GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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3 SIGS FACE OFF

If you've been considering a SIG Sauer self-defense rifle, check out our comparison of the company's M400 Enhanced, 516 Patrol Rifle, and the 556 SWAT Patrol Rifle on... ● Page 6



BARGAIN HUNTER

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REFLEX SIGHTS

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DOWNRANGE

'OPERATION CHOKE POINT'



Todd Woodard

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) has been investigating the role of the federal government, specifically the Department of Justice's "Operation Choke Point," in influencing banks in their lending and business-banking decisions regarding firearms and ammunition companies.

The investigation that Justice Department officials dubbed "Operation Choke Point" was first disclosed in March 2013, according to *American Banker* magazine. In August 2013, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that "the Justice Department had begun targeting banks that service a broad range of what it considers questionable financial ventures. The government has issued subpoenas to banks and other companies that handle payments for an array of financial offerings, ramping up an investigation that has been under way for several months."

An NSSF statement said, "We have heard from several industry members that they had banking relationships terminated by their lending institutions. We respect the right of financial institutions to make business decisions based on objective criteria. It is unacceptable, however, to discriminate against businesses simply because they are engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms, an activity protected by the Second Amendment."

NSSF staff has met with members of the House Financial Services Committee and members of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee concerning several documents that have surfaced from the FDIC labeling companies in the firearms and ammunition industry as "high risk." Participating in DOJ's Operation Choke Point, the FDIC has classified some industries as high risk: Cable Box De-scramblers, Drug Paraphernalia, Escort Services, Ponzi Schemes, Pornography, and Racist Materials, to name a few listed here. Included in this group are "Ammunition Sales" and "Firearms Sales."

On August 22, 2013, 31 members of Congress sent a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder and FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg, requesting a briefing of Congressional staff members on the project.

In the letter, which was organized by Congressman Kevin Yoder (R-KS) and Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), the members of Congress wrote, it "has come to our attention that the DOJ and the FDIC are leading a joint effort that according to a DOJ official is intended to 'change the structures within the financial system...choking [online short term lenders] off from the very air they need to survive.'"

"We are especially troubled by reports that the DOJ and FDIC are intimidating some community banks and third party payment processors with threats of heightened regulatory scrutiny unless they cease doing business with online lenders," the letter read. NSSF said, "As a result, we have worked with Rep. Luetkemeyer and expect that he will offer today an amendment to the FY15 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, which would prevent federal funds from being used as part of 'Operation Choke Point' or in any effort targeting companies

— continued on page 32

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Fingers on the Triggers

Reader Ailshire points out a safety concern that was really a captioning mistake. Reader Richards wants some love for the Hi-Point carbine. Reader Jewell offers a holster recommendation.

Re "22 Target Pistols: Model 41 Versus Supermatic Citation 10X," June 2014

Love the magazine, but was terribly disappointed that page 10 shows two pistols with the shooter's finger on the trigger. I carefully read the caption to see if you were trying to illustrate something about finger placement, but found nothing. Neither photo appears to show a shooter prepared to shoot.

—Tess Ailshire on Facebook

My mistake — I moved the two images of the bullseye pistols to the start page and cut the caption because it was too long. Thanks for pointing that out. Here's the missing text: "In hand, the 10X (left) felt familiar to those who train with a 1911 — the trigger span was what they expected. The Model 41, right, was a natural pointer, but some felt the grips did not fit their hands properly. For some shooters, the trigger finger touched the side of the shoe." Sorry about that.

— Todd Woodard





I own a High Standard Trophy made in Houston and a S&W Model 41. I purchased the Trophy new and the Model 41 used, much as your article suggested. I have owned both for years and for some time was an avid Bullseye shooter in North Carolina. The High Standard is very accurate and so is the Model 41. I gave up using the High Standard because mine became very unreliable. I shoot standard-velocity CCI ammo and never load the magazines with more than five rounds. It has been serviced by the factory several times, but continues to have feeding and jamming problems that cannot be cleared up. The Model 41 has never had a problem in all the years I've used it. In Bullseye circles in my area, the High Standard name has been jokingly referred to as "low standard."

— Ed in Greensboro, NC

The article on 22 target pistols refers to "partridge" sights twice. The correct name for that sight is "Patridge," named after E. E. Patridge who developed the sight around 1892.

— David W. S. Mason

Great magazine! However, I note the common misspelling of E. E. Patridge's name in Mr. Sadowksi's article in the June 2014 issue. Adding the extra "r" to Patridge has become so common as to be arguably as acceptable as "Derringer" for Deringer. Perpetuating this oversight does a disservice to these inventors. I hunted in an area of Vermont where the locals referred to grouse loads as "catidges fer patidges." If we spelled the two inventors' names correctly, we could sent the extra "r" characters to New England where they are needed. **— Jack Moisuk Richardson, Texas**

Actually, it was four times. This time, I double-checked the pages as

GUN TESTS REPORT CARD GRADING

Gun Tests Grade: A

A gun with this rating functions perfectly, shoots accurately, and exhibits comfortable, easy use for its owner. We may prefer one gun over others based on its unusual accuracy, superior performance, unusual features, or nice cosmetics. We recognize such a gun for these traits without regard to its cost.

Gun Tests Grade: B

We give this ranking to a gun that functions appropriately for its category, but which might not do as well in major areas as an **A**-ranked gun.

Gun Tests Grade: C

We may have reservations about some aspect of a gun's performance or pricing. We express those reservations so the reader can balance our concerns with his or her needs.

Gun Tests Grade: D

Some aspect of a gun's performance — in particular, safety, function, or accuracy — doesn't meet our standards and isn't easily resolved.

Gun Tests Grade: F

Some aspect of a gun's performance is dangerous, inappropriate for the category, or is likely to fail.

they were uploaded to the printer, to ensure a final spell-check doesn't "fix" them wrongly. We regret the error. — tw

Re "Praise for Pistol-Caliber Carbines," April 2014

In response to your comparison between the Kel-Tec Sub-2000 versus the Beretta Storm. I own a 40-cal Sub-2000, and I added the $12 stock extension, and it makes all the difference in the world. Too bad you didn't have it on yours when you tested it. Also, I paid $349 new for my S2K versus $915 you list for the Storm. And I absolutely love that my S2K folds and fits in a briefcase!

— Mike Nystrom

Mr. Nystrom is referring to the Kel-Tec #SUB-300Z part available at Kel-Tec.com for $12 (shown adjacent). One customer also suggested it's possible to add a small Limbsaver buttstock pad to the extension. — tw



Re "Ruger GP100 or S&W Dilemma," June 2014

Regarding your comment to Mike about whether to keep the GP100 or the S&W 686: I think I would have suggested he base his decision on which one he can shoot most accurately. I have found that no matter the weapon, most shooters can shoot better with one of them. Thanks, and keep up this great magazine.

— Butch

Todd, my recommendation would be to keep the S&W. The GP100 is a good revolver, but the trigger action of any Ruger is not comparable to the S&W. I own revolvers from both manufacturers, and S&W simply has the best break.

A ported muzzle can make for a very loud gun, and if the barrels are the same length for both revolvers, I prefer a standard barrel. Even though the muzzle flip will be less for the ported gun, it may not be as much as one might think. I've had my gunsmith (Jack Huntington in Grass Valley, California) remove a muzzle brake on a revolver of mine, and the noise blast was noticeably less without a lot of increased muzzle flip. Blast noise is more noticeable if you go to an indoor gun range or in a confined outdoor area with hard surfaces around you. I shot my S&W 460V at an indoor gun range, and I had to wear double ear protection (plugs and muffs) to keep my ears from ringing.

S&W has an unparalleled repair policy. I can request (via the S&W webpage) a free Authorized Return to Ship (ARS) label, and once they have confirmed the serial number on the gun, they will email the label to me. The ARS will allow me to ship my gun to S&W, have it repaired, and shipped back to me for no cost. I can ship it from the neighborhood FedEx/Kinkos, which in CA is not permissible if I don't have a factory ARS label. Ruger does not do this, with the exception of warranty work, and then it is a reimbursement if they decide to authorize it. Shipping a gun in my area costs about $85 and has to be done at a special UPS or FedEx location.

To the benefit of Ruger, the GP100 is a solidly overbuilt revolver. "Overbuilt" to mean they are built like a tank and can handle loads like no other revolver. This is evident in powder guides for reloading. There is load data, for example, for 45LC and then 45LC Ruger. When you look at the pressure ratings, it is clear the Ruger loads are hotter.

Ruger does not use metal injected molded (MIM) parts on the small components like S&W does. The trigger, hammer, and other internal parts on the S&W are MIM. They will easily last for many, many rounds; however, they are not the same metal quality as Ruger's, in my opinion. Personally, I don't see this as a drawback to S&W handguns because the MIM parts are high quality. When I consider S&W's repair policy, it is difficult to be concerned about MIM parts.

Last, S&W revolvers are often more polished, pretty, and refined than Ruger's. S&W wheelguns just have a style that many Ruger guns don't quite match, for the most part. I like guns from both manufacturers, but if you had to keep only one, I would recommend the S&W.

— Kevin Buchan
Sacramento, California

GT readers, if you'll recall from last month's issue, Mike, a Gun Tests *reader, was on a deadline and had to decide between a Ruger GP100 and an S&W 686-4. As you might expect, advice I gathered from the* Gun Tests *Facebook page was split, with perhaps a slight tilt toward keeping the Ruger. Butch offers some valid advice that transcends brand loyalty of both groups.*

I appreciate Mr. Buchan contributing his insight as the owner of both builds. — tw

Re "45 ACPs: Just Right Carbine Versus Thureon Defense Carbine," June 2014

I am a charter subscriber to your fine publication. The June 2014 issue just arrived in my mailbox, and I read the test of 45 ACP carbines. I am a bit surprised that you did not include the Hi-Point 45 ACP carbine in the comparison. After reading your test report on it in the August 2011 issue, I picked one up. Last year, a really good 'smith did a trigger job on it (a smooth 3-pound break now) and DuraCoated the gun. I paid $325 for the carbine and $200 for the trigger job and DuraCoat. This costs a lot less than the Just Right Carbine, the Thureon, and the Beretta Storm, also recently reviewed.

I would put my Hi-Point "Ugly Duckling" carbine up against any other and expect it to do just as well (including the Kriss, as you pointed out). A holosight sits atop it, sighted in for 75 yards. My handloads for it use 230-grain ball running a bit hotter than GI loads. It goes bang every time and consistently groups well at that distance. I consider this carbine a fine perimeter-defense weapon, switching to my M1A for anything



Hi-Point 45 ACP Carbine

beyond that distance. However, my preference for home defense is my Gold Cup loaded with 200-grain Speer Flying Ashtrays.

—William B. Richards III
Charter Subscriber

Mr. Richards: You're right, a mention of the Hi-Point would have been appropriate. Thanks for pointing it out. I see you took our advice about getting the trigger worked on, to good effect. Here's the summary of that test pitting the Kriss Super V Vector CRB/SO KCRBS0803801 45 ACP, $1895; the Heckler & Koch USC 45 ACP, $1883; and the Hi-Point Carbine w/Front Grip 4595TSFG 45 ACP, $340: "Our Team Said: The Hi-Point was the least attractive gun in the test. It felt rough in the hands, even pinching the web of one of our shooter's hands when the skin got caught between the screw-in bolt and the receiver. It definitely had the worst trigger, but offsetting that were the best sights of the rifles tested. Also, in accuracy testing, it was as accurate as the Kriss with two choices, and outshot the HK with everything. Of course, it was 100-percent reliable.

"Cosmetically, our test team members didn't like the Hi-Point, but several of our shooters liked the rifle's feel. The bolt handle looked like a hardware-store bolt that had been anodized, and the rifle will not fit in the cardboard shipping box with the handle installed. However, if you lose it, you can always go to a local hardware store to replace it.

"All in, if we needed a carbine for tactical use, we would buy the Kriss Super V Vector, because of its high-capacity magazines, reduced recoil, and folding stock. However, that's only if we could afford it. If we wanted a carbine to shoot for fun, we would buy the Hi-Point and try to find a gunsmith who could fix the trigger." — tw

Re "Outside-the-Waistband Holsters: We Test 20, Part I," June 2014

Love your magazine and your integrity, and you will probably get hundreds of similar emails, but there is a small holster maker in Kuna, Idaho — Zack Davis Leather — who does great custom work, has reasonable prices, and is a good guy. You should include his product in your OWB review. **— Tom Jewell**
Boise, Idaho

Hey Tom: Bob Campbell's article was already complete for this cycle, but thanks for the referral. We're always willing to consider reader-recommended manufacturers.



