GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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COMPACT 9MM PISTOLS: WE TEST CANIK, CZ, AREX

We put CZ clones head to head and found all were reliable, without a single failure to feed, fire, or eject. But we named one a Best Buy. ● Page 6





THREE MORE 10MM AUTOS

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SWEET SHOTGUNS

Browning brought back the Sweet Sixteen semi-auto last year. How does it stack up against older A5 Humpbacks? ● Page 19



RIMFIRE SHOOT-OUT

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DOWNRANGE

MORE WINNING GUN LAWS, PLEASE



Todd Woodard

Man, everywhere you look, there's good new laws pertaining to guns, gun rights, gun culture, you name it. At the top of the list would be sending congratulations to our subscribers in North Dakota. Governor Doug Burgum (R) signed House Bill 1169 into law. HB 1169 will eliminate the requirement to obtain a permit in order to lawfully carry. HB 1169 will make the current permitting system optional to allow citizens to obtain permits and take advantage of reciprocity agreements with other states. Other states with Constitutional Carry (some version of permitless carry) include Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

● Judge Neil Gorsuch endured marathon questioning in three days of hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee. He was asked by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) whether or not the Second Amendment was unlimited and if it was ambiguous. In particular, Sen. Feinstein questioned Judge Gorsuch on his views on the *District of Columbia. v. Heller*, the landmark 2008 decision establishing firearms ownership as an individual right. She quoted Justice Antonin Scalia's majority opinion that noted the Second Amendment is subject to regulation and posed the question, "Do you agree with that statement that under the Second Amendment weapons that are most useful in military service, M-16 rifles, and the like, may be banned?"

Judge Gorsuch's answer put the okey-doke on Sen. Feinstein. "Whatever's in Heller is the law, and I follow the law," Gorsuch said, adding, "It is not a matter of agreeing or disagreeing, senator, respectfully, it's a matter of it being the law and my job is to apply and enforce the law."

● Federal legislation to protect travelers who are transporting firearms interstate for lawful purposes has been filed. H.R. 358 deals specifically with transporting unloaded firearms, rather than for carry en route. It would strengthen the Firearm Owners Protection Act (FOPA) intended to protect the right of law-abiding gun owners to transport firearms throughout the nation. FOPA's safe transport provisions (18 U.S.C. § 926A) guarantee the right of a law-abiding person to transport an unloaded firearm between two locations where he or she may legally possess it, regardless of state or local laws along the route of travel that would otherwise prohibit such conduct. Under the current law, the gun must be cased or otherwise not readily accessible.

● Not quite on the same scale, but interesting to me personally nonetheless, is a bill reducing fees for License to Carry permits. It has been passed by the full Texas Senate. Senate Bill 16 would cut $100 off the initial cost for obtaining a handgun license to $40. Currently, initial permits cost $140. Hoo-rah. Not tired of winning yet. **GT**

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Big 9mm Pistols Tested? Yes!

Reader Derrick wants to know if a couple of self-defense handguns have graced the pages of Gun Tests yet. Also, a couple of readers ask about which Mossberg short shotgun we pictured.



Evo versus MPX? Yes!

Hope this message finds you well. Has there been a Gun Tests article yet that compares 9mm CZ Evo against SIG Sauer 9mm MPX? Thanks in advance! **—Derrick**

Why, yes. The March 2017 issue compared "Forward-Mounted-Mag 9mm Pistols from SIG, Zenith, & CZ." The three super-sized pistols tested included the Zenith Firearms MKE Z-5RS with SB Brace, the CZ Scorpion EVO 3 S1, and the SIG Sauer MPX-PSB. The Zenith and SIG came with braces, while the CZ did not, but one could be purchased separately. All three proved to have good accuracy and reliability as defensive firearms. We preferred the Zenith, though the SIG and CZ performed well. As a subscriber, log on to Gun-Tests.com and read the entire review, either the online version or download the whole issue as a PDF. — Todd Woodard

Re: "Holsters for the Glock 42: We Test Ten for Everyday Carriers," April 2017

After reading the April 2017 article on Glock 42 holsters, I want to share with other readers my holster for that gun. It is made by Suncoast Leatherwork of Boynton Beach, Florida. I have purchased four of them, and each one is very well made. Being in Florida, you need something that stands up to the heat and does not bother you. Walter Knights is the maker. I've found him to be a pleasant person to deal with. The best part, the holsters are only $39.95, no matter if it is for a G19, PPK, S&W, etc. Email address is wknig78073@aol.com or on eBay ID wknigclo. They are well worth the money. **— Jeff**



Thank you for passing that recommendation along, Jeff. Above right is one of the Suncoast Leatherwork holsters for the Glock 42. I should mention to readers who are going to go search for more information on the products that Jeff gave very accurate advice on how to find the articles on eBay, and I suggest you go there and use the ID he supplied. A general web search will turn up a very similarly named business in Florida, but in a different city. — tw

Not the Shockwave

Hello, folks. Page 30 of your April

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.

edition describes a new Mossberg shotgun, the "Shockwave." The article states that the Shockwave is an ATF-approved shotgun with a 14-inch barrel. That may be, but I believe the accompanying photo is of the new Mossberg Compact Cruiser, which comes with either a 7.5- or a 10.25-inch barrel, and which apparently is an AOW ("any other weapon") under the NFA, and thus subject to the NFA's form and tax stamp requirements. In contrast to the Compact Cruisers, the Shockwave comes with a bird's head grip. Just thought you should know. Keep up the good work: I've enjoyed your magazine for almost 20 years. **— Alan**

OK guys, you have managed to alarm me with your April issue. Your photo of the Mossberg 590 Shockwave is a very different gun from the one I now have on prepaid backorder, and I don't know which way to jump. **— Bill**

Alan, you're right. The photo we published is of the new Mossberg Compact Cruiser. The Shockwave has a birds-head grip, as shown below. Bill: Sorry for the mistake and to have alarmed you. — tw



Careful About the Super

Hi, Todd. April 2017 — a great issue again. Just a note on the back page. Please y'all be careful about confusing ".38 ACP" and ".38 Super." Referring to the Super as ".38 ACP Super" is, well, dangerous. While the ACP and the Super have the same case dimensions, you don't want to shoot Super in a 38 ACP-chambered pistol, such as my Colt Pocket Hammer. The .38 ACP pistols are, I believe, exclusively dual-link designs that won't stand the gaff of the Super cartridge.

Some years ago SAAMI specified that ".38 Super" be redesignated ".38 Super +P." Why? There is no .38 Super that was, or is, not "+P" (when compared to the Super's ancestor, the .38 ACP). Thus, old boxes of .38 Super can still be found, but the exact same loads are now designated +P. I hope I made the above clear. It is a bit confusing. Thanks for your patience with this old pedant. **— Walt**



The Colt Pocket Hammer, bottom, is chambered for the 38 ACP round and won't tolerate the 38 Super cartridge, found in some versions of the Mark IV Series 80, top.

Hey Walt: It's not pedantry to be exact in the descriptions of cartridges and firearms. Bob Campbell, the author of that upcoming ammunition test, said, "Our readers are very sharp. Possibly the sharpest in the industry, I like that." Here's more on the cartridge from the 38 Super manuscript: "The .38 ACP, introduced in 1900, is no longer in regular production. This is because the original .38 ACP, introduced in 1899, was later upgraded to the powerful .38 ACP Super. The cartridge case dimensions are identical. The Super is the much hotter cartridge. Modern SAAMI standards called for the .38 Super to be labeled .38 ACP Super +P, which is confusing. While some of the modern loads are hotter than others, all are safe for a modern 38 Super handgun in good condition. The old double-link Colt 38 ACP self-loaders should never be fired with these loads." — tw

Re: "Compact 45 ACP Shoot-Out: Glock, S&W, and Springfield," November 2016

I purchased an M&P Shield 45 based on your recent test. Very nice, compact pistol. My only complaint is the difficulty loading the magazines. I could only get two rounds in each! I purchased an aftermarket loader from Sportsman's Guide that works well, but I think S&W should include a loader with the gun. **— James**

Hey James: Glad the pistol is working out for you. The Shield earned an A rating and a Best Buy in that comparison. From the review: "The Shield has features we like, including a manual safety and the best grip design of the three. This grip not only fit most hands well, the pebble grip allowed good purchase without abrading the palm." We also noted, "When loading the Smith & Wesson M&P45 Shield's magazine, top, be certain the cartridge is seated well to the back of the magazine." That might have contributed to the difficulties you had. — tw



Re "Reproduction M1 Carbines: We Test A-O and Inland Mfg. Models," Feb. 2017

Thanks for the test, I really enjoy shooting these carbines. I was, however, disappointed that you did not discuss an important safety issue I found with the Kahr reproduction I examined at a gun shop. Namely, that it can fire with the bolt as far as 20 degrees out of battery, likely injuring the shooter and destroying the receiver. If you examine the bolt on the mil-spec gun, you will find a notch that only permits the firing pin to move forward when the bolt is rotated fully closed. The commercial reproductions seem to use cheaper bolts without this critical feature. If someone buys this gun anyway, it is critical that they only use commercial





ammo with "hard" military primers. Using normal "soft" rifle primers in reloads makes a discharge when the bolt stops on a dirty chamber way too likely.

I would also like reloading advice for my 1942 Inland M1. I have some CCI #41 "NATO/AR15" primers to use with Accurate #9 powder. **— Bill**

Hey Bill: Thanks for the advice. We didn't see so much as an inkling of the problem, or we would definitely have mentioned it in the report. — tw

Re: "Affordable 1911 Rail Guns: EAA, ATI, Armscor, Springfield," April 2017

Attached is a photo of my Charles Daly 1911 that I bought new quite a few years ago. I think it was $399, which made the Crimson Trace laser grip at about $299 a relatively expensive upgrade, especially because a gunsmith had to modify the right thumb safety to fit the grip. But I wanted to be able to actually hit an intruder. I'm pretty sure it's an Armscor unit imported by Daly, so I read the article with interest. Some differences are obvious, like the additional forward grip slots on the slide and the very ordinary sights, but I'm curious as to what other significant differences there are. I'm not very well versed in firearms technical lingo, so, for example, "monolithic" steel frame means nothing to me.

— A Gun Tests Reader





As you noted, there are some obvious differences. "Monolithic steel frame" on the Rock Island Armory Tactical 2011 refers to the slab-sided, squared appearance of the front of the frame. Of course, your gun lacks the Tactical's accessory rail. Having the rail would have allowed you to mount a standalone laser on the front rather than having to modify the safety lever on the right side to accommodate the Crimson Trace Lasergrip. The sights, of course, are different, with the TruDots being an upgraded item on this model. Looks like your mainspring housing is smooth, where the Tactical is checkered. — 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**

Compact 9mm Pistol Shoot Out: We Test Canik, CZ, and Arex

When we put several CZ clones head to head, we found all were reliable, without a single failure to feed, fire, or eject. We think the CZ-USA P-01 9mm was the best of the test and a Best Buy.

In this issue, we test four compact handguns chambered for the 9mm Luger cartridge, the most popular defensive cartridge, according to sales figures compiled by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The 9mm offers real power in a compact high-pressure cartridge. The handguns that chamber the cartridge are often very reliable, and modern loads have a lot going for them. A service-size pistol is too large for many people to carry concealed and are unwieldy in home-defense situations for others as well. As a result, the ideal 9mm handgun would seem to be a compact version of the service pistol. These are service handguns with a shorter grip and slide that makes the piece easier to carry and for many of us, easier to handle under pressure. But the short slide radius may make precision shooting more difficult.

To see which compact pistol we preferred, we collected four examples of modern compact handguns:

- the **CZ-USA P-01,** a double-action-first-shot pistol with a light rail and decocker;
- the **CZ-USA 75 D PCR Compact**, which is more in tune with civilian needs than the police-type P-01;
- the **TriStar Canik C-100,** an affordable clone of the CZ-USA 75 compact with the original selective-double-action-type CZ safety; and
- the **Arex Rex Zero 1,** a selective-double-action-with-decocker compact as a counterpoint to the CZs.

Some prefer a decocker on their double-action-first-shot handguns, but there is a smaller, but dedicated, group that prefers the selective-double-action type and others perhaps would like to have both. These shooters do not care for the Glock or a double-action-only system and often choose a CZ or SIG-type handgun. We fired off a variety of compact 9mm handguns and came to a conclusion, based on the opinion of our testers, as to which handgun is the best suited for most shooters, with the emphasis on the beginning, but still competent, shooter. Some of the choices are subjective, but the objective components — accuracy and reliability — are most important. If a compact 9mm fits your needs for self defense, one of these handguns will be a good choice, and one will be the best choice, we believe.



Top to bottom are the TriStar Canik 55 C-100, CZ-USA 75 PO 1, CZ-USA 75D PCR Compact, and the Arex Rex Zero 1 9mm handguns. All had good features, and none demonstrated any malfunction during our accuracy and combat drills.



The CZ-USA 75 P-01 has pretty much everything concealed-carry permittees need in a 9mm pistol. We rated it a Best Buy in this match up.

