GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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MORE 308 RIFLES

Savage, Remington, and Browning trot out a quartet of bolt and semi-auto contestants for our shooters to look over. Results: A ho-hum set of ratings and not much enthusiasm for any of them. ● Page 6







CONCEALABLE MICRO 9MM PISTOLS

Reviewed: Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG) with laser grip, Springfield Armory XD-E with a DA/SA trigger, and a SIG Emperor Scorpion P938. Two of these pistols had 1911-style operation that we favored. ● Page 16





PERFECTLY LEGAL 'EXOTICS'

You can buy these two firearms, one a pistol and one a shotgun, over the counter in most locales. The Century Arms RAS47 and the Mossberg Shockwave may look like NFA items, but they aren't. ● Page 25

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DOWNRANGE

ANOTHER DISASTER, ANOTHER COLUMN



Todd Woodard

In the November 2005 "Downrange" column, I wrote to you after the arrival of Category 5 Hurricane Rita, discussing what our go-to guns were when we were considering bugging out of Houston. Now we're dealing with the remnants of Category 4 Hurricane Harvey, and the water is Biblically high. Our gun-column angle for this disaster are the legal ramifications of moving guns during emergencies.

A day before Harvey crashed into Corpus Christi, I happened to see an 22-minute video of Edwin Walker, a gun-law attorney for the Walker & Taylor law firm here in Houston, talking about what to do with your guns in the event of an emergency like the one I'm in as I write this. You can find the video by typing this link into a YouTube search panel (not a browser, and no period): OsCH0BQIuM0. Below is a redacted recap of that interview, which, of course, only deals with Texas law, but, then, if you're a reader in Kansas, you don't have to plan for hurricanes, so come along for the ride anyway.

Walker said, "Well, obviously, whenever you are making plans to evacuate, you have to make a lot of tough choices about property you're going to take and property you're going to leave behind." He said, "And just like with any other valuable piece of property, you're gonna make that decision with your firearms. Now, a lot of people will evacuate with their firearms for safety reasons and that's what we certainly advise people to do. And this points out the importance of having an LTC [license to carry], because if you have an LTC, it gives you a lot more options...."

He further advised to take as many guns as you can with you because guns are relatively small and are a favorite of looters. Also guns rust, so if you know if you're in a place that you worry about being flooded, you may want to take the guns just to preserve them.

"If you have to leave them, make sure they're secured in a safe or with gun locks so that nobody can use them in the event that they take them ...," he said.

"One of the big questions [that comes up] is what can the government do to restrict your right to carry if they declare a state of emergency. The thing about it is, Texas has passed a law that says that the governor does not have the power to affect people's firearms rights in a state of emergency. So all the laws are still the same; the government can't take your right to have your firearm away because of the state of emergency if you have a license carry your handguns with you...."

For safety reasons, he pointed out, there is going to be a lot of people looking to take advantage of people who are evacuating, so be wary of that if you get to a hotel that you know and you're wondering about their gun policy. Just go with whatever is posted on the building, which means that if there is nothing posted on the building, then just simply leave it at that. Don't go asking management if it's okay to bring your guns in your room. He said, just assume that it's okay.

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Grading the Grades, Part II

We're getting more messages from readers about the prospects of failing more guns, though many are saying it's not necessary. The general agreement is, "If it's not an A, I won't buy it."

Re "Firing Line," August 2017

Dear Todd: I sincerely hope you don't change the grading scale to what is effectively pass/fail. Larry brings up an interesting point that would provide one way of comparing future evaluations, although comparing future with present and past scales could be unduly confusing. Personally, I thought the old scale was just fine, though I have adjusted to the new one.

Here's what I like about the status quo of the rating system:

- The "A" or "A+" rating allows room at the top for superlative craftsmanship.
- Resurrection of the "Best Buy" rating is helpful.
- Comparing ratings between the current scale and the old one is simple enough.
- You seem to have been removing the price from the letter grade recently, and I am a fan of that. While I don't have a stable full of multi-thousand-dollar fillies, the manufacturers should not be penalized on price alone. We can individually make that decision based on our personal preferences and budgets.
- When the gun is returned to the factory, then you reevaluate for an adjusted rating. I live in a world where I make products for customers every day, and no matter how good you are, someone will eventually be unhappy. How the manufacturer responds to that is very important to me. I appreciate the manufacturers who stand behind their products.