Adjacent is a look at the Zack Davis Advantage Series Holster Model ADV02, an outside-the-waistband unit that attaches to the belt with a belt slot in front of the gun and one behind the trigger guard. It is hand made from Hermann Oak American leather and custom molded to the specific gun as well as pre-shaped to fit the natural curvature of the body. Strong side only. ZackDavisLeather.com. — tw

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Partial electronic versions of the magazine go back as far as January 1998. Complete issues begin with the August 2000 edition.

There are two ways to find guns we've reviewed. The Compare Guns feature (top left corner of the page under the logo) allows you to input several descriptors and narrow the search results.

Or you can use the Search function. If you search for a common item, such as "22 LR," you'll get tons of references. Basically, the search function finds every instance of the searched-for topic and lists the accompanying articles the topic appeared in. The more specific and unique the reference, the better the search. We do our best to list the catalog numbers for guns we've tested, so that's usually a good place to start. There's also a comprehensive "Advanced Search" area to help you narrow down the results.

We welcome mail from our readers. To send us comments or questions about previous articles in the magazine, email us at: **GunTestsEditor@icloud.com.** *If you'll include the month and year of the article you're writing about, it's a big help. Also, please include your name, address, and phone number. We won't publish your personal information without your permission, but we may need to contact you. You may also request that we not publish your name. Send letters to:* **Gun Tests** *Magazine, 1510 Eldridge Pkwy., Suite 110-163, Houston, TX 77077.* **GT**

Duty Rifles: SIG's 516 Patrol, M400, and 556 SWAT Patrol

There are so many brands of AR builds available, sometimes consumers settle on the nameplate then try to pick the model. In this test, we try to pick SIG Sauer's best 5.56mm rifle.

A Gun Tests reader gave us the idea a few years ago to not only compare firearms from different companies, but also to compare variations of a firearm inside a well-regarded company to try to select the best buy. That was our task here, to find the best semi-auto duty or self-defense rifle from a trio built by SIG Sauer, the builder of weapons of choice for many of the global military, law enforcement and commercial users. According to the company, in the USA nearly 1 in 3 law enforcement professionals use SIG firearms. "We are proud that many elite military and government forces including the U.S. Navy Seals, the Federal Air Marshals, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Coast Guard carry SIG Sauer firearms," said Ron Cohen, president and CEO.

Headquartered in Newington, New Hampshire, SIG Sauer is an ISO 9001–certified company with more than 900 employees. It is the largest member of a worldwide business group of firearms manufacturers that includes J.P. Sauer & Sohn and Blaser, Gmbh. in Germany and Swiss Arms AG in Switzerland. Where the "Sauer" part of the name comes from should be obvious; the SIG part is a little more obscure. It means Swiss Industrial Society, or *Schweizerische Industrie Gesellschaft* in German, thus the acronym SIG.

In its AR-15 lines, SIG makes rifles with three different operating systems. The SIG M400 Enhanced uses the direct-gas-impingement operating system. Here, we test the RM400-16B-EC model with an MSRP of $1234. The





Fresh out of the box and still wearing their tags, here are our players: Top is the SIG 556 SWAT Patrol Rifle; middle, the SIG 516 Patrol, and at bottom, the SIG M400 Enhanced.

SIG 516 Patrol uses a 4-position adjustable gas valve, short-stroke-pushrod operating system. Our test gun for that line is the R516G2-16B-P designation, MSRP $1719. And, last, the SIG 556 SWAT Patrol Rifle uses a 2-position adjustable gas valve, reduced stroke, piston operating rod system. Our test sample was the R556-16B-PS-RDMSRP unit, $1399 MSRP. All the rifles were supplied by one of our Houston-based FFLs, Winkle's Great Guns, in May 2013, so we were able to thoroughly examine them for several months. We compared operating systems, accuracy, and functionality, and we also get into the nuts and bolts of ownership, such as cleaning and assembly. So let's see how one SIG stands up to the next.

Features

The M400's standard features include a chrome-lined

Inside the rifles at left, the SIG M400 Enhanced (top) uses a direct-gas-impingement operating system. Middle, the SIG 516 Patrol uses a 4-position adjustable gas valve, short-stroke-pushrod operating system. Bottom, the SIG 556 SWAT Patrol Rifle employs a 2-position adjustable gas valve, reduced stroke, piston-operating-rod system. We experienced some function problems with the M400 and 516 Patrol, but not due to the gas systems.

RANGE DATA

Hornady 5.56mm NATO 80278 55-gr. Hollowpoint	SIG M400 Enhanced	SIG 516 Patrol	SIG 556 SWAT Patrol
Average Velocity	2787 fps	2797 fps	2857 fps
Muzzle Energy	958 ft.-lbs.	955 ft.-lbs.	996 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size (4 Shots)	0.90 in.	1.05 in.	0.98 in.
Average Group Size (5 Shots)	1.35 in.	1.36 in.	1.60 in.

Tula 223 Rem. AMM2905 55-gr. Full Metal Jacket	SIG M400 Enhanced	SIG 516 Patrol	SIG 556 SWAT Patrol
Average Velocity	2953 fps	2892 fps	2955 fps
Muzzle Energy	1064 ft.-lbs.	1021 ft.-lbs.	1066 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size (4 Shots)	1.30 in.	0.98 in.	1.5 in.
Average Group Size (5 Shots)	1.80 in.	1.84 in.	2.0 in.

Federal 5.56mm NATO 62-gr. M855 Ball	SIG M400 Enhanced	SIG 516 Patrol	SIG 556 SWAT Patrol
Average Velocity	3008 fps	2951 fps	3002 fps
Muzzle Energy	1245 ft.-lbs.	1198 ft.-lbs.	1240 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size (4 Shots)	1.25 in.	1.88 in.	1.50 in.
Average Group Size (5 Shots)	2.25 in.	2.30 in.	2.50 in.

Serbian 5.56mm NATO 62-gr. SS109 Ball	SIG M400 Enhanced	SIG 516 Patrol	SIG 556 SWAT Patrol
Average Velocity	2974 fps	2942 fps	2964 fps
Muzzle Energy	1217 ft.-lbs.	1191 ft.-lbs.	1209 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size (4 Shots)	1.57 in.	2.10 in.	2.00 in.
Average Group Size (5 Shots)	2.78 in.	3.00 in.	3.25 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired both four- and five-shot groups from the 100-yard bench at American Shooting Centers in Houston. The rifles were supported by sand bags. We used the same scope, a Nikon M-223 AR Riflescope 3-12x42 SF Matte BDC 600 #BRA13104 on all three. Each time, we dialed in the scope for the ammo and shot some confirmation groups before beginning an accuracy string. Targets: "Shoot N C" black 3-inch-diameter bullseyes with a ¼-inch red center (#34515 B3-18). We recorded velocities using an Oehler 35P chronograph 10 feet from the muzzle. Each gun was tested with two ammo types on two separate days. The M400 had a weather advantage over the 516 and the 556. Conditions for the M400 was 70 degrees, blue skies, no wind. Both the 516 and the 556 were tested in 50-degree temperatures with overcast skies and winds gusting to 10 miles per hour.

bolt carrier for maximum wear resistance and a properly staked gas key for more reliable gas flow. It comes with a lowered and polished feed ramp for reliable loading and a supported extractor to prevent system failure in case of a barrel obstruction. A chrome-lined barrel and chamber offer maximum internal durability, and a hard-coat anodized finish protects the outside.

Operationally, there's an ambidextrous mag release, an extended bolt-catch lever and integral ambidextrous quick-detach sling mounts. The M400 also comes standard with an easy disconnect aluminum trigger guard for gloved shooting. Also standard is a built-in tensioning device that tightens upper and lower receiver fit. The receiver extension comes with drill-through positioning holes for water drainage.

The 516 Patrol standard features include a lowered and polished feed ramp for reliable loading and a supported extractor. It, too, has a chrome-lined barrel and chamber and hard-coat anodized finish. Controls likewise include an ambidextrous mag release, extended bolt-catch lever, and integral ambidextrous quick-detach sling mounts. Like the M400, it has an easy-disconnect aluminum trigger guard, tensioning device, and drill-through holes.

Major components of the 556 SWAT Patrol are a 16-inch nitride-treated barrel with 1:7 twist and the original Swiss side-folding stock. There's also a redesigned alloy trigger housing, A2 flash suppressor, and a reduced-length aluminum quad rail. A rear rotary diopter sight comes standard and is calibrated for close-quarter ranges and 100m, 200m and 300m ranges.

Inside The Rifles

On first inspection, it was apparent these were not your average AR-15 clones. They all had quality parts like folding BUIS, M1913 Picatinny flat-top uppers, ambi mag releases, MagPul furniture, and free-floating quad rails. All three were fitted with compact 16-inch 1-in-7-inch-twist six-groove barrels capable of stabilizing bullets from 55 to 77 grains accurately. Our testers said they all had great fit and finish. Our team's notes said all three were tight fitting and felt solid, had no rattling, and came standard with a free-floating military-grade nitride-finished threaded barrel. The upper and lower receivers were 7075-T6 aircraft aluminum with hard-coat anodized finishes.

Our shooters used the manuals to disassemble the rifles and prep the guns for the range. During this stage, we learned the guns broke down easily, and the manuals were well written and easy to follow.

The M400 direct-gas-impingement system was exactly what our testers expected to see, a tube plumbed from the

front sight gas block down the length of the barrel and poking through the upper receiver. In this system, gas is directed from the barrel through the gas block, through the gas tube directly into the bolt carrier key, which drives the bolt carrier to the rear, cycling the action. Excess gases are bled off immediately through exhaust ports in the bolt carrier and out through the upper receiver ejection port. With this gas system, the dirty residue gets deposited and builds up in critical areas such as the breech, the upper receiver, and the bolt-carrier group. This system was designed and developed exclusively for the AR platform more than 50 years ago and remains the primary gas operating system of most AR platforms. It is a robust system, with no moving parts except the bolt-carrier group. During our trials, the system worked flawlessly but ran the dirtiest.

Inside the 516 Patrol, we got a good look at the upgraded short-stroke pushrod gas system. This type of gas system, whether it is a short stroke or long stroke, will typically have six main parts, a gas block, a gas cylinder, a gas tube, a piston attached to one end of the main Op rod, and a recoil spring. Gas is directed from the barrel through the gas block into the gas cylinder, which drives the piston, operating rod, and bolt carrier group rearward. The recoil spring draws the Op rod back, and the piston retracts back into the gas cylinder and is ready to fire again. The excess gases are vented forward of the action, so the critical areas stay clean. The residue buildup is confined to the gas-block area, the gas tube, and under the hand guards. John Browning developed a long-stroke gas-operating system on the BAR in 1918; in the mid 1950s, the M14 was fitted with an improved M1 Garand short-stroke gas Op system. The AK-47 uses a long-stroke gas Op system, where the bolt carrier and charging handle are mated to the main Op rod and the piston, forming a single piece. It has only been a short time that AR platforms are being designed (modified) to use this type of gas Op system. Modern gun designs with proven reliability use a similar gas Op system. So does the AR platform need to adapt to keep up with the competition?

SIG M400 RM400-16B-EC 223 REM/ 5.56X45MM NATO, $1234

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

This was the most accurate rifle in the test, but we experienced magazine-insertion and release problems that affected function.





Below: The M400's standard features include a chrome-lined bolt carrier and a properly staked gas key. It comes with a lowered and polished feed ramp and a supported extractor.







We used a Nikon M-223 scope to shoot accuracy groups, but the M400 came with sights. Left, the front post is an "F"-marked style; right, the MagPul BUIS looked durable and functioned as we expected. The big aperture is for CQB work.

Action	Semi-Auto Direct Impingement Gas Operated w/Locking Bolt
Overall Length	35.6 in.
Length w/Stock Collapsed	32.3 in.
Overall Height	7.8 in.
Barrel Length	16 in. Long/1:7 Twist 6 Grooves, Nitride Treated
Flash Suppressor	A2 Style
Weight w/out Mag	6.7 lbs.
Length of Pull	Adjustable
Magazine	MagPul 30-Rd. P-Mag
Upper Receiver	Flat-Top Picatinny Rail
Lower Receiver	7075-T6 Aircraft Grade Aluminum
Stock	MagPul MOE Telescoping
Forend	MagPul MOE
Grip	MagPul MOE
Trigger-Pull Weight	7.6 lbs.
Rear Sight	MagPul Adj. Flip-Up
Front Sight	"F" Marked
Trigger Pull Weight	6.75 lbs.
Warranty	Limited Lifetime
Telephone	(603) 610-3000
Website	SIGSauer.com
Made In	USA
CA Compliant	No
MA, NJ, CT Compliant	No

SIG SAUER 516 PATROL R516G2-16B-P 223 REM/ 5.56X45MM NATO, $1719

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

This was the second-most accurate rifle in the test. Like the M400, we had magazine-insertion and release problems that knocked it down a grade.