RANGE DATA

Black Hills Ammunition 115-gr. TAC JHP +P	Canik 55 C-100	CZ-USA 75D PCR Compact	CZ-USA P0-1	Arex Rex Zero 1
Average Velocity	1142 fps	1185 fps	1199 fps	1163 fps
Muzzle Energy	332 ft-lbs.	358 ft.-lbs.	367 ft.-lbs.	345 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	3.25 in.	2.0 in.	1.8 in.	1.65 in.
Largest Group	3.9 in.	2.5 in.	2.4 in.	2.1 in.
Average Group	3.6 in.	2.25	2.2 in.	1.9 in.

Sig Elite 124-gr. V Crown	Canik 55 C-100	CZ-USA 75D PCR Compact	CZ-USA P0-1	Arex Rex Zero 1
Average Velocity	1172 fps	1166 fps	1179 fps	1201 fps
Muzzle Energy	378 ft.-lbs.	374 ft.-lbs.	382 ft.-lbs.	397 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.65 in.	2.0 in.	1.6 in.	2.0 in.
Largest Group	3.5 in.	2.6 in.	2.6 in.	2.9 in.
Average Group	2.75 in.	2.2 in.	2.1 in.	2.4 in.

Gorilla Ammunition 135-gr. All Copper JHP	Canik 55 C-100	CZ-USA 75D PCR Compact	CZ-USA P0-1	Arex Rex Zero 1
Average Velocity	944 fps	909 fps	934 fps	958 fps
Muzzle Energy	267 ft.-lbs.	247 ft.-lbs.	261 ft.-lbs.	275 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.5 in.	1.5 in.	1.9 in.	1.75 in.
Largest Group	3.6 in.	2.25 in.	2.5 in.	2.6 in.
Average Group	3.2 in.	1.9 in.	2.3 in.	2.2 in.

Notes: *To collect accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups off a solid benchrest. Distance: 25 yards. We recorded velocity with a Competition Electronics Chrony Chronograph. The first sky screen was 10 feet from the muzzle.*

Ammunition notes: *We purchased the Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain TAC JHP +P for $15.08/20 from MidwayUSA.com; the SIG Elite 124-grain V Crown for $14.01/20 and the Gorilla Ammunition 135-grain all-copper JHP for $30.49/20 from CheaperThanDirt.com.*

TriStar Canik 55 C-100 9mm Luger, $365

This is a recent price for this handgun at BudsGunShop.com. TriStar is the importer, while Canik 55 is the Turkish manufacturer, and C-100 is the model designation of this compact 9mm handgun. The C-100 is a compact CZ 75–type handgun with a steel slide and aluminum frame. The action is the original CZ 75–type with a double-action-first-shot trigger. A manual safety allows the handgun to be placed on Safe with the hammer cocked. There have been some changes in the lockwork, and this handgun may be placed on Safe with the hammer down, which isn't possible with the original and current CZ 75 configuration. The change makes for a more versatile handgun, particularly for home ready. We like the idea of a handgun on Safe, yet that is still ready, more so than one that is ready without a manual safety. This is one of two handguns tested with a manual safety.

The finish of the C-100 is a nicely applied deep black. The grip panels are hard plastic. The C-100 incorporates a positive firing-pin block in the design. The firing-pin block is similar in operation to the CZ 75 B but differs in appearance. The geometry of the grip frame



Our test rounds for this quartet of 9mm compact handguns included, from top, the SIG Sauer Elite 124-grain V-Crown jacketed hollowpoints, Gorilla Ammunition's all-copper 135-grain JHPs, and the Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain TAC JHP +P loading.

differs subtly from the CZ 75 but not enough to affect firing. However, grip panels for the CZ 75 will not fit the C-100, so beware when ordering custom grips. The sights are credible combat sights comparable to the CZ 75 and REX Zero. The rear sight rides in a dovetail and may be drifted for windage adjustment. The front sight is pinned in place in typical CZ fashion. A slight ribbing texture is added to the top of the slide. There are serrated portions in tandem on each side of the raised rib.

The pistol features a dual wound recoil spring. This particular C-100 was very tight and required more effort than the other handguns to disassemble, although it loosened slightly after firing. When dealing with European-made firearms, it is a good plan to thoroughly degrease the piece before firing. The slide runs inside the frame in CZ fashion. This allows for a lower bore axis and less muzzle flip. There were tool marks evident on both slide flats when the C-100 was field stripped. We noted these tool marks and decided to check the CZ 75 pistols for similar marks. CZ pistols are usually more difficult to rack because of the lower bore axis (which can be harder to grip) and the way the slide rides in the frame. The C-100's cocking serrations are adequate for the type, we felt.

The pistol is supplied with two 14-round magazines. CZ 75 magazines readily interchange. These magazines feature bumper pads that allow the magazine to absorb more punishment when dropped. We recently conducted a magazine test in which we cracked a CZ 75 baseplate, but it kept going. The bumper pads add a little length but are worthwhile. The bumper-pad magazines are easier to quickly slap home, but they protrude slightly from the magazine well. The magazines were well made with a good finish. The front strap was serrated for adhesion. The front of the trigger guard was serrated for good purchase, but none of the testers use this type of forward finger grip. We tried it a few times and found the serration worked okay, but we

TRISTAR CANIK 55 C-100 9MM LUGER, $365

GUN TESTS GRADE: C

The C-100 is reliable, which is a good start. The simplicity of the design without highly developed sights or a light rail appeals to some. The price also appeals to many shooters. The problem was that the safety lever was so stiff as to be practically unusable. The double-action trigger was also heavy.



Action	Semi-Auto
Overall Length	7.2 in.
Overall Height	5.03 in.
Maximum Width	1.35 in.
Weight Unloaded	26.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	33.5 oz.

Barrel Length	3.75 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	14-rd. detachable box
Slide	Steel
Frame	Aluminum
Frame Front Strap Height	2.35 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.4 in.
Grips	Plastic
Grip Thickness (max)	1.4 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.4 in.
Sights	Fixed
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	5.9 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.55 in.
Safety	None
Warranty	One year repair, four year parts
Telephone	(816) 421-1400
Website	TristarArms.com
Made In	Turkey



The C-100 is a straight-up CZ 75 compact clone.



The C-100 was well finished, we thought, with good polish and blueing. There were internal tool marks, however.



From left are the Canik, the CZ P0-1, and the 75D. The slides are classic CZ designs from decades ago. If you are already a CZ-type owner, buying one of these guns will make a lot of practical sense because you'll be familiar with the controls.

CZ-USA 75D PCR COMPACT 91194 9MM LUGER, $546

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The 75D is a clean design that we enjoyed firing. We like everything about the 75D except the absence of a light rail. With snag-free sights and a loaded-chamber indicator, the 75D is a superior concealed-carry handgun.



Action	Semi-auto, DA/SA
Overall Length	7.2 in.
Overall Height	5.0 in.
Maximum Width	1.4 in.
Weight Unloaded	28.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	35.0 oz.
Barrel Length	3.75 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	14-rd. detachable box, double stack
Slide	Steel
Frame	Aluminum
Frame Front Strap Height	2.35 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.4 in.
Grips	Rubber
Grip Thickness (max)	1.4 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.4 in.
Sights	Fixed
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	5.5 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.75 in.
Safety	Stop on hammer; firing pin block
Warranty	5 year limited
Telephone	(800) 955-4486
Website	CZ-USA.com
Made In	Czech Republic



We found the frame-mounted decocker of the 75D handy and positive in operation. The 75D will appeal to those who do not use a light rail and do not wish to chase down a specialty holster.



We liked the snag-free sights of the 75D, while admitting we found no difference in accuracy on the targets.





The CZ-USA 75D features a loaded-chamber indicator. Left, the recessed plunger indicates the chamber is unloaded. Right: If the chamber is loaded, the plunger pops up to show that condition, and the shooter can also feel the plunger in the dark to know there is a round in the chamber.

went back to our regular shooting style during the test.

The overall fit and finish of the pistol were credible. The safety, however, was stiff. It was practically impossible for the average shooter to move the lever into the Safe or Fire position when the pistol is in the firing grip. Our female tester had a difficult time handling the pistol. The safety, once pressed into the on-safe position, was very stiff to return to the Fire position. Our male raters had to place the safety in the Fire position on the way up to the firing position and could not depress the safety lever when the handgun was in the firing position. Our female tester had a difficult time and had to resort to two hands to place the lever in the Safe position. We have tested the T-100 from the same maker with the same design except for a different dust cover, and the problem was not evident. The advantages of the CZ 75 system include moving the safety to the Safe position during movement and thus retaining the single-action trigger press at the next firing position. This heavy safety abrogates many of the advantages of the pistol. We rated the C-100 down a full grade based on this problem. It isn't simply a heavier-than-usual amount of force needed to operate the safety. The safety on this pistol was practically unusable.

Also, the double-action trigger was heavy at about 16 pounds. While this is an economy pistol, the heavy trigger limits the C-100's utility for fast defense work. One tester fired the pistol and noted that if issued this handgun or anything with a similar DA trigger, he would have to cock the hammer before firing and use the single-action option to have any hope of connecting. Those with double-action-first-shot pistol experience rated the trigger as heavy as anything they could recall. The single-action trigger was good at just under 6 pounds.

The C-100 was fired with four loads that were also used in the other three handguns. These included a full-metal-jacket practice load, two

different weight personal defense loads, and a +P load. The FMJ handloaded ammunition was used only in the combat evaluation. We used the Hornady 115-grain FMJ bullet (100-200-080WB, $59/500 from Brownells.com) over WW 231 powder loaded to 1100 fps average for the combat evaluation. Our accuracy and chronograph ammunition included the Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain TAC +P, SIG Elite 124-grain V Crown, and the Gorilla Ammunition 135-grain all-copper JHP. The C-100 and the other pistols were fired with 45 rounds of the practice load at 5, 7, and 10 yards, 15 rounds at each station, and a final test with 10 rounds of the +P load as a measure of control at 10 yards. There were no malfunctions of any type related to the C-100. One tester allowed his thumb to hit the slide lock during recoil and tie the gun up. This isn't the first time we have seen this with the CZ-type compact. This was his first trial, and he did not repeat the misstep with the other handguns. The C-100 was comfortable to fire. Combat-firing results were limited by the heavy trigger, even at 5 yards. We fired double action first shot at 5 yards and cocked the hammer at 10 and 15 yards. There was a definite sponginess in the trigger action not present in the CZ pistols. The pistol was controllable even with the +P loading. Groups were good in the single-action mode, and the pistol's sights were well regulated for 115-grain loads.

Moving to benchrest accuracy testing, we fired five-shot groups with the three defense loads. The C-100 is accurate as compact 9mm handguns are rated, but here it was the least accurate of the four pistols. We were able to control the spongy trigger off the bench rest with a bit of effort. The pistol delivered a single 2.5-inch group at 25 yards with the Gorilla all-copper 135-grain JHP, one of the few sub 3-inch groups with this pistol, but overall we found the C-100 gave an adequate accuracy showing for a 3.7-inch-barrel compact. The pistol is clearly accurate enough for personal

CZ-USA 75 P-01 $576

GUN TESTS GRADE: A (BEST BUY)

The P-01 offers good quality, faultless reliability, smooth operation and a good trigger action. Accuracy is good. The sights are adequate and the pistol features a light rail that two of the four pistols tested do not. We would buy the P-01.



Action	Semi-auto w/decocker, DA/SA
Overall Length	7.2 in.
Overall Height	5.0 in.
Maximum Width	1.35 in.
Weight Unloaded	28.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	35.0 oz.
Barrel Length	3.75 in.

Barrel	Steel
Magazine	14-Rd. detachable box
Slide	Steel
Frame	Aluminum
Frame Front Strap Height	2.35 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.4 in.
Grips	Rubber
Grip Thickness (max)	1.4 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.4 in.
Sights	Fixed
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	5.5 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.75 in.
Safety	None
Warranty	5-year limited
Telephone	(800) 955-4486
Website	CZ-USA.com
Made In	Czech Republic



Forward cocking serrations are useful for a handgun with a slide design that rides low in the frame.



The TruGlo TruLite illustrates a great advantage of the P-01 over the CZ-USA 75D Compact — the presence of a light rail.





Far Left: Our female rater found hand fit to be excellent with the P-01, in part because of reduced thickness and contouring in crucial areas of the rubber panels, near left, arrow.

Combat-style drills show flaws in pistols that benchrest testing doesn't.



defense. Still, we preferred the more accurate handguns.

Our Team Said: The C-100 exhibited faultless reliability, the baseline for a personal-defense handgun. We like the bumper pad magazines. The finish is good, despite quite a few internal tool marks. There is a good reserve of ammunition. We rated the piece down a full grade due to the difficulty with the safety lever and another grade down for the heavy double-action trigger. When these problems are considered, we don't gauge the C-100 to be a good buy, but it is a reliable defense handgun.

