GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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TACTICAL PUMP SHOTGUNS





Our team suffered more shoulder shock from touching off heavy loads with the lighter Weatherby PA-459 Threat Response, so we preferred the tried-and-true CZ-USA Model 612 Horde Control. **— Page 6**





USED 9MM PISTOLS

We went to the pawn shop and picked up two concealable pistols to see which was the better value — a Bersa Thunder Pro Ultra Compact or Smith & Wesson's Model 908. **— Page 10**





CONVERTIBLE FLATTOPS

Two six-shooters offered accuracy and versatility, but we liked one a hair better. Tested are Lipsey's Ruger New Model Blackhawk and the Colt New Frontier. **— Page 14**



308 WIN. BATTLE RIFLES

We pit a PTR-91 and a Century Arms C91 in a 30-cal shoot out. **— Page 20**





SPECIAL REPORTS

We document failures we had with Kel-Tec's RFB, and Ruger's CMD-A 45 ACP gets a makeover. **— Page 25**

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DOWNRANGE

ARSENAL'S AVAILABILITY STATEMENT



Todd Woodard

It was one of the odder gun-company announcements to have come across my desk in years: Las Vegas–based Arsenal, Inc. released a statement saying that international military-delivery commitments have caused a halt in production of commercial versions of the company's SLR-107FR and SLR-104UR rifles:

"Currently, all SLR-107FR models, including SLR107-31, SLR107-32, SLR107-33, SLR107-34, and SLR107-36 configurations, and all SLR-104UR models with standard 16-inch barrel, including SLR104-51, SLR104-52, SLR104-53, and SLR104-54 configurations are temporarily out. All units have been shipped out of Arsenal to our distributors. Please inquire with your dealers, distributors, or retail outlets for any availability for any units that are still in the pipeline."

The reason, according to the statement: "Arsenal also has serious military obligations throughout the world. Due to the current situation in the world and the sharp increase in violence in places such as Middle East and the demand to replenish countries' militaries to constrain those who cause harm and evil, it has become necessary to shift Arsenal's full concentration to fulfilling military contracts. This has caused a sharp, but hopefully short-lived, halt in production of commercial products."

I can't recall a similar announcement before, and the more I think about it, the more I appreciate Arsenal's honesty. Rather than putting off customers who can't find these products, Arsenal got ahead of the problem.

In fact, I wish other companies were as communicative, in particular Kel-Tec. That company makes a lot of highly-sought-after guns, and supply is usually tight, tight, tight. I understand such a scarcity strategy keeps retail prices high, thus margins are good all up and down the supply chain, but just tell us, for goodness sakes, so we don't have to keep checking to see if any PMR-30s are available.



The same thing is true for new products. Many new guns and accessories are introduced each year, and I'm as interested as the next guy in knowing when a certain gun is actually shipping and in what quantities so I have some idea if I can buy them and get them into our testing supply chain. It would be news, at least in my opinion, for all firearms companies to release availability statements for their products, especially new ones. A hypothetical:

"Glock has released 250 units of its new polymer-framed 1911-style 45 ACP to several distributors, and another 300 units are expected to ship by the end of the month." (No, Glock isn't making this product.)

So kudos to Arsenal for informing its customers about shortages so we can adjust our expectations — and go buy some of the affected SKUs before everybody runs out. **GT**

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We Have Judged the Governor

These two shotshell-enabled handguns have been tested head to head. Reader Woody asks what is the best air-rifle choice for controlling varmints in his horse barn. And how tall is the LC9s?

Judge vs. Governor

I was wondering if you have compared the Taurus Judge to the Smith & Wesson Governor, and if you did, what were the results? **— Bob**

Ray Ordorica has tested both the Taurus Judge and S&W Governor. To find the stories, go Gun-Tests.com and enter "Judge" and "Governor" in the search window in the top-right corner to find the results. Or consult the August 2009 issue for "Judging the Judge: A Viable Self-Defense Revolver for You?" and the August 2011 issue for "'Judging' the Governor: We Pit Taurus and S&W Wheelguns." In the latter head-to-head, we said of the Governor, "The costly scandium-alloy frame is perfectly finished inside and out, and the guts of the gun look like classic S&W stuff, top-notch work throughout. For what you get we rate the gun an A-. The slow rifling twist took a toll on the accuracy of the normal ammo, but sure helped the shot patterns. If you seriously need good shot patterns, this gun gave superior results to what we got from the Judge, but it lost out in overall accuracy, and to some extent, velocity as well." Of the Judge in the same report, we said, "We generally preferred the Taurus Judge over the Governor with its lighter weight, better balance, and better accuracy. But we much preferred the shot patterns from the S&W Governor. If we had serious uses for a 410-caliber handgun, we'd get the Governor. But if we wanted to shoot shotshells only occasionally and the fast spread was not a problem, and if we wanted a good "carry" gun for the 45 LC that provided superior accuracy and greater velocity than the Governor, the Judge would be our first pick." — Todd Woodard



Air Rifle or Suppressed?

Please recommend the most powerful/accurate pellet gun to shoot pests in and around stables. The targets are rats, starlings, etc. I would be completely satisfied to shoot accurately at 50 yards. Also, 100 feet might be enough. Horses and riders won't tolerate the noise of gunfire. And I don't want holes in my buildings at the horse farm. Also, I probably need a scope on account of 60-year-old eyes. **— Woody**

Sorry, we haven't done much airgun testing, but Roger Eckstine did one comparison in the March 2009 issue, "First-Ever Airgun Shoot-Off: Gamo, Walther, and Norica." For this use, the Gamo Whisper Deluxe 611006754 is probably the best bet. We said of the Gamo air rifle (below): "The Whisper Deluxe was quiet enough to be used



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.

with minimal hearing protection. It was physically easy to operate and the pellets were the most economical. The trigger was a bit long, but accuracy was very consistent and it looked great." Also, you could go suppressed with subsonic ammo. We haven't done a head-to-head on it, but a suppressed subsonic rifle, such as an internally suppressed Ruger 10/22, may be quieter at the muzzle than a supersonic air rifle. 22 LR shotshells are fairly quiet as well, and would also solve the pass-through problem. But don't shoot them suppressed because of the danger of baffle strikes.

Ray Ordorica added, "I have used an RWS Diana Model 48 for many decades. It gives 1100 fps and shoots through heavy steel barrels with ease. Accuracy is also exceptional, with one-hole potential at 15 yards. It is a side cocker and is drilled and tapped for scope mounting. Note that mounting a scope on an air rifle is not a simple task. The air rifle mechanism can easily move a scope or destroy it if the mounting is not well done and the scope up to the task. — tw

Re "Three Trail Companions We Like," May 2015

Enjoyed your article on Trail Companions very much. I recently purchased a Ruger 22/45 Lite Mk3 with a fluted barrel, and though I only have a couple hundred rounds through it, I like it a lot. Just one question… Who the hell is Buck Rogers? Just kidding. Keep up the good work. **— Rocky**

And Reader George B. added, "Thanks for the leads on the Mora knife and Scow Sheath." — tw



Re "28-Gauge Semi-Automatics: Legacy Sport Versus Beretta," May 2015

I have subscribed and read your magazine for years and love it. After reading this shotgun article, I was surprised to see the Legacy 28 gauge had a 3-inch chamber. I am getting old and may have missed the announcement of the 3-inch 28-gauge shell. It would be great if you could do a compare-and-contrast article on all the different 28-gauge 3-inch shells, and maybe what other guns are chambered for the new 3-inch 28-gauge shells. I know the 12 and 20 gauges and .410 bore all are available in 3-inch shells — so what's next, a 3-inch 16 gauge?

Fiocchi loaded its premium Tundra nontoxic label in a 3-inch 28 gauge in 2010. It is listed on page 34 of the 2010 catalog as the 283TCL stock number, as the graphic below indicates. The 3-incher came in max-dram loads with Nos. 4, 5, and 6 tungsten shot in ⅞-ounce shot charges. Apparently, the 283TCL was loaded as late as 2012, but we can't find any citations for it later than that. We were unable to find any 3-inch 28-gauge shells to test, so the chamber length didn't have an impact on the test results.

Roger Eckstine reported accurately what the chambering was, as the chamber markings on the shotgun show below. We asked Legacy Sports why the gun was chambered for 3-inch shells, and apparently it was a mistake. — tw





Future Tests

Something to think about for future editions would be a review of reloading equipment and accessories. In particular, I would love to see a review of several of the more popular progressive reloading presses made by Dillon, Hornady, Lee, RCBS, etc. I'm pretty sure that other readers would be interested in the results. **— JRC**

Thanks, JRC. A head-to-head between Dillon and Hornady presses has been assigned. Our last treatment of these devices was in the March 2000 issue, and those models are still available as used items and might be worth bidding on at GunBroker.com or some other site. Of the three presses tested, Ray Ordorica wrote of the Dillon RL 550B, $1,070 (as tested at the time): "Buy It. If the shooter can't come up to the full cost of our test setup, or doesn't need to swap calibers in a big hurry, we recommend omitting one or two of the $55 powder measures, the $33 low-powder sensor, the $26 roller handle, the $33 "strong mount," and the $27 bullet tray, all of which came with our $1,070 setup. We highly recommend the spare parts kit ($11) and a couple of spare primer tubes ($4.20 each) so you can keep on cranking out ammo." Both the Lee Load-Master, $320, and the Hornady Lock-N-Load AP (Automatic Progressive), $350, earned Conditional Buy recommendations, which would



probably translate into C grades today. — tw

Re "9mm Subcompact Shoot-out: Nano, LC9s, and the XD-S 3.3," February 2015

I've been reading your magazine for about 15 years and like it a lot. I was glad to see this article on the 9mm subcompacts. Literally days before I got to read the article, I traded my years-old LC9 for a new LC9s. I'm an old dude and losing some of the strength in my hands. With my older LC9, my trigger finger got tired and a little sore after about three magazines at the range.





The striker-fired LC9s is a great improvement. You mentioned the Ruger being taller than the Beretta or Springfield, but you didn't mention that the Ruger came with both the short and extended baseplates for the magazine. The picture of the Ruger that you put next to its overall dimensions shows the shorter baseplate, which puts it in the same height range as the other two. For a more direct comparison, the picture of the three guns side by side should have had the shorter base plate on the Ruger magazine, which would have also had a two-fingered grip, the same as the other two guns. I like a three-fingered grip for better control, so I use the extended baseplates on my magazines. **— James**

You're right — we showed both baseplates, but didn't list different heights for them. The extended floorplate adds about three-quarters of an inch to the frontstrap length. The advantage of the removable baseplate is that the owner can tailor the gun's grip height according to what he or she wishes to have — the shortest carry package possible or an easier-to-shoot grip. — tw

Kel-Tec P32 Pistol

As a new reader, I researched the tests on the Kel-Tec P32 Auto, which I bought about a year ago. This little pocket pistol is ideal and fits nicely in my lower cargo pants pocket. There are two issues about it I want to bring to your attention. As with most small pistols, the slide is very stiff, so I would not in an emergency hope to chamber a bullet because I'm not sure I could successfully do so quickly. Knowing this, I decided to keep a bullet chambered. However, this creates another problem. There is no safety on this pistol.

— Charles

Yes, that pistol in 32 ACP, tested in the October 2001 issue, is barebones. At the time, we said, "Of our three test guns, the Kel-Tec P32 is by far the lightest, smallest, easiest to conceal and operate. The gun is ultra lightweight at 9 ounces. To load the chamber, the slide must be pulled back manually as there no exterior slide lock. There are no levers to operate beyond the trigger itself. At rest the hammer is blocked and can only be set free by actually pulling the trigger."



And in the conclusion and recommendation, "Many people are looking for the least expensive handgun, and in some cases that's foolish. Not here. This pistol delivered everything it said it would. If you only need the basics of DAO and plastic is OK, then this is worth the dollars." — tw

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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 other than your name, but we may need to contact you about material in your letter.* **GT**

Tactical Pump Shotguns: CZ-USA HC Versus Weatherby

Our team suffered more shoulder shock from touching off heavy loads with the lighter Weatherby PA-459 Threat Response, so we preferred the tried-and-true CZ-USA Model 612 Horde Control.

Specific-use firearms such as tactical shotguns that are designed for self-defense situations are held to a higher standard than other shooting tools. If a self-defense shotgun fails to function or inadequately performs at the wrong time, there is no such thing as a do-over. Admittedly, most of these shotguns will never be fired in a life-or-death situation and generally don't see a lot of time on the shooting range. That does not mean the tactical shotgun owner does not demand the shooting tool, when it is necessary, handle its duties in an efficient and effective manner.



Although similar in most features, the half-pound-lighter Weatherby PA-459, top, produced more felt recoil in testing than the CZ 612 pump.

This is the first of two tactical pump-action shotgun evaluations. The next head-to-head match will feature a Tristar TEC-12 Pump/Auto 12 gauge listing for $689 against a Mossberg Model 590 Magpul Pump 12 gauge listing for $773. In that review, we will also name Our Pick of the four shotguns put through exactly the same test drills.