Action	Semi-Auto Short-Stroke Pushrod, Rotating Bolt, 4-Pos. Gas Regulator
Overall Length	35.7 in.
Length w/Stock Collapsed	32.3 in.
Overall Height	7.8 in.
Barrel	16 in. Long/1:7 Twist, Free Floated, 6 Grooves, Chrome Lined, Nitride Treated
Flash Suppressor	A2 Style
Weight w/out Mag	7.3 lbs.
Length of Pull	Adjustable
Magazine	(1) Mil-Spec Alum. 30-Rd.
Upper Receiver	Flat-Top Picatinny Rail
Lower Receiver	7075-T6 Aircraft Grade Aluminum
Stock	SIG 6-Pos. Telescoping
Forend	SIG Picatinny Quad Rail
Grip	SIG Pistol Grip
Trigger-Pull Weight	7.6 lbs. (Mil-Spec)
Rear Sight	SIG Adj. Flip-Up
Front Sight	SIG Flip-Up
Warranty	Limited Lifetime
Telephone	(603) 610-3000
Website	SIGSauer.com
Made In	USA
CA Compliant	No
MA, NJ, CT Compliant	No

The 516 Patrol ships with a mil-spec aluminum magazine, pictured below. The heavy trigger likely contributed to its not-quite-as-good accuracy results.





The 516 Patrol utilizes the same lower as the M400, so the ambidextrous mag release was the same (arrow). Like the M400, the 516 also suffered several failures to feed after mag changes. The problem could not be diagnosed for certain, but it seemed to us to be related to the ambidextrous mag release. The ambi mag release is an add-on to the conventional mag-release system; instead of pushing the release spring, it pulls the spring, which possibly hinders the mag release.



The front end of the 516's upper is sleek and compact, even though it contains a 4-position adjustable gas valve. Underneath, the gas system was engineered down to two pieces. This makes field cleaning a breeze, we found out.

It seems to us that in this area, SIG didn't take any chances. They designed an upper with a sleek, compact 4-position adjustable gas valve, short-stroke pushrod gas system, to push the bolt carrier rearward and cycle the action. The whole system was engineered down to two pieces: The gas valve, gas cylinder, and gas tube are all one piece, and the piston, Op rod, recoil spring and pushrod are all one piece. This makes field cleaning a breeze. The system runs from the gas block down the length of the barrel where the pushrod protrudes from the upper receiver. It's almost an identical foot print with the direct impingement gas Op system found in the M400. Breakdown was as simple as depressing the detent in the gas block, unscrewing the gas valve and sliding it out of the gas block. Then slide the Op rod spring assembly out. The main area of wear and dirt is the valve/cylinder and the piston end of the Op rod assembly. The pushrod end of the assembly stays pretty clean. The valve settings are for normal shooting, suppressed shooting, single shot, and off. During our trials, the system ran flawlessly and we found no unusual wear on any parts. This system ran the cleanest, we believe.

In the 556 there's a 2-position adjustable gas valve, reduced stroke, piston operating rod system, engineered by Swiss Arms, SIG's sister company. This system operates on the same principles as the short-stroke system, but there are some notable differences. The system is engineered to three pieces, a valve/cylinder with a separate gas tube and a piston/Op rod/recoil spring assembly. The parts are larger and heavier. Also, this system is similar to the AK design in that the Op rod spring assembly is mechanically mated to the bolt carrier, utilizing the charging handle as a locking key to secure the union. During the cycling of the action, as the Op rod travels back, the bolt carrier is pushed rearward. When the rod returns under spring pressure, the



Top to bottom are parts for the 556 SWAT Patrol Rifle, the 516 Patrol, and the M400 Enhanced.



Top: The 556's reduced-stroke piston system operates on the same principles as the short-stroke system in the 516, with some differences. The system is engineered to three pieces, a valve/cylinder with a separate gas tube and a piston/Op rod/recoil spring assembly. The parts are larger and heavier.

Middle: A short-stroke pushrod gas system like on the 516 Patrol typically has six main parts, a gas block, a gas cylinder, a gas tube, a piston attached to one end of the main Op rod, and a recoil spring. Gas is directed from the barrel through the gas block into the gas cylinder, which drives the piston, operating rod, and bolt carrier group rearward.

Bottom: The M400's direct-gas-impingement system was a tube plumbed from the front sight gas block down the length of the barrel and poking through the upper receiver. In this system, gas is directed from the barrel through the gas block, through the gas tube directly into the bolt carrier key, which drives the bolt carrier to the rear, cycling the action. During our test, the system worked flawlessly but ran the dirtiest.

bolt carrier is pulled back into battery. Accordingly, field cleaning was more involved in the 556. The charging handle has to be removed by depressing a spring-loaded catch release on the side of the bolt carrier. This releases the bolt carrier from the Op rod assembly. Then depress the spring-loaded detent in the gas block and unscrew the gas valve from the gas block. Remove the Op rod assembly and gas tube. The main area of wear and dirt is the piston and the valve/cylinder. The valve settings are for normal shooting, and there's a setting for when the system gets dirty and there is reduced recoil. Choosing this larger port will allow additional gas flow for increased recoil. During our trials, this system ran flawlessly. We found no unusual wear on any parts. In our opinion, the 556's gas system ran dirtier than the short-stroke system of the 516.

At The Range

Each gun fired 266 rounds of ammo in accuracy and chrono testing and fired to an empty mag between groups. At the range, we noted mag release and insertion problems and also the bolt-hold open and bolt- release button, and these functions were tested an additional 50 times under live fire. We used the same 20-round MagPul mag was used throughout testing.

For this test, we fired and reported both four-round and five-round groups because we noticed a sizable difference that a final fifth shot was making, and we thought it was interesting to report the variations between the two group sizes. We noted as little as a 0.31-inch difference in group size, but more often saw much larger variations in group sizes — as much as 1.25 and 1.31 inches. All three guns shot sub-MOA four-shot groups with the Hornady rounds. Any number of reasons for the differences could come into play, but barrel heating is as good a guess as any.

As shown in the Range Data table on page 7, the M400 narrowly shot the tightest 5-shot groups with all four ammo types, with the Hornady 55-grain HP NATO 5.56 ammo delivering the tightest group average at 1.35 inches. Also, the ammo achieved a 1.44-inch average across all three guns. The second-best-performing ammo in the M400 was the Tula 223 55-grain FMJ steel case (1.80 inches), while the ammo averaged 1.88 inches overall. Shooting the Federal Lake City M855 NATO 5.56, the M400 achieved 2.25-inch groups, with a three-gun average of 2.26 inches. The Serbian SS109 NATO 5.56 62-grain round a averaged 2.78-inch groups in the M400, with a three-gun average of 3.04-inch groups.

Using the Hornady, Tula, and Federal rounds, the 516 Patrol was practically as accurate as the M400 — just hundredths of an inch separated those two ammunition brands. The 556 SWAT Patrol's groups were around a bullet width larger than the other two rifles with the Hornady, Tula, and Federal rounds. The 556 SWAT's groups were about two bullet widths larger than the M400 with the Serbian ammo.

SIG SAUER 556 SWAT PATROL RIFLE R556-16B-PS-RD
223 REM/5.56X45MM NATO, $1399
GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The least accurate rifle in the test by about a bullet width per ammo, the 556 nonetheless had no feeding issues or any other function problems. Also, its folding stock gave it an edge in maneuverability in close quarters or when exiting a vehicle.





The 556 side-folding stock decreases the overall length of the gun to 27.1 inches, 5 inches shorter than the M400 and 516's shortest lengths.





We didn't like the ambidextrous safety selector switch on the 556. It was machined with sharp contours and sat about an eighth of an inch further forward than on an AR. That made for a noticeably longer reach and the sharp contours were uncomfortable.

Action	Semi-Auto Reduced Length Gas Piston w/ 2-Pos. Gas Valve, Rotating Bolt
Overall Length	35.875 in.
Length w/Stock Folded	27.1 in.
Overall Height	7.8 in.
Barrel	16 in. Long/1:7 Twist, Free Floated, 6 Grooves, Chrome Lined, Nitride Treated
Flash Suppressor	A2 Style
Weight w/out Mag	7.5 lbs.
Length of Pull	14.4 in.
Magazine	(1) Mil-Spec Alum. 30-Rd.
Upper Receiver	Flat-Top Picatinny Rail
Lower Receiver	7075-T6 Aircraft Grade Aluminum
Stock	Swiss Type Folding
Forend	Reduced Length Alloy Picatinny Quad Rail
Grip	SIG Pistol Grip
Trigger-Pull Weight	7.5 lbs. (Two Stage)
Rear Sight	Rotary Diopter Sight System
Front Sight	Flip-Up
Sight Radius	14.4 in
Warranty	Limited Lifetime
Telephone	(603) 610-3000
Website	SIGSauer.com
Made In	USA
CA Compliant	No
MA, NJ, NY, CT Compliant	Model Available



Mounting the Nikon M-223 scope required removing the Rotary Diopter Sight System, above. The RDSS has a large "V" notch, which combined with the large shrouded front-sight post, made target acquisition easy, even in low light.

Performance and Functionality

Our shooters noticed the M400 was the lightest rifle at 6.7 pounds, and they noted it was the easiest to set up and shoot from the bench. The MagPul hand guards have a smooth, low profile, allowing the M400 to settle into the sandbags nicely. The scope mounted on top of the receiver without difficulty, though we did notice the mount was a bit low and did not allow clearance between the scope and rear sights for the flip-up lens cover. The direct impingement gas system cycled the action without any malfunctions. The bolt hold open and bolt release worked every time; however, mag release and insertions stumbled a bit. The M400 and the 516 had several failures to feed after inserting a loaded mag, and this failure seemed to occur when using the ambidextrous mag release.

The ambidextrous mag release works like a lever and fulcrum. It is a modified add on to the conventional mag-release system; instead of pushing the release spring, it pulls the spring. The range of travel is noticeably shorter and slightly canted, possibly hindering the mag release to properly retract. This may have affected proper seating of the mag. Also, the ambidextrous mag release was mistakenly depressed several times instead of the bolt release lever. The two controls are oriented next to each other; activation of the wrong control was easy to do. This was not considered a malfunction, rather user error. The mag was ruled out to be the cause of any failure to feed since it went on to test the 556 in the final gun test without any issues. The 7.5-pound trigger of the M400 was predictable and consistent and broke well for a mil-spec single stage trigger.

The 516 Patrol weighed in at 7.3 pounds. Set up on the sand bags required the use of the lower rail guard to avoid rupturing sand bags. It also had the same scope-mounting issues as the M400. The 516 Patrol utilizes the same lower as the M400, utilizing the same ambidextrous mag

release and mil-spec single stage trigger. The 516 also suffered several failures to feed during mag changes. The problem could not be verified, but as previously stated, the problem seemed to be related to the ambidextrous mag release. The short stroke pushrod gas system cycled well with no noticeable improvements or difficulties with recoil. The trigger felt a bit gritty, but did not pose any difficulties.

The 556 SWAT Patrol weighed in at 7.5 pounds, the heaviest of the three guns. The 556 shot the largest groups, but to its credit, it shot the first time, every time, without any failures. Mounting the 13-inch-long Nikon M-223 scope required the removal of the RDSS Rotary Diopter Sight System. The reduced stroke gas system cycled the gun flawlessly, and there was no noticeably heavier recoil. The bolt hold open and mag release functions operated without issue. The two-stage adjustable trigger was smooth and broke nicely. Notable was the ambidextrous safety selector switch, which was machined with sharp contours, and mounts approximately 0.125 inch more forward than on the AR platform. It was a noticeably longer reach, and the sharp contours were uncomfortable, our shooters said. Manipulation of the selector switch was required prior to settling into a shooting position. Shooters with longer thumbs would not experience this as a negative issue.

In a mock CQB trial, we tested maneuvering in standard 40-inch hallways and moving throughout a furnished house. The guns were tested with BUIS for target acquisition and shouldered. The M400 and the 516 (with their stocks collapsed) measured 32.5 inches, which made maneuvering in hallways easy. The M400 was the lightest of the three guns, so supporting the M400 at the ready for extended periods was easy.

