# FIREARMS NEWS®

GUN SALES, REVIEWS, & 2A INFORMAT

APRIL 2024

## SMITH & WESSON'S RESPONSE
A PISTOL CALIBER CARBINE OUTLIER

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SHOT SHOW 2024
WITH JAMES TARR & PATRICK SWEENEY
(TWO ARTICLES!)

## THE KAC-556K MACHINE GUN
RUGER'S SELECT-FIRE STAINLESS STEEL "CLOSE COMBAT" RIFLE

## SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S NEW TRP 1911 PISTOL FAMILY

## TISAS DUTY 1911
.45 ACP PISTOL BUILDERS KIT
JUST WHAT IT SAYS, BUILD YOUR OWN 1911!

## HAMMERLI'S FORGE H1 1911-STYLE RIMFIRE PISTOL

- ***CARRYING CONCEALED:*** GLOCK GEN 5 PISTOL UPGRADES
- ***MUSINGS FROM THE AMMO BUNKER:*** LOOMING POWDER AND AMMO SHORTAGE?
- ***THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS:*** HI-LUX OPTICS CMR 1-8X24MM LPVO
- ***IN HUSHED TONES:*** SCYTHE TI SUPPRESSOR
- ***CODREA'S CORNER:*** NRA'S LAPIERRE MADE A CAREER OF 2A COMPROMISES

# FXH PISTOLS



## FXH 1911 DOUBLE STACK

**AVAILABLE IN .45ACP OR 10MM**

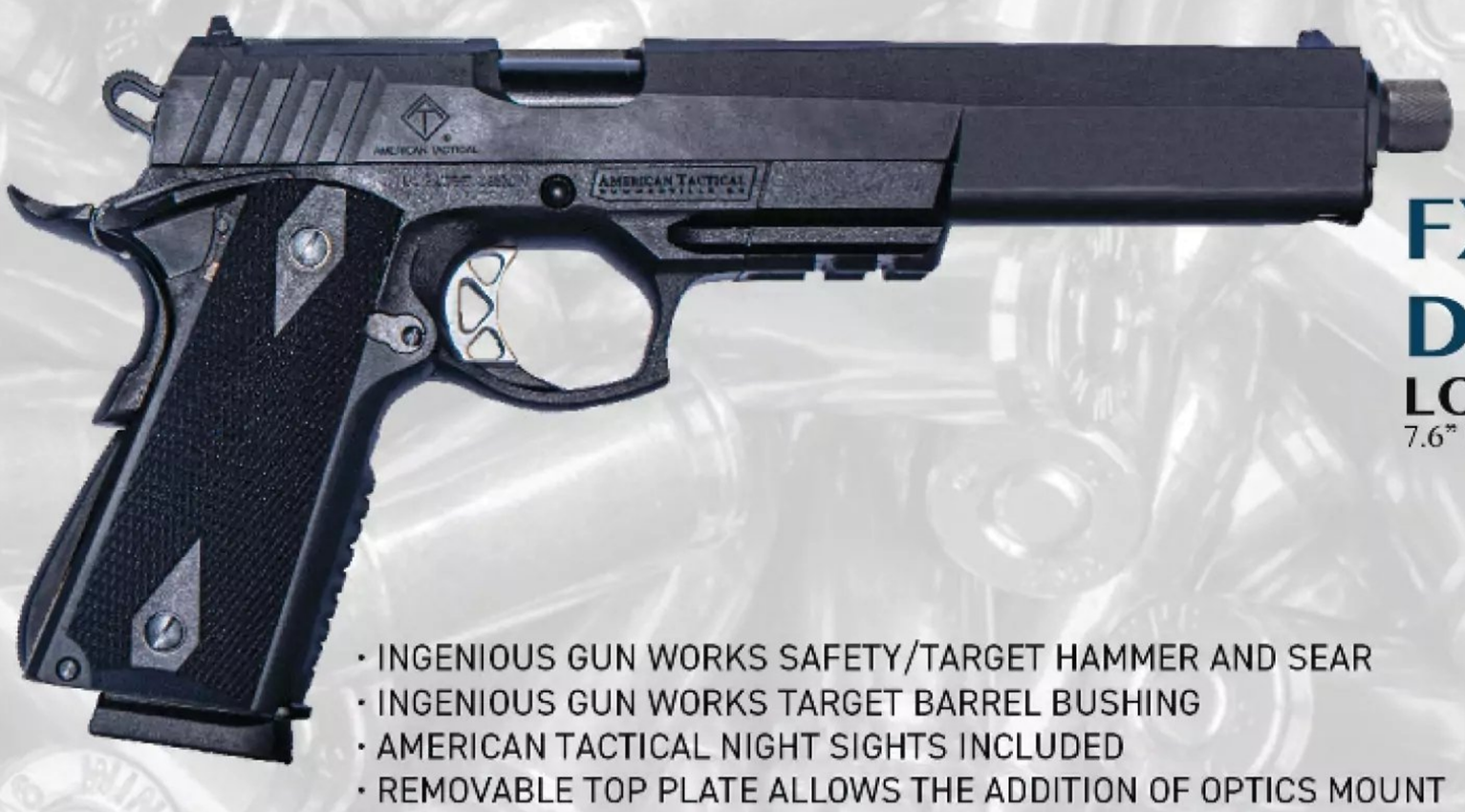



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- REMOVABLE TOP PLATE ALLOWS THE ADDITION OF OPTICS MOUNT

| CALIBER | BARREL | CAPACITY | ITEM NUMBER |
|---|---|---|---|
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| .45ACP | 4.25 INCH | 14RD | ATIGFXH45DSC |
| 10MM | 5 INCH | 15RD | ATIGFXH10MDS |

| CALIBER | CAPACITY | BARREL | MAGAZINE | SIGHTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| .45ACP or 10MM | 14RD, or 15RD | 4.25" or 5" | P14 | American Tactical Night Sights |



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| CALIBER | CAPACITY | BARREL | OVERALL LENGTH | MAGAZINE | SIGHTS |
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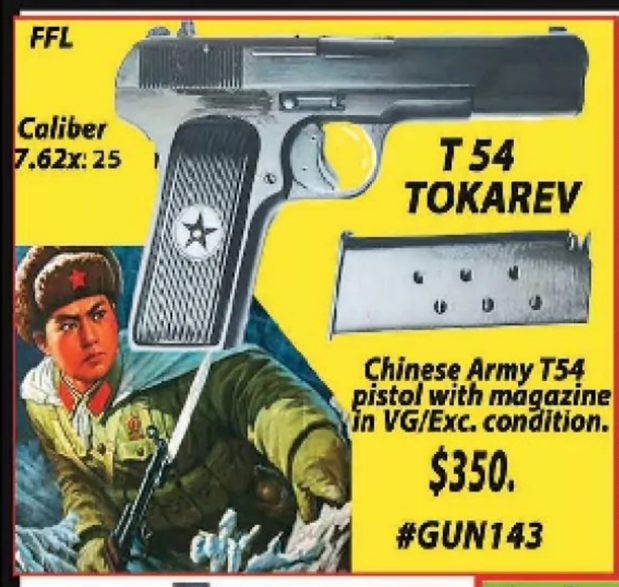
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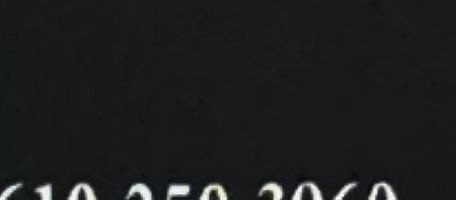
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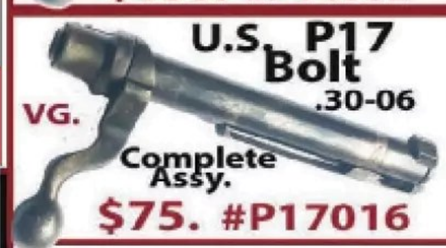
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RECENT NEWS FOR THE FIREARMS COMMUNITY BY MARK CHESNUT

*Freelance writer and editor Mark Chesnut is the owner/editorial director at Red Setter Communications LLC. An avid hunter, shooter and political observer, he has been covering Second Amendment issues and politics on a near-daily basis for the past 25 years.*

# JUDGE RULES POST OFFICE CARRY BAN UNCONSTITUTIONAL, BUT YOU STILL CAN'T LEGALLY DO IT

**By Mark Chesnut**




*Shutterstock By Michael Vi*

A federal judge over the weekend ruled the law prohibiting firearms inside post offices to be unconstitutional.

In the case *United States v. Ayala*, Trump-appointed U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle on Saturday dismissed charges of a postal employee arrested for carrying a firearm in a post office, saying the ban violated his Second Amendment rights.

Citing the 2022 Supreme Court ruling in *Bruen*, Judge Mizelle said the post office gun ban, which took effect in 1972, doesn't meet the requirements to be considered constitutional.

"Post offices have existed since the founding, as have threats to the safety of postal workers and the public entering those locations," she wrote in the decision. "Yet the historical record yields no 'distinctly similar historical regulation addressing' those safety problems by regulating firearms in post offices."

Judge Mizelle further wrote: "At some point, when 28% of land in the United States is owned by the federal government and many ordinary activities require frequenting a 'federal facility,' the government's theory would amount to a nullification of the Second Amendment right altogether."

While the judge tossed the charge for having a gun in a postal facility, she declined to dismiss a separate charge against the defendant of forcibly resisting arrest. Prosecutors say the employee fled from federal postal agents who attempted to detain him.

Does this latest court decision mean you can now tote your favorite carry pistol into your local post office with no fear of being arrested? Absolutely not!

The ruling only applies to the defendant in the case, and did not include an injunction against enforcement of the law against other Americans. Given the federal government's propensity to infringe upon the Constitutional rights of Americans at nearly every turn, it's likely the decision won't change things much — at least at this time. FN

# MAINE LEGISLATORS PUSHING ANTI-GUN MEASURES

By Mark Chesnut



*Shutterstock By Benjamin7 and Robert O Carney*

Maine is typically a very safe state, both in terms of violent crime and anti-gunners in the legislature pushing restrictive gun-ban measures. But a mass murder last October in Lewiston, where 18 people were killed and another 13 were injured, has prompted some lawmakers to "just do something."

Of course, if you "just do something" and it results in only punishing lawful gun owners and not curbing violent crime, it's the wrong thing. But that's what some lawmakers in Maine are doing in response to the attack.

We were first clued in to what was happening by *Firearms News* gunsmith editor and Maine resident Gus Norcross.

"The gun banners see the Lewiston shooting as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pass some bills on their wish list," Norcross said. "And there's big out-of-state money behind it."

This prompted a call to Laura Whitcomb, president of Gun Owners of Maine (GOM), to get the lowdown. What we learned is that while there is only one bill that has any written language to it, there are several that are in the works and likely to be introduced soon.

"The only one that has any written language to go along with it was 1696, and that came out of committee amended, with a majority voting 'ought not to pass,'" Whitcomb said in an exclusive interview with *Firearms News*. "But we anticipate, based on the gun safety caucus in the Maine state legislature, that we are looking at an attempt to change the yellow flag law to red flag, a quote 'assault weapons' ban, a 72-hour waiting period and 'universal' background checks. There are a couple of place holders and a couple of legislative documents that were held over from the first part of the session, but there's absolutely no language."

LD 1696 originally started as "An Act to Create a Civil Cause of Action for Persons Suffering Damages Arising from the Sale of Abnormally Dangerous Firearms," but was amended to read "An Act to Establish Civil Liability for the Illegal Sale or Marketing of Firearm-Related Products." The measure would basically open the door for people to sue manufacturers and gun sellers for criminal use of their lawfully produced and sold products. While it came out of committee with the "ought not to pass" recommendation, GOM anticipates a vote in the full House and Senate when more gun-related measures have been voted out of committee.

"It's basically saying that it's illegal to commit a crime with an illegal firearm, and then both the people who are harmed from it and the manufacturer can be sued because of that," Whitcomb explained.

Whitcomb said the "universal" background checks push is one that was handily defeated during last year's session, but appears to be coming back.

"It's kind of funny to me that they just continuously bring up background checks," she said. "I'm probably preaching to the choir here, but criminals don't follow background checks. So, it doesn't matter whether or not you have background checks at FFLs, which we do, whether or not an FFL is doing checks at a gun show, which they are legally obligated to do, or whether or not it's an old friend selling to another friend, if somebody is not going to pass a background check, they're not going to submit to one."

A so-called "assault weapon" ban is also anticipated by GOM.

"The 'assault weapons' ban, or 'unusually dangerous firearms' as they called it, was the one that was changed to just the civil liability language," Whitcomb said. "That's the closest they've come, but we anticipate that there's going to be an assault weapons ban push coming from someone this session.

"It's fortunate for us, given the history of the Supreme Court in the last decade, that we just feel very strongly that anything like that is not going to pass constitutional muster. We don't see it being given a second thought by the Supreme Court because we've already been down this road."

The expected measure to institute a 72-hour wait on firearms purchases is another one that GOM is keeping an eye on.

That's one of the things that's on the priority list of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition," Whitcomb said. "They're looking for a 72-hour waiting period. They feel very strongly that if somebody is going to harm themselves or other people, if they only have to wait 72 hours then that

*[Cont. to page 13]*

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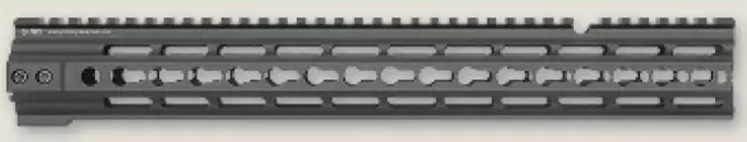
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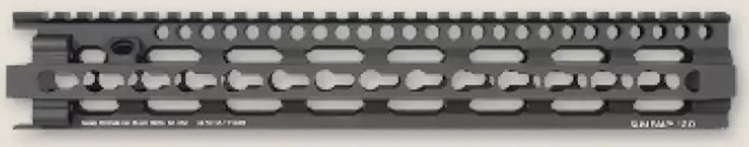
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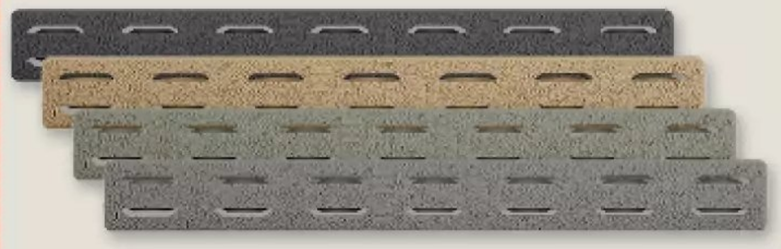
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*[Cont. from page 9]*

will thwart their evil intentions and somehow save lives. Unfortunately, if you look at the history of what the media deems 'mass shootings' in the United States, most of those firearms aren't purchased within 72 hours.'

Whitcomb said such a law would have a devastating effect on Maine citizens trying to protect themselves from violent criminals.

"The more important piece of that is if you have somebody who is a law-abiding citizen who passes a background check and is interested in purchasing a firearm for their own personal protection because of a domestic abuser, because they feel threatened or because they feel like they need to have something in their home, we're enabling criminals to pursue unarmed citizens when they've legally passed a background check," she said. "But we're telling them that they have to wait 72 hours before they can protect themselves."

Gun Owners of Maine has a very active website and posts frequent updates on pending legislation and other matters. To find that information, visit GunOwnersOfMaine.org . FN

# ANTI-GUN PENNSYLVANIA LAWMAKERS PUSH 'ASSAULT WEAPONS' BAN PLUS, THREE OTHER ANTI-GUN MEASURES

**By Mark Chesnut**




*Shutterstock By Peter Hermes Furian and Robert O Carney*

Pennsylvania gun owners are under an all-out assault by anti-gun lawmakers in Harrisburg, with four restrictive firearms measures — including a sweeping ban on many common semi-auto rifles — recently being approved in a key House committee.

On Wednesday, the House Judiciary Committee advanced House Bill 336, HB 483, HB 777 and HB 1190. The measures are now eligible to be voted on by the full House of Representatives should a vote be called on the House floor.

HB 336 is the so-called "assault weapon" ban, and it takes in a lot of territory. According to the bill's language, it bans ownership or transfer of a gun if "the firearm is a semi-automatic rifle that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and has at least two of the following: (A) A folding or telescoping stock. (B) A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon. (C) A bayonet mount. (D) A flash suppressor or threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor. (E) A grenade launcher."

The measure also outlaws any pistol that "has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and has at least two of the following: (A) An ammunition magazine that attaches to the pistol outside of the pistol grip. (B) A threaded barrel capable of accepting a barrel extender, flash suppressor, forward handgrip or silencer. (C) A shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold the firearm with the nontrigger hand without being burned. (D) A manufactured weight of 50 ounces or more when the pistol is unloaded. (E) A semiautomatic version of an automatic firearm."

HB 483 creates a Gun Violence Task Force that would be off to a bad start since the violence they are targeting is really "criminal violence," not "gun violence." According to the measure's language: "A gun violence task force is established in each county which exceeds the age-adjusted, firearm-related death rate per 100,000 goal contained in the United States Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2030 initiative."

HB 777 unjustly punishes hobbyists by restricting privately made firearms. And lastly, HB 1190 bans 3D printed firearms. FN

# VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES PASSES SWEEPING GUN BAN

## PHILIP VAN CLEAVE, PRESIDENT OF THE VIRGINIA CITIZENS DEFENSE LEAGUE GIVES UPDATE TO *FIREARMS NEWS*

**By Mark Chesnut**



*Shutterstock By Art Alex and Haali*

Fresh off of winning a narrow majority in last year's elections, Democrats in the Virginia House of Delegates have passed a measure that would ban sale and ownership of many common semi-automatic rifles.

HB 1174 would ban the vast majority of semi-auto rifles currently lawfully owned by thousands of Virginians. According to the text, it would ban any "semi-automatic centerfire rifle that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and has *one* of the following characteristics: (i) a folding, telescoping or collapsible stock; (ii) a pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the rifle; (iii) a second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the non-trigger hand; (iv) a grenade launcher; (v) a flare launcher; (vi) a sound suppressor; (vii) a flash suppressor; (viii) a muzzle brake; (ix) a muzzle compensator; (x) a threaded barrel capable of accepting (a) a sound suppressor, (b) a flash suppressor, (c) a muzzle brake, or (d) a muzzle compensator; or (xi) any characteristic of like kind as enumerated in clauses (i) through (x)."

The measure also bans semi-auto pistols that "expel single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and has one of the following characteristics: (i) a folding, telescoping, or collapsible stock; (ii) a second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the non-trigger hand; (iii) the capacity to accept a magazine that attaches to the pistol outside of the pistol grip; (iv) a shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold the pistol with the non-trigger hand without being burned; (v) a threaded barrel capable of accepting (a) a sound suppressor, (b) a flash suppressor, (c) a barrel extender, or (d) a forward handgrip; or (vi) any characteristic of like kind as enumerated in clauses (i) through (v)."

Republican Delegate Nick Freitas, a former special forces sergeant, argued against the measure, saying the focus should be on violent criminals, not firearms.

"If you take a weapon and you put it on a desk and you don't touch it, no one gets assaulted," Freitas said during debate of the bill. "People do assault other people, and that should be the sort of crime that we are actually going after. But again, we're going after inanimate objects."

Philip Van Cleave, president of the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL), said this legislative session has been a tough one so far for gun-rights supporters with the slim Democrat majority.

"This is the Democrat party going back to its grassroots," Van Cleave said in an exclusive interview with *Firearms News*. "In the early days it formed to protect slavery. They were the party of Jim Crow and the Ku Klux Klan in the South, protecting slavery and trying to take away the rights of citizens back then, especially minorities, to own guns. Fast forward 150 years and here we go again."

A similar measure is under consideration in the state Senate, but it hasn't yet gone to a floor vote. Van Cleave fully expects that measure to be approved and the bill be sent to Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin by sometime next week.

Last month when asked about the proposal at a University of Virginia event, Youngkin said: "Virginia has some of the toughest gun laws in the country. I think that the biggest gap has been in behavioral health. And, so, our big focus is to bring people together around moving aggressively around behavioral health investment. This is what Virginia needs. We have a chance to close a huge gap and I am excited to work across the aisle to get that done."

Van Cleave and other gun-rights supporters are hopeful Youngkin will veto the bill, along with a couple dozen other anti-gun measures that are likely to reach his desk in the coming weeks.

"I'm optimistic that he'll veto a bunch of these," he said. "I'm hoping he'll veto all of them, we just don't know. And we're going to begin to contact him. As soon as the first bill hits his desk I'm going to open the floodgates and we're going to hopefully have thousands and thousands of calls and emails going into his office." FN

*[Cont. to page 104]*

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**GUN POLITICS** **By David Codrea** | Political Field Editor

*David Codrea is the winner of multiple journalist awards for investigating/defending the RKBA and a long-time gun owner rights advocate who defiantly challenges the folly of citizen disarmament. In addition to being a regular featured contributor for* Firearms News, *he blogs at "The War on Guns: Notes from the Resistance," and posts onTwitter: @dcodrea and Facebook.*

# LAPIERRE MADE A CAREER OF SECOND AMENDMENT COMPROMISES

"I admired Wayne LaPierre 20-30 years ago," a comment left on *The Captain's Journal*, a blog I frequent admitted. "Yes, he screwed up and started living high off the hog on the members' dime… But there were some great victories… during his tenure, particularly the proliferation of shall-issue CCW and constitutional carry…That was all grassroots NRA lobbying."

"Yes, they were wrong for supporting NICS and some other things, but I think it is unfair to tag Wayne's tenure with some of the Fudd [stuff] the NRA supported in the past, like the NFA," the poster continued. "The NRA once had the loyalty of a LOT of Democratic members and Democratic politicians… The NRA now has ZERO influence in places like New York, California, New Jersey, and Massachusetts... Wayne deserves to be held accountable… by the Board of Directors and the members, not by Letitia James or any… so-called court of 'law.'"

Such sentiment is not unique among gun owners. Unfortunately, it's also not correct.

Working backward through the assertions, of course it's in the interests of a state to ensure that corporations it registers are in compliance with its laws, and while there's no doubt that AG James has a personal axe to grind and incentives to wield it, NRA management knew the environment they were operating in, and the many reported breaches of fiduciary duty appear so reckless, irresponsible, and arrogant they defy explanation.

And the buck stops with the top guy.



*Shutterstock By Consolidated News Photos*

As for loss of influence with Democrats, it's certainly not because LaPierre's NRA didn't try to suck up to them — only to be betrayed time and again and never seeming to learn. Looking back to the early 90s, NRA was boasting Rep. John Dingell on its board, who went on to vote for the "assault weapon" ban and endorsing others like "A-rated" Rep. Bart Stupak, who went on to endorse Barack Obama. Take your pick of others presented by LaPierre as "true champions of the Second Amendment," like Sen. Harry Reid, who NRA threw its endorsement for after he'd begun to turn, by declining to endorse "A"-rated GOP candidate Sharron Angle even though Reid had since been downgraded to a "B." We saw the ultimate Democrat loyalties of "pro-gun" Max Baucus and Jon Tester from Montana. Then there was NRA-darling-turned-Chuck Schumer protégé Kirsten Gillibrand…

The bottom line, and savvy political players shouldn't need to be told this, is there are no "pro-RKBA Democrats" to the point where they won't undo their occasional "good" tactical votes the party allows by supporting the broader strategic agenda and candidates. Yet the NRA under LaPierre was instrumental in urging its members to give power to politicians they knew would end up working against them, and then either acted surprised when it happened or just ignored it when it did.

In any case, how many times does someone need to be cheated on before they admit the problems might be on them?

And one need not go back all the way to passage of the NFA to find NRA and LaPierre himself endorsing citizen disarmament edicts. Take "gun-free school zones" *(please)*. In a transcript of LaPierre's post-Columbine statement at it's annual meeting (since deleted from the NRA website and now only available via the Internet Archive), he expressed association support for schools being "gun-free zones."

"First, we believe in absolutely gun-free, zero-tolerance, totally safe schools. That means no guns in America's schools, period ... with the rare exception of law enforcement officers or trained security personnel," LaPierre declared. And when NRA president-to-be Sandra Froman floated the idea of armed teachers, she quickly walked it back after "NRA Chief Executive Officer Wayne LaPierre clarified the following week that the NRA is not advocating arming teachers and supports the federal law that bars most guns from schools."

Crediting NRA with the advance of concealed carry laws mixes the message that while their influence cannot be denied, in some cases state groups were claiming interference with their efforts and worse. Case in point is an

alert from Grassroots North Carolina, which charged "North Carolina's first permitless carry bill … was introduced … in 1997 as SB 810 at the behest of GRNC and [Gun Owners of America]. We actually went as far as filing a discharge petition when Democrat Marc Basnight refused the bill a hearing. At around this time, we heard reports from gun rights groups in other states that NRA lobbyists were actively sabotaging permitless carry bills."

As for the most significant Second Amendment case recognizing it is an individual right, "Attorney Alan Gura, in a 2003 filing, used the term "sham litigation" to describe the NRA's attempts to have Parker (aka *Heller*) consolidated with its own case challenging the D.C. law. Gura also stated that "the NRA was adamant about not wanting the Supreme Court to hear the case [and] the Parker plaintiffs 'faced repeated attempts by the NRA to derail the litigation' [and] interference in this process set us back and almost killed the case.'"

Then there's NRA- and LaPierre-backed Project Exile, a federal program to sentence felons for having a gun. The problem with that, as the Project Exile Condemnation Coalition, comprised of leaders like GOA's Larry Pratt and Aaron Zelman of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership noted, is "Unconstitutional 'laws are illegal, harmful to public safety, tyrannical, and are inevitably enforced against ordinary, non-criminal citizens."

Consider if a defiant gun owner is found in possession of a "bump stock." That's another infringement LaPierre and former chief lobbyist Chris Cox, since accused by the association of "grift," effectively greenlighted in a joint statement (again removed from the NRA website) when they declared "the National Rifle Association is calling on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) to immediately review whether these devices comply with federal law. The NRA believes that devices designed to allow semi-automatic rifles to function like fully automatic rifles should be subject to additional regulations."

Gun owners repeating the NRA/LaPierre mantra to "Enforce existing gun laws" are effectively no different that Revolution-era colonists advocating "Enforce existing Intolerable Acts." It's enough to make RKBA advocates laboring mightily against overt threats wonder if "controlled opposition" by "gun rights leaders," establishment Republicans and mythical "pro-gun Democrats" is covertly undermining their efforts. FN



By James Tarr | Field Editor

# GLOCK GEN 5 UPGRADES



From the factory Glock pistols are reliable workhorses, but there are a lot of easy ways to improve them. Seen here is a Gen 5 Glock 17.

I view the Glock pistol like a family member—I love it in spite of its many small faults, most of which could be easily fixed if Glock would just listen to the people who love it…

Anyway, despite Gaston's claim of perfection, as they come from the factory Glocks are still nothing more than reliable tools built for the borderline incompetent, and anyone better than that knows there is still plenty of room for improvement. So, for this column (and because I just got a smoking deal on a factory refurbished Gen 5 G17), let's look at the Glock Gen 5 pistols, their weaknesses, and how they can be improved upon.

Gen 1-4 Glocks are equipped with 5.5-pound connectors, which produce trigger pulls around seven pounds (not ~5.5-pounds as Glock has claimed for decades). However, the Gen 5 Glocks are made with a new "dot" five-pound connector advertised as providing a trigger pull of 26 Newtons, which equates to 5.84-pounds. Good news—every 5th gen Glock trigger I've tried has provided a trigger pull right around 5.8 pounds. Bad news—every 5th gen Glock trigger I've tried has provided a trigger pull right around 5.8 pounds. A nearly six-pound trigger pull is not what anyone who knows what they're doing wants.



Gen 5 Glocks come with a five-pound "dot" connector (bottom, look for the dot on the tab). Simply replacing it with a 3.5-pound "minus" connector (top) will shave roughly a pound from your trigger pull without affecting reliability.

The basic factory sights haven't changed. They are both plastic (unacceptable) and have a defective sight picture—if you position the front sight where you can see the entire dot in the notch, you'll be shooting high. At least some factory models are available with proper sights such as AmeriGlo day/night sights, the commercial equivalent to the sights found on the FBI contract pistols. Glock has also added forward cocking serrations and a minimal mag well, both excellent improvements.

Now for upgrades—while the plastic factory sights work, they are insultingly referred to as "dovetail protectors" for a reason. Get yourself some steel sights. TTI (Taran Tactical Innovations) makes the best fiber optic competition sights in my opinion, but day/night tritium sights are the best choice for carry guns. These feature glow-in-the-dark tritium inserts combined with a highly visible front sight. Trijicon HDs and R3D 2.0s from XS Sights are good options, in addition to the above AmeriGlos.

If you're tricking out a Glock for competition, you have nearly endless choices when it comes to triggers—TTI, Apex Tactical, Timney, CMC, Johnny Glock, Ramm, etc. You can get a Glock trigger pull down to three pounds, but that's about it, and any Glock trigger pull under four pounds can be finicky. I've never used aftermarket springs that didn't fail, and don't trust set screws, so I don't trust or recommend any trigger setup which uses them for a carry gun, where reliability is the only thing that matters. Another thing I don't recommend for a carry piece—the new factory Glock Performance Trigger for Gen 5 guns.



The single action Glock Performance Trigger will give you a four-pound or less trigger pull, but it requires oiling and adds a lot of parts (note it is shipped with a rubber band holding it together). Tarr doesn't recommend it for a carry gun.

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**Anything is better than the Glock plastic factory sights. On the left is a fiber optic competition front sight from TTI, on the right is an AmeriGlo BOLD day/night sight with tritium, suitable for carry. Both are steel.**



**Nobody makes more reliable magazines than Glock, and Glock magazines are inexpensive and now available in a lot of different flavors. From left: 17-round flush 9mm magazine, 19-round coyote brown model, 24-round factory Glock magazine.**



**Tarr decided to stipple the grip of his Gen 5 G17 with a soldering iron. It took him a little over 90 minutes and the end result is much more aggressive.**

Reasonably priced at $99, the Glock Performance Trigger (GPT) converts the Glock "safe action" to a single action trigger system, adds a flatter-faced trigger shoe, and provides a trigger pull between 3.75 to four pounds when installed, although it doesn't really shorten take-up, which is disappointing and at least as important to an improved trigger pull. The GPT adds parts and requires regular oiling. They provide a diagram with the trigger and point to three spots you need to keep oiled, which is why (in addition to the single action operation) they'll never stick the GPT in their factory pistols, which are built to withstand abuse and neglect. Yes, Glock recommends applying oil to the standard trigger unit, between the connector and trigger bar, but you don't need it—the standard trigger system will run forever dry as a bone (although lube between the trigger bar and connector will lower your weight and smooth out your pull).