What I would like improved:

- Consistency from rater to rater. As an example, there seem to be some raters who grade more harshly for malfunctions than others. In some cases, a malfunction will get an "F" where others may only be a "C" or "D" instead. (I will admit this is a full-on perception over time that I have not validated by comparing multiple issues.)
- Consistency between brands. Some brands seem to get a free pass where others take a beating. For example, Glocks seldom (if ever) get penalized for disassembly woes, yet I feel like I need three hands for that task. Meanwhile, other brands have been derided because they need a tool as simple as a bent paper clip for disassembly. Likewise, certain triggers are notoriously mushy, yet they rate well next to a crisper one. If those two guns are otherwise equal, the nasty trigger should get downgraded. Finally, I always consider your ratings with a grain of salt. While the rating system is helpful, if I am seriously considering a particular gun, I read the entire evaluation because the test may have been conducted with different criteria than my intended use. Thanks! **—Paul**

Hi folks. Thanks so much for the reliable reporting. Regarding the "fail more" idea, I'm not warm to it as a preset inclination. If the industry happens to reach a stage of quality where no new gun meets the criteria for your "F" or "D" grade, I'm happy to see A's, B's, and C's as you judge them. Your grading seems finely-grained/nuanced enough, and functionally described/discriminating already.

I'd strive to own an "A," keep a

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.

"B" if I liked it, sell or upgrade a "C," and not have anything to do with the rest if possible, unless I can get them for pennies and get them fixed economically. If guns are getting better at the top, maybe have an occasional A+? Thanks again. **—Joe**

Dear Gun Tests: Thanks for another great issue this month. In regards to the letter sent in by reader Larry, I would like to answer your question about the grading scale. Keep it! As long as you keep up with the excellent writing, explaining your reasons for giving the assigned grade and what the testers feel, I think it's an excellent system. Here's why:

In my view, there are more factors to consider when one wants to label something as complex or not. Yes, an automatic transmission is complex, as most all gear boxes tend to be. But the few parts that are on a 1911 do a lot when the trigger is pulled. The cuts on top of the barrel, the barrel cam pin, feed-ramp angle, magazine-feed lips angle, and quality of metal in the magazine, to name a few items. The most important feature of all (in my opinion), is how the firearm is manufactured and what the manufacturer says is, or is not, a finished piece, goes a long way to determine quality, complexity, or completeness. I, too, have been in quality control for many years, and parts alone are not what makes something complex. Small cuts, holes, and such that are sometimes held to incredibly tight tolerances can make something complex, even though there may only be one or two parts that have this feature from the print or engineers drawing.

And besides, who in their right mind wants something to be complex when simpler is much better? And I have in the past sent a vehicle back for the automatic transmission, and I know of a couple of people who have done the same thing.

Then there's the discussion of grading something which can be more a matter of taste as opposed to just quality. Judging a firearm is like judging one meal from a national restaurant chain. Firearm Maker A may have the exact same standard as Maker B, but which one sells better, or is judged to be better, is a matter of one's taste. So 20 people who test those two (imaginary or real firearms) may yield 20 different opinions. So in closing, keep up the good work Gun Tests. Keep the testing, keep giving clear, concise reasons as to the reason for the grade you assign, keep giving us readers the tests on the guns we want to learn about. And this reader will keep a subscription as long as I can! Thanks, **—M.**

Larry's letter made some interesting points. I think the D grade may be eliminated. If you dislike a gun that much, then give it an F. I would like to see you keep the B grade. Sometimes the things you dislike to downgrade a gun from an A are not critical factors for me. I most likely would NOT buy anything you gave a C grade to. My vote is to keep the C grade as long as the gun functions properly. That way, if I see someone else has bought a C gun, I won't worry about its functioning. **—George**

Thumbs up to you guys on the firearms and accessories reviews. Just read the current feedback where reader Larry opines on the grading scale. Tip of the hat to him. I agree. I have read so many reviews over the years wherein firearms in less-than-perfect condition and or operability are given a pass. I immediately stop reading that particular review and eliminate that firearm from any purchase consideration. I consistently train, study the law, and conceal carry as a responsible U.S. citizen. Why would anyone have anything less than "top-shelf" in their inventory? It is either designed and works to accomplish its intended purpose or it doesn't. Period.

