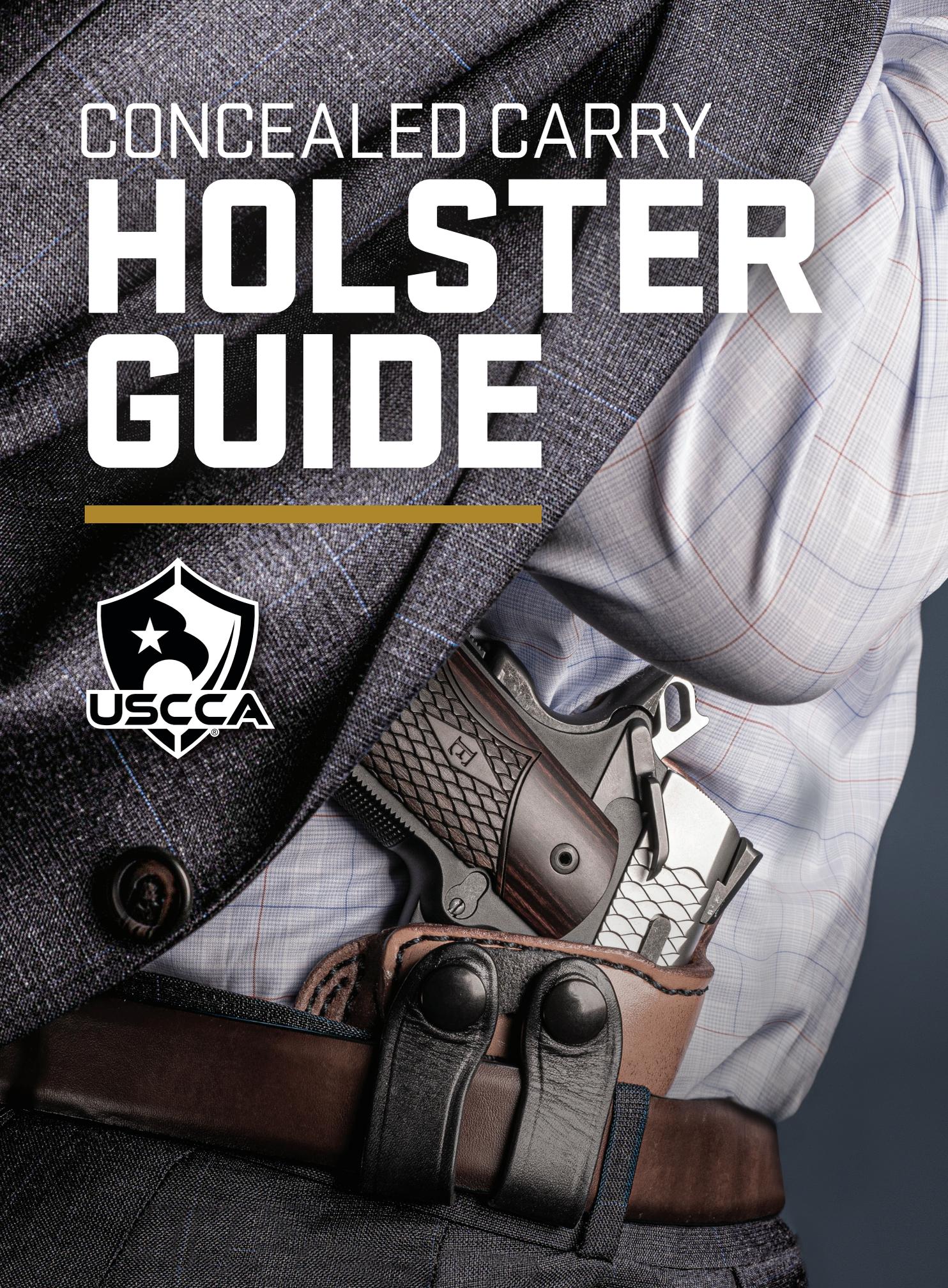


CONCEALED CARRY HOLSTER GUIDE





GAIN CONFIDENCE, PREPAREDNESS & PEACE OF MIND

WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE
U.S. CONCEALED CARRY ASSOCIATION

www.USCCA.com/Join

877-677-1919



MATERIALS

When you're shopping for a holster, the number of options can seem dizzying, especially if you're a new shooter. However, a little knowledge about common holster materials and terminology can go a long way in helping you decide which holster will work best for you.

