

# GTM<sup>®</sup>

Conceal + Carry

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– Serious About Women's Protection –

# **Gun Tote'n Mamas® Purse Owner's Manual**

## **Instructions for Use and Important Safety Warnings**

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Read this entire Owner's Manual before using your  
Gun Tote'n Mamas® ("GTM") Purse or Other GTM Product.  
Read, Understand and Follow these Instructions and Warnings  
whenever using GTM Products.

**Failure to follow these instructions and warnings  
may result in SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH to you  
and others, as well as damage to property.**

This Owner's Manual should always accompany  
the GTM product, and be transferred with it when the  
product is sold, given or loaned to another person.

A copy of this Owner's Manual can be downloaded  
FREE at [www.gtmoriginal.com](http://www.gtmoriginal.com), or obtained from us at:  
[GTM@guntotenmamas.com](mailto:GTM@guntotenmamas.com), or by mail to

Gun Tote'n Mamas®,  
1912 Shermer Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062,

or phone (847) 446-0700, ext. 105/110.

**⚠ YOUR GTM PURSE IS NOT “CHILDPROOF,” and should NEVER be left, even briefly, with a gun or other self-defense device (“SDD”) in it where children could possibly gain unsupervised access to it.** Your unattended GTM purse must be reliably kept away from children by locking the purse, or the gun or other SDD you carry in it, in a gun safe or other secure, locked container or locked compartment to which only you have access. See page 5 for more about this issue.

## **SAFETY WARNINGS**

The symbol ⚠ indicates a warning which, if not followed, **is likely to result in serious physical injury or death.**

⚠ Follow the instructions and warnings of your handgun’s manufacturer regarding the safe loading, unloading, carrying and use of your handgun, as stated in the owner’s manual for your handgun. Carry your handgun in your GTM purse (by which term we mean to include other GTM products as well) in the manner recommended by your handgun’s manufacturer. If you do not have an owner’s manual for your handgun, manuals are available on the handgun manufacturer’s website, or contact the manufacturer or store from which you purchased the gun.

⚠ Follow the Basic Rules of Firearms Safety on page 4 of this Owner’s Manual.

⚠ Before carrying or using a handgun for self-defense, you should obtain formal training from a qualified firearms instructor. For details, see below.

⚠ “Off-body carry” of a handgun in a GTM purse involves the risk that an attacker may grab your purse away from you, taking with it the gun or other self-defense device (“SDD”)\* with which you intended to defend yourself. This risk may be reduced if you wear the purse’s strap across your body, rather than just over your shoulder.

⚠ In carrying a gun in your GTM purse, place the gun in the holster provided. Do not carry objects other than the gun in the compartment with the gun, as these objects could activate the gun's trigger, hammer, manual safety, or magazine release, resulting in accidental discharge of the gun, serious bodily injury, or death.

In drawing the gun from the GTM purse, and in replacing the gun in the GTM purse:

- Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard to avoid accidental discharge.
- Don't let the gun point at any part of your body or anyone else's body while drawing or re-holstering the gun.

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\*Other self-defense devices ("SDDs"), such as pepper spray, Tasers, and personal alarms, can also be carried in GTM purses and other GTM products, such as GTM's backpacks, briefcases, messenger bags, totes, and iPad cases. For the sake of simplicity, this Owner's Manual will sometimes refer only to "guns," with the understanding that many of the principles, instructions and warnings contained in this Manual also apply to other SDDs. In addition, this Manual will refer only to GTM "purses," with the understanding that the term also includes other GTM products.

⚠ Before you insert, carry or draw a loaded handgun from your GTM purse, "dry practice" with an unloaded gun in a safe location and with the gun pointed in a safe direction until you can safely, comfortably, and reliably open the gun compartment and draw the handgun from it. Be sure to keep your finger outside the trigger guard and keep the gun pointed in a safe direction while practicing. For further dry practice recommendations, see page 8 below.

⚠ GTM offers only non-lockable purses. Each type of purse – non-lockable and lockable – offers certain advantages and disadvantages. See page 10 below for additional guidance to help you decide which type of purse you think is best for you.