For this test, we selected a couple moderately priced pumps to see how they fared on the shooting range and whether they met the high standards of a firearm that might mean the difference between life and death. The two 12-gauge pump-action shotguns, both available for less than $500, that we put through their paces are the Weatherby PA-459 TR with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of $499 and the CZ-USA Model 612 HC-P 12 gauge (last reviewed in October 2013) listing for $366.

When a shooter absolutely, positively, without-a-doubt has to stop a threat, he or she can't have doubts about whether a firearm will function in a proper and effective manner. Not only does the self-defense firearm have to perform well, a shooter must have confidence the pattern will be placed on target in an effective manner. Also, a key element in any self-defense training is that the shooter is responsible for any lead that comes down the barrel in a shooting situation. Wounding or killing an innocent bystander with an errant pellet or slug is simply unacceptable on both moral and legal levels.

Spending time on the range to know how well a shotgun performs is a necessary factor with self-defense shotguns. Understanding that a typical tactical firearm packs quite a punch on both ends, we endured quite a bit of shoulder shock in conducting evaluations on these firearms. We encourage individuals who purchase these firearms do the same so they will become familiar with their specific self-defense tool.

Our ammunition for putting the two close-quarter shotguns into play included Rio Royal Buck 2.75-inch loads moving nine pellets of No. 00 buckshot at an





Long and thin for an easy, sure grip, we liked the feel of the CZ's thin, straight grooves on the forearm that helped operate the pump. Left, the accuracy and handling ability of the CZ 612 (being shot) gave it a slight edge in a match up with the Weatherby PA-459 tactical shotgun.

average muzzle velocity of 1,345 fps; and Winchester Reduced Recoil Winlite 2.75-inch loads pushing 0.9-ounce 400-grain Sabot Slugs with an average muzzle velocity of 1,450 fps. In addition, our repeated function-fire and cycling rounds as part of the testing sequence were Remington ShurShot Heavy Dove 2.75-inch loads with 1⅛ ounces of No. 6 shot moving at an average of 1,255 fps.

Rather than the standard patterning board used for our other shotgun testing, we utilized Birchwood Casey Eze-Scorer 23-inch by 35-inch Bad Guy and the same size Targets Online paper images of potential threats for our shots in home-defense simulations; and Champion VisiColor Zombies 12-inch by 18-inch Slasher Tusks targets for slug shots at 25 yards. On the zombies, only head shots were counted as acceptable results with the slug ammo. Here are our findings:

CZ-USA Model 612 HC-P 06510 12 Gauge, $366

Billed as ideal for horde control (that is what the HC stands for in the model number), this pump-action shotgun lists for $20 more than when GT matched it against a couple other self-defense shotguns in October 2013. Because the moderately priced pump fared so well in that review (earning a B+ rating), we decided the CZ 612 would be an appropriate match against a similar Weatherby that is available for just under $500. TombstoneTactical.com sold it for $374 when we last checked, HinterlandOutfitters.com listed the Horde-Control Pump for $346; and DefenderOutdoors.com had it on for $314.

As noted in the earlier review, the handling features of the CZ 612 were considered favorable for all members of our team. The lightly grooved full-length pistol grip and larger forearm with straight-line grooves instead of standard checkering allowed us to maintain good target holds when firing this shotgun at the targets.

The heft of the CZ 612 was quite

CZ-USA MODEL 612 HC-P NO. 06510 12 GAUGE, $366

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

A smooth handling shotgun that functioned very well and put shot pellets and slugs in the right place, this tactical firearm would be a fine self-defense tool for budget-minded shooters.



Action Type	Pump	Buttstock Drop @ Comb	1.5 in.
Chamber Size	2.75 to 3 in.	Buttstock Drop @ Heel	2.0 in.
Overall Length	40.25 in.	Forearm	Black Synthetic
Capacity (2.75/3 in.)	5+1/4+1	Forearm Length	11 in.
Weight (Unloaded)	7.0 lbs.	Front Sight	Fiber Optic
Barrel Length	20 in.	Rear Sight	Adjustable Fiber Optic O-Ring
Barrel	Matte Black	Trigger Pull Weight	6.5 lbs.
Receiver	Matte Black	Warranty	Five Year Limited
Choke	Internal Cylinder Tube	Telephone	(800) 955-4486
Buttstock	Black Synthetic with Pistol Grip	Website	CZ-USA.com
Buttstock Length of Pull	14.25 in.	Made In	Turkey



The action release was a little stiff at the start of our testing, but seemed to smooth out after a few rounds were sent down range. We were particularly pleased with the 6.5-pound trigger pull.



We liked the combination of two red light bars on the side of the Ghost Ring peep sight and the chartreuse bar on the front sight. Target acquisition was much easier and quicker than with the sights on the Weatherby, we thought.



With the exception of a smaller full-length pistol grip, the stocks of both test shotguns were nearly identical. We believe the extra half pound of weight with the CZ helped tame some of the shoulder shock experienced when firing the firearm.

nice, tipping the scales at an even 7 pounds, and its weight probably helped tame some of the recoil from firing the heavy loads. Shoulder shock was not unpleasant, which we attribute to the large, thin-profile forearm and comfortable full-length pistol grip.

One particularly pleasing feature was the Ghost Ring sights, featuring red-fiber bars on each side of the peephole rear sight, and a chartreuse bar in the front sight protected by a set of ears that have cutouts to assist with sight visibility. We found this combination to be very clear and effective in putting patterns or slugs in the right place. Shooting at a zombie hog target set 25 yards downrange, a rapid-fire five-shot group of sabot slugs resulted in a 4-inch spread. All shots were in the head (one struck exactly in the middle of the hog's forehead) and target acquisition was very easy between shots.

Moving on to a home-defense situation, we set up a scenario in which three potential threats were handled with five shots of No. 00 buckshot. Timed, the CZ 612 was slightly slower in the speed run than the W'by, but produced better hits. Engaging the first target with two shots; the second target with one shot, and the third with two shots while moving from one side of a barricade to the other between the third and fourth shots to handle the third target took 5.61 seconds. The breakdown of the sequence was 1.07 seconds to touch off the first shot; 1.84 seconds for the second; 2.60 seconds for the third; 4.81 seconds for the fourth; and the clock stopped at 5.61 seconds with the final shot. All of the buckshot loads were center mass on the targets, with an average pattern of about 6 inches across.

We were particularly impressed with the CZ 612's smoothness in the way the pump action worked and in how easily the sights could be aligned on target. The Remington No. 6 shotshells used in function-fire and speed-fire testing cycled smoothly, and we did not notice excessive

WEATHERBY PA-459 TR NO. PA4591219PGM
12 GAUGE, $499
GUN TESTS GRADE: B-

Coming in slightly behind the other self-defense shotgun in this test, this pump action still performed well with only minor flaws in handling and accuracy. But it cost more, so we can't recommend it when there are better, less expensive options.



Action Type	Pump	Buttstock Drop @ Comb	1.0 in.
Chamber Size	2.75 to 3 in.	Buttstock Drop @ Heel	1.5 in.
Overall Length	39.5 in.	Forearm	Black Synthetic
Capacity (2.75/3 in.)	5+1/4+1	Forearm Length	12 in.
Weight (Unloaded)	6.5 lbs.	Front Sight	Fiber Optic
Barrel Length	18.5 in.	Rear Sight	Adjustable LPA-Style Ghost Ring
Barrel	Matte Black	Trigger Pull Weight	8.5 lbs.
Receiver	Matte Black, Aircraft Grade Alloy	Warranty	Unwritten
Choke	Extended Ported Cylinder Tube	Telephone	(805) 227-2600
Buttstock	Black Synthetic with Pistol Grip	Website	Weatherby.com
Buttstock Length of Pull	13.75 in.	Made In	Turkey



A larger and textured action release allowed for easy loading and unloading of the firearm. This was a nice extra on this self-defense firearm.



Above: Measuring exactly 12 inches long, the Weatherby forearm was a just a little bulky for our tastes, and did not function quite as smoothly as the CZ 612's, our shooters said.



Above: We appreciated the feel and size of the full-length rubberized pistol grip on the Weatherby. However, even with the better grip, we experienced more shoulder shock when firing heavy loads than with the other shotgun. In the home-defense scenario, the Weatherby was a tad bit quicker in the speed run, so you pick your poison.



Although the Ghost Ring sight is a nice touch, the white lines before the peep simply did not provide as good a sight picture as the colored bars of the CZ 612, we thought.



Above: Two very similar-looking shotguns. The CZ is on top.

recoil during the rapid-fire drills.

The CZ 612's trigger-pull broke at 6.5 pounds, a full 2 pounds lighter than the Weatherby, which we considered another mark on the plus side for the smooth-handling CZ. If a shooter is interested in upgrading the optic selection, the CZ 612 also features a Picatinny rail on top of the receiver, allowing for the easy installation of a laser or red-dot scope above the Ghost Ring sight.

Our Team Said: Very comfortable and easy to shoot, the CZ 612 produced smooth and accurate results with both slugs and No. 00 buckshot while cycling the No. 6 shotshells with authority. We liked the way the shotgun handled and believe it would be a fine shooting tool for tactical situations.

Weatherby PA-459 TR 12-Gauge Pump Shotgun, $499

Other pumpguns in the "TR" Threat Response line include the entry-level PA-08 TR, $399 list, which has an injection-molded synthetic stock without the pistol grip; the PA-459 Digital TR, $569 list, whose stock is dipped in universal digital camo; and the top of the pump line PA-459 TR 8-Shot, which features a magazine capacity of seven 2.75-inch shells (plus one in chamber) for $599 list. CheaperThanDirt.com listed this model for $415; BudsGunShop.com had a cash price for this unit of $380.

Similar in design to the CZ 612, the Weatherby is slightly shorter — an overall length of 39.5 inches compared to 40.25 for the CZ — and weighed 6.5 pounds. In the case of this tactical firearm, we found that lighter is not necessarily better. That half a pound did make a difference in our shoulder shock experience. Our shooters experienced more felt recoil when touching off shots with this shotgun, and the resulting patterning performance suffered.

Though the Weatherby also sported an adjustable Ghost Ring sight, the white bars below the peep hole did not provide the high-quality sight picture offered by the CZ 612, in our opinion. Staying on target when firing at the zombie hog 25 yards down range was more difficult, our shooters said. The five-shot pattern of 5.75 inches — two shots out of the killing zone of the head — was disappointing to us.

Perhaps more than the CZ 612, this shotgun could be improved with the installation of better optics on the Picatinny rail topping the receiver. There is also another rail on the front of the forearm that could be put into service by providing a platform for the attachment of a light or laser.

We did like the feel of the slightly larger full-length pistol grip featured on the Weatherby. Our shooters said it helped with handling and moving the shotgun onto targets, which showed at the range. In the home-defense scenario, the Weatherby was a tad bit quicker in the speed run. The first shot was fired at 1.0 seconds; the second at 1.60 seconds; the third at 2.32 seconds; the fourth at 4.41 seconds; and the final shot at 5.11 seconds. We felt this was good speed, although the patterns with the No. 00 buckshot were slightly larger than the ones with the CZ 612 — measuring about 8 inches across — and were slightly low on the center mass.

We did note that the screw-in choke that features gas release holes did not seem to have any impact on recoil. This lighter shotgun just seemed to have more recoil than the other shotgun.

Our Team Said: Overall, the Weatherby does fall into the category of being an effective, serviceable tactical tool, but it was just not up to the performance level of the CZ 612, in the opinion of our shooters. Add in its higher price tag, and the Weatherby claims second place in this head-to-head.

Written and photographed by Ralph Wininghamm, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers.* **GT**

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Used 9mm Pistols: Bersa's UC Thunder Pro Versus S&W's 908

We picked up two concealable pistols to see which is the better value. In the end, the Bersa 9mm would be a great buy used or new. Smith's 908 was okay, but we liked the Argentinian better.

When it comes to personal defense, handgun owners have many strong preferences — cultural, generational, or even institutional. Former peace officers may prefer a pistol similar to the service gun they carried at work, and soldiers often choose a Beretta because they got used to feel of an M9. One of these preferences is for a double-action first-shot handgun, which some Gun Tests readers have mentioned in comments to the editor. While personal preferences are important and heft and feel mean a lot in concealed carry, the subjective cannot outweigh objective features. The handgun must exhibit good reliability, safe operation, and practical accuracy.

Two such handguns chambered in 9mm Luger we hoped would produce these qualities were a Smith & Wesson 908 and a Bersa 9mm. The Bersa has been known as the Mini Firestorm or the Bersa Pro, and is currently named the Thunder Pro Ultra Compact. We previously had tested (May 2006) a full-size Bersa Thunder 9 and said "Buy It." We liked the workmanship, looks, feel, and performance of the 18-shot Bersa. Further, "If you want or need a good DA/SA nine that will shoot from dawn to dusk on one loading, this is an excellent choice, we thought. The gun looked about as good inside as it did out, and that inspired confidence." In that review, we also mentioned "a smaller overall version…," which is the Thunder Pro Ultra Compact. The current iteration of this handgun has a slightly different trigger guard shape, and it has a rail slot for a light or laser, but is functionally similar to our used sample. New, the 9mm comes in either a matte-black finish like our used test gun or a duotone version. There are also 45 ACP and 40 S&W chamberings in both finishes. We paid $300 for our test gun, and a new matte-black 9mm Thunder Pro UC was listed for $402 at CheaperThanDirt.com and $407 regular retail and $395 cash price at BudsGunShop.com — so around $100 more.