Our Team Said

All three guns were well made, and in our experience, their quality was on par for commercial production guns. Our first pick from this trio was the SIG 556 SWAT Patrol Rifle R556-16B-PS-RDMSRP, $1399. Simply put, it shot the first time all the time. Also, although the 556 is the heaviest and longest of the three guns, it had two additional advantages over the M400 and 516. The RDSS Rotary Diopter Sight System is designed with a large "V" notch, which combined with the large shrouded front sight post, made target acquisition easy in low lighting. The second advantage was in confined areas less than a 40-inch hallway. The 556 side-folding stock allows you to decrease the overall length of the gun to 27.1 inches, making the 556 a full 5 inches shorter than the M400 and 516's shortest achievable length. This feature was most notable entering and exiting a vehicle.

The SIG M400 Enhanced RM400-16B-EC, $1234, and the SIG 516 Patrol R516G2-16B-P, $1719 lost points for their failures to feed and the accidental mag releases we experienced. Assuming its function problems could be resolved, the M400 would make a great ranch rifle or home-defense solution; its lightweight, optic-ready design is simple to operate with minimal moving parts. MagPul offers simple-to-install rail kits for adding accessories.

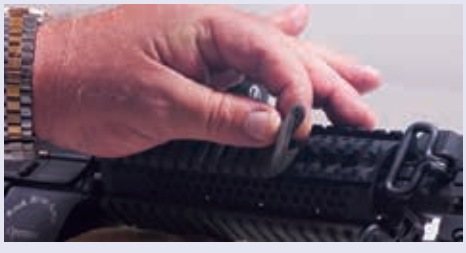
The 516 Patrol brings you the latest technology, with its reliable variable-setting short-stroke pushrod gas system and free-float quad rails. It's out of the box ready to accept any accessory you want to add.

Written and photographed by Rafael Urista, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers.* **GT**

TWO UNDER $25

We've recently bought a pair of inexpensive items for ARs that have delivered a lot of bang for the buck.

Quad rails like those on the accompanying SIGs are great, but they're not always comfortable to handle without gloves. **Magpul's Ladder Rail Panel** (#12-1028458, $11.35 at CheaperThanDirt.com) offers a low-profile, no-slip grip surface that you can tailor to your accessories package with a pair of scissors. These OD Green ones are shown on a Rock River Operator, but they come in several colors.



Some of us don't like a hard cheekweld on an AR stock when we are shooting a long time or when we are trying to shoot a scoped rifle for accuracy. For some, it's more difficult to regulate heavy cheek pressure on the gun, so being able to back off how hard the cheek presses the stock can improve accuracy off the bench. The **ProMag AR-15 Flat-Top Scope Riser** (#2-PM066, $23.70 at CheaperThanDirt.com) scope riser allows optics to be raised three-quarters of an inch above a flat-top rail. Because the riser is quick detachable with Picatinny rails, it's possible to keep a scope mounted on the riser and put on and take off the whole unit as one piece. With the twist of two thumb screws, the riser provides proper scope height without having to use extra-high rings.



The full-length spring-loaded locking bar seats firmly on the top rail and is reasonably zeroed as long as it goes on and off at the same T-mark. **GT**

1911s: Buy New or Used? We Test Three 45 ACPs to Find Out

We pitted a pricey (when new) SIG C3 versus the American Classic Commander and the Rock Island Armory Tactical II. Outcome: It's easier to make a silk purse out of silk.

Many of us fancy a 1911 for defense use. The problem is that top-quality 1911 handguns are becoming increasingly expensive. Finding a quality new 1911 from well-known makers like SIG Sauer, Kimber, or Springfield at a fair price isn't easy. And on the used market, you have to be careful not to buy a pig in a poke. Used pistols are not always what they seem, and some defects are more difficult to discover during the first appraisal. The question that we are attempting to answer this month is this — given a finite amount of cash, should we purchase a used SIG or a new Philippine 1911? The only way to answer this one is to obtain examples, work them out on the range, and do a careful comparison of features. There are intangibles such as pride of ownership and longevity that are difficult to qualify with less than a thousand rounds through each pistol. But if you are looking for a solid 45 ACP workhorse to defend the home, a used handgun just may be the best bet. To examine the premise of a quality used handgun against a new economy handgun, we tested a used SIG Sauer 1911 C3 #1911CO-45-T-C3, ~$650, against the American Classic ACC45B, $515, and the Rock Island Tactical II Compact #51479, $590.

Why compact handguns? Many of us believe that a 1911 45 Auto is the best mix of controllability and wound potential available in a handgun. A criticism of the 1911 Government Model that is difficult to argue against is that the piece is long and heavy. It is thin, however, and with a bit of intelligent design and proper execution, a compact version of the 1911 is an ideal carry gun for those who practice. The American Classic is a Commander-length handgun. The RIA pistol is an Officer's Model length with abbreviated grip frame as well. Splitting the difference, the SIG C3 features a Commander-length slide and Officer's Model frame. We might also learn if one frame size is superior to the other for concealed carry.



The American Classic, left, was comfortable to fire and was accurate enough when it functioned. The American Classic and the SIG, right, have similar features, but function was not equal. Below, this was a common malfunction in the AC.





The SIG C3 handled well on the range. The Commander-length slide gives good hit mechanics. The SIG's short grip offers good concealment.

SIG Sauer 1911 C3 1911CO-45-T-C3
45 ACP, ~$650

As we noted, the C3's grip frame is the Officer's Model type, which means that it holds six shots. It is shorter than the Government Model frame, and this means better concealment. The pistol is lighter than the Government Model as well. The slightly shorter slide is a compromise length that maintains a reasonable sight

radius for accuracy while clearing leather sharply and handling more quickly overall.

A close examination of the C3 shows good attention to detail and high quality manufacturing. Beginning with the handle, the issue grips are excellent examples of purpose-designed concealed carry grips. They are thin enough for ease of concealment and the grip checkering gives excellent adhesion. In our example, the previous owner had fitted Hogue grips. We cannot fault this choice. They gave excellent hand fit. The beavertail grip safety felt right in the hand and was properly fitted, releasing its hold on the trigger about half way into compression. It isn't always noticed, but a poorly designed and badly fitted beavertail grip safety may be counterproductive and increase trigger reach.

Elsewhere, the mainspring housing was steel, which we like. The front strap was checkered. It wasn't true custom grade work, but it served the purpose.

In a test of the sharp edges found on the pistol, the C3 rated high, with little to no snag. This is important on a handgun to be carried under covering garments. The Novak Low Mount sights were excellent. The front sight was dovetailed in place, and the rear sight was anchored by a set screw. The C3 featured a lowered ejection port in the popular fashion and the proven SIG external extractor. The slide was matte stainless in contrast with the anodized aluminum frame. The slide was the distinctive SIG profile similar to the P-series slide. This is done for several reasons. There is little means at our disposal to discover if the design is stronger, but it is different and meant to give the pistol a similar look to the recognizable P220, P226, and P229 series. A drawback is that this slide doesn't fit all 1911 holsters. Most, but not all, makers offer SIG-specific holsters. Our Ross IWB holster, a top-quality holster from South Africa, accommodated the SIG. Our holster guru tells us that many supple leather holsters will accommodate the SIG

SIG SAUER 1911 C3 1911C0-45-T-C3
45 ACP, ~$650 (USED)
GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Listed new at $1042, the SIG C3 has a lot going for it. The pistol is just the right size, with the Commander length slide on an Officer's Model frame. The pistol handles well. It proved to be flawlessly reliable and was the single most accurate pistol tested. If there is a downside, it is that the C3 generated the greatest felt recoil, but then it is the only aluminum frame pistol tested. If you can find a used example in good shape, buy it.

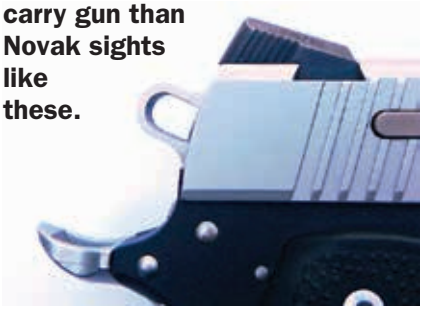
Action	Locked Breech Single-Action Semi-Auto
Overall Length	7.75 in.
Overall Height	4.8 in.
Maximum Width	1.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	29.5 oz.
Weight Loaded	34.5 oz.
Barrel Length	4.25 in.
Barrel	Steel 1:16 Twist
Magazine	7-Rd. Detachable Box
Slide	Stainless
Frame	Anodized Aluminum
Frame Front Strap Height	2.1 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	2.7 in.
Grips	Hogue
Grip Thickness (max)	1.5 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.5 in.
Sights	Novak
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	4.75 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.4 in.
Safety	Slide Lock Safety, Grip Safety
Warranty	Limited Lifetime
Telephone	(603) 610-3000
Website	SIGSauer.com
Made In	Newington, NH

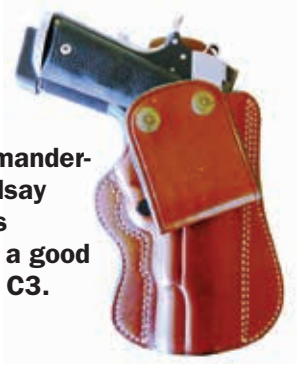




Right: The C3 proved reliable with every magazine and ammunition combination tested. The C3's stainless slide is great for a carry gun that will be worn close to the body.

There is no better choice for a carry gun than Novak sights like these.





The Commander-sized Lindsay John Ross holster is a good fit for the C3.

and work well after a modest break in period. But after this break in, they will be a loose fit for any other 1911 handgun.

The pistol features a positive firing-pin lock of the Series 80 type. Trigger compression was smooth and crisp at 4.75 pounds. It felt a bit lighter, possibly due to the leverage of the long trigger. The pistol handled well and cleared leather quickly. The sight picture with the Novak sights was excellent. The shorter frame was no drawback, we felt, and did not feel uncomfortable when firing. If the shooter uses a firm two-hand hold and the proper shooting stance, firing from the Weaver or a strong Isosceles, the pistol is controllable. And this control in combat-type shooting is really what we are looking for. The balance with the Commander length slide was exceptional.

As for absolute accuracy, the SIG was the winner. While it was accurate with all three loads tested, like all handguns the C3 preferred one load to the other. The pistol uses the original barrel-bushing design rather than bushing-less lockup. This works out well in this case, as the handgun seems more accurate than we are able to hold. The pistol did well from bench rest testing. Recoil was noticeably stronger with the C3 than a Government Model, but not uncomfortably so. It kicked more than the other two handguns tested, our testers said. Since this is a lightweight defensive handgun, we avoided the heavy 230-grain +P loads in favor of reliable practice and defense loads. The single most accurate loading was the Fiocchi 230-grain Extrema, with a five-shot group average less than 2 inches. None of the loads strayed over the 2.5-inch mark — very consistent, we thought.

Our Team Said: The SIG C3 is well worth its price. In this case, we were able to obtain a flawless gem of a used gun for a very good price. The SIG gets a solid A rating. If you can find one close to this price, buy it and you will not regret it. The only thing it gave up to the other pistols was that the C3 has more felt recoil, a product of its lighter weight.

ROCK ISLAND ARMORY TACTICAL II COMPACT 51479 45 ACP, $591

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The RIA has features that allow this little pugnosed 45 to shoot like a big gun. The fit of the barrel, the safety, and trigger compression are all excellent. The RIA has the shortest barrel of these three pistols, and the only adjustable sights. We experienced a nagging malfunction that may be part of the break-in period. As a result, the pistol is rated down a grade.



This Lindsay John Ross IWB holster is an excellent design well suited to the SIG C3.



The Rock Island Tactical II is supplied with a single magazine. Two would be better.

Action	Locked Breech Single-Action Semi-Auto
Overall Length	7.0
Overall Height	4.8 in.
Maximum Width	1.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	32 oz.
Weight Loaded	37 oz.
Barrel Length	3.5 in.
Barrel	Steel 1:16 Twist
Magazine Capacity	6
Slide	Parkerized
Frame	Parkerized
Frame Front Strap Height	2.1 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	2.7 in.
Grips	G10
Grip Thickness (max)	1.5 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.5 in.
Rear Sight	Adjustable
Front Sight	Fiber Optic
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	6.5 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.4 in.
Safety	Slide Lock Safety, Grip Safety
Warranty	Limited Lifetime
Website	Armscor.com
Telephone	(775) 537-1444
Made In	Philippines





A combination of a credible adjustable rear sight and a bright fiber-optic front sight gave excellent results.

Rock Island Tactical II Compact #51479
45 ACP, $590

Purchased from Cheaper Than Dirt, the newest Rock Island pistol was an elevated example of the original GI type "Rock." This version is a true Officer's Model with 3.5-inch barrel and short grip frame. While Armscor has long offered a tactical version of the GI 1911 with Novak-type sights, the newest pistol seems better finished, tighter, and better appointed. The finish was the same dull Parkerized exterior that is serviceable, if not exciting.