⚠ **Your GTM purse is not a gun safe, metal lock box, or locking gun case. It is not as secure as those storage options, as it is designed to make your gun readily accessible for self-defense.**

⚠ **Your GTM purse is not “childproof.”** Many people, and especially children, are attracted to guns, and children two years old or possibly younger can open zippers and can operate guns. **DO NOT LEAVE THE PURSE WITH A GUN OR OTHER SDD IN IT UNATTENDED, EVEN FOR A FEW SECONDS, WHERE CHILDREN AND OTHERS WILL HAVE UNSUPERVISED ACCESS TO IT.**

**Keep your gun purse under your direct control at all times.**

- If you cannot keep the purse under your direct control, lock the entire purse with the handgun in it in a gun safe, or in a securely locked container or compartment to which only you have access.
- As an alternative, remove the gun from the purse and lock the gun in a gun safe or other securely locked container or compartment.
- A third option, although generally not as safe, is to unload the handgun and take the ammunition with you, or at least store the ammunition in a separate location, distant from the gun.

**REMEMBER, THE SAFE USE OF YOUR GTM PRODUCT DEPENDS ON YOU!**

**YOUR RESPONSIBILITY as a Gun Owner**

Your handgun is a **DEADLY WEAPON** for which **YOU** are responsible. How seriously you take that responsibility can literally mean the difference between life and death for you, your loved ones, and others around you. Safety is a full-time responsibility you cannot delegate to others, and for which you cannot rely solely on products, including GTM products. **When it comes to firearms, you cannot guess, you cannot assume, you cannot forget, you cannot overlook.** Even a few seconds of carelessness or inattention can result in a tragedy. Remember, **YOU are responsible for the safe use of your GTM product!**

**Gun-Handling and Gun-Safety Competence.** Before carrying a handgun for self-defense, you should have formal instruction and training from a competent source. Your training should include, at a minimum, gun safety (including safe storage of guns when you are not using them), marksmanship, gun-handling techniques appropriate to your particular

type of gun, basic self-defense tactics and shooting techniques, crime avoidance and prevention strategies, and the law relating to the carrying of concealed weapons and the use of deadly force in self-defense. **Neither this Owner's Manual, nor any other book or manual, is an adequate source of training in these critical subjects – you need hands-on training from a qualified instructor.** Local gun stores, gun clubs, shooting ranges, and police departments frequently offer such instruction, or can tell you where to obtain it. If you cannot find a local source of training from a certified firearms instructor, contact the National Rifle Association at [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org), phone 703-267-1000, or U.S. Concealed Carry Association, [uscca.com](http://uscca.com), phone 877-677-1919. For sources of good training with other SDDs, contact the manufacturer of your particular device.

**Follow the Instructions and Warnings of Your Handgun's Manufacturer.** There are far too many brands, models, and types of handguns for this Owner's Manual to give you weapon-specific safety instructions. Instead, you should follow the instructions and warnings of your handgun's manufacturer regarding the safe and proper use of your specific model of handgun, including such critical things as loading and unloading, whether or not it is safe to carry your handgun with a round of ammunition in the chamber, whether and when the manual safety (if your handgun has one) should be engaged or disengaged, whether it is safe to carry your handgun "cocked and locked," and many other critical safety issues. If you don't have an owner's manual for your handgun, most gun manufacturers provide these manuals for free download on their websites or will send you a manual if you contact them by telephone or email. If you are not positive you understand any aspect of how your handgun should be used, contact the dealer from which you purchased the handgun, the manufacturer, or a certified firearms instructor.

**Basic Rules of Firearms Safety.** Regardless of the particular model of handgun you own, certain Basic Rules of Firearms Safety apply to all guns and all gun handling. These rules are as follows:

1. **Treat all guns as if they are loaded, at all times.** (Following this rule makes you less likely to have an accident because you mistakenly thought the gun you're handling wasn't loaded.)