Someone high up at Glock told me "*If you're going to put the Performance Trigger in a carry gun, blow the lint out regularly and keep it oiled.*" I know pro shooters who have experienced reset failures with the GPT after just a thousand rounds. All that, to me, eliminates this trigger from consideration in a carry gun. You are free to disagree.

However, you're in luck—there is an easy way to take weight off your trigger pull without affecting reliability, and that's by swapping out the connector. The Gen 5 Glocks use the same dimension connector as all previous gens (we're excluding the small G43, 43X, and 48), and swapping out your connector for a 3.5 will shave between 0.5–1.5 pounds off of your trigger pull, depending. This only takes a few minutes, and no tools other than a punch.

I would carry my new Gen 5 G17 as is, but why would I when it's so easy to make it better? I tried out two 3.5 connectors, the TTI (Taran Tactical) Ultimate Connector and the Ultimate 3.5 from Ghost, Inc. Both brought my trigger pull down from 5.8 to 5.0 pounds, but with different feels. The TTI connector provided a smoother pull-through, with a very soft, almost rolling break, and the Ghost connector had a harder break, which I prefer. I didn't need new sights, as my gun came with a set of AmeriGlo BOLDs, which are great.

Additional mods beyond sights and a trigger job provide only incremental improvements. Stippling is always an option if you want a more aggressive grip. I decided to stipple the smooth parts in-between the factory texturing, didn't like the look of that, and ended up stippling the entire grip. I did this with a soldering iron and it took me just over 90 minutes. Aftermarket guide rods are available which allow you to swap out your recoil springs, or add recoil-reducing weight, or both, but truthfully provide little bonus unless you're running your Glock in competition. That didn't stop me from installing a Glock Store Pure Tungsten guide rod with an uncaptured 15-pound recoil spring in my gun, to reduce muzzle rise just a bit. There are aftermarket magazines available, but none of them are as good as Glock factory mags, and Glock mags are pretty inexpensive, so buy those.

The Glock pistol is one of if not the most popular carry guns in this country, and just a little bit of work can elevate this reliable workhorse to something more. FN

**SOURCES**

| |
|---|
| **Ameriglo.com** (sights) |
| **ApexTactical.com** (triggers) |
| **GhostInc.com** (trigger components) |
| **Glock.com** (Performance Trigger) |
| **GlockStore.com** (all parts) |
| **TimneyTriggers.com** (trigger) |
| **Trijicon.com** (sights) |
| **TaranTactical.com** (trigger components, sights) |
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By David M. Fortier | Executive Editor

# LOOMING POWDER AND AMMO SHORTAGE?

## Is an Ammo Shortage on the Horizon and What Should You Consider Stocking Up on?



**How are your ammo stocks? Do you have what you need? If not, you should be aware of a looming global gunpowder shortage which is driving up prices.**

Over the last 16 years, American shooters have dealt with a number of ammunition shortages. These drive up prices and make ammunition hard to find. Often, if you did find what you were looking for the price was prohibitively expensive. During the "Great .22 LR Shortage" cheap bulk pack rimfire ammunition was being sold at sky-high scalper's prices. Prices jumped during COVID, and today, rifle ammunition is still substantially more expensive than it was just a few years ago. Checking my notes, I noticed 1,000 rounds of Wolf 7.62x39mm only cost $200 in 2018. Wolf .223 Rem was about the same. Now, they are over double that.

In the not so distant past, a shooter could choose from not only new domestic production ammunition but also economical Russian steel case and inexpensive military surplus. You could save a bit of money shooting either Russian steel case or military surplus. Unfortunately, like the Chinese ammunition before it, Russian commercial ammunition has been banned from import. The ban removed a staggering amount of economical ammunition from the American commercial market. It's not just sold out, it's gone for good.

What about military surplus? Well, I have more bad news for you, as the days of cheap military surplus ammunition are also over. The vast warehouses filled with popular and not-so-popular obsolete military calibers are gone. Surplus 7N6 5.45x39mm is banned from import. Various wars around the world, like the one in Ukraine, are consuming surplus ammunition which might have found its way onto the US market. While some will trickle in, the glory days are over. So, that leaves just new production ammunition, either imported or produced domestically, for American shooters to pick from.

**Basically, You Have More Gun Owners in the US Than There Has Ever Been Before. But, You Have Less Ammunition Available Than in Years Past, a Lot Less.**

With the demise of military surplus and Russian ammunition banned from the US market, the ammunition supply for American shooters was already in a precarious position. Basically, you have more gun owners in the US than there has ever been before. But, you have less ammunition available than in years past, a lot less.

Now, we have even more bad news, a looming gunpowder shortage. This

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**Do you have enough practice ammunition? What about premium expanding loads like these for personal protection and hunting?**

not have a year or two of ammunition stuffed away, now is the time to act. I suggest sitting down and carefully go over how much ammunition you expect to shoot in 2024. What calibers do you shoot? Do you reload? If so, what powders do you primarily use? How much money can you realistically budget to spend on ammunition? Use this information to form a plan.

While everyone's situation is different, most will want a mix of ammunition for practice, recreational shooting, and training as well as high quality expanding loads for hunting and/or personal protection. As I write this, .22 LR and 9mm FMJ are reasonably priced if ordered online in bulk. When it comes to rifle ammunition, .223 Rem tends to be the most economical. You can save a lot of money training and shooting recreationally with a .22 LR pistol and rifle.

**I Suggest, at the Very Least, Covering Your Basics. If You Need Some Ammunition for Personal Protection and Hunting, Then Better Grab Them Now.**

is not only driving up prices, but it will lead to shortages as well. This will affect both powder for reloading ammunition as well as factory ammunition. Unlike the false Lake City Army Ammunition Plant rumors of 2023 though, the powder shortage is verified by multiple major US ammunition manufacturers. It is not limited to the US either, and is a global shortage. Brett Nelson, the Vice President Sales, Sporting Products at Vista Outdoors stated, "Due to world events our suppliers have notified us of unprecedented demand for and an anticipated global shortage of gunpowder, and thus has increased our prices substantially, we must therefore raise our pricing to help offset those increases." Reasons for the shortage? These include the war in Ukraine and Chinese companies not selling Nitrocellulose to the US.

So, with a gunpowder shortage looming on the horizon, what is your best course of action? If you have planned in advance and bought ammunition while it was cheap and stacked it deep, perhaps you can weather the storm. However, if you do not have a year or two of ammunition stuffed away, now is the time to act. I suggest sitting down and carefully go over how much ammunition you expect to shoot in 2024. What calibers do you shoot? Do you reload? If so, what powders do you primarily use? How much money can you realistically budget to spend on ammunition? Use this information to form a plan.




**Adding a .22 LR into your practice, training and recreational shooting is one easy way to cut ammo costs.**

I suggest, at the very least, covering your basics. If you need some ammunition for personal protection and hunting, then better grab them now. If you need some ammunition for training and practice, grab that too. Just use your head, do not overextend yourself financially and spend your money wisely. How long will the gunpowder shortage last? It's impossible to say, but I doubt it will go away quickly. Plan accordingly, buy what you need and be prepared for whatever may come.

If you have any thoughts or comments on this article, we'd love to hear them. Email us at FirearmsNews@OutdoorSG.com. FN

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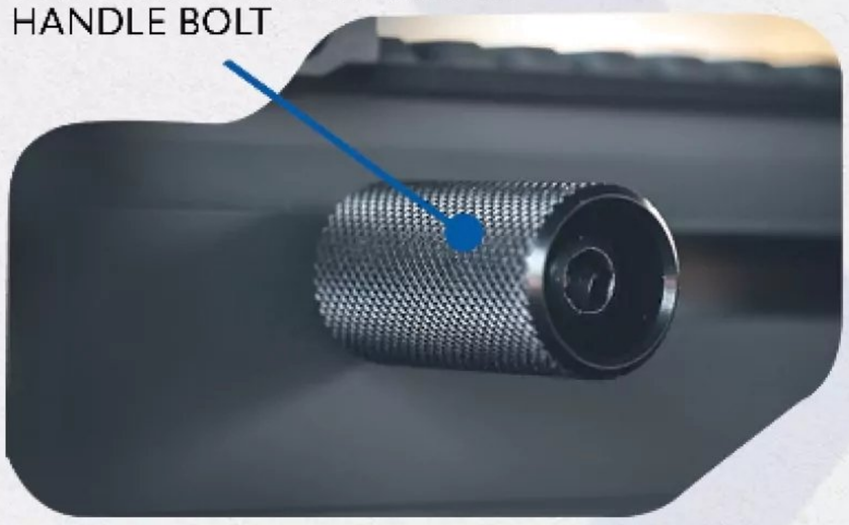
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***THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS*** **By David M. Fortier** | Executive Editor

# HI-LUX OPTICS CMR 1-8X24MM LPVO REVIEW

## Here's an LPVO With Solid Performance at an Economical Price!




**The Hi-Lux Optics CMR is a solid performing 1-8x24mm LPVO with an economical price.**

Hi-Lux Optics is an interesting optical manufacturer which marches to their own drum. Serious riflemen respect them for their Vintage scope line of high quality reproductions of historic Target and Sniper scopes as well as their XTC1-4x34 Service Rifle scope. These have performed well in Vintage Sniper matches and "Across the Course" competition at the national level.

Hi-Lux Optics offers much more than just vintage and competition scopes though. They have a diverse line of red dots, rifle scopes, binoculars and a spotting scope. A number of years ago, Hi-Lux Optics endeared themselves to American riflemen with their 1-4x24mm CMR rifle scope. This is a tough LPVO with a number of nice features which offered a lot of performance at an economical price. Recently, they introduced a new addition to their Close to Medium Range (CMR) line, the CMR8.

What made their 1-4x24mm CMR scope so popular was the amount of performance they packed into it for the price. So, I was interested to see if their new 1-8x24mm CMR could stack up. The first thing I noticed out of the gate is its very reasonable price of $399. While there are a number of economical 1-8x scope designs available today, they typically have short-comings in certain areas. Usually their 1x image is poor, they lack a daylight bright reticle and they have various optical, mechanical and reliability shortcomings.

**Out of the Box, Hi-Lux Optics' 1-8x24mm CMR Scope Looks Very Good.**

Out of the box, Hi-Lux Optics' 1-8x24mm CMR scope looks very good. Build quality looks solid, and this model features diamond pattern knurling and a "cattail" lever for fast magnification changes. Built on a 30mm tube, it features capped elevation and windage turrets and a fast focus diopter. Illumination is controlled by a rheostat with an OFF setting followed by intensity levels one through five, another OFF setting and then intensity levels six through ten. The first two settings are intended for use with night vision devices. Power is provided by a CR2032 battery.

The low profile turrets are capped to prevent accidental rotation. I personally prefer this on a scope of this type. You zero the scope and then all future ballistic corrections are made using the reticle. The turrets are finger adjustable and feature .5 MOA audible and tactile clicks with a whopping 50 MOA of adjustment per full turret revolution. Plus, the turrets are easily reset to zero.

This model features Hi-Lux Optics' b-Dot fiber optic illumination system. This provides a very bright 0.5 MOA center aiming dot easily visible in

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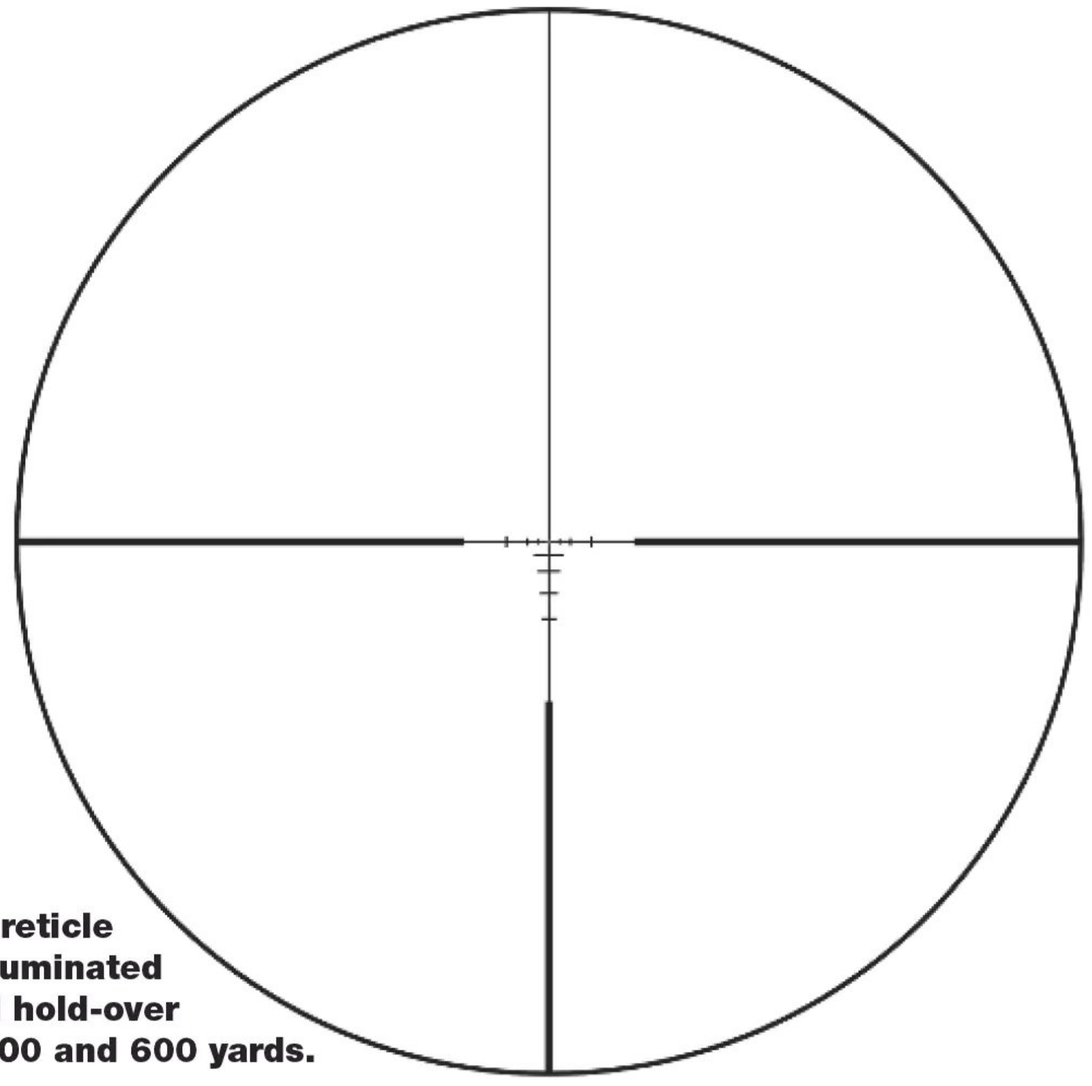


STAG ARMS

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**The capped low profile turrets feature audible and tactile 0.5 MOA adjustments with 50 MOA per full turret revolution.**



**The Rear Focal Plane reticle features a 0.5 MOA illuminated center aiming dot and hold-over stadia for 300, 400, 500 and 600 yards.**

bright daylight. The BDC reticle is located in the Second Focal Plane and provides hold-over and windage/lead correction marks. It also allows quick rudimentary ranging of 18-inch wide silhouette targets. With a 200 yard zero, the reticle provides aiming points for 300 (2.5 MOA), 400 (5.6 MOA), 500 (9.7 MOA) and 600 yards (14.5 MOA). Hi-Lux says the reticle is calibrated for .223 and .308 Win.

So how does the 1-8x24mm CMR actually perform? Surprisingly well, especially for the price. I like the lighter weight, capped turrets and reticle design. In use, the fast focus ocular facilitated a clear image, the optic zeroed easily, and the magnification ring zoomed smoothly. The center dot illumination is very bright, and I typically left it set at 5 or 6. It draws the eye to it for rapid shots. I like how the rest of the reticle is not illuminated, as it can be distracting. The simple hold-over/ranging marks work well for making fast hits at distance.

The capped turrets work great. They are low profile and out of the way, but have nice audible and tactile adjustments. If you desire to dial, rather than hold, you can quickly dial in your come-up without going a full turret revolution. The rheostat has two OFF positions, and I typically left the illumination at 5 or 6, so only had to go one click to turn the illumination off.

Most scopes in this price range have optical issues on 1x but the Hi-Lux performs well. The whole point of a LPVO is it has to perform near red dot levels at 1x. If it has issues at 1x, why bother? So, I was pleased that the Hi-Lux CMR performed very well at 1x. It has good eye-relief and worked very well firing with both eyes open while rapidly engaging multiple targets. Low light performance is good at 4x but starts to fall off as you increase the magnification simply due to the size of the 24mm objective lens. Some will not like its rear focal plane reticle, but it gave no issues during testing. My only gripe is the resolution is just a bit soft at 8x. It's good just not great. It's easily offset by the CMR's illumination, which is bright enough to allow it to be used similar to a red dot.

If you are looking for an economical LPVO, but want solid 1x performance and true day-light bright illumination, the Hi-Lux Optics 1-8x24mm CMR is a solid contender. With a price of just $399 it deserves a serious look. FN

**So How Does the 1-8x24mm CMR Actually Perform? Surprisingly Well, Especially for the Price.**

| HI-LUX OPTICS 1-8X24MM CMR | |
|---|---|
| Magnification: | 1-8x |
| Tube Diameter: | 30mm |
| Objective Lens Diameter: | 24mm |
| Exit Pupil: | 10.5 to 3.2mm |
| Eye Relief: | 3.8 inches |
| FOV @ 100 yards: | 119.3 feet (1x)<br>15.7 feet (8x) |
| Click Value: | .5 MOA with 50 MOA per full turret revolution |
| Total Elevation Adjustment: | 150 MOA |
| Lens Coatings: | Fully Multi-Coated |
| Illumination: | 10 positions, True Daylight Bright |
| Power: | CR2032 battery |
| Fast Focus Diopter: | Yes |
| Length: | 10.4 inches |
| Weight: | 18.7 ounces |
| MSRP: | $399 |
| Contact: | Hi-Lux Optics,<br>888-445-8912,<br>Hi-LuxOptics.com |

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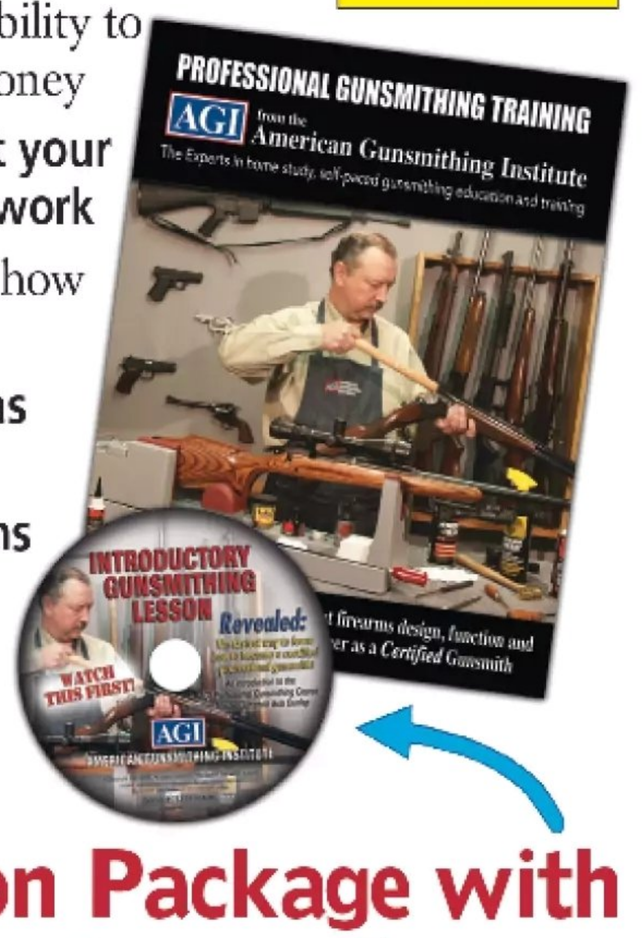

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By Patrick Sweeney | Suppressors



The Single-port Anchor Brake diverts some gases to the sides, and in so doing diminishes felt recoil by a bit. You can see the jet of gas out of the front cap, something all suppressors do.

# SCYTHE-TI SUPPRESSOR

## LIGHT, TOUGH, QUIET!

Not everyone is happy about the cost of a full-auto-rated suppressor. Oh, not the financial cost, but there is that. No, the weight is a big thing to some shooters. The SilencerCo Scythe-Ti tips the scales, with its direct-thread rear cap, at a smidge over seven ounces. Is that light? A reasonable comparison would be Silencerco's own Chimera, which weighs more than twice as much. If you are looking for a hunting suppressor and have no need whatsoever on your 6.5 Creemoor/.308 bolt gun for a full-auto-rated silencer then the extra 8.4 ounces would just suck, even though the Chimera is a superb silencer. Save the Chimera for your AR-10 and the future zombie hordes.

How'd Silencerco do that? Simple, the Scythe-Ti is an all-titanium suppressor, and an all-welded one as well. Obviously from the external appearance, the tube is constructed by welding the baffles together, a way to both make it strong and to cut down on weight. Not having an external tube saves the weight of that extra metal. (Even Titanium adds up if you get profligate with it.) In the process of designing and constructing the Scythe-Ti, Silencerco uses two different grades of titanium, each selected

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Consult and comply with any and all applicable federal, state, and local: laws, regulations, requirements, and/or restrictions, including but not limited to those regarding the purchase, ownership, use, transport, and carrying of a firearm. Not all products are available in all states or jurisdictions.



**One of the nice things about shooting a suppressed bolt gun is no gas in the face.**

for their utility in application. No one-size-fits-all approach here. As an all-welded and thus not disassemble-able tube, Silencerco suggests that you not use lead bullets in the Scythe-Ti. Or any other sealed silencer, for that matter. (I don't know of anyone who would even think of using cast bullets, or paper-wrapped ones, in a silencer, but Silencerco has to say so just to be sure.)

What you do get is a silencer that is rated from everything from 5.56 up to .300 RUM, with no barrel length restrictions. So, your AR-15 pistol with a 7.5-inch barrel? No problem. Your .300 RUM carbine, with its 16" barrel (now that's just wrong) sure, no problemo. The sweet spot I can see here in a non-hunting application would be an AR-15 pistol or SBR in .300 Blackout with an eight-inch barrel. The lightweight Scythe-Ti, and the short and handy Blackout would be a super combo, short and light and handy. It should go without saying that anything smaller than 5.56, with jacketed bullets, would be OK as well.

However, the Scythe-Ti is meant to be on a hunting rifle or a long-range target rifle. Again, the lighter the silencer the better in those applications, because you'll be carrying it a lot more than you'll be shooting it.

The Scythe-Ti comes to you with a passel of goodies. The rear cap is a 5/8x24 direct thread cap, also made out of titanium. You're good to go with all those .30 rifles in your rack, right out of the box. If you want to use it on a 5.56, then you simply order up the same cap in 1/2x28, and you are golden. The question, "*A .30 silencer on a 5.56, won't it be noisy?*" always comes up. Yes, kinda-sorta.



**The Scythe-Ti comes with end caps and wrenches. The basic setup is a direct-thread rear (for .30) and a Single-port brake on the front, also .30. And wrenches for assembly and maintenance.**



**The Single-port Anchor Brake threads into the front of the Scythe-Ti body.**



**You can see from the exterior that the Scythe-Ti is a fully welded suppressor, and that it is composed of welded baffles.**

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**The baffles have turbulence notches machined into the center of each one, to increase effectiveness in dampening noise.**



**The basic setup of the Scythe-Ti is with a titanium rear cap, of the direct-thread type. If you want to have a QD option, you simply need to pore over the Silencerco catalog and settle on the QD system you desire and order the parts.**

If you were to take an otherwise identical suppressor and put a front cap on it appropriate for use on a 5.56 instead of a .308-something, yes it would be quieter, but it would be quieter by two to three decibels, and it takes a pretty good level of hearing to discern three decibels. In actual fact, it doesn't make a difference, so using a .30 suppressor on a 5.56 rifle you get two for one, and at no cost.

On the front end, the Scythe-Ti comes with the Silencerco .30 Single-port Anchor Brake. The regular Bravo Anchor Brake is a three-stack brake, and while it does a good job of cutting down on felt recoil, it does add length and weight. So Silencerco makes the Single-port model to reduce both. And the Scythe-Ti comes with it already installed. Now, if you want more reduction, you simply order a Bravo and swap brakes. The Single-port Anchor Brake is a super-short and flat muzzle brake, taking the last of the exhaust gases and using them to cut down on felt recoil. You also get the Radial Tool, Bravo Tool and Basic Tool with your Scythe-Ti, so you can properly do the wrenching needed to tighten the Scythe-Ti to your rifle, tighten the front and rear caps, and any other maintenance or installation you might need or want to do.

Inside, the Scythe-Ti is a baffle stack with turbulence notches machined into the axis clearance edges, to knock the sound down as much as possible. Each baffle is machined, then welded into the stack, and then the alignment is checked, and if need-be (like that's ever a thing in modern manufacturing) corrected.

Now, if you want to have the ease of a QD system, you can order up the Silencerco ASR muzzle device and rear cap and have a QD-swappable from one rifle to another system. You'll need an ASR on each rifle, of course, and that ASR muzzle device can be an open or closed-time flash hider, or a muzzle brake of the single



**The light weight of the Scythe-Ti meant that offhand shooting was not different than without the Scythe Ti. Well, it was different in being quieter, of course.**

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**Three-shot groups (Hey, it is a hunting suppressor and hunting rifle, three-shot groups are the norm here) show no shift in point of impact, nor change in accuracy.**



**The Multi tool lets you readily tighten or remove the rear cap. Just line it up with the three studs inserted into three slots of the cap.**



**Once the tool is in place, you just use it as a wrench to loosen or tighten the cap.**



**The Scythe-Ti comes in a padded box, with the caps and tools. Assuming your barrel is threaded straight you have everything here you need to get started.**

port or full-size option, or their Thread Over Muzzle system, again, muzzle device and rear cap. You can be bare-bones and ultra-light or you can add in a few conveniences and decrease felt recoil and increase convenience. This is after all, America.

I'm not old enough yet that recoil is an impediment, so I just screwed the Scythe-Ti in its direct-thread version onto my Remington 700 .308 in its Magpul stock. The added weight didn't significantly change the balance nor make it enough heavier that I'd notice. One of the nice things about running a suppressor on a bolt gun is, you guessed it, no gas in the face. Since the Scythe-Ti is not meant to be a nard-duty self-loading rifle suppressor, I didn't test it that way, but at some time in the future I'm definitely going to put it onto a .300 Blackout, even a ,300 Blackout SBR, and see what results I get.

The wispy weight of the Scythe-Ti meant shooting offhand was no different than without it, and it cut the muzzle report down to a level that could be considered hearing safe. The generally accepted threshold for "hearing safe" is 140 dB, and the Scythe-Ti in this review knocked the muzzle blast down to 139 on average. This was with the test ammo, SIG 150-grain FMJ. Other loads could shift that 2-3-4 dB due to the powder used and the amount of the charge. (That's a test for another day.) For a single shot, or a shot and follow-up in hunting in the wide open, I'd be fine with that, but for a day of practice, and especially at my ranges which have covers and walls, and other reflective surfaces, I'd still have some kind of protection in or on. This is not to dis the Silencerco suppressor here, I'd do the same with many, if not most, suppressors that clocked in at 139. My hearing has survived more than a million rounds, and eight years of radio broadcasting by my being cautious.

That said, as a hunting suppressor, or a long-range target suppressor, the Scythe-Ti is hard to beat, especially since it is easy to carry. FN

| SILENCERCO SCYTHE-TI | |
|---|---|
| **Caliber:** | 5.56x45 to .300 RUM |
| **Weight:** | 7.3 oz |
| **Length:** | 6.1 in. |
| **Diameter:** | 1.73 in. |
| **Materials:** | Titanium |
| **Finish:** | Oil-rubbed bare Titanium |
| **Attachment:** | Direct thread |
| **Full Auto Rated:** | No |
| **dB Reduction:** | 29 dB |
| **MSRP:** | $1,174 |
| **Contact:** | SilencerCo.com, (801) 417-5384 |


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# SMITH & WESSON'S RES




Photo by Sean Utley

# RESPONSE

# A PCC OUTLIER

By James Tarr

I was thinking that the FPC (Folding Pistol Carbine), introduced in 2023 and reviewed in *Firearms News*, was Smith & Wesson's first pistol caliber carbine (PCC), but a bit of research gave me a surprise. S&W's first PCC was the Model 1940 Light Rifle. That was a semi-auto rifle, chambered in 9mm and fed by 20-round magazines, made by S&W for Great Britain as they prepared for World War II. It was the opposite of a success, which is why you've probably never heard of it. But pistol caliber carbines are currently as popular as they've ever been in America, and S&W's funky FPC was a success, so I was interested to test their newest PCC, the Response.