Everyone has an opinion, and if you don't change a thing, I'll keep on reading. Again, thank you for your efforts. **—David**

Got my first issue of Gun Tests. I have got to get out a little more because this is the publication I have been looking for. I have read everything in this issue. EVERYTHING!

I like this a whole lot. No punches pulled. You are going to help me buy every gun I purchase from now on, with confidence. I am writing to agree with Larry in the Firing Line letter. I use lots of tools. When I am going to buy a tool, I may use it only once for a special need. If so, I will buy an inexpensive one. Sometimes I find other uses for these tools, and when I wear it out, I know what to look for in the replacement I buy. I usually move up in price because I have found they may last longer in use. There are times I buy the same one because it served the purpose. Like the car reference Larry made, and I add, you would want the brakes of a car to stop you all the time, want it to start when you need it, etc., so in relation to a firearm, it must work all the time. Jams, clip problems, heavy trigger pulls and so on are unacceptable. When my drill quits, I just go out and buy another one. If my gun quits, someone buys me a plot in the cemetery. Larry is right, grading needs to be pass or fail. The A+, A, A- will be acceptable for fit, feel, feed, firing, and finish—otherwise, pass or fail it. You can even show a picture of the fail box with the latest failure tossed in with other failed guns. Shedding light on these guns is what manufacturers need to see.

Thanks for opening my eyes. The money you will save me will easily allow me to continue paying to get this publication. Keep up the good work. I give you an "A." If you go to pass/fail, it will be an "A+" move. Thank you, too, Larry. I give you an A+ for the expert perspective. **—Jeff**

Gentleman, don't change the great information that you provide. Like anything, your reviews and subsequent grades are your opinion based on review of a single sample of said firearm. These guns are manufactured/assembled by humans, as are the quality-control procedures performed by all companies.

As for reader Curtis and his S&W

Performance Center pistol, I agree that the pistol should work better than most out of the box. But was a spent round provided with the gun? Maybe that is not performed by all manufacturers, but many of my pistols are provided with one. If that is the case, then the gun fired when tested by QC. I would also question how much the gun was handled at the gun shop. I have purchased guns off the shelf that were obviously handled quite a bit and had no issues. At other times, I have had some minor repairs to make. So if the pistol was provided with a spent round, I would question how the damage occurred. S&W may have shipped a functioning firearm.

I do not always agree with your ratings, but like certain body parts, we all have opinions. Mine is based on my experience with said firearm versus your testers with a different sample of said firearm.

However you decide to report in the future, please remember that factual information is useful, and the more of it the better. Opinions can be made at the end of factual information, but such mentions should be excluded from the information-gathering-and-reporting phase of the article. This allows me to take the information as one part of my information-gathering activities about a possible firearm purchase. But, I will never rely solely on one review on whether to purchase, or not to purchase, a firearm. Maybe our mainstream media will get that message soon. Just report the facts and leave your (general media) snowflake opinions out of it. Please keep up the good work on your honest and impartial reviews. **—Ken**

As always, I really enjoy your reviews and tests. Just a question on the Model 929. I've had one for a couple of years and consider it to be "a sunny-day" plinker. I also have the S&W 627 Performance Center, which I also consider a plinker. The FNX-45 Tactical is also a plinker, along with numerous 1911s. Normal carry weapon is the Walther PPS M2 and the SIG P238, P938, and a 1911. I have numerous other high-end hand guns and precision rifles. I reload for all calibers from the 22 TCM through all rifle and pistol calibers.

Now that I've given you my background, I ask my question. Is the 929 a notoriously light striker, or is it just that I'm using primers that are too hard (i.e. CCI)? I get failure to fire on about 40%+ of my rounds, but I can take the same misfired round (with a strike mark) and fire it in another weapon. My ammo works in around 70 other weapons, but the 929 has me baffled. Appreciate your expertise. **—Fred**

Hi Fred: The 929 does have a reputation as light striker, and it is true that some 9mm ammo has hard primers. The first thing I would do is check the strain screw on the mainspring. Sometimes, these screws can loosen under recoil. Tighten it up and see if that works. The strain screw is located in the front grip strap, but you probably already knew that. If that still doesn't alleviate the issue, I would suggest replacing the firing pin with a long firing pin. S&W will do this for you, and your revolver may still be under warranty. Let us know how you make out and thanks for the email. —Robert Sadowski

I received your September issue a few hours ago; not surprisingly, it looks another excellent product. You may, however, have a factual error concerning the Smith 929 The 929 is a Performance Center N Frame—which carries a lifetime service guarantee. When I checked Smith's website, it indicates that the M929 is "backed by our Smith & Wesson Lifetime Service Policy." With warm regards. **—Roy**

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All-Round 308 Winchester Rifle Shoot-Out: Not Our Faves

Savage, Remington, and Browning trot out a quartet of bolt and semi-auto contestants for our shooters to look over. Results: A ho-hum set of ratings and not much enthusiasm for any of them.