The pistol was fitted with a set of VZ G10 grips. The contrast to the dark finish was pleasing to the eye. The grips afforded a practiced shooter excellent adhesion when firing this short 45. There was a modest magazine well that proved to be an aid in rapidly changing magazines. The trigger and hammer were each skeletonized in tactical fashion. The beavertail grip safety was well made and released the trigger about halfway through compression.

The pistol was the only one tested that featured an ambidextrous safety. This safety design was a good one, with excellent support on the right side of the frame. The safety indent was the tightest of the three. The mushy feel of the American Classic, in particular, suffered in comparison. A good tight safety isn't likely to rub off in a tightly fitted holster. We confirmed this by wearing the RIA Tactical II in a well-turned-out IWB design from Jason Winnie. This proved to be a good combination. The RIA pistol seemed to be the faster from leather of the three pistols. Trigger compression was smooth and crisp at 5.25 pounds. This trigger exhibited little take-up and no creep. The sights were particularly improved compared to earlier RIA pistols. The front sight was a red fiber optic. One of the raters noted that he did not care for such sights when he was young. He preferred a solid black front post for the well-defined sight picture he preferred. Now over 50, he appreciates the red front sight. In any case, for rapid target acquisition the fiber-optic front sight received high grades. The fully adjustable rear sight also received high marks, but only after an acclimation period. This is subjective, but most shooters prefer a high-profile fixed sight for defense use. The RIA is accurate enough to make use of an adjustable sight if the sight proves durable. As delivered, the sight was in its highest position and the point of impact was 4 inches higher than the point of aim at 15 yards. The adjustment screw would not back down and lower the sight. Before we rated the pistol down on this regard, one of the raters discovered that the rear leaf has a little spring, or give in it. Rather than using a mechanical advantage and gears, the single screw works against a rear leaf that is basically spring loaded. By first depressing the rear leaf, we were able to run the set screw in all the way. Next, it was a simple matter to move the screw slightly to set the sights for elevation. The sight isn't a Bo-Mar, but it works fine once you understand the operation.

It is good to have a pistol that functions right out of the box. Malfunctions, even one, means that we will expend more ammunition tracing the malfunction down. It is magazine related? Ammunition related? A fault of the pistol? The RIA pistol never failed to feed, chamber, or fire. However, it did fail to eject. A cartridge was left in the chamber on one occasion during the first 50 rounds. The nose of the following round butted into it. This was the only malfunction. A break in malfunction, perhaps, in a brand-new pistol, and perhaps even ammunition related, but not welcome. The extractor appeared to exhibit the proper tension and the hook appeared sharp. Just the same, the SIG C3 did not exhibit any malfunctions of any type with the same ammunition.

RANGE DATA

Fiocchi Extrema 230-gr. Jacketed HP	**SIG Sauer C3 Tactical II**	**Americant Classic Commander**	**Rock Island Armory**
Average Velocity	809 fps	780 fps	770 fps
Muzzle Energy	334 ft-lbs	310 ft-lbs	302 ft-lbs
Average Group Size	1.8 in.	2.6 in.	2.4 in.
Remington HTP 230-gr. JHP	**SIG Sauer C3 Tactical II**	**American Classic Commander**	**Rock Island Armory**
Average Velocity	775 fps	759 fps	780 fps
Muzzle Energy	306 ft-lbs	294 ft-lbs	310 ft-lbs
Average Group Size	2.1 in.	2.5 in.	2.6 in.
HPR 230-gr. Total Metal Jacket	**SIG Sauer C3 Tactical II**	**American Classic Commander**	**Rock Island Armory**
Average Velocity	849 fps	822 fps	793 fps
Muzzle Energy	368 ft-lbs	345 ft-lbs	321 ft-lbs
Average Group Size	2.0 in.	2.4 in.	2.5 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired three five-shot groups from a sandbag rest at 25 yards. To capture velocity data, we used an Competition Electronics chronograph with the first skyscreen set 10 feet from the muzzle.

Sources: Fiocchi Extrema 45 ACP 230-grain Hornady XTP JHP 45XTP25 $18/25 (Midway USA #748441); Remington HTP 230-grain JHP RTP45AP7 $39.43/50 (CheaperThanDirt.com #2-REMRTP45AP7); HPR 230-grain 45230TMJ FMJ $33.24/50 (CheaperThanDirt.com #12-0316215).

AMERICAN CLASSIC ACC45B 45 ACP, $506

GUN TESTS GRADE: D

The American Classic Commander-length 1911 held promise. Trigger compression was good, and the fit of the controls was reasonably good. However, the pistol failed to feed reliably. It could probably be made to function reliably, but why try in an entry-level handgun?







The AC's sights are similar to Novaks, but Classic sight's design makes the sight radius slightly shorter. This should not matter at combat distances. The beavertail safety functioned properly, but it must be fully depressed to release the trigger. We prefer a slightly earlier release.

Action	Semi-Auto Locked Breech Single Action
Overall Length	7.75 in.
Overall Height	5.3 in.
Maximum Width	1.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	36 oz.
Weight Loaded	41 oz.
Barrel Length	4.25 in.
Barrel	Steel 1:16 Twist
Magazine Capacity	8
Slide	Blue Steel
Frame	Blue Steel
Frame Front Strap Height	2.6 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.2 in.
Grips	Checkered Wood
Grip Thickness (max)	1.5 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.5 in.
Sights	Low Mount
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	5.5 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.4 in.
Safety	Slide Lock Safety, Grip Safety
Warranty	1 Year
Telephone	(732) 493-0302
Email	info@Bersa.com
Made In	Philippines



The American Classic pistol had the makings of a good handgun at an affordable price, but it just would not run. Attention to the feed ramp is needed, in our opinion.





Left: Installation of the front sight was excellent. Right: The hammer had a lattice-work design in the interior. The grips were thin and lightly checkered.

The RIA 45 exhibited good practical accuracy. The pistol cleared leather quickly, and we liked the results on man-sized silhouette targets. The RIA compact kicked less than the C3 due to its slightly greater weight, and the balance of the short slide and steel frame added to the pistol's comfort. Muzzle flip was more than the SIG, and that is a trade-off. The American Classic kicked less and was more accurate by a margin, and would have proven more consistently accurate, we believe, without the cessation during firing some of the groups. The Rock Island Tactical II does not incorporate a firing-pin block into the action.

Our Team Said: The RIA pistol has features the American Classic does not, including a magazine well and an ambidextrous safety. More important, the Rock Island Armory gun worked. The C3 bested the RIA on overall performance, and exhibited flawless reliability. But if you like a fully adjustable rear sight and fiber-optic front sight, the RIA has a lot going for it. In the end we had to rate the RIA down a point due to the single malfunction. Compared to a new SIG at $1042, we would have to consider the RIA, but at $60 less than the used SIG, the RIA comes out in second place.

American Classic Commander #ACC45B, $515

Also purchased from Cheaper Than Dirt!, the American Classic Commander is a true Commander-size pistol. The slide and barrel are the same length as the C3, but the frame is the same height as a Government Model. The American Classic is a steel-frame pistol, so it is heavier than the C3, at 35.5 ounces versus 29 ounces for the C3. Still, the Commander is a popular concealed-carry handgun, and the American Classic had promise.

Our raters said the pistol was well finished. There were internal tool marks, but the overall fit, finish, and feel met our testers' critical standards. The slide rolled over the locking lugs smoothly. The trigger compression was heavier than the C3 at 5.5 pounds; however, it is lighter than a number of expensive 1911

handguns we have tested. Trigger compression was smooth with little creep. The fit of the barrel bushing was on the tight end of finger tight. The sights are not quite Novak sights, but similar. The design makes the sight radius slightly shorter than a Novak fitted to the same slide length, because the rear posts begin just a bit more muzzle forward than the Novak. This should not matter at combat distances. The front post was dovetailed in, and the rear sight was drift adjustable. The ejection port was lowered for positive ejection and superior administrative handling. The beavertail safety functioned properly, but it must be fully depressed to release the trigger. We prefer a slightly earlier release.

The hammer was rather odd in appearance, with a lattice-work design in the interior. The safety indented properly, but it was not as tight as the C3 and was considerably looser than the Rock Island. There was no firing-pin block. The extractor and ejector seemed properly fitted. The grips were OK for an economy grade handgun, thin and lightly checkered. The pistol was supplied with a single ACT MAG magazine. The slide lock was the extended type we have come to despise on carry guns.

However, in this case we were able to keep our fingers out of the way of the slide lock, and the pistol functioned normally as far as that goes. In one case we did allow the support thumb to lock the pistol open during a firing string by hitting the extended slide lock.

As we have often mentioned, during initial range work and in combat firing exercises, we use a variety of ammunition and magazines, and we often use loads for the benchrest firing to get the best absolute accuracy. As an example, the piece may be fired primarily with inexpensive ball ammunition for combat practice and fired with a number of JHP loads left over from other tests to confirm reliability. Since the pistol was supplied with a single ACT magazine, we added Wilson Combat and Metalform magazines to the test, mixing magazines with different loads. The American Classic Commander suffered six malfunctions in the first 50 rounds. Each showed a cartridge sitting nose down against the feed ramp malfunction, or a failure to feed with the nose of the JHP bullet banging against the feed ramp. Half occurred when attempting to load the first round, half occurred during firing strings.

The ammunition included the Remington 230-grain HTC Subsonic, Remington 185-grain Golden Saber, HPR 230-grain JHP and HPR FMJ. The single malfunction with ball ammunition was a nose down against the feed ramp. We cannot recall seeing a 1911 of any type suffer such a malfunction with ball ammunition. However, with seven magazines fired, three of the magazines showed no malfunctions. The malfunctions were experienced with the ACT Mag, Wilson Combat, and Metalform magazines. The magazines that did not malfunction were Wilson Combat. This is completely unacceptable in any firearm but particularly one destined for personal defense. In dry runs, we did find that locking the slide back and releasing the slide caused the most malfunctions. By loading the magazine and then racking the slide, the pistol fed reliably, but we still encountered firing-string malfunctions.



Perhaps the best single feature of the RIA pistol is the VZ grips. They offer excellent fit and gripping surface. The other pistols would have been improved had they worn such grips.

The pistol seemed accurate enough when it ran, so we went ahead with bench rest accuracy testing. A combination of good sights and a fair trigger gave good results. The most accurate combination was the Remington 230-grain HTC Subsonic, with a 2.5-inch 25-yard group. However, sight regulation could have been better. While dead on for windage, the pistol's point of impact was 2 inches lower than the point of aim. We could have filed the front sight to regulate the point of impact, but it wasn't worth the trouble. During the bench rest testing, we carefully prepped the pistol as described by racking the slide over a loaded magazine. The magazines were loaded with the five rounds fired during the string.

Three five shot groups were fired with each of the three loads, for 45 rounds, and we used the magazines that had previously not exhibited a malfunction. We suffered two additional hangups, one with the Remington 230-grain HTC and one with the HPR loading. Accuracy might have been better on average without the need to clear the pistol and fire again.

Our Team Said: All our shooters liked the balance and heft. They said the sights were good, and the beavertail safety and the slide-lock safety operated as designed. Trigger compression was good, and accuracy wasn't bad. But the malfunctions were unacceptable. Folks purchasing an inexpensive 1911 are probably on a budget and are not looking for a project gun — just a reliable one. The American Classic we tested wasn't reliable. The only reason it did not receive an F grade was because it isn't unsafe.

Written and photographed by R.K. Campbell, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers.* **GT**

Reflex Sights for Carry Guns: Leupold Bests Trijicon, Burris

We learned there are some pretty good reasons not to add a reflex sight to your EDC gun — price, increased height, and battery life to name three. But the pros may outweigh the cons.

Adding a red-dot reflex sight to a carry pistol has pros and cons. First, the cons. The total cost of the weapon system nearly doubles as the sights are almost as expensive as the pistol, the sights have a larger footprint than the typical rear sight, battery life must be monitored, and foul weather can diminish the capability of the sight. The pros are the sights offer faster target acquisition and ease of aiming. The ability to shoot faster and more accurately in situations under 25 yards are strong reasons to make the switch from iron sights to a reflex sight, so we wanted to investigate mounting a reflex sight on a pistol to see how a reflex sight would work on a carry gun. We chose a Glock 20 Gen 4 as our test platform for two reasons. Glocks are popular pistols among LE and civilians and because the G20 is chambered in 10mm, which has comparable power to a 41 Magnum. We wanted to rattle the innards of these tiny sights to see if anything would fall out, get loose, or go out of zero. Even though the G20 is a full-size pistol, we have found that with the proper holster, like those from Bravo Concealment, and a concealing garment, the G20 can be invisible to the untrained eye.