Unlike the FPC, the Response is an AR-15-based design, albeit with some unique features. Currently, there is only one Response model—it is chambered in 9mm and sports a 16.5-inch barrel. Like most 9mm PCCs, the

## SMITH & WESSON'S RESPONSE



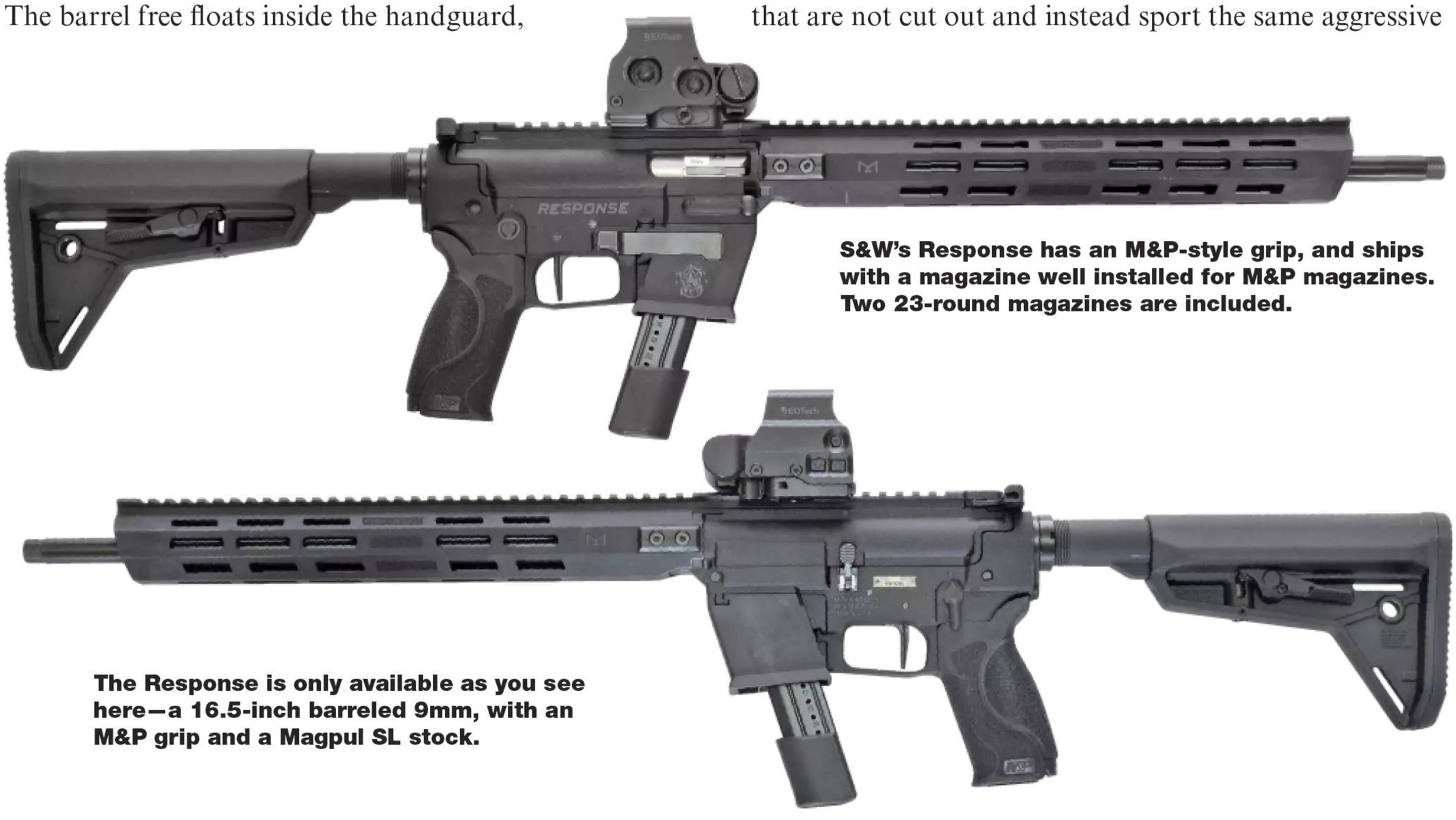
**The Response is Smith & Wesson's newest pistol caliber carbine. It is an AR-pattern rifle, but with a few interesting differences—all polymer construction and replaceable mag wells, among others.**

Response uses a straight blowback action, which tend to be simple and reliable. The neat thing about the Response is that it has an interchangeable magazine well. From the factory it is set up to accept S&W M&P magazines, and two 23-round magazines are provided with the carbine, but S&W also provides a Glock magazine well with the carbine too, which accepts all Glock-pattern G17/G19 magazines. I will circle back to the "FlexMag" magazine well in a bit.

The barrel has a black oxide finish and is threaded ½"x28 and a thread protector is provided.
The barrel free floats inside the handguard,

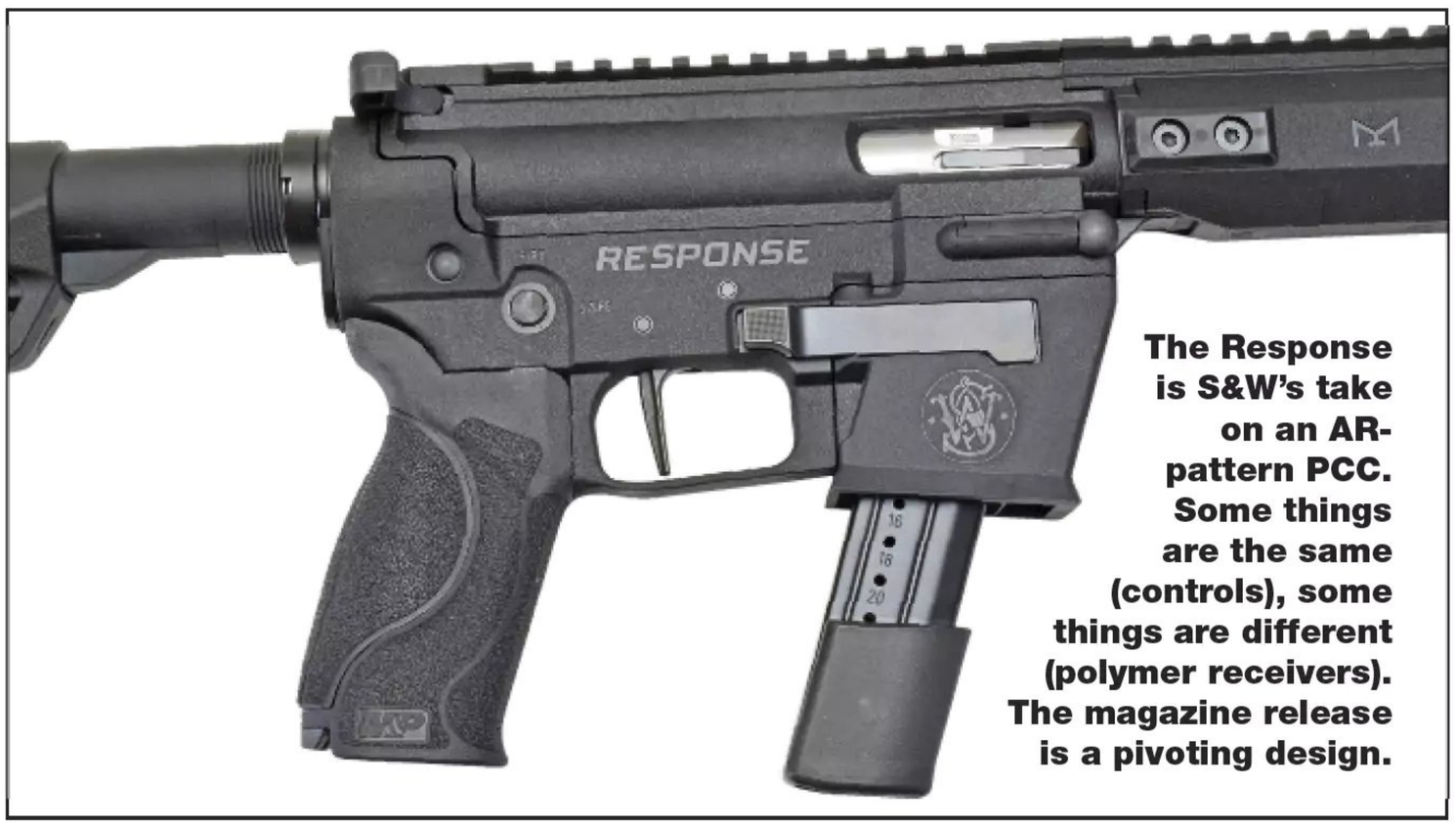
and here we come to one of the most curious features of the Response—the handguard, upper receiver, and lower receiver are all polymer. We've seen this before from Smith & Wesson, with their hugely successful M&P15-22 series. Polymer receivers/forends aren't so unusual for a .22, but were unexpected for a 9mm from S&W.

The polymer handguard is 15-inches long and offers M-LOK compatible accessory slots. The finish of the polymer handguard and receivers is somewhat rough, and deliberately so, to give you some texture to grip. Midway down the handguard, you'll see a row of M-LOK slots that are not cut out and instead sport the same aggressive



**S&W's Response has an M&P-style grip, and ships with a magazine well installed for M&P magazines. Two 23-round magazines are included.**

**The Response is only available as you see here—a 16.5-inch barreled 9mm, with an M&P grip and a Magpul SL stock.**




**The Response is S&W's take on an AR-pattern PCC. Some things are the same (controls), some things are different (polymer receivers). The magazine release is a pivoting design.**



**You can see how the magazine well slides out to the left side when you want to swap them. The serial number is etched into a steel plate set into the side of the polymer lower receiver.**



**The Response uses an AR-style trigger group, and the one in the gun has a flat trigger that looks and feels nice under the finger, although the trigger pull was unexceptional.**




**Both the upper and lower polymer receivers are beefed up in spots. The charging handle (all except for the latch on the left side) is polymer as well.**

texture as found in the M&P pistol grip. S&W also provides a number of aggressively textured rail/slot covers if you want a rougher gripping surface. You won't need those rail covers to protect your hand from the heat—PCCs take forever to heat up unless you're firing full-auto, and a polymer handguard transfers only a fraction of the heat you'll get with an aluminum model.

There is a MIL STD 1913 "Picatinny" rail running full length down the top of the polymer handguard and the upper receiver. This will provide a good mounting surface

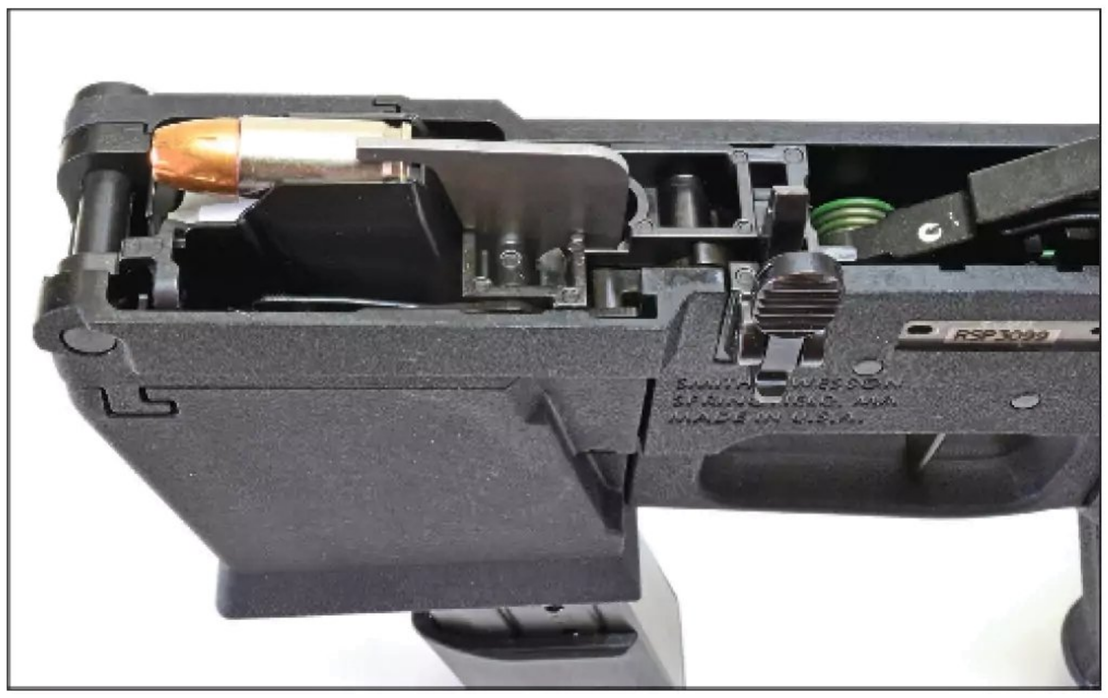



**The Response ships with an M&P mag well installed, as well as a well for Glock-pattern 9mm magazines. You also get a steel piece that has to be swapped out to fit the specific follower for the magazine and engage the bolt catch.**

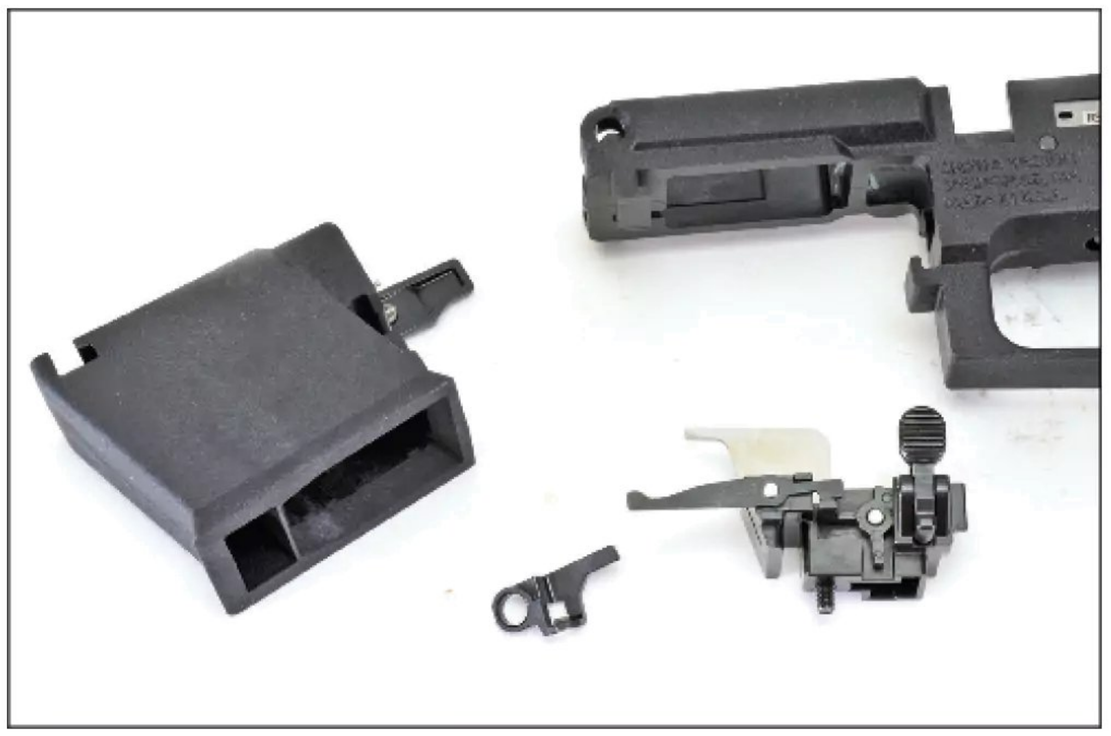


**Tarr thought the magazine well opening could have been bigger, and saw no reason for the sharp corners, especially at the rear. Wells for M&P and Glock mags ship with the gun, and S&W announced a well for SIG P320 magazines also.**

## SMITH & WESSON'S RESPONSE



**The Response has a big, fixed ejector. You can see the bolt catch assembly running from the front left of the magazine well, where it is engaged by the magazine follower, back to the bolt catch.**



**The bolt catch assembly removes from the lower receiver, and you'll need to take it out to swap magazine wells. This only requires one hex wrench and a few minutes.**



**In the center of the handguard are a few roughly textured strips for better gripping. The accessory slots are M-LOK compatible.**



**Tarr feels the Magpul SL stock is the best collapsible stock that Magpul makes. It has multiple sling attachment points and a rubber buttpad, plus a streamlined profile.**

for optics, but of course it will not be as strong as aluminum. You may think a polymer receiver isn't tough enough for "duty" use and should only be reserved for competition guns…but a number of firearms with polymer receivers/rails are in use by military/police around the world, including the CZ Scorpion EVO. That said…I once managed to break the top rail off a CZ Scorpion EVO by dropping it on its Aimpoint optic. Just sayin.'

Unlike a standard AR-15, which uses a direct gas impingement system, the Response (like most 9mm PCCs of every design) is a straight blowback gun. The only thing cycling the action is the rearward force of the igniting cartridge, and the only thing counteracting/absorbing those



**The muzzle is threaded 1/2x28 if you want to attach a flash hider, muzzle brake, or suppressor. A thread protector is provided.**




**You get everything seen here with the Response—two mag wells, two M&P magazines, rail covers, and four backstraps.**

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**The Response breaks down for cleaning like any other AR but note the pin in the center of the bolt. A modular two-piece bolt is not usual for AR-pattern PCCs.**

forces are the weight of the bolt/buffer and the resistance of the buffer spring. Both need to be strong/heavy, so the bolt doesn't move/chamber doesn't open until some of the pressure and gases have dissipated. As a result, the bolts of blowback 9mm ARs like the Response are heavier than those on gas guns. Which is why, even with polymer construction, this carbine might not be as light as you expect—with no magazine in place the Response tips the scale at five pounds 14 ounces according to my scale. For comparison, the similar M&P15-22 MOE model weighs almost a pound and a half less (and is $230 cheaper, a point I'll address later).

The first AR-pattern PCC was of course the 9mm submachine gun designed by Colt in the 1980s. There was a tab on those Colt stick magazine followers which pushed up on the longer bolt catch. Early AR PCCs, built to run on pistol magazines (most commonly the Glock), didn't lock their bolts open on empty magazines, because manufacturers hadn't quite figured how to do it. Luckily, that's in the past, and the Response's bolt locks back whether you're running M&P or Glock magazines. The follower pushes up on a metal tab at the left front of the magazine well, which (through a linkage running along the top left of the magazine well) then pushes up on the standard AR-pattern bolt catch. This design uses a fixed ejector mounted just forward of the bolt catch.

When designing the first AR-pattern PCC, Colt engineers turned the bolt carrier group into a long heavy bolt, and since then everyone has pretty much followed that same design path. Smith & Wesson did too…but they also



**Tarr did some of his mid-winter testing at an indoor range. Here you can see the Response has been outfitted with the Glock-pattern magazine well.**




**The Response with S&W M&P magazine well installed. (Sean Utley)**

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did something I haven't seen before. Their stainless steel bolt is actually a two-piece design. In the center of the bolt you'll see a pin, so the front and back half can separate. Weirdly, S&W doesn't talk about this at all in any of their promotional materials—you'd think you want to talk up a unique feature. The bolt is thus modular (just like the mag well) and theoretically you could replace the back half with a heavier or lighter model (if and when available) to change your recoil impulse.

The magazine release is a pivoting steel lever with a pad that should be easy to reach with the tip of your trigger finger no matter how small your hands are. The pad of the mag release is rectangular with a raised texture.

The upper receiver is slick-sided, with no case deflector or forward assist. The charging handle, except for the latch itself, is polymer, which I found an interesting choice. In all of their promotional materials for the Response, weight reduction is the only reason S&W states for the use of polymer, but I know another has to be their FlexMag interchangeable magazine well system.

This is not the first time I've seen something like this for an AR, but all the previous designs I've seen have involved machined aluminum magazine wells, which are much more expensive to produce, and I suspect cost of producing the FlexMag in aluminum had S&W looking at polymer. You get S&W M&P and Glock magazine wells now with the Response, with plans for additional pattern mags. S&W announced a magazine well adapter to fit SIG P320 magazines at the 2024 SHOT Show. One minor complaint I had was the corners on the magazine well—they're nearly sharp enough to draw blood, especially at the rear. There's no reason for this.

For a gun that seems intended as much or more for competition than anything else I'm surprised the magazine well opening isn't bigger or more flared. There's a slight bevel, but that's it. Big funnels are all the rage for the magazine wells of competition PCCs, and if S&W is looking at future improvements, they should offer a "competition" mag well for the Response—for Glock mags (as they are by far the most popular)—and sporting a huge beveled well. They should also be priced inexpensively, as competition shooters are legendarily cheap. And on that note, dedicated

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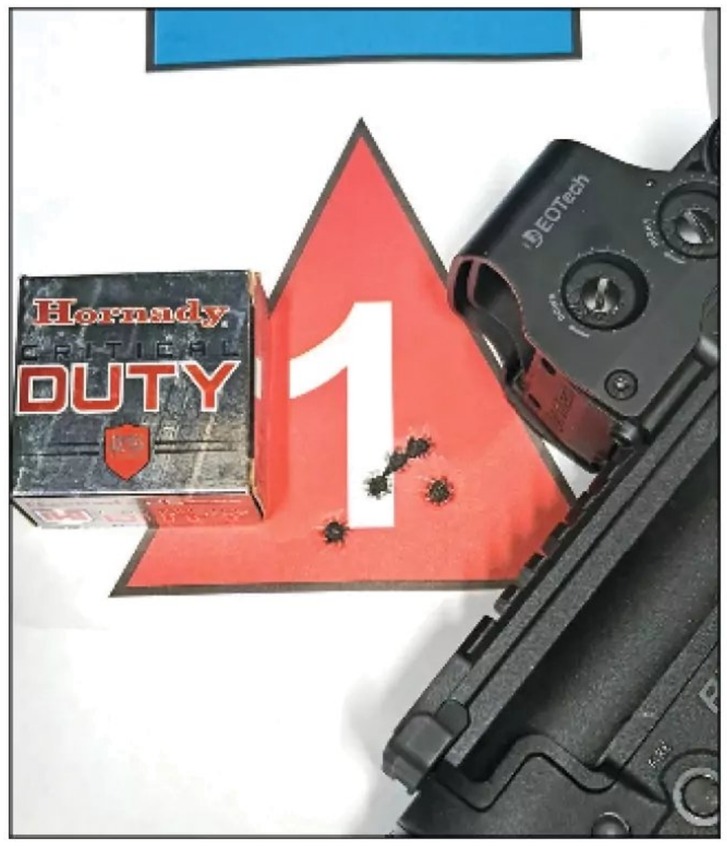
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**Tarr's first group at 25-yards to check the zero of his dot optic at the indoor range. Try shooting sub-two-inch 25-yard groups offhand with a handgun—that's one reason Tarr thinks a PCC is generally the best home defense gun.**




**The very best 50-yard group the Response did was this 1.7-incher with Federal LE training ammo (sporting a copper solid JHP for use at indoor ranges). Most ammo would do about three-inch groups at that range.**

**SMITH & WESSON RESPONSE CARBINE**

| Load | Bullet Weight (gr.) | Velocity (fps) | ES | SD | Best / Avg Group (in.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Black Hills FMJ | 115 | 1,224 | 26 | 11 | 2.0 / 3.0 |
| Federal lead free JHP+P | 115 | 1,287 | 30 | 13 | 1.7 / 2.6 |
| Federal Syntech PCC | 130 | 1,122 | 11 | 4 | 2.4 / 3.7 |
| Hornady Critical Duty+P | 135 | 1,198 | 22 | 10 | 2.6 / 4.0 |

Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 50 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.

competition shooters put more rounds downrange than anybody else. Only a small percentage of gun owners ever shoot that much, but if you're curious if the Response's receivers will handle wear as well as aluminum after tens of thousands of rounds, we should be finding out in a year or so. However, as much testing S&W engineers did on the Response will pale in comparison to the abuse soon to be heaped upon it by the American public. However, as I said before, the Response is far from the first 9mm long gun with a polymer receiver, and other designs seem to be able to go tens of thousands of rounds without a problem. If anything, I wonder about the hammer pin widening the holes in the lower receiver, as 9mm blowback AR blowback bolts are legendarily hard on hammers.

Inside the lower receiver you'll find a trigger group they made specifically for the Response, although it does accept all AR-pattern trigger groups. The trigger is straight, with a flat face, and I like the looks and feel of it. The hammer and trigger sport MIM construction and provide a standard unimpressive GI-style trigger pull—single stage with a bit of a rolling break, with a hint of grit, for a total 6.0-pound pull in my piece. The selector is steel, and had a bit of a gritty throw in my sample.

On the left side of the lower receiver, above the trigger and hammer pins, you'll see a rectangular cutout showing a stainless-steel plate, on which is etched the gun's serial number. I was curious if this was just a plate set into the polymer, or if it was just a section of steel cage embedded into the lower receiver all the way around. I popped out the hammer pins and looked, and it appears the lower receiver is 100% polymer, that plate is just that.

The polymer receivers are beefed up in a lot of places when compared to an aluminum receiver, especially at the rear. The Response uses a standard aluminum AR-15 buffer tube and spring. The buffer is a standard (heavyweight) pistol buffer. On the buffer tube you'll find a Magpul SL stock. Between looks, performance, and price I feel that this is the very best Magpul adjustable carbine stock.

The Response accepts standard AR-15-pattern grips, and comes with an M&P grip identical to those found on the S&W M&P semi-auto pistols. Supplied with it are the standard four (S, M, ML, L) interchangeable backstraps. This provides you with a more vertical grip angle than the traditional A2-style pistol grip. The texturing on the pistol grip and backstraps is nearly as aggressive as stippling.

Swapping out the FlexMag magazine well takes a few minutes. Lift off the upper receiver after popping out the two standard receiver pins, front and rear. There is a set Allen screw holding the bolt catch assembly in place—unscrew that (it's captured) and the bolt catch assembly comes out the top of the lower receiver. Once that is removed you can slide the magazine well off sideways. Note that not only is the magazine well different for each type of magazine, but so is the steel piece that the magazine follower pushes up on to lock the bolt back. The pieces made for the M&P magazine are marked with an M on the right side of the magazine well, just forward of the trigger guard, and on the top of the steel piece pushed up by the

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follower. The corresponding Glock parts are marked with a G. The instructions in the owner's manual are accompanied by a number of photos and pretty easy to follow.

PCCs are fun to shoot, whether you're talking plinking at the range or competition. They're great to train new shooters on as well. I personally think pistol-caliber carbines are the best choice for home defense as a general rule, between the ease they can be aimed, lack of recoil and noise (when compared to a rifle or shotgun), and capacity.

At the range the Response was completely reliable. I put several hundred rounds through it using the M&P mag well, then switched it out for the Glock and used that for the remainder of my testing. Both worked perfectly. Recoil was as expected—just a bit more than a gas-operated AR-15 but still mild. Accuracy was comparable to most other PCCs I've tested. PCCs are inherently not as accurate as rifles, but they're still far quicker and easier to shoot at distance than pistols no matter your skill level. With a red dot, even unskilled shooters can regularly hit a man-sized target at 100 yards with a PCC, and at urban defensive distances for most people there's no comparison to a pistol for speed and accuracy.

I knocked down at bit of steel at my club, and did some reliability testing with a few different JHPs, but precision work is a bit tougher when the snow is on the ground and the temperatures are in the single digits and you're a delicate little princess who starts to shiver if the temperature dips below 60. I did my accuracy work at an indoor range.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with the S&W Response, but at the end of my test and evaluation, I guess I remain a little confused about S&W's choice of polymer for their construction of the Response. Traditionally, polymer is chosen because it is cheaper than the alternative, but that cost savings doesn't seem to be reflected in the price of the Response. You can find all-aluminum 9mm ARs on the market priced less than the Response. No, they're not from a company of S&W's stature, and they don't have interchangeable magazine wells (with *cough* pointy corners), but still, S&W's increased production capacity (you'd think) would equate to lower costs. The S&W Response was fun to shoot and reliable, but the polymer construction makes it look and feel like it should cost less than the suggested retail price. FN



**Maneuvering out of tight spaces, like a vehicle, isn't hard to do with the Response. (Sean Utley)**

| SMITH & WESSON RESPONSE CARBINE | |
|---|---|
| **Caliber:** | 9mm |
| **Weight:** | 5 lbs., 14 ounces empty (no magazine) |
| **Overall Length:** | 32.2 inches (stock collapsed), 35.3 inches (stock extended) |
| **Receiver:** | Polymer |
| **Finish:** | Matte |
| **Barrel:** | 16", 1:10 twist, black oxide finish, 1/2x28 threaded |
| **Muzzle Device:** | None, thread protector |
| **Stock:** | Magpul SL |
| **Pistol Grip:** | S&W M&P, interchangeable backstraps |
| **Forend:** | Polymer, M-LOK 15-inch |
| **Trigger:** | Single-stage, 6 lbs. (as tested) |
| **Sights:** | None |
| **Accessories:** | Two 23-round magazines, four backstraps, cable lock, Glock-pattern FlexMag, polymer rail covers |
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The Ruger KAC-556K is a compact and powerful close quarters combat rifle that saw fairly widespread use with law enforcement. The three-round burst feature shown here is quite controllable.

# THE KAC-556K

## Ruger's Select-Fire Stainless Steel "Close Combat" Rifle

**By Will Dabbs, MD**

Most truly bad people are bad a lot. That predictable character trait often makes such folk readily recognizable to law enforcement. When my deputy sheriff buddy spotted this one guy while out on patrol, he immediately recognized that our hero had an active felony warrant.

In rural Mississippi, belligerent rednecks can be a handful. Quite literally everybody has guns, and these rugged individualists operating on the far side of the law often dislike being told what to do. For the small town lawman, backup can often be either well distant or nonexistent. Such was the case this particular afternoon as my buddy pulled his squad car over and hit the lights.

The bad guy stopped to talk, so my pal made his way over with caution, his strong hand hovering over his sidearm. The selective fire Ruger KAC-556K carbine remained safely in his cruiser. The tactical situation didn't seem to require the serious iron just yet.

What began as a pleasant chat soon degenerated into a full-bore throwdown. While my buddy was preoccupied with trying to subdue this robust career criminal, he caught out of the corner of his eye the man's dad



**The KAC-556K was a popular and effective cop gun back in the 1980's and hearkens back to a simpler day when most cops still carried heavy, powerful wheel guns. The stainless steel construction made the gun all but weatherproof.**

approaching from around the corner. The cop's lizard brain recognized the big slide-action shotgun in the man's hands.

The felony-warrant guy immediately got a pass as the deputy sheriff made a tactical dive back to his squad car for the machinegun. By the time he retrieved the weapon, the perp's armed dad had disappeared into the side yard. The cop ran around the corner to find the man now inexplicably bereft of his weapon, but nonetheless both belligerent and fulminantly angry. As he got control of the situation and ordered the man onto the ground, a substantial crowd gathered.

All human beings are innately tribal. This curious hardwired behavior drives everything from childhood playground squabbles to wars in the Middle East. In this case, the dozen or so energized onlookers were all related by blood, or by common law, and united in their unfettered hatred of authority. As they pushed in close it became obvious to my buddy that he was about to be killed, cooked, and eaten. In desperation, he pointed his little carbine skyward and loosed a quick three-round burst. While not taught in any police academy on the planet, in this specific instance, a three-round burst fired into the air with this rifle did successfully defuse a potentially catastrophic situation. The barrel on this shiny stainless steel carbine is only 13 inches long. Standard .223 rounds make an earth-shaking racket out of it. The ear-splitting report was adequate to disperse the hostile mob. Both the original perp and his dad went to jail for assaulting a police officer.

Months later in court, the defense attorney sauntered up to the witness stand and dropped a live .223 round in my buddy's lap. The greasy lawyer asked why he felt it necessary to use such a devastating military antipersonnel cartridge to defuse what was clearly just a simple misunderstanding. My friend countered by asking whether or not the defense attorney had ever seen a 12-gauge shell up close. This being Mississippi, naturally everyone in the jury had. As a result, the bad guys went to prison. Throughout it all, the sketchy lawyer never thought to hassle him for unlimbering a real-deal machinegun.

## Origin Story

Sturm, Ruger & Co introduced the original Mini-14 in 1973. Designed as a collaborative effort by L. James Sullivan and Bill Ruger, the .223-caliber Mini-14 bore an esoteric similarity to the larger 7.62x51mm GI-issue M-14 service rifle.




