

HECKLER & KOCH USC 45 CARBINE 45 ACP, \$1888

GUN TESTS GRADE: C

We have listened to our readers in awarding grades based on performance, but it's hard for us to ignore value completely. The HK fared poorly because it's just as expensive as the Kriss, but we vastly prefer the Swiss gun to the West German one. The Hi-Point is rougher, but much cheaper. So the USC, though quite a gun in its own right, gets downgraded in comparison to the others.

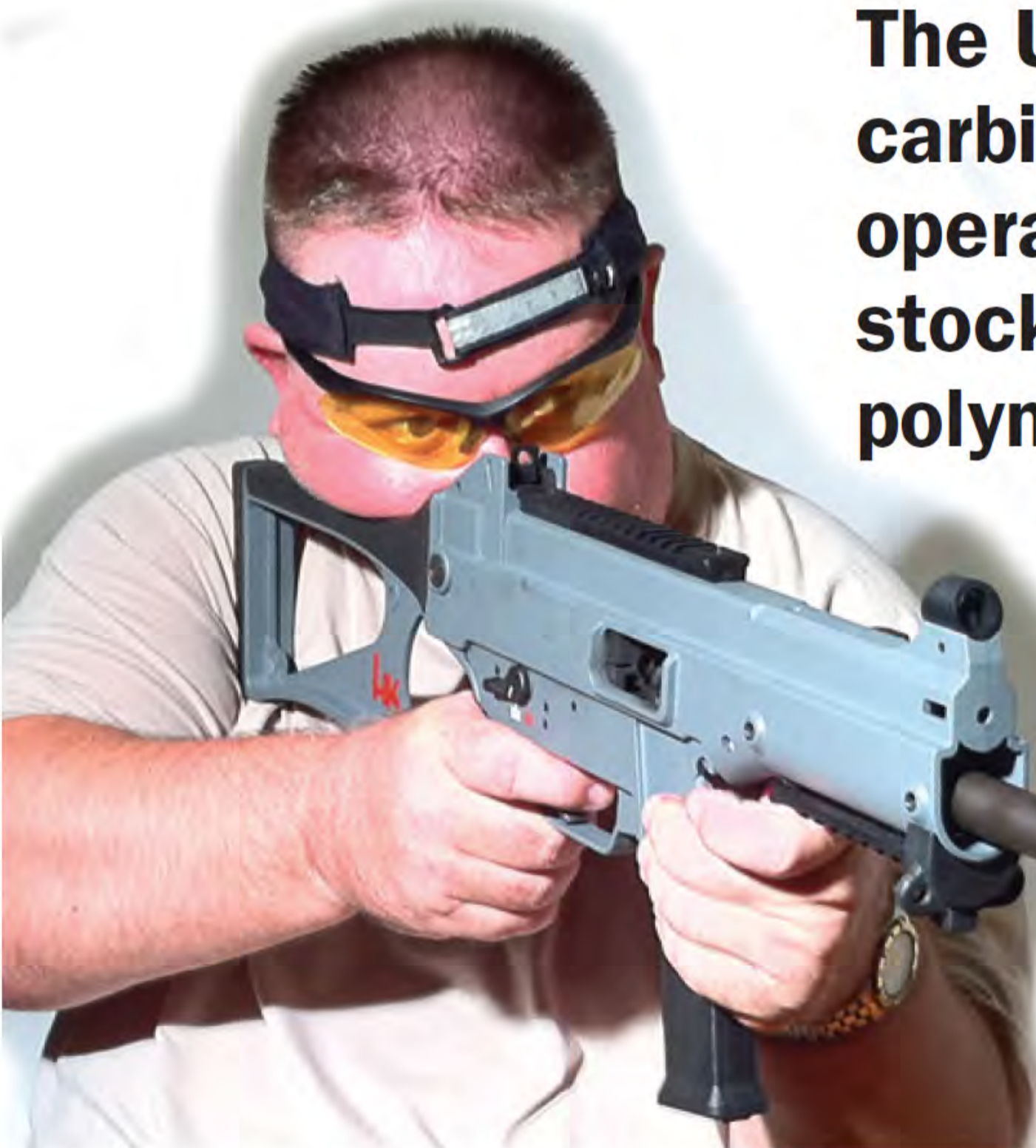


SPECIFICATIONS

Overall Length 35.5 in.
 Barrel Length 16.0 in.
 Sight Radius (Max) 13.25 in.
 Overall Height w/30-rd. Magazine 9.75 in.
 Length of Pull 14.4 in.
 Maximum Thickness, Stock Extended 1.4 in.
 Weight Unloaded 6.75 lbs.

Weight w/Loaded 10-Rd. Mag 7.25 lbs.
 Magazines 1 10-rd. HK
 Action Type Semiauto Gas Operated
 Receiver Steel Chassis
 Barrel Blued Steel
 Stock Skeletonized Polymer
 Trigger Pull Weight 7.6 lbs.

Safety Ambidextrous Two Position
 Front Sight Shrouded Front Post
 Rear Sight Flip-up Dual Aperture
 Flash Hider None
 Warranty 1 Year
 Telephone (706) 568-1906
 Website www.HK-USA.com
 Made In West Germany



The USC is a utility semiauto carbine with a blowback operating system. The stock is made of reinforced polymers. The skeletonized butt had a rubber cheek rest and recoil pad that were comfortable to shoot.

Metal quality and finish were topnotch, our testers said. The 16-inch cold-hammer-forged barrel and bolt felt solid, and we had no reliability issues with the HK. The bolt handle, right, was located in the same spot as the Kriss. It was easier to operate on the HK, our shooters said. Below, the HK came with two rails, one on top of the receiver and one below. Collectors Firearms also supplied an optical sight, but we shot the test with just irons.



The HK's trigger-pull weight at 7.6 pounds was heavier than the Kriss but much lighter than the Hi-Point. It reset with a loud click, which was a useful auditory cue. Our testers said the HK's trigger pull likely contributed to its poor accuracy, though the HP didn't suffer the same fate.