All of the 308 Winchester–chambered rifles, with barrel lengths of 16.5 to 26 inches, worked well enough, but each had flaws that were hard to overlook. From left are the Remington 700 SPS Tactical 85538, Browning BAR MK3 Stalker, the Savage Axis 19223; and the Remington SPS Varmint. The Varmint was clearly the best shooter, but it was also heavy and long, which made its handling sub-par. We're not sure we'd buy any of these rifles.

Looking for a go-anywhere do-anything 308 Winchester-chambered rifle? If so, in this article we test Remington SPS bolt guns in two variants, a Tactical version with a carbine-length barrel at 16.5 inches and the 26-inch barrel SPS Varmint, to get a good look at opposite ends of the length spectrum. Then we added two rifles with more traditional barrel lengths, the 22-inch-barrel Savage Axis and a semi-auto, the Browning Automatic Rifle Stalker, also with a 22-inch tube.

The truth is, these rifles will fire most of their cartridges on a range. This means we'd like them to be comfortable to shoot and deliver satisfying accuracy. Hunting is a consideration, of course, so the rifle should be useful for thin-skinned game to 200 yards or more. The adage of "200-pound game at 200 yards" will apply here. In a dangerous world in which it may be the only self-defense option for some homes, the rifle should also have some utility as an emergency rifle or for area defense. It should handle quickly enough for boar hunting, or varmints and pests, such as coyotes if need be. Area defense simply means that those of us with a larger homestead or a potential campsite do not wish to be helpless if we encounter adversaries. And we'd prefer our choice not cost as much as a Scout.





Our test rounds, from top: Gorilla Ammunition 175-grain Sierra MatchKing GA308175SMK; Hornady's 168-grain Polymer Tip ELD Match 80966, and the Federal 165-grain Polymer Tip Trophy Bonded P308TT2. Only one rifle, the Remington SPS Varmint, shot these cartridges to acceptable groups at or below 1 minute of angle.

Obviously, then, we want a dependable, easy-to-shoot, easy-to-carry rifle that's well made. Doesn't sound that hard because we are not expecting to be able to light a match with each round, but we do want to hit the K zone at 200 yards. Some shooters have claimed that shorter, stiffer barrels like that on the Tactical shoot as well as a longer barrel, like that on the Varmint. We are going to see how velocity varies as well, and to compare the chronograph stats bolt guns develop in terms of velocity to that of a semi-auto. We do not want a 4-foot-long 12-pound

RANGE DATA

Hornady ELD Match 168-gr. Polymer Tip	**Savage Axis**	**Remington SPS Varmint**	**Remington SPS Tactical**	**Browning BAR MK3**
Average Velocity	2600 fps	2676 fps	2475 fps	2580 fps
Muzzle Energy	2521 ft.-lbs.	2670 ft.-lbs.	2284 ft.-lbs.	2482 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	1.9 in.	0.6 in.	1.2 in.	1.3 in.
Large Group	2.6 in.	1.2 in.	1.6 in.	1.8 in.
Average Group	2.3 in.	0.9 in.	1.4 in.	1.5 in.

Federal Trophy Bonded 165-gr. Polymer Tip	**Savage Axis**	**Remington SPS Varmint**	**Remington SPS Tactical**	**Browning BAR MK3**
Average Velocity	2559 fps	2744 fps	2519 fps	2650 fps
Muzzle Energy	2398 ft.-lbs.	2758 ft.-lbs.	2324 ft.-lbs.	2572 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	1.8 in.	0.9 in.	1.6 in.	1.5 in.
Large Group	2.6 in.	1.3 in.	2.2 in.	1.9 in.
Average Group	2.2 in.	1.0 in.	1.9 in.	1.7 in.