**The Ruger Mini-14 as it appeared in the *1976 Guns & Ammo Annual* catalog. The price of $200 would equal $1,084 in today's money. Editor-in-Chief Vincent DeNiro got a stainless Mini-14 around 1979.**



The original Ruger Mini-14 was designed not to look scary.



I built this Ruger Mini-14 rifle up to better approximate the larger GI-issue cousin. The similarity to the original design is obvious.

However, the gas system remained fundamentally different.

Bill Ruger was one of the most influential businessmen in the modern American gun world. James Sullivan was one of the original designers of the AR-15 as well as the Ultimax 100 machine gun, and several other groundbreaking designs. Ruger's Mini-14 was indeed a groundbreaking design.

I built this Ruger Mini-14 rifle up to better approximate the larger GI-issue cousin. The similarity to the original design is obvious.

While the design was novel enough, what really set the Mini-14 apart from its competition was its material science. This lithe little rifle was built around a heat-treated, investment cast steel receiver that was cheaper to manufacture than the traditional forged steel sort. This was actually Bill Ruger's true forte and a big reason that Ruger, as of 2015, was America's largest firearm manufacturer. You can see this same engineering ethos in other Ruger staples like the 10/22.

## Ballistic Philosophy

To a degree, the Mini-14 was designed as a counter to the AR-15. While Modern sporting rifles are commonplace today, back in the 1970's they remained quite radical indeed. The sinister aluminum receivers and black polymer furniture left many traditional gun guys discomfited. Particularly as regards law enforcement, there was a pervasive effort back then to avoid projecting an unduly militarized vibe. The Mini-14 gave patrol officers exactly the same capability as might be offered by an AR-15 in a package that looked more like a hunting rifle.

This really was a common sentiment. The Mississippi Highway Patrol put a Mini-14 in the trunk of every one of their squad cars for this very reason. Nowadays, black rifles are background clutter in any serious law enforcement callout, but this was not always the case.



The KAC-556K offers the same capabilities as a Colt Model 733 carbine without all the scary theatrics.

In keeping with this mantra, the standard Mini-14 rifle came from the factory with a nice walnut stock. It also had an unadorned muzzle devoid of any scary flash suppressors or bayonet lugs. These handy little guns were offered in both blued and stainless versions. With this as a foundation, the American gun accessory market had a veritable field day.

In the days before we all began to Gucci up our favorite ARs, the Mini-14 and the Combloc SKS were the platforms to tweak. Sundry aftermarket muzzle attachments, scope mounts, handguards and folding stocks of a variety of flavors were available through fine periodicals like



**The KAC-556K is the militarized tactical version of the stainless steel Ruger Mini-14 rifle.**

*Shotgun News* to anyone with a healthy credit card (or via C.O.D. delivery, remember those?) and a shipping address. Customizing your Mini-14 at home became a cottage industry with companies like Parallax Corporation, Ramline, Specialized Weapons (which became TAPCO), and many others assisting along the way.

## General Morphology

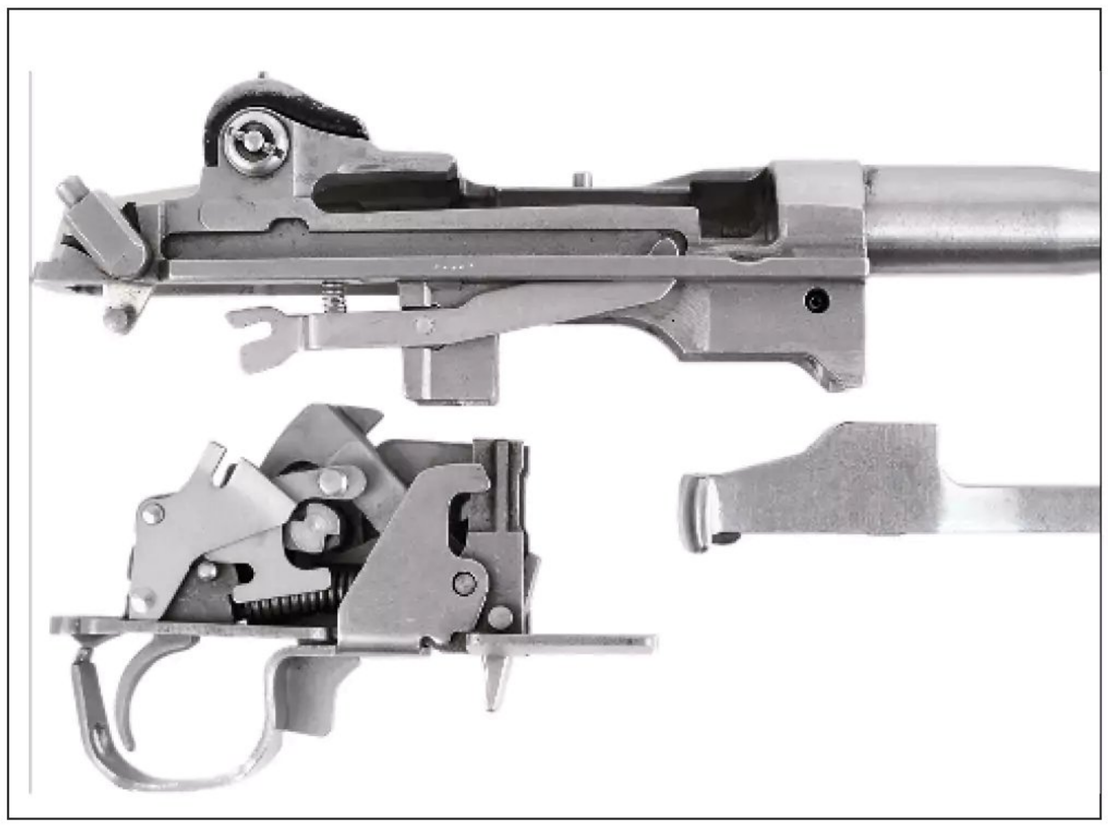
The front sight is a fixed blade. The rear sight is adjustable for both windage and elevation using a bullet tip as a tool. The safety is a pivoting tab in the front of the trigger guard that apes that of the larger M14. The magazine release is a thumb-activated lever. Magazines must be hooked in and rocked in place like those of the GI rifle that inspired it.

The charging handle is an integral part of the bolt carrier and reciprocates with the action. This allows the operator to manhandle the weapon in a pinch if things get sticky. There is a manual bolt lock to secure the action open for inspection or maintenance. The bolt automatically locks to the rear on the last round fired. Giving the charging handle a quick snatch drops it over a fresh magazine.

Most American gun nerds either love or hate the Mini-14. In my experience, there's not a lot of in-between. The piston-driven action is undeniably reliable, but the rifle is not as accurate or precise as might be a comparable AR. There is also a perception; right, wrong, or otherwise, that the Mini-14 is not quite so rugged as the GI-issue weapon.



**The rear sight is adjustable for windage and elevation using the tip of a bullet as a tool.**



**The three-round burst mechanism adds an additional layer of complexity to the Mini-14 fire control system.**

## Variety, The Spice of Life…

Over the decades, Ruger has produced the Mini-14 in a wide variety of flavors. The standard Ranch Rifle is the basic version with a 1:9 twist (which will stabilize up to 62-grain projectiles), 18.5-inch tapered barrel. Modern iterations have a front sight protected with wings and a detachable scope rail mount but are essentially the same gun that Bill and Jim designed back in the early 1970's.

The Target Rifle is the same action with a 22-inch heavy barrel. This version foregoes iron sights in favor of a standard optics mount. It also includes an adjustable harmonic tuner to help stabilize the barrel. In 1987, Ruger launched the Mini Thirty. This is essentially a standard Mini-14 chambered for the Combloc M43 7.62x39mm round.

Throughout it all, Ruger actively courted the military and law enforcement market. Their mission-specific tactical offering was the Mini-14 GB. GB was short for



**The KAC-556K is a fairly user-friendly design. However, reinstallation of the burst mechanism is a chore.**

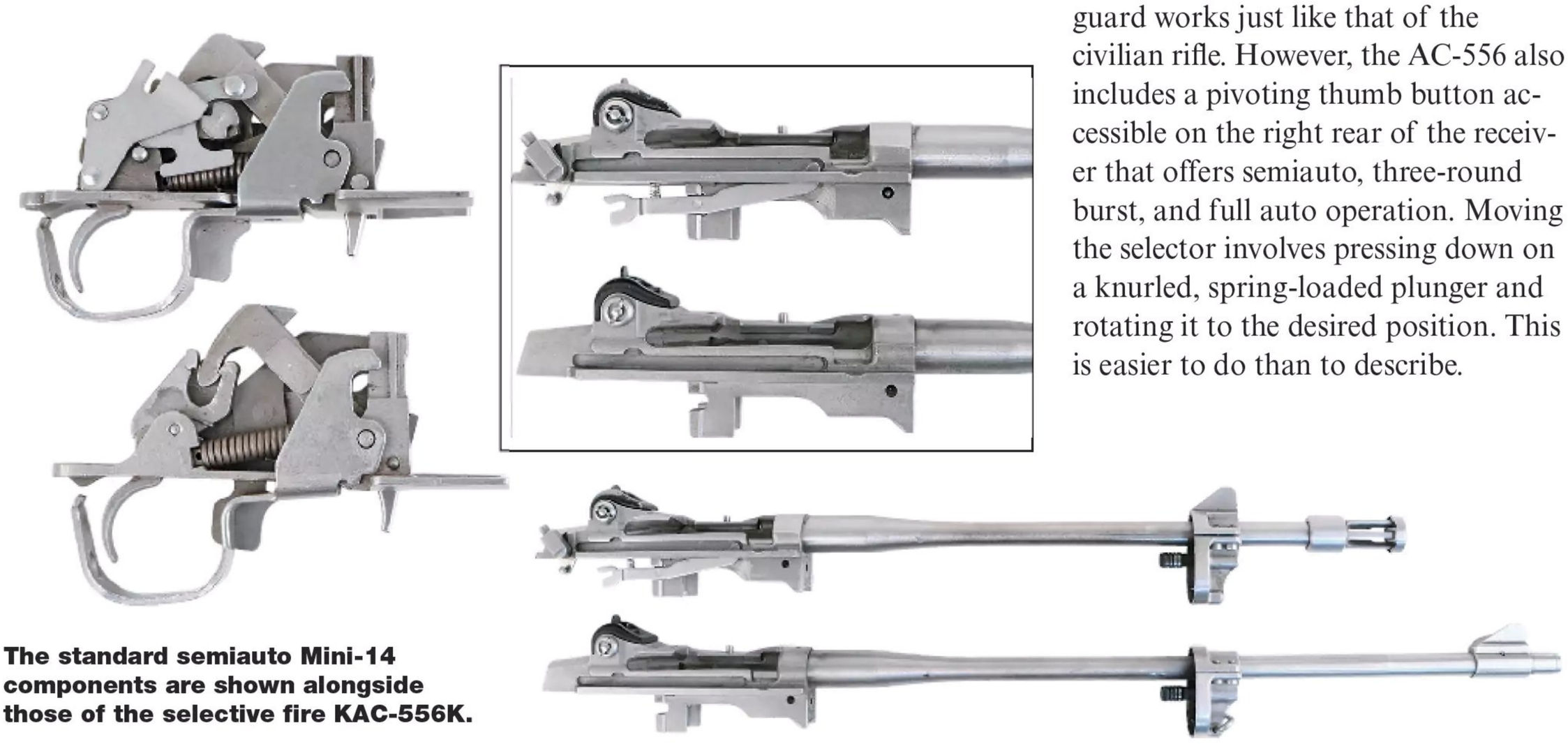
"Government Barrel." The Mini-14 GB was offered with either a fixed or folding stock. This variant also included a bayonet lug, threaded barrel, and flash suppressor. While the semiauto Mini-14 GB was only offered in Ruger's Law Enforcement catalog, many of these rifles found their way onto the civilian market from law enforcement sources.

### The Mini-14 Gets Way Manlier

In 1979, Ruger introduced the AC-556. This was a selective-fire version of the standard Mini-14 rifle designed for military and law enforcement markets. The AC-556 was offered with either 13- or 18-inch barrels in both blued and stainless versions. The "K" prefix indicates stainless construction. The "K" suffix designates the short barrel and folding stock. An "F" suffix denotes a folding stock and an 18-inch barrel. The concept of a bright stainless tactical weapon was and is still fairly radical. For use on a boat around salt water, the choice of metal would be clear.

The standard Ruger folding stock includes a side-folding strut with a pivoting steel buttplate. When collapsed, the buttplate locks the stock into a stud on the side of the forearm. The gun will run just fine with the stock open or closed. Unlike many collapsible stocks, this one also provides a nice stable platform when fired from the shoulder.

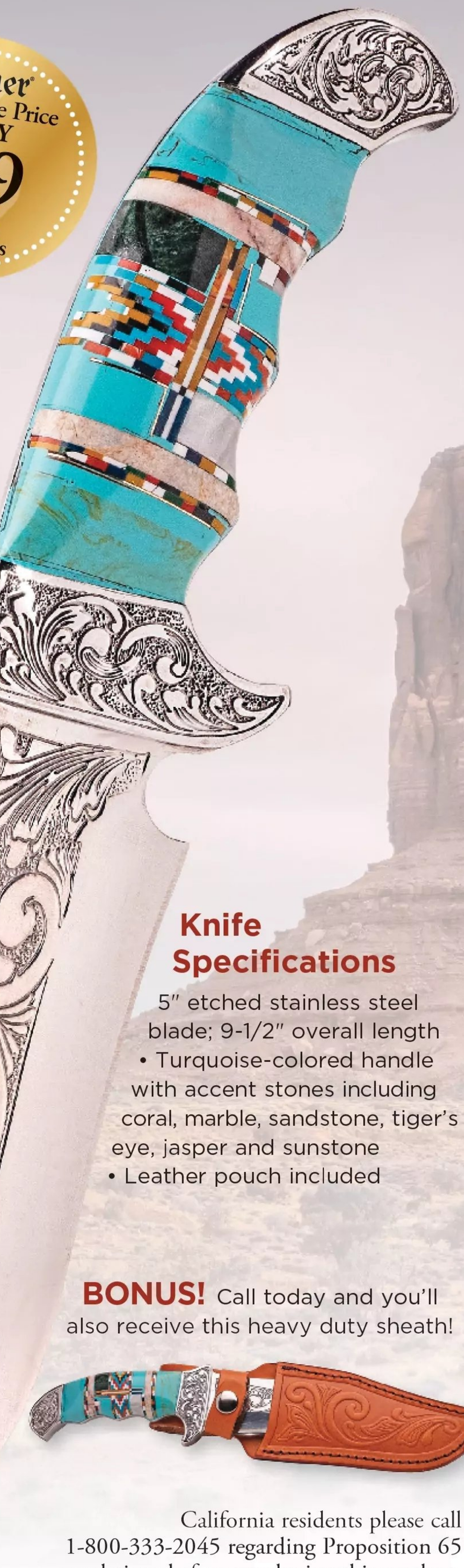
Arguably the most intriguing aspect of the AC-556 design is its three-position fire selector. The tab safety in the trigger guard works just like that of the civilian rifle. However, the AC-556 also includes a pivoting thumb button accessible on the right rear of the receiver that offers semiauto, three-round burst, and full auto operation. Moving the selector involves pressing down on a knurled, spring-loaded plunger and rotating it to the desired position. This is easier to do than to describe.



**The standard semiauto Mini-14 components are shown alongside those of the selective fire KAC-556K.**

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**The KAC-556K collapses down into an exceptionally compact package.**

The AC-556 saw fairly widespread use considering its competition. The French police standardized the rifle as the Mousqueton A.M.D. Police forces in Brazil, El Salvador, Hong Kong, the UK, and elsewhere bought the guns in quantity. The Department of State purchased 500 copies in both semiauto and three-round burst options for embassy security. One would think that there would have been some military sales especially since surplus M1 Carbines and M14s were given away by our government—a Mini-14 would have been an easy training transition into the modern 5.56 cartridge for any army using these two weapons. Well, one military did buy them and that was the Royal Bermuda Regiment. The model they purchased was the Mini-14GB.

Production of the AC-556 continued for twenty years until 1999. Ruger continued to offer factory service for the rifle until 2009. Nowadays, there is no factory support for the full-auto weapon. Prolonged full-auto fire, like multiple 30-round magazines being fired one after the other, has been known to "freeze" the bolt. However, the design remains quite robust if not abused.



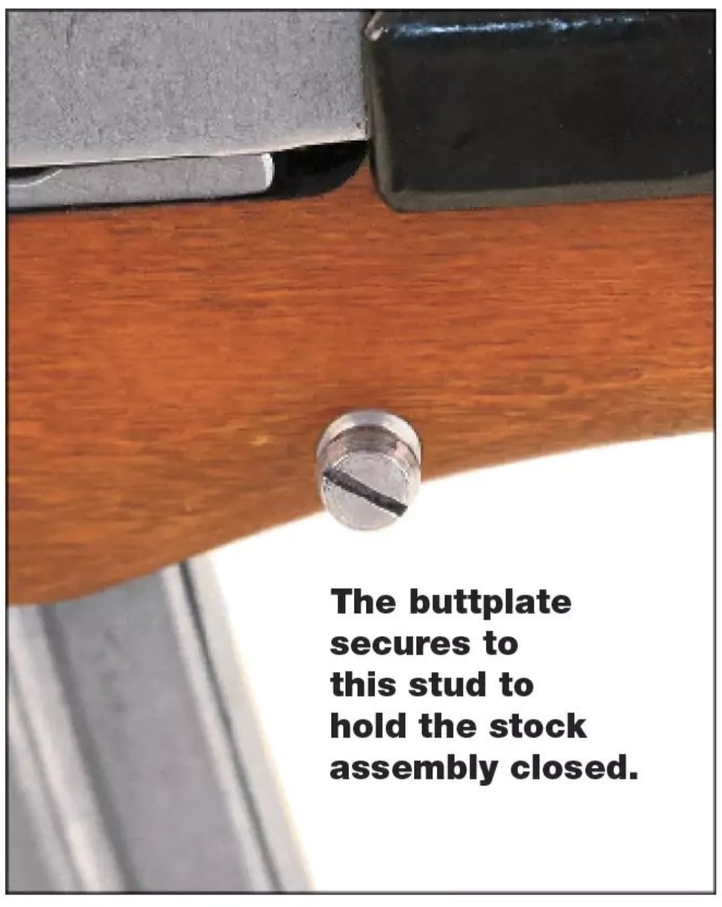
**The folding stock on the KAC-556K provides a fairly rigid firing platform and locks alongside the forearm when collapsed.**

## Genealogy

This particular example has a colorful history. The gun was first purchased new back in the early 1980's by an elected sheriff in rural Mississippi. Though privately owned, the gun rode around in a squad car as a service weapon for several years. When this sheriff died unexpectedly, one of his deputies purchased the gun from the sheriff's widow for what he had paid for it originally. The best recollection was that this was about $1,500 back around 1987.

The accursed machinegun ban went into effect in May of 1986. Prior to that time, transferable full auto weapons were both readily available and relatively inexpensive. Market forces have conspired to drive machinegun prices up astronomically, however. Today, a transferable KAC-556 or AC-556 will sell for $16,000+.

This deputy sheriff used this gun as a duty weapon for decades afterwards. Eventually he retired and sold the weapon when no one in his family seemed interested in it.



**The buttplate secures to this stud to hold the stock assembly closed.**



**The three-position fire selector is easily accessed on the right rear aspect of the receiver.**



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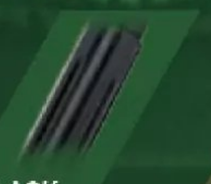
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**There is ample evidence of hard use on this particular rifle.**

The gun is in fine mechanical shape but bears the inevitable stigmata of years of practical cop use.

## Practical Tactical

The stubby little KAC-556K is the coolest-looking rifle in the Mini-14 family. Like short-barreled M-4 rifles, this is really a close range platform. It will push bullets out to a couple hundred meters, but there are better tools for long range engagements. Up close, however, the KAC-556K is a room-clearing monster.

Magazine changes and ergonomics are not quite up to the same standard as might be the case with your favorite M4 carbine, but the little Ruger rifle still runs plenty fast. Back in the day, magazines, both factory and aftermarket, were offered in 5, 10, 20, 30, and 40-round varieties—even a 90-round "snail" drum designed by Mack Gwinn were popular. Original stainless steel high-capacity mags command a premium today. Additionally, some aftermarket mags have developed a reputation for poor reliability. [EDITOR'S NOTE: However, these aftermarket magazines were the only option commercially as Bill Ruger Sr. would only sell his Mini-14 to the public with a five-round magazine, and later only offered a 10-round. You see, Bill was pro-gun but not pro-2nd Amendment—there's a big difference. Thank goodness that changed over 15 years










**These were typical 25-meter groups when fired over open sights on a sandbag rest.**

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS
**RUGER KAC-556K**

| Load | Velocity (fps) | SD | Accuracy (in.) (Avg./Best) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wolf 55 gr. FMJ | 2,449 | 32 | 2.4 / 2.2 |
| Remington 55 gr. FMJ | 2,923 | 14 | 1.25 / 1.1 |
| SIG SAUER 55 gr. FMJ | 2,669 | 10 | 1.4 / 1.2 |

Accuracy is the average of three five-shot groups at 25 meters from a sandbag rest using iron sights. Velocity is the average of ten shots measured with a Caldwell Ballistic Chronograph located twelve feet from the muzzle.

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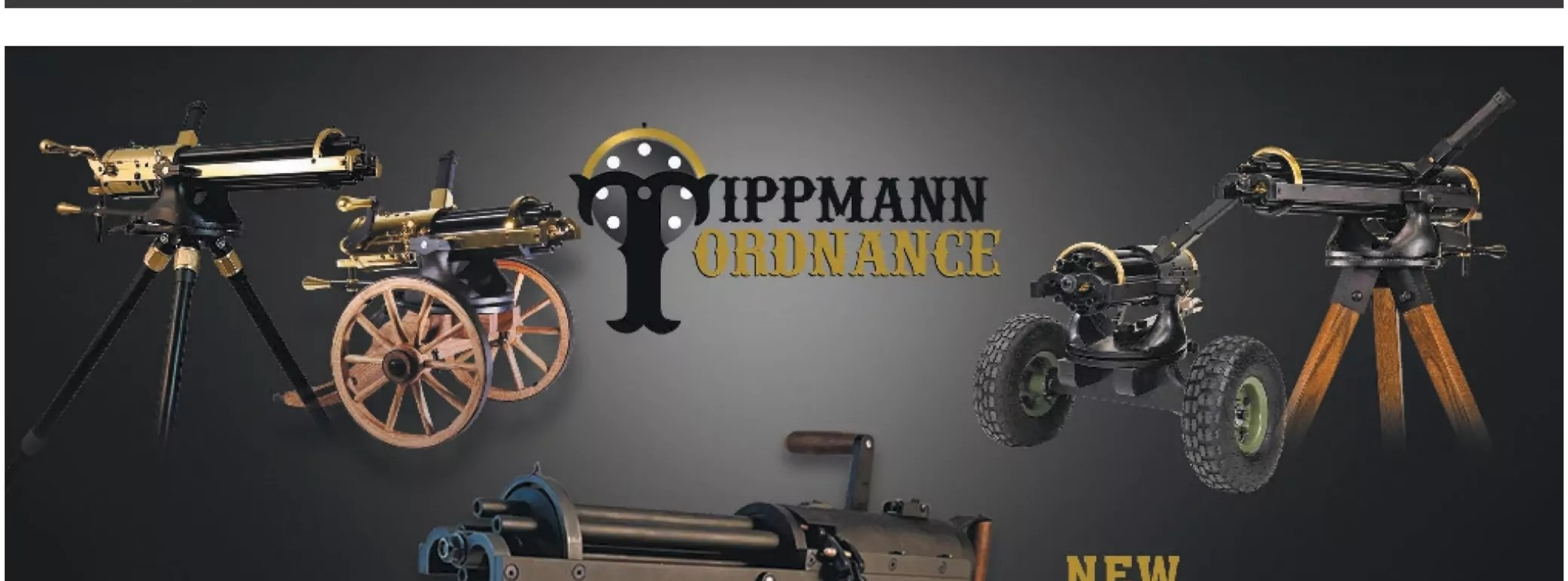
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**The manual of arms for the Ruger KAC-556K differs substantially from that of the more familiar M4. However, it is nonetheless an exceptionally efficient close combat tool.**

ago and today Ruger is a very strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment.]

The short-barreled KAC-556K is, like all short-barreled .223 weapons, incredibly loud. However, the stubby rifle still produces respectable velocities and acceptable accuracy. Semi-auto operation is about what one might expect. On rock and roll, the KAC-556K is both reliable and controllable with proper technique. I never had a stoppage during our recent range time together. The three-round burst function really is a neat option.

As is the case with the burst mechanism on the M16A2 rifle, the AC-556 does not automatically reset if stopped mid-burst. This means, if the gun is set on burst and you snap off a quick two rounds, the next trigger pull will only fire a single shot. Once the three rounds are complete, the gun resets to fire another three shots.

While the standard Mini-14 is easy enough to strip and maintain, the KAC-556K is kind of a pain. I had to remove the pistol grip with a screwdriver to pop the trigger guard loose, but I was being careful not to scratch anything. The burst mechanism also makes reassembly a proper chore. Regardless, the Gucci-looking stainless steel KAC-556K is a cool footnote to the modern pantheon of law enforcement carbines. Short, lightweight, reliable, and loud, the KAC-556K is equal parts tactical tool and fashion statement. FN




**My friend Robert, shown here with the author and a fellow Army Aviator, carried this rifle operationally as a cop. All three of us flew or crewed CH-47 Chinook helicopters back in the day.**

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
## KAC-556K

| | |
|---|---|
| **Caliber:** | .223 Rem |
| **Finish:** | Stainless Steel |
| **Barrel Length:** | 13 in. |
| **Overall Length:** | 24 in. Folded/33.5 in. Extended |
| **Weight (empty):** | 7.4 lbs. |
| **Trigger Pull:** | 4.5 lbs. |
| **Operating System:** | Gas-Operated Fixed Piston, Positive Extraction |
| **Selector:** | Semi-Automatic, 3-Round Burst, Full Automatic |
| **Cyclic Rate:** | 700 rpm |
| **Sights:** | Fixed Blade Front, Adjustable Rear |


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# THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SHOT SHOW 2024

By James Tarr

In no particular order, here are a few of the noteworthy things I spotted at the 2024 SHOT Show (ShotShow.org) in Las Vegas:

### Silencer Central Banish Speed K (SilencerCentral.com)

Just before SHOT Show, Silencer Central announced their Banish Speed K suppressor and I had a chance at the range day before the show to put some rounds downrange through a sample.

The Speed K was developed at the request of some law enforcement customers and developed with the help of Federal Ammunition. The Speed K is a 5.56 suppressor meant to shine on short-barreled rifles, and compared to traditional cans it is short and fat—it is just four inches long and two inches in diameter. While in development, before they had a final name for it, this suppressor was called the "two by four" in-house at Silencer Central. The cops asking for this can specifically wanted it short, so that when mounted on their SBRs their carbines were still short

The Banish Speed K is the newest suppressor from Silencer Central, designed for and with input from law enforcement. It is fat, but short for more maneuverability. If you don't have an expression like this on your face after shooting other people's suppressed guns and ammo, you're dead inside.

and easy to maneuver in and out of vehicles and indoors. I found that it's shorter in person than it looks in photos.

The Speed K weighs 14.1 ounces—not the lightest, but it is full-auto rated, and to get that kind of durability you need tough construction. The Speed K is 100% Inconel for the utmost in durability—it has passed seven rounds of SOCOM testing. It comes with an industry standard hub and 1.375-24 universal mount.

It is designed (like many new suppressors) to produce reduced backpressure. Using 55-grain FMJ out of a 10.5-inch




**Tarr trying out the Silencer Central Banish Speed K at SHOT Show's range day. It seemed to work great (expect an in-depth review in an upcoming issue).**

barrel the Speed K was shown to generate 142.3 dB at the muzzle, and 138.5 dB at the ear, which is very competitive, as is the price—$1,199.

## DiamondBack SDR (DiamondbackFirearms.com)

If I would have made a list of the things, I wasn't expecting at the SHOT Show, a revolver from Diamondback Firearms is right up there. Diamondback is known for their small semi-auto pistols and AR-pattern rifles, not revolvers.




**One of the unexpected offerings at the show was the SDR (self defense revolver) from Diamondback Firearms. It seems a quality piece, designed to compete with the Kimber K6s.**

The SDR—Self Defense Revolver—is an all-stainless six-shot .357 Magnum with a two-inch barrel. This is a DA/SA revolver with an exposed hammer spur. It has a red fiber optic insert in the front sight and a Novak-style non-snag rear sight with green fiber optic inserts to either side of the notch. The rubber wraparound boot-style grips help cushion your hand. The cylinder release is a large finely checkered trapezoidal button. The finish was excellent on the samples they had on hand, and their trigger pulls were good, not too heavy, and smooth, with no grit.

The SDR seems deliberately aimed at Kimber's K6s in both styling—it looks classy and sexy. But, at $777, it is priced to significantly undercut the Kimber. Diamondback isn't known for making revolvers…but then neither was Kimber.

## Hornady's New 5.7 Offerings (Hornady.com)

Some unexpected ammo news out of SHOT Show came from Hornady, where they announced they were, for the first time, producing 5.7x28mm ammunition.

A few years ago, I spoke to Steve Hornady asking him if his company would ever produce 5.7 ammo. This was right after Ruger introduced their Ruger-5.7 pistol, and the cartridge was hugely popular—and in short supply. And this was before Ruger brought out their LC Carbine in 5.7, and Palmetto State Armory brought out their Rock 5.7 pistol.

Steve told me they had no immediate plans but would keep it in mind. The complicating factor is the cartridge itself—it is a unique bottlenecked cartridge without a taper, so the cartridge must be coated with lube at the end of the manufacturing process. Wet, dry, some sort of film lacquer, whatever—




**Hornady announced they were jumping into loading 5.7x28 ammo, with two offerings. Every year more companies announce new guns in this interesting, bottlenecked caliber.**

the point was that Hornady didn't have the machinery to do that and was waiting to see how popular the 5.7 cartridge would remain before deciding to make the investment.