CZ-USA 75D Compact 91194 9mm Luger, $546

This was a recent price from ImpactGuns.com. The CZ-USA 75D is perhaps the least-known CZ-type 9mm, and this was our CZ fan's first experience with the type. The pistol is very similar to the C-100 and P-01 pistols. The dust cover treatment is different from the C-100, although neither has an attachment point for a light rail. The dust cover of the C-100 is convex, while the CZ-USA 75D is flat on each side. The trigger guard and front strap stippling are the same as the C-100 and P-01. The primary difference in appearance compared to the C-100 is that the 75D has forward cocking serrations. We like this a lot in a handgun that sometimes requires more force to rack the slide. The trigger guard stippling of the CZ-USA pistols is perhaps a bit sharper than the C-100, but there is not a practical difference. The 75D features a decocker on the left rear of the frame that safely lowers the hammer from the full-cock position. This is a more popular set up, if measured by popular demand. While we were chastised by a reader for stating this after a previous match up, the fact is, institutional users, and the public as well, strongly prefer the decocker and vote with their dollars. There is no manual safety. There is also a unique loaded-chamber indicator.

The finish is slightly different than that found on the C-100. We cannot comment on long-term finish durability, but the 75D's finish was well done. The sights of the 75D are a slanted rear type intended to provide a nonsnag profile as the pistol is drawn. The owner added a set of Hogue wooden grips ($85 from Hogue.com) that we found attractive and nicely checkered. The CZ-USA 75D is supplied with rubber grips. The composition of the original rubber grips is softer than on the C-100, we felt, and likewise offers better adhesion. The Hogue grips' benefit was primarily aesthetic compared to the CZ-USA P-01.

The CZ-USA 75D was supplied with flush-fit magazines. The sights of the 75D did not seem to offer an advantage in accuracy, but we like them the best of the four pistols due to the snag-free design. We like the rib between the sights. We field-stripped the 75D and examined the internals. Tool marks were evident, but not to the extent of those in the C-100, but they are certainly there, and the dust cover isn't well finished internally, we thought. The pistol wasn't as tight to field-strip as the C-100. The double-action trigger is much smoother than the C-100 at 12 pounds. The single-action trigger breaks at a smooth 5.5 pounds. The face of the trigger is serrated, which we felt helped in controlling the trigger for best accuracy. Firing tests were conducted with the same loads used with the other three handguns. The smooth double-action trigger was useful to 15 yards, and the pistol gave better results on the firing range than the C-100, as the range data show. There were no failures to fire or function of any type. From the bench, the best group was a solid 1.5 inches with the Gorilla Ammunition 135-grain JHP, an all-copper hollowpoint. The average was good with all loads.

Our Team Said: There were no demerits for the CZ-USA 75D. It delivered excellent results. However, if you want to mount a light on the gun, you'll need the P-01.

CZ-USA 75 P-01 91199 9mm Luger, $576

This was a recent price offered by ImpactGuns.com. We found it interesting that the P-01 cost an average of $31 more than the very similar 75D. Yet the 75D features a loaded-chamber indicator and improved snag-free sights not found on the P-01. In contrast, the P-01 features a monolithic dust cover with a light rail mount. And there is the difference — if you wish to mount a light on your combat gun, the C-100 and 75D cannot accommodate you. The Rex likewise features a light rail.

As far as sights go, none of the four pistols has an advantage in sight-picture quality, but the slanted snag-free sight of the 75D would be our pick as the best. In common with the 75D, the P-01's frame-mounted decocker was easy to use well and was positive in operation. When the decocker is used, the hammer falls to a type of half-cock position. The DA trigger is slightly faster in this mode. We advise against manually lowering the hammer with any handgun that uses a decocker. There is a possibility of short-circuiting the drop safety, and the firing-pin block may not lock in place if you manually lower the hammer. One of the 1911 shooters rested his thumb on the decocker during the firing test and found the rest comfortable enough to keep the digit in place as if it were on the safety lever of the 1911. Fit and finish were good; however, like the other 75D, the P-01 has more tool marks internally than the Rex.

We found the trigger action to be the smoothest of the four DA triggers, and its smooth-faced trigger gave good control in double-action fire. The double-action trigger breaks at about 11 pounds, while the single-action trigger felt crisp at 5.25 pounds. This is perhaps the luck of the draw because the action parts are likely produced on the same assembly line as the 75D Compact, but

then perhaps the P-01 is smoother by design. It is much more popular and well known. The P-01 pistol is much smoother than the C-100, we believe, but not so much smoother than the 75D where that would be an overwhelming consideration.

On the firing range, the P-01 gave good results. Combat groups with both the handloads and the +P loading were what we like. The grips gave good adhesion when firing, and the pistol was controllable. From the bench, the pistol gave a good showing, with the best group of 1.6 inches coming with the SIG Sauer 124-grain JHP. This was the best showing of the test.

Our Team Said: Among the pistols tested, the P-01 gave the best results in combat firing and in accuracy. Some of the groups fired were half the size of the groups fired with the C-100 handgun. Considering this performance and the ability to mount a light rail, we rate the CZ-USA P-01 as a Best Buy.

Arex Rex Zero 1 CP 9mm Luger, $603

This was a recent price posted on CheaperThanDirt.com. The Rex compact is both the newest and the most expensive of the pistols tested. The Rex isn't an exact clone of the SIG P series as the C-100 pistol is a clone of the early-model CZ 75 compact. The resemblance of the Rex to the SIG is evident, particularly in the engineering and design detail, and that is part of the appeal of the pistol. The Rex has many similarities to the SIG. The company simply took proven design principles and addressed the few shortcomings of the SIG P series. At Gun Tests, each handgun must stand or fall on its own merits. But given the design of the Rex, anyone who has handled the SIG P series will be able to load, make ready, and fire the Rex with little acclimation. The pistol exhibits good-to-excellent fit and finish. The slide is well machined with attention to detail. The slide flats are well finished.

The sights ride in dovetail slots in the slide. The sights are drilled for the popular white 3-dot inserts.

AREX REX ZERO 1 CP 9MM LUGER, $603

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The Rex is a new pistol with no flies on it. It performed well during the combat test and turned in credible accuracy. Reliability was faultless. We liked the decocker/slide-lever combination and the functioning ambidextrous safety.



Action	Semi-Auto
Overall Length	7.3 in.
Overall Height	5.3 in.
Maximum Width	1.3 in.
Weight Unloaded	28.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	35.0 oz.
Barrel Length	3.9 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	15-rd. detachable box
Slide	Steel
Frame	Steel
Frame Front Strap Height	2.2 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.45 in.
Grips	Plastic
Grip Thickness (max)	1.4 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.9 in.
Sights	Fixed
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	5.4 lbs
Trigger Span Single Action	2.6 in.
Safety	Manual
Warranty	One year limited
Telephone	(702) 215-3600
Website	Fimegroup.com
Made In	Slovenia





Above, arrow: The takedown lever on the Rex makes for the easiest field-stripping (left) of any of the handguns tested.



Left: The Rex's grips are pebbled for good adhesion. Both our male and or female testers liked the pebbled grip. They felt it allowed them to maintain a steady grip on the gun.



At right is the rear sight of the Rex Zero. All four handguns had similar iron sights with the three-dot pattern. We noted these inserts are drilled pretty deep.



Even at 7 yards, the double-action first shot was usually off by a margin with all of these handguns. There is one DA hit at 1 o'clock. The other two groups are single-action double taps at 8 and 12 o'clock.

These sights were good, but there was no advantage over the other pistols. This handgun locks up by butting the barrel hood into the dust cover. The lockup is tight. The slide features forward cocking serrations. It was noticeably easier to rack the slide of the Rex than the CZ-USA pistols, SOP for the SIG versus the CZ slide design. The pistol features a positive firing-pin block. The squared-off trigger guard is nicely serrated. There is a cut-out below the trigger guard that allows a little lowering of the bore axis. The CZ accomplishes a lower bore line above the hand by running the slide inside the frame rail. The Rex does not feature as low a bore axis, but the Rex makes a good try. The stippled front strap affords the shooter good adhesion. The Rex features a light rail for mounting combat lights or laser sights. The rear grip strap is flatter than the S-shaped CZ. We believe the designer was attempting to make trigger reach easier with this fat-gripped pistol. Two indentations in the grip panels, one on each side, also lessen the trigger reach to an acceptable measurement. Still, we felt the CZ-USA 75 pistols were more comfortable in the hand. The plastic grips are pebbled and offer good adhesion when firing. Coupled with the flat backstrap and reduced trigger reach, the pistol is tolerable for double-action use. The magazines are well finished with good polish and positive function. A single magazine notch locks the magazine in place. The significant difference between the Rex, the SIG pistol it is modeled after, and the CZ-USA pistols are in the slide lock, decocker, and manual safety. With the 75-type pistols, you may have either the manual safety or a decocker and not both. The SIG features a decocker, and on most models no manual safety. There has also been a tendency one of our raters has noted in extensive training classes as an instructor that some shooters ride the slide lock of the SIG with the thumb during firing and do not allow the slide to lock back on the last shot. The Rex addresses many concerns with the new system. It is not complicated and works as designed.

The Rex combines the SIG-type decocker and slide lock into a single lever. The manual of arms is as follows: Lock the slide to the rear, insert a loaded magazine, and press the combination slide lock and decocker lever to release the slide. The slide runs forward, loading the chamber. Release pressure on the lever, press it again, and you will safely lower the hammer without the need to manually lower the hammer. We executed this drill several times with speed reloads. The system works well. After dropping the slide, no matter if we kept the pressure on the lever or pressed down hard during the operation, the lever did not drop the hammer unless we consciously released pressure on the lever and pressed it again. You will not inadvertently drop the hammer as you release the slide lock to drop the slide. We like this a lot. The SIG pistol has few drawbacks, but one of them is that the location of the slide lock seems to invite shooters to ride their thumb on the slide lock during firing. This results in the failure to lock the slide open on the last shot as the thumb is riding the slide lock.

Even those who have mastered the SIG and avoided this pitfall will find the Rex decocker/slide lock handy and superior. In the location normally occupied by the slide lock of the SIG is a manual safety. This frame-mounted safety is unobtrusive but positive in operation. This safety may be manipulated easily by the thumb. The pistol may be carried on safe with the hammer down or the hammer cocked. We like this safety and the location and easy operation.

When field-stripping the Rex, we noted that the interior finish and polish was the best of the four handguns tested. There were no discernible tool marks, and the finish was good throughout the interior of the Rex. The Rex was fired on the same course as the other handguns. The pistol is comfortable to fire, with modest recoil and muzzle flip.

The greatest drawback of the pistol is the double-action first-shot trigger press. This trigger was estimated at a heavy 16 pounds. There was a well-defined hard spot midway in the trigger's travel. This trigger is as heavy as the C-100, but leverage is slightly better on the Rex. It is also heavy, but smoother than the C-100. The single-action trigger press is likewise smooth and much lighter at 5.5 pounds. The single-action trigger has the typical long SIG-type reset. The pistol is controllable in firing the heaviest loads. It is actually very comfortable to fire, with good balance. In combat firing, the pistol was more accurate than the C-100 and equaled the CZ-USA pistols overall.

Downside: We found the girth of the grip too large to use the magazine release efficiently with the firing hand thumb. However, the magazine release is ambidextrous, so we used the firing-hand forefinger to release the magazine. This worked well in rapidly reloading the pistol. In firing for benchrest accuracy, the solid lockup, good sights, and decent single-action trigger were noted.

Our Team Said: The Rex showed excellent accuracy, with some groups as small as 1.65 inches. We find the Rex to be an excellent answer to some of the problems of manipulating a first-shot double-action pistol with the manual safety. You may use or ignore the safety as you prefer.

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

Three More 10mm Autos: Kimber, Dan Wesson, Tanfoglio

The Tanfoglio was soft shooting, while the Kimber was an excellent example of the 1911 platform chambered in 10mm. The Dan Wesson was ready to hunt right out of the box.

Last year we tested three 10mm Auto pistols and found there was a lot of interest in these big-bore handguns, so we decided to return to these powerful handguns for another look. Our most recent crop of 10mms includes two 1911 platforms and one based on the CZ 75 platform. The Kimber Custom TLE II and the Dan Wesson Bruin Bronze share the 1911 platform, while the Tanfoglio Witness is based on the CZ 75 design. We liked all three of these pistols and found that all three could serve multiple duties from hunting to self-defense. Since the 10mm has the power of a 41 Magnum, we feel it is a bit much for everyday carry. If we ever were in a shooting incident, it's possible the overpenetration of the 10mm could be a liability. But in a self-defense situation where you are facing an angry bear in the back country, we think the 10mm Auto makes perfect sense. Also, as a hunting round, the 10mm offers a lot of power and is well suited for game like deer and pigs at short distances. We'd even use it in a tree stand to take black bears visiting a bait.

All three pistols ran exceptionally well with no malfunctions or jams, and we found they were accurate. Two-inch five-shot groups at 25 yards were the norm. For ammunition, we used SIG Sauer V-Crown Ammunition loaded with an 180-grain JHP bullet. The SIG ammo was loaded to velocities that 10mm Auto was designed for.