A reflex sight allows an operator to keep both eyes open and view a target through a small curved glass lens, which has a reticle projected onto it. A light-emitting diode projects a red dot, amber chevron, or other aiming point, giving the operator an unlimited field of view since there is no magnification and the aiming point projects out to infinity. This means that parallax will not affect sighting; place the aiming point on a target, and if zeroed properly, the target will be hit. Think of them as mini heads-up displays for your pistol.







Competitive shooters have been using red-dot sights on their pistols for more than 20 years. Red dots and other low-power optics are the norm on current military carbines. The next logical progression is putting these optics on carry pistols. Red-dot reflex sights like the Trijicon RMR ($577), Leupold DeltaPoint ($565), and Burris FastFire III ($250) are touted as compact and rugged, but do they make a conceal carry handgun better? Above right: The Kydex Bravo Concealment Patriot holster is a good option to conceal-carry a full-size pistol. Right: Reflex sights are made to be used with both eyes open and offer fast target acquisition. The reflex sights quickly became second nature. Note: This photo was shot with an unloaded gun and a timer on the camera. No person was downrange.

There are two ways to attach the sight to a pistol. One option is to mill an area near the rear sight on the slide and drill and tap it to mount the sight. This option allows

RED-DOT SPECIFICATIONS



Model	Trijicon RMR Dual Illuminated RM04	Burris FastFireIII 300234	Leupold Delta Point Reflex Sight 66135
Price	$577	$250	$565
Magnification	1x	1.07x	1x
Sight Window	0.9 x 0.6 in.	0.8 x 0.6 in.	1.0 x 0.8in.
Length	1.8 in.	1.9 in.	1.6 in.
Width	1.2 in.	1.0 in.	1.2 in.
Height	1.0 in.	1.0 in.	1.1 in.
Weight	1.2 oz.	0.9 oz.	0.6 oz.
Reticle	7-MOA Amber Dot	3-MOA Red Dot	3.5-MOA Red Dot
Parallax Free	Yes	From 10 to 150 yds.	Yes
Eye Relief	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Click Value (@ 100 yds.)	1 MOA	1 MOA	1 MOA
Activation	Always On	Button	Knob
Automatic Shut Off	NA	No	Yes
Dot Intensity Settings	Automatic	4	Automatic
Power Source	Fiber Optics & Tritium	One CR1632	One CR2032
Battery Life (medium setting)	NA	1,200+ hrs.	9,000 hrs.
Material	Forged Aluminum	Aluminum	Magnesium
Finish	Cerakote Matte Black	Matte Black	Matte Black
Weather Resistance	Waterproof to 66 ft.	Water Resistant	Waterproof
Warranty	Limited Lifetime	1-Year Limited	Full Lifetime
Telephone	(800) 338-0563	(970) 356-1670	(503) 526-1400
Website	Trijicon.com	BurrisOptics.com	Leupold.com

the user to also keep iron sights as back ups and it places the reflex sight closer to the bore's center axis. In this configuration, the iron sights are taller — like those used with a suppressor — so they clear the reflex sight. Some mount the rear BUIS in front of the reflex sight, others behind the reflex sight. The second method of attachment is to use the rear sight dovetail with a mounting plate. We chose the second option because it was less expensive, and we wanted to be able to mount the reflex ourselves. The tools needed to the mount the sight, other than the ones included with each sight, were a hammer and brass punch.

All three sight packages consisted of the sight and a mounting plate. The underside of the Leupold allowed access to the battery. The Burris had a small cap on the topside. The Trijicon does not use a battery for its power source. With the sight and mounting plate sandwiched together, a seal was formed to keep out debris and moisture.

With all three sights operating, we looked at them in dim and bright light outdoors and indoors, examining each sight side-by-side for clarity, resolution, and brightness. The Trijicon had a greenish tint to the lens that is used to make the aiming point more reflective. The Burris also had a slight tint to it, but the Leupold was clear. Looking at the sights from the business end, the Trijicon and Burris both had a yellowish-red tint much like mirrored sunglasses. The Leupold was clear. All were susceptible to a light signature since the light-emitting diode is on, and if the sight is angled a certain way, a telltale pinpoint of a red dot could be seen from the Leupold and Burris. The amber light from the Trijicon was harder to pick up from across a dark room. Like all optics, there was a reflection from the lenses when a bright light was shined on them. We used an Extreme Beam M4 Scirrako and SX21R Ballistic light equipped with a white light and green light, respectively. The Trijicon was quite noticeable, then the Burris, while the



The first step for all the installations (Trijicon shown) was to knock the rear sight out of its dovetail using a punch and hammer.



With the rear sight removed, knock the Trijicon's mounting plate into the dovetail.



With the mounting plate centered, screw in two screws with Loc-Tite flush with the plate, using the supplied hex wrench.



Sandwich a thin plate between the mounting plate and the sight, Two hex screws secure the sight to the mounting plate. Apply Loc-Tite to each screw.



The RMR sight did not interfere with the Bravo Concealment Patriot model holster. Holsters with higher retention may interfere with the sight, but those are duty holsters rather than CHL holsters.



The Trijicon RMR and the others did not interfere with the Bravo Concealment DOS inside-the-pant holster.

We then brought them inside to a temperature of about 68 degrees. None of the sights fogged when we brought them inside. The drop test from 4 feet onto a wood floor showed no adverse effects.

Next, we attached the sights to the Glock, noting the effort and tools required. More on this later. Leupold sells a DeltaPoint bore sight, but we



From the operator's view, the RMR's windage and elevation controls are clearly marked for direction and click value.



From the business end, you can see the yellow hue of the lens.



This is how the RMR's amber aiming point looks from the operator's point of view.

benched the pistol, fired three rounds and adjusted the aiming point to the holes. At the range, we pounded the sights using a variety of ammo: PMC 200-grain FMJ-TC, Hornady 165-grain FTX, Buffalo Bore 180-grain JHP, and American Eagle 180-grain FMJ. These rounds offered a variety of bullets and muzzle velocities, from the mild American Eagle to the hot Buffalo Bore. Hands down, the red-dot sights were faster to acquire than open sights. Place the dot on the target, press the trigger, hole in target. Simple. There was, however, a learning curve to find the aiming point in the sight window. At the beginning, it took time. The pistol needed to be held slightly lower than



After removing the existing Glock sight, the first installation step for the FastFire III was to slide the dovetail block into the rear sight dovetail of the slide.



Next, attach the mounting plate to the dovetail block using two hex screws.



Next, place the flexible gasket on the mounting plate.



Finally, the sight is screwed to the mounting plate with the gasket sandwiched between the sight and plate.



The Burris has a vertical line on the rear of the base to speed up targeting.



A small flat-blade screwdriver is required to zero the sight.



The activation button is located on the left side of the sight; the battery compartment was more accessible than the Leupold.



Left: The Burris sat at a similar height on the big Glock as the Leupold and Trijicon.

when using the open sights. Ramp up time was short, but a switch to the reflex sight will require training to become more acclimated to the sight. Also, since the sight is attached directly to the slide, the sight does whatever the slide does. The sights being parallax free meant that the aiming point did not need to be centered within the sight window. We fired the sights with the dot not centered to see if parallax had any effect, and for the distance tested out to 25 yards, there were no issues. The accuracy was more than adequate for action-shooting competition and defensive purposes. These sights are made to be mounted and zeroed with no in-the-field adjustments, but we did shoot, move the sight to the right a few clicks or turns, then clicks to the left, then back to the right to test the accuracy of the adjustment system. All were within factory spec and to our satisfaction.

Those turkey and deer hunters in the group thought that any of the sights would be well suited on a shotgun or slug gun. The lenses all need to be cleaned like any optic lens. We looked at power sources, too, and how easy they were to maintain.

We also carried concealed with the sights. Since it was winter when we started testing, a coat easily concealed the big Glock. We used two holsters from Bravo Concealment (BravoConcealment.com): the Patriot has a 10-degree cant, medium sweat guard, and is made from .08-inch-thick Kydex. The DOS is an inside-the-waistband holster made of .06-inch-thick Kydex. As the outside temperature increased and heavy coats were shed, we still could conceal the set up. Many testers like Kydex because the holster mouth stays open making reholstering easier. Also, they are light weight and are built like a tank. The Bravo Concealment holsters exceeded our expectations. Here are further details on each sight.

Trijicon Dual Illuminated RMR #RM04, $577

What separated the Trijicon



To install the Leupold, first slide the mounting plate into the dovetail of the rear sight. Slide it starting from the left side of the slide and then tap it with a nylon hammer to center it.



The mounting plate is secured to the slide via a small hew screw.



The battery is sandwiched between the sight housing and the mounting plate.



The final step is attaching the sight to the mounting plate with two screws.



The left side of the sight houses the windage-adjustment screw.



The top of the sight houses the elevation screw, arrow. Those two screws at the rear of the sight are adjustment locks screws.

RMR (Rugged Miniature Reflex) Dual Illumination sight from the other sights is that it operates without batteries. It uses tritium to illuminate the reticle in low-light conditions, along with fiber optics that automatically adjust brightness of the reticle level and contrast to available light conditions. An RMR pistol mount plate kit ($102) was required to mount the RMR to the Glock 20, bringing the cost up to $679. A hex wrench was supplied. The housing was made of forged aluminum with a sight window that was square on the bottom with an arc on top. No special tools were required to adjust the sight; in fact, in a pinch you can use the rim of a fired case. The clicks were audible and precise. The brightness of the reticle aiming point adjusted automatically when going from bright to dim light and vice versa. All sights had this feature, and testers appreciated it because adjusting a sight manually in a match setting is as unacceptable as it is on a carry gun. The sight window was thicker than the other two sights and that tended to block the view around the sight slightly when aiming with both eyes. The top edge of the sight window housed a translucent band that allowed light to get in and power the aiming point. The RMR was the largest and heaviest of all the sights, which is not that much to begin with, but the ruggedness of the sight gave testers a higher level of confidence in the sight's ability to take abuse. Testers used the sight to rack the slide by grabbing it with their hand or catching it on the edge of a shooting table or holster. The sight stayed dead on, no change in zero. This sight took more muscle, meaning hammer time, to mount, but testers felt the sight was very secure. The price made testers cringe, but as they became acclimated to the sight, they liked the features.

Our Team Said: The battle-tested Trijicon RMR is very expensive, but the convenience of not using batteries outweighed the extra cost for some testers. If price were not an issue, many testers would opt for the RMR.

Gun Tests Grade: A

Burris FastFire III #300234, $250

The FastFire III had the smallest footprint of all the sights. A Torx wrench and screwdriver were



The DeltaPoint and the other sights all bottomed out on the edge of this Milt Sparks paddle holster, not allowing the Glock to fully seat in the leather.



The DeltaPoint, like the other sights, sits much higher than the original plastic rear sight.



Here's an operator's view of the DeltaPoint in action.

included, along with a battery, lens-cleaning cloth, protective cover, and a clamp mount that can be used with a Weaver or Picatinny-style rail. An additional base (#118-000-011WB, $46.49 at Brownells.com) was required to mount the FastFire III on the G20. The Burris was easiest sight to install. A dovetail block easily slides into the dovetail in the slide. Center it, then attach the mounting plate with two screws. This locks the mounting plate to the slide. A flexible, soft gasket goes between the mounting plate and the sight. The sight is mounted to the mounting plate via two screws. The battery compartment is on the top side of the sight, and a flat-blade screwdriver is required to change the battery. A tiny flat-blade screwdriver is also required to adjust windage and elevation. The clicks were not as precise as the Trijicon, but we walked the aiming point around and back to zero, and it was still on.

Like the other sights, numerous reticle options are available. The big difference between the FastFire III and the other two sights was the user could override the auto illumination of the aiming point and adjust it manually. A rubber button on the left side of the sight controlled illumination. Press it once for automatic illumination, press it twice for highest manual illumination, three times for medium illumination and fourth for the lowest setting. Pressing the button a fifth time turns it off. The battery life is about two months with the sight constantly on. Users can turn off this sight, but they also need to remember to turn it on. The battery was easy to change compared to the Leupold, and because of the battery, there was more maintenance with the Burris compared to the Trijicon. A schedule would need to be made to keep the sight running, since a dead battery meant the weapon was out of commission. A two-pack of batteries is about $2, so the yearly cost to operate the sight would be about $6. Batteries are quite common.