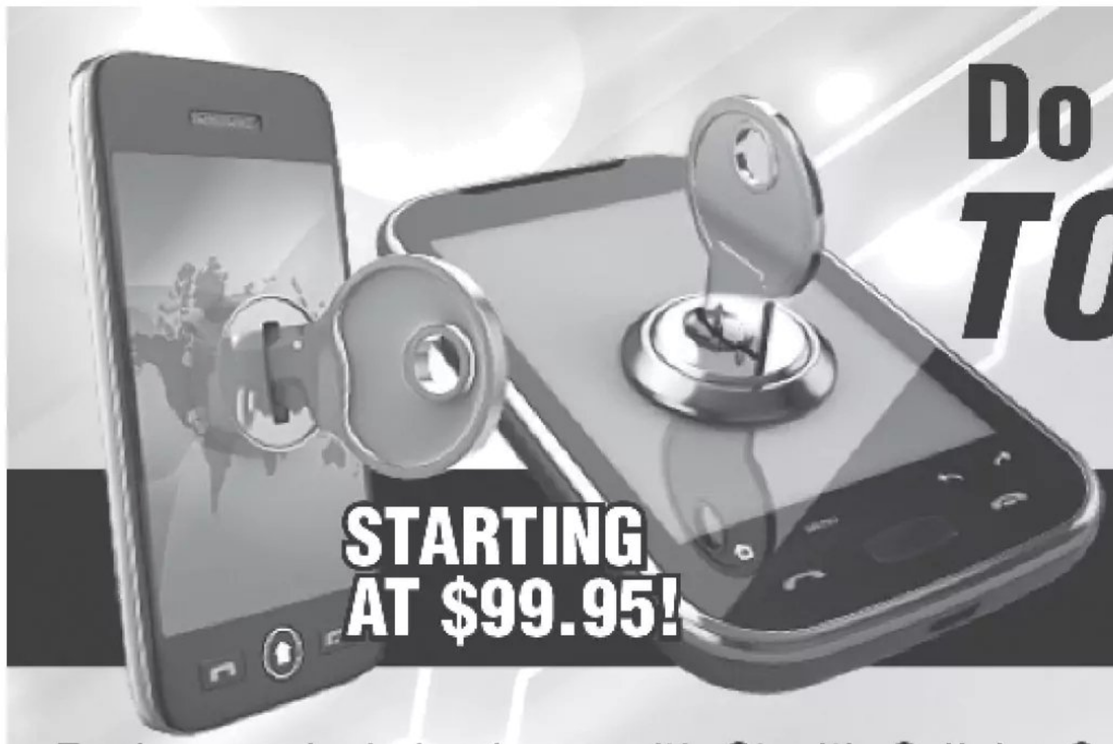
Apparently, they felt the juice was worth the squeeze, because they are now offering two 5.7x28mm loads—a Critical Defense load with a 40-grain FTX bullet, and a 40-grain V-Max load through their Black line.

## PSA's "MP7" (PalmettoStateArmory.com)

On a very related note, one of the products generating a huge amount of interest at the show, especially on social media posts, was Palmetto State Armory's concept gun. Officially, it is the X5.7, but it is being considered PSA's take on the Heckler & Koch MP7. HK's MP7 machine pistol, chambered in 4.6x30mm, is one of the most famous unobtanium guns out there.




**Generating a lot of buzz at the show was Palmetto State Armory's X5.7 concept, their take on the HK MP7, chambered in 5.7x28mm. It falls directly into the "I don't know what I'd do with it, but I want one" category of guns.**



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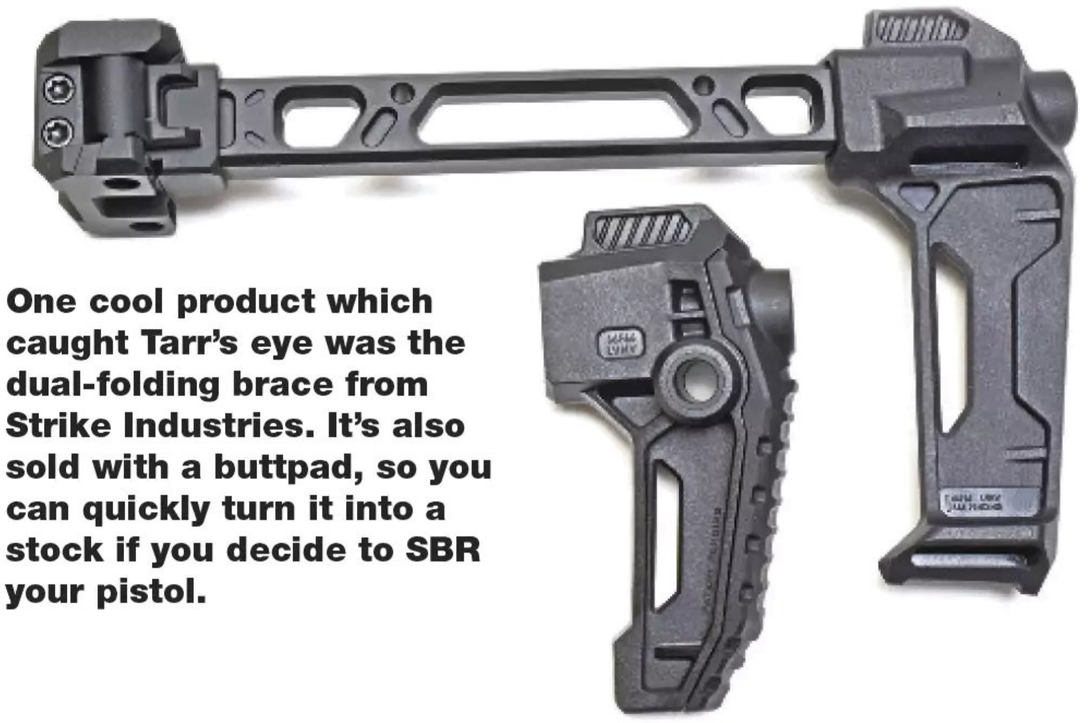
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**At range day you got to meet a lot of interesting and weird characters, like James Tarr. Here he is with the Jack Links Sasquatch.**



**One cool product which caught Tarr's eye was the dual-folding brace from Strike Industries. It's also sold with a buttpad, so you can quickly turn it into a stock if you decide to SBR your pistol.**



**Check out the two (patented) buttons on Strike Industries' Dual Folding Brace. Push one and the brace/stock folds one way, push the other and it folds the opposite direction.**

PSA's concept was shown off to see what kind of interest it would generate, and if there was enough, they would then consider making it a reality. There seems to be more than enough.

The concept gun had a 3D-printed shell, but used PSA's 5.7 Rock pistol grip dimensions, fire control group, and magazine. It had an extendable brace on the back, a pic rail along the top, and if it does become a reality, they were aiming for a price somewhere between $500–$1,000. Some grumblers online were complaining that this wasn't a real MP7 and they'd wait for the HK version…so I walked over to my contact at the HK booth and talked to him off the record. He told me that due to a lot of reasons, the chance there would ever be a variant of the HK MP7 offered for sale on the US commercial market was pretty much zero. Tommy Built (well-known for their semi-custom HK builds) announced during the show they'd be making a semi-auto copy of the MP7, and while it will look just like the real thing, expect to pay thousands and thousands of dollars—and for there to be a long waiting list.

PSA's X5.7 isn't an MP7…but it will probably be close enough for most people, and with Fiocchi, Federal, and now Hornady making 5.7 ammunition, you should be able to find some.

### Strike Industries Dual Folding Stock and Brace (StrikeIndustries.com)

As SHOT was taking place in Las Vegas, the BATFE's (illegitimate, unconstitutional) rule concerning pistol braces had been on hold nationwide for over to a month due to injunctions from federal courts, and my email inbox had been overflowing with ads from wholesalers and retailers once again offering braces for sale. I didn't see a booth for SB Tactical (the inventors of the pistol arm brace, SB-Tactical.com) and reached out to Alex Bosco, the owner at SBT and a friend, checking up on him. Turns out he and his people were too busy boxing and shipping out braces to come to the show. Regarding brace legislation, he is "cautiously optimistic."

I bring this up because a lot of people are now making braces and they seem to be selling as well as ever. I spotted maybe the most intriguing brace I've ever seen while at SHOT 2024—the dual-folding brace by Strike Industries.

This brace clamps onto a rear MIL STD 1913 picatinny rail using a generous aluminum and steel clamp. It has a machined aluminum arm, and the brace section is a polymer fin that rests against your forearm. There are pushbuttons on the top and using them you can fold the brace to the left or to the right. It locks in place when folded. Strike provides several rubber pads of varying thickness to adjust tightness on the brace when closed. There are multiple sling attachment points including QD sockets on either side and the rear. It extends 9.5-inches from the back of the rail and weighs just 9.6 ounces.

They offer two versions—a stock, and then an arm brace version that also comes with a stock adapter with rubber buttpad. This would be useful if you ultimately planned to register your pistol as a short-barreled rifle and didn't want to have to buy a completely new stock. The dual-folding stock is $197.95, whereas the dual-folding brace (with buttpad included) is $219.95.

### Galco Gunleather's Thunderclap (GalcoGunLeather.com)

Galco Gunleather had a newish holster on display—the Thunderclap. This is an outside-the-waistband steerhide holster that is high-end, but its traditional looks hide a secret—both the mouth of the holster and the belt feature steel reinforcement. This helps rigidity and durability.

This is the first holster in Galco's "Masterbilt" series, premier-grade holsters which use premium steerhide, have a leather lining, and feature hand molding. The Thunderclap

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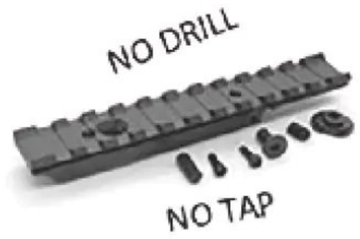
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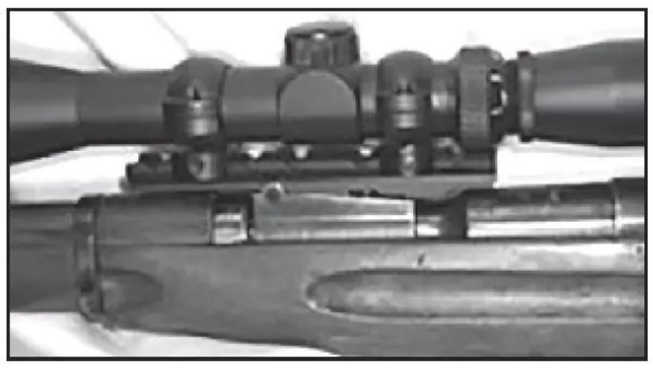
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**Galco has a new premium Masterbilt series of holsters, and the Thunderclap is an OWB leather holster for 1911s which has metal reinforcement in the holster mouth and belt loops.**

is available in brown or black and offers a neutral cant, and currently is only available for 1911s. My contact at Galco initially wasn't sure how well these holsters would sell, as they are not inexpensive—$249—and has been surprised at how popular they've been. I pointed out that people who spend $1,500–$4,000 on custom or semi-custom 1911s would have no problem paying that for a quality holster.

## Canik TTI Combat (CanikUSA.com)

Canik pistols have seen quite a lot of success in the U.S. market. These Turkish-made polymer-framed striker-fired pistols are modular, offer modern features, are reliable, and are very affordable. There are a number of different models offered, but the big surprise at SHOT was the new Canik TTI Combat.

Taran Butler gained fame as an accomplished competition shooter, but now he is more well known as a firearms instructor to Hollywood. Footage of him training Keanu Reeves—with live ammo, something previously just not done—for *John Wick 2* quickly went viral, and now every actor in Hollywood seemingly shows up at TTI (Taran Tactical Innovations) for live-fire training sessions.

Taran is in high demand these days; just as sought after are his flashy TTI Combat Master pistols built on Glocks and Staccatos, and you've probably seen them in movies or on TV shows. But these are not cheap, and his top-of-the-line Pit Viper and Sand Viper integrally compensated pistols are well over $5,000, and there's a long waiting list for those. But now there's the TTI Canik.

The Canik TTI Combat is an 18+1-shot 9mm that features a unique frame designed by Taran Butler with aggressive grip texturing, a ported and fluted barrel, the first Canik compensator, new trigger, an optics-ready bronze slide, a custom holster, and a hard case with cutouts for the gun and all the accessories (backstraps, magazines, optics plates, etc.).

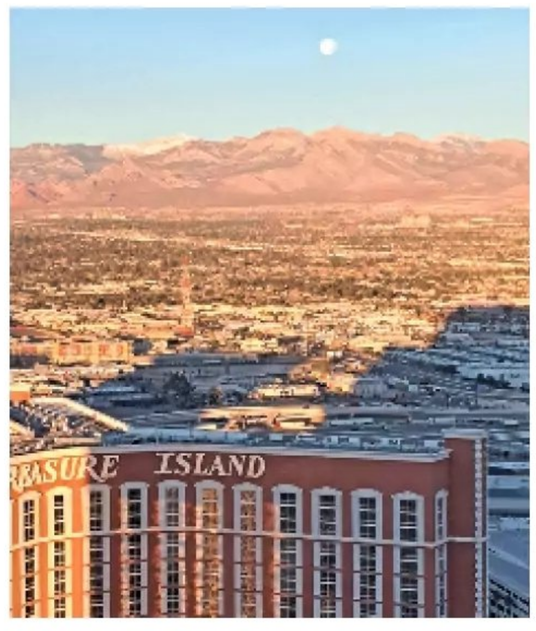
Full disclosure—I've been friends with Taran Butler for close to twenty years and have put him (as himself) in two of my novels. He told me at SHOT, "Finally it's a TTI pistol people can afford." There was no pricing listed anywhere that I could see, but Taran told me the pistols would be around $1,000. FN




**Taran Butler holding the new Canik TTI Combat, designed by him. Normally, TTI guns are in high demand, but high prices and long wait times discourage a lot of people. The Canik will be affordable and (hopefully) readily available.**



**▲ The Canik TTI Combat offers exclusive features like a frame designed by Taran Butler and the first compensator for the Canik, in addition to a bronze slide and accents.**




**► Las Vegas, home to the SHOT Show for the foreseeable future, is one of those places you either love or love to hate. Tarr loves the spectacle of it—pure America.**


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# NEW AT SHOT 2024

## You Can't See It All!

**By Patrick Sweeney**

It is now impossible to see everything at SHOT, unless your idea of "seeing" is simply eyeballing gear as you walk by without stopping. It is just too big. So, the boss told us to just report on what caught our attention while seeing what we could see, and not try to cover it all.

### SDS Imports MP5 (SDSImports.com)

Lust after an MP5? Of course, you have. But the price? My goodness. Well, SDS Imports now offers an MP5 semi auto pistol that is everything you'd want, including a low price Built on licensed HK machinery in Turkey, by the Mertzav company, it is coming directly from Mertzav through SDS Imports, and without the multiple layers of import-export-distribution of other MP5s, SDS can offer their MAC-5 pistol with an MSRP of $1,099. You also get your choice of the regular or "K" size versions. Interchangeability? Did you not read the "licensed machinery" part?



**The SDS imports MAC-5 and MAC-5K are MP5 semi-auto pistol clones that are built on HK machinery and will not come with the traditional nosebleed price.**

### DD H9 (DanielDefense.com)

The Hudson H9 died an ugly death. Daniel Defense bought the rights to it, and being the good engineers they are, they improved everything. That's the good news. The bad (albeit very minor) news is that nothing interchanges from the old to the new. Not even the magazines. What you do get is the same low bore axis, lowered recoil system to reduce muzzle flip even more, aluminum frame, straight-back trigger and large magazine capacity. The slide has been cut for a red-dot optic, the frontstrap has been sculpted to let your hand get even higher, and the accessory rail has three slots, offering you more equipment options than before. At $1,299 you get a custom pistol right out of the box.




**The new Daniel Defense H9 is a resurrection and upgrade of the original, with improvements on top of that.**

### Shadow Systems MR920P (ShadowSystemsCorp.com)

How do you out-Glock Glock? Simple, go to Shadow Systems and get all the extras you want, without the attitude. The MR920P is a combo-sized pistol with extras. The frame is a G19 sized frame, so you have fifteen rounds with a flush magazine, and more if you are willing to live with an extension. The slide is a G19 slide, except it isn't, because there is an added-on muzzle brake that makes it a G17 length. The slide is machined for an RDS, and the brake? Well, when it comes time to clean your MR920P, you can remove the brake by hand in order to pull the barrel from the slide. No tools necessary, and it can be done in seconds. All this for a reasonable $1,269. If you don't have a problem packing a slightly larger pistol, the XR920P uses a G17 sized frame, for two more rounds.



**The Shadow Systems MR920P is a compensated 9mm pistol with a frame that is G19 sized, and a slide-and-comp that is G17 sized.**



**The MR920P comp is readily removed with your bare hands and makes it easier to properly clean your pistol.**

### Taurus Expedition (TaurusUSA.com)

Want a hunting rifle that performs like a sniper rifle? Taurus now has the Expedition, a .308 bolt-action rifle for you. The receiver uses Remington 700 dimensions, so if you just have to swap stocks, the world is your oyster, plus your choice of optics mounts. It feeds from AICS pattern magazines, so it is easy to load and unload. The forearm is scalloped so it will fit into a gun saddle, a technique we've all picked up from the PRS shooters. The hammer-forged barrel promises accuracy and a long service life. The all-stainless construction, with a DLC finish means easy maintenance during and after bad weather hunting. At seven pounds bare it will soak up whatever recoil is left, for an easy shooting experience. At $985 it will be easy on the wallet.

### Watchtower Apache (WatchtowerFirearms.com)

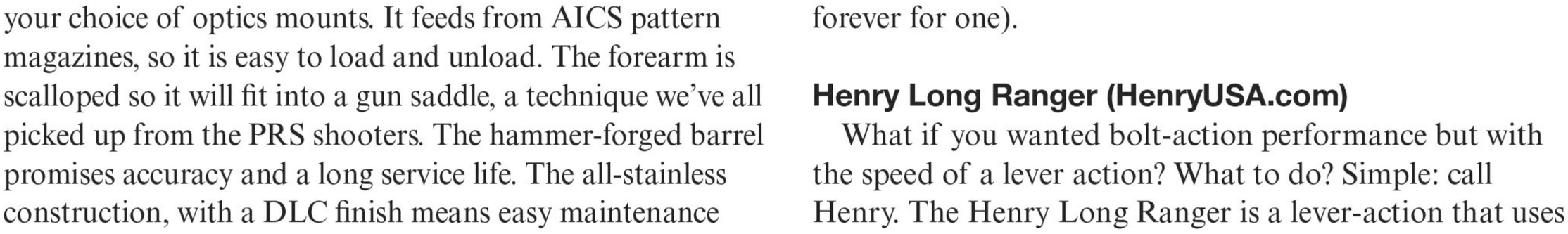
Hi-cap 1911s are all the rage, but it takes more than being current to make good gear. Watchtower makes good gear in the Apache. Starting with a pre-hardened billet, they craft the frame/rail segment and match it with a stainless slide and stainless barrel. All three get a proprietary PVD coating, and then assembled onto a composite polymer grip that holds the double-stack magazine. The commander-length barrel gets a slide-profile comp on it, bringing the full slide and comp up to government length. The recoil system is a Dawson Precision tool-less takedown, and the Apache comes with extra springs so you can tune it to the speed that suits you best. It ships with flush 17-round, and extended 20-round 9mm magazines, and they are STI-pattern magazines, which are becoming quite common. Quality and performance do not come cheap, but at a listed $3,999 the Apache is a deal (and you won't have to wait for forever for one).



**The Watchtower Apache is a fully-spec'd high-capacity 9mm 1911 that is ready to take the optic of your choice. If you're tired of plain, and average, then you need to look at an Apache.**

### Henry Long Ranger (HenryUSA.com)

What if you wanted bolt-action performance but with the speed of a lever action? What to do? Simple: call Henry. The Henry Long Ranger is a lever-action that uses a six-lug bolt, and a rack and pinion system to move that bolt back and forth. It uses a side-ejection receiver for easy scope mounting. At first glance you'll notice the lack of a magazine tube. The Long Ranger uses a steel box magazine to hold its rounds. In 223/5.56, that magazine holds five rounds, while the model chambered in .243, .308 or 6.5 Creedmoor holds four. And that shows another advantage



**The Taurus Expedition is a serious hunting rifle with a lot of details that come from the sniper world and the PRS competition world, without the price tag those fields seem to demand.**



**Henry offers the Long Ranger, a lever action rifle with bolt-action performance, and a super-slick action that runs on gears inside, not levers.**

for the Long Ranger; most lever action rifles require a flat-nosed bullet to avoid primer detonation. With its box magazine, the Long Ranger can use a bullet of any shape. Regardless of caliber or with or without sights, it lists for $1,280, the lever world will not be the same.

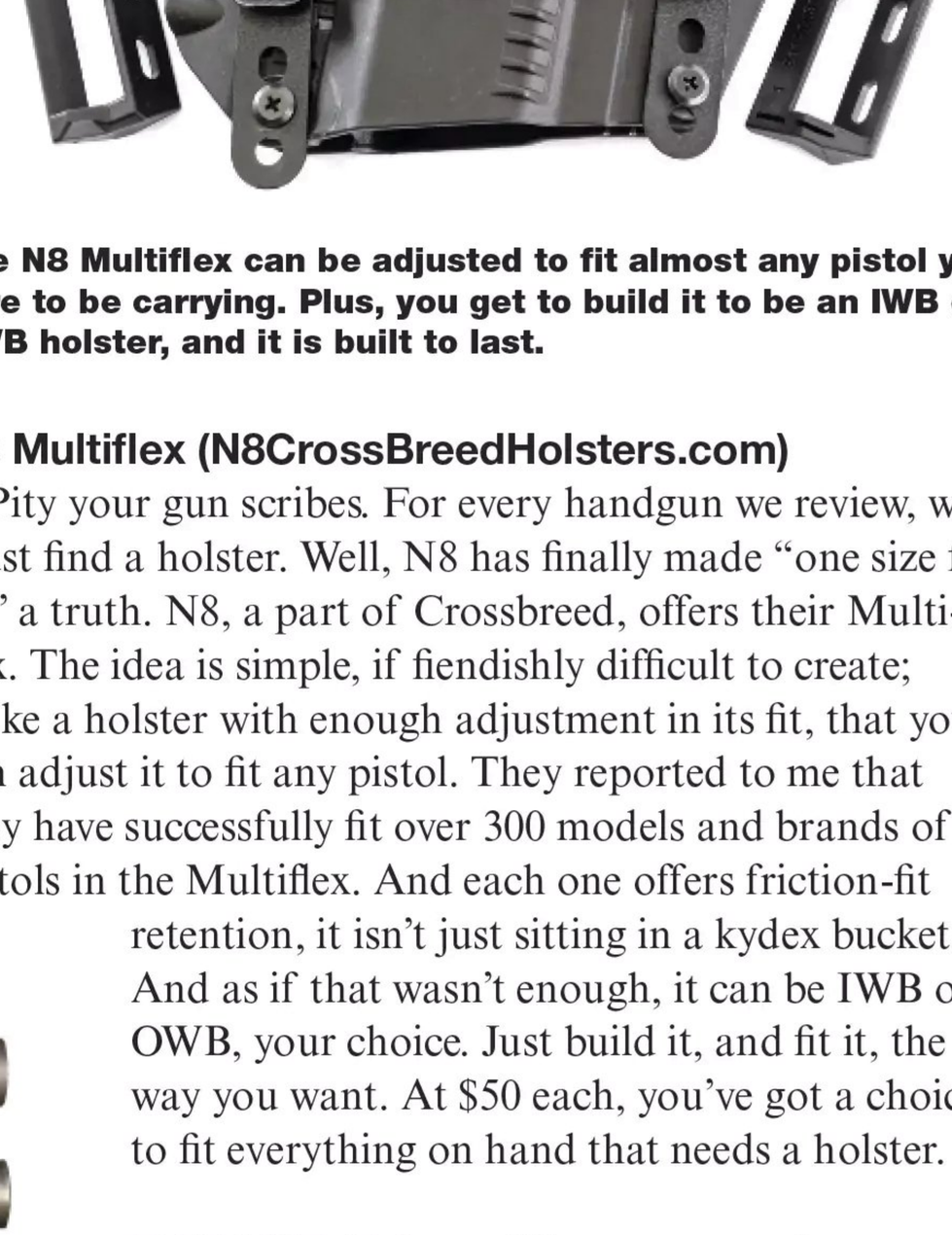
### Holosun HS507Comp/HE507Comp-GR (Holosun.com)

Dots are hot. Green is hot. But what if you need or want more than just the choice of red or green?




**Dots are hot, and green is the new red, but that's not all Holosun does for you. Here you get choices in reticles, and a battery life that is beyond impressive.**

Holosun offers you one of each, and the reticle is, well, yours to choose. Once you have chosen red or green (you can start a fistfight at the gun club on this one) you can then select your reticle. Holosun offers you the option of a 2MOA dot, an 8MOA circle, 20MOA circle or 32MOA circle. Or combinations of those. You also get their "Shake Awake" option, where movement turns the dot on, and lack of motion turns it off. You can set the time limits, or even turn it off entirely. Battery life is up to 50,000 hours, which is 6,250 eight-hour shifts, or an entire career. You don't have to remove it from your pistol to swap batteries. All this for a mere $470.



**The N8 Multiflex can be adjusted to fit almost any pistol you care to be carrying. Plus, you get to build it to be an IWB or OWB holster, and it is built to last.**

### N8 Multiflex (N8CrossBreedHolsters.com)

Pity your gun scribes. For every handgun we review, we must find a holster. Well, N8 has finally made "one size fits all" a truth. N8, a part of Crossbreed, offers their Multiflex. The idea is simple, if fiendishly difficult to create; make a holster with enough adjustment in its fit, that you can adjust it to fit any pistol. They reported to me that they have successfully fit over 300 models and brands of pistols in the Multiflex. And each one offers friction-fit retention, it isn't just sitting in a kydex bucket. And as if that wasn't enough, it can be IWB or OWB, your choice. Just build it, and fit it, the way you want. At $50 each, you've got a choice to fit everything on hand that needs a holster.



**The PWS UXR has easy-swap barrels, for length or caliber, along with its other modular assemblies.**

### PWS UXR (PrimaryWeapons.com)

The AR-15 is only kinda-sorta modular. Primary Weapons now offers the UXR, which is fully modular. The upper (which is the rifle) can have the handguard swapped with little or no hassle. You can unplug one barrel and install another without needing a bench and vise. You can swap the magazine well for magazines of different sizes and shapes, and the trigger housing accepts standard AR-15 pistol grips and AR-15 trigger assemblies. Right now, your choices in barrels are .223/5.56, .300 Blackout and .308 (6.5 Creedmoor coming soon). Yes, .308 in the same modular setup as .223/5.56. The stock folds, the controls are ambidextrous, and the gas system is designed to reduce blowback. A replacement for the discontinued Magpul Masada/Remington/Bushmaster ACR has finally arrived.



**The PWS UXR is a modular rifle, and you can swap out assemblies to make it the caliber you want, even to the magazine well.**




◀ **Kor Technik offers aluminum cases and their deflatable/configurable padding sleeves, that accommodate any firearm you care to shove into it.**

▼ **If you have a sturdy case, but want a better padding than foam, then Kor Technik has just the sleeves, and they protect against pretty much anything except a nearby nuclear strike.**




### Kor Technik (KorTechnik.com)

Hate foam? We all do. Kor Technik has a better idea. They start with a sealed sleeve, filled with a secret granular medium. You flop your cargo down onto the sleeve and press it into place. Now use the provided pump to pull air out of the sleeve and the granular fill conforms to the shape of your cargo. Press another sleeve over it and repeat. Firearms, optics, electronics, they are protected. The now-firmed fill holds them in place, the sleeve keeps them from shifting, and your mind is set at ease. You can use the indestructible Kor Technik case, or their sleeves in your own case. This is one of those fore-head-slapping "why didn't I think of it" ideas that make me jealous.



**The new S&W 1854 is a .44 Magnum rifle that hearkens back to the origins of the company. Yes, the first firearm made by Daniel Wesson was a lever-action.**

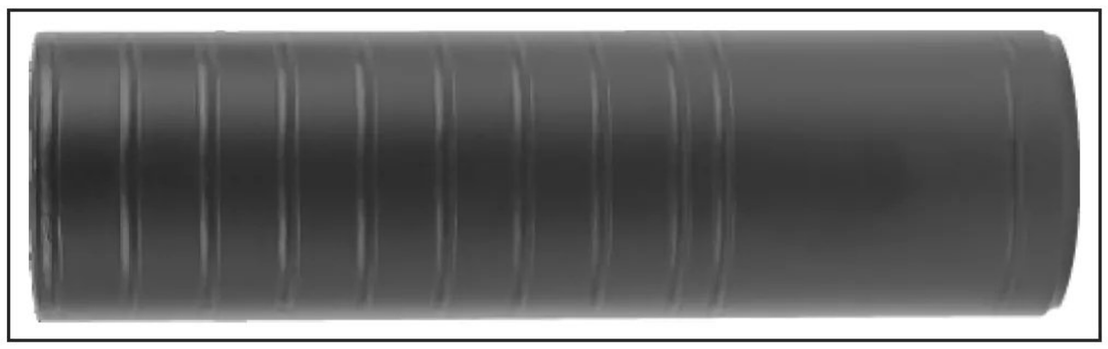
### S&W 1854 (Smith-Wesson.com)

Classic is back, and it doesn't get much more classic than Smith & Wesson. They went back to their beginning, and now offer a lever-action rifle in .44 Magnum. What isn't classic is that it is made out of stainless steel, it has MLok slots for accessories, and it comes with an XS Sights ghost ring rear sight and is threaded for a muzzle device.

### SilencerCo Spectre 9 (SilencerCo.com)

One of the new SilencerCo suppressors is the Spectre 9. This is a fully-titanium can, so it is really light but still plenty durable. How light? 3.9 ounces without a mount. It is rated for 9mm (obviously) plus subsonic .300 Blackout, and it is full-auto rated for use on a 9mm buzzgun. It is compact, at four and three-quarter inches long (again, without a mount) and it pairs up with the SilencerCo line of Alpha mounting systems and accessories. All this for a price that is under nine hundred dollars, a steal these days for what you get and how well it performs.

I can't wait until SHOT Show 2025! FN



**The new SilencerCo Spectre 9 is not just an ultra light-weight pistol suppressor, it also does double duty as a .300 Blackout subsonic silencer.**




**Springfield Armory has reintroduced their semi-custom Tactical Response Pistol line of 1911s and is offering a variety of configurations.**

## SPRINGFIELD ARMORY'S

# NEW TRP 1911 PISTOL FAMILY

### How Does This New Line of Tactical Response Pistols Look and Perform?

**By David M. Fortier, Executive Editor**
**Photography by Ashley Jaderborg**

Walking around the 2024 SHOT Show in Las Vegas, I took note of the number of lever-action rifles and 1911 handguns on display. Currently, there's a great deal of interest in lever-action rifles, both traditional and modern flavors, as well as single and double-stack 1911 pistols.