The Bersa features good sights, a well-designed safety, an ambidextrous safety lever and even a modest trigger-return stop on the rear of the trigger.



The Bersa featured a lower bore axis that allowed the handgun to sit lower in the hand, limiting muzzle flip. Compact, reliable, and accurate, there is little not to like about the Bersa.

In the January 2005 issue, we reviewed a Smith & Wesson 908S Carry Combo against a Kahr TP9 and Kel-Tec P11. The 908S earned an "Our Pick" rating in that test, which would translate to an A grade today. Our test gun here is the blued version, the 908, which we haven't tested previously. The 908 was produced from 1996-2006. The stainless 908S was manufactured from 2003-2006. We paid $350 for our used 908, but we have seen them listed for $50 less.

To conduct combat firing, we loaded the Winchester 115-grain full-metal-jacket rounds. Our shooters drew the pistols from a Rinehart Leather belt-slide holster (RinehartLeather.com). The drills began with a pistol fully loaded and hammer down with the safety on. We fired the first shot double action and transitioned, firing the remainder of the group single action. It was not difficult to make center hits at 5, 7, and 10 yards with either handgun. But we did have a preference, which we express below:

Bersa Thunder Pro Ultra Compact T9MP13 9mm Luger, ~$300

The Bersa tested was used, but seemed to have little wear. Like many compact handguns, it appeared to have been carried more than fired. Manufactured in Argentina, these pistols use a confluence of proven design features. The slide appears SIG like, and the pistol uses the SIG-type lockup, butting the barrel hood into the slide. The typical Browning locked-breech design uses an angled camming surface to unlock the action. The trigger mechanism, with its exposed drawbar on the right side of the frame, owes much to the Beretta.

The pistol was lubricated prior to firing. During this operation, no obvious tool marks were noted. Elsewhere,

the slide was well machined with generous cocking grooves. The sights were good examples of combat sights, in which the rear sight was broad and easily picked up during speed drills. The white-outline rear sight and white-dot post front made a good combination, we thought. Also, the sights proved well regulated for 115-grain ammunition.

The large ejection port made administrative handling simple. There was plenty of room to eject a spent case or to clear a loaded cartridge. Trigger reach or span was adequate for most hand sizes, our men and women shooters agreed. The trigger action was smooth enough, with minimal stacking at the end of travel. The double-action trigger broke at 12 pounds. The single action trigger broke at a smooth 5.5 pounds. We found trigger reset to be rapid. A modest trigger stop is part of the trigger design.

The slide's finish was even and not too worn, and the anodizing on the alloy frame was likewise smooth and even. The grips featured a modest thumb swell that the raters find comfortable. Minor point: The frame had a busy look with so many controls on the left side — takedown lever, slide lock, and a safety. The safety and the slide lock were ambidextrous.

The safety wasn't difficult to manipulate as we came on target, we found. Muzzle flip was controllable. The pistol was as comfortable to fire as a 9mm handgun of this weight should be, we believe. A combination of good sights, a smooth trigger action, and good weight for the caliber gave good combat-shooting results.

The safety's operation likewise received high marks. It was positive in operation, and a frame-mounted safety is much handier than a slide-mounted safety, in our opinion. While you may choose to carry the pistol with one in the chamber and safety off, relying on the long double-action trigger press for safety, there is no reason to do so. The frame-mounted safety of the Bersa pistol

BERSA THUNDER PRO ULTRA COMPACT
9MM LUGER, $405
GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Bersa is also known as the Mini 9 or the Mini Firestorm, as the grips show. This handgun proved reliable with all loads tested. The double-action first-shot pull was long but smooth, and the single-action trigger was downright pleasant to use. We liked the ergonomic and ambidextrous safety. The pistol excelled in rapid-fire combat groups.





The Bersa's dual-wound spring guide rod helped control recoil.



The front strap of the Bersa features molded-in finger grooves, and its grip stippling allows excellent purchase.



Our test gun came with Bersa's 13-round magazine. New magazines run $45 from Bersa, but cost less elsewhere, often around $30 used.

Action	Locked Breech Semi-Auto Double Action/Single Action
Overall Length	6.5 in.
Overall Height	4.75 in.
Maximum Width	1.45 in.
Weight Unloaded	23.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	29.0 oz.
Barrel Length	3.25 in.
Barrel	Steel
Capacity	13+1
Slide	Blued Steel
Frame	Aluminum Alloy
Frame Front Strap Height	2.0 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	2.8 in.
Grips	Textured Black Plastic
Grip Thickness (max)	1.18 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.8 in.
Front Sight	Steel, SIG Type Interchangeable
Rear Sight	Steel, SIG Type Interchangeable
Trigger Pull Weight (DA)	12 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight (SA)	5.5 lbs.
Trigger Span (DA)	2.8 in.
Safeties	Integral Locking, Ambi w/Decock
Warranty	None As Is; 1 Year New
Website	Bersa.com
Made In	Argentina



The left side of the Bersa features a takedown lever, slide lock, and safety. Like many other compact handguns, it appeared to have been carried more than fired. The current models have a one-slot accessory rail.

falls under the hand easily when the pistol is drawn and ready to fire. The safety also operates as a decocker. Press upwards on the safety and the hammer safely falls. While the controls look busy, at no time did any rater feel that the fingers were crowded and we didn't touch any controls during recoil.

The pistol featured a push-button Browning-type magazine release which operated as expected. The well-made steel magazine had a 13-round capacity, and of course we would want more than one.

Field stripping and disassembly were easy enough using the takedown lever. The dual-wound recoil spring was short, but it worked well in controlling recoil.

We test-fired the pistol for accuracy using two self-defense loads, HPR 115-grain JHPs and Hornady 115-grain XTPs, as well as Black Hills 115-grain FMJs. The Hornady load gave the most accurate group, producing one 1.4-inch cluster at 15 yards. The average was 1.8 inches with this load. The pistol's largest groups were 2.2 inches, on average. This is acceptable accuracy for a compact pistol, in our view. During the test, we experienced no failures to feed, chamber, fire, or eject.

Our Team Said: The Bersa 9mm pistol proved to be both reliable and accurate. We liked its handling and controls better than the Smith & Wesson. In particular, the safety location was more ergonomic. Though the used gun can be had for less money, we would strongly consider buying this gun new.

RANGE DATA

HPR 9mm Luger 115-gr. JHP	Smith & Wesson Model 908	Bersa Thunder Pro Ultra Compact
Muzzle Velocity	1050 fps	1063 fps
Muzzle Energy	281 ft.-lbs.	288 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.8 in.	2.3 in.
Hornady XTP 115-gr. 90252	**Smith & Wesson Model 908**	**Bersa Thunder Pro Ultra Compact**
Muzzle Velocity	1029 fps	1044 fps
Muzzle Energy	270 ft.-lbs.	278 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.75 in.	1.8 in.
Black Hills 115-gr. FMJ	**Smith & Wesson Model 908**	**Bersa Thunder Pro Ultra Compact**
Muzzle Velocity	1080 fps	1104 fps
Muzzle Energy	297 ft.-lbs.	311 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.9 in.	2.2 in.

To collect accuracy data at 15 yards, we fired five-shot groups from a solid bench rest. We recorded velocity with a Shooting Chrony Master Chronograph. The first sky screen was placed 10 feet from the muzzle.

Ammo sources: Winchester 115-grain FMJ USA9MMVP 9mm Luger ($27.30/100, CheaperThanDirt.com #67851); factory muzzle velocity, 1190 fps; factory muzzle energy, 362 foot-pounds. HPR (High Precision Range) HyperClean 115-grain Hornady XTP Jacketed Hollow Point 9115JHP 9mm Luger ($27.80/50, CheaperThanDirt.com #20-HPR9115JHP); factory muzzle velocity (MV), 1124 fps; factory muzzle energy (ME), 327 foot-pounds. Hornady Custom XTP 115-grain JHP 90252 9mm Luger ($15.77/25, CheaperThanDirt.com #87381); factory MV, 1155 fps; factory ME, 341 foot-pounds. Black Hills 115-grain FMJ 9mm Luger ($11.93/20, VenturaMunitions.com #VM1615); factory MV, 1150 fps; factory ME, 336 foot-pounds.

Smith & Wesson Model 908 103882 9mm Luger, $350 used

The Smith & Wesson 908 is a Value Line version of the S&W 3913. The 3913 Third Generation compact was stainless steel; the 908 compact is matte black. The pistol does not have an ambidextrous safety, and the machine cuts of the slide are angular and easier to manufacture than the 3913. The lockup and trigger action are the same as the S&W 3913 and similar Smith & Wesson firearms, all Browning short recoil and double-action first shot. The trigger action was comparable to the Bersa in quality and measured a pound lighter in double action. The single-action trigger compression was heavier, however, at 6.75 pounds. The hammer was a spurless design that is snag free, but we found it limits cocking the hammer for a deliberate first shot.

The sights were black plastic, with three white-dot inserts that provided an adequate sight picture. The front sight was dovetailed in place, with small plastic rods apparently holding tension. We would not attempt to adjust these plastic sights with a mallet and brass punch. Fortunately, the sights were well regulated for the 115-grain 9mm loads tested.

The magazine was supposed to accommodate 8 rounds,but the magazine would not seat with a full complement of eight. The slide is locked to the rear and the magazine inserted and the slide dropped for the 8-round capacity.

The grip was comfortable but angular. The pistol was lubricated and fired in the same manner as the Bersa, at 5, 7 and 10 yards with Winchester USA 115-grain ball ammunition. The pistol drew smoothly from the Rinehart Leather belt slide. Using a straight-thumb motion, we manipulated the slide-mounted safety with a degree of speed. The Smith & Wesson safety wasn't as smooth and fast as the Bersa safety, we thought. The safety was positive in operation and worked

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 908 103882
9MM LUGER, $350
GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The 908 was well made and finished adequately. During the firing test, there was never a failure to feed, chamber, fire, or eject. Accuracy was good, and the pistol fired to the point of aim. However, the design of the slide resulted in a higher bore axis than the Bersa. Also, the S&W lacked an ambidextrous safety and slide lock, and we noted the safety was more difficult to move to the fire position than the Bersa. While the Smith & Wesson wasn't a bad gun, our shooters favored the Bersa.





The pistols are similar in size, with the Smith & Wesson thinner but taller. The pistols performed well with all ammunition tested. Accuracy was acceptable. The Smith & Wesson 908's higher bore axis resulted in greater muzzle flip, our shooters said.

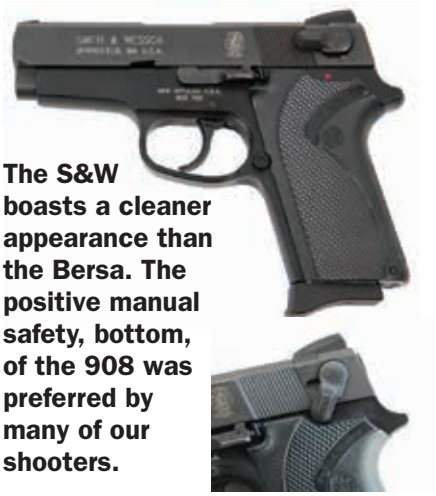
Action	Locked Breech Semi-Auto Double Action/Single Action
Overall Length	6.7 in.
Overall Height	5.46 in.
Maximum Width	1.3 in.
Weight Unloaded	26.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	30.0 oz.
Barrel Length	3.5 in.
Barrel	Stainless Steel
Capacity	8+1
Slide	Blued Steel
Frame	Aluminum Alloy
Frame Front Strap Height	1.9 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	2.8 in.
Grips	Checkered Black Plastic
Grip Thickness (max)	1.1 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.25 in.
Front Sight	White Dot Post
Rear Sight	Two White Dot
Trigger Pull Weight (DA)	11 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight (SA)	6.75 lbs.
Trigger Span (DA)	2.75 in.
Safety	Slide-Mounted Lever, Decock Magazine Disconnect
Warranty	None
Website	Smith-Wesson.com
Made In	USA



Above: The front-sight post and base of the S&W 908 was plastic, a money-saving feature of this economy line. It did not fall out and obviously has ridden with the pistol for some time.



The guide rod shown at left was also plastic.



The S&W boasts a cleaner appearance than the Bersa. The positive manual safety, bottom, of the 908 was preferred by many of our shooters.

well as a decocker. It simply wasn't as ergonomic as the Bersa. The Bersa's upward motion to decock required more effort, but there is no need for a speed decock. The frame-mounted safety of the Bersa was much easier to use than the Smith & Wesson. Also, when firing the Smith & Wesson, our shooters noticed its bore axis was noticeably higher than the Bersa's, resulting in more pronounced muzzle flip. Though the pistol was comfortable to fire with all loads tested, the slide sits higher above the hand and simply isn't as conducive to rapid-fire accuracy as a result.

