



- Some, me included, say that the handmade slings by Hawaiian Les Tam are the it. They are decidedly for the man who wants to talk about his sling. Les is a character, in a very good way, and takes sling making the same way Anzel Adams took picture taking. Tam slings are hand cut on his mother's kitchen table and then assembled using original brass M-1907 hardware, circa 1918. Options abound, extra keepers can come in the box, and stamping can be ordered too. You have a choice of keepers that work over two or three layers. Details are beyond impressive. All his keepers are hand-skived, glued, and hand-sewn with waxed thread. The lap joint for the D-ring is all that plus riveted, with humongous rivets. It's daggone near too nice to use, until you use it, and then you'll order another right away for fear you'll need it and won't have it right away. Some construction differences are pretty clear in the bottom photo. It's compared to a sling that costs less than twenty dollars less.



- Brownell's Competitor Sling is a good product. It's minimally-treated premium cowhide. Some folks really like the fact that it's virtually untreated. Untreated leather "bites" better and that means the sling positioning and keepers both hold their places well. Only problem is that keeping it untreated will shorten its life. Order two.

If you're one of those resourceful folks, some say "cheap," I say determined, who likes to do thing on his own, keepers are one thing you can do. Taking one apart is easy. Get a razor knife, carefully place it between the layers, and slice the threads. That's easy. Putting it back together takes a trip to the medicine cabinet, or drug store depending on your dental health practices, for some waxed dental floss. Some use plain. I used waxed. Waxed lasts longer and is easier to work with. Get a big needle (actually it's just the eye size that has to be big enough to accommodate the floss) and a small pliers. Loop the floss-thread through and tie it off. Based on the original locations, figure out how many holes to move the keeper straps. Make sure overlap is no more than what it should be if you're tightening the keeper. One hole is usually plenty to tighten a loose keeper. If you're going to make a keeper to accommodate three layers, like you'll need to try a no-pulse-type configuration, back out three holes on a new keeper that's already a snug fit on two straps. Push the needle through one hole and run it back up through the next hole. Down and up, down and up. C'mon. You have sewn before, right? Use the pliers to pull that bad boy through. Run one lap down one set of holes, cross over to the next side, and run down that set, cross over again. Then run another lap starting the needle in the opposite direction it first started. For instance, if you pushed the needle down through the first hole, when you come back around to the

#### The right length for the right rifle

Get a 50-inch for an M1 or M1A and a 54 for an AR15. Whoa. But the AR15 is a shorter rifle. Yes, but the front sling swivel is farther away. That's why. Black gun takes a longer strap. Unless there's a known option to choose, most slings are going to be 50s.