2. **Point the muzzle in a safe direction at all times.** (A “safe direction” for these purposes is a direction in which no one would be injured if the gun were to discharge, and there would, at most, be minor property damage. A gun in the holster in a GTM purse is considered safe, provided the gun is in a condition approved by the gun’s manufacturer and consistent with the owner’s manual for your gun; as long as such a gun is not being handled, drawn, or re-holstered, the purse with the gun in it can be oriented in any direction.)
3. **Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are aimed at a safe target and have decided to fire.** (When you are holding a gun but are not firing, your finger should be firmly braced on the slide or frame of the gun.)
4. **Be sure of your target and what’s around and beyond it.** (A bullet fired from your handgun can travel a mile or more, and can pass completely through common residential walls, floors, ceilings, and other objects, including intended targets. Bullets can ricochet off hard surfaces, the ground, and even off the surface of water. Once you fire a bullet, you cannot call it back, so **think first**, and be sure you are firing in a safe direction before you fire.)
5. **Condition Check Rule: Whenever you pick up a gun that, even for an instant, has been outside your direct control, the first thing you must do is check to see whether or not the gun is loaded.** Refer to the owner’s manual for your gun for instructions on how to do this. Never assume the gun is in the same loaded or unloaded condition as when you last handled it. **Remember: the gun is a deadly weapon for which YOU are responsible!**
6. **Gun Storage Rule: Any gun that is not within your direct, continuous control should be made inoperable or inaccessible to unauthorized users.** Guns should also be stored out of sight, and out of reach of children. Guns can be made **inoperable** by the use of cable locks, trigger guard locks, other types of gun locks, or by disassembling the gun. However, all of these locking devices can be cut or broken off the gun by children or adults with determination and tools, and even disassembled guns can be reassembled by individuals with the knowledge or time to do so. Accordingly, **it is usually safer to render the guns inaccessible by locking them in a gun safe or a secure metal lock box.** Gun safes that are big and heavy, and are bolted to the floor, walls, or structural elements of a building or vehicle, also provide better protection against theft of the gun.





7. Many authorities recommend that guns that are not being used should be stored unloaded under lock and key, with the ammunition stored under lock and key in a distant location.
8. GTM products are designed and intended to allow you to carry a loaded gun or other SDD ready for immediate self-defense use. They are not intended, and should not be used, to replace gun safes, metal lock boxes, and other secure gun storage options.

There is more to know about firearms safety, and more you need to know about safe gun handling. The safety rules above are only some of the most basic ones. Again, if you are not a trained, experienced gun handler, you should (1) obtain formal instruction in the self-defense use of your handgun, and (2) always follow the instructions and warnings provided by the manufacturer of your handgun, in the owner's manual for your handgun.

 **YOUR GTM PURSE IS NEITHER DESIGNED NOR INTENDED TO BE "CHILDPROOF"**  
**NEVER LEAVE IT UNATTENDED, EVEN FOR A MOMENT, WHERE A CHILD OR OTHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSON COULD HAVE ACCESS TO IT!**

 **Never assume** a child doesn't know how to operate your gun. Children are ingenious and can figure out how to operate any gun. Or they may already know how to operate the gun, by having watched you do it, or having watched it done hundreds or thousands of times on TV.

 **Never assume** you can hide a gun – or your purse with a gun in it – where a child "can't find it." Decades of tragic experience have proven that children can find anything in your home, workplace, or vehicle, and that trying to "hide" the gun or a purse with a gun in it is not a reliable way to secure a deadly weapon.

 **Never assume** a child can't reach high enough to get to your gun purse on top of a cabinet or on a high shelf in a closet. Children have often used chairs, tables, step ladders, and boxes stacked on furniture to climb as high as necessary to reach whatever arouses their curiosity. As the old expression goes, "Where there's a will, there's a way."

 **Never assume** a child is so well-behaved that "they know never to touch my gun

when I'm not around." When you're not around, how do you know what the child is doing? And even if your child or teenager is indeed as well behaved or well-trained as you think, are all of their friends and visitors similarly well-behaved and well trained about the dangers of guns?

⚠ **Never assume** a child isn't strong enough to operate your gun. A child who isn't strong enough to pull the trigger in a normal manner will use both forefingers to pull it – or both thumbs, with the gun pointed toward themselves! A child who isn't strong enough to cock a gun's hammer will use both thumbs to do so or will press the hammer against a piece of furniture and lean their body weight on the gun to cock the hammer. In the same manner, a child who isn't strong enough to cycle a pistol's slide to chamber a cartridge will brace the front of the slide, or the front or rear sight, against a tabletop, chair seat, or other object, and will use their body weight to push downward on the pistol's grip to cycle the slide and load the chamber. If in fact your child isn't strong enough to operate your gun today, they may be strong enough next week, next month, or next year.