The other two loads were Federal American Eagle and Armscor USA labels, both using 180-grain FMJs. These two rounds weren't as hot as the SIG load, as the table data reveal. The SIG ammo factory data shows a muzzle velocity of 1250 fps; we got very close to that muzzle velocity from the Kimber and Dan Wesson. The Tanfoglio produced less velocity. The Federal and Armscor ammo is factory-speed stamped at 1030 fps and 1008 fps, respectively. With the three pistols, we saw higher muzzle velocities than the factory figures.

For accuracy testing, we used a rest and open sights, firing at targets placed 25 yards downrange. For our speed stage, we fired at 10 yards. A fast and accurate follow-up shot was faster with the Bruin and Witness, which we will get into shortly. Remember that a 10mm Auto is not a learner's pistol or for those who are sensitive to recoil. In our opinion, the Bruins and the Witness helped us manage recoil the best. Shooting this trio side by side at the range, we learned a lot about them. Here's the skinny on all three.

Kimber Custom TLE II 3200347 10mm Auto,$1028

The Custom TLE (Tactical Law Enforcement) II lines of 1911s are designed for LE and conceal carry. The TLE II looked a plain-Jane compared to the Bruin since it wore an all-business matte-black finish. Rightly so, too, since the Kimber cost $1100 less. The Kimber's finish was nicely applied. The TLE II is neither a 70 series nor 80 series 1911, but there is a firing-pin-disconnect safety built into the grip safety.

In our opinion, the trigger on the Kimber was excellent. It measured about 4.5 pounds on our Lyman digital scales, and that trigger-pull weight made it suitable for defensive carry. The trigger is aluminum with three holes and felt match grade. Matte silver is the color; it contrasted nicely with the finish. The thumb



The Dan Wesson Bruin Bronze 1881 (left), the Kimber Custom TLE II 3200347 (middle) and the EAA Tanfoglio Witness (right) are three 10mm Autos we would like to own, but if we had to choose one, it would be the Tanfoglio Witness. The cost of the Wesson ($2194) and Kimber ($1028) were high, and that cost was reflected in the workmanship. The Tanfoglio ($665) was also well-made, yet affordable, compared to the other two pistols. All had comparable accuracy at the range, but the Tanfoglio offered higher magazine capacity and was softer shooting than the other 10mm handguns, our team said.

RANGE DATA

SIG Sauer V-Crown 10mm Auto 180-gr. Jacketed Hollowpoint	Kimber 1911 Custom TLE II	Dan Wesson Bruin Bronze	Tanfoglio Witness Full Steel
Average Velocity	1243 fps	1251 fps	1192 fps
Muzzle Energy	618 ft.-lbs.	626 ft.-lbs.	568 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.1 in.	1.7 in.	2.0 in.
Average Group	2.4 in.	1.9 in.	2.4 in.

Federal American Eagle 10mm Auto 180-gr. Full Metal Jacket	Kimber 1911 Custom TLE II	Dan Wesson Bruin Bronze	Tanfoglio Witness Full Steel
Average Velocity	1068 fps	1072 fps	1043 fps
Muzzle Energy	456 ft.-lbs.	459 ft.-lbs.	435 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.9 in.	1.5 in.	1.4 in.
Average Group	2.3 in.	1.7 in.	1.8 in.

Armscor USA 10mm Auto 180-gr. Full Metal Jacket	Kimber 1911 Custom TLE II	Dan Wesson Bruin Bronze	Tanfoglio Witness Full Steel
Average Velocity	1121 fps	1143 fps	1099 fps
Muzzle Energy	502 ft.-lbs.	522 ft.-lbs.	483 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.5 in.	2.6 in.	2.1 in.
Average Group	1.7 in.	2.8 in.	2.2 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups from a bench using a rest. Distance: 25 yards with open sights. We recorded velocities using a ProChrono digital chronograph set 15 feet from the muzzle.

safety was only on the left side, making it a bit of a liability for the left-handed shooter. It clicked on and off nicely. The stainless-steel match-grade barrel was polished and includes a loaded-chamber indicator port on the top side. The slide was equipped with low-profile 3-dot night sights, which we liked a lot. In particular, we thought they were easy to acquire.

Angled slide serrations appeared forward and aft, so manipulating the slide was easy and simple. The receiver front grip strap was textured with 30 lines-per-inch checkering, which is where the Kimber started to lose points with the other pistols. The front grip strap and the aggressively textured G10 grips felt excellent in the hand, but when shooting, they rasped against some of our team's palms like a cheese grater. Some felt it was much too sharp for the sharp recoil of the 10mm Auto. The full extended beavertail did a good job of protected the chubby hands of some of our team members.

Disassembly was like any other Government 1911; only a bushing tool was needed to depress the recoil spring guide. There was little wiggle with the Kimber. It had a tight slide-to-receiver fit. Manipulating the slide was smooth, however.

In use is when the Kimber lost ground due to the sharply textured grips. We might deep-six the factory grips and add smoother aftermarket grips if we had to have this pistol. The TLE II was 5 ounces heavier than the Witness, yet the Witness was more pleasant to shoot. The main spring housing was machined to a sharp edge, and during recoil, it jammed some reviewers' palms. We deducted points for this. There was a marked difference between the light 10mm loads and the hot one. Shooting the Kimber was the least pleasant experience of the three pistols. Even so, the accuracy of the Kimber was a solid 2 inches at 25 yards. There was no complaint about the accuracy. All ammunition cycled flawlessly through the TLE II.

Our Team Said: Recoil was very noticeable due to the grips and the sharp edge of the mainspring housing. Accuracy was good, and if you are looking for a standard full-size 1911 platform juiced up to 10mm Auto, this would be a good option if you're willing to spend the bucks.

Dan Wesson Bruin Bronze 1881 10mm Auto, $2194

The Bruin is a long-slide variant of Dan Wesson's 1911 platform pistols. The 10mm Auto cartridge's performance is enhanced when fired through a 6.3-inch barrel. The longer barrel wrings out extra velocity and provides a longer sight radius than traditional Government-style 1911s, like the Kimber Custom TLE II reviewed above. In our opinion, the longer barrel and added weight from the barrel make the recoil more tolerable.

Our sample came with a bronze-finished steel receiver and matte-black slide and controls. We all felt it was a sharp-looking pistol. The muzzle is tapered. In fact, the recoil spring plug is tapered, so it only fit back in place

one way. This was a little tricky to line up during reassembly. Small details that made the Bruin softer shooting included a rounded-butt mainspring housing. Dan Wesson rounded off the sharp edge so in recoil, there is less discomfort when the shooter is firing hot loads. Both the mainspring housing and the back and front grip straps were finely checkered. The G10 grips had texture without a bite. We felt these grips were well suited to the recoil of 10mm Auto.

The controls on the Bruin were top notch. The trigger is long and smoothly slid to allow the edgy squared Commander hammer to fall. The pull weight was slightly under 4 pounds, but it felt much less. We thought the trigger was well suited for hunting situations. The thumb safely also flicked on and off crisply, giving the user confidence it was on or off. The controls did not have any sharp edges that might cause a cut or bruise on the shooter's hands.

The front sight is a fiber-optic tritium unit, and the fiber optic allows for easy aiming on a dark background. The fiber optic absorbs light, transferring it the tritium dot. The rear is fully adjustable with two dots. The shooter-facing flat of the rear sight is serrated to cut glare. This is a nice feature, and the top of the slide is nicely machined with serrations along the length. Serrations on the slide are angled and located toward the muzzle and in the rear.

Two stainless-steel magazines with rubber bump pads are included. They were well built and were easy on the thumbs when loading.

Disassembly requires no tools, but, as mentioned, the recoil spring guide needs to be aligned correctly, and that took a bit of ramp-up time to learn.

Trigger time with the Bruin was pleasant. Recoil felt like we were shooting a 45 ACP–chambered 1911. The long slide added weight to the pistol, which contributed to the reduced recoil. We could feel a slight difference between the hot SIG ammo and the light American Eagle and Armscor loads. One member of

KIMBER CUSTOM TLE II 3200347
10MM AUTO, $1028
GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The Custom TLE II is an excellent version of a full-size 1911 platform chambered in 10mm. We would have liked the grips to be less textured because they chewed up our hands.



Action	Semi-auto single action, locked breech
Overall Length	8.7 in.
Overall Height	5.25 in.
Maximum Width	1.28 in.
Weight Unloaded	38.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	46.4 oz.
Barrel	5.0 in.
Capacity	8+1
Slide	Matte black, steel
Frame	Matte black, steel
Front Strap Height	2.6 in.
Back Strap Height	3.6 in.
Grips	Textured G10
Grip Thickness (max)	1.3 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	6.3 in.
Sights	Fixed, low profile, 3-dot night
Trigger Pull Weight	4.5 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.9 in.
Magazines	1; stainless steel
Safety	Thumb, beavertail grip
Warranty	Limited One-Year
Made In	USA
Website	KimberAmerica.com



The extended beavertail offered a good hold, but the sharp edge of the mainspring housing caused some palm ache for some shooters. Between the checkered grip and aggressively textured G10 grip panels, the TLE II rasped some testers' hands like a cheese grater.





The front sight is dovetailed into the slide. The night sights on the Kimber were easy to use, offering the shooter an excellent sight picture.



The Kimber showed tight, but smooth, slide-to-frame fit. Takedown was traditional 1911 style. This is a very good gun, but it's more money than the Witness. If you're willing to spend a few minutes Dremeling off some sharp edges, then this gun can work for you.

DAN WESSON BRUIN BRONZE 1881
10MM AUTO, $2194

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

If you are in need of a 10mm hunting pistol, the Bruin is an excellent choice, despite its expense. The trigger was crisp and recoil was very manageable when firing stout 10mm rounds.



Action	Semi-auto, locked breech single action, Series 70 design
Overall Length	9.7 in.
Overall Height	5.8 in.
Maximum Width	1.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	43.9 oz.
Weight Loaded	52.3 oz.
Barrel	6.3 in.
Capacity	8+1 (single stack)
Slide	Matte black, steel
Frame	Forged stainless steel, round butt, 25-lpi checkering on grip straps
Front Strap Height	2.6 in.
Back Strap Height	3.1 in.
Grips	Textured G10
Grip Thickness (max)	1.3 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.5 in.
Front Sight	Tritium fiber optic
Rear Sight	Adjustable two-dot tritium
Trigger Pull Weight	3.9 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.8 in.
Magazines	2; Stainless Steel
Safety	Thumb, beavertail grip
Warranty	Limited 5 Year
Made In	Norwich, NY
Website	DanWessonFirearms.com



The magazines for both the Dan Wesson (left) and the Kimber (right) were made of stainless steel and showed good workmanship.





The Dan Wesson front sight uses a fiber optic to charge up a tritium dot. The sight picture with the Bruin was large and put the shooter in charge.



The 25-lines-per-inch checkering on both the frontstrap and backstrap offered good purchase for the shooter's hands without being too sharp.



Here's a close look at the Bruin's muzzle. It was tapered, which helped holstering. Disassembly requires no additional tools.

our test team was able to shoot 5-shot groups that averaged 1.6 inches at 25 yards. Looking at the data, we also found the Bruin had higher muzzle velocities compared to the other pistols due to the longer barrel.

Our Team Said: Recoil was very controllable due to the extra slide weight. The sight radius also helped us keep groups small. The small touches, such as the rounded mainspring housing and coarsely textured grips and excellent trigger, made the Bruin a pleasure to shoot. The cost is high with the Bruin because you pay for those small features. We thought about grading the Bruin down half a point due to the cost, but if you want to go big, this gun will get it done, and that costs money.

Tanfoglio Witness 10mm, $665

The Witness is based on the CZ 75 design in which the slide rides inside the receiver, not outside the receiver like a 1911. This design allows the slide height to be less and the bore axis lower than a 1911. There is less slide to grasp than the Kimber and Dan Wesson or any other 1911 for that matter. We did become proficient at manipulating the slide, and if we overgrasped the slide, the thumb safety and slide stop were smooth and allowed the user to cycle the slide with no interruptions. Serrations were coarse and grippy and appeared both toward the muzzle and rear of the slide, The top side the slide was equipped with three-dot low-profile sights. The front was red, and the rear two were white. We would have preferred all three dots to be white since the front dot was hard to see on a dark target. A little white paint will fix this. The rear of the rear sight was also cut out to reduce glare. The Witness, unlike the 1911s, uses an external extractor.

The receiver of the Witness is a lot beefier than a 9mm CZ 75 and more like a CZ 97 chambered in 45 Auto. Most members of our team liked the heft of this all-steel pistol and the polymer grip, which had all smooth edges. There was an accessory rail built into the receiver. The beavertail was substantial, too. The girth was slightly more than the 1911s tested,

EAA TANFOGLIO WITNESS 10MM AUTO, $665

GUN TESTS GRADE: A (BEST BUY)

The Witness offers a comfortable shooting experience, is relatively compact and accurate, plus it is affordable. We liked the Witness a lot chambered in this powerful cartridge.