In firing for accuracy off a solid bench, the Smith & Wesson 908 proved slightly more accurate than the Bersa pistol. The single best showing for the Smith & Wesson was a 1.25-inch group with the HPR 115-grain JHPs, although the overall average for the Hornady 115-grain XTP was smaller than the HPR load.

Back in the shop, we saw that the 908's takedown procedure required that you lock the slide to the rear and press the slide lock to the left for removal. This slide stop was tight, and it took some effort to remove. In our view, the 908's disassembly is not as handy as the Bersa, but there is seldom a need for speedy field strips.

Our Team Said: The Smith & Wesson was controllable and comfortable to fire, but it simply came up short in this test. We recognize, however, that some readers may have different preferences, so we'll note the major areas in favor of each handgun. The Smith & Wesson 908 is slimmer in cross section, but taller than the Bersa. The Bersa has greater magazine capacity at 13 rounds versus 8, a total of 26 rounds versus 16 when you carry a spare magazine. Each was reliable. Accuracy results were close, with the Smith & Wesson posting a slight advantage at the bench. For us, however, the Bersa wins on ergonomics and handling, including a superior safety design and operation, better control in rapid fire, and a more pleasing grip.

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

Convertible Flattops: Lipsey's Blackhawk and New Frontier

Two single-action six-shooters offered accuracy and versatility with dual calibers, but we liked one a hair better. Tested are two 45s, the Ruger New Model Blackhawk and the Colt New Frontier.

Colt started to put adjustable sights on its single-action revolvers around 1890 to fill a need for target shooters. Most single actions of the day, and, in fact, to the present, feature simple fixed sights; a blade front and rear consisting of a groove milled along the top strap. These sights suffice for most shooters, though some Kentucky windage and elevation are required with some models that did not shoot to point of aim. Adjustable sights take out the guesswork since they can be adjusted to any load being fired. Colt named the single action with adjustable sights the Flattop Target Model, and these First Generation revolvers were shipped from 1888 to 1896 with fewer than 1,000 made. Obviously, they are quite rare. Bisley models were also offered as Flattop Target Models, and even fewer of these models were produced. What these first Flattop revolvers featured was a replaceable front-sight blade to adjust elevation and a rear sight that was drift-adjustable for windage. Since the rear sight groove was not needed, the top strap of the frame was machined, flat hence the name "Flattop."

The two flattops we tested recently were a used Third Generation Colt New Frontier and a new Lipsey's exclusive Ruger New Model Blackhawk. Both wore aftermarket grips, and from outward appearances, looked nearly identical. What piqued our interest in these two revolvers was they were also convertibles with an extra cylinder. One cylinder was chambered in 45 Colt (sometimes called Long Colt to ensure it doesn't get confused with a shortened pronunciation of Automatic Colt Pistol) and the other was chambered in 45 ACP. Both cartridges are very popular, and 45 ACP made these six-shooters compatible with ammo normally used in a semi-automatic pistol.

The operating systems of each revolver are what distinguish them. The New Frontier is an old-school single action with no built-in safety, so it must be carried with the hammer resting on an empty chamber to guard against discharges if dropped. The Ruger New Model Blackhawk incorporates a transfer-bar safety mechanism that allows the revolver to be carried with all chambers loaded. The Colt uses a flat mainspring and flat springs throughout, and the Ruger uses a coiled mainspring as well as coiled springs throughout.

We used a revolver range rod and rod head combo from Brownells in 45 Auto/45 Colt (080-617-045WB, $42)



Single-action revolvers lend themselves well to adjustable sights and dual chamberings. Two excellent examples are the Ruger New Model Blackhawk (Model No. 5242, $650) a distributor's exclusive from Lipsey's and the Colt New Frontier (Model No. P4840, $1528) which is listed in Colt's current catalog but availability is limited. The Ruger was new and the Colt is a used Third Generation single action. Both wore aftermarket grips.

to check each chamber for alignment with the bore. We found no issues. Next we looked at headspace—the space between the recoil shield of the frame and the rear of the cylinder—and assumed all would be fine since the Ruger was new the Colt looked unused. Again, our assumption was confirmed with Clymer No-Go gauges from Brownells in 45 Auto (184-000-041WB, $60) and 45 Long Colt (184-100-511WB, $30). Both cylinders for both revolvers have non-rebated cylinders. The headspace check process was a bit different for each revolver. For the Colt, we put the hammer on half-cock and opened the loading gate; for the Ruger, we just had to open the loading gate and drop the No-Go gauge into a chamber. If correct, the gauge stops the cylinder's rotation. This was repeated with all 24 chambers;12 for both 45 Colt cylinders and 12 for the two 45 ACP cylinders. With the Colt, the No-Go gauge is removed only after removing the cylinder. The process is tedious, but it's warranted to ensure the safety of a used revolver. The Ruger has a

reversing pawl, like Ruger's Vaquero models, so the process is quicker. So is unloading the Ruger, but we'll get to that. Finally, we checked the cylinder-to-barrel space, aka cylinder gap, using a Brownells feeler gauger (606-950-252WB, $28). The space should spec out between 0.004 to 0.006 inch. We found the dimension on the Colt was 0.007 inch for each cylinder. On the Ruger, the 45 Colt cylinder gap measured 0.005 inch and the 45 ACP cylinder was 0.006 inch.

With the pistols all checked out, we were then able to get to the fun part and begin shooting them. Here's how that went:

Colt New Frontier Model No. P4840 45 Colt/45 ACP, $1818

The Colt New Frontier appeared in 1961 with Colt's Second Generation single-action models made from 1956 through 1975. It debuted when John F. Kennedy was president and the "New Frontier" meant outer space and space exploration. Colt latched onto the national mood and dubbed the new single-action revolver with adjustable sights the New Frontier. It was originally chambered in 38 Special, 357 Magnum, 44 Special, and 45 Colt with three barrel lengths: 4.75, 5.5 and 7.5 inches. All New Frontier revolvers have a serial number prefix of "NF" followed by the serial number. The gun writer Skeeter Skelton evangelized the New Frontier, especially in 44 Special. Third Generation Colt single-action revolvers began production in 1976 and continue to this day. The New Frontier was re-released in 1978 and is currently cataloged in either 44 Special or 45 Long Colt with barrel options of 4.75, 5.5, and 7.5 inches. The New Frontier is popular with collectors and shooters and commands top dollar, even for well-used specimens.

The Third Generation New Frontier we acquired for this test featured a 4.75-inch barrel and was in pristine condition. Original grips were made of smooth walnut inset with a gold Colt medallion, but our New Frontier

COLT NEW FRONTIER MODEL P4840
45 COLT/45 ACP, $1818
GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The New Frontier offered a more traditionally operated SAA revolver with a very crisp trigger — but at a high price. No doubt the Colt will hold its price if not abused.





At full cock, notice how the spring bends toward the interior of the front strap; testers felt the Colt was smoother cocking. There is also less room between the fully cocked hammer and back strap.

Action	Single Action
Overall Length	10.2 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.7 in.
Weight Unloaded	41 oz.
Weight Loaded	44.3 oz.
Cylinder Gap (45 Colt)	0.007
Cylinder Gap (45 ACP)	0.007
Barrel Length	4.7 in.
Capacity	6
Frame	Casehardened-Color Steel
Cylinder	Blued Steel
Frame Front Strap Height	2.1 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.3 in.
Grips	Polymer Stag Horn
Grip Thickness (max)	1.4 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	6.2 in.
Front Sight	Fixed Serrated Ramp Blade
Rear Sight	Adjustable Notch
Sight Radius	6.4 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	3.5 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.9 in.
Safety	None
Warranty	None Written
Telephone	(800) 962–2658
Website	Colt.com
Made In	USA

The large rear-sight notch and ramped blade front of the New Frontier gave a good sight picture. The rear sight uses a large screw to adjust elevation that was clearly marked.





Still uncleaned, note the step in the chambers to headspace the 45 ACP cartridges on the case mouth.



The Colt's ejector rod head was larger and pivoted away from the ejector-rod tube and barrel.





The Colt's grip (left) was fatter than the Ruger's (right), but these grips are preferences of the current owner.



At left: The cylinder pin on the Ruger (top) had more gripping surface area than the Colt's.

had aftermarket laminated stag-horn grips that look like they were made by Jay Scott, which was owned by Colt. Jay Scott grips have a wood backing that is used to secure the grips so they do not crack under recoil. The grips overlapped the frame at the butt a bit and felt a bit chunky compared to traditional single-action grips.

The metal bluing was deep and comely, contrasting with the casehardened-color frame. The New Frontier normally did not come with an extra cylinder, but one is available for an additional cost of about $290 through Colt's Custom shop, making the total cost of the New Frontier as tested $1818. Cost for just the New Frontier is $1528.

This New Frontier was well built and solid, with no wiggle in either cylinder and excellent timing. We saw no ring around the cylinder, even after test firing and cocking. The ability to shoot both 45 ACP and 45 Colt through both revolvers was a substantial plus because the calibers are so popular and available. We did anticipate a difference in accuracy as we have seen in other convertible revolvers, mainly due to the rifling twist rate, which in this case is 1:16, perhaps not being the right choice for both rounds. The 45 ACP also has a bit of jump through the chamber that the longer 45 Colt doesn't, and we thought that might show downrange. The nit we had with both the Ruger and Colt cylinders is they need an easier way to tell them apart visually. The Colt 45 ACP cylinder has a tiny stamp between two the chambers that was difficult to see and could only be seen with the loading gate open, and then only when the cylinder was in the right position. We would like a ring machined around the rear of cylinder or longer flutes, or no flutes, to differentiate between the chamberings.

The Colt loads the old-school way by first having its hammer pulled to half cock or two clicks of the hammer. The loading gate is then opened and a round is inserted into a chamber, the cylinder is rotated to skip the next chamber, then the remaining chambers are loaded. This ensures the hammer rests on an empty chamber. Because the Colt has no safety device except common sense, the revolver might discharge if accidentally dropped on the hammer over a loaded chamber. We needed to pay attention when handling the Colt; if we rotated the cylinder too much, we couldn't load a chamber because there was no access and the cylinder cannot be rotated backward. That chamber needs to be skipped and picked up next time around. Of course, this is not news to traditional SAA shooters.

The four clicks a Colt SAA makes upon cocking are music to some testers' ears. The New Frontier was smoother to cock than the Ruger, but the hammer locked back closer to the back strap, which could be an issue for meaty-handed shooters by catching the web of their hands between their thumbs and first fingers. The checkering on the hammer spur was elegant and functional, and testers thought it was nicer looking than the Ruger's serrations, though the serrations were well executed. The trigger had no creep at all and broke crisply on average at 3.5 pounds, which we thought was optimal.

The sights of the Colt were well executed. The front ramp had deep serrations, so it cut glare, and we encountered plenty of glare on the test days, with the

RANGE DATA

Herter's 45 Colt 250-gr. LFN	**Ruger New Model Blackhawk**	**Colt New Frontier**
Muzzle Velocity	760 fps	810 fps
Muzzle Energy	321 ft.-lbs.	364 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.4 in.	1.1 in.
Average Group	0.6 in.	1.3 in.

Winchester Super X 45 Colt 255-gr. LRN	**Ruger New Model Blackhawk**	**Colt New Frontier**
Muzzle Velocity	813 fps	804 fps
Muzzle Energy	374 ft.-lbs.	366 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.5 in.	0.9 in.
Average Group	1.7 in.	1.1 in.

Winchester White Box 45 ACP 230-gr. FMJ	**Ruger New Model Blackhawk**	**Colt New Frontier**
Muzzle Velocity	854 fps	843 fps
Muzzle Energy	373 ft.-lbs.	363 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.6 in.	0.8 in.
Average Group	1.1 in.	1.5 in.

Atlanta Arms 45 ACP 230-gr. FMJ	**Ruger New Model Blackhawk**	**Colt New Frontier**
Muzzle Velocity	868 fps	858 fps
Muzzle Energy	385 ft.-lbs.	376 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.9 in.	0.7 in.
Average Group	1.2 in.	1.6 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups from a bench using a rest. Distance: 15 yards with open sights. We recorded velocities using a ProChrono digital chronograph set 15 feet from the muzzle. ***Note:*** *Special thanks to Eastern Outfitters (EasternOutfitter.com) of Hampstead, North Carolina for helping with these firearms.*



Left: The stainless metal on the Ruger trigger is much wider than the Colt's — a comparison of tradition versus modernization.



Only the loading gate needs to be opened to disassemble the Ruger.



On the Colt, the hammer has to be at half cock for disassembly.



The Colt cylinders have bushings, a holdover from black-powder days that help alleviate cylinder binding when fouled. The Ruger cylinder at left lacks a bushing.



The 45 ACP cartridge nearly falls through the chamber of the 45 Colt cylinder (left), while the 45 Colt bottoms out in the 45 ACP cylinder (right).



