing and certification, 10-gauge body and 5/8



inch solid reinforced door frames, solid ¼ inch doors (with 3-inch angle frame), 1 3/16 inch Firewall, Class II (60 minute) Fire Certification, 1 inch diameter lock bolts (side, top and bottom), 24K gold Tradition 3-point handle, pindot velour interior (including sidewalls and shelves), top/bottom lock bolts, drill-proof ball bearing design, Quad Sleeve relockers, Diam-a-Shield hard plate, and a bank-style Sargent and Greenleaf electronic lock. These are truly beautiful and well-built safes, loaded with features.

Other features on Heritage safes include solid reinforced doors, active lock bolts, recessed pry-proof doors, concealed internal hinges, drill-proof ball bearing safeguards, hard plate metal over locks/relocks (Diam-A-Shield plate unique to Heritage provides 30 times the drilling protection of other leading brands), Quad-Sleeve relockers (triggered to relock when the safe is attacked by torch, impact or prying), positive deadbolt system locking mechanism, seamless body design (up to 50% heavier than some other brands), and UL listed bank-style locks.

The T4072 safe is a large safe, with measurements of 40"wide x 72" high x 28" deep (interior measurements). Overall depth is 31 ¾". This safe weighs approximately 1100 pounds. The 4072 is designed to hold up to 52 long guns, plus shelves for pistols, accessories, and ammo. The interior (several options available; I chose their Expandable model) is a modular design with a removable side shelf to hold fewer long guns (40) and more pistols, or

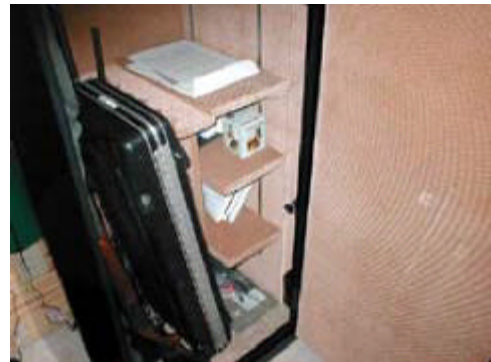


The Heritage Model T4072 "Tradition Series" safe is designed to hold up to 52 long guns.

the modular shelf can be removed to hold the full complement of 52 long guns. It has 5 full shelves. The interior is beautiful, with plush Beige velour on the shelves, safe walls (sides and back) and interior door. This hefty beauty has a premium S&G electronic lock and 18 (yes, 18!) lock bolts.

The exterior of the T4072 is as nice as any piece of painted furniture. I chose the ivory white color so that it would appease the finicky designer attitudes of my better half. This safe looks so good it's a shame you can't sleep on it or eat off it. While some might say that the Ivory White is not a very "manly" color, it's better to choose something that appeals to the décor of your home and is prominent and convenient in location than something that your wife hates and replicates to a basement corner. After getting the ivory white (truly the color of a nice set of ivory handgun grips) unit delivered, I really love the color. This thing is a true beauty. As far as quality of finish, I couldn't find a flaw in the finish anywhere (even the back). The gold trim package is nice and not gaudy, and the S&G gold lockset and the 24K gold-plated 3-point handle fit well in any interior environment. Again, I like it and (surprisingly) so does my wife.

Currently, the position of honor for this beautiful safe is a place in the back of my garage (aarrgghh). This is only because we are building a new home, and our current rental home's inadequate floor system cannot hold the weight of this huge safe without buckling the floor joists. So, a tip for anyone purchasing a big safe: make sure you have a floor solid enough to place a 1100 pound safe on it without structural damage to your home. We are beefing up the floor in the location for the safe in our new construction. Yet, most quality homes can hold a safe as large as the T4072 without any problem. Any location that is strong enough to hold a big deep freezer full of Elk can hold one of these safes.



The Heritage T3060 "Tradition Series" safe is designed to hold up

The other safe purchased was for our Gunblast.com competitive shotgunning expert, **George Briscoe II**. George is a master-class shotgun professional that is rising like a comet through the pro sporting clays firmament. We are proud to have George aboard. If you attend any master-class sporting clays events, you may see a good-looking stocky-built blonde-headed guy with a groomed beard (not like my brother Jeffs "ZZ Top-esque" dual braids) sporting 'gunblast.com' on the barrel of his piece, beating the pants off most of his competition. You'll hear more about George on Gunblast.com and in Sporting Clay events reports.