Overall Length	8.1 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.4 in.
Weight Unloaded	33.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	47.7 oz.
Barrel	4.5 in.
Capacity	14+1 (double stack)

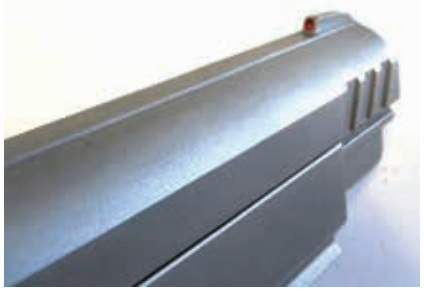
Slide	Matte silver, steel
Frame	Matte silver, steel
Front Strap Height	2.5 in.
Back Strap Height	3.5 in.
Grips	Textured synthetic
Grip Thickness (max)	1.3 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	6 in.
Sights	Fixed, 3-dot
Trigger Pull Weigh DA	10.8 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weigh SA	4.6 lbs.
Trigger Span Double Action	3.0 in.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.6 in.
Magazines	1; Steel
Safety	Thumb
Warranty	Limited Lifetime
Made In	Italy
Website	EAACorp.com



The Witness used a solid recoil rod and match grade stainless-steel barrel. Note how the slide rides inside the receiver.



The front grip strap is serrated and provided good adhesion. The controls are smooth and operated with confident clicks.



The front sight was red; we'd paint it white so it would show up better on a dark target. The exterior of the Witness wore what is called Wonder finish, which is a matte gray look. It was well executed.

but that extra space enables the Witness to carry a 14-round magazine, nearly double what the Bruin or TLE II carry. One steel magazine with a polymer floor plate was provided with the Witness, so you might as well plan to buy more at the time you transact the pistol. The front and rear grip straps are serrated.

The Tanfoglio Witness uses a DA/SA trigger, which is a preference for some shooters as well as team members. The edge the DA/SA trigger has over the SA trigger of Bruin and TLE II is the DA/SA trigger can be instantly pressed to fire the pistol. All three pistols can also be carried cocked and locked. The thumb safety on the Witness locks the trigger but allows the slide to be cycled. With the hammer down and the safety on, the slide and trigger are both locked. The Witness also incorporates a firing-pin safety. The firing-pin block is released only by pulling the trigger all the way to the rear. The trigger is wide and smooth and felt less than the nearly 11 pounds it measured in DA mode. We noticed the receiver around the trigger was rounded and smooth, so a shooter using gloves on his hands posed no problem.

The exterior of the Witness wore what is called Wonder finish, which is a matte gray look. It was well executed. All the controls, slide stop, thumb safety, trigger, and hammer, on the pistol are matte black and contrast nicely. The grips are a textured polymer.

Going hot with the Witness, we found the pistol offered a sweet recoil — a bit sweeter, that is lesser, than the recoil from the Bruin. We attribute that to the slide/receiver design. There was no wiggle between the slide and receiver, a thorough examination found. The grip was smooth, and the added girth provide more contact with our palm, so the recoil felt like the recoil from a 45 Auto. Accuracy with all ammo tested was under 2.5 inches. With American Eagle ammo, one tester was able to shoot a 1.4-inch five-shot group at 25 yards.

Our Team Said: The Witness offers a more comfortable shooting experience, holds more ammo, is accurate and costs a fraction of the Bruin and TLE II. One team member noted it would make a great defense gun in black-bear country.

Special thanks to Eastern Outfitters of Hampstead, North Carolina (EasternOutfitter.com) for their assistance. Written and photographed by Robert Sadowski, using evaluations from Gun Tests team testers. GT

Browning's Sweet Sixteen: Still Sweet After All These Years?

Although similar in performance on the patterning board and on clay targets, failure to eject about a half-dozen shells and its hefty price tag left the new Model A5 a half-step behind.

The popularity of the 16-gauge shotgun, in particular the Browning A5 Sweet Sixteen, has never waned among those select shooters with a streak of nostalgia in their genetic makeup. A common refrain of, "I've still got my granddad's old 16 — best bird gun ever made," is often heard whenever veteran shooters gather to share tales of old or create new memories of quality time in the outdoors.

Responding to a reader's request, we decided to give the recently unveiled Browning A5 Sweet Sixteen that premiered at the 2016 SHOT Show a closer look to see what motivates the 16 gauge's small, but very loyal, fan base. The new semiautomatic is built with a smaller, lighter receiver than the old-style Humpback and utilizes a different recoil system than the long-recoil creation of legendary firearms genius John M. Browning, so only time will tell if it has the lasting power of its predecessors.

To set up a comparison, we tested the following:

- a new **Browning A5 Sweet Sixteen** listing for $1700;
- a **Browning A5 Sweet Sixteen made in 1960** that is available for about $650, and
- a **Browning A5 Light Twelve made in 1969,** with a used-gun value of about $750.

The Light Twelve was added to the mix for a couple of reasons. First, the older Sweet Sixteen is built on the same-sized frame as the 12 gauge. Also, we wanted to see if the 16 gauge lives up to its reputation as a more sporting shooting tool. And, of course, 12-gauge ammunition is much more available than 16-gauge shotshells, and if the potential wingshooter is in the market for one of these Humpbacks, how much will nostalgia and pride of ownership of a "Sweet Sixteen" override the economics of shooting the bigger gauge, assuming similar performance?

We found, in fact, that the three Humpback Brownings provided a vivid demonstration of how handling ability, function, and patterning performance is different between



Representing nearly 60 years of firearms innovation, these three Browning A5 semiautomatics are, from left, a new Sweet Sixteen, a veteran Sweet Sixteen, and a veteran Light Twelve. They performed nearly identically in the patterning tests and on clay targets, with the new Humpback holding a slight edge in handling and paper-perforating performance.

what is new and what is old in a semiautomatic that revolutionized the U.S. shotgun market.

The Browning Auto-5 is recognized as the first mass-produced, semi-automatic shotgun; it was designed by John Browning in 1898, patented in 1900, and produced continually until 1998. The shotgun features a distinctive high squared-off back of the receiver — that is the reason for its nickname of the Humpback. It is a long-recoil-operated semi-automatic shotgun, the first of its kind. When a chambered shell is fired, the barrel and bolt travel backward from the recoil to re-cock the hammer. As a heavy recoil spring causes the barrel to return to its initial position, the bolt remains behind, and the spent shell is ejected through a port on the top of the receiver. Then the bolt returns forward and feeds another round from the magazine into the action. Humpback fans are well aware that the system is loud and seems to take a long time to function, but there is no doubt it works.

Our selection of ammunition to test the functioning ability, patterning performance and felt recoil of the semiautomatics was limited because of the lack of variety of 16-gauge shells on the market. We selected 16-gauge Federal Game 2.75-inch, 2.5-dram-equivalent loads packing 1 ounce of No. 8 shot with an average muzzle velocity of 1,165 fps for the two Sweet Sixteens; and 12-gauge Federal Game 2.75-inch, 3.5-dram-equivalent loads packing 1 ounce of No. 8 shot with an average muzzle velocity of 1,290 fps for the Light Twelve. Here are our findings:

Browning A5 Sweet Sixteen 16 gauge, $650 (used)

Finding someone willing to part with a veteran Sweet Sixteen, even for a short time for field testing, can be a daunting task. Running across one in the used gun rack at a firearm store is an even rarer occurrence. We were able to locate a nice used 16-gauge Humpback through the friend of a friend and immediately found there is quite a difference between the Sweet Sixteen of old and the 2016 version. The veteran shotgun, manufactured in 1960, has the heft and feel very similar to a Light Twelve, a 12-gauge version of the A5. For the members of our team

BROWNING A5 SWEET SIXTEEN 16 GAUGE, $650 (USED)

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

A little harder to find — most owners simply don't want to let them go at any price — this older model of the Sweet Sixteen made in 1960 functioned very well and handled almost the same as the newer version. With its lower price tag and factoring in the nostalgia element, we believe this veteran firearm is a slightly better choice than the new model introduced in 2016.



Action Type	Semi-auto	Buttstock Drop @ Comb	1.75 in.
Chamber Size	2.75 in.	Buttstock Drop @ Heel	2.25 in.
Overall Length	44.25 in.	Forearm	American walnut
Capacity	5	Forearm Length	10.5 in.
Weight (Unloaded)	6.5 lbs.	Front Sight	Ramped brass bead
Barrel Length	26.0 in.	Mid-Bead	None
Barrel	Blued	Trigger Pull Weight	4 lbs.
Receiver	Blued	Warranty	None
Choke	Fixed, Cylinder	Telephone	(800) 333-3288
Buttstock	American walnut	Website	Browning.com
Buttstock Length of Pull	13.5 in.	Made In	Belgium



Still rolling along after 57 years of use, the veteran Sweet Sixteen's long-recoil system driven by a heavy spring is a testament to the genius of John M. Browning. We found the system provided slightly heavier felt recoil than the new version of the A5 that utilizes a short-recoil Kinematic Drive system.



The old steel receiver is slightly smaller than the 12 gauge A5 and measures about 1.5 inches shorter than the new Sweet Sixteen aluminum receiver. We found the short, heavy receiver affected balance and swing during shooting tests and resulted in us hitting fewer targets than with the other two shotguns.

The seasoned members of our team were pleased with the half-pistol grip of the veteran Sweet Sixteen, which provided a solid grip and a good feel during the shooting sessions.



BROWNING A5 LIGHT TWELVE 12 GAUGE, $750 (USED)

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

A solid, smooth-functioning veteran dating back to 1969, this Light Twelve is still doing its job. Despite the name, it is much heavier than the others — one of the reasons some hunters turned to a 16 gauge rather than a 12.



Action Type	Semi-auto	Buttstock Drop @ Comb	1.75 in.
Chamber Size	2.75 in.	Buttstock Drop @ Heel	2.25 in.
Overall Length	45.0 in.	Forearm	American walnut
Capacity	5	Forearm Length	11 in.
Weight (Unloaded)	7.75 lbs.	Front Sight	Brass bead
Barrel Length	26.0 in.	Mid-Bead	None
Barrel	Blued	Trigger Pull Weight	4.5 lbs.
Receiver	Blued	Warranty	None
Choke	Fixed IC	Telephone	(800) 333-3288
Buttstock	American walnut	Website	Browning.com
Buttstock Length of Pull	14.5 in.	Made In	Belgium



The heavy spring that drives the long recoil system of the A5 revolutionized the semiautomatic shotgun market in the U.S. and still functions as well or better than any other system available to shooters. Note that special care is required during disassembly. The barrel must be held down when the magazine cap is removed or the barrel may become airborne. There is no such concern with the new version of the A5.



A magazine cutoff lever near the front of the receiver was a standard feature of the older A5 models, but does not appear on the new Sweet Sixteen. We consider the feature a plus, particularly in hunting situations.



Although not as slim and trim as the forearms of either of the two Sweet Sixteens, we liked the feel and easy gripping surface of the wood on this Light Twelve.



The original plastic buttplate of the Light Twelve provided little recoil relief, but it did offer a secure shoulder fit. Note that the original shiny stock finish has been replaced with hand-rubbed oil, which is more durable and highlights the grain of the wood.

with fond memories of hunting with the Humpback, that was fine; for the younger generation of shooters, the feel was clunky and heavy. The 57-year-old shotgun weighed in at 6.5 pounds, with a 26-inch barrel and an overall length of 44.5 inches. The 1 pound of weight and 4 inches of length difference between old and new was very noticeable.

Concerning the other dimensions of the old Sweet Sixteen, the length of pull was short — 13.5 inches — but the drop at the comb of 1.75 inches and drop at the heel of 2.25 inches was identical to the new model. The trigger pull of an even 4 pounds was crisp and very well received by our shooting team.

We found that the veteran Sweet Sixteen required a little more adjustment to bring it to bear on targets. Even with the extra pound to its credit, there was noticeably more recoil with the older shotgun.

Also, the large ramped front sight was a distraction for some of our shooters during the beginning of the test, accounting for some target misses by having the shooter focus on the end of the barrel rather than on the clay target.

In addition, it should be noted that the fixed choke of the veteran shotgun was Cylinder, apparently designed for close-up shots like on skeet targets or quail flushed over good bird dogs. The open choke probably played a part in the patterning performance.

In the patterning tests, the old Browning produced a 63-37 percent spread, with two 3-inch holes in the upper left and one each in the lower right and left quadrants. Not a deal breaker, but below the performance of the new kid on the block.

We experienced no malfunctions of any kind with the veteran 16. Spent shells were ejected with the authority experienced Humpback shooters know so well. Clay-target breaks were not as consistent as they were with the smoother-handling new Sweet Sixteen. We believe the more open choke and the less comfortable feel of the veteran 16 were the major factors in our less-

than-stellar performance on targets.

Our Team Said: If a shooter is looking for a trip back in time to handle and shoot a legendary smokepole, the veteran Sweet Sixteen fills the bill better than its recently introduced predecessor. The main problem will be finding a Sweet Sixteen the owner is willing to let go of at a reasonable price.