The front sight of the Ruger (left) was set up differently than the Colt (right), which had less glare.

sun high in a clear blue sky. The rear sight offered nice, positive clicks for windage, but no clicks for elevation. We did like that the direction was indicated "UP" on elevation and "L" for windage, a feature the Ruger lacked.

Using a two-hand hold and rest, we found that the Colt liked nearly anything we fed it, in particular, Winchester Super X 45 Long Colt ammo loaded with a 255-grain LRN bullet. It consistently printed 1-inch five shot groups at 15 yards. The Colt did best with the Atlanta Arms 45 ACP, with a best group at slightly over half an inch.

Loading and unloading were easy tasks, with the ejector rod only needed toward the end of our testing session. Swapping cylinders, we found the 45 ACP cartridge loaded and unloaded as smoothly.

Our Team Said: We found we liked the Colt a lot. It is definitely a more traditional SAA with no safety features that needs to be carried with only five rounds loaded. The price is what really turned off shooters when directly compared with the Ruger, though we all surmised the Colt would hold its value better than the Ruger. The grips were a little too B-movie Western for some shooters, but the front sight was done right with serrations. The Colt had a steep cost compared to the Ruger, but it was still an investment some would make.

Ruger New Model Blackhawk No. 5242 45 Colt/45 ACP, $650

Part of the reason why Colt introduced the New Frontier was the wild success of Bill Ruger's Blackhawk single-action revolvers with adjustable sights that first appeared in 1955. Ruger's revolvers were and still are super popular with shooters. Another noted gun writer, Elmer Keith, was a fan of the Blackhawk.

The Blackhawk debuted in 357 Magnum, and like Colt single actions with adjustable sights, the Blackhawk was originally produced as a flattop. Ruger made the flattop Blackhawk from 1955 through 1962, then modernized the design by bulking up the top of frame to protect the sides of the adjustable rear sight. Since the design change, Ruger has made small runs of flattops as commemoratives as well as distributor exclusives. We tested a 50th Anniversary New Model Blackhawk flattop a few years ago in 357 Magnum and gave it an excellent rating. We hoped we would be equally happy with a flattop convertible.

We were able to wrangle a Lipsey's exclusive New Model Blackhawk that incorporated all of the retro-styling of the original Blackhawk flattops plus the added features of the New Model Blackhawks, such as the safety transfer bar and reverse indexing cylinder of the Vaquero. The grip frame was also made of steel—original flattop Blackhawks had an aluminum grip frame—and the grip was similar to a Colt grip rather than the chunkier and slightly longer grip of current New Model Blackhawk. The owner replaced the white faux ivory grips with a pair Buffalo Brothers (BuffaloBrothers.net) polymer finger-grooved grip in antique ivory coloring. The grips were well fitted and felt thin, and

to our shooters they offered a better grasp for right-handed shooters due to the finger grooves. The Ruger had a well-executed blued finish over the entire revolver, while the trigger and hammer were left bright stainless, contrasted nicely with the polished-blue metal surfaces.

The Ruger locked up tight and the timing was spot on. No cylinder ring appeared even after extensive range sessions and even after changing out cylinders multiple times over the course of testing. The front of cylinder had a nice bevel that allowed for easier holstering.

Those accustomed to handling a Colt SAA or clones had ramp-up time learning to load the Ruger. Out of habit, they placed the hammer at half cock. That is not required. Just open the loading gate, and the cylinder will rotate freely and all chambers can be loaded or unloaded. This New Model Blackhawk incorporates the safety-transfer bar, which all testers agreed gave the Ruger a level of safety the Colt lacked. The reverse indexing pawl also allowed users to slightly rotate the cylinder back to load or unload more easily, something the Colt did not allow.

Out front, testers said the serrations on the Ruger's front sight should be slightly deeper to cut glare better. The adjustable rear sight had positive clicks for both elevation and windage adjustments, but there was no visual direction on up/down or left/right, as there was with the Colt. In use, the sights of the Colt had a slight edge over the Ruger's, but both were well executed and quite serviceable.

The hammer of the Ruger took slightly more effort to cock than the Colt. Most liked the Ruger's wide trigger and felt they could press the trigger better. The trigger on the Ruger did have some creep — meaning there was some slack in the trigger before the trigger and hammers sear engaged — so most liked the Colt trigger better. With the hammer fully cocked, there was more space between the hammer and the back strap on the Ruger. Big-handed testers liked this feature over the Colt

RUGER NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK NO. 5242
45 COLT/45 ACP, $650
GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Lipsey's New Model Blackhawk flattop has a smaller grip frame than typical Ruger Blackhawks, plus the indexing pawl. The transfer-bar safety plus the lower cost gave it an edge.



Action	Single Action
Overall Length	10.1 in.
Overall Height	5.2 in.
Maximum Width	1.7 in.
Weight Unloaded	36 oz.
Weight Loaded	39.1 oz.
Cylinder Gap (45 Colt)	0.005
Cylinder Gap (45 ACP)	0.006
Barrel Length	4.6 in.
Capacity	6
Frame	Blued Steel
Cylinder	Blued Steel
Frame Front Strap Height	2.2 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.2 in.
Grips	Smooth polymer
Grip Thickness (max)	1.3 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.8 in.
Front Sight	Fixed Serrated Ramp Blade
Rear Sight	Adjustable Notch
Sight Radius	6.4 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	3.2 lbs.
Trigger Span	3.0 in.
Safety	None
Warranty	None Written
Telephone	(928) 541-8892
Website	Ruger.com
Made In	USA



Like on the Colt, the Ruger's 45 ACP cylinder was stepped to headspace on the case.



The ejector-rod head was small and did not rotate away from the barrel.



The transfer bar of the Ruger is nearly in place; press the trigger fully rearward and it rises as the hammer falls forward.



The cylinder gap between the cylinder and the barrel should be within 0.004 and 0.006 inch for best operation of the handgun.



Above: The adjustable rear sight had precise elevation clicks but did not indicate direction.



The Ruger's large sight offered an excellent sight picture.



Ruger modernized the SAA by using coil springs; testers felt the Ruger took slightly more effort to cock.



At full cock, there is more room between the Ruger's hammer and the back strap.



Here's the Colt's traditional flat mainspring at rest.

because there was less, or no, hammer bite.

Swapping out the cylinder was faster with the Ruger because all that was required was to open the loading gate, press the left side of the base-pin latch, pull the base pin, and the cylinder could be removed. There was no need to place the hammer on half cock, as was required with the Colt. We also felt the Ruger base pin gave the operator more grip to pull it out from the frame. The Ruger did not use a cylinder bushing like the Colt. This bushing is a holdover from black-powder cartridge days that allowed the cylinder to rotate even if fouled with black-powder residue. We suppose this could pose an issue with the Ruger if it is extensively fired using only black-powder cartridges. Testers with SAA experience preferred the bushing design of the Colt.

Also, the ejector head was small compared to the Colt, and it slid very close to the barrel. After an extensive shooting session, users had to make sure they did not burn their fingertips on the hot barrel when using the ejector. The Colt's ejector system pivots away from the barrel and prevents singeing a finger.

At 15 yards, both pistols shot well and were accurate. There were no misfires, and all the ammo performed well. With Herter's 45 Colt ammo in the Ruger, one tester was able to create one large hole with five shots at 15 yards using a rest. With the Winchester Super X 45 Colt, it was easy to keep all five shots inside a 2.5-inch-square aiming mark. We enjoyed shooting both revolvers.

Our Team Said: The Lipsey's New Model Blackhawk was a good product, and our team noted that it was possible to buy two Ruger revolvers for the price of the Colt.

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

GUN TESTS VALUE GUIDE: TOP-RANKED SINGLE-ACTION PISTOLS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
Colt 2nd-Generation Second Dragoon, 44 Cal., $800	Aug 2013	**Grade A:** On the range the big gun did excellent work for our testers. Accurate and powerful.
Colt 2nd-Generation 1860 Army, 44 Cal., $650	Aug 2013	**Grade A:** We would be happy to own two of these and would even use them for home protection, if needed.
Colt 2nd-Generation 1851 Navy 36 Cal., $650	Aug 2013	**Grade A:** We were mighty pleased with the feel of this gun, with its balance like that of the 1873 Colt.
Cimarron Evil Roy ER4104 357 Mag, $770	Aug 2012	**Grade A:** The Evil Roy was our favorite because of the smooth function of the action and accuracy.
Cimarron CA081 .44-Cal. Second Model Dragoon, $349	July 2006	**Grade A:** On the range, the Cimarron distinguished itself. With FFg GOEX we made many tiny groups.
Traditions Frontier Series 1873 SAT73-126 38 Sp/357 Mag, $609	May 2014	**Grade A-:** The Frontier was favored by testers who preferred traditional SAAs. Low price is appealing.
Ruger New Vaquero No. 5108 38 Sp/357 Magnum, $739	May 2014	**Grade A-:** The Ruger would get the nod if high-volume CAS-style shooting was on the agenda.

Log on to **Gun-Tests.com** to read complete reviews of these products.

308 Win. Battle Rifle Shoot Out: Century Arms C91 Vs. PTR-91

Full-size 30-caliber semi-automatics continue to enjoy great popularity because they combine keep-going functionality with more downrange hitting power than 5.56 NATO AR-15s.

The roller-locked CETME Model 58 was the basis for Heckler & Koch's G3-based rifles, followed some time later by a semiautomatic version labeled the HK-91, which isn't gas- or recoil-operated in the conventional sense. The rifle employs a delayed blowback system with a nonrotating head and twin rollers. These rollers, located on the bolt on each side, lock into detents in the trunnion of a stamped steel receiver.

On firing, force on the bolt keeps the action locked until the bullet exits the barrel, then the action unlocks and the bolt is jolted to the rear against spring pressure. The bolt then returns to battery, stripping a cartridge from the magazine along the way. We have previously tested three roller-locked rifles made in the U.S., including the 308 Win. PTR-91 from JLD Enterprises. We mostly praised the PTR-91 rifle in the January 2005 issue, save it needing a trigger job and a flash hider. We also gave Buy recommendations to the Vector Arms V-53 in 5.56 NATO and the Bobcat Weapons BW-5 9mm in that same article.

Here, we revisit the PTR-91 and a similar rifle, the Century Arms C91 Sporter, both chambered in 308 Win./7.62 NATO. The original PTR rifle was first conceived in 2002, when JLD Enterprises purchased tooling and designs for the HK line of roller-lock weapons from Fabrica Militar of Portugal. The original "Precision Tactical Rifle" HK-91 clones were produced mostly from surplus parts acquired around the world from 2002 to 2006. Then, in 2006, PTR91 Inc. was organized and expanded beyond the original 91-style clones. The company was re-organized in 2010 with new management, and then three years later, PTR Industries made news when it announced it was leaving Bristol, Connecticut and was moving to South Carolina because of the former state's just-passed stringent gun-control laws.

Century Arms, headquartered in Delray Beach, Florida, makes and warehouses its surplus firearms and accessories business in Georgia, Vermont. Founded in the 1960s and run by William Sucher and Manny Weigensberg, Century is the largest importer of Romanian-made WASR-10 AK variants. The C91 has been supplanted in the Century Arms catalog by the C308 rifle.



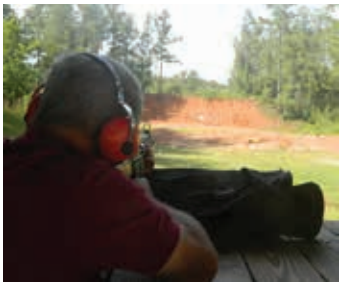
The PTR-91 G.I. model proved reliable, accurate, and pleasant to fire. The H&K OD Green fixed polymer stock is NRA-rated "Good" in quality, as is the H&K OD Green polymer slimline handguard. It is similar to the original HK-91 rifle. The G.I. C California-compliant model (915301) comes with a 10-round magazine and sells for $999. The similar G.I. R model (915300R) comes with a top rail and lists for $1049. Below: Be certain to slap the magazine home when using an HK-91 type rifle. To make the PTR-91 ready, operate the cocking handle on the front of the handguard.



With 20 rounds of 308 ammunition, good accuracy, and proven reliability, the Century C91 is a formidable rifle.



The 308 rifles were tested with a good supply of ammunition. They were more comfortable to fire and use than bolt-action hunting-type rifles in the same chambering, we thought.



So, no surprise — accurate, powerful, and well-made 308-Win. semi-auto rifles remain strong sellers. The question we wanted to know is, do shooters have to pay a premium to get one of these roller-locked mechanisms? The short answer is "No," but the longer answer appears below:

PTR PTR-91 G.I. 915304
308 Win./7.62 NATO, $850

At the time of this writing, CDNNSports.com had this rifle in stock for the price listed. The PTR-91 and the C91 use the characteristic fluted chamber that helps to dispel pressure and allow easier extraction of the fired case. There is an interesting history behind these rifles, beginning with engineers escaping Germany after World War II and developing the Spanish CETME rifle, followed by the adoption of the rifle by Germany as the G3/HK-91 and now the variants we are covering in this report.

