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Non-lethal weapons

The Bruzer – a less lethal, compact 12gauge

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To augment local police officers' growing array of non-lethal weapons, Tommy Teach, a military combat veteran, has designed a compact nonlethal 12-guage shotgun.

With the help of his business partner, David Sult, Teach developed the Bruzer, a compact 12-gauge less-lethal launcher that can fire a variety of off the shelf less-lethal ammunition including bean bags, flash bangs, flares, chemical delivery, and rubber bullets.

Teach found that 12-gauge shotguns are not particularly portable making them unrealistic in many situations. Resembling its more lethal cousin, but roughly the size of a pistol, the Bruzer is far more portable. The device is compact enough to be drawn from leg holsters, vest-mounts, and crossdraw holsters.

In designing the less-lethal 12-guage launcher, Teach was mindful to create as similar device as possible to the original.

"We have a lot of civil unrest. When a person faces the Bruzer head-on and we don't actually recommend that you do this—they will see two very large diameter barrels staring back at them. It's a big deterrent," Teach explained. "People are going to look at this and [say] wait a minute, this doesn't look good. And chances are ... they are going to stop whatever they're doing."

Teach added that the Bruzer can be used in situations where lethal munitions would injure a suspect badly or damage individuals and property nearby.

The weapon has a range of fifty feet, depending on the munitions used, allowing officers to keep their distance from a subject. In addition, Teach explained that the single-action design instills a greater level of caution on the individual who wields it as it takes time to re-cock the launcher between shots, forcing the user to re-assess the situation before firing.

"The objective is to inflict sufficient pain to gain compliance. For example, you might encounter a threatening suspect with a knife. Do we need to kill that person? Not necessarily," Teach said.

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