KYDEX

Kydex is a polymer, shell-like material that is easily malleable when heated. What this allows holster makers to do is reliably and inexpensively manufacture fitted holsters for any sidearm, replacing the old style of hand-fitting a leather holster to a specific model of gun. Kydex's advantages are its relatively low cost and resistance to rot, droop and fading — all while offering strong firearm security. Guns “click” into Kydex holsters, held in by an extremely tight and precise fit. Kydex does not, however, “break in” the same way that leather does, nor is it as versatile when used to make a holster that will be valued as much for its appearance as its utility.



LEATHER

Leather is the traditional holster material, well-respected for its comfort, durability and visual appeal. Leather holsters span the spectrum from very basic and humble workhorses to true works of art. Leather's advantages are comfort and style, as everything from classic to contemporary pieces can be bought at almost any price point. Leather holsters can be costly though, as quality concealed carry options almost always require hand-fitting to your specific model of firearm and cannot be as easily machine-fitted as synthetic materials.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.

Click here or scan the QR code to join.



INSIDE-THE-WAISTBAND (IWB) HOLSTERS

More of a category than a style of holster for concealed carry, the inside-the-waistband (IWB) holster allows a side-arm to be carried inside the waistband of the pants, usually supported by a belt. An IWB is usually affixed to the belt with clips, some of which allow you to tuck your shirt over the pistol. Other models are specifically designed to work with garments that do not accept belts. Generally, IWB holsters afford the highest degree of concealability.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.

Click here or scan the QR code to join.



APPENDIX IWB HOLSTERS

“AIWB” holsters are a matter of contention with some carriers. Though one person might love how quick a draw AIWB affords him or her – and how it keeps the pistol right up front and therefore easy to defend from a gun-grab – another carrier might be uncomfortable with the thought of the firearm pointing down toward his or her femoral artery. But with the proper holster selection, AIWB is no more “dangerous” than carrying anywhere else on the body. Remember: Your holster needs to secure your firearm from anything but your finger intentionally pressing its trigger.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.

Click here or scan the QR code to join.



HYBRID HOLSTERS

A hybrid IWB holster combines modern materials such as Kydex and neoprene with classic leather to more effectively spread the weight of a gun and is typically more comfortable to many than a traditional IWB. While popular for their comfort, they are not ideal for all body types. The leather can make reholstering difficult, as it molds to both the gun and the carrier's body.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.

Click here or scan the QR code to join.



PADDLE HOLSTERS

The main feature of a paddle holster is a large composite or leather paddle that rides inside the pants. Most any style of holster can be made as a paddle holster. The chief benefit to this type of holster is that you need not remove your belt in order to remove the holster. The downside is that it is not as secure as other styles during a scuffle and could be ripped right off the trousers if someone grabs the firearm. Paddle holsters are extremely popular with individuals who regularly wear jackets or other cover garments and, like several others on this list, are a standard of plainclothes police officers.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.

Click here or scan the QR code to join.



SHOULDER HOLSTERS

Dating back more than a century, shoulder holsters are ideal for carriers who spend a great deal of time riding, driving or otherwise seated. Models are available that carry just a sidearm or that can carry a sidearm, extra magazines and other EDC gear. A shoulder holster requires some sort of cover garment, and you must use extra care to keep your finger off the trigger during the draw stroke because of the wide arc you trace while bringing the pistol to the target.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.
Click here or scan the QR code to join.



ANKLE HOLSTERS

Another classic from the world of law enforcement, an ankle holster allows a carrier to discreetly pack a small handgun on the ankle, where it is covered by the leg of his or her pants. Drawing from an ankle holster can be slow, as you must change your body position to gain access to the firearm. Ankle rigs are great for backup guns and for those who spend a lot of time seated, but they can be uncomfortable.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.
Click here or scan the QR code to join.



SMALL-OF-THE-BACK HOLSTERS

This type of holster, commonly called an "SOB," allows a carrier to stow his or her gun in the middle of the back of his or her belt, and models are also available that securely hold a holstered handgun without a belt. Though less comfortable for someone who's seated, it takes advantage of a natural concealment point on the human body and makes less of a visual imprint on the carrier's clothing. The downside of a small-of-the-back holster is the risk of serious back injury should the carrier fall or be knocked down on top of the gun.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.
Click here or scan the QR code to join.