Gorilla Ammunition 175-gr. Sierra MatchKing	**Savage Axis**	**Remington SPS Varmint**	**Remington SPS Tactical**	**Browning BAR MK3**
Average Velocity	2500 fps	2614 fps	2338 fps	2459 fps
Muzzle Energy	2428 ft.-lbs.	2654 ft.-lbs.	2123 ft.-lbs.	2349 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	1.6 in.	0.6 in.	0.9 in.	1.3 in.
Large Group	2.3 in.	1.2 in.	1.4 in.	2.0 in.
Average Group	1.9 in.	0.9 in.	1.2 in.	1.6 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired three three-shot groups off a benchrest. Distance: 100 yards. We recorded muzzle velocity with a Competition Electronics Chrony Chronograph. Ammunition sources: Hornady 168-gr. Polymer Tip ELD Match 80966 ($36/20 at CheaperThanDirt.com); Gorilla Ammunition 175-gr. Sierra MatchKing GA308175SMK ($34/20 GorillaAmmunition.com); Federal 165-gr. Polymer Tip Trophy Bonded P308TT2, ($38/20 at CheaperThanDirt.com).

rifle, but we wondered if we would have to compromise on weight (that is, go heavier) if we do not get the accuracy we want. We are not holding out for accuracy for 50 continuous shots and do not need a heavy target barrel, but, instead, we're looking for a rifle capable of delivering good accuracy for a dozen shots or so. Durability and quality are important. The rifle should last for the shooter's entire life. Also, to save money, we looked for used rifles in Like New or better shape, a standard which all four members of the quartet met.

We elected to fire the rifles in four drills. We would fire quickly at human-silhouette targets at 25 yards, for the SHTF situation. It is also a drill that has some merit in learning to snap-shoot predators and coyote. At 50 yards, we used the Innovative Targets (Innovative Targets.net) steel gong. While we fired for precision, we also wished to test speed to an extent in this drill and fired a combination of standing and kneeling. We would expend 20 rounds in each pursuit, at 25 and 50 yards, for 40 rounds. We also fired 10 rounds at 100 yards offhand. Finally, we fired three three-shot groups for accuracy at 100 yards with three different loads, alternating between rifles to let the barrels cool, firing from a solid rest and attempting to obtain the best accuracy possible. During the offhand firing stages, we used Fiocchi 150-grain FMJs for the 25- and 50-yard work. For firing offhand at 100 yards, we used a handload consisting of the Hornady 155-grain SST and Varget powder for 2750 fps. For benchrest accuracy testing, we used three loads. The Hornady 168-grain ELD Match, Federal 165-grain Trophy Bonded, and Gorilla Ammunition's 175-grain Sierra MatchKing load. Here's how they performed.

All the cartridges tested gave good-enough results as far as baseline expectations, we thought. That is, we had no failures to feed, fire, or eject in the test. And all three produced a level of accuracy we want to see—1 minute of angle, or 1-inch groups at 100 yards—in at least one rifle. For example, the Gorilla Ammunition 175-grain rounds gave the best results in the Remington SPS Varmint at an eye-popping 0.9-inch average group size, then the SPS Tactical at 1.2 inches, the BAR Stalker semi-auto at 1.6 inches, and the Savage at 1.9 inches on average, far behind the leader. We saw the same pattern with the Hornady ELD Match 168-grain Polymer Tip load, with the Varmint

again shooting under MOA with a 0.9-inch average group, the Tactical at 1.4 inches, the MK3 BAR at 1.5 inches, and the Axis coming in at 2.3 inches. Likewise, the SPS Varmint lead the parade with the Federal Trophy Bonded 165-grain Polymer Tip load, shooting 1.0-inch average groups. The BAR jumped into second place with this load, shooting slightly better at 1.7 inches than the Tactical's 1.9-inch average. The Axis was fourth again with an average group size of 2.2 inches.