The PTR-91 G.I. version as tested represents a base rifle. There are other tactical rifles and target guns available from PTR91, but they share the same action. The operation of the rifle was straightforward. An operating handle on the left side of the barrel was used to cock the action. This handle does not reciprocate with the bolt as the rifle fires. The cocking handle may be used to lock the rifle open. The barrel featured a six-port muzzle brake, a feature not found on the C91.

The synthetic forend offered excellent gripping surface. Just below the cocking handle was a checkered section about 4.25 inches long. The ribbed, vented forend offered good adhesion when firing the rifle. The firing grip handle wasn't stippled, but instead was smooth and hollow. The handle offered good retention by its geometry.

The receiver was particularly well finished, we thought. The bolt was also well polished. The welds necessary on a stamped-steel receiver were less pronounced and noticeable than the welds found on the C91 rifle, in our

PTR PTR-91 G.I. 915304 308 WIN./7.62 NATO, $850

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The PTR 91 G.I. is a great rifle. As advertised, it came out of the box demanding a modest break-in period. Once broken in, the rifle gave excellent reliability and accuracy. The adjustable sights and muzzle brake are good additions to the rifle and give it a leg up on the Century rifle. The lifetime warranty on internal parts is attractive.





The PTR-91 rear sight features additional adjustment. We felt this is an advantage.



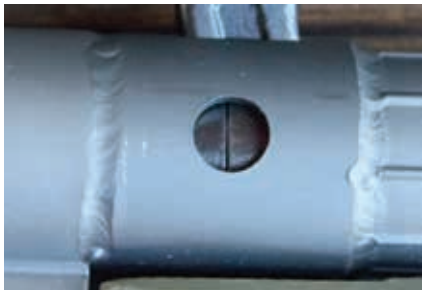
The new PTR-91 safety seems a cleaner design than the C91's.



The Black Hills 175-grain Match and the PTR-91 proved to be the most accurate.

Note the dent in a case caught by the bolt in a short cycle. This occurred while breaking in the PTR-91 rifle, per instructions.

Action Type	Semi-Auto, Delayed Blowback Roller-Lock System
Overall Length	38.75 in.
Overall Height	7.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	9.5 lbs.
Barrel	16 in. Long; HK Profile; 1:10 Twist, Parkerized Steel
Muzzle Brake	15x1 RH Thread
Sight Radius	22.5 in.
Stock	Fixed OD Green Polymer
Stock Length of Pull	14.75 in.
Magazine	20 Rds., Detachable Staggered Column
Receiver	Black Stamped Steel
Trigger Pull Weight	9.5 lbs.
Front Sight	H&K-style Hooded
Rear Sight	Adjustable Drum
Warranty	Lifetime Internal Parts; 3 Years Limited
Telephone	(843) 358-2222
Website	PTR91.com
Made In	USA



Above: No question that the PTR-91 shows better execution in welds and other finishing.



view. The magazine release was tight and positive in operation. The safety operated smoothly with a positive indent. All of the controls were readily accessible and allowed rapid manipulation. Trigger compression was smooth but relatively heavy at 9.5 pounds. The stock featured a hard-rubber recoil pad.

We liked the muzzle brake of the G.I. model, and in firing it seems to have made a difference in control. The greatest advantage of the PTR-91 over the C91 was the sights. The shrouded front post is the same on each rifle. The rear diopter sight on the PTR is among the best battle sights ever fielded, in our opinion. The drum was easily moved from the 100-meter position to the 400-meter position. The short-range setting uses an open V-type rear sight. The PTR-91, however, used a company-developed rear sight that also featured a windage adjustment — an important advantage in a rifle intended for all-round use.

There are a number of different magazines for CETME, C91 and HK-91 308 rifles. In this case we had eight magazines total from various sources. All locked into the PTR without difficulty. In the C91 rifle, four locked as designed, but four gave trouble and required a hard slap to properly seat. This was definitely a point in favor of the PTR-91.

Prior to firing, we disassembled and lubed the rifle. PTR also recommends a 100-round break-in period, so we used five magazines, each loaded with 20 rounds each, of the Winchester 147-grain FMJ in one magazine, the Fiocchi 150-grain FMJ load in one magazine, and Portuguese surplus in the other magazines. As expected, there were a minimal number of failures to fully close as the roller cam action broke in. In the first magazine, we experienced two failures to fully close, in the second, one, and in the third magazine, two failures to fully close.

After the initial range work and accuracy testing, we traveled to the range again. An additional five magazines were fired with the

RANGE DATA

Fiocchi 308 Win. 150-gr. FMJ	**PTR PTR-91**	**Century Arms C91 Sporter**
Average Velocity	2560 fps	2571 fps
Muzzle Energy	2182 ft.-lbs.	2201 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.3 in.	1.8 in.
Largest Group	1.6 in.	2.2 in.
Average Group	1.5 in.	2.0 in.

Silver State 308 Win. 168-gr. BTHP	**PTR PTR-91**	**Century Arms C91 Sporter**
Average Velocity	2320 fps	2340 fps
Muzzle Energy	2007 ft.-lbs.	2042 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.6 in.	1.5 in.
Largest Group	1.8 in.	1.9 in.
Average Group	1.6 in.	1.7 in.

Black Hills 175-gr. Match	**PTR PTR-91**	**Century Arms C91 Sporter**
Average Velocity	2344 fps	2358 fps
Muzzle Energy	2134 ft.-lbs.	2160 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.2 in.	1.5 in.
Largest Group	1.5 in.	1.9 in.
Average Group	1.3 in.	1.6 in.

To collect accuracy data we fired five-shot groups off a benchrest. Distance: 50 yards using the rifles' open sights. We recorded muzzle velocities using a Shooting Chrony Master Chronograph, with the first sky screen set 10 feet from the rifle muzzle.



Right: The PTR-91, closest, accepted every type of surplus magazine. The C91, right, did not accept all types. Below: Some of the magazines did not fit properly and others were pretty old. But the PTR could use them all.





CENTURY ARMS C91 SPORTER
308 WIN/7.62 NATO, $509
GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The Century rifle is worth the money. We traced a few short cycles to problematic magazines. Clearly, though, the PTR-91 is better finished and more accurate, if you're willing to pay for it.





The C91 has one advantage over the PTR-91, in that the grip is more ergonomic.



The original HK-style sight of the C91 is a good all-round combat sight. But it wasn't as adjustable as the PTR's rear.



The welds on the C91 were just not as clean as the PTR's.



Action Type	Semi-Auto, Delayed Blowback Roller-Lock System
Overall Length	38.5 in.
Overall Height	7.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	9.4 lbs.
Barrel	16.25 in. Long; 1:12 Twist, Parkerized Steel
Muzzle Brake	None
Sight Radius	22.5 in.
Stock	Black Polymer
Stock Length of Pull	14.75 in.
Magazine	20 Rds., Detachable Staggered Column
Receiver	Black Stamped Steel w/Picatinny Rail
Trigger Pull Weight	10.5 lbs.
Front Sight	H&K-style Hooded
Rear Sight	Adjustable Drum
Warranty	1 Year
Telephone	(800) 527-125
Website	CenturyArms.biz
Assembled In	USA



Left and above: We shot the rifles a lot, and the few malfunctions we had in the C91 were traced to magazines.

Portuguese surplus, Winchester USA, Fiocchi FMJ and the remainder of the loads used in accuracy testing. There were no malfunctions.

Firing for accuracy at 50 yards, we were limited by the heavy trigger and the iron sights. The best group of three shots was with the Black Hills Match load, just under 1.2 inches. In offhand fire both braced and unbraced, hitting the X-ring on man-sized silhouettes wasn't difficult. We thought the PTR-91 offered a steady firing platform and excellent practical accuracy.

Our Team Said: After firing the C91, we feel that the PTR-91's muzzle brake helped in controlling recoil. The PTR-91 also had a superior rear sight and compatibility with all types of magazines. Like our test many years, ago, this rifle would be vastly improved with a trigger job.

Century Arms C91 Sporter 308 Win./7.62 NATO, $699

The forend, cocking handle, and mode of operation were identical to the other gun. Much of what has been said concerning the operation of the PTR-91 also applies to the Century Arms C91, so we won't re-cover that ground again.

Elsewhere, the first and most noticeable difference between the two rifles was the finish, with the PTR-91 rifle having OD green furniture and the CA rifle a black stock and forend.

On the action, we noticed more weld marks on the C91. The rifle is assembled from surplus parts and this cannot be helped, but it may be a consideration. Otherwise, fit and finish were good to excellent, the equal of the PTR-91 G.I. in most cases, we thought. Overall, the C91 seemed to be a credible result of putting together a supply of military surplus parts.

Functionally, the safety operated positively, and the magazine release functioned as designed. The Century's sights proved well regulated for 308 Win. loads as tested. We liked the grip of the C91 better — its modest thumb rest and solid construction impressed us. Trigger compression

broke at 10.5 pounds, a full pound heavier than the PTR-91. Still, it was not a factor in offhand fire or firing for accuracy, we felt.

We mentioned the issues with magazines, which is something familiar to HK/CETME/ PTR-91 rifle enthusiasts. We learned a bit and found that with a bit of file work, we could convince most magazines to insert and function.

The C91 is supposed to require a modest break in by reputation, but this rifle came out of the box firing for our team of shooters. The initial 100 rounds of mixed loads were fired without incident, using five different magazines, and finishing off the Portuguese surplus. We felt that we could detect the absence of the muzzle brake on the PTR-91, but it wasn't a big issue in the final scoring, our shooters said.

Firing off the bench for accuracy, the C91 delivered its best results with the Silver State Armory 168-grain boat-tail hollowpoints at 1.5 inches, with average accuracy for all three loads trailing behind the PTR-91. Since the sight picture was identical and the trigger similar, we had to conclude that the PTR-91 rifle was just more accurate.

We also had occasion to test a second Century C91, this time with an eye toward upgrading the rifle. On it, we fitted a PRS2 stock from MagPul Industries ($255). This rifle stock allowed length-of-pull adjustment from about 15 to 16.2 inches. The adjustable cheekpiece rose up to 1.8 inches in elevation and offered 0.65 inch of comb adjustment front to back. The C91 class of rifle has a forward weight bias, so the heavier PRS2 stock resulted in an excellent feel in any firing position. This part will fit either the PTR-91 or the C91 rifles.

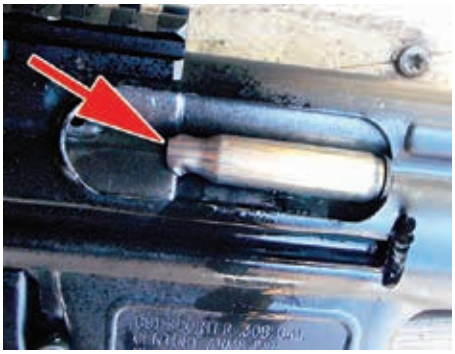
Our Team Said: There was nothing wrong with the Century Arms C91; however, when we put it side by side with the PTR-91, our shooters uniformly preferred the latter.

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

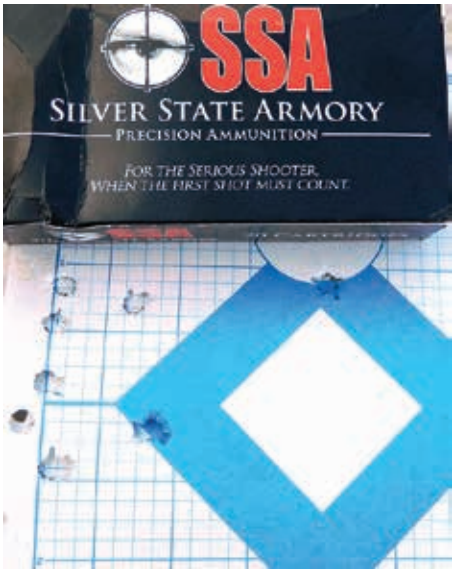




The MagPul stock shown offers tool-less adjustments and would vastly improve stockfit on either rifle. Above, with the MagPul stock in place, the second C91 fit much us better.



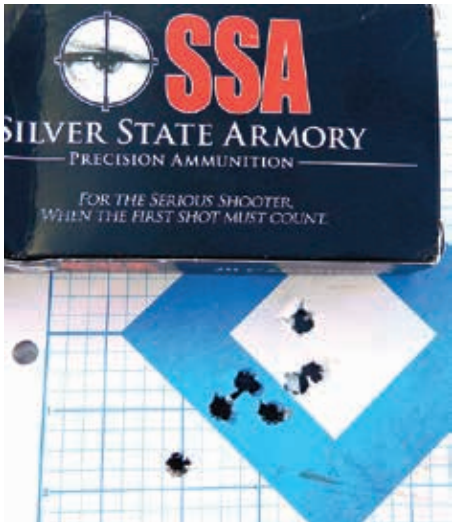
In this malfunction in the C91, this case spun backwards and was caught by the bolt. Note the characteristic gas-blowby markings on the cartridge case from the fluted chamber.



Above: This is representative of groups from both rifles at 100 yards with iron sights. Obviously, both rifles would benefit from optics, but the second C91 already had a rail in place. PTR sells a version with a rail, which we think would be a wise investment.