⚠ **Again, your GTM purse is not "childproof," and should NEVER be left with a gun or other SDD in it where children could possibly gain unsupervised access to it, even briefly.** Your unattended GTM purse must be reliably kept away from children by locking the purse, or the gun or other SDD you carry in it, in a gun safe or other secure, locked container or locked compartment to which only you have access.

### **Make Safe Gun Handling A Ritual!**

⚠ A "ritual" is a serious ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed in a specific order from which one never varies. If you are going to carry, or even possess, a handgun for self-defense, you should make your gun-handling actions safety rituals from which you do not deviate. For example, you should ritualize the steps of unloading your semiautomatic pistol so that you never fail to eject the chambered round after removing the pistol's magazine, and so you always check the chamber and magazine well both visually and physically (with a fingertip) to confirm the pistol is empty when

you have unloaded it. In a similar way, a mother with children in the home should make it a ritual, when she returns home with a loaded handgun in her GTM gun purse, to either remove the handgun from the purse and lock the gun up in a gun safe or quick-access lock box, or lock the entire purse, with the gun still in it, in a gun safe, or in a secure, locked container or locked compartment to which only she has access.

**Defending Yourself Is Dangerous ... but  
so is not being able to Defend Yourself!**

Anyone making the decision to carry a handgun for self-defense should understand that just as being the victim of a violent crime involves serious risks of physical harm or even death, attempting to defend oneself or others against a violent criminal attacker involves significant risks as well. Your display or use of deadly force may save your life or the lives of others, or may turn a robbery in which the robber might have simply taken the money or valuables and fled, into a shooting in which you or other innocent people are killed or seriously injured. The bullets that kill others may be stray bullets you yourself have fired, or bullets fired by a robber who would never have fired his gun if you hadn't drawn yours. In some cases, you may have no reasonable alternative than to attempt to defend yourself and others with deadly force. In other cases, whether or not to resist an armed criminal is a judgment call that depends on many factors. Self-defense and firearms laws vary from state to state and change frequently. **These are complex subjects on which GTM cannot advise you.** We urge you, again, to **obtain hands-on training from a qualified instructor.** Of course, if you don't have your gun or other SDD available to you when you need it for self-defense, you won't be able to make a judgment about whether or not to use it! The purpose of GTM's products is to allow you to have your gun or other SDD with you so you can make that choice, in a situation where a gun or other SDD may be needed to save your life, or the lives of others.

**Using Your GTM Purse or Other Gun-Carrying Product**

**Off-Body Carry.** Carrying a loaded handgun in a secure, well-designed holster on one's body provides fast access to the handgun, while at the same time giving the user the ability to prevent access to the gun by others. But on-body holster carry is not always

feasible, either for men or for women. Women in particular often find it more difficult than men to carry guns concealed on their persons because of differences in women's body sizes and shapes, clothing styles, and daily activities. Accordingly, increasing numbers of women have turned to "off-body carry" in a gun purse or other carrier as a way to be safely armed. It is important to understand, however, that off-body carry involves certain safety considerations that are different from the on-body, holster carry of a handgun or other SDD.

**An Off-Body Gun Carrying Device Is a "Holster," NOT a Gun Storage Device.** When being carried or transported in close proximity to you, your GTM purse is like a "holster," meaning a device to carry your gun that makes it readily accessible to you for self-defense. In some limited situations, your GTM gun purse may also serve temporarily as a gun storage device, such as if you lock your gun purse, with the gun in it, in your car, while you get out of your car to enter an area where you cannot legally carry your gun. However, you must understand that the GTM product used in this way is never as secure, and never provides the degree of storage safety, as a locked gun safe, quick-access metal lock box, or other locked storage device intended for safe gun storage.

**Dangers and Responsibilities of Off-Body Carry.** One obvious danger of off-body carry is that an attacker may begin the attack by grabbing your gun purse away from you. Then you would not be able to use the gun or other SDD in the purse to defend yourself. You can attempt to minimize this risk by carrying your purse close to your body (not dangling loosely), with the strap over your shoulder, or – better yet – across your chest if the strap design is long enough, as many GTM designs are. With an ordinary purse, if someone attempts to snatch your purse under circumstances where it appears all they want is your valuables (for instance, someone attempting to snatch your purse from your shoulder on a busy sidewalk in broad daylight), women are sometimes advised that it may be safer to simply let them have your purse, than to fight to keep it. The considerations are different when your purse has a gun in it. In addition, the decision whether to give up your purse or fight to keep it will depend on many factors, including the size, strength and number of attackers, your own physical abilities, the location and lighting conditions, the presence of others nearby, etc. These are things you should think about in advance, rather than thinking about them for the first time when you are

attacked. **Again, GTM strongly recommends that you get hands-on training from a qualified instructor.**