George opted for the T3060 in Gloss Black. The T3060 has all the features of the T4072, just not quite as large. Weighing in at 775 pounds, the 3060 is (you guessed it) 30" wide and 60" high. It is about the size of a good-sized fridge; any floor that'll hold a big fridge should hold this beauty. It has an overall depth of 28-9/16". The T3060 holds 27 long guns and has 12 locking bolts. The gloss black on this safe looks as good as on any Harley, and the gold accents (S&G lock, 24K gold 3-point handle, and script trim) looks classy. George chose the same Beige velour interior on the T3060 as the T4072.

Heritage also brags about being the only company in the industry offering **dual fire certification** (tested and certified by two independent fire-testing facilities: **Itech Thermal Response Fire Certification**, and **Certified Quad Fire Certification** by **Idaho National Engineering Laboratory**). ITR (Itech Thermal Response) represents quality assurance to specified products in providing controlled results in fire testing. Fire safes are designated as fire resistant (not fireproof), which entails a different temperature rise in the furnace during the endurance of the test. Fire safes, standing upright, and monitored and measured using ceramic thermocouples placed

to 27 long guns. Whichever Heritage model you choose, you are assured of security, fire safety and beauty at a fair price. You can spend more money, but you can't buy better protection!

throughout the safe to give exact temperature readings. This classification provides external safe temperature, not the furnace temperature as promoted by some tests. Test failure occurs when the safe's average internal temperature reaches 350 degrees F. Paper products will char at approximately 420 degrees F. A certified testing furnace is rated at 1950 degrees F, generating 36 million BTU per hour of scorching heat, exposing both radiant and convection heat transfer to the safe. In comparison, a typical home fire is estimated to reach between 800 and 1200 degrees F. The average response time for authorities to reach and contain most home fires is 10-30 minutes (unless you live in the crime-riddled inner-city areas of some major cities). All this means that a Heritage Tradition safe is guaranteed to hold 350 degrees internal temperature or less for one hour as certified within a furnace that delivered twice the heat as an average home fire. So, I feel that my firearms investment is very safe from the dangers of fire when placed in this Heritage safe.

All Heritage safes have a lifetime warranty, including in-home repair, covering forced entry, forced attack, fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, and earthquake damage, as well as a 5-year paint warranty against rust and a 5-year lock warranty. Lifetime, free-of-charge, repair, either in-home or free pickup and delivery. If that isn't enough, they offer an extended warranty to cover lifetime paint and lockset.

Cost? You can spend more on a quality safe, and you can spend less. From my research (and remember I am the businessman of the three Gunblast brothers, and am noted to be pretty cheap), I found that the Heritage Tradition safe delivered the best combination of quality, warranty, and workmanship for the money. In other words, you can spend more money, but you won't buy a better safe. Price will depend upon delivery location and options. Configured as in our test articles, excluding delivery, cost should run somewhere in the neighborhood of

\$2200-\$2700 for the T4072 and \$1500-1800 for the T3060. Don't hold me to this, however, as Heritage sells through a dealer network, and I cannot tell you what a dealer will charge. It may cost more or less, but you'd be safe to figure a cost in this general range. If you need more information on features and pricing, go to [www.heritagesafe.com](http://www.heritagesafe.com), and find the nearest dealer to your location.

**And now for something really special!**

Gunblast.com may actually take orders for a limited number of special "**Gunblast Model**" **Heritage Tradition Series safes**. Heritage and Gunblast.com are playing with this idea, which we think is a great one. These safes will feature all the best of the Heritage Tradition safes, with specially-designed "Gunblast.com" identification, and we're negotiating special discount pricing for Gunblast readers. If you are interested, pop an email to [greg@gunblast.com](mailto:greg@gunblast.com) and let me know, as these will be limited-edition, custom-order units and we need to get a feel for possible demand so we can lock in our discount pricing. Look for more information forthcoming.

What now? You have several nice guns and you want to protect them? You are concerned about fire and theft for your guns as well as other home valuables? You have kids and want to prevent accidental gun discovery? You want to protect your family by having accessible loaded firearms and supplies of ammo in a safe and convenient location? You want a safe that looks as good as it protects, with top quality and the best warranty in the business? Then, take the money you'd spend on that next shotgun or rifle and invest in a quality gun safe from Heritage.

Tell 'em that those Gunblast brothers from Tennessee sent you!

**Greg Quinn**