Browning A5 Light Twelve 12 Gauge, $750 (used)

Before starting to detail the review process, it should be noted that several age-challenged members of our shooting team began their hunting days with an Auto-5 cradled in their arms. Putting that possible prejudice out in the open, we found the Light Twelve lived up to its reputation as the country's second-most-favored semiautomatic shotgun, trailing the Remington 1100 that holds the top spot in the hearts of U.S. shooters.

As with the veteran Sweet Sixteen, the availability of a good, used 12-gauge Browning A5 is quite limited. We obtained the model we put through our tests courtesy of a shotgun enthusiast in Nebraska, who pointed out that the number of pheasants and quail the shotgun has brought to the ground over the years could not easily be counted.

Sporting a 26-inch barrel with a fixed Improved Cylinder choke, our test Humpback was the heaviest shotgun in our trio, 7.75 pounds, with an overall length of 45 inches. This is a solid, well-designed shooting tool that is a credit to Browning's ingenuity. As the old saying goes: "She may not be a looker, but boy can she cook." Setting aside appearances — there are some who like the looks of an A5 and some who don't — the semiautomatic has a very solid and balanced feel.

We found the fit to be acceptable with all members of our team. The length of pull was 14.5 inches; the drop at the comb was 1.75 inches; and the drop at the heel was 2.25 inches, exactly the same as the other two Humpbacks. The trigger pull of 4.5 pounds was nearly perfect for our tastes, and we were impressed with the reliability of knowing the shotgun

BROWNING A5 SWEET SIXTEEN NO. 0118005004
16 GAUGE, $1700
GUN TESTS GRADE: B-

This is the new Sweet Sixteen, which gave us a bit of sticker shock from its price, plus several malfunctions during the test runs on the sporting clays course. Though this new offering from Browning ranked the lowest of our test trio, we should note that the new Sweet Sixteen did handle better and was more comfortable to shoot that either of its veteran predecessors.



Action Type	Semi-auto	Buttstock Drop @ Comb	1.75 in.
Chamber Size	2.75 in.	Buttstock Drop @ Heel	2.25 in.
Overall Length	49.25 in.	Forearm	Grade 1 Turkish walnut, gloss finish; 11.25 in. long; 18-LPI cut checkering
Capacity	4		
Weight (Unloaded)	5.75 lbs.	Front Sight	Red Fiber-Optic Bar
Receiver	Polished black (gold trigger)	Mid-Bead	White
Barrel	28 in. long; high-gloss blued steel	Trigger Pull Weight	6 lbs.; gold color
Barrel Chokes	Invector-DS Flush (IC, Mod, Full)	Warranty	1-Year Limited
Buttstock	Grade 1 Turkish walnut, gloss finish	Telephone	(800) 333-3288
		Website	Browning.com
Length of Pull	14.5 in., (adjustable with spacers)	Made In	Portugal



Veteran fans of the A5 will note the absence of a visible spring on the magazine tube of the new Sweet Sixteen, which utilizes a short-recoil Kinematic Drive system rather than the heavy-spring long-recoil system of the older A5 semiautomatics. We felt this new system did help tame the recoil of the shotgun better than the other two A5s.



Malfunctions like this failure to eject a spent round in the new Sweet Sixteen occurred a half dozen times in the first two boxes of shells. A light coating of oil applied into the receiver and on the magazine tube solved the problem.



We appreciated the thick recoil pad on the new Sweet Sixteen, which helped tame shoulder shock better than the hard-plastic buttplates on the other A5s.



The new Sweet Sixteen utilizes Browning's Invector Double Seal interchangeable choke system, and we found the shotgun excelled in the patterning tests.

had been providing quality service for nearly 50 years.

After our less-experienced shooters learned to "get over the hump" by focusing on the target and not the back of the receiver, target hits were both solid and consistent. The patterning board supported our high target breaking success with the veteran 12 gauge. The fixed Improved Cylinder barrel produced a 54-46 percent pattern, close to 50-50, which is what many shooters find to be the most favorable pattern.

The spread was nearly uniform throughout the 30-inch circle, with only one 3-inch hole on the very outer edge of the lower left quadrant. That is the type of spread that breaks more clays and downs more birds when the shooter is able to put the pellets in the right place at the right time.

There were no malfunctions of any kind with the Light Twelve. It is a workhorse that does its job as long as the shooter does his job. Concerning the question of whether shooting a 16 is more sporting than a 12, we found the answer to be, "It all depends on the shooter."

Our Team Said: Availability, price, and performance on both the patterning board and on the range gave the Light Twelve a slight edge in our evaluation. This veteran creation of Browning still works well and has the historical feel desired by shooters with a touch of nostalgia in their souls.

Browning A5 Sweet Sixteen No. 0118005004 16 Gauge, $1700

While the 16-gauge shotgun still finds a spot in the hearts of many veteran shooters, there is no argument that its popularity is well below that of any of the other gauges. The decline of the 16 gauge can very likely be tied to the creation of a then-new shooting sport developed in the mid-1920s.

As the official rules of American skeet were established in the United States, the .410 bore, 28 gauge, 20 gauge, and 12 gauge were included as standard competitions, but the 16 gauge was left out in the cold. In addition, trap shooting was evolving into a 12-gauge-only sport. Based on the snub of the gauge by clay-target shooters (many hunters still found the 16 to be more sporting than the 12), ammunition and firearms manufacturers saw the writing on the wall and limited their development of the old 16-gauge shotshell.

The ultimate dethroning of the 16 as a lightweight alternative to the 12 came with the development of 20-gauge loads that matched or exceeded the capability of 16-gauge loads. However, the interest in what many called the Sweet Sixteen never completely disappeared.

The folks at Browning apparently decided to stoke the historical desires of the 16-gauge crowd with the 2016 introduction of a new version of the Sweet Sixteen shotgun. While there is a resemblance to the venerable semiautomatic, the new Sweet Sixteen is lighter, softer shooting (it no longer uses the long-recoil system of the previous version), and more modern looking. The new Browning A5 Sweet Sixteen utilizes a short recoil-operated Kinematic Drive system that harnesses recoil energy and converts it into the mechanical motion needed to operate the action without the use of a heavy spring wrapped around the outside of the magazine tube.

The looks and feel of the new Browning Sweet Sixteen semiautomatic are somewhat the same and somewhat different than the firearm that was the brainchild of legendary inventor and firearm genius John M. Browning. Its feel is similar to semiautomatics produced by Beretta and Benelli rather than that of the old Humpbacks, but that simply means the new Sweet Sixteen is a sleeker, smoother, more modern piece of shooting machinery.

Featuring a lighter alloy receiver as compared to the steel receiver of the old versions, the new Sweet Sixteen sports a 28-inch barrel and tips the scales at only 5.75 pounds. The shotgun's overall length is 49.25 inches, with a length of pull of 14.5 inches (spacers are available to add to the LOP); a drop at the comb of 1.75 inches; and drop at the heel of 2.25 inches.

We found the new Sweet Sixteen feels and handles much like a 20-gauge semiautomatic. This light, quick, and easily maneuverable design was appreciated by our shooting team, particularly when we noted the felt recoil was much lighter than with the other two A5s.

We found that the trigger pull of 6 pounds was heavier than we normally prefer, but was acceptable on the clay course, allowing us to produce satisfactory target trauma. There were about a half-dozen malfunctions with the first two boxes of ammunition, a fault we attributed to a lack of lubrication on the magazine tube and inside the receiver. Once a light coating of oil was applied to those areas, the function of the Sweet Sixteen was flawless.

On the patterning board, the Browning's improved cylinder choke (a set of three Invector Double Seal chokes are included in the package) produced a very solid pattern in a 30-inch circle on a target set downrange at 30 yards. The pattern was 58-42 percent; that is, 58 percent of the hits above the center of the target and 42 percent below, with the only 3-inch hole in the even pattern found on the bottom left edge of the circle. There is no doubt that this solid pellet performance on paper was a major contributing factor to the number of clay target hits we experienced on the range.

While obviously different than the older versions of the A5, this Browning creation was comfortable to shoot, moved well, and produced top-quality breaks on target after target. When a firearm feels good, it just makes a shooter more successful on the range or in the field. That is exactly what we found with the Sweet Sixteen.

Our Team Said: Although we have concerns about the higher price tag of this A5 and did experience some malfunctions in the beginning of our tests, we found no other faults with the new Sweet Sixteen. We were particularly impressed with the patterning and handling ability of the new version of an old shooting friend.

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

Rimfire Field-Rifle Shoot-out: Marlin, Mossberg, and Ruger

To find the best 22 LR self-loading rifle, we fired them with iron sights, a red dot, and with riflescopes. Tested: The Marlin 7000, Mossberg Plinkster, and Ruger's 10-22 M1 Commemorative.

In this installment, we test three rimfire rifles from three makers. The genre is the very popular and flexible field-gun description. The 22 LR rifle is an excellent trainer, a favorite recreational shooter, and a great small-game rifle. The rimfire is the one rifle every rifleman must have. The field gun is by definition, and the definition is liberal, a versatile go-anywhere get-anything shooter. Informal practice and small-game shooting are great pastimes. And while we are not focusing on personal defense, we should note that a good quality 22-caliber self-loader is a formidable firearm in skilled hands. Is a 22 LR a self-defense chambering we'd recommend? No. Have untold numbers of bad guys been deterred by being hit with a 22 LR round fired from a pistol or rifle? Yes. So reliability is important as well.

The rifle we are looking for should be light but not too light. It should be light enough for carrying for a day in the field, but it should have sufficient heft for good offhand shooting. While we carefully measure accuracy by firing from a solid bench rest, we also want a rifle that retains a good portion of its accuracy in offhand fire. Thus, a good balance of weight and a decent trigger action are desirable traits.

Historically, probably more 22 LR rifles have been set up as bolt actions, but because of their light recoil and shot-to-shot speed, self-loading rifles are the biggest sellers today. To keep prices in check, we selected a mix of readily available used and new firearms as well as optics for greater coverage of the best choices. As noted above, reliability is always important, but in this test, we allowed that if the firearm occasionally ties up and we lose a squirrel, we were more willing to give a gun a pass than if we were testing personal-defense firearms. It is almost a given that a 22 self-loading rifle malfunctions from time to time, and the fault is more often due to the construction of the 22 rimfire cartridge than any other single variable. We searched for ideal rifles and found some good picks. All had good points. Here's how they performed on a gun-by-gun basis.



From top, our test rifles included the Marlin 7000, the Mossberg Plinkster, and a Commemorative version of the Ruger 10-22.

Besides shooting the Ruger M1 10-22 with its iron sights, we also attached a modern red-dot sight since the Picatinny rail made it so easy. The TruGlo 30mm Red Dot ($58 at CheaperThanDirt.com) was easy to zero. Once mounted and moved to the highest brightness setting, the rifle gave excellent "combat" results at close range to 50 yards on human-silhouette targets. Accuracy was good to excellent when shooting for pure speed. The rail option of the M1 carbine is definitely a good addition, even if it's not a pure "M1" option.



Mossberg 702 Plinkster 22 LR, $160

This was a recent price at Cabelas.com, but it looks like Mossberg no longer offers the stock finish we tested. Most Plinksters are offered as our test gun was set up, with adjustable rifle sights, but one unit, the #37044, can be purchased with a 4x riflescope. The Plinkster has several attributes that stood out. It is the lightest rifle as well as the least expensive. The Plinkster is obviously modeled after the famous Marlin Model 60 rifles, so it has a mechanical resemblance to the Marlin 7000 also tested.

The action and the controls are nearly identical. However, the Marlin 7000, in common with the original Model 60, features a safety located behind the trigger in the trigger guard. The Plinkster safety is placed in common with the Ruger 10-22 in front of the trigger in the trigger guard. We had no clear preference for either safety location, and each safety worked well enough for all raters.

The trigger action broke at 5.65 pounds. We found it interesting that the Plinkster and the Marlin 7000 did not use the same magazines, taking into account their similarities. We used the supplied 10-round magazine, and we also ordered an additional 25-round magazine that resembles an AR-15 magazine for use with the Plinkster ($30 at AcademySports.com) This made the firing tests go faster because there was no need to stop and load magazines.

The Plinkster features conventional sights, with an open rear and post front sight. However, instead of using a leaf to adjust elevation, the Plinkster sight features a screw that is moved for elevation. This was a simple change that allowed easy adjustment. The rear-sight leaf folds down, which we liked. The rear sight features an open notch, and the front post allows a good aiming point. Some liked the Plinkster sights better than the Ruger M1, but the votes were split. The stock is similar to the Marlin 7000 in outline, but with a Schnabel forend. The Plinkster, however, seems to have the lighter stock. The Plinkster is light at 4 pounds and would never be a burden on the shoulder. Fired offhand, the rifle was useful enough. We liked the fact that there were no malfunctions of any type with either magazine. The 25-round-capacity magazine neatly snaps into place, and a lever on the magazine is used to actuate the magazine release, which is covered by the new magazine. The magazine isn't difficult to load.