Another danger of off-body carry is that you must either maintain continuous control over your gun purse, or must secure it, preferably in a gun safe, or in a secure, locked container or locked compartment to which only you have access. Many women are already in the habit of maintaining continuous control over their purses, rather than leaving them dangling from the arm of their chair in the restaurant when they go to the salad bar or use the restroom. But other women may leave their purses in their shopping carts while they are shopping.

A woman who carries a handgun in a GTM purse into her job in an office building (if, of course, that can legally be done) must remember that, in addition to her money and credit cards, the purse also contains a loaded handgun. Thefts of purses from offices and other work environments are common, and one would be well-advised to lock the purse in a desk drawer, cabinet or locker so it is safer from theft or unauthorized access when you are not at your desk.

Thefts from parked vehicles are also common, and metal lock boxes and car safes are available that can be bolted or cabled to the interior of your car or car trunk to provide a higher degree of security when you must leave your gun or gun purse in the car.

**A GTM purse with a gun or other SDD in it should not be left unsecured and out of the owner's sight even for an instant, whether you are in a store, your office or jobsite, a restaurant, at the gym, swimming pool or beach, at a concert or athletic event, or any other location or activity.**

**Carrying the Gun in Your GTM Purse.** Your GTM purse features a separate compartment in which to carry your handgun or other SDD. This design has several benefits, including:

- It allows you to access other items in your purse without the gun being visible to others;
- It allows you to keep your gun or other SDD separated from items in your purse

that might activate the trigger, hammer, manual safety, magazine release, or pepper spray actuator, possibly resulting in an accidental discharge or causing some other problem; and

- It positions the gun or other SDD uniformly at all times, so that you can grip it safely, positively, and efficiently every time you draw it, without other objects in your purse interfering with your draw.

In order to take advantage of these advantages of the GTM gun design, **use the holster provided** with your GTM product whenever you place the gun (or other SDD) in your purse. The holster positions the gun uniformly for a safe, efficient draw, and serves to guard the trigger against being accidentally pulled by foreign objects, either inside or from outside the purse. The holster will also help guard against accidental activation of the magazine release, hammer, or manual safety.

**Do not place or carry any objects in the gun compartment other than the gun itself,** as other objects could press against and activate the trigger, manual safety, magazine release, hammer, or pepper spray actuator, resulting in accidental discharge or other problems causing serious injury or death. If the gun you want to carry doesn't fit properly in the holster provided with your GTM purse (that is, it is too loose, too tight, or will not fit into the holster), contact GTM to see if a different holster is available that may solve the problem.

**Drawing the Gun from Your GTM Purse.** Before placing a loaded handgun in your GTM purse, you should practice opening the gun compartment and drawing your handgun from the purse **using a completely unloaded handgun.** An unloaded handgun is one that has no round in the chamber, and no rounds in the cylinder or magazine. Follow the gun manufacturer's instructions for the proper method of unloading your particular model of handgun, and for confirming that the gun is completely empty of all ammunition, before doing your **"DRY PRACTICE"** (which means practice with an unloaded gun) with your GTM gun purse. **Your "dry practice" should be done in a safe location, with the gun pointed in a "safe direction."** A "safe direction" is one in which no one would be injured if the gun were to discharge, and where, at most, only minimal property damage would occur. Place all live ammunition in a separate room or location,

or in a closed container, during your practice session. Dry practice is best done without any distractions (TV, radio, children, visitors, cell phones, texts, etc.), and without any other people in the room – both so they are not there to distract you, and so they are not endangered by anything you do while practicing. Again, your dry practice should be done **using a completely unloaded handgun**. In your dry practice, be sure to follow these important rules on every draw, repeating the draw properly enough times so that the proper technique becomes ingrained in your muscle memory.