POCKET HOLSTERS

The deceptively simple pocket holster allows a carrier to safely keep a pistol or revolver in a pants or jacket pocket. The trigger is protected from snags, and the materials used in the construction of this style of holster are specifically designed to ensure a fast, smooth draw from a pocket. Such a holster is also designed to ensure that it stays in the pocket where it belongs when a carrier draws his or her firearm from it.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.
Click here or scan the QR code to join.



PANCAKE HOLSTERS

Popular for decades with plainclothes law enforcement officers, pancake holsters offer minimal retention but a quick draw. Though not as discreet as truly concealed styles, they offer quick access and great convenience at various draw angles, sometimes featuring multiple belt holes for maximum versatility. When carrying in one, you'll need some sort of cover garment – either a jacket or an untucked shirt – unless you intend to carry openly.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.
Click here or scan the QR code to join.



GARMENT HOLSTERS

GARTER STYLE, SHIRT, BELLY BAND, ETC.

The sky's the limit here – or, more accurately, human imagination is the limit with these unique designs. Belly bands – holsters that are integrated into broad straps that are worn around the waist or chest – are popular among those who prefer not to carry their guns in a belt-mounted platform. Women's undergarments are also custom-made to accommodate firearms and magazines (as well as flashlights, pepper spray, knives and other EDC gear). Even shirts and pants are manufactured to tight specifications with integrated holsters, making concealed carry more comfortable and convenient than ever.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.

Click here or scan the QR code to join.



OFF-BODY CARRY SYSTEMS

Modified purses, tablet cases, briefcases and other bags are common ways to carry concealed firearms. Though they present their own challenges, they are an exceptional way to carry concealed – and not just handguns either. Multiple designs are available that can conceal folding carbines or pistol-gripped shotguns as well as sidearms. Depending on your needs, they can fill a very important role.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.
Click here or scan the QR code to join.



VEHICLE PLATFORMS

Like garment holsters, there exist dozens of vehicle-mounted carry platforms that allow concealed carriers to safely and securely carry or store handguns inside a car, truck, van, ATV or boat. Everything from mountable holsters that offer very fast draws and low levels of retention to full-on safes designed to be mounted directly to a vehicle can be had at a range of prices that allow you to rest easy knowing your sidearm is securely stowed when it's not on your belt.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.

Click here or scan the QR code to join.