Fired for accuracy at 50 yards, the Plinkster was the least accurate rifle tested. As one of the raters noted, it was still fine for knocking a squirrel out of a tree at tip-top tree-limb distance. And it wasn't inaccurate at all, with our shooters getting groups of 3 to 4 inches at 50 yards.

Our Team Said: The Plinkster is obviously

MOSSBERG 702 PLINKSTER 22 LR, $160

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The Plinkster is the least-expensive rifle tested and the lightest. Reliability was perfect, with no malfunctions. But it wasn't as accurate as the other rifles.



Action Type	Semi-auto	Action Finish	Black Anodized
Overall Length	38.0 in.	Barrel Finish	Blued
Barrel Length	18.0 in.	Stock	Synthetic
Overall Height w/Scope	4.2 in.	Trigger Pull Weight	5.7 lbs.
Length of Pull	14.2 in.	Warranty	2-year limited
Weight Unloaded	4.0 lbs.	Telephone	(203) 230-5300
Weight Loaded	4.75 lbs.	Website	Mossberg.com
Magazine Capacity	10, 25 rounds	Made In	USA



The rear sight of the Plinkster is adequate. We like the screw adjustment for elevation. The rear leaf of the Plinkster sight folds down. We like this feature.



We also ordered an additional 25-round magazine that resembles an AR-15 magazine for use with the Plinkster. ($30 at AcademySports.com). This made the firing tests go faster, with less time loading magazines. The 25-round-capacity magazine neatly snaps into place, and a lever on the magazine manipulates the magazine release, which is covered by the new magazine.



The Plinkster's magazine release (arrow) is well situated for easy operation with standard magazines. The crossbolt safety sits just to the right of the release and was positive and in operation, we found.

intended for plinking, not accuracy work, and it lived up to its name. We rated the rifle down a grade based on poor accuracy compared to the other rifles. Just the same, we feel that we got our money's worth.

Marlin 7000 22 LR, $225

This was a recent counter price at SCGunCompany.com. The Marlin 7000 is a much-modernized Marlin Model 60 variant, or perhaps more properly, a early Marlin 795 variant. Rather than the Model 60's long tubular under-the-barrel magazine, the Model 7000 uses a 10-round box magazine. The rifle features a well-designed synthetic stock that we like a lot. The stock is nicely fitted to the action. The Model 7000 is well balanced and shoulders well for fast shooting, our shooters said.

We ordered an additional 7-round magazine ($17 from Brownells.com) for a contrast in handling, since it didn't protrude as much from the bottom of the gun. For serviceability, we would order a 10-round magazine next time, but the 7-round magazine is neat and easy to handle. A limiting factor during the test was the magazine capacity of each rifle. The Ruger rifles could easily spit out 25 rounds from the X-series magazine, which we had plenty of, while the Plinkster was used with a single 25-round and one 10-round magazine. The Marlin had only a 10-round magazine as purchased. This is fine for hunting, but having a limited magazine selection cut into the recreational value of the rifle. The primary advantage of the Marlin is the bull barrel. This heavy barrel played a part, we are certain, in the rifle's excellent accuracy. Because the Marlin lacked any sights, we fitted a BSA 4x rifle scope on the Marlin ($35 at Cabelas.com). This scope was supplied with rings and mounts and was easily sighted in.

The Marlin 7000 is the heaviest rifle tested at 5.8 pounds with the scope attached. The trigger is also the heaviest of the rifles tested, requiring 6.2 pounds of compression to release. This heavy trigger was smooth enough, but we would have preferred a lighter break. Just the same, the Marlin 7000 was the most accurate rifle tested. We fired the rifle in the same drills as the other rifles. It took somewhat longer to fire 100 rounds offhand in the Marlin. We had at best 17 rounds in a string, firing one magazine and then reloading

MARLIN 7000 22 LR, $219

GUN TESTS GRADE: A- (BEST BUY)

Though the Marlin 7000 appears to be out of production, we were still able buy one at retail. We like the handling, the magazine disconnect, and the accuracy of this rifle.



Action Type	Semi-auto	Action Finish	Black
Overall Length	37.0 in.	Barrel Finish	Black
Barrel Length	18.0 in.	Stock	Black synthetic
Overall Height w/Scope	5.9 in.	Trigger pull weight	6.2 lbs.
Length of Pull	13.5 in.	Warranty	No warranty, used
Weight Scoped (as tested)	5.8 lbs.	Telephone	(844) 700-0870
Weight Loaded	7.6 lbs.	Website	MarlinFirearms.com.
Magazine Capacity	7, 10 rounds	Made In	USA



The BSA scope helped us shoot average group sizes of less than an inch at 50 yards.



The Marlin proved both fast and accurate in offhand fire. It is light and trim enough for comfortable carry in the field.



The rifle suffered a single malfunction with the Velocitor load, a failure to fully feed, with a spent cartridge case caught in the ejection port.

with the other, then we had to reload the two magazines. The groups were smaller, and we hit better compared to the other rifles.

The rifle came to the shoulder quickly, and we were able to get minute-of-animal accuracy for short-range squirrel hunting and excellent accuracy at longer range as well. The rifle suffered a single malfunction with the Velocitor load, a failure to fully feed with a spent cartridge case caught in the ejection port. We like the bolt hold open. This device is used to hold the bolt open, and when the rifle is loaded, the lever may be used to lower the bolt on a loaded magazine as well. Also, unique among the rifles, the Marlin features a magazine safety. If the magazine is not inserted, the rifle will not fire. This combination of features was appreciated.



Here we're putting the Marlin through its paces off the bench. This was a very accurate rifle at 50 yards, shooting 1-inch groups with the Fiocchi HV load. But the CCI Velocitor and Winchester M22 loads weren't far behind.

Our Team Said: What we liked most about the rifle was its accuracy. The Marlin fired groups as small as 0.75 inch at 50 yards. The other rifles were not as accurate. The combination of features and economy made the Marlin 7000 a solid Best Buy.

Ruger 10-22 M1 Commemorative Rifle 22 LR, $340

This rifle is a near look alike for the .30M1 carbine. The 10-22 M1 rifle features the proven Ruger 10-22 self-loading rifle action. The controls are a standard push-button safety and the new enlarged type magazine release. The rifle feeds from a standard 10-round magazine or the extended X-series magazines. You cock the bolt by use of a convenient cocking handle. The stock-to-metal fit of this rifle is excellent. Where the two halves of the stock and forend meet, the fit is practically seamless. The wood is well finished and closely mimics the M1 carbine in looks and feel. The stock features a forward barrel band similar to the M1, and there is also a sling cut-out in the stock. The rifle isn't an exact match, but it is very close to looking like a real M1 Carbine.

The sights are considerably different from anything found on previous 10-22 rifles. The aperture rear sight is similar to the M1 carbine. The sights offer good accuracy and are very fast to use. The 10-22 M1 features a rail for mounting optics. While some felt the rail takes away from the classic look, others noted that some shooters went to great lengths to mount glass on the original M1. It is a handy thing to have if you want a riflescope or a red dot.

The trigger action breaks cleanly at 5.8 pounds, the heaviest of the three rifles and the second-heaviest trigger action of the test behind the Marlin 7000 trigger action. The M1 rifle comes with a single magazine, a new type of X magazine that holds 15 cartridges. The rifle accepts the standard ten round rotary magazines as well as both the new X-15 and the previous X-25 Ruger magazines. The X-15 magazine is a good compromise for handiness and firepower. It isn't difficult to fire the rifle from a bench rest with this magazine in place. When testing the rifles, we elected to fire 100 rounds in offhand from each rifle. We used the Winchester M22 load, the CCI Velocitor, the Fiocchi HV, and CCI Blazer loads in offhand, 25 rounds of each, firing at targets at 10, 15, 25, and 50 yards. It wasn't difficult to load up 100 rounds

RANGE DATA

CCI Velocitor 22 LR 40-gr.	Marlin 7000	Ruger 10-22 M1 Commemorative	Mossberg Plinkster
Average Velocity	1400 fps	1354 fps	1388 fps
Muzzle Energy	174 ft.-lbs.	162 ft.-lbs.	171 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.3 in.	2.6 in.	2.3 in.

Fiocchi HV 22 LR 40-gr.	Marlin 7000	Ruger 10-22 M1 Commemorative	Mossberg Plinkster
Average Velocity	1255 fps	1240 fps	1267 fps
Muzzle Energy	139 ft.-lbs.	136 ft.-lbs.	142 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.0 in.	2.75 in.	3.3 in.

Winchester M22 22 LR 40-gr.	Marlin 7000	Ruger 10-22 M1 Commemorative	Mossberg Plinkster
Average Velocity	1219 fps	1227 fps	1238 fps
Muzzle Energy	131 ft.-lbs.	133 ft.-lbs.	136 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.2 in.	2.9 in.	3.6 in.

Notes: *To collect accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups off a bench rest. Distance: 50 yards. We recorded velocity with a Competition Electronics Chrony Chronograph. The first sky screen was 10 feet from the muzzle.*

Ammunition notes: *We purchased the CCI Velocitor for $7.39/50 rounds at MidwayUSA.com; the Fiocchi HV for $6.50/50 rounds at BulkAmmo.com), and the Winchester M22 for $75/1000 rounds at SportsmansGuide.com)*

RUGER 10-22 M1 COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE
22 LR, $339
GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The rifle is functional, reliable once broken in, and accurate enough for most chores. The nontraditional rail may not look like an M1 carbine, but it certainly held the red dot well.



Action Type	Semi-auto	Action Finish	Black
Overall Length	36.5 in.	Barrel Finish	Black
Barrel Length	18.5 in.	Stock	Matte-Finish Wood
Overall Height w/o Scope	3.75 in.	Trigger pull weight	5.8 lbs.
Length of Pull	13.0 in.	Warranty	None
Weight Unloaded	5.2 lbs.	Telephone	(336) 949-5200
Weight Loaded	5.4 lbs.	Website	Ruger.com
Magazine Capacity	10/15/25 rds.	Made in	USA



The scope mounting rail was seen as a good addition. The rail mount allows easy deployment of a red-dot scope.



The Commemorative rifle is a near look alike for the .30M1 carbine, top. The 10-22 M1 rifle features the proven Ruger 10-22 self-loading rifle action. The controls are standard push-button safety and the new enlarged magazine release.



The 10-22 M1 rifle comes with a single magazine, a new type of X magazine that holds 15 cartridges. The rifle accepts the standard 10-round rotary magazines as well as both the new X-15 and the previous X-25 Ruger magazines.



We would most likely want to put an optic on this rifle, but the provided iron sights were plenty good as is.



with the Ruger and its 10-, 15-, and 25-round magazines. When firing the rifle off hand, we got good results. We also fired some shots from a semi-braced position leaning against a range post at the 50-yard targets. There were no surprises. The M1-type stock handles well. Control and balance are good. It wasn't difficult to get center hits on targets at 50 yards.

Squirrel-sized targets were in danger of getting head shots at 15- to 20-yard distances. A single malfunction occurred with the Winchester load and another with the Fiocchi loading, in each case a spent cartridge was found in the ejection port between the bolt and the chamber. This was a new gun, and this is par for the course with the 22 rifle. We also fired the rifle for accuracy off the bench at 50 yards with the Winchester M22, Fiocchi HV, and CCI Velocitor rounds. The aperture sight is OK for most uses, but the front post subtends some of the targets, so achieving pinpoint accuracy is difficult at 50 yards. The iron sight we liked best at close range became more difficult to use at longer range. The rifle produced several 2-inch groups at 50 yards, but most were larger than 2 inches. Only the Plinkster was less accurate. We feel that the aperture sights are most useful at closer range and for fun shooting.

Our Team Said: We debated about the rating on this rifle, which would have been the "number-one fun gun" if we had such a rating. Of course, enjoyable shooting is part of the rating, but performance comes first. We came up with a B rating, knocking the rifle down a half grade for accuracy and another half grade based on two malfunctions. There were no malfunctions firing off the bench and none at all with the CCI Blazer loads.

We liked all of the rifles tested. The Plinkster was okay for the money. The Ruger M1 Commemorative is a great recreational shooter with excellent fit and finish, but it wasn't the most practical. The Marlin 7000 offered the best accuracy in careful bench rest firing.

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

New Accessories, Gear, and Ammunition Choices for 2017

You may only buy a couple of guns a year, but if you're a shooter, you buy lots of ammunition or components to make your guns go, and add-ons to make them go better. Here are a few to consider.

As prices continue to come down as the result of a gun glut (supply and demand economics), more folks will be buying guns, and we'll want to shoot them. So we will be adding enhancements to those firearms and feeding ammunition into them with a big grin. Here are some new products Gun Tests' staffers have taken note of that will make your firearms run, run better, or add fun.