1. **Don't Let The Muzzle Point At Yourself Or Any Other Person During the Draw.** In order to draw safely, you must draw so that the gun's muzzle never points at any part of your body (or at any other unintended target or person) during the draw. See "Basic Rules of Firearms Safety" on page 4, above. The specifics of how to draw the gun safely are beyond the scope of this Owner's Manual, as there are many ways to draw the gun, depending on where and how you carry your GTM purse, the type of gun you carry, which hand you use to draw the gun, whether you are standing or seated, the presence of innocent people near you when you draw the gun, etc. Again, hands-on instruction is not only better than any book, video, or Owner's Manual, **it is necessary** if you are a beginning handgun user, or new to off-body carry. If you have not already received formal training in carrying and drawing a loaded handgun, we **strongly recommend** you do so before placing or carrying a loaded handgun in your GTM purse. Recommendations for finding good instruction are located elsewhere in this Owner's Manual.
2. **Don't Let The Muzzle Point At Yourself Or At Any Other Person When You Re-Holster The Gun.** The same safety rule applies when you are placing (or replacing) the gun in the holster inside the GTM purse: do not allow the muzzle to point at any part of your own body or at anyone else while re-holstering the gun. See "Basic Rules of Firearms Safety" at page 4, above.
3. **Keep Your Finger Off The Trigger And Outside The Trigger Guard While Drawing And Holstering The Gun.** Remember, your finger should never enter the trigger guard except when you are aimed at a safe target and you have decided to fire. See "Basic Rules of Firearms Safety" on page 4, above. Following this rule is **critical** to your own safety, and the safety of those around you. Placing your finger on the

trigger prematurely can result in an accidental discharge when drawing your gun in any situation, and the chance of this happening is further increased in a stressful self-defense situation. Leaving your finger inside the trigger guard while replacing the gun in the holster is likely to result in an accidental discharge at that time. You **MUST** train your trigger finger to enter the trigger guard only when your sights are on target and you have decided to fire the gun. Train yourself to remove your finger from the trigger guard as soon as you finish firing and begin to lower the gun from the target.

4. **Get A Proper Firing Grip On The Gun Before Drawing It From The Holster.** The last essential to a safe and efficient draw is for your hand to get a proper firing grip on the gun before you draw the gun from the holster. Once the gun comes out of the holster, it will be difficult, slow and possibly dangerous for you to try to adjust your grip on the gun, so a proper firing grip – meaning a grip that doesn’t have to be changed (except for putting your finger into the trigger guard) in order to allow you to fire the gun – should be established when you first grip the gun, before you draw it from the holster inside the GTM gun purse’s gun compartment.
5. **Perform your “dry practice” repeatedly with a fully unloaded gun until you feel comfortable in your ability to open the GTM purse’s gun compartment and draw the gun safely and efficiently, even in awkward positions and in the dark.** Generally, a short period of dry practice (perhaps 15 minutes) is as much as most people can do at one time with good concentration on technique and safety.
6. When you are done dry practicing, if you are going to load your handgun, it is best to say out loud words like, **“Dry practice is OVER. I am now loading my handgun with LIVE AMMUNITION. Dry practice is OVER.”** This is to help impress on you that your gun is now loaded again, to help you avoid having an accident caused by inattention or a mental lapse. As soon as you have finished practicing, if you are going to load your handgun and place it in your GTM purse, do so, and then **leave your practice area immediately and don’t handle your gun any more!** This is another way to reduce the temptation to try “just one more practice draw,” forgetting that you have loaded your handgun. This could lead to disaster, or tragedy!
7. Another safety tip many instructors and experienced shooters use while dry practicing, and which GTM recommends you use as well, is to **do all your dry firing at a practice target,** rather than at any random object in the room. Your practice



target can be a full-sized paper or cardboard shooting target, or a reduced-size target you make for the purpose. When you are ready to begin practicing and after you have unloaded your handgun and confirmed that it is unloaded, then – and only then – should you put up your practice target. You can use a push pin or a piece of painter's tape to put your target on the safe wall at which you will be dry firing, or put a target mounted on a piece of cardboard on a shelf or tabletop in a safe direction for your shooting. **When you have finished dry firing and are ready to stop your practice session, the first thing you should do is to take down your practice target.** If you always use a practice target this way for your dry practicing, it will not only make your practicing more effective by providing a realistic sight picture, but will also (1) ensure that the direction in which you “fire” your dry shots is always a safe direction (which would be unlikely if you dry fired in random directions in your practice area), and (2) will reduce the chance of you firing “just one more dry shot” after you have finished practicing and have reloaded your handgun. This is because if you make it a rule only to dry fire at your practice target, and you take down your practice target as soon as you get done practicing, there will be nothing there for you to fire at after reloading your handgun.