At one time the C91's receiver had a selector switch for auto.



Right: Shooter error caused the lone bullet to drift. Once we got used to the C91 trigger, we delivered better groups. In our evaluation of these rifles several years ago, we commented that the trigger on a PTR-91 needed adjustment or replacement. Both of these rifles could stand that, too.

Disappointing: Kel-Tec's RFB 7.62 Forward-Ejecting Bullpup

Our first time around with this rifle was abject failure — so many malfunctions that we sent it back for warranty work. The second time was better, but we still had beaucoup malfunctions.

With much hype and anticipation, we took Kel-Tec CNC's RFB forward-ejecting bullpup rifle to the range 18 months ago to compare it with other bullpup-style rifles we've reviewed. This being the only 30-caliber bullpup we've tested so far, most of our shooters were eager to get behind the scope and send rounds downrange. Taking any bullpup to the range always draws some attention, and the Kel-Tec RFB was no different. The gun has a striking overall appearance, especially with the Nikko-Sterling 3-10x42 Nighteater scope we mounted on ours.

We started out with Winchester 7.62x51 NATO rounds and sighted in the rifle, finding that it jammed about every third round, although all of these were cleared by ejecting

RANGE DATA

Winchester 147-gr. 7.62x51	**Kel-Tec RFB**
Average Velocity	2776 fps
Muzzle Energy	2515 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.1 in.
Largest Group	3.8 in.
Average Group	2.4 in.

Freedom 150-gr. 308 Win.	**Kel-Tec RFB**
Average Velocity	2730 fps
Muzzle Energy	2482 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.1 in.
Largest Group	3.8 in.
Average Group	2.8 in.

Federal Lake City 149-gr. 7.62 NATO	**Kel-Tec RFB**
Average Velocity	2657 fps
Muzzle Energy	2335 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.0 in.
Largest Group	3.3 in.
Average Group	2.2 in.

Velocity was recorded using an Oehler 35P chronograph with proof channel. Five-shot groups were fired at 100 yards from a bench rest.



Above: The Kel-Tec RFB is an interesting bullpup for which we had high hopes. Right: We tested with both 308 Win. and 7.62 NATO rounds in a variety of magazines. Our shooters experienced all manner of failures, both before and after the gun had been sent back to the factory for warranty work. We can't recommend buying an RFB at this point.





Right: This was a common problem, in which a casing didn't make it up to the ejection chute. Such action mistiming caused a variety of damage to casings and rounds, such as bent noses on live rounds, shaved cartridge mouths, and shaved cartridge bases.





the magazine and cycling the action a few times. These malfunctions were not consistent — we had failures to eject, failures to load, and failures to fire, though most involved a round either falling out of the magazine well or a casing sliding down the front ejection chute.

At first, we blamed the magazines and ammo, so we switched both when we moved out to 100 yards to test accuracy. After trying eleven different magazines and nine different ammunitions of both 7.62x51 NATO and .308 Win. with ongoing failures, we decided the issues were not with the ammo or magazines.

Despite the malfunctions, we found the RFB to be an accurate rifle, with an average grouping just over 2 inches for all ammo types.

Also, disassembly was relatively simple, requiring only a punch or bullet tip to remove four pins. At this point, the shooter can decide on which side to put the controls because they are all ambidextrous. Switching the charging handle side does require field-stripping the rifle, but everything else is ready to go lefty right away.

The ergonomics of the RFB are only average, in our view, because although it is comfortable on the shoulder and takes very little time to become accustomed to, fighting the gun's recoil can give you a swollen cheek. We would recommend some kind of pad on the comb to provide both comfort and a consistent head placement.

To understand why this rifle got the grade it did, we need to look into the fundamental design of the action. Once a round is fired, the casing is pulled out of the chamber located in the buttstock, then lifted straight up over the chamber and pushed forward into the chute that runs out the front of the rifle, all this while the next round is being pulled from the magazine and loaded into the chamber.

The major, fun-stopping failure we had was when a casing was pushed forward before it got to the ejection chute and jammed on the

KEL-TEC CNC RFB BULLPUP CARBINE
7.62X51 NATO, $1880
GUN TESTS GRADE: D-

This sci-fi looking bullpup had us excited at first, but after multiple failures and a trip back to the manufacturer and more failures, we'll have to pass on this one. This probably should get an F grade, but we're hoping the bugs can get ironed out in this interesting concept.





Here's the RFB's magazine well with the bolt closed.



The RFB's operating handle can be switched, as can its other controls — it's very ambi.



The flash hider is an A2-style on a medium-contour barrel.

Action	Gas Operated Tilting Bolt; Short-Stroke Gas Piston, Adjustable
Overall Length	27.5 in.
Overall Height	7.75 in.
Maximum Width	2.75 in.
Weight Unloaded	8.2 lbs.
Barrel	18 in., 4-Groove, 1:12, 4140 Chrome Molybdenum, Chrome-Lined Bore & Chamber
Muzzle Device	A2 Flash Hider 5/8x24 Threads
Operating Handle	Reciprocating, Ambidextrous
Bolt Release	Ambidextrous
Magazine Release	Ambidextrous
Frame	Plastic, 4140 Steel
Magazine	(1) Detachable Box, Metric FAL, 10 or 20 Rounds
Length of Pull	14 in.
Optics Rail	9.75-in. Picatinny
Trigger Pull Weight	6.5 lbs.
Safety	Ambidextrous; Trigger Disconnector, Hammer Block
Accessories	2-Point Sling
Warranty	1 Year
Telephone	(321) 631-0068
Website	KeltecWeapons.com
Made In	USA



Right: The Kel-Tec is a conversation starter. Here it's shown with a Nikko-Sterling 3-10x42 Nighteater scope.



Here's one of the 308 Win. cases whose base was shaved.



One of the malfunctions required a partial disassembly to clear.



After disassembly following a malf, we noticed this part was bent.

frame and edge of the chute. This jammed the action to the point that it wouldn't cycle to clear the round, and we had to almost completely disassemble the rifle to be able to pry out the casing. After 30 minutes of frustration, a Leatherman tool, and some serious effort, we finally had the round cleared.

Then when we tried to reassemble the rifle, we noticed that the left wall of the chute had been bent to 90 degrees and prevented the spring from passing by. After more work to bend this back into place, we finally got the rifle reassembled so we could take a few more pictures. To recap, at this point of the test the RFB had produced multiple failures to fire, load, and eject, and one malfunction was so bad that it seized the action to the point of needing a full disassembly to clear. So we shipped it back to Kel-Tec for warranty work.

Following its return from Kel-Tec, we took the RFB back out to the range. Four different shooters using 10 different ammo brands and as many different magazines still had similar issues as before the work, minus the one major ejection failure that seized up the action. We encountered many failures to load with a round stuck halfway between the magazine and the chamber. This occurred with every type of ammunition in all of our magazines. We experienced more failures to eject with the casing still sitting in the chamber, and although these were easily cleared by ejecting the magazine and cycling the action a few times, this creates a very frustrating day at the range when it happens at least twice per magazine. There appeared to be no pattern as to when or what kind of failure we would encounter, other than we never strung together more than five consecutive rounds without something going wrong. We did not have any more major failures that required full disassembly, but it appeared the issue with regular failures was not resolved.

Our Team Said: Overall the Kel-Tec RFB rifle was accurate and handled well, but its constant function problems made us give up on it. Perhaps the RFB will become a more polished product in the future, but for now, based on our experience with one, we can't recommend buying it.

Written by Austin Miller, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers.* **GT**

Upgrading Ruger's Commander

We dig into the SR1911 CMD-A pistol and make improvements.

Readers will recall our May 2015 test of Ruger's new SR1911 CMD-A, a **Grade A** lightweight Commander-style 45 auto. To sum up that test, we consider the new Ruger lightweight Commander-type auto to be one of the finest self-defense handguns available today. The gun has just what it needs and no extra nonsense. It has excellent sights. It does not have a firing-pin block, nor a full-length guide rod, which some of us despise. That means you can take the gun apart easily with no tools. The slim and attractive wood grips seem to be an aid to pointing the gun, and also contribute to concealment. We found the two-tone finish appealing, and the factory dehorning was mighty good. The original trigger pull was very much acceptable, as was the accuracy. The integral plunger housing cannot come loose. Finally, those with fat hands will like the full-size grip of the LW Ruger better than the shorter one on guns like the Colt CCO. It makes for a better grip, and speed reloading is easier.



But even good products like the CMD-A can be improved, so Senior Technical Editor Ray Ordorica bought it for himself with an eye toward making it resemble his Colt



These parts all came from Harrison Custom. The replacement trigger is of medium length. Harrison included a new strut, which we installed. No fitting required. The sear and disconnector are part of the package, the sear having a radius-ground edge.

CCO. He slicked the Ruger up, included beveling the front of the frame, eliminating all the sharp edges around the ejection port, knocking the sharp bottom off the mainspring housing, removing metal from under the trigger guard to get the hand higher, checkering the front strap, and rounding the sharp edges at the sides of the grip safety. The steel parts were reblued as needed with Formula 44/40 Instant Gun Blue, and the aluminum parts were reblackened with Aluminum Black, both available from Brownells. And as the previous photo shows, he engraved the gun.

One of the main performance goals was to improve the Ruger's already good trigger pull, so he contacted master gunsmith Ned Christiansen at Michiguns and asked about getting a trigger job. Instead, Christiansen recommended we try an "ignition set" offered by John Harrison (HarrisonCustom.com). Harrison offers a complete line of gunsmithing services along with a not-quite-drop-in kit called the Harrison Custom HD-120-TR Extreme Service Ignition Package, Strut, and Trigger, $186. We chose the carbon-steel version in white, though the parts are also available with a black coating or of stainless-steel construction. At Harrison's suggestion, we opted for the True Radius sear, which has its contacting surface ground on an arc centered on the pivot pin. He also sent along a hammer strut and a replacement trigger a bit shorter than the Ruger's. Our task was to fit all the parts and see what dropped in and what did not, and of course evaluate the products. Here is what we found.

Harrison Custom HD-120-TR Extreme Service Ignition Package, Strut, and Trigger, $186

For this project, Harrison sent a medium-length HD 102N trigger ($27), HD-125 hammer strut and pin ($19), and the HD-120-TR disconnector, sear, and hammer package ($140), all in our choice of carbon steel. To accomplish the fitting of parts such as these at home, you need to be able to disassemble your 1911-style 45 auto down to its last component. With the gun stripped, we tried to slide the new trigger into the Ruger's frame. As expected, it didn't fit. The trigger, like most, is made tall so a qualified gunsmith can fit it so it does not have any slop or lost motion within the frame.

To fit the trigger, we used a trick that most gunsmiths know, which is to clamp the trigger in a small hardened vise with just a fraction of the trigger protruding, and then file it flush, which keeps the end of the filed part square. Our vise is a vintage Brown and Sharpe No. 752, currently listed as No. 599-752-3, which lists for $178. We measured the old trigger to find out what the dimensions for the new one needed to be, and proceeded slowly. With no trouble at all we fitted the new trigger.

A small Allen screw protruding out the back of the trigger was the over-travel stop, which might need adjusting. Some gunsmiths take that screw out of self-defense guns because if it's set too tightly, or moves, the trigger can become inoperative. With it gone, the trigger can move rearward freely, but the gun can also experience double shots. Harrison locks the screw in place so you have to adjust it by grinding or filing. We ground it a bit and got it just right. After fitting the trigger and its stop, we found the safety would not work properly. We needed to remove a small amount of steel off the back of the left side of the sear. Once again we put our Dremel tool to work and it solved the problem. In short, these parts were clearly not drop-in items.



We had to remove metal from the sear (arrow) to accommodate the Ruger's safety. If you are not fully confident in your abilities, do not try installing this trigger kit yourself.

Once we had all the parts fitted, we tried the trigger. To our joy it was one of the finest trigger breaks we've experienced. It broke incredibly cleanly. However, the pull was 4.9 pounds. It had been 5.2 with the original Ruger trigger. In short, spending $140 gave us an historically clean-breaking pull of very little less weight than we originally had. But by tweaking the three-leaf sear spring, we were able to reduce the pull to 4.25 pounds. That same tweak would have also reduced the pull of the original Ruger parts, but the quality of the True Radius trigger pull was so good we decided to keep it in the gun. Also, the new hammer has sharp serrations, which make it easier to thumb-cock.

Our Team Said: If you don't know what you're doing, don't attempt installation of the Harrison Custom HD-120-TR Extreme Service Ignition Package, Strut, and Trigger, $186. You will only ruin an already good gun, which the Ruger surely is. But if you have an otherwise excellent 1911 auto with a gritty or heavy trigger, we suggest you ask your gunsmith to install a Harrison Custom ignition set.

Written and photographed by Ray Ordorica. **GT**

LWRCI Offers Free Aimpoints

Buy a qualifying rifle and get a Micro T-1 in the package. Also, Black Aces offers a short-barrel shotgun that's not an AOW.