Blackhawk!
Blackhawk.com

The No-Latch Ambi Charging Handle eliminates the need to squeeze a small latch to charge the rifle. And it's welcome news for left-handed shooters, as the design gives full ambidextrous control. The over-molded handle provides a larger pull point from both sides, clearing low-set optics, and the no-latch design control point speeds reloads and clears malfunctions faster. Machined from 7075 aluminum. $40.



Browning
Browning.com

Browning has added four new loads in the BXV centerfire lineup. All are loaded in nickel-plated cases with rapid-expanding polymer-tipped bullets. Available in 35-grain 22 Hornet, 50-grain 243 Winchester and 22/250 Remington, and 56-grain 243 Winchester loads. The BXR big-game centerfire rifle line gets four new SKUs—270 WSM, 6.5 Creedmoor, 7mm-08, and 7mm Remington Magnum—for 2017. All are loaded in nickel-plated cases with a copper-matrix-tipped bullet with a nickel-plated jacket.

Champion Targets
ChampionTarget.com

The Workhorse Electronic Trap fits in the trunk of almost any vehicle and can be unloaded and set up by one person. It runs off a single deep-cycle battery, and the detachable magazine holds up to 50 clays. The trap is adjustable and can throw clays with three different launch angles up to 75 yards. $360.



Federal Premium
FederalPremium.com

Federal's new 40-grain HP Hunter Match 22 Long Rifle load has been designed to provide true long-range accuracy and terminal performance out to 100 yards. Nickel-plated cases help with extraction. $8/50.



Federal is also offering a limited-time reintroduction of several user-requested rounds loaded with premium bullets—such as the Trophy Bonded Tip, Nosler Ballistic Tip, and Nosler Partition, in nickel-plated brass cases and Gold Medal match primers. Cartridges: 270 Weatherby, 220 Swift, 6mm Remington, 7mm STW, 7mm Weatherby, 300 H&H, and 338 Remington Ultra Magnum. $30 to $70/20. Federal Premium will also load new Gold Medal Berger loads, whose Berger bullets have high ballistic coefficients to provide flat trajectories, minimal wind drift, and surgical long-range accuracy. Available cartridges: 223 Remington, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 Grendel, and 308 Winchester. About $33/50. Wheelgunners: Federal's new 135-grain HST bullet for the 38 Special is specially formulated for the snubnose revolver.

GBW Cartridge
GBWcartridge.com

GBW Cartridge out of Venice, Florida, is a boutique defensive handgun cartridge maker. The Legend Pro line includes high-performance loads for common rounds, but also big bores, such as the 454 Casull, 460 S&W, and 500 S&W. All are loaded with expanding bullets made entirely of copper. GBW's centerfire rifle cartridges also have all-copper expanding bullets. Offerings include loads for the 223 Remington, 300 Blackout, and 308 Winchester.



Gerber
Gerbergear.com

Good for the toolbox: Gerber's new Center-Drive Multi-Tool offers a center axis full-size driver in the center of the tool to improve torque and rotation. A 30-percent



larger outboard blade and one-thumb-opening sliding jaws enhance productivity as well. $89.

IMR Powders
IMRpowder.com

The new IMR Target is a fast-burning, fine-grained, small-flake pistol powder for pistol cartridges like the 25 ACP. The IMR Red is designed to be an efficient, clean-burning 12-gauge target powder for Cowboy Action reduced loads. IMR Green, slightly slower burning than the IMR Red, is suited for Trap Handicap and Sporting Clays enthusiasts. IMR Unequal combines small-sized flakes for a range of shotshell and pistol cartridges. IMR Blue, the slowest burn speed of the bunch, has excellent application for heavy 12-gauge 2.75-inch, 3-inch, and 3.5-inch field loads. The new powder series is available in 1-pound, 4-pound, and 8-pound containers. IMR Red, IMR Green, and IMR Unequal are also available in 14-ounce containers. Prices start at $30.



Hodgdon
Hodgdon.com

The new CFE BLK Powder performs in many smaller-capacity cartridges, such as the 17 Hornet, 17 Ackley Hornet, 218 Bee, and 221 Fireball. Other top performers include the 6.8 Remington SPC, 300 Blackout, and the 7.62x39mm Russian cartridge. The fine powder leaves no copper residue. Available in 1-pound and 8-pound containers.

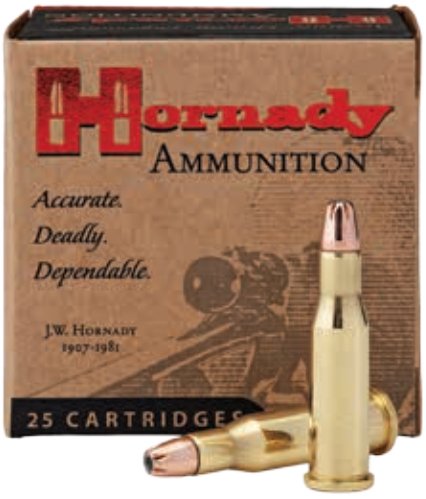


Hornady
Hornady.com

Hornady's new line of Black Ammunition is platform-specific for high-volume shooters. Initially, 14 offerings will be available, including loads for the 5.45x39, 223 Remington, 5.56 NATO, 6.5 Grendel, 6.8 SPC, 300 Blackout, 308 Winchester, 7.62x39, 450 Bushmaster, and 12-gauge shotshells.



In the Custom line, Hornady is loading a few old-time favorites: 218 Bee 45-grain hollowpoint (shown below), 250 Savage 100-grain Interlock, 264 Winchester Magnum 140-grain Interlock, and 41 Magnum 210-grain XTP load. $25 to $50 per box.



New additions to the American Gunner and Whitetail lines include a 6.5 Creedmoor load that utilizes a 140-BTHP bullet and a reduced recoil 12-gauge slug. For deer hunters, there is also a 129-grain Interlock load for the 6.5 Creedmoor.

In the new LEVERevolution loads from Hornady, there's a new 190-grain FTX load for the .41 Magnum and a 110-grain FTX load for the almost extinct 25/35 Winchester.

A pair of centerfire loads are being released to commemorate William B. Ruger. The limited-edition ammo will be available in 204 and 480 Ruger. Both loads will be in specially marked boxes that clearly identify it as being commemorative ammo. The 204 Ruger load will use a 32-grain V-Max bullet at 4225 fps. The 480 load will use a 325-grain XTP bullet rated at 1350 fps.

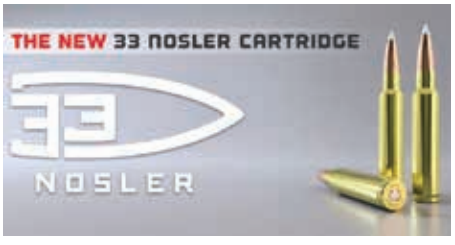
Howard Leight
HowardLeight.com

The updated Impact Sport Bolt Electronic Earmuff will have the same noise-reduction rating (NRR) of 22dB and the slim profile of the popular Impact Sport. The new earmuff offers improved circuitry and a response time that is 250 times faster than the current model. There is improved amplification, a premium leatherette headband, an AUX cable with in-line microphone, and features such as extra ear cushions and a belt clip. An automatic four-hour shut-off extends battery life. The earmuffs fold for storage. $100.



Nosler
nosler.com

Nosler has two new cartridges. The first is the 33 Nosler, which shares the parent case of the 404 Jeffery, but will push a 225-grain AccuBond





to 3025 fps. The other new cartridge is the 22 Nosler, which is intended to be the most powerful 22-caliber centerfire cartridge that will reliably function in the AR platform. It will propel a 55-grain bullet to 3500 fps.

In addition to some new bullet announcements, Nosler has added a variety of loads to its ammunition lines. The Trophy Grade line has one new AccuBond load for the .33 Nosler and three new AccuBond Long Range loads for the .308 Win., .30/06, and 33 Nosler. The Match Grade line has new loads for the 22 Nosler, 26 Nosler, 28 Nosler, 30 Nosler, and 33 Nosler.

Norma USA
Norma-USA.com

Norma USA has added a new 6.5 Creedmoor load to its ammunition line. It is loaded with a 130-grain Swift Scirocco II bullet at a muzzle velocity of 2789 fps. $41/20.

Polycase
Polycaseammo.com

Aficionados of the 357 Magnum now have an 86-grain ARX load at 1650 fps that generates 520 foot-pounds of energy. The 45 Colt Polycase load has a 158-grain ARX load in its Preferred Hunting line for that old cowboy classic. Additional ARX Preferred Hunting loads are available for the 458 SOCOM and 50 Beowulf. The new RNP Sport Utility line of ammo from Polycase features a round-nose (RN) bullet intended for accuracy shooting on steel. Offerings include loads for the 380, 38 Special, 9mm Luger, 40 S&W, and 45 Auto.





Remington
Remington.com

For 2017, the high-tech Golden Saber Black Belt bullet—originally only available for law enforcement—is going commercial. Four loads will be offered in 9mm Luger, 9mm Luger +P, 40 S&W, and 45 Auto. $27 per box of 20.



SIG Sauer
SIGSauer.com

The most exciting new load from SIG might be the subsonic 220-grain 300BLK V-Crown offering, which features the SIG V-Crown bullet. Created for the AR-15 platform, this load is ideal for use with a silencer.

SIG Sauer has also expanded its 9mm full-metal jacket (FMJ) Elite Performance Ammunition offerings with the addition of 124-grain and 147-grain loads. With these new rounds, customers now have three 9mm bullet weights—115-grain, 124-grain, and 147-grain—available in V-Crown JHP personal defense ammunition and FMJ target loads.

SIG also has introduced a new 223 Remington load to its Match Grade Elite Performance Ammunition line. It's loaded with a 77-grain Sierra open-tipped match (OTM) bullet with a muzzle velocity of 2750 fps. The HT hunting line of premium-grade rifle ammunition now includes 223 Remington and 308 Winchester offerings, both of which feature an all-copper bullet.



Speer
Speer-ammo.com

Starting in 2017, instead of a large hollowpoint, Speer Gold Dot 2 ammunition utilizes an elastomer insert. This circumvents the need for target material to enter the hollow point and drive expansion. It also provides uniform terminal performance through the range of intermediate barriers specified by the FBI testing protocol. Offered to law enforcement only, Gold Dot 2 ammunition is available in a 147-grain 9mm, 180-grain 40 S&W, and a 230-grain 45 Auto. $28 to $34 per 50.

Winchester
Winchester.com

Winchester has added three high-performance subsonic loads to the Super X line. These include a 200-grain 300 Blackout load and a



185-grain 308 Winchester load at 1060 fps. Both are designed for improved terminal performance at subsonic velocities and have a radical profile for enhanced expansion. There's also a 45-grain 22 Magnum load at 1060 fps. It has been engineered for use in suppressed firearms for the ultimate in low-noise performance, but it will also produce less audible sound when fired through standard

22 Winchester Magnum firearms.

For those areas that limit traditional ammunition, in 2017 Winchester is introducing a lead-free option called Varmint X Lead Free, built with similar zinc-core technology as that in Winchester's Super Clean pistol ammunition. It will be initially available for the 223 and 22/250 Remington, and the 243 Winchester.

A 223 Remington load joins the Deer Season XP lineup. With more hunters owning and shooting MSR rifles chambered in 223 Remington, the new Deer Season XP offers a 64-grain bullet specifically designed for deer hunting. There's also a new 6.5 Creedmoor Deer Season XP load utilizing a 125-grain bullet.

Winchester's new training expansion comes in the Super Clean line, which in 2017 will add a 45 ACP offering. Super Clean comes 50 rounds per box and is ideal for use on indoor ranges.

Compiled by Gun Tests *staff.*

COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

● **38 Super Ammo Showdown:** We were able to find 12 personal defense loads for testing and four FMJ loads. The full-metal-jacket loads were SIG Sauer's 125-grain choice, Fiocchi's 129-grain selection, the Privi Partisan 130-grain ball, and the Winchester 130-grain unit. The personal-defense loads of full-power 38 Super are similar to the 357 Magnum with 110- to 125-grain bullets, but much more controllable with less muzzle blast and recoil. They were the Buffalo Bore's 115-grain JHP, 124-grain JHP, and 147-grain. From Cor-Bon we selected the 100-grain Pow'RBall, a 115-grain JHP, and the 125-grain DPX. From Federal, we picked up some American Eagle 115-grain JHPs. From Double Tap, we selected 115-grain JHPs, TAC JHPs, and 125-grain bonded JHPs. We also fired SIG Sauer Elite 124-grain V Crown JHPs and Winchester 125-grain Silvertips.

● **22-Caliber Training Handgun Shootout:** In this installment we look at some of the best 22-caliber pistols for all-round target shooting and training for marksmanship and personal-defense practice. Some handguns are just fine for general plinking, but the modern shooter demands the ability to train with combat lights or even a red-dot sight, and all 22 LR pistols are not this versatile. We collected two 22-caliber handguns and two 22-caliber conversion units for the purposes of comparison. The firearms tested included the Smith & Wesson Victory, Beretta's Neos, Tactical Solutions' Glock Conversion Unit, and Colt's 22 Ace Conversion Unit.

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