8. **If your practice session is interrupted for any reason, you MUST check your handgun again to confirm that it is empty before resuming your practice session!**

**GTM Makes Only Non-Lockable Purses.** Many respected self-defense handgun instructors are opposed to the idea of a locking gun purse, as they believe the purse may be locked – intentionally or unintentionally – when the user needs to access the gun immediately for self-defense. They point out that the commonly-experienced loss of fine motor coordination during a stressful self-defense confrontation, and the fact that criminal attacks often occur in dimly-lit environments, will make it difficult, if not impossible, to open a small, key-operated or combination lock quickly enough to access a handgun in an emergency. In such a situation, having one's gun locked in a gun purse might be worse than not relying on a gun at all.

Some users prefer the option of a locked gun purse. GTM believes the small padlocks and zipper locks used on lockable gun purses are neither secure enough nor reliable

enough to stake one's life on, or the lives of your loved ones. Users can easily make a mistake about whether or not their gun purse is locked, with tragic results. Also, because locks on purses are unusual, a lock may draw attention to your purse, advertising that there is a gun or something else valuable or unusual in it, with negative results.

GTM also believes users of lockable gun purses will tend to leave their purses unattended in reliance on the lock, leading to accidents that would not occur if the users accepted the responsibility that should accompany having a loaded gun in one's purse. And while locking a gun purse may deter or delay some very small children or others, you should not expect the tiny lock to prevent anyone, whether child, teenager, or adult, who has enough motivation, determination, time, or access to tools, from picking, cutting, or breaking off the lock, zipper pulls, or metal rings, or from cutting open the bag itself with a knife or scissors.

**Know and Follow the Laws Regarding Concealed Carry.** You may find carrying a handgun in your GTM purse so comfortable that you forget your purse contains a gun. **CAUTION:** The laws of some states and other jurisdictions vary about where a concealed handgun can legally be carried, even by someone who has a concealed carry permit. Be careful not to carry your gun into courthouses, federal buildings (including post offices), other government facilities, airports, into schools or onto school grounds, liquor-serving establishments, athletic events, houses of worship, certain parks and state forests, across state lines to a state where you don't have the legal ability to carry a concealed weapon, or other places where local, state or federal laws or ordinances make carrying a concealed handgun or other SDD illegal.

### **Care and Cleaning of Your GTM Products**

GTM recommends KIWI® Suede and Nubuck products as the only product to clean these leathers as described on our website:

- Tumbled leather
- Distressed Buffalo leather
- South American leather

All other GTM leathers are coated and can be cleaned with a dry cloth. **DO NOT** use saddle soap on any GTM products. Any shoe repair shop or drycleaner that includes handbag care can clean GTM products. Linings can be pulled out for spot cleaning using OxiClean®.

## **Training**

User-level courses and Off-Body Carry Instructor certification courses are available that can provide you with training in the safe and effective use of your GTM SDD purse, GTM gun purse or other GTM product. Find out about such courses on our website, [www.gtmoriginal.com](http://www.gtmoriginal.com). In addition, local gun stores, gun clubs, shooting ranges, and police departments frequently offer handgun training and safety classes, or can tell you where such classes are offered. If you cannot find a local source of training from a certified firearms instructor, contact the National Rifle Association at [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org), or phone 703-267-1000. For sources of good training with self-defense devices other than handguns, contact the manufacturer of your particular device.

## **Questions?**

If you have any questions about the safe and proper use, care or maintenance of your GTM products, please contact us at [GTM@guntotenmamas.com](mailto:GTM@guntotenmamas.com), by calling us at 847-446-0700 ext 105, or by writing to us at:  
Gun Tote'n Mamas®, 1912 Shermer Road, Northbrook, IL 60062.

**REMEMBER: The safe use of your GTM product is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!  
Make safe gun handling a RITUAL from which you never deviate!  
GUN SAFETY DEPENDS ON YOU!**

*GTM dedicates this work to DTI Inc, GTM Council,  
and all GTM owners for inspiring us all to be  
Serious for Women's Protection*

[www.gtmoriginal.com](http://www.gtmoriginal.com)     

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