As far as velocity and the resulting energy comparisons across different barrel lengths with the Hornady ELD Match, the highest velocities and energies , not surprisingly, came from the SPS Varmint with a 26-inch-long barrel, 2676 fps and 2670 foot-pounds, respectively. The Savage was next at 2600 fps/2521 foot-pounds, followed by the BAR at 2580 fps/2482 foot-pounds, and the Tactical bringing up the rear at 2475 fps/2284 foot-pounds energy. The pattern varied slightly with the Federal Trophy Bonded 165-grain Polymer Tip rounds, with the Varmint in first (2744 fps/2758 foot-pounds), the BAR in second (2650 fps/2572 foot-pounds), then the Axis (2559 fps/2398 foot-pounds) and the Tactical (2519 fps/2324 foot-pounds). The Varmint again led the way with the Gorilla Ammunition 175-grain Sierra MatchKing, running 2614 fps/2654 foot-pounds, followed by the Axis (2500 fps/2426 foot-pounds), the Browning (2459 fps/2349 foot-pounds), and the Tactical (2338 fps/2123 foot-pounds). Beyond these objective data, here's how each rifle performed in the eyes of our shooters.

Savage Axis 19223 308 Winchester, $240

A Savage Axis combo has recently been listed at CheaperThanDirt.com at $432.18 with a Nikon scope. We found this rifle used, including a Bushnell 3x9-40mm scope and a bipod, for the bargain price listed above, in Like New condition. The previous owner had mounted the bipod for the legs to fold forward. Fit of the synthetic stock to the action

SAVAGE AXIS 19223 308 WINCHESTER, $240

GUN TESTS GRADE: C

The Savage Axis put in a good showing, we felt. The rifle was smooth enough, and we like the safety location, and the detachable magazine was easy to use. Accuracy wasn't the best of the test, but the accuracy exhibited would be adequate for some chores. The rifle was dogged by a heavy trigger that we chose to fix.



Action	Bolt	Capacity	3+1
Overall Length	43.9 in.	Action Finish	Matte-blued steel
Barrel	Matte-blued steel, 22.0 in. long; 1:10 twist	Magazine type	Detachable box
		Stock	Matte-black synthetic
Overall Height w/Scope	7.0 in.	Trigger Pull Weight	4 lbs. (adjusted)
Length of Pull	13.3 in.	Warranty	1 year
Weight Unloaded	6.5 lbs.	Telephone	(413) 568-7001
Weight Scoped (empty)	8.2 lbs.	Website	SavageArms.com
Weight Scoped (loaded)	8.4 lbs.	Made In	U.S.A.



The Savage Axis gave reasonable, but not impressive, results at the 100-yard line. The Savage Axis bipod was removed after initial testing.



The ventilated-rubber Savage buttpad proved capable of absorbing recoil and offering comfortable firing.



Working the bolt quickly and taking aim at 50 yards is challenging for any shooter. We really liked the location and manipulation of the tang-mounted safety.



The stock was a little thin at the grip, but that didn't create any problems during firing.

was good, even very good. The action is smooth enough. The Axis features a detachable three-shot magazine. The barrel is 22 inches long. The stock is a little thin in the wrist, almost wasp waisted, but this did not cause any problems when firing. The treatment of the stock gives good purchase for the hand. The forward stock treatment also gives plenty of adhesion when firing. The rifle weighs 8.4 pounds as tested, 6.5 pounds without optics or a bipod, according to Savage. This is some extra poundage. We examined the bipod mounted to the rifle and could not find a brand or name marking, although it was serialized. It isn't an expensive bipod. Leapers or Barska bipods resemble it. We think it was worth about $50. We eventually removed it for the test.

In firing the rifle at 25 yards, we noticed the Savage came to the shoulder quickly. The Fiocchi ammunition fed smoothly, as expected, so ammunition performance was not a worry. The rifle was fast enough in addressing targets. We really liked the tang-mounted safety and rated it faster to manipulate than the other rifles. The thin stock turned out to offer good speed and ease of returning to firing position after working the bolt. At 50 yards, we slowed down the pace of fire and got solid hits on the metal reaction target. We fired the rifle at 100 yards off hand and saw the results were okay, but it was the least accurate of the rifles tested. The heavy trigger played against us in the 100-yard test.

As delivered, the Savage Axis trigger broke at 7 pounds. Most come from the factory at 5 pounds, but the trigger gauge does not lie. Fortunately, one of the raters, who is a regular at the reputable *American Gunsmith* magazine, was able to do a quick trigger-action modification to bring the break down to 4 pounds. This trigger action on this rifle was heavier as issued than any of the 308, 270, 22-250, and 30-06 Axis rifles we have test fired. Nevertheless, the reworked trigger was crisp and controllable. Had we left the trigger as purchased, it would have likely cost the rifle another full-grade markdown.

