

Mark Jackson (IN) completed his Capra World Slam and Triple Slam with a bezoar ibex from Turkey. Mark

wrote an excellent report about this hunt that reads:

*"Please come back with your rifle, if you don't, I'll bring mine so we can be assured of taking the ibex." That was the prodding I received from my guide for the famous bezoar ibex of Turkey. I can't say that I blame him. On my first trip in 2008 I was not able to take a shot because the only chance I was given was at a running male at 250 yards. Maybe **Pamela Atwood** could make that shot with a handgun, but I couldn't, so I never pulled the trigger. The late season snows didn't help on that trip. We pushed the jeep out of the ditch every day. That trip only fueled my desire to take the bezoar with my XP 100 handgun.*

*Two years later I was back. This time I was hunting during the rut. I brought my 308 Thompson Center Encore pistol, the one I had used successfully in Mongolia. "No problem," I thought to myself during the fall while practicing. I got complacent and didn't practice like I did before the trip to Mongolia. I kept trying different shooting techniques, hoping I could tighten my groups. I shouldn't have hunted with the 308 and I knew it. I kept asking **Mark Hampton** questions, but I couldn't quite pull it all together. The moment of truth arrived. I had a beautiful ibex at 200 yards but the condi-*

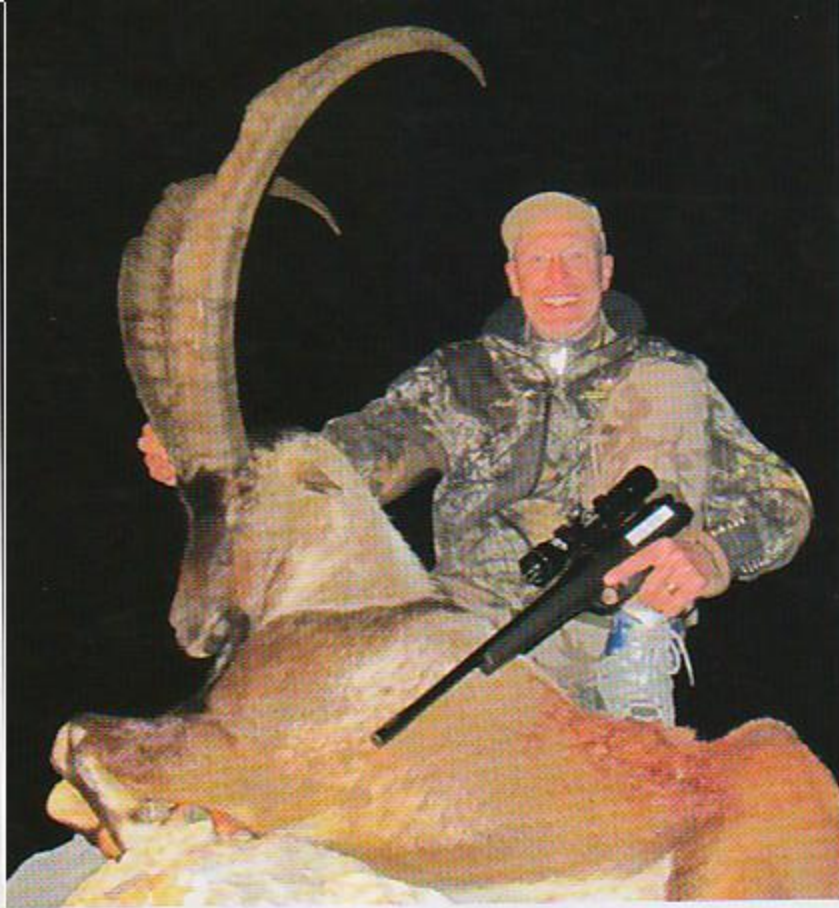
tions were horrible. So much for the perfect practice shooting conditions on my farm at home. It had rained all day; fog was blowing in and out of the mountains from the Mediterranean. The stupid ibex wouldn't turn sideways. It was getting dark. My scope was fogged up. My glasses were wet. But the bitter truth was, I wasn't shooting good enough to make the shot. I missed! The guides just love it when you miss. They start questioning everything you do, especially with that, "Stupid, short, little handgun." Oh well, it just fired me up to work harder to prove that it could be done.

I found a saying I read to myself every week: "The will to win is not nearly as important as the will to prepare to win." I got to work after that miss. I analyzed every aspect of my shooting form with the 308. First problem, the grip was too big. I couldn't reach the trigger without dragging wood. In order to compromise I wasn't holding the grip with my whole hand.

Secondly, I just couldn't get the trigger adjusted as light as I desire. I tried installing a smaller grip, it didn't work. I tried shooting from a bipod. That didn't work. I tried shooting from multiple styles of beanbags. They didn't work. What to do? The answer was right in front of me, switch back to the old trusty 6.5 x 284 JDJ XP 100. All it needed was the custom Leupold scope like I had built for my Encore. I installed a new scope and started shooting. It didn't take long; I had excellent groups all the way out to 375 yards. Only problem, I just had to make that long shot under hunting conditions. I started practicing in the rain, high winds, and off of rocks I placed on my shooting range. I left confident and ready.

The folks at **ProfiHunt** arrange almost all of my hunts. They are fantastic to work with. They scheduled a return trip for my son Keeler and I over his spring break. The local hunting company was Caprinae Safaris. They are fantastic. Rashid my guide was the best, professional, in every aspect of the trip!

So, here I was again, the moment of truth. I had a steep uphill shot. These are the toughest with a handgun. With a rifle, the hunter can anchor the gun at two points. A rifle also allows perfect eye relief with the scope. I had to get below the handgun and maintain



Mark Jackson (IN) took this bezoar ibex from Turkey with his handgun in 2010. This completed his Capra World Slam and Triple Slam. Mark was hunting with Caprinae Safaris and booked the hunt through ProfiHunt.

the right eye relief to get the scope working properly. I have to have a rest under the fore end and grip of the handgun, which is difficult while smashing your face into the rocks trying to get under the gun to look steeply uphill. Oh, and throw in the pressure of this being my third trip, and needing to be successful to complete my Capra and Triple Slams. The ibex were fighting and running erratically around the mountain. I would set up for a shot, get ready to shoot, and they'd start running again. Each time I'd have to lower the power of the scope, find the animals, adjust my

hold again, make sure everything was rock solid, and finally adjust the power of the scope higher for the shot. I did this five or six times. I think Rashid was ready to have a heart attack. Finally it all came together; the ibex offered a 290-yard shot. I said a prayer, waited for the quartering away position, gently pressed the trigger, and waited for the results from Rashid. I really regret not being able to see the animal in my scope after the shot. The recoil from the high-powered handguns is so great that the gun flies off the rest. Without the handgun hunting scopes and muzzle brakes it would be impossible to shoot these handguns. I was ecstatic and relieved to have Rashid slapping me on the back and congratulating me. We had lay in the sun on the mountain for five hours waiting for a shot. All the hard work, patience, and willingness to prepare to win paid off!

I can't thank Mark Hampton, **J. D. Jones**, the folks at ProfiHunt and Caprinae enough. They put up with this dreamer who had to do it with a handgun and supported me all the way! I couldn't have done it without them.