The rear of the sight has a white vertical line on it that helped users acclimate to the sight and get them on target. The sight window was similar to the Trijicon's — square at the bottom and arced on the top. At the range, the Burris performed well, allowing shooters to get on target and stay on target faster than with iron sights. The FastFire III was used to rack the slide, and the sight seemed very secure.

Our Team Said: The FastFire III is a bargain when comparing just price. The button operation was an extra step, but some liked to have the ability to adjust the illumination of the aiming point manually. Because of the more frequent battery-maintenance schedule, we knocked it down a half grade.

Gun Tests Grade: A-

Leupold DeltaPoint
#66135, $565

The DeltaPoint features were in between those of the Trijicon and Burris. Like the Trijicon, the Leupold was always on, and like the Burris, it was powered by a battery. The DeltaPoint, however, is motion activated. It will shut down if left at complete rest for five minutes, which saves battery power. Once moved, the sight automatically turns on. A rubber cover included with the sight puts the sight at its lowest illumination setting, also reserving battery life. The battery should last 9,000 hours, or more than a year.

Included with the Leupold were 10 different mounting plates that fit everything from Smith & Wesson revolvers to numerous semi-automatics pistols, except for the big Glock. A plate was included for the standard-frame Glocks, but not the 45 ACP and 10mm models. Another $40 was required for a mounting plate from JP Enterprises, totaling $605. A mount for Weaver/Picatinny-style rails is also included for those wanting to mount it on a long gun. Though the mounting plate was not included for our Glock, the assortment of bases that came with the sight was a real plus. A rubber cover and a battery were also included.

Mounting the DeltaPoint was similar to the Trijicon. We first slid a dovetail mounting plate into the slide's dovetail, then secured it with a screw. Then the sight was bolted to the plate. The sight needs to be removed from the mounting plate to change the battery, and we



The Bravo Concealment Patriot completely cleared the DeltaPoint and all of the sights.

thought the sight would lose zero once removed. We found it was still zeroed after removing the sight from the base, though we would recheck it every time we replace the battery.

A tiny supplied Torx wrench was required to adjust windage and elevation. Locking set screws need to be loosened with the same wrench prior to zeroing the sight. The small tools required by both the Leupold and Burris made them less convenient, especially if the sight is swapped to another weapon in the field and the tiny tools are not readily available. With the Trijicon, the zeroing process was simple. There were no felt or heard clicks, just the turn of the screw.

The sight window of the DeltaPoint was oval with flat sides. It was the largest of all the sights, and it slightly bulged over the sides of the slide. The sides of the Burris and Trijicon were almost flush with the sides of the slide. The DeltaPoint was also the lightest sight. Running through the same shooting procedures as the other sights, testers found the DeltaPoint was very usable. The sight-window frame, like the Burris, was thin, so there was slightly less field-of-view obstruction than the Trijicon. Some testers felt they could get on target faster with the Leupold. The sight also had less reflection signature, and the lens was crystal clear, unlike the other sights, which were slightly tinted.

Cocking the weapon using the sight caused fingerprints on the lens on all the sights. We wouldn't normally cock the weapon in this manner, but we wanted to know if the sights were durable and well attached to the slide. They all were.

Our Team Said: The DeltaPoint system was always ready, like the Trijicon, though it still required a battery. The power-saving mode was an asset, and like the Trijicon, it was expensive. The extra mounting plates were a plus and gave it a slight edge over the other sights.

Gun Tests Grade: A+

Written and photographed by Robert Sadowski, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers.* **GT**

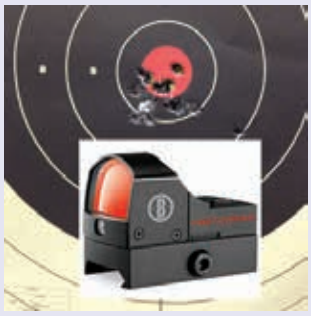
BUSHNELL FIRST STRIKE REFLEX SIGHT

Bushnell's First Strike Reflex Red Dot No. 730005 is a low-profile dot sight that's waterproof, fogproof, and extremely light weight. Because of its small size, we recently installed and fired the sight on a Rock River Operator to see how the First Strike worked on close-in targets.

The Bushnell First Strike Reflex Red Dot Sight No. 730005 operates on one 3V coin-style lithium battery, Type 2032. It's replaced by using the supplied hex wrenches to loosen two bolts on the top panel, then removing the top section of the sight and replacing the battery "+" side up. The unit is 2.4 inches long, has a 2-inch mounting length, and weighs a scant 2.1 ounces. It comes with a one-year limited warranty. Cheaper Than Dirt currently sells the No. 730005 in low-mount ($133.34, #7-730005) or high-mount ($144.05, #3-0930343) versions.

The First Strike's built-in mounting system quickly attaches to Weaver-style or Picatinny rails. The sight's small footprint offers an unlimited field of view and no magnification, so we tried it along the Operator's top rail. When we put the sight too close to the sighting eye, we had trouble finding the right location on bifocals to make the 5-MOA dot sharp. Further out gave the shooter more latitude.

The self-regulating brightness system had something to do with that as well. An integrated photocell automatically turns the unit on when the shooter takes the hard-plastic lens cover off, and the photocell also regulates the dot's brightness based on ambient light. For the record, moving either the elevation or windage adjustments one hashmark on the sight delivers 6 inches of movement at 100 yards. So when you're close to zero, you've got to be very gentle moving the adjustments or you'll overcorrect, as we did.



We had a lot more luck setting the sight up for targets under 50 yards. At 25 and 50 yards on black backgrounds, we could read the dot well enough to center it over a bullseye and shoot inside 2 inches. From a low-ready hold, we could reliably find the sight and engage 6-inch plates.

We eventually decided (for now) to use the First Strike as the primary optic on the RRA. Paired with an A.R.M.S. Low-Profile Flip Up Rear Sight No. 40L ($128.86) and the flip-up front sight standard on the Operator, we were able to co-witness the irons over the top of the First Strike for close-range targets, but keep them down unless the First Strike fails.

Our Team Said: For us, shooting both indoors and outdoors, the dot always seemed blown out. We would have appreciated a way to dial down the intensity. Also, we'll probably lose the cover if we don't fashion a lanyard for it.

Gun Tests Grade: B

Outside-the-Waistband Holsters, Part II: Crossdraw, Paddle, SOB

When we got a request for an OWB test, we went to work. This month, we examine three variations of this style.

As we noted in Part I last month, the outside-the-waistband holster has many advantages, including speed and security. Some will wear a high-riding OWB and a pulled-out sports shirt and have the same concealment with the OWB as the IWB but with greater comfort. While we believe the IWB has advantages when maximum concealment is needed, there are times when the OWB can be concealed. If you can do that, you are ahead of the game in speed and comfort.

In this two-part installment begun in the June 2014 issue, we covered more than 20 holsters of the OWB type, including specialized alternatives to the IWB. As always, we gauged them on a few important attributes. The handgun cannot shift in the holster. The holster cannot sag on the belt, so it must be properly fitted to the belt. The holster must be tight against the body for concealed carry, but it cannot give you a punch in the kidney when you hit a speed bump in the road or step off of a curb. The gun must present the proper grip angle for a rapid presentation from concealment. The trigger guard must be covered. The holster must be sturdily made of good materials.



When properly performed, the crossdraw offers a fast draw and much versatility.





The large paddle used with the Wild Bill holster works well and is more comfortable than most. This is a Best Buy, in our opinion.

Last month, we looked at pancake-design holsters, giving two of them **Best Buy** awards: the Wright Leather Works Predator Pancake Holster, $88, and the D. M. Bullard Leather Combat model, $85. Other **Grade A** pancake models in various natural materials included the K.L. Null Holsters Super Speed Scabbard, $135; the CB's Leather Works Pancake, $115; the Milt Sparks 60TK, $105; K Bar J Leather, $250; Legends In Leather Justice, $395; the D. M. Bullard Bodyguard, $85; the Side Guard Holsters Slide, $75; the Ted Blocker Holsters G1, $89; and the Desbiens GunleatherCovert OWB, $105. Kydex holsters that earned **Grade A** rankings included the LHS Holsters Falcon, $70; the Statureman Custom Holster, $70; and zZz Custom Works Standard Holster, $69.

CROSSDRAW HOLSTERS

The crossdraw has many advantages. Among these is the ability to keep the pistol butt ready for presentation even when seated or driving. We feel that the crossdraw is superior to the various specialized





Top: Tauris holsters have a distinctive look and finish. Note the holstering welt and retention screw that maintain a purchase on the handgun while allowing a rapid presentation from leather. This Tauris professional-grade holster is molded from sharkskin. While no faster than the leather holster and with no better retention, the sharkskin holster resists wear better.

driving holsters, although the Null Vampire has much to recommend it. The crossdraw is brilliantly fast into action if properly understood, but hopeless or dangerous if not. The crossdraw presentation is best executed by moving the holster side of the body toward the target and bringing the hand down and scooping the pistol out of the holster as the support hand meets the strong hand. This allows the shooter to draw into the target rather than across the target with the conventional draw. The crossdraw isn't for everyone, but it is well worth considering for those who are often in a vehicle or while seated at work.

Wild Bills Concealment Fusion Paddle, $60

This is a true hybrid, a fusion of leather and Kydex. The Kydex backing is a design that seems secure in daily use while retaining the easy-on-and-off advantage of the paddle. For those who travel and sometimes



The Ted Blocker Crossdraw X 16 may be worn on the strong side, and the neutral angle is well suited to tall individuals.

must leave the gun and holster in the vehicle, the paddle is attractive, although those who cannot tolerate an IWB may not tolerate the paddle either. The fusion is as good as any paddle, but offers a superior draw. The ride is higher than some, and the gun isn't angled as far from the body. The finish on this holster cannot be ordered. It simply turns out this way sometimes. An advantage of the Wild Bill's line is that the holsters are often found at gun shows, so you may pick and choose the finish and the individual holster, something not often possible with custom or semi-custom wares.

Gun Tests Grade: A, Best Buy

Tauris Holsters Cowhide, $125

The Tauris holsters are crafted by former deputy chief of police Michael P Taurisano. Our inspection showed the holster to be made of professional-grade materials. The salient feature is the stiffening welt that fosters retention, but which does not restrain a sharp draw. This feature makes for a good balance of speed and retention, in our opinion. The holster isn't going to allow the handle to tip forward and spill the gun. The sharkskin holster illustrated has the advantage of extreme scuff resistance and long wear at about $250 dollars. Few holsters can carry



The Barber Leatherworks Crossdraw is a good design that offers a brilliantly fast draw and will help you give a carjacker the surprise of a lifetime. Below: The Barber crossdraw is compact enough to be concealed under a light covering garment.



the 4-inch-barrel Combat Magnum chunk of Yankee steel comfortably, but the Tauris holster does the job.

Gun Tests Grade: A

Ted Blocker Holsters X 16, $97

The X 16 is a classic crossdraw with a neutral draw angle. When properly worn, the X 16 snugs in close just forward of the hip. This holster works well even with the blocky Glock pistol. Concealment is good as the belt loop brings the gun in close to the body. The holstering welt is a good feature, and the X 16 is thin enough for good concealment. While useful as a strong-side holster, we prefer the X 16 as a good crossdraw. We tested this holster with the Glock Model 37 and also the 1911. The 1911 holster is ten years old and still usable, although the tension screw has some verdigris. The X 17 is an alternative that features a thumb break. The X 17 lists for $99.

Gun Tests Grade: A

Barber Leather Works Crossdraw, $110

This is among the first crossdraw





The Jeffrey Custom Leather BTP has a true heavy-duty retention snap. Note pinch fit on the trigger guard and double stitching. We tested the Jeffery Custom Leather holster with a variety of short 1911 pistols with good results.

designs from this maker, a combination of a pancake and crossdraw in appearance. If you wish, the holster could be used to carry a back up to a strong-side 45-caliber pistol, and the backup would be accessible to either hand. Simply learn to twist the wrist a bit, and you may draw with the non-dominant hand from a crossdraw. This holster has good retention and real speed after a modest break in period.

Gun Tests Grade: A

Jeffrey Custom Leather BTP, $125

The acronym for this holster means Better Than a Paddle. The holster's primary design feature is a long leather flap that goes over the belt, while the holster body goes under the belt. There is a strong and well-designed snap on the holster that keeps the flap secure. Unlike the paddle, which relies upon friction for stability, the BTP features a snap mechanism. As such, it falls into the class of easy-on-and-easy-off holsters. The BTP is offered with a crossdraw option. As an alternative to the paddle, we like the BTP. As a crossdraw, it comes off well. However, we feel that the conventional crossdraw is more secure. If you cannot tolerate either an IWB or a paddle in the trousers, this is a good pick. If compared to the other crossdraw holsters, the BTP rates a B. If compared to the paddle holsters in last month's review, it rates an A.