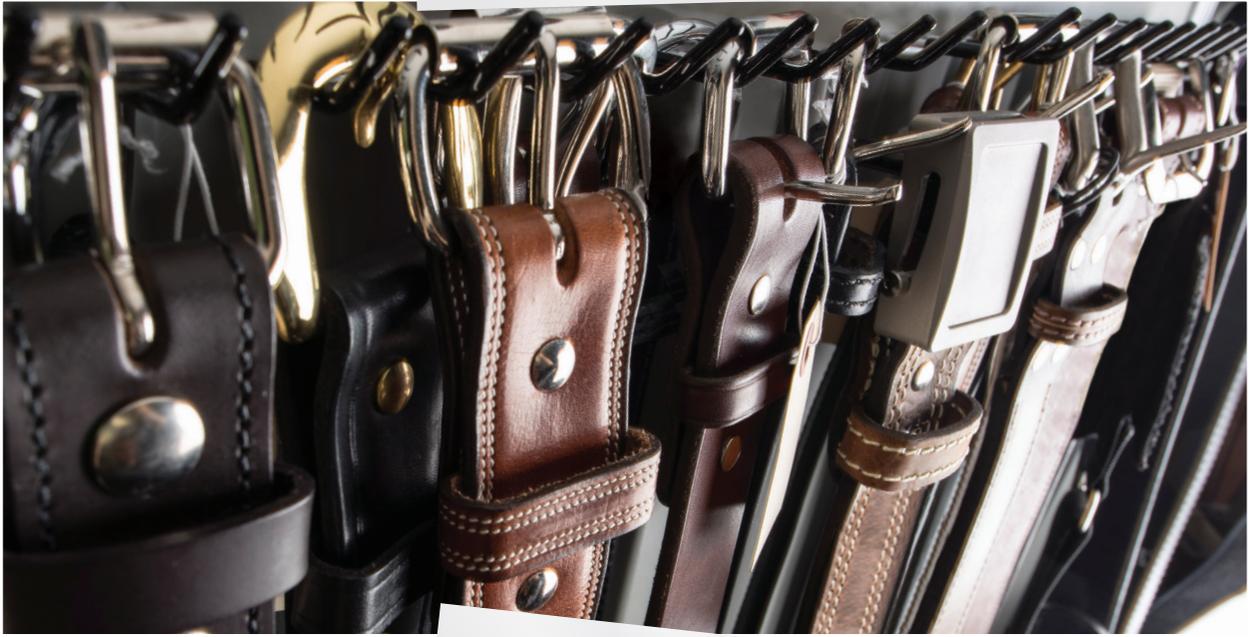


YAQUI HOLSTERS

A specific type of slide holster, the Yaqui covers little more than the trigger and action of a handgun and requires an almost-vertical draw. These are especially popular in the Southwest among those who carry custom or otherwise visually attractive guns they want the world to see. With practice, an individual can draw from such a holster very quickly. Some people avoid the Yaqui, though, as it exposes much of the gun to the elements. Accidental scratching is also possible due to the reduced physical coverage of the firearm.



USCCA Members get discounts on this style of holster from multiple manufacturers.
Click here or scan the QR code to join.



BELTS

The finest holster in the world will be of only so much use if it is worn on a flimsy belt or, even worse, simply clipped onto the waistline of your pants.

If you're going to be wearing a holster, you really need to acquire and wear a quality gun belt. The purpose of a gun belt is to keep the holster in a fixed position so you can draw your handgun consistently and reliably. While this might sound like a no-brainer, you'll want to be able to access your sidearm exactly the same way every time you go for it. This can be difficult without the proper equipment. A good gun belt ensures that the holster will not shift or sag away from your body, either of which can cause you to fumble for your firearm during an emergency. Though there are plenty of options that look more at home around the waists of competitive shooters or Special Forces soldiers, today's market offers quality gun belts for any and all clothing styles and occasions. Whatever their particular style, all quality gun

belts have one thing in common: They are more rigid than a traditional trousers belt, which means that they provide a better platform upon which you can mount your holster. Good gun belts are available in leather, nylon and just about every material in between. Which belt you decide to use is entirely a matter of personal style and preference. After the main criteria of rigidity is met, the most important consideration for a good gun belt is to make sure it is not dramatically narrower than the belt loops through which it will be run. When the belt is significantly narrower than the belt loops, the belt will slide up and down within the loop channel, failing to keep the holstered gun securely in place and making for a less-than-consistent draw. Many concealed carriers have two gun belts: one wider belt for casual wear and one narrower belt for dress wear. This plan will ensure that your sidearm will always be securely and conveniently held in place, ready for you if you need it.

Copyright © 2014 by Delta Defense LLC. Revised 2023.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted by any means: electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without first obtaining written permission from Delta Defense LLC.

DISCLAIMER – The views expressed in this article are exclusively the personal and/or professional views of the author and do not express the views, policy or position of Delta Defense LLC ("Delta") or the United States Concealed Carry Association, Inc. ("USCCA"). This article is provided solely for educational and entertainment purposes. This article is not offered for legal or other professional advice. Delta and the USCCA do not make any representations or warranties of any kind and disclaim any implied warranties for fitness of use for a particular purpose or merchantability. Delta and the USCCA do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage or disruption, including incidental or consequential damages caused, directly or indirectly, by the information in this article or reliance thereon, including any errors or omissions. Delta and the USCCA are neither responsible nor liable for any information contained in this article. Nothing in this article is intended to be legal advice or to substitute for legal advice, as this article is a general guide relating to legal issues and/or is specific to a certain set of facts and certain jurisdictions. Every situation is unique, and the reader should consult an attorney in the reader's jurisdiction for legal advice on any legal issue.



EDUCATED. TRAINED. INSURED.

www.**USCCA**.com
877-677-1919

PRESENTED BY
DELTA
DEFENSE LLC