**Springfield Armory's new TRP line consists of models with five- and 4.25-inch barrels, forged steel and forged aluminum frames, with and without accessory rails, and even "Carry Contour" butts.**




**The TRP line is built on either a forged steel or forged aluminum frame which is paired with a forged steel slide.**




**This five-inch TRP model with accessory rail in Coyote Brown is a good-looking piece and nicely outfitted for duty, personal protection or recreation.**

It was while perusing the latest offerings of 1911 handguns that I noted Springfield Armory had brought out a number of new models in their TRP, or Tactical Response Pistol line. The TRP line consists of semi-custom pistols inspired by Springfield Armory's Professional model, which had been developed to meet the needs of the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team.

A number of years ago, the FBI selected Springfield Armory to supply 1911 pistols to their vaunted Hostage Rescue Team. The FBI HRT is an extremely capable and well-respected tactical unit which was conceived in the late 1970s and became active in 1983. The HRT was originally intended to be a counter-terrorist and SWAT team able to handle unusual hostage situations, large-scale counter-terrorist operations, and situations involving nuclear or biological agents beyond the scope of regional FBI field offices. The HRT has the ability "to deploy within four hours, with part or all of its personnel and resources, to any location within the United States or its territories." A highly specialized unit, it is known to train with elite US military units including Delta Force and SEAL Team Six.

To meet the needs of the FBI HRT, Springfield developed and produced a custom 1911 pistol specifically for them called the Professional. This is a high-end custom shop piece hand-fit to meet their specific reliability and accuracy requirements while incorporating their desired features. The Professional proved successful and Springfield Armory took lessons learned from it to build their TRP line of semi-custom 1911 pistols. By building them as semi-custom pieces, Springfield Armory was able to increase the amount produced while also reducing the price compared to a full custom gun. Doing so put more of them in the hands of shooters.

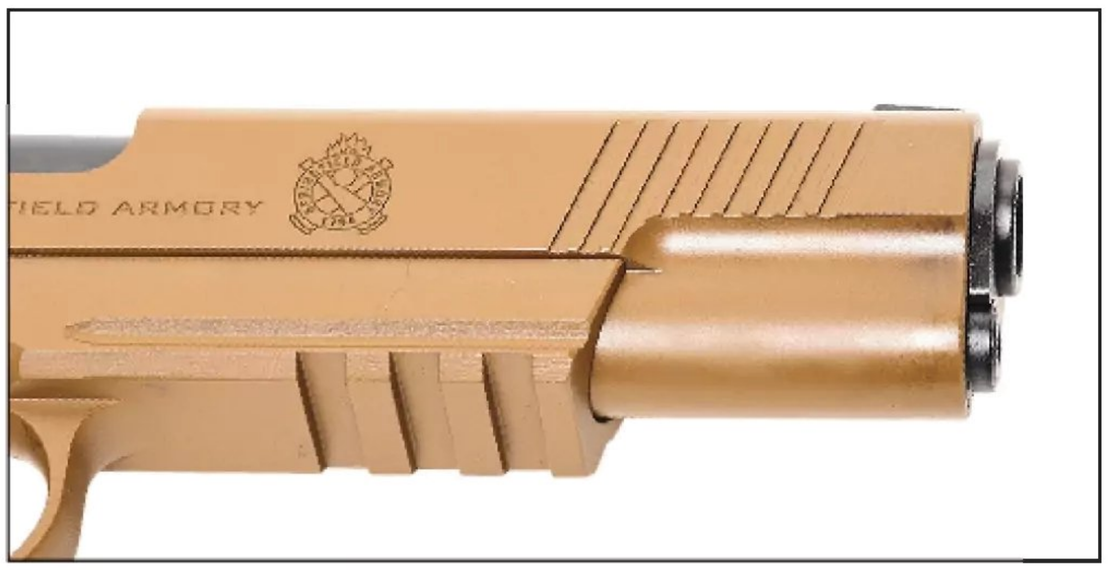
The new family of TRP pistols builds on the heritage of the originals. Springfield Armory has introduced an entire family of TRP 1911s with five-inch and 4.25-inch barrels, railed and without accessory rail frames, different finishes and even bobbed "Carry Contour" butt versions offered. Make no mistake, these are not inexpensive and MSRP runs from $1,732 to $1,999 depending upon the model.




**Caliber options? You can have any caliber you want as long as its .45 ACP.**




**Slides feature front cocking serrations, easy to see Tritium combat sights and five-inch models sport full-length guide rods.**



**If you desire to mount a weapon mounted light or laser, the TRP line offers models equipped with an accessory rail milled into the dust cover.**



**The front of the frame features 20 LPI checkering, and a flat mainspring housing and two-piece mag well are standard.**



**Different sight options are available, but all feature Tritium for use in low light and provide an easy to acquire sight picture.**



**Ambidextrous manual safety levers facilitate use with either hand.**



**The 4.25-inch models are a bit more nimble and easier to conceal carry.**

What they are though are visually eye-catching. They will turn the head of both a 1911 enthusiast and anyone who appreciates fine firearms.

Without a doubt, John Moses Browning's famous 1911 pistol stands as one of the greatest handgun designs of all times. Down through the decades, it has proven to be rugged, reliable (if properly built), and capable of excellent accuracy (again if properly built). As a writer though, testing a quality 1911 is also a nice break from a world awash in polymer frame 9mm Parabellums, which tend to all blend together, or at least they do to me. Yes, reviewing a 1911 is challenging, as what can really be said about this historic old design that hasn't already been penned many times over? Even so, I was interested to see these new offerings from Springfield Armory.

*Firearms News* was given an opportunity to examine four different models from the new TRP line on short-term loan. I took this opportunity to inspect them and was able to spend time on the range with two of them. On the range, I conducted accuracy testing from the bench and ran them through different drills. I was interested in their build quality, features, accuracy and reliability. Now, keep in mind, that while I like 1911 pistols, over the years I have also seen models from various manufacturers




**This 4.25-inch TRP model is well-suited for personal protection when mated with a quality load like this Speer Gold Dot G2 200-grain +P.**




**Reliability of both TRP models tested was flawless with all four loads.**

and "customized" pistols have all sorts of problems on the range. I have owned a problem pistol and have seen others, even at demos. So, when it comes to 1911s, I'm from Missouri, meaning, "*Show Me.*"

TRP pistols are built on either a forged steel or a lightweight forged aluminum alloy frame. The lightweight aluminum frame guns also come in a Carry Contour model which basically "bobs" the lower part of the frame which in revolver vernacular gives it a "round butt" look. This is intended to make it less obtrusive for concealed carry.

A forged steel slide is hand-selected for slide-to-frame fit for each frame. These are then numbered, along with their matching components. These numbered matching components are then built into a pistol. The frames feature Springfield Armory's Gen 2 Speed Trigger and a skeletonized hammer to reduce weight and lock time. A beavertail grip safety and ambidextrous manual thumb safety are standard. A flat mainspring housing and a two-piece mag well provide comfort and helps to speed reloads. The front strap and mainspring housing sport nicely executed 20 LPI (lines per inch) checkering to aid control. This both looks and feels good.

Each TRP comes fitted with VZ Grips. Springfield Armory selected their Hydra series made from G-10 material for this line. These grips are aggressive feeling, and combined with the 20 LPI checkering, aid control with or without gloves. Better still, in my opinion they look very good and nicely complement these pistols.

It should also be noted that you can select from a standard frame, a railed frame, and even a frame with a full-length rail. If you prefer the looks of a traditional frame, Springfield Armory offers that. However, if you wish to be able to mount a modern accessory such as a weapon mounted light or laser, Springfield Armory has TRP models with rails to easily facility this. To rail or not to rail will depend upon your needs and desires, but it's nice to have the option.

Slides are machined from forged steel and feature forward cocking serrations. These aid retracting and manipulating

**While not something I would choose, Springfield Armory even offers a Carry Contour frame to reduce the chance of the pistol printing while carried concealed.**





**Each TRP comes fitted with VZ Grips. Springfield Armory selected their Hydra series made from G-10 material for this line.**

it. Another nice touch is finely cut serrations in the top of the slide along the sighting plane. This not only looks good but is functional in certain lighting conditions. Sights consist of Tactical Rack 3-Dot Tritium, Low Profile Combat 3-Dot Tritium or Fully Adjustable Tritium Target rear with a Tritium front sight.

Caliber? You can have any caliber you want as long as it's .45 ACP. Perhaps, 9mm Parabellum, or others, will be added to the line in the future but, as I write this, .45



**Magazines ejected cleanly with the push of a button.**

ACP is the only option. Inside the slide you will find a forged stainless steel match grade barrel. These feature a one turn in sixteen inches rifling twist. Depending upon the model, one-piece and two-piece full-length guide rods are used as well as Commander-length GI style recoil systems. All TRP pistols feature a durable Cerakote finish in either Black or Coyote Brown, except the one stainless steel model.

The best method for fitting together an accurate 1911 is a topic which has been argued down through the ages. US Army, NGMTU, and USMC armorers had their preferences and secrets. Then you have the innumerable civilian gunsmiths plying their trade, sometimes for the good and sometimes for the bad. The TRP is not a custom pistol, but it does feature some hand fitting. For example, the back of the slide and frame are blended by hand, the pistols are dehorned by hand and they are finished by hand.

I had the opportunity to examine four different models from the TRP line. These consisted of two five-inch models, one with a rail in Coyote Brown and one without a rail in Black. Along with these, two models were two 4.25-inch guns, one without a rail, and an aluminum frame model with a rail and Carry Contour frame. Both of the 4.25-inch guns sported a black finish.

All four models looked very good out of the box with the five-inch Coyote Brown model with rail being



**TRP pistols feature a skeletonized hammer and beavertail grip safety.**




**Barrel fit was tight with zero movement when pressed down upon.**



**I carried the 4.25-inch model in a OWB Kydex holster from Blade-Tech. This is nicely made, secure and is high cut. A great holster I have used for many years.**



**The five-inch gun was very fun to shoot, and it proved both accurate and reliable.**

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**Both models shot Speer's 200-grain +P Gold Dot G2 load very well at 25 yards.**




**A look at the 4.25-inch model in full recoil. It performed very well through a variety of drills.**

particularly eye-catching. Fit and finish looked very good, but I did note an imperfection or two. The checkering was nicely executed and the controls operated smoothly. The slides were a bit tight, but operated smoothly and pushing down on the barrel hoods showed no movement. Taking them apart, I noted the barrel bushings were easy to remove by hand, no wrench required. The models with two-piece guide rods require an Allen wrench, but they come apart easy enough. I was surprised though at how tightly the barrel lugs are fit and the barrels required a bit of effort to remove from the slides. The triggers were light, crisp and broke very cleanly at about 3.5 pounds. After examining them, I chose the five-inch Coyote Brown model and the 4.25-inch without a rail to test fire.

For ammunition, I selected four different loads. These consisted of two traditional loads, a US military 230-grain FMJ Match load and a steel case Wolf Performance Ammunition 230-grain FMJ load. To these I added a modern 200-grain +P JHP load from Speer, their Gold Dot G2. This modern design features a shallow dish in the nose filled with a high-performance elastomer. It is intended to provide uniform expansion and penetration through different types of barriers. Lastly, I included a lightweight 135-grain monolithic HoneyBadger from Black Hills Ammunition. This is not designed to expand but utilizes flutes machined into the nose to disrupt tissue. Unlike a hollow point, it cannot become plugged and is designed to work well through barriers. These four loads were intended to both check the TRP's accuracy and reliability.

Accuracy was checked by firing both of them off sandbags at 25 yards. Four five-shot groups with each load were recorded. Velocity readings were measured with a LabRadar Doppler chronograph at an ambient temperature of 58 degrees F. I began my range session with the




**Here is a five-shot group fired using the 230-grain military Match load and the five-inch TRP at 25 yards.**

ACCURACY AND VELOCITY CHART
**SPRINGFIELD ARMORY TRP 1911 TRP™ .45 ACP HANDGUN 5-INCH MODEL (PC9125LRCB)**

| Load | Bullet Weight (gr.) | Velocity (fps) | Avg. Group 25 Yards (in.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Black Hills HoneyBadger | 135 | 1,285 | 2.2 |
| Speer Gold Dot G2 | 200 | 1,073 | 2 |
| GI FMJ Match | 230 | 807 | 2 |
| Wolf FMJ | 230 | 789 | 2.5 |

Groups are an average of four five-shot groups fired from a rest at 25 yards. Velocity readings recorded using a LabRadar Doppler chronograph at an ambient temperature of 58 degrees F at 1,030 feet above Sea Level.

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**Here is a five-shot group fired from the 4.25-inch TRP using Black Hills Ammunition's 135-grain HoneyBadger monolithic solid at 25 yards.**

ACCURACY AND VELOCITY CHART
**SPRINGFIELD ARMORY TRP CLASSIC 4.25-INCH MODEL (PC9124)**

| Load | Bullet Weight (gr.) | Velocity (fps) | Avg. Group 25 Yards (in.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Black Hills HoneyBadger | 135 | 1,176 | 2.5 |
| Speer Gold Dot G2 | 200 | 1,043 | 2 |
| GI FMJ Match | 230 | 821 | 1.8 |
| Wolf FMJ | 230 | 788 | 3 |

Groups are an average of four five-shot groups fired from a rest at 25 yards. Velocity readings recorded using a LabRadar Doppler chronograph at an ambient temperature of 58 degrees F at 1,030 feet above Sea Level.




five-inch Coyote Brown model. This feeds from an eight-round magazine, and I got things going with the economical Wolf steel case load. The five-inch model proved comfortable to fire with a nice clean sight picture. While initially a bit stiff, the more I shot it the smoother it became. It fed, fired, extracted and ejected every round without issue. I also noted the sights were well regulated and the trigger definitely aided accuracy.

Best accuracy was obtained using the 230-grain Match load. This averaged 1.9 inches at 807 fps. Right on its heels was Speer's 200-grain +P Gold Dot G2 which averaged two inches at 1,073 fps. The Wolf 230-grain FMJ load averaged 2.5 inches at 789 fps. The lightweight 135-grain Black Hills Ammunition HoneyBadger load averaged 2.2 inches at 1,285 fps. Zero issues were encountered and once I had completed my 25-yard testing I switched to firing at a steel silhouette at 100 yards. I had no difficulty keeping an entire eight round magazine on the steel.

The 4.25-inch Commander-size gun was built on an aluminum frame, and it carried very well. Like the five-inch gun it was a bit stiff at the start of the day, but it smoothed up the more I shot it. Once again, zero issues of any

**Springfield Armory's TRP pistols teamed well with this new Ruger LC carbine in .45 ACP. Look for a full review of the Ruger in an upcoming issue!**

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The full-size five-inch TRP features a full-length two-piece guide rod, so an Allen wrench is needed for disassembly.



The 4.25-inch TRP strips easily without tools, both models feature a barrel bushing which turns easily, no wrench required.

kind were encountered. The controls all functioned nicely, magazines ejected cleanly, the trigger proved light and broke crisply, and the sights were well regulated.

Once again, the 230-grain FMJ Match load posted the best groups. It averaged 1.8 inches at 821 fps. Speer's 200-grain +P Gold Dot G2 averaged two inches at 1,043 fps. The 230-grain Wolf load averaged 3 inches at 788 fps. The lightweight 135-grain Black Hills Ammunition HoneyBadger load averaged 2.5 inches at 1,176 fps. So, both pistols shot well from the bench. Next, I moved to running some drills on paper at seven and 15 yards. I followed this up with shooting on steel targets moving between 25 and 50 yards. Both pistols performed well, and I enjoyed my time with them.

Both models I tested looked good, felt great and shot very well. The sights are bold and easy to pick up at speed, the controls are easy to manipulate, recoil impulse is smooth and the checkering looked and felt good. While the TRP line is not inexpensive, the various models are noticeably less expensive than a full-blown custom gun. I love the looks of the five-inch Coyote Brown model with the rail, and I loved the way the 4.25-inch model carried. If you find the TRP line appealing, you can learn more at Springfield-Armory.com. FN

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**
David M. Fortier has been covering firearms, ammunition and optics since 1998. He is a recipient of the Carl Zeiss Outdoor Writer of the Year award and his writing has been recognized by the Civil Rights organization JPFO. In 2007 he covered the war in Iraq as an embedded journalist.

**SPECIFICATIONS**
**SPRINGFIELD ARMORY TRP PISTOLS**

| **1911 TRP™ .45 ACP HANDGUN—COYOTE BROWN, PC9125LRCB** | |
|---|---|
| **Caliber:** | .45 ACP |
| **Operation:** | Self-loading with tilting barrel |
| **Barrel Length:** | 5 inches, Stainless Steel Match |
| **Rifling:** | 1-16 inch twist |
| **Trigger:** | Single-Action |
| **Capacity:** | 8+1 |
| **Weight:** | 39.2 ounces |
| **Height:** | 5.5 inches |
| **Length:** | 8.6 inches |
| **Sights:** | Tactical Rack 3-Dot Tritium |
| **Finish:** | Coyote Brown Cerakote |
| **MSRP:** | $1,999 |
| **1911 TRP™ CLASSIC 4.25" .45 ACP HANDGUN, PC9124** | |
| **Caliber:** | .45 ACP |
| **Operation:** | Self-loading with tilting barrel |
| **Barrel Length:** | 4.25 inches, Stainless Steel Match |
| **Rifling:** | 1-16 inch twist |
| **Trigger:** | Single-Action |
| **Capacity:** | 8+1 |
| **Weight:** | 35.5 ounces |
| **Height:** | 5.5 inches |
| **Length:** | 7.9 inches |
| **Sights:** | Tactical Rack 3-Dot Tritium |
| **Finish:** | Black Cerakote |
| **MSRP:** | $1,899 |
| **Contact:** | (800) 680-6866, Springfield-Amory.com |

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On a cold, rainy, overcast day, muzzle flash is something the camera sees. I never saw it while shooting, but it was still there.

# TISAS DUTY 1911 .45 ACP BUILDERS KIT

## Just What It Says, Build Your Own 1911!

**By Patrick Sweeney**

Some people think that because the 1911 was designed more than a century ago, it is some arcane task to put one together. They'll happily dive into putting an AR-15, or a Glock, or even an AK together, but a 1911? Oh, the horror. Really? Well, TISAS is here to put that idea to rest.

They offer the Duty Builders Kit, .45 ACP, for your assembly pleasure. In the box is everything you need, parts-wise. You may need a few tools, and you may not, but you won't need




**The TISAS Duty Builders Kit, .45, with all the parts and cleaning tools.**



**The front sight dovetail also has the front sight roll pin hole already drilled. The slide has forward cocking serrations.**



**The barrel came with the link and pin already installed, and it is clear TISAS does detailed parts tracking and QC.**



**The three-leaf spring is relieved to provide proper tension and function.**

anything that you probably don't already have. And if not, then Brownells is a few mouse-clicks away. The base gun is a blued-slide one, with the frame stainless and the various small parts black oxide or Cerakote finished. Me, I opted for a stainless slide because I have enough guns that are two-tone, and I wanted to see if they had sussed out the details of machining stainless. (Quick answer; yes.)

The Duty Builders Kit is a government sized 1911 in .45 (naturally) and a quick inventory showed me they had the details down right. The slide has cocking serrations fore and aft, there's a well-shaped hi-rise grip safety, a swoopy commander-style hammer and ambi thumb safety. There are other details that show the paying-attention-ness of the TISAS folks. The sights are Novak-style, and near as I can tell with calipers, Novak-compatible. (I'm not going to take a Novak set off of one of my 1911s just to check, but the measurement check out.) And, the front sight includes a roll pin to lock the sight in place once installed. And, the base is contoured to match the slide radius, a very nice touch. Other details I like include the slide stop pin tunnel is beveled on the right side, to let you push it for disassembly. A necessary detail because the slide stop pin is shortened enough to not protrude from the frame. This is custom pistolsmithing territory in a production gun.

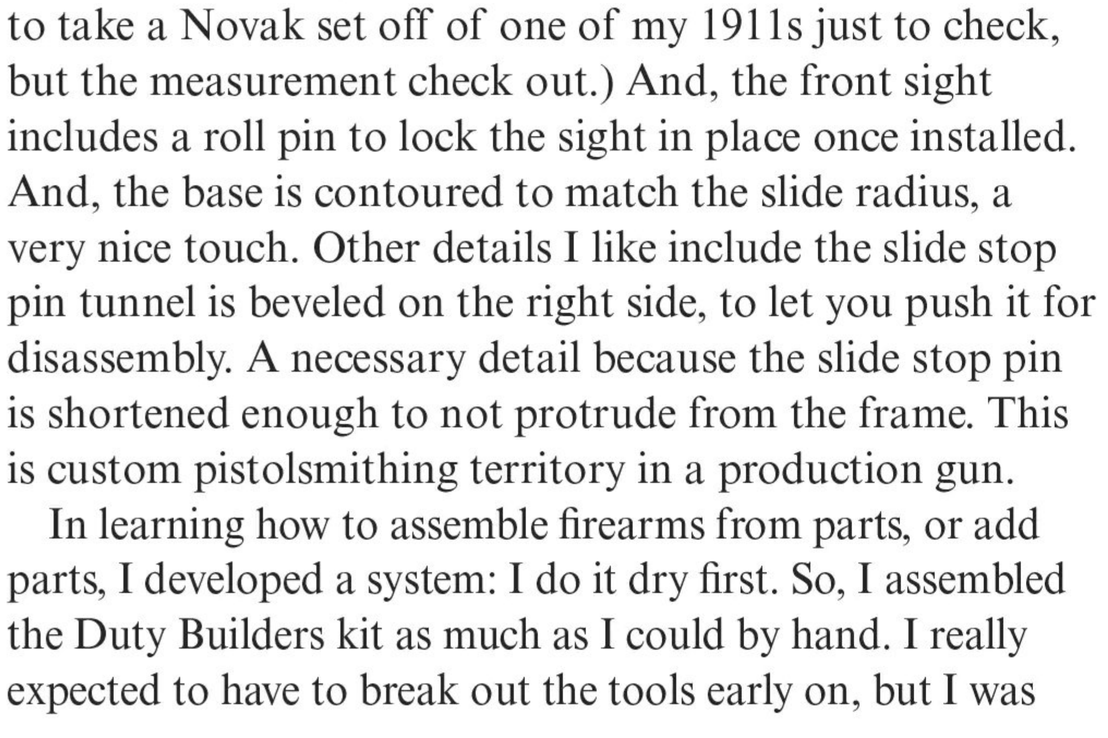
In learning how to assemble firearms from parts, or add parts, I developed a system: I do it dry first. So, I assembled the Duty Builders kit as much as I could by hand. I really expected to have to break out the tools early on, but I was



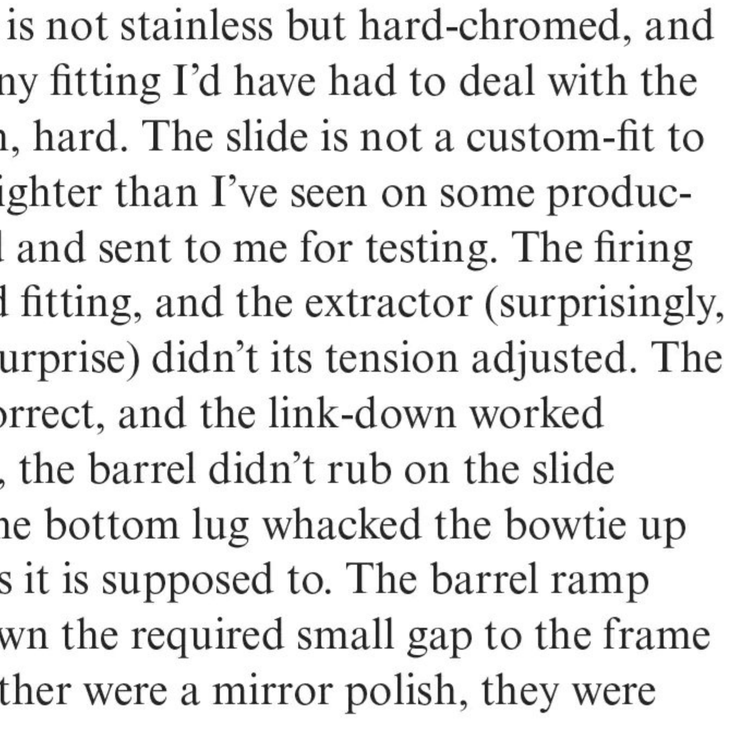

**The frame has the slide stop tunnel beveled, and the slide stop shortened to be flush with the frame.**

able to assemble everything by hand, with two exceptions. The link pin had to be tapped in place, and the front ejector leg had to be polished down to fit into the hole bored for it. I did not install the sights, nor the thumb or grip safety. Everything else just slipped into place as if it had been assembled before, and I was just re-assembling it after a cleaning.

I checked the barrel fit and it was fine. This I was thankful for, as the barrel is not stainless but hard-chromed, and if I had had to do any fitting I'd have had to deal with the chrome, which is, oh, hard. The slide is not a custom-fit to the frame, but it is tighter than I've seen on some production guns assembled and sent to me for testing. The firing pin plate didn't need fitting, and the extractor (surprisingly, but not much of a surprise) didn't its tension adjusted. The barrel timing was correct, and the link-down worked as-expected. That is, the barrel didn't rub on the slide while cycling, and the bottom lug whacked the bowtie up near the chamber, as it is supposed to. The barrel ramp had when linked down the required small gap to the frame ramp, and while neither were a mirror polish, they were




**The slide interior was two-and-a-half thousandths over the bushing diameter. Not tight enough to bind, but not so loose it harms accuracy.**

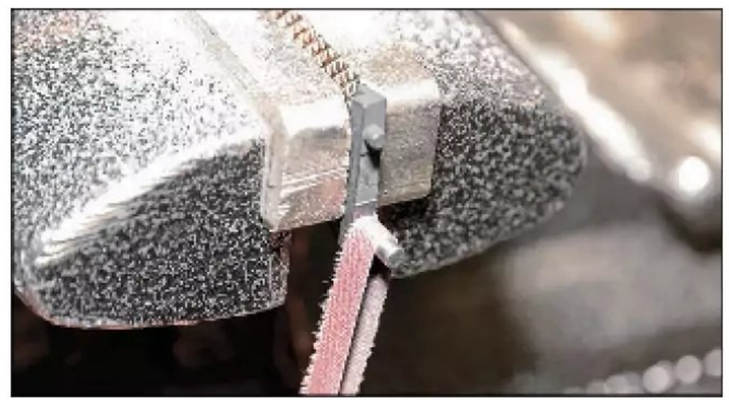


**With the barrel in place, the slide locks up with the rear face flush to the frame index. Well done.**



◄ The plunger tube is already staked in place, a detail that saves a lot of hassle to the personal-builder.

► It took less than a minute of polishing the ejector leg to let it slip right into place in the frame.

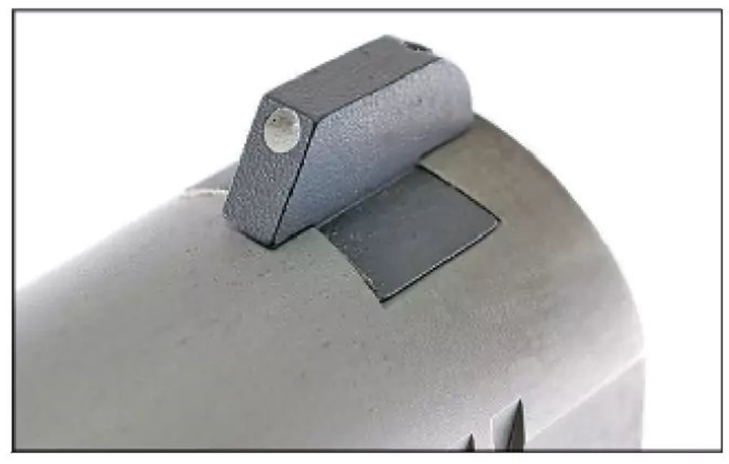




The thumb safety clicks up, and the safety blocks the sear. While the grip safety has a bit of a gap to the frame, that was the only (and a minor one) cosmetic blem.



The front sight comes with a roll pin to keep it in place.



► The front sight base is rounded to match the slide contour. A nice touch.

smooth and at their correct angle and locations. The trigger pull was OK, but I wasn't worried about that, and I was really thinking; "*Maybe I should just take it to the range and test-fire it.*", but I kept eyeing the sharp edges of the open back of the frame. Nope.

OK, first things first, fit the grip safety. This was easy, as again, it was a matter of assembly. I used a drone thumb safety, one with the safety lug ground clear, in order to have a pivot shaft for the grip safety. Just dropped in, the grip safety did its job properly, stopping rearward movement of the trigger until I depressed it. The grip safety had to be depressed a bit too deep into the frame to disengage for my tastes, but that is a minor matter of stoning a certain edge.

So, on to the thumb safety. I removed the drone safety, took out the grip safety, and installed the one TISAS provided. I pressed the safety up into the safe position, and I could feel it bearing on the sear foot. I did this a couple of times and then took the safety out. I could see the mark left by the rubbing, on the lug, and that was where I took a few passes with a fine stone, and viola, the safety now clicks up and down properly, and stops sear movement. The right-hand lever of the thumb safety has a flange running alongside the frame, and the grip on that side has a recess molded into it that the flange sets into. You've seen it before on other 1911s, it is how the right-hand lever is kept in place. I wasn't too optimistic about the plain old plastic grips holding the lever in place, but once the Duty Builder Kit was assembled, the lever-to-grip fit was no problem.

The sights, well, the sights are a straightforward task. Remember the basic rule of gunsmithing: make your changes on the lower-cost or easier-to-replace part. (So, no filing on the slide.) I filed the front bevel of the rear sight, just a small amount, to get it to fit. It still required some tapping with a hammer and brass drift. Which is good, it will stay in place. The front sight required a few passes of the file on the bottom of the sight base, again, to let it get started and press into place. On the front, I moved it until the locking hole lined up with the sight hole, and then drove the roll pin into place. Me being me, I then used some wicking Loctite as insurance. I left the rear sight at the measured center of the slide, and zeroed it at the range during



It's a .45, of course it is going to have some recoil. But it is all-steel, so recoil isn't a problem.