For border stamping, add $20; for basket-weave stamping, add $35.

Gun Tests Grade: A (Paddle)
Gun Tests Grade: B (Crossdraw)





On the all-leather JM Custom Paddle, note the saddle stitching versus cross stitching and excellent basketweave and finish. Below: This retaining strap is what makes all of the difference with the JM custom paddle.







The Mag-Jic holster is a neat trick but has little application for personal defense, in the opinion of the raters. The Mag-Jic holster features a strong magnet that works far better than we would have initially thought.

JM Holsters Paddle, $150

This is an all-leather paddle, an anachronism to some largely due to the expense in fabricating such a piece. The once-popular flapjack holster was also all leather, but not in the class with the JM design, we believe. This holster features a cordovan and antique mahogany finish and is sealed against moisture. It is saddle stitched rather than cross stitched. The design brings the gun in closer to the body than is usually possible with a conventional paddle. This is the most comfortable of paddle holsters we tested. The primary advantage over any other is that there is a strap that secures the





The Wright Leatherworks SOB is a holster that makes the best of a controversial design. When worn properly, the SOB gives a good degree of concealment. However, the SOB draw, right, is difficult at best. A minority of users will prefer this type.

holster to the belt. You may wish to ignore this strap and have a paddle as secure as any other or use the snap and have far superior retention. We think this is a good design, although it's pricey.

Gun Tests Grade: A

Pistol Packaging Inc.
Mag-Jic Holster, $39

This is a flapjack-style holster similar in outline to the BTP but which uses a strong magnet rather than a snap. We were skeptical about a magnetized holster strap, but the thing is hellish strong. This is a great holster, as advertised, for attaching the holster and gun to a desk or something of that nature in the home, although we would prefer a tighter fit in that application. And that is the bottom line. This is a holster that isn't molded for individual handguns, but rather small, medium, and large variations. Some will fit pretty tightly and others not. As a range holster or perhaps as a magnetic clip on for



a desk or vehicle, where legal, it is OK. But not for concealed carry, in our estimation.

Gun Tests Grade: C

SMALL OF THE BACK HOLSTERS

Wright Leatherworks Dutch Small of the Back, $65

The SOB holster was designed to allow the concealment of a service-size pistol under a short blazer. The only means of doing so was to invert the holster across the belt. The result is a holster that demands a bent wrist and a slow draw. The risk of injury to the back is very real with some versions, but less with the Wright version when worn properly. This is as good an SOB holster as there is, and some prefer the type, although they are a minority. The drawback of the bent wrist is real, but on the other hand, the holster allows better access when seated, if the draw is practiced. We admit none of our raters was a real SOB fan nor were we skilled in its implementation. This is a well-executed SOB, but our team didn't like it.

Gun Tests Grade: B

Written and photographed by R.K. Campbell, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers.* **GT**

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'Bama Gets Remington Plants

Notably, R1 pistols and Bushmaster AR lines are leaving NY.

Remington Outdoor Company has announced that several plants are being consolidated into Remington's new facility in Huntsville, Alabama. Of particular interest is that Remington's R1 1911 handgun production will be leaving the town of Ilion, New York, along with Bushmaster AR-15 production — both products are effectively banned by New York's stringent new gun laws.

Among the facilities being relocated to Huntsville are: Advanced Armament Corp of Lawrenceville, Georgia; Bushmaster (AR-15) production from Ilion, New York; DPMS of St. Cloud, Minnesota; LAR Manufacturing of West Jordan, Utah; Montana Rifleman in Kalispell, Montana; PARA USA of Pineville, North Carolina; Remington R1 (1911) production from Ilion, New York, and TAPCO of Kennesaw, Georgia. Earlier this year, Remington opened a new 500,000-square-foot plant in Huntsville.

Remington's Director of Public Affairs and Relations Teddy Novin said, "This was a strategic business decision to concentrate our resources into fewer locations and improve manufacturing efficiency and quality."

MasterPiece Arms Introduces Chassis System

MasterPiece Arms is offering a chassis and other components to customize Remington 700 bolt-action rifles. The MasterPiece BA Chassis System fits any caliber Remington 700 Model or Remington clone action (Surgeon 591, GA Precision Templar, Stillers TAC Series, etc.). The 6061aluminum MPA v-bedding



chassis aligns with the Remington 700-type receivers, providing zero twist or distortion and resulting in a highly accurate performance rifle.

The chassis also features a front-mounted bridge with a Picatinny rail and a lower mounted Picatinny rail for additional accessories, such as lights or bi-pods. The chassis comes fitted with a Magpul PRS Stock with a custom adaptor for the MPA Chassis.

The chassis is finished with a durable medium texture powder coat or ceramic coat and a 20-MOA scope rail.

Kahr Partners with Cabela's on Two New Custom Offerings

Kahr Firearms Group has partnered with Cabela's to offer custom designs for two of Kahr's best-selling pistols — the Auto-Ordnance 1911 and the Kahr PM9. The first new custom design is a black-and-orange Auto Ordnance 1911, with an orange frame and black slide accented with black



appointments. Both the frame and slide on the Auto-Ordnance 1911 are machined from high carbon 4140 steel. The frame has been treated with a high-temperature ceramic Cerakote coating.

This .45 ACP pistol has a 5-inch barrel, 8.5-inch overall length and weighs 39 ounces. It has front and rear dovetail cut/low-profile iron sights and a checkered black-rubber grip held in place by hex grip screws. It is shipped with two 7-round magazines. The model number is 1911PKZCABHO and MSRP is $759. The second custom offering exclusively sold through Cabela's is a Kahr PM9 with a Robin Eggshell Blue polymer frame. The frame and finger rest extension of one 6-round magazine on this PM9 have been treated with a Cerakote ceramic coating, ensuring that it will retain its color under normal wear.

The slide is machined from a solid billet of 420 stainless steel and has a matte finish. The PM9 features a 3-inch polygonal rifled barrel and has an overall length of 5.3 inches, 4.0 inches in height, and weighs just 14 ounces. with an empty magazine. The Robin Eggshell Blue PM9 has drift-adjustable white-bar-dot combat sights and the gun is shipped with three magazines (one finger rest 6-round, one 6-round with a flush baseplate, and one 7-round with an extended grip. Included in the custom package is a black pistol rug and a pocket holster. The model number is PM9093CABBL and MSRP is $899 for the entire package. Both pistols are sold exclusively through Cabela's while supplies last.

FNH USA Cuts Prices on FNS Pistols

FNH USA is cutting the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of its black FNS pistols by $100. The FNS series of striker-fired



pistols includes the FNS-9, FNS-9 Longslide (pictured above, left), the FNS-40 (pictured above, right) and the FNS-40 Longslide. Each features an ergonomic frame design and comes with two interchangeable backstraps. A MIL-STD 1913 underframe rail is standard for light attachment.

"We are pleased that the FNS line has been so popular," said Mark Cherpes, president and CEO of FNH USA. "Because our sales volume was so high in 2013, we were able to reduce our production costs enough to realize a savings we are now passing down to our customers. We hope consumers will take advantage of this new, lower price and choose an FNS when they are shopping for a new pistol."

Made at FN Manufacturing in Columbia, South Carolina, standard features on the FNS include a hammer-forged stainless-steel barrel, a forged stainless-steel slide with front and rear cocking serrations, a full-length stainless-steel recoil-spring guide rod, and low-profile Deep-V three-dot night sights. All come standard with three magazines and a locking hard case.

This reduction applies to the following products in 9mm Luger and 40 S&W:

The FNS-9 66925 (DA MS Blk/Blk 17-Rnd), 66929 (DA MS Blk/Blk 10-Rnd), 66752 (Blk/Blk 17-Rnd), and 66756 (Blk/Blk 10-Rnd) will drop from a current MSRP of $699 to $599.

The FNS-9 66927 (DA MS Blk/Blk 17-Rnd Night Sight), 66931 (DA MS Blk/Blk 10-Rnd Night Sight), and the 66725 (Longslide Blk/Blk 10-Rnd) will drop from $749 to $649.

The FNS-40 66940 (DA MS Blk/Blk 14-Rnd), 66944 (DA MS Blk/Blk 10-Rnd), 66760 (Blk/Blk 14-Rnd), and 66764 (Blk/Blk 10-Rnd) will drop from $699 to $599.

The FNS-40 66942 (DA MS Blk/Blk 14-Rnd Night Sight), 66946 (DA MS Blk/Blk 14-Rnd Night Sight), and the 66729 (Longslide Blk/Blk 14-Rnd) will drop from $749 to $649.

CMMG Rolls Out New MK4 RCE AR-15

For 2014, Fayette, Missouri-based CMMG is delivering another precision-machined AR rifle, the new Mk4 RCE, available in 5.56x45mm NATO or 300 AAC Blackout.

At the Mk4 RCE's core is an M4 upper receiver and an AR-15 lower receiver, both forged from 7075-T6 aluminum. The 16-inch barrel is a matte-finished 416 stainless-steel unit with 1:7 rifling.



The $1400 Mk4 RCE weighs 6.5 pounds unloaded and 7.5 pounds with a full 30-round Pmag. It is 33 inches long with the stock collapsed and is 36.4 inches in length with the stock extended.

The RCE includes an RKM14 KeyMod free-floating hand guard with a 1913 Picatinny rail on top. The KeyMod slots are found at the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions and offer shooters a low-profile mounting alternative to the M1913 Picatinny rail.

For accessories that are not yet KeyMod compatible, users can purchase a separate CMMG 5-slot Picatinny adapter rail that can be easily attached to any of the KeyMod slots for optimal placement of the accessories.

The Mk4 RCE is equipped with a CMMG SV muzzle brake with nitride-finished 4140 steel. Additional components include a Geissele Automatics SSA 2-stage trigger, a Magpul CTR stock and Magpul MOE pistol grip and trigger guard.

Taurus Introduces 'The First 24 Judge Kit'

The $1499 First 24 Judge Kit is designed to assist you for the first 24 hours of a catastrophe. The Taurus AimPro-tuned Judge offers the flexibility of .45 LC/.410 chamberings,



and reloading is quick and simple with two Bianchi Speed Strips. The Hogue Mono-grip offers improved grip in inclement weather, and the tan X-COAT finish fights off corrosion.

The First 24 Judge kit comes in a flat-dark-earth-colored I-Series SKB case. Inside are tools that are useful in a bad situation. All of the items are secured in laser-cut foam for exact fitting: ● CRKT Sting knife is a dependable item to be used as a self-defense and/or cutting tool. ● The Brite-Strike ELPI is a 160-lumen flashlight with an on/off/strobe mode. ● Brite-Strike APALS are waterproof lighting/marking devices with adhesive backings that can be placed anywhere. The APALS have a run time of 80+ hours, can be seen up to a half mile. ● Zippo Fire Starters use a flint wheel to spark water-resistant waxed tinder sticks that are included and stored in a waterproof case. ● Suunto compass and 20 feet of 550 Para cord.

ATI Large-Frame Taurus Grips Now Shipping

ATI's new Scorpion X2 Revolver Grip, $50, employs the company's Scorpion recoil-reduction material,



helpful if you're shooting large-frame hard-recoiling Taurus revolvers. The Taurus revolvers compatible with the new grip include the Taurus Model 17 Tracker 17, Model 992 Tracker 22, Model 627 Tracker 357, Model 45-410 Judge, and Model 44C Tracker 44.

Compiled by Gun Tests *Staff* **GT**

— continued from page 2

involved in the lawful commerce in firearms." NSSF said it will continue to investigate the extent of any improper government involvement in lending practices.

Powderhorn Outfitters, which sells firearms, archery gear and fishing equipment in Hyannis, Massachusetts, posted in an online forum in May that its longtime bank — TD Bank — had suddenly dropped its account. Other retailers who have been affected include T.R. Liberti, owner and operator of Top Gun Firearms Training & Supply in Miami; Black Rifle Armory in Henderson, Nevada; and gun parts maker American Spirit Arms in Scottsdale, Arizona.

A new report by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee says the Justice Department's "Operation Choke Point" is so flagrantly illegal it cannot continue in any form under the law. "In light of the Department's obligation to act within the bounds of the law, and its avowed commitment not to 'discourage or inhibit' the lawful conduct of honest merchants, it is necessary to disavow and dismantle Operation Choke Point," the report said.

The report suggests that subsequent to the discovery of the program by the press in late 2013, there may have been an effort by the Department of Justice to cover up key aspects of its operation. The report also found that Attorney General Eric Holder knew about Operation Choke Point prior to its launch and fully supported its implementation. **GT**

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