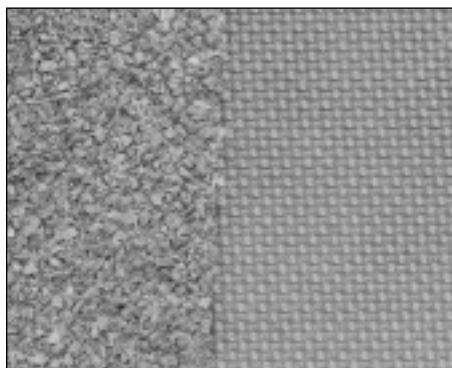


□ **Non-slip pads** are made of different materials, even though it's some sort of rubber (I guess they are rubber alloys), and materials may or may not be optional. They are either backed by padding underneath or sewn directly on. If there is an option, the "European" rubber holds up really well. It's usually called "Top Grip" (whether it's actually supplied by AHG or not) and has a heavy texture. It looks like gravel. It also, yes, grips most toppish. The heavy textures lock together into and against each other — it's not just a friction fit — and this is noticeable on the left elbow and rib pad connection. There are other compounds in use and some are at least as effective without the thickness of the Top Grip. Durability is a factor, though. Top Grip lasts a good long while. There was a run down of rubber types in the segment on sling use. My new favorite for coat covering is that white rubber in use by Monard. It's especially good in the shoulder pad area and on the elbows.



On left is Kurt Thune rubber, often also called "Top Grip," which is actually an AHG moniker. Next to it is the relatively slick stuff many shooting coats use for traction. It's hard to trace origins and sources for what I had on hand. I call this Kurt Thune rubber because I know that's where it came from. For what it's worth, I've seen differences in coverings that were represented as "Top Grip." They've ranged noticeably in the size and consistency of the pebbles. The only "genuine" Top Grip I have is on my AHG coats and it's not nearly as rough as my Kurt Thune.

means this: not for how most perch their rifle, but how well differently-styled mechanics can also be directly adapted to the coat, or adopted by the coat, by the most shooters using the most different styles.

Referring back to what I went on (and on) about with respect to my offhand position nuances and how they affect coat fit and wear, I need a side pad that's more around toward the front of the coat and also lower. I also like a thin pad here to get solid perched contact with my hip bone. It's best for me with no thickness for backing. Likewise, the ideal elbow pad location for this sort of hold is more toward the inside of the elbow on the coat sleeve and not so much behind the joint. A cut-to-suit piece of euro-rubber and a honking needle pulling stout thread has gotten me what I want. It would help, a lot, though, if we just got a larger area covered. That would suit everyone, or come closer to it. In keeping with ISSF fashions, the Monards are virtually covered with rubber on the left body panel, and this is a trait shared by most ISSF coats I've had or seen. Can't miss done thataway, and that's the idea. Rubber doesn't breathe, and that's the kicker, but unless it's custom, no-slips should suit everyone, and that's the point.

**Women**

Women shoot our game, really, really well and in big numbers, but get overlooked in coat selection. I have some suggestions. One is if you want to stick with a domestic brand, give Sandy Joos a call, that's Champion Shooter Supply. She'll help. Next is if you want a sure thing, and don't mind spending for it, consider Monard. Women maintain their centralized role in NCAA and many ISSF events; Monard is a dominant supplier.

■ **Sling Hooks**

They've been disqualified from Service Rifle use, but Match Rifle shooters can use a hook on the sleeve to help retain the sling. These work by sitting the sling cuff into the hook and then adjusting the hook strap short enough to hold the sling from slipping down. Good idea. It could be better. Coat manufacturers insist on putting this hook on the outside of the arm when it should be at the back of the arm to do its job best. If the sling is buckled down like it should be on the upper arm then it won't slip. If you don't use it, may as well remove it. That's usually easy enough. If you have a coat and want a hook but there's no provision for one, a button from an ISSF coat is an easy help. Get one from most target shooting supply outlets. These poke through the coat material and are secured by a nut. This lets you put the stop where you want it. **1** Champion's Choice, metal hook. **2** Freeland, strap loop, strap buckles in. **3** Creedmoor Sports, nylon hook. **4** Monard, metal hook, works only with Monard or AHG slings that have a corresponding slot for the hook, or remove the hook and use the strap like Freeland.

