

Excerpts from revised tutorial **Boar Rifles - Audio Version:**

Introduction

A very brief history of boar hunting

Man has hunted wild boar since time immemorial. Or at least ever since he developed weapons, however crude, that allowed him to dispose of prey animals without too much risk of becoming prey himself. Ever since, boar hunting weapons have kept pace with the development of technologically most advanced weapons of the times. From a new high-tech rock to a new fangled sophisticated wooden stick with a sharp fire hardened end, to stone tipped and later metal tipped spears, to knives, swords, bow and arrow, crossbow, primitive fire arms such as the blunder buss, black powder muzzle loaders and finally the modern high powered rifles, hunters always used the most advanced weapons at their disposal.

Some traditional weapons are still in use today. Count among them spears in the form of the boar spear (Saufeder) which are still manufactured and legally used in many countries. Some States allow the use of knives for the taking of boar. Bow and arrow also are legal weapons for hunting wild pigs in most jurisdictions.

The quest of hunters for the 'best' weapon has not changed at all over time. Even today the debate about the 'best' boar weapon rages on. And new boar hunting weapons are still being created or modified from rifles for military use.

The illustrations above and below show the traditional method of taking wild boar: Up close and personal. The weapons, boar spear and sword, are used to harvest the boar that dogs have bayed. In any case, the hunter had to be within a few feet of an enraged boar to take it. Now that requires courage.

Nowadays and thanks to modern firearms, hunters can deliver the death blow remotely from a safe distance. They have been doing this since the first rock was thrown at game by a human hand. The principle has remained unchanged: Hurl a projectile from a weapon carrier at the animal. The faster the better and the heavier a projectile the more lethal.

Thus, a modern boar rifle still is only a means of delivery. The projectile ejected from a rifle barrel by the explosive action of powder ignited in the cartridge actually does the killing. Not the rifle.

Hunting methods

. . . **Still hunting** from a concealed tree stand or from other positions where wild pigs come to you, offers known distances, usually between 50 to maybe 100 yards at most. The average size of boar that frequent the area around a fixed stand is often known . . .

Stalking wild pigs requires a slightly more flexible approach to the selection of caliber. A stalking hunter never really knows what size boar he will encounter. Even when you are stalking a particular wild pig, there is always the possibility that you surprise another boar of much larger size at a very short distance.

A short rifle, such as a carbine, with a medium caliber (a .30 caliber) is a good choice. Any 12 gauge shotgun with a rifled slug or a sabot from a rifled shotgun will also perform quite well as long as you do not attempt to set a distance record.

This hunting method can present shots from a few yards to maybe 75 yards any time without much warning. Longer shots down "narrow shooting alleys" can also occur . . .

Battue

is a great way to get wild pigs if you have a cooperative rancher and enough people to help with the drive. This hunting method requires a larger more powerful caliber since most shots will be on running game and very likely through minor obstructions...

Hunting boar with dogs requires yet another answer to the question about the best boar caliber and weapon. Since this hunt is the most dynamic and physically challenging, you need a lightweight weapon with iron sights or a strong handgun. However, if you happen to hunt with dogs and your only weapon is a rifle, you should not use a scope. It is better and safer for the dogs to use a rifle with open sights.

There is a practical reason for this. Just imagine yourself following a pack of dogs up and down hills and over rough terrain for a good thirty minutes. Then suddenly the dogs bay a wild pig. You are catching up with the dogs and the pig, out of breath and ready to collapse on the spot . . .

A scope is useless under these circumstances. You are within a few feet of the wild pig.

The solution? You need a rifle with open sights to hunt wild boar with dogs. Or a scoped rifle that still allows the use of the original open sights.

Better still is a powerful handgun. It's the safest way because it will allow you to aim at the boar and see the dogs at the same time. It will also prevent you from shooting your own dog, or worse, the dog of your guide or host instead of the pig. This is the main reason why so many hunters who hunt with dogs on a regular basis prefer a large caliber handgun as their weapon of choice.

Seasoned guides also frequently carry a long barreled large caliber handgun as their primary weapon for hunting with dogs.

A handgun caliber .357 is the absolute minimum . . .

Basic Considerations

Responsible hunters agree that the right weapon should be capable of disposing game as humanely as possible. Under any circumstances, whether still hunting and carefully aiming from a concealed tree stand or taking a long shot across open terrain, when engaged in stalking your game or when hunting with dogs.

Chuck Hawks, the well known author of everything rifle and ammunition, puts it pointedly like this:

"That's why our sport is called "hunting." Your duty as a responsible hunter is a quick kill. If you are not certain of that result, you are obliged to hold your fire. If you want an easy sport, take up racket ball."

Some big game animals are harder to kill than others. Boar are harder to kill than deer. They are heavier, except for the very young and small, lower to the ground and therefore less exposed. Their vital organs are located lower and more forward in the body cavity than in deer. Older boar have the infamous 'shield' or body armor in the shoulder and chest region. The vital organs of boar are located essentially behind the shielded area of the body. They are also protected by shoulder bones and the front leg.

How does the anatomy of a wild pig and the body armor of boar affect the choice of weapon?
Does your hunting method bear on the rifle caliber used?
How about bow and arrow?

I know a little about modern hunting rifles and their history. I know precious few things about bow and arrow for hunting wild pigs. Therefore, I am passing on the topic of bow and arrow here and now reserving the topic for another day and another expert.

Nowadays wild pigs are almost exclusively hunted with firearms. I will concentrate on this type of weapon.

What is the best rifle for hunting wild pigs?

Instead of asking for the best boar rifle, you must ask yourself first what kind of wild pig hunting you intend to do and in what terrain. The answer to this question will get you one step closer to a rational decision about your best boar hunting weapon.

I need to talk first about rifle calibers and cartridges. The cartridge is always developed first. Weapons design follows cartridge development. Cartridge and bullet determine performance. The rifle finally sets the projectile on its path to the target . . .

A flatter bullet trajectory is an advantage in many hunting situations. Estimating distances accurately over rough, uneven terrain, gullies or over water is quite difficult. A bullet with a flat trajectory is more forgiving under these circumstances than a larger caliber with a considerable bullet drop over the same distance. . .

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Want to know more?

Detailed information is at wildboarbook.com and wildboarhunting.blogspot.com

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