

able and have zero effect on its performance. If the sling is installed like it should be on the arm, there's no need for supplemental insurance against slippage.

Most also find that the extra width tends to slip down the arm, and this is again due to the additional contact area.

The narrower sling "bites" a little better. It also lays around a circumference that's more consistent along the arm, whether it's positioned high or low. The transition from either



The swivel goes on the sling and stays there. Most American-made handstops use a push-button "plug in" style swivel attachment like the one shown at top. Get two and keep the spare handy. They can get lost, and all have been known to fail.

Shown in the lower image is an older-style Anschütz sling swivel. It's a very simple design that's proven itself to work well. It's a simple ball that fits into an Anschütz or another handstop built to accept it. Sling tension keeps it in place. Simple and fast, but I like the push buttons better. I've "lost" the ball-end out of its slot in the course of handling a rifle.

easy to get one secured, and to keep it there.

I will not recommend any particular brand, but will tell you what I like and what I know a few others have found happiness with. All shown in this book are good choices. Just pick one. My favorite is the Anschütz mostly because I have shot with one for years and years and years.

extreme, upper arm or elbow, is interfered with by the bicep changing the silhouette. The M-1907 Service Rifle sling is 1.25 inches wide. Match Rifle slings can be a little wider, and usually are. Again, there's not as much advantage as it might seem to an extra-wide strap.

Most slings have an attaching strap width of between 1.25 and 1.50 inches. Most sling swivels are between 1.25 and 1.7 inches (Anschütz), so the attachment straps follow suit even though some have arm cuffs that are a little wider. Get the width that most closely accommodates the sling width, but make sure the swivel is wide enough.

A Match Rifle sling does not have to be attached to the rifle for offhand, and most are designed to be affixed to the shooter's arm for later attachment to the gun. Since they have buckles and we're allowed effective keeper designs, it's really

Here's old-school, and it still works. This is a Freeland (produced now by Champion Shooter Supply) with a wide cuff. It's the maximum width, 3-inches, allowed by NRA for High Power Match Rifle use. It's very comfortable on the arm, but actually tends to transmit more pulse than a narrower sling that can be better positioned off the bicep. The extra width also tends to slip more for me. It's harder to get it secure on the arm due to the difference circumferences along the upper arm it has to encircle due to its extra width. This sling has a non-slip inside covering on the arm cuff. Problem is that it actually tends to make it slip more. If the pad makes the arm cuff too stiff, or if the material used is incompatible with its intent, then we're better off without it. This one is a good example. The ribs on the surface run the wrong direction to stop slippage. Slippage in a Match Rifle sling usually runs around the arm, not down it. Nubby rubber works better.



More old-school. This is a Freeland clamping metal keeper. Son, this will keep your sling straps where you want them to stay. I put one on all my slings.

Most prefer leather over synthetic. As was discussed in the material on Service Rifle sling construction, the advantages to the synthetic material commonly used (Biothane) is that it just won't stretch, ever.

It's also hard to imagine anyone being able to break one. It takes heat, humidity (high or low), cold, and wet without change. The only problem is that it's not as comfortable on the arm. Leather sort of "dog ears" on its edges and reduces cutting in on the arm and against the hand. This doesn't diminish its performance, just makes it more comfortable. Anschütz synthetic slings have been made from a material that's very similar to what's used in an automotive fan belt. It's a little harder-edged than Biothane and absolutely will never stretch or fail.

If you choose leather, you have chosen wisely, but you will definitely be choosing more often. They do need replacement, and some of the top shooters get a new one each season.