LWRCI Offers Free Aimpoint Micro T-1 with Rifle Buy

LWRCI is offering a free Aimpoint Micro T-1 2 MOA Red Dot Sight with purchase of any select LWRCI commercial rifle from authorized dealer stock. The consumer promotion runs through August 31.

"LWRCI has partnered with Aimpoint to offer what we believe is a true step-up promotion from anything out there," said David Ridley, senior vice president sales and marketing.

Any consumer purchasing a new in-the-box LWRCI commercial rifle from an authorized dealer will receive an Aimpoint Micro T-1 2 MOA red dot sight with pre-mounted 39mm spacer and LRP ($889) at no charge.

This promotion will apply to all LWRCI commercial rifle platforms: IC- 5.56; SIX 8- 6.8 SPC; R.E.P.R. 7.62 NATO, except for Legacy M6 and NFA models. Because of the free optic, rifles will be shipped from the factory during the promotion period without BUIS.

The Micro T-1 features ACET technology, allowing 50,000 hours of constant-on operation with a single battery. Gun Tests reviewed an LWRCI rifle in the May issue, giving it an **A** grade.





Black Aces Tactical's Short-Barrel 12 Gauge

Black Aces Tactical is promoting its new Pro Series 5 DT short-barrel 12 gauge, $1179, with the SIG brace as a firearm, rather than a short-barrel shotgun or AOW (any other weapon).

Despite the pump-action item having an 8.5-inch barrel, the maker, Eric Lemoine, says a provided ATF designation letter shows the Pro Series 5 DT isn't a National Firearms Act–covered product.

The company's website says that means "there is no tax stamp, and no hassle. No AOW, no NFA. Not a pistol, not a shotgun, not an SBS, not an AOW, strictly firearm."

Other features include a Pro Series 5 mag-fed receiver base, an ATI Talon stock with pistol tube adapter, SIG SB15 brace, a billet safety, bespoked barrel clamp, and billet magazine tube and billet five-sided multiposition action tube. Magazines come in 5- and 10-round versions. The Cerakote finish comes in a range of colors.

STI's New "Diligentia, Vis, Celeritas" Pistols

STI's new DVC Limited and Open pistols are an entirely new design based off the 2011 platform and are built specifically for competitive shooting. The "DVC" acronym for the new series is derived from "*Diligentia*, *Vis*, *Celeritas*," the motto of the International Practical Shooting Confederation. Translated, the IPSC motto means "Accuracy, Power, Speed."

The guns feature a wider-than-standard frame with a full-length dust cover that has added cuts for style and balance.

An all-new sear design in the trigger breaks at a clean 2 to 2.5 pounds. The grip has been hand textured, reduced and undercut by Extreme Shooters in Havasu City, Arizona. All steel parts have been hard chromed for maximum durability.

The guide rod is a Dawson Precision tool-less, and the DVC models are the first factory guns to employ this innovation. Another first for STI is that both DVC pistols come with two 140mm magazines each.

Also, the 5-inch precision-fit bull barrels have been coated with



STI's DVC Open features a Trubor-style integrated compensator to minimize muzzle jump and recoil.



Available in 9mm and 40 S&W, the DVC Limited works as a 3-Gun, U.S.P.S.A. or I.P.S.C gun. $2,799.

titanium nitride for optimized hardness, lubricity, and longevity.

On the Limited model, weight has been removed from the slide to help keep the gun balanced, increase cycle rate, and reduce forward recoil. The front sight is a Dawson Precision fiber optic and the rear is fully adjustable.

The ambidextrous slide-racker is also new, and it can be used on either side of the pistol via a dual-detent system. The DVC Open is topped off with a 6-minute-of-angle C-More sight. The gun is available in either 38 Super or 9mm (tuned for major power factor). MSRP is $3,699.

SureFire Adds SF Ryder 9 Ti, 30-Cal SOCOM Suppressors

SureFire's new SF Ryder 9-Ti—"Ti" for titanium—features an ultra-light tube, front plate, and rear plate that help minimize the suppressor's overall weight without any sacrifice in strength. MSRP is $799.

The 9mm SF Ryder 9 Ti features pig-nose baffles that provide superior sound attenuation and reduced muzzle blast. Built-in spacers help reduce carbon buildup between the baffles and the suppressor tube, and every baffle is indexed and individually numbered for foolproof disassembly and reassembly—made even easier by an included assembly/disassembly tool.

The 9.5-ounce Ryder 9Ti also reduces weight through an outer-tube design that features rounded edges and fluting, which also makes it easier to get an accurate sight picture with the suppressor attached. The thread-on suppressor securely attaches via single-point cut threads available in either ½x28 or M13.5x1 thread sizes. Attaching the suppressor is simply a matter of screwing it on to a compatibly threaded 9mm barrel until hand tight. The Cerakote-finished item is available in three colors—black, dark earth, and wolf gray.





And SureFire claims its new SOCOM300-SPS is the quietest suppressor ever built for 300 Blackout (subsonic and supersonic), 308 Win. and 300 Win. Mag. MSRP is $1075. In an accompanying video, it sounds pretty dang quiet with 300 Blackout subsonic ammo — a hearing-safe 120-db output.

It is the latest model in the SureFire line of SOCOM Fast-Attach sound suppressors. The body is made of Inconel, a high-temperature alloy, and stainless steel, and it typically adds only 6 inches to the length of a rifle.

An indexing system ensures that the suppressor mounts to a compatible SureFire SOCOM series adapter that also serves as a muzzle brake or flash hider when the weapon is unsuppressed. The no-tools Fast-Attach system makes the suppressor easy to remove and install.

The SOCOM300-SPS suppressor is available in Black and Dark Earth colors and is available for purchase in states that allow legal suppressor ownership.

TALO Exclusive Smith & Wesson M&P Pistols Available with Kryptek Typhon Finish

Nine new Smith & Wesson M&P pistols featuring a specialized Kryptek Typhon Finish are available exclusively through TALO Distributors Inc. The new Kryptek Typhon pattern features a black-tone finish offset with Kryptek's multi-directional bi-level layering to create a three-dimensional effect. The TALO-exclusive M&P pistols



with Kryptek Typhon finish include the M&P9 (full-size and compact), M&P40 (full-size and compact), M&P Bodyguard 380 with and without internal Crimson Trace laser, and the M&P22 Compact. The internal features and specifications of the new M&P pistols mirror their standard counterparts.

The A*B Arms AR Essential Kit

American Built Arms Company's AR Essential Kit includes genuine, Mil-Spec quality parts for those AR-15/M16 small parts that wear down, break, or simply get lost. This kit contains all the wear parts needed to keep your 5.56 AR-15/M16 rifle like new, including a nickel-boron coated cam pin, chrome-coated firing pin, and firing pin retaining pin. Also included are an ejector, ejector spring and ejector pin, along with an extractor with attached extractor spring, extractor spring with insert, extractor axle, and gas rings. MSRP is $50.



Zeiss and Kimber Partner on High-End Rifle Packages

Carl Zeiss Sports Optics is partnering with Kimber Manufacturing to provide Conquest HD5 rifle scopes decorated in the Gore Optifade Concealment patterns to be packaged with Kimber's lightweight Mountain Ascent (Open Country pattern) and Adirondack (Elevated Forest pattern) rifles.



There will be six different SKUs of Conquest HD5 rifle scopes in both the Optifade Open Country and Optifade Forest patterns for a total of 12 scope options. Scope offerings range from the standard 2-10×42 Plex up to the 3-15×42 Rapid-Z 600 and Rapid-Z 800, with ballistic reticles.

Pricing for the decorated Conquest HD5 riflescopes start at $980 for the 2-10×42 Plex and goes to $1200 for the 3-15×42 Lock Plex. Kimber also offers Talley scope mounts, dipped in the two Optifade Concealment patterns, to round out the package.

Arsenal Releasing Limited Supply of SARPK 5S

Arsenal Inc. is releasing a limited quantity of the SARPK 5S, a collectible that has not been available for several years. This 5.56x45 RPK offers increased operational range and enhanced accuracy due to its hammer-forged than milled receiver, RPK heavy barrel, 14mm threads, removable muzzle nut, folding bipod, cleaning rod, blonde wood furniture, paddle style butt-stock, and scope rail. The rifle ships with one 30-round magazine, sling, oil bottle, and cleaning kit.



Turnbull's New 1911 BBQ Series Pistols

Turnbull Restoration & Manufacturing Co. of Bloomfield, New York has introduced the BBQ Series pistols, 1911s with 24-karat gold inlays of a crossed fork and spatula, the insignia of the BBQ Series, and a unique serial number that is hand cut with the BBQ designation. MSRP on the BBQ Series starts at $5,000.

"The 1911 pistol has always held a special place in my heart," said CEO Doug Turnbull. "We felt that this was the exact time to really take that classic design and really make it a classic Turnbull. This is the first time we are offering four options of engraving across an entire line."



The four BBQ 1911 pistols are the BBQ Government, BBQ Government Heritage, BBQ Commander, and BBQ Commander Heritage. All are 45 ACPs and feature elk grips, solid one-piece triggers, Turnbull Turning Bull Stamp, and Doug Turnbull inspection stamp. All models come with a pair of two-tone magazines.

The Government and Government Heritage have 5-inch barrels, WWI-style sights with semi-circle notch, color-case-hardened frame or charcoal-blued frame, and short, wide spur hammers.

The Commander and Commander Heritage have 4.25-inch barrels and carbon-steel frames. Both come with nitre blue finishes.

The engraving options for the BBQ 1911 Series are:

Scroll: Derived from classic American scroll engraving from around the 1850s;

Flare: Heavy, deep engraving cuts that form a bright sparkling pattern;

Grape: Leaves and vines that flow across the surfaces of the pistol;

Colt: Features Colt-style scroll with punch-dot background.

BBQ guns are usually heavily decorated sidearms that aren't everyday carry items. They are usually functional and are sometimes heavily modified for better accuracy and reliability. They often have custom engraving, polishing, or custom grips. They are often worn at a casual get-togethers or special events.

Crimson Trace Makes Revolver Green Laser

Crimson Trace is now offering what it touts as the first green laser sight for revolver. The LG-415G Lasergrip, $399, is a replacement grip for Ruger's compact LCR and the company's LCRx revolvers.

These new Crimson Trace green Lasergrip comes with smooth polymer sides, special rubberized grip inserts on the front and back for greater control and comfort, and a 515nM (Green) diode with standard windage and elevation adjustments. The 415-series Lasergrips power up with Crimson Trace's Instinctive Activation feature and have a master on/off switch.

This Ruger LCR–specific Lasergrip is shipped with cleaning accessories, a sight-in adjustment wrench, batteries and an owner's manual.

The product's wraparound two-piece design requires removing the original grip and installing the Crimson Trace Laserguards grip, which usually takes only a few minutes to complete. MSRP for the similar LG-415 red laser diode is $319.



Leapers Makes UTG Pro Mount for AR-10

The new UTG Pro Mount MTU026SSKA is the first of Leapers/UTG's made-in-the-USA Keymod rail systems designed for 308-Win. AR systems. MSRP for the MTU026SSKA model is $188.

Designed for use with the ArmaLite AR-10 model and variants with the same dimensions, this rail features a lightweight octagonal profile with an extended 15-inch length.

A top Mil-STD 1913 (Picatinny) rail

— *continued from page 31*

interface with T-marks provides 37 slots, while its edges are scalloped for easy mounting of accessories. Seven Keymod tracks are evenly spaced around the rail and house 112 Keymod slots for mounting versatility. The sleek rail surface has grooves along its length to provide comfort and weight reduction.

The new rail ships with one four-slot and one eight-slot Keymod-to-Picatinny rail section, and additional rail sections are available for purchase. The MTU026SSK family of rails are currently available in a hard black anodized surface coating and are constructed of 6061 T6 aircraft-grade aluminum.



The similar MTU026SSKB model is compatible with the DPMS high-profile-type receivers and variants using the same dimensions. These will be released concurrently with the "A" version that fits AR-10s. Leapers/UTG has already committed to a "C" version that will fit S&W MP10 rifles as well as DPMS low-profile variants.

Compiled by Gun Tests *staff.* **GT**

COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

- Bullseye Pistols: MetroArms Bullseye Long Slide M19BE45C, $1279; Remington Rand 1943 1911A1, $1050; and the Colt Gold Cup Trophy 05070X, $1135.
- Two AR-15 rifles go head to head: The Battle Rifle Company BR4 versus the CMMG MK4.
- Professional-Grade Carry Guns from Colt: We selected two modern handguns that don't have extraneous features — the Colt 1991A1 and the Colt Series 70. Are they as different as night and day, as some believe? We shoot them side by side to find out.
- Are low-end 20 gauges worth the money? To find out, we selected a Yildiz SPZ ME, $430, handled exclusively by Academy Sports, and a Mossberg International Silver Reserve Bantam, $760.
- Lightweight 45 ACP Revolvers from Smith & Wesson. The Model 325PD and the Performance Center Model 625-10 both feature scandium alloy N-frames, alloy barrel shrouds, steel barrels and titanium cylinders. Are they worth premium money? We find out.

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