Our Team Said: The Savage rifle was the least accurate rifle tested, even with intervention. We would try to find a better-shooting gun by spending a few more dollars.





We found the Axis used, and it included a Bushnell 3x9-40mm scope and a bipod, all for $240. The previous owner had mounted the bipod for the legs to fold forward underneath the barrel. We removed the unmarked bipod during our testing.







In our testing, we fired both offhand and off a bench. At left, top, is the Remington SPS Tactical. Middle is the Remington SPS Varmint being fired for three-shot groups. Bottom is the BAR. The Remington SPS Varmint was our most accurate gun, shooting an average group size near 1 MOA. It also had the highest average velocity during the testing.

Remington Model 700 SPS Tactical 85538 308 Winchester, $600

In shooting the Tactical, we especially wanted to see the difference in its performance compared to the longer-barreled SPS rifle. The short-barrel Tactical features a Hogue Overmolded stock, a great addition to a credible rifle. The bolt action is smooth, and while it maneuvers well, the rifle is heavy. At a test weight of 10.3 pounds with scope and fully loaded, it is even heavier than the SPS Varmint rifle. However, the Tactical showed excellent speed to target because of its shorter length. It was the fastest rifle to gain an accurate hit at 50 yards. The Savage was close at 25 yards, but at 50 yards, the heavier Remington, with its smooth action, proved to be a stable firing platform.

At the 100-yard line firing offhand, the rifle likewise proved to be the most accurate. We feel that the steady feel of the Hogue stock is one reason. The design of the pebbling around the pistol grip and the stock's superb fit are other reasons the rifle handled so well. Yes, the Remington SPS Tactical rifle is heavy, but the weight is centered between the hands, whereas the long-barrel Varmint has a different balance. In offhand fire, the short SPS really had an advantage.

Fired from a bench, the Remington Tactical delivered mostly second-place accuracy, coming in behind the Varmint with the Gorilla Ammunition 175-grain rounds with a 1.2-inch average group size, again behind just the Varmint with the Hornady ELD Match 168-grain Polymer Tip load at 1.4 inches, and behind the Varmint and the

BAR with the Federal Trophy Bonded 165-grain at a 1.9-inch average group.

Both the SPS rifles had X-Mark Pro externally adjustable triggers, a feature we like. To adjust the triggers, put the safety mechanism in the Safe position, check the chamber and magazine of the rifle to make sure there are no cartridges in the rifle. Never attempt to adjust the trigger-pull force on a loaded rifle. Then, to adjust the trigger-pull force, place the provided wrench's hex key in the socket of the adjustment screw. A standard 1/16-inch hex key can also be used to make this adjustment. Adjust the trigger-pull force to the desired setting by turning the adjustment screw. Turning the trigger-pull adjustment screw counterclockwise will lighten the trigger pull force. Turning the trigger-pull adjusting screw clockwise will increase the trigger-pull force. Trigger pull will change by approximately 1 pound for each full turn of the adjustment screw. After making an adjustment, remove the wrench from the socket of the adjustment screw. Dry fire the rifle several times after making an adjustment to ensure the trigger pull force spring is reseated. Check the trigger-pull force with a force gauge or deadweight. Repeat the checking step several times to ensure the proper trigger-pull force is maintained.

If the proper trigger-pull force cannot be maintained from pull to pull, then return the firearm to the factory for service. Do not use your rifle if the trigger pull force can not be maintained. Also, the minimum achievable trigger pull force is preset at the factory and must not be altered. It's also wise to note that if you expect at any time to loan or sell your rifle or to use the rifle for anything other than competition target shooting from a secure, stationary rest in a controlled environment, you should readjust the trigger-pull force to at least 3 pounds.

Our Team Said: The Tactical was much more accurate than the Savage across the board, and mostly on par with the BAR, but it was clearly less accurate than the

REMINGTON MODEL 700 SPS TACTICAL 85538
308 WINCHESTER, $600
GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

This short rifle isn't the most accurate rifle, but the overall handling is superb. It is fast into action and while it is heavy, the balance is such that it doesn't feel heavy. The action is smooth. The barrel is threaded for a muzzle brake or suppressor. The Hogue Overmolded stock is a plus. We like the Remington SPS Tactical, but when we looked at the data, it wasn't all that accurate, it was heavy, and it produced the least velocity. We think it is a better rifle than the Axis, but it's also three times the cost of the Savage.