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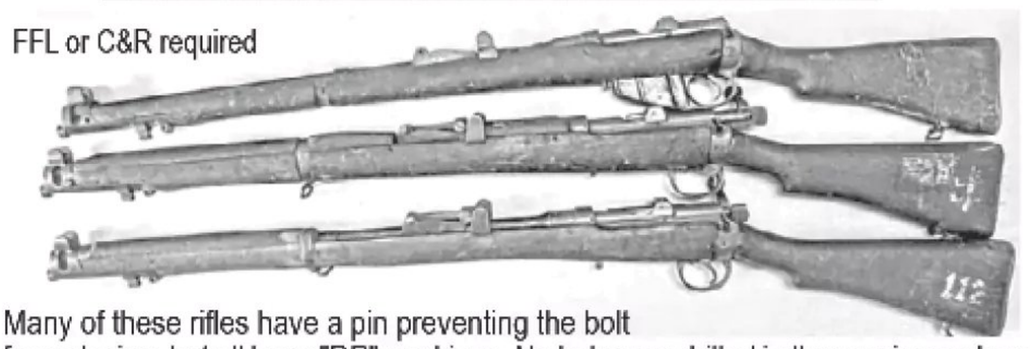


FFL or C&R required

.308 cal/7.62/51mm, nice bores, great shape. When that semi auto wonder wand is jammed, fouled and laying on the ground crying, this old soldier is flickin' brass. $324.88, hand select add $20.00, sling $9.00.

### BRITISH MK 3 DRILL PURPOSE RIFLES

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Many of these rifles have a pin preventing the bolt from closing, but all have "DP" markings. No holes are drilled in the receiver or barrel. some appear to even have nice bores. Different mostly English mfg and early dates. Sold as is. A treasure trove for only **$88.00**. $20.00 hand select while supplies last.

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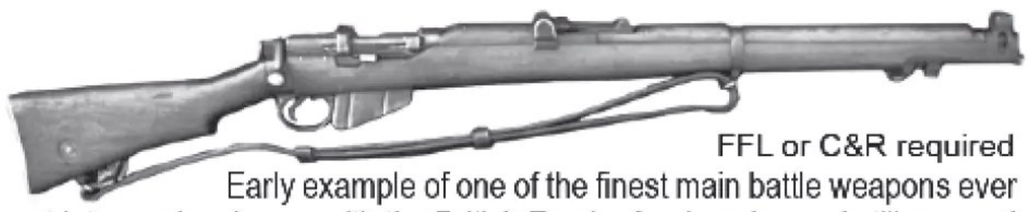
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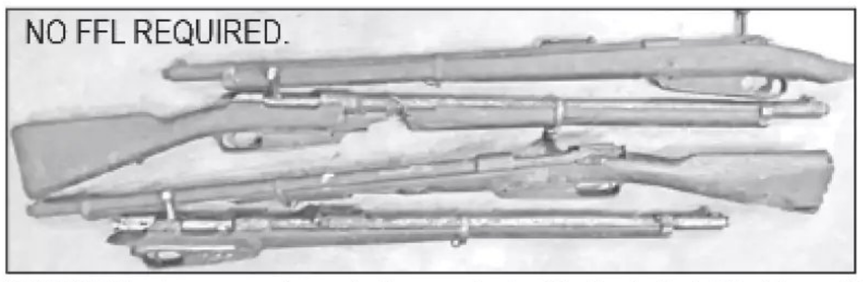


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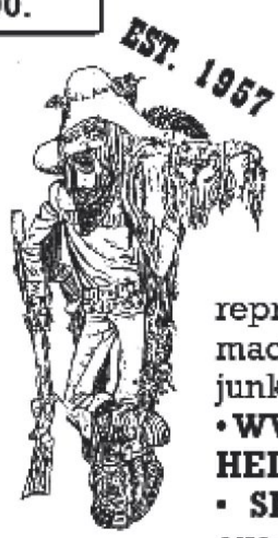
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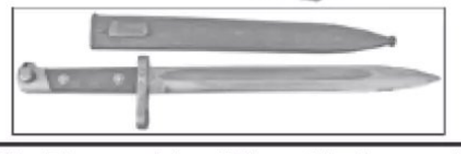


12" overall. Only few available **$39.95.**

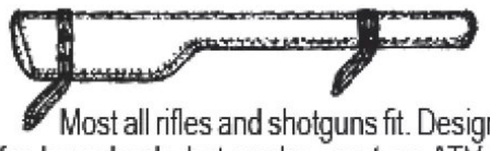
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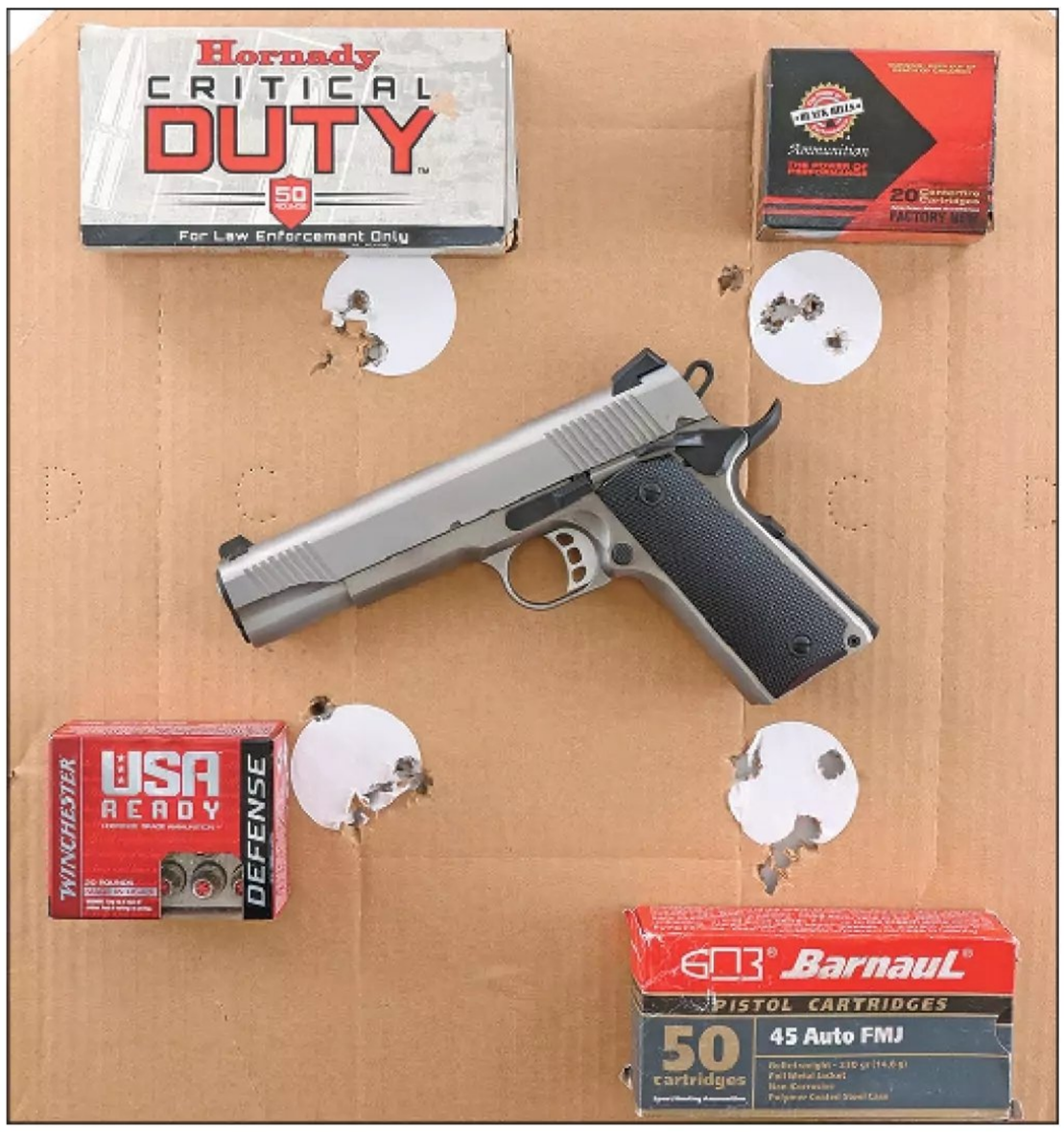
Brown Leather. w/shoulder straps. Fits most flare pistols. **$9.50** ea.

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## TISAS DUTY 1911 .45 ACP BUILDERS KIT




**With accuracy like this, it is easy to understand why I risked the wrath of my gun scribe union steward and bought this pistol.**

test-firing. I only had to move it a few thousandths, and then I tightened down the included locking screw. Done.

I then did the usual test-firing for function, accuracy and chrono results, and waddaya know, it performed like a factory-built 1911. I did the bulk of the initial testing with the TISAS-supplied eight-round magazine, and it too worked like a champ. When it came time to have some fun mowing down the plate rack, I used whatever 1911 magazine came to hand, and they all worked as-expected as well. No malfunctions at all during testing. Accuracy? I don't know what magic they are performing over there in the TISAS plant, but this 1911 just shoots like a house afire. Accuracy galore. It was a cold and rainy day, and maybe I should reserve those days for accuracy testing, because I was on. Nah, it has to be the pistol.

Now, not all is sweetness and light. The Duty Builders Kit has some shortcomings. Well, shortcomings if you are expecting more than a no-frills 1911 that you built yourself.

The grips are just your basic plastic with molded-in checkering. Nothing fancy, no G10, or exotic wood, but then again how blingy do you have to be? And if you want bling, there is no end of grip makers who can give you a step up. (I'm looking at VZ Grips as I type this.) The frame does have a lifted frontstrap, which is a very nice detail, but there is no checkering or any other non-slip pattern there, or other glare reduction elsewhere. Again, this can be corrected, and once you have built your very own 1911, you can then see about learning to




**It looks like my carry load for this TISAS is going to be Hornady Critical Duty. No problem there.**




**Black Hills is never a bad choice, and the Honey Badger offers stellar performance. And accuracy, out of this pistol.**




**Who says steel-cased ammo can't shoot accurately? Barnaul, out of the TISAS, surely does.**

**TISAS DUTY 1911 .45 ACP BUILDERS KIT**
CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY DATA

| Ammunition | Bullet Weight (gr.) | Velocity (fps) | ES | SD | Accuracy Best/Avg. (in.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Black Hills Honey Badger | 135 | 1,251 | 51 | 19.9 | 2 / 1.8 |
| Hornady Crit. Defense | 185 FTX | 991 | 48 | 21.5 | 2.1 / 2 |
| Hornady Critical Duty +P | 220 | 981 | 28 | 13.1 | 1.9 / 1.7 |
| USA Ready | 230 | 997 | 54 | 20.3 | 2.1 / 1.8 |
| Barnaul FMJ | 230 | 735 | 89 | 34.9 | 2.3 / 2 |

Accuracy results were to be averages of three, five-shot groups at 25 yards off a Champion shooting rest. Velocities are averages of 10 shots measured on a Labradar chronograph set to read 15 feet from the muzzle.

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*Actual size is 38.1 mm*

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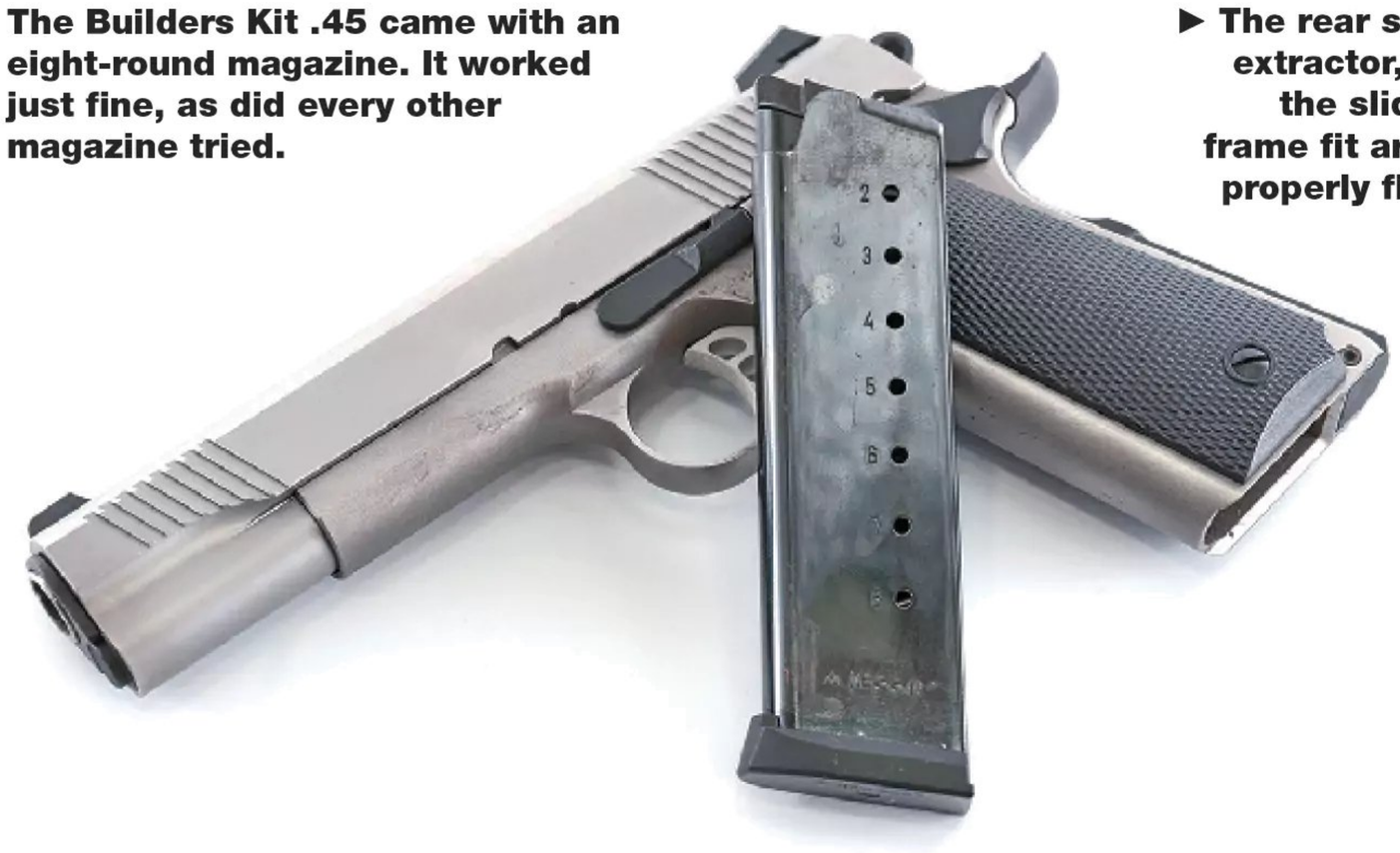
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**The Builders Kit .45 came with an eight-round magazine. It worked just fine, as did every other magazine tried.**



**► The rear sight, extractor, and the slide to frame fit are all properly flush.**

checker, or sending it off if you wish. The trigger pull is good, registering just over four and a half pounds on my digital scale, but the trigger does not have an overtravel screw in it. Again, this is easily changed, as the list of replacement triggers on Brownells is over a dozen, and you can easily come up with that many more again outside of their offerings. And the current hot property in the 1911 universe is a 9mm chambering, which this one isn't. However, considering how ear-to-the-ground a company TISAS is, I would not be surprised to see that as an option in the future.

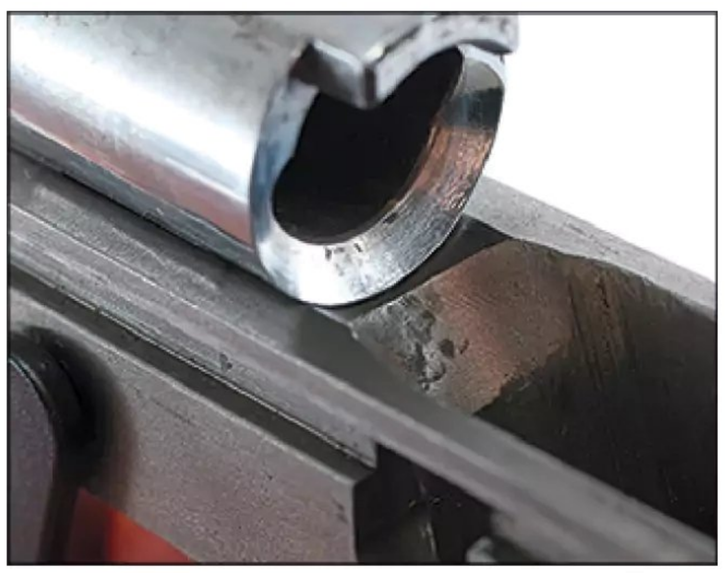
One last "oh darn" detail: despite this being a kit, it is still a firearm, and it will have to be shipped to your local gun shop before you can pick it up.

Once I had done the testing, the chrono, and accuracy work, I checked the various details on the fit list and checked tightness. Since I had zeroed it, I applied wicking Loctite to the sights, removed, degreased, Loctite-d and then staked the grip screw bushings and sensitized the grip safety. The slide stop got tested for assurance on proper hold open, and I looked at the dimensions of the breechface sidewall and slide stop lug. (They did not need any work, since you're asking.) Because I had done a bunch of shooting and dry-firing, I re-tested the trigger pull, and it had gotten cleaner and a few ounces lighter, as expected. You know, all the details a pistolsmith can't help but look at, as natural as breathing.

Why do all this? Because I wasn't going to let a gem like this get away. Accuracy, reliability, and built by me? I had already decided to send TISAS a check for it. Yes, I risked being admonished by my gun writers guild steward for buying a test gun. Why not? I built it, and I only buy one a year or so. (No, they are not freebies, they almost always go back whence they came.) You won't need jigs or fixtures to assemble your kit. You won't need specialty tools, and if there is something that needs fitting, the regular gunsmithing tools you (probably) already have will do the job. Treat yourself. For the cost, and the bragging rights of "I built this one" you can get into a 1911 and do it in style. FN

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| **Capacity:** | 8+1 rounds |
| **Barrel:** | 5 in. |
| **Overall Length:** | 8.4 in. |
| **Weight:** | 41 oz. |
| **Finish:** | Stainless steel w/blued parts |
| **Grips:** | Plastic |
| **Sights:** | Novak front and rear, plain blued steel |
| **Trigger:** | 4 lbs. 2 oz. |
| **MSRP:** | $350 |
| **Contact:** | (865) 604-6894, TisasUSA.com |

| OTHER PRODUCTS MENTIONED |
|---|
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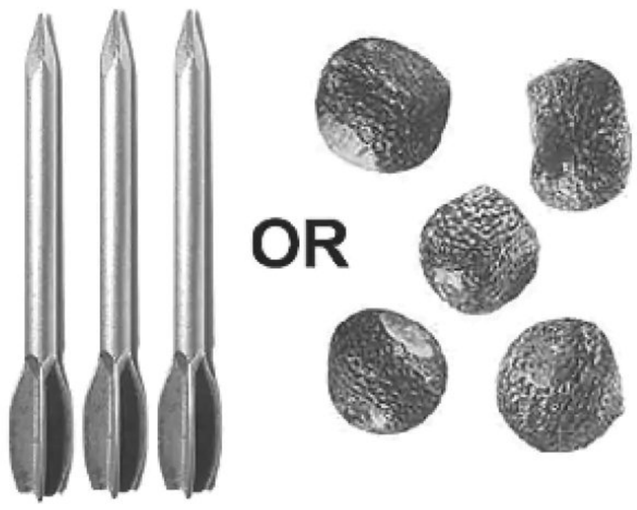


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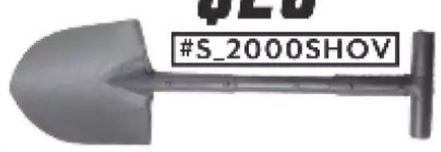
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# HAMMERLI'S FORGE H1

By James Tarr

New from Hammerli Arms is the Forge H1, a dedicated .22 Long Rifle 1911-pattern pistol. Currently, it is available in two models, both with full-size frames, one with a 4.25-inch barrel, one with a five-inch barrel. I secured a sample of the second for testing.

Hammerli is originally a Swiss company founded in 1863. It is known for precision, Olympic-grade air guns and .22s, rifles and pistols, and still makes those. So, if you see the "Made in Germany by Umarex" on the side of the Forge H1's frame, you might be a bit confused. But Umarex, Walther, and Hammerli are sister companies, sharing resources. The Forge H1 is a pistol seemingly built for general-purpose fun, and priced to match, and offered through the non-Olympic side of the house, Hammerli Arms.

First, if you were wondering if this pistol might be a good choice for training, it is the exact size as a standard centerfire 1911 with a rail (so it will fit into those holsters), with the same controls, and a similar weight. This single-action-only semi-auto is fed by 12-round stainless-steel magazines, and two magazines are provided with the pistol.

With an empty magazine in place, the Forge H1 was 32.8 ounces on my digital scale. The lighter frame and slide help keep the weight down, shaving over half a pound off the total when compared to a standard centerfire steel 1911 with a rail. The slide is aluminum (a European type comparable to 7075) with steel inserts, and the frame is a zinc alloy. Both are proven in this platform.

This is a good-looking gun. Only the rear of the chamber, and the roll pin through the rear of the slide, indicate this is something other than a standard 1911. The slide has a traditional rounded top, with iron sights dovetailed front and rear. The front sight is a post with a white dot. The rear sight is styled like a Novak Lo-Mount, with white dots to either side of the notch. Note that both the front and rear sight have set screws to prevent them from

Hammerli Arms' new Forge H1 is a rimfire version of the 1911 with all the tactical bells and whistles. It's available in a 4.25 in. Commander-sized model as well as this five-inch gun.

# THE 1911 RIMFIRE PISTOL FOR THE APOCALYPSE?

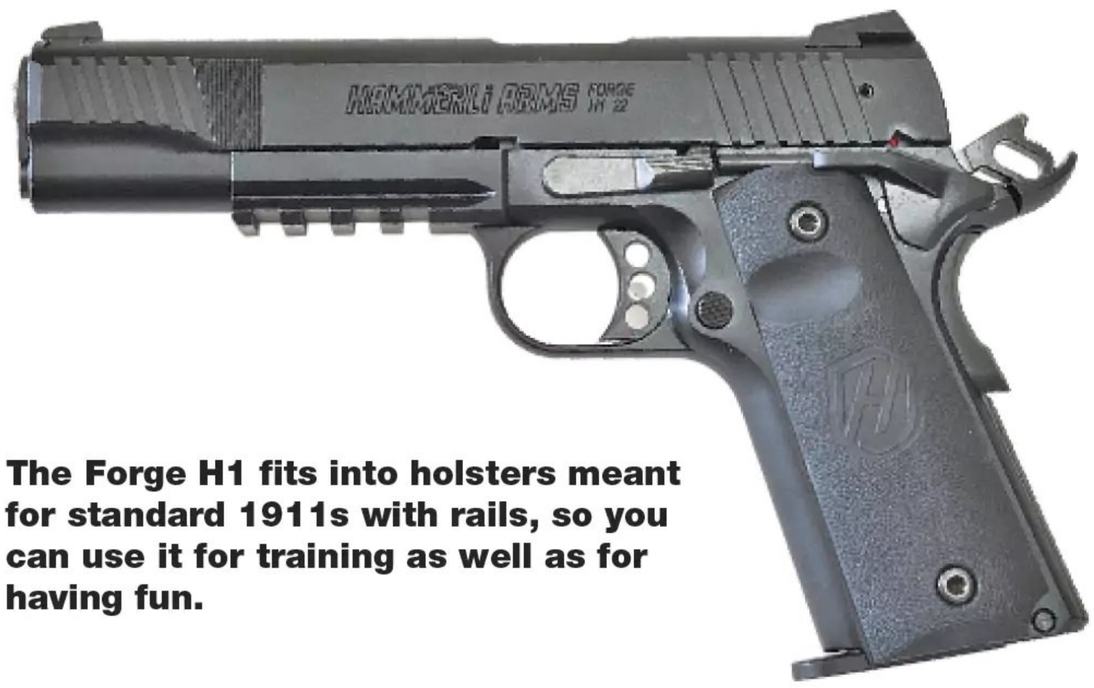
drifting in the dovetails. Hammerli provides a small hex wrench to loosen those screws if you have to drift-adjust the sights to correct windage.

For a .22 with a very light recoil spring and an alloy slide that weighs next to nothing, the Forge H1 sports very aggressive slide serrations—and they look good. There are wide, flat-bottomed angled serrations front and rear. At the rear of the forward serrations there are fine vertical serrations, and I found that I liked the combo. The finish on both the slide and frame is black Cerakote with a finish somewhere between matte and satin. It looks very businesslike.

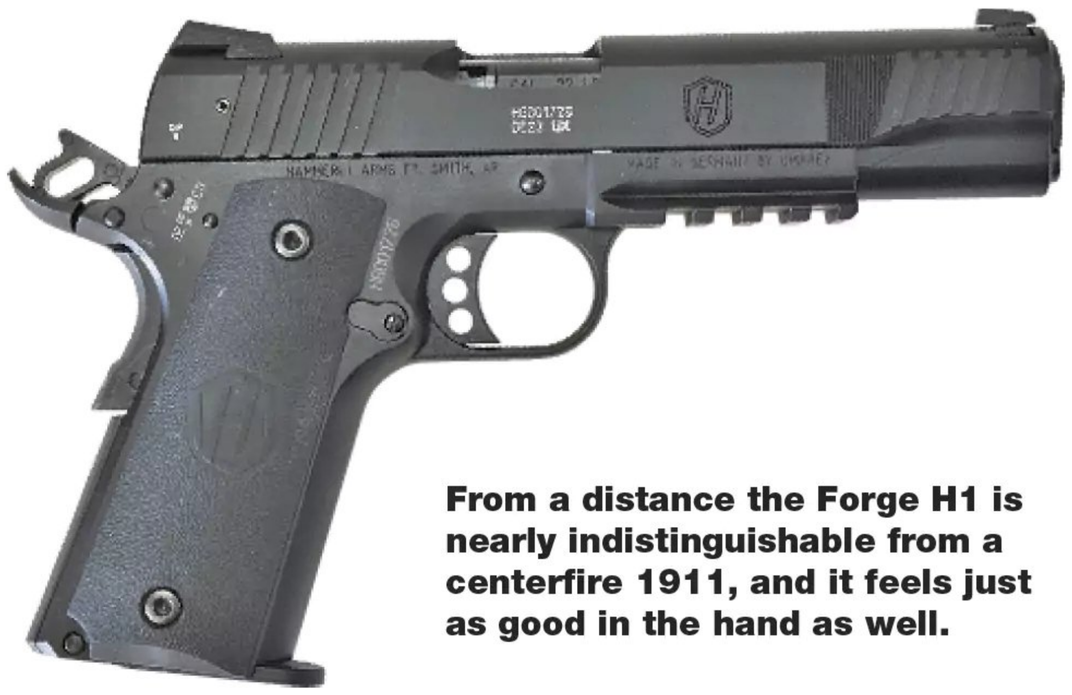
There are a lot of markings on the gun, as you find with most pistols made in Europe, but most of them are so small or subtle that they don't detract from the looks of the gun. The serial number is etched on the frame behind the trigger on the right side, on the top of the barrel chamber, and on the slide (in white) just below the ejection port. Mostly what you'll notice is the stylized "H" Hammerli logo on the right side of the slide. On the left side of the slide is "HAMMERLI ARMS" in large letters, with "FORGE H1 22" in smaller printing.

The barrel is threaded, although not extended. There is a thread protector that is revealed when you pull the slide back. This will allow you to mount any suppressor with 1/2x28 threads. Hammerli provides a small wrench to remove the thread protector. Unlike a standard 1911 with its swinging link and tilting barrel, the barrel of the Forge H1 is fixed to the frame.

There is a not-quite-full-length polymer recoil spring guide rod that is revealed when the slide is retracted about an inch. The recoil spring is as light as you might expect for a .22, and that's one reason .22s are great for training new shooters—it's easy for them to cycle the slide. The hammer spring actually provides more resistance than the recoil spring. Just like its full-size brother, the Forge H1 has a barrel bushing and a recoil spring plug.




**The Forge H1 fits into holsters meant for standard 1911s with rails, so you can use it for training as well as for having fun.**



**From a distance the Forge H1 is nearly indistinguishable from a centerfire 1911, and it feels just as good in the hand as well.**



**Tarr doesn't think he's seen two different types of slide serrations put together as at the front of the Forge H1, but he likes the look of them. They're functional, too.**

**You get a Novak-style rear sight as well as an extended thumb safety and Commander hammer. The roll pin through the rear of the slide is the only indication this isn't a regular 1911.**




At the front of the frame, you'll see a four-slot MIL STD 1913 "Picatinny" rail for mounting lights or lasers. The slide release and magazine release look like standard GI pieces. The manual thumb safety is single-sided, and extended like you'll see on most modern 1911s. At the rear of the frame, you'll see a beavertail grip safety with a bit of a hump at the bottom to ensure deactivation. The magazine and slide releases are steel, the thumb safety and beavertail are aluminum.

Beneath the grip safety is the mainspring housing. It is aluminum and smooth. With so much time behind centerfire 1911s, my mind recoils at the sight of a smooth (not checkered) mainspring housing, especially in conjunction with a smooth front strap, but this is a .22, with minimal recoil. To help with what little recoil there is, the grip panels of the Forge H1 are rubber, with just a little bit of texturing. They sport the Hammerli logo.

As I said, this pistol has the exact same controls as a standard centerfire 1911. The manual thumb safety, when engaged, keeps the trigger from being pulled and also blocks the slide. The grip safety is functional, physically blocking the trigger when not depressed. At the top of the breech face, you'll see a slot that works as a loaded chamber indicator. My only real complaint was the action of the thumb safety—the clicks weren't positive enough, and it took much more force to rotate it down than up. If this was a high-end conversion kit, that would be cause for serious complaint, but on a budget-priced gun like this I consider it just a minor concern.

And let's talk about budget-priced guns. Back in the day, the only .22 1911s were really expensive conversion kits on existing frames, or toy-like pieces of junk. The Hammerli Forge H1 is neither of those. Umarex has extensive



**The front sight is dovetailed into place, and, like the rear, you'll see a set screw in the top so if you need to adjust windage you can lock it back down so it doesn't drift in the dovetail.**




**As it originated in Europe you'll see the serial number of the frame, the slide, and the barrel.**

ADVERTISEMENT

# Popular CoQ10 Pills Leave Millions Suffering

## Could this newly-discovered brain fuel solve America's worsening memory crisis?

**PALM BEACH, FLORIDA** — Millions of Americans take the supplement known as CoQ10. It's the coenzyme that supercharges the "energy factories" in your cells known as *mitochondria*. But there's a serious flaw that's leaving millions unsatisfied.

As you age, your mitochondria break down and fail to produce energy. In a revealing study, a team of researchers showed that 95 percent of the mitochondria in a 90-year-old man were damaged, compared to almost no damage in the mitochondria of a 5-year-old.

Taking CoQ10 alone is not enough to solve this problem. Because as powerful as CoQ10 is, there's one critical thing it fails to do: it can't create new mitochondria to replace the ones you lost.

And that's bad news for Americans all over the country. The loss of cellular energy is a problem for the memory concerns people face as they get older.

"We had no way of replacing lost mitochondria until a recent discovery changed everything," says Dr. Al Sears, founder and medical director of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida. "Researchers discovered the only nutrient known to modern science that has the power to trigger the growth of new mitochondria."

### Why Taking CoQ10 is Not Enough

Dr. Sears explains, "This new discovery is so powerful, it can multiply your mitochondria by 55 percent in just a few weeks. That's the equivalent of restoring decades of lost brain power."

This exciting nutrient — called PQQ *(pyrroloquinoline quinone)* — is the driving force behind a revolution in aging. When paired with CoQ10, this dynamic duo has the power to reverse the age-related memory losses you may have thought were beyond your control.

Dr. Sears pioneered a new formula — called **Ultra Accel II** — that combines both CoQ10 and PQQ to support maximum cellular energy and the normal growth of new mitochondria. **Ultra Accel II** is the first of its kind to address both problems and is already creating huge demand.

Over 47 million doses have been shipped to men and women across the country and sales continue to climb for this much sought-after brain fuel. In fact, demand has been so overwhelming that inventories repeatedly sell out. But a closer look at **Ultra Accel II** reveals there are good reasons why sales are booming.

### Science Confirms the Many Benefits of PQQ

The medical journal *Biochemical Pharmacology* reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants. With the ability to keep every cell in your body operating at full strength, **Ultra Accel II** delivers more than just added brain power and a faster memory.

People feel more energetic, more alert, and don't need naps in the afternoon. The boost in cellular energy generates more power to your heart, lungs, muscles, and more.

"With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible at my age," says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears's patients. "I'm in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearly, move with real energy and sleep like a baby."

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and Dr. Sears receives countless emails from his patients and readers. "My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling old and run down, or for those who feel more forgetful. It surprises many that you can add healthy and productive years to your life simply by taking **Ultra Accel II** every day."

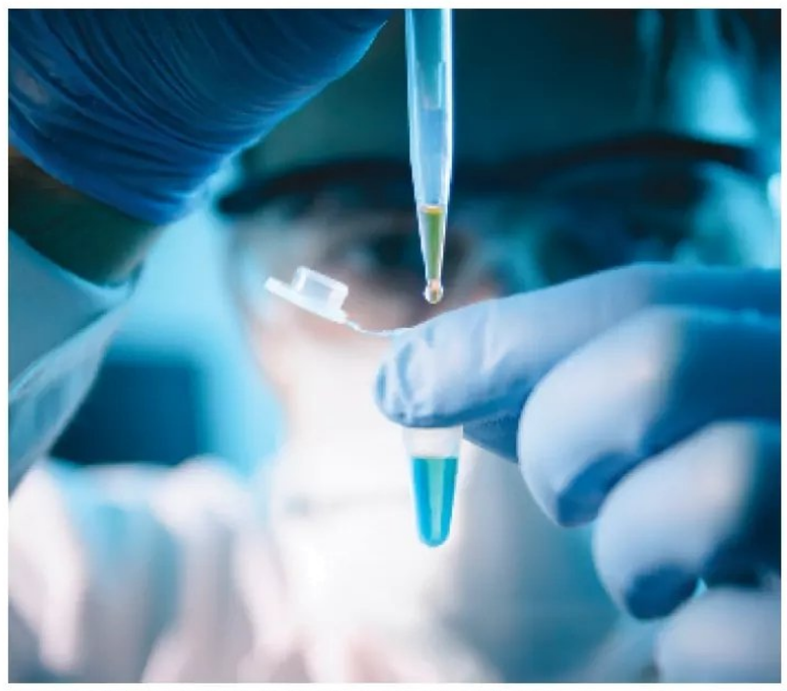
You may have seen Dr. Sears on television or read one of his 12 best-selling books. Or you may have seen him speak at the 2016 WPBF 25 Health and Wellness Festival in South Florida, featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people attended Dr. Sears's lecture on anti-aging breakthroughs and waited in line for hours during his book signing at the event.

### Will Ultra Accel II Multiply Your Energy?

**Ultra Accel II** is turning everything we thought we knew about youthful energy on its head. Especially for people over age 50. In less than 30 seconds every morning, you can harness the power of this breakthrough discovery to restore peak energy and your "spark for life."

So, if you've noticed less energy as you've gotten older, and you want an easy way to reclaim your youthful edge, this new opportunity will feel like blessed relief.

The secret is the "energy multiplying" molecule that activates a dormant gene in your body that declines with age, which then instructs your cells to pump out fresh energy from the inside-out. This growth of new "energy



**MEMORY-BUILDING SENSATION:** Top doctors are now recommending new Ultra Accel II because it restores decades of lost brain power without a doctor's visit.

factories" in your cells is called mitochondrial biogenesis.

Instead of falling victim to that afternoon slump, you enjoy sharp-as-a-tack focus, memory, and concentration from sunup to sundown. And you get more done in a day than most do in a week. Regardless of how exhausting the world is now.

Dr. Sears reports, "The most rewarding aspect of practicing medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. **Ultra Accel II** sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies… And they actually feel young again."

And his patients agree. "I noticed a difference within a few days," says Jerry from Ft. Pierce, Florida. "My endurance has almost doubled, and I feel it mentally, too. There's a clarity and sense of well-being in my life that I've never experienced before."

### How To Get Ultra Accel II

This is the official nationwide release of **Ultra Accel II** in the United States. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to anyone who calls during the official launch.

An Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try **Ultra Accel II**. And your order is backed up by a no-hassle, 90-day money back guarantee. No questions asked.

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the discount offer will be available for a limited time only. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE **1-877-708-5950** right now and use promo code **UAFIRE424** to secure your own supply.

**Important:** Due to **Ultra Accel II** recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

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**The full-length rail on the Forge H1 means you can mount lasers or lights on the pistol, like this FOXTROT2 weapon light from SIG.**

experience building .22s, air guns, and the like, and from another manufacturer I'm guessing this pistol would cost more.

The trigger is styled like a "long" 1911 trigger, with an aluminum body and three holes to lighten it. It has a smooth face. Trigger pull on my sample was excellent—just the tiniest bit of take-up, and a very crisp break with almost no overtravel. Total pull weight was five pounds. Honestly, I just reviewed a $2,000 1911, and this pistol has a nicer trigger pull.

The stainless steel magazines have black polymer non-tilt followers. There is a flat steel thumb stud on the left side of the magazine attached to the follower that makes for easier loading. The polymer baseplate of the magazine sticks a bit out front of the frame, making it easier to pull a reluctant magazine out of the gun.

If you've got compromised grip strength or are having your kids load magazines at the range, Hammerli provides a simple magazine loader—it's a piece of polymer that slips down over the top of the magazine, and has a lip all the way around. You can use two fingers or more on the loader, pulling down from both sides, allowing you to slip a cartridge under the feed lips.

As the barrel is fixed, disassembly is a bit different. Remove the magazine, and ensure that the pistol's unloaded, then twist the barrel bushing to the side to remove the recoil spring plug and free the spring. Remove the bushing. Retract the slide to the right spot to pull out the slide stop—so far, traditional 1911 disassembly. But now you'll need to pull the slide back all the way and lift the rear of it up for clearance before it can be slid off the front of the barrel. The barrel is permanently affixed to the frame.

No type of firearm is as reliable as a centerfire—not shotguns, not air guns, and not .22 rimfires. And .22 semi-autos can be somewhat picky about ammunition,




**The smooth mainspring housing made Tarr twitch, as generally you want non-slip surfaces on a 1911, but it wasn't an issue in a soft-recoiling .22.**

either not being accurate, or reliable, or both, as there is such a wide range of .22 LR ammo out there. Whether you're talking a single shot, bolt action, or a semi-auto pistol like the Forge H1, you have to try a number of different loads, and see which your gun likes.

For my first trip to the range, I took three different loads just to see how well the H1 would function: Armscor's 36-grain high velocity HP (1,260 fps), CCI's 40-grain Mini-Mag SHP (segmented hollow point) at 1,235 fps, and




**The H1 is a good-looking pistol with a black Cerakote finish. It is somewhere between matte and satin, but between the aluminum slide and alloy frame you won't have to worry about rust.**



**You have all the standard controls on the Forge H1. The magazine release and slide release are both steel. The front of the trigger is smooth instead of serrated like many 1911s are.**

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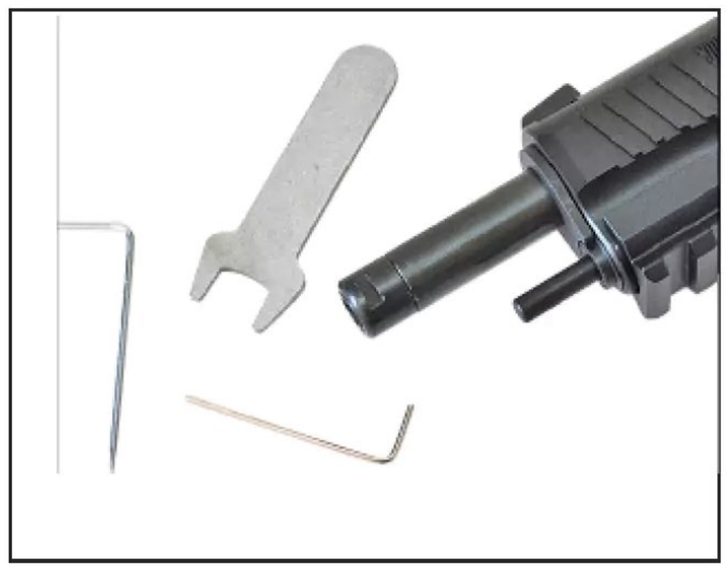
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**The rubber grips add a bit of texture. The beavertail grip safety has a bump at the bottom that helps ensure deactivation.**



**The barrel is threaded 1/2x28. Hammerli provides a small wrench to remove the thread protector, as well as hex wrenches to loosen the set screws on the sights.**

also CCI's Quiet-22, a 45-grain lead round nose subsonic at 835 fps.

*Firearms News*' own Dave Fortier lives on a farm in Kansas and shoots critters constantly. He's found that segmented hollow points are the best-performing .22 load on small animals. But a 40-grain SHP at 1,235 fps is a far cry from the subsonic Quiet-22. The Forge H1 digested it all, but the noise and recoil were very different. I've fired airsoft guns with more recoil than the H1 loaded with the Quiet-22 ammo. I think the H1 didn't have any problems with the subsonic ammo because its slide is so light. With a suppressor this ammunition would be Hollywood quiet.

The Forge H1 was completely reliable with every type of ammunition I fed it. The few problems I did have were ammunition related—three rounds that just didn't ignite after good firing pin hits to their rims, due likely to unevenly distributed priming compound. This is not uncommon.

Over the years, I've shot everything with .22s: paper and cardboard targets, balloons, clay pigeons, water bottles, golf balls, bowling pins, squirrels, and several types of small birds. Back in the day, I was an avid bowling pin shooter, and occasionally we would have .22 fun matches. Unlike a standard match where you used a .45 ACP to roll the pin off the table, with a .22 you just had to knock it down. The Forge H1 would be great fun doing all of that in addition to it being an inexpensive way to practice for USPSA or IDPA, as it is the same size/weight as a centerfire 1911.

But, weirdly, the marketing for the Forge H1 barely mentions any of that, instead seemingly pushing the pistol as an apt choice in the face of societal collapse. "Harshest of environments," "struggle for survival," "Customization for the Apocalypse," "the grueling conditions of an uncontrollable world," "in a world consumed by chaos" and, of course, "when the world crumbles" are all phrases found on the Hammerli webpage for this pistol. The accompanying photos look like they came from the set of a *Mad Max* movie. I asked Jens Krogh of Walther about that, and he smiled, shrugged, and told me, "*Yeah, we wanted to have a little fun.*" As an apocaloptimist who has penned a modern civil war novel and a zombie trilogy, I love it. It makes me smile, but I don't know how well it's going to resonate with the average consumer, if they'll get that it's all tongue-in-cheek. Even hinting that a full-size five-inch 1911 in .22 Long Rifle might be a suitable choice for personal defense seems ill-advised, beyond the "any gun is better than no gun" philosophy. But as the famous advertising saying goes, "You sell the sizzle, not the steak."



**You get two 12-round magazines with the pistol, as well as this simple magazine loader.**

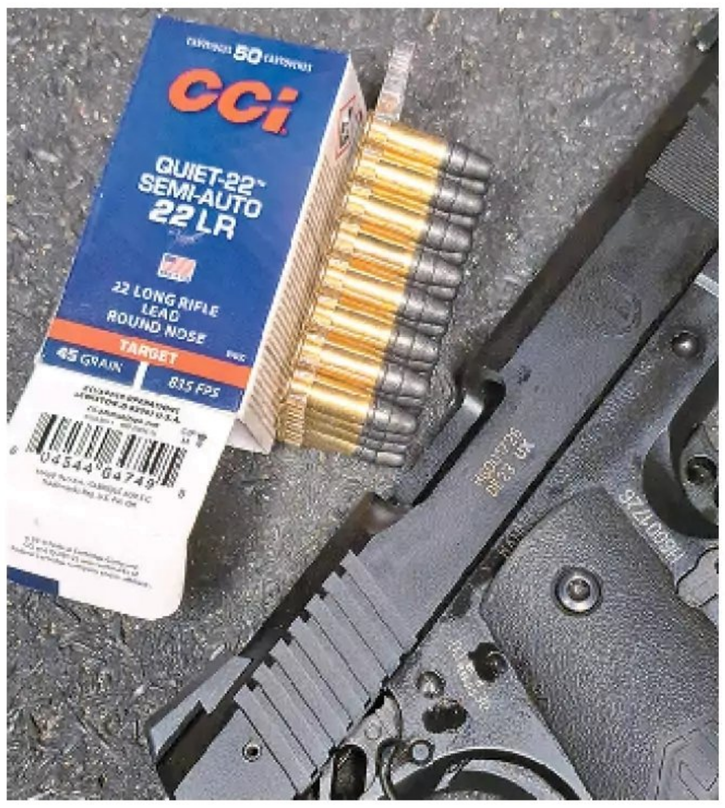


**As the barrel is fixed to the frame, disassembly is a bit different from a standard 1911, but in truth it's a bit easier, as the recoil spring is so much lighter.**





**Hammerli Arms went total Mad Max in their advertising for this pistol, not just with ad copy referencing chaos, struggle, and apocalypse, but images that are total zombie bait.**




**Tarr deliberately tried the soft subsonic CCI Quiet-22 load to see if it might short-cycle the pistol, but the Forge H1 cycled it without a problem.**




**The sights on the Forge H1 were adjustable for windage, but sometimes that's not enough. Tarr was happy to find that almost every load was hitting (mostly) to point of aim out to 25 yards. These were the first five rounds he put through the gun at 10 yards, shooting offhand.**




**The CCI Quiet-22 wasn't just the softest load Tarr tested in the H1 but also the most accurate. This was his best group, a two-incher at 25 yards.**

Then again, *Mad Max* imagery and a tacticool .22 might be just what you need to get your kids out to the range. This gun plus some zombie targets sounds like a hugely fun afternoon at the range, whether or not you have kids, and the cost of ammo won't bankrupt you. .22s are fun, period. If you're not having fun shooting a .22, you are a zombie. FN

**HAMMERLI FORGE H1 PISTOL**

| Load | Bullet Weight (gr.) | Velocity (fps) | SD | Accuracy Best/Avg. (in.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Federal Punch | 29 | 1,321 | 28 | 2.4 / 3.2 |
| Armscor HP | 36 | 1,244 | 41 | 3.0 / 4.2 |
| CCI Mini-Mag SHP | 40 | 1,211 | 27 | 2.7 / 3.4 |
| CCI Quiet-22 | 45 | 822 | 22 | 2.0 / 3.0 |

Accuracy results are the averages of four five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocities are averages of ten shots measured with an Oehler Model 35P 12 feet from the muzzle.

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| **Type:** | Single action semi-auto |
| **Caliber:** | .22 Long Rifle |
| **Capacity:** | 12 |
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| **Width:** | 1.3 inches |
| **Weight:** | 32.8 oz. |
| **Finish:** | Black Cerakote |
| **Frame:** | Zinc alloy |
| **Grips:** | Rubber |
| **Sights:** | 3-dot |
| **Trigger Pull:** | 5.0 lbs. (as tested) |
| **Safety:** | Manual safety, grip safety |
| **Price:** | $399 |
| **Contact:** | (479) 242-8500 ext. 7, HammerliArms.com |

[Cont. from page 14]

# WATCHDOG GROUP SAYS ATF IS SCHEMING TO BAN PRIVATE GUN SALES

**By Mark Chesnut**



*Shutterstock By piggu and Andrey_Popov*

A watchdog group is blowing the whistle on an alleged "fine-tuning" of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive's already restrictive engaged-in-the-business rule.

According to Empower Oversight, ATF whistleblowers have said that at the Biden Administration's request the agency has drafted a 1,300-page document attempting to justify a rule banning most, if not all, private firearms sales.

"The fact that inside ATF sources are blowing the whistle on this draft rule is an indication of what a difficult position it would put the ATF in," Tristan Leavitt, president of Empower Oversight, said in a news alert. "ATF agents did not sign up to go after law-abiding citizens for private sales protected under the Second Amendment of the Constitution."

In response to the reports, the organization has sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland and ATF Director Steven Dettelbach requesting more information about the proposal.

"Such an expansive rule that treats all private citizens the same as federal firearms licensees would circumvent the separation of powers in the Constitution, which grants 'all legislative Powers' to Congress while requiring that the president 'take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed,'" the letter states. "To the extent such a rule prevents the private sale of firearms, it would also clearly violate the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, which declares that 'the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.'"

In the letter, Leavitt said such a rule could be harmful in more ways than just infringing on the rights of lawful citizens.

"The lessons of the Ruby Ridge and Waco standoffs should make clear that attempting to enforce such an expansive regulation could endanger countless ATF field agents who are forced to serve as the face of the Biden Administration in going after private firearms owners for constitutionally protected firearms sales," the letter stated.

According to Empower Oversight, the document is reportedly being overseen by Senior Policy Counsel Eric Epstein, who worked as the Phoenix Field Office's Division Counsel during the ill-fated Operation Wide Receiver debacle. In concluding the letter, Leavitt requested a number of records from ATF, including:

- All emails to or from ATF Senior Policy Counsel Eric Epstein which include the terms "ban," "private sale," "universal background" and "gun control."
- Any and all records containing communications between DOJ and ATF regarding the implementation of Executive Order 14092.
- Any and all records containing communications between DOJ or ATF and the White House regarding the development and/or implementation of Executive Order 14092.
- Any and all records containing communications between DOJ and ATF referring or relating to regulating or banning the sale of firearms between private individuals.
- Any and all records containing communications between DOJ or ATF and the White House referring or relating to regulating or banning the sale of firearms between private individuals.

*Firearms News* is closely watching this issue and will report all updates. FN

# WASHINGTON STATE RETAILER FINED $3 MILLION FOR VIOLATING MAG CAPACITY LAW

**By Mark Chesnut**




*Shutterstock By niroworld and Vitalii Vodolazskyi*

A gun retailer in Federal Way, Washington, is being forced to pay a $3 million fine for selling standard-capacity ammunition magazines that violate the state's magazine capacity law.

According to a new release from the state attorney general's office, Federal Way Discount Guns will pay the $3 million for selling 3,625 magazines that could hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition between July

1, 2022, and the end of that year.

"Federal Way Discount Guns chose to violate a critical law aimed at combating mass shootings," AG Bob Ferguson said. "Washington businesses are following the law and stopped selling high-capacity magazines. This resolution provides accountability for someone who flagrantly violated the law and will increase law enforcement resources to combat gun violence."

Under a consent decree filed Feb. 6 in King County Superior Court, Federal Way must pay the $3 million within 30 days.

Under the state law passed in 2022, retailers face a maximum penalty of $7,500 every time they offer a magazine for sale that holds more than 10 rounds and $7,500 each time they sell such a magazine.

According to the attorney general, investigators visited Federal Way Discount Guns four separate times from August to November 2022 to purchase the banned magazines. The investigators found a wall openly displaying dozens of magazines for sale holding more than 10 rounds. Also, according to the report, during each sale made to the AG staff, the sales clerk destroyed the record of the sale or made comments to the investigator indicating they knew the sale of the magazines was unlawful.

In one instance, according to the AG report, a sales clerk told an investigator that "it's the nature of the beast" but that he couldn't provide a receipt because the magazines held "more than 10 rounds." The sales clerk then crumpled up the sales receipt that was automatically generated from the cash register and threw it in the trash.

In all, investigators purchased nine magazines over the legal limit from the store.

Unconstitutional magazine capacity laws like Washington's regulation are being challenged in court in a number of states that have such laws. A similar law in California was ruled constitutional, but then reinstated upon appeal. Litigation continues in that case and we will provide updates as information is released. FN

# KANSAS CITY SUPERBOWL PARADE SHOOTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN PRISON

## BIDEN AND OTHER LEFT WINGERS CALL FOR THE LAW ABIDING TO HAVE 2A INFRINGED UPON

**By Mark Chesnut**

Anti-gun bureaucrat Rahm Emanual, White House Chief of Staff under Barack Obama, once said, "Never let a serious crisis go to waste." Unfortunately for the ongoing debate over private firearms ownership in the country, President Joe Biden has apparently adopted that as his new motto.

After the recent shooting at the Kansas City Chiefs victory parade, Biden said the shooting should "shock us" into action over gun laws.

"What are we waiting for?" Biden said following the shooting. "What else do we need to see? How many more families need to be torn apart? We know what we have to do. We just need the courage to do it."

Even a Kansas City Chief player got in on the anti-gun action.

"Prayers for those affected at today's parade," Charles Omenihu said in an X post. "A time of celebration ends in tragedy. When are we going to fix these gun laws? How many more people have to die to say enough is enough?"

What Omenihu, Biden and the "mainstream" media won't tell you is there are already laws against opening fire at a parade and wounding and killing people. In fact, there's no place in America that such an attack is not considered a serious felony.

What they also won't tell you is that Lyndell Mays, the guy who pulled his gun and started shooting at others he thought were wanting to kill him, shouldn't have been at the parade in the first place. Had prosecutors simply convicted and imprisoned Mays the first time he broke the state's gun laws, the parade shooting never would have happened.

In 2021, Mays pulled his gun after an argument over a basketball game at the Belton Community Center, causing people to run out of the gym, screaming in fear. At the time, he was charged in municipal court with disorderly conduct, plead guilty and spent only five days in jail, with another two years of probation.

However, under Missouri's law barring "Unlawful Use of A Weapon," one



of the definitions of violating that law is: "Exhibits or displays a lethal weapon in an angry or threatening manner in front of one or more persons." According to the state's legal code, the most common penalty for weapons charges in Missouri is a class D felony, punishable by up to one year or 4 years in prison and fines up to $5,000.

As Biden and gun-banning city officials continue to cry for more and stricter gun control laws, perhaps citizens of Kansas City would be better served if people who use their firearms in an illegal manner receive a legitimate prison sentence instead of a slap on the wrist from liberal prosecutors and quick release by a revolving door justice system that serves prisoners better than lawful residents. FN

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# I WANT MY MOTV!

**By Vincent L. DeNiro**
Editor-in-Chief




The early 1980s, I remember them well. Cable companies started stringing lines block by block, and we all anticipated getting television as we had never seen it before, like commercial-free full-length movies just like in the theatre, an all-weather channel, and channels that didn't sign off at 2 a.m. Every couple of weeks, the new technology crept closer and closer, and you were jealous of the kids down the street that got it first.

Finally, my family had service from Warner Cable company (named after the Hollywood tycoons who were originally from my area). It was great! Like 20 channels with perfect reception — no roof antenna required! But my cousins had something with Armstrong Cable we didn't have. A channel called MTV. I remember the first video I watched over at their house around 1981 — it was a .38 Special full concert (great name for band). Wow, if you liked music (I sure did), then MTV was something you got excited about, especially with the creative mini-movie-like music promo videos. I became part of the "I want my MTV!" campaign to get our cable company to carry it, and they did. Soon, everyone knew what the picture of an astronaut on the moon with MTV flag meant to the music industry.

I still remember thinking to myself, **"What if there was a TV channel where you could watch firearms shows, hunting shows, and view commercials from gun companies…"**

I have many great memories of watching my favorite rock and pop bands with my friends for years (finished basements were the ideal places to watch MTV btw). Many times, my friends and I would clean our guns in the basement with MTV on — guns like a Colt AR-15 SP1, Ruger Mini-14, M1 Carbine, UZI carbine, a 1911, or grandpa's .22 rifle, all taken apart on a coffee table while Ted Nugent, KISS, Donnie Iris, or some weird English pop band was

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playing loudly through a console TV's speakers. If I only had a time machine…

I still remember thinking to myself, "What if there was a TV channel where you could watch firearms shows, hunting shows, and view commercials from gun companies like Smith & Wesson, Colt, Iver Johnson, and others?" It was just a dream. No way that would ever happen. Well, it eventually did about 20 years ago with great shows from the Sportsman Channel and Outdoor Channel. So, if your cable or streaming platform doesn't offer these channels, you can still watch many of the TV shows plus a lot of extra gun and hunting content on More Outdoor TV, or MOTV for short.

**You don't have to wait for the cable guy to string line down your street like I did — you can be watching in minutes!**

If you are reading *Firearms News*, then I already know you are a REAL gun guy (or gal). Here is a list of great MOTV video content ready for you and your shooting buddies:

- *Guns & Ammo TV*
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- *Gun Clips with Joe Mantengna*
- *Rapid Fire*
- *Shooting USA*
- *Impossible Shots*

and many more!

You can even watch yours truly on the *Firearms News* section, along with content from your favorite *Firearms News* writers.

So, how much for all of this great content plus a ton of hunting and fishing videos? Only 10 bucks a month. You don't have to wait for the cable guy to string line down your street like I did — you can be watching in minutes! Go to MyOutdoorTV.com and tell 'em, "*I want my MOTV!*" FN



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# ...Going to the Dogs, 2

This is part 2 to answer the question "What can I do?" when our country is going to the dogs.

I'm going to first make a crazy assumption: That you are not one of the millions of American gunowners who are willing to give up without a fight, who are lazing on the couch bemoaning "someone must do something" along with "it's already too late".

Would that the founding generation, the ones who picked up single-shot muzzleloaders, stood tall, and took on the mighty British Empire and its professional army, never learn, even in Heaven, of the apathy, ignorance, and laziness of their descendants! The "lack of moral fiber". (Please don't let that be you!)

So let's start with the basics: Take a piece of paper or cardboard and make a one-inch black square on it.

Place it 82 ft away in front of a bullet-proof backstop.

Using your favorite rifle, fire five shots at the black square, from standing, sitting or prone — your choice. Do not use a rest of any kind — just you and your rifle.

If you can't put 4/5 shots on the square, learn to shoot your rifle by attending an Appleseed event.

Please don't go by yourself. Don't waste the opportunity to take a friend or neighbor with you. More is better — coworker, son or daughter, spouse. The more the merrier!

So first things first: Acquire rifleman skills. Be able to "walk the walk".

The second thing to do is start cleaning up your corner of America.

Get your friends, neighbors, etc. to the range, learning to shoot. And by "learning to shoot" I don't mean "firing the gun", as any idiot can do that. No sir, I mean by "learning to shoot" the simple act of hitting the target — each time, every time, every shot. Please don't forget, when you go to an Appleseed, that all important spouse. You may be surprised at how she (or he) takes to rifle shooting, at an Appleseed!

Now, the next step is really hard (really!): Work on your friends and neighbors to get off the couch — it's the default standard of modern Americans — video games, the internet, texting on your phone. All of which is good, IF you are USING those things to reach out and encourage your fellow Americans to wake up and get off the couch.

While you are at it, write "one-minute letters" to your reps. What's a one-minute letter, you ask? It's a simple "Dear politician: I strongly support the 2A and am strongly against adding any more gun control laws. And all my friends believe the same way — and vote!! Sincerely, Me"

Don't waste time crafting an entire exposition on why gun laws don't work. It will likely be unread, so don't waste your time.

The "one minute letter" takes about a minute, including addressing and stamping. In fact, keep some pre-addressed envelopes and letters at hand, and send them off every time there's a call for more gun control.

Here's the addresses: US Senator Washington DC 20510
US Representative Washington DC 20515

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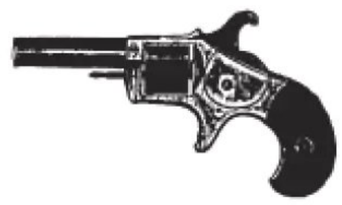
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All cartridge guns entering, within, or leaving the show must be tied in such a way that they cannot be loaded!

New York State law requires that a National Instant Background Check must be completed prior to all firearm sales or transfers, including sales or transfers of rifles or shotguns. The sale or transfer of a firearm, rifle or shotgun at a Gun Show without first conducting a Background Check is a crime. It is also a crime to offer or agree to sell a firearm, rifle or shotgun at a Gun Show and then transfer it at another location for the purpose of avoiding a National Instant Criminal Background check.

Sellers of all modern firearms must provide a gun locking device suitable for said firearm, with written instructions, at time of sale.

**PAYMENT AND SIGNED CONTRACT MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATION**
PAYABLE TO: New York State Sportsmen Association, LLC.
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**PHONE: (607) 223-8486**
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**RELOADING EQUIPMENT** & Gun related stuff **WANTED!** Attention Estates, Gun Shops, Collectors! Sell me your no longer used reloading equipment, casting, gunsmithing equipment & tools. Presses, dies, molds, Stocks, grips and Misc. parts too. I buy the items left over after others buy the guns. Gladly travel for large collections. Call Rick (330)806-4169 or email ricketts711@sbcglobal.net

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## Gun Shows — S6150

**ATLANTA, GA** Apr. 26-27, Atlanta Antique Gun & International Military Show, IAMAW Local 709 Union Hall, 1032 S. Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA. Friday 12-5pm, Saturday 9am-4pm. Antique Guns, Arms & Memorabilia of the Civil War, Indian Wars, WWI, WWII, etc. Exhibited, bought, sold & traded. Admission $7.00, Ages 7-12 $1.00.
**Info: Carolina Trader Promotions, 704-254-6181**
**www.TheCarolinaTrader.com**

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**RALEIGH, NC** Jun. 1-2, 88th Old North State Antique Gun & Military Antiques Show. Raleigh, NC at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Road, off I-40, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Arms & Memorabilia of the Civil War, Indian Wars, WWI, WWII, etc. Exhibited, bought, sold & traded.
Admission $8.00, Ages 7-12 $1.00. Info:
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