Action Type	Bolt, Model 700
Overall Length	36.25 in.
Barrel	16.5 in. blued steel heavy contour; 1:10 twist, 5/8"-24 threaded muzzle
Overall Height w/scope	7.5 in.
Length of Pull	13.4 in.
Weight Unloaded	8.75 lbs.
Weight Scoped (empty)	10.1 lbs.
Weight Scoped (loaded)	10.4 lbs.
Capacity	4+1; fixed box magazine
Action	Black-oxide-coated steel; drilled and tapped, hinged floorplate magazine;
Stock	Hogue Overmolded pillar-bedded; SuperCell recoil pad; semi-beavertail forend
Trigger Pull Weight	2.5 lbs., X-Mark Pro externally adjustable trigger
Warranty	2 years Limited
Telephone	(800) 243-9700
Website	Remington.com
Made In	U.S.A.



The safety (arrow) was positive in operation, and the bolt action was smooth. The short, stout Remington SPS Tactical would be desirable as an all-round rifle if it were a couple of pounds lighter. Because of its short overall length, it is markedly handier than the others.



We liked Hogue's Overmolded stock on the Tactical. It offered good purchase to the test team when shooting speed drills.



Fitting of the metalwork to the stock was even and fine across the board.

REMINGTON MODEL 700 SPS VARMINT 84218
308 WINCHESTER, $606
GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

The Remington SPS Varmint does exactly what it was designed to do, deliver excellent accuracy. You would be hard pressed to find a production rifle that is capable of greater practical accuracy than the SPS Varmint. There is a trade-off—the rifle is heavy, but not as heavy as the SPS Tactical by a few ounces. The balance is different, however, and the SPS Varmint doesn't handle as well offhand as the Tactical. Off the bench, it is a joy to fire.



Action Type	Bolt, Model 700
Overall Length	46.5 in.
Barrel	26.0 in. long, matted-blued steel heavy contour,
Overall Height w/scope	7.5 in.
Length of Pull	13.4 in.
Weight Unscoped (empty)	8.5 lbs.
Weight Scoped (empty)	10.0 lbs.
Weight Scoped (loaded)	10.3 lbs.
Capacity	4+1
Action	Matte-blued steel, drilled and tapped, hinged floorplate, fixed box magazine
Stock	Matte-black synthetic; vented beavertail forend, sling-swivel studs, SuperCell Recoil Pad
Trigger Pull Weight	2.5 lbs., X-Mark Pro externally adjustable trigger
Warranty	2 years limited
Telephone	(800) 243-9700
Website	Remington.com
Made In	U.S.A.



The Remington's cheek rest is a good design feature. The SPS Varmint showed good fit and finish. The stock fit the rifle okay, and the SPS Varmint is quite accurate.



Dual sling swivels added to the rifle's versatility.



While not expensive, the Barska scope on the Varmint proved fine for our accuracy bench work.

Varmint. The rifle proved to be as fast as the Savage at 25 yards, faster and more accurate at 50 yards, much more accurate at 100 yards off hand, and more accurate than the Savage off the benchrest. It also handled better than its longer-barreled Remington SPS stablemate. While accurate enough for most uses, the short-barrel SPS suffered in accuracy compared to the longer barrel SPS Varmint. Because it already has an expensive muzzle treatment we like, we gave it a half-grade boost to settle at a B grade.

Remington Model 700 SPS Varmint 84218 308 Winchester, $606

This is a heavy rifle at 8.5 pounds without a scope, and we were interested to see how the heavier rifle performed, particularly the 26-inch barrel. Scoped, the empty Remington Special Purpose Synthetic Varmint rifle hit 10 pounds, then loaded, it came out to 10.3 pounds ready to go to the field. The barrel is 26 inches, longest of the test. The rifle is heavy and kicked the least of any rifle tested. Remember, recoil force hits the shoulder, and recoil is less with a heavier rifle. The rifle might be heavy to carry, but for a long firing session, we noticed it was a light kicker. The Remington 700 features a synthetic stock that was credible, but nothing as interesting as the Hogue Overmolded on the Tactical rifle. There are three sling swivels, so mounting both a bipod and a sling is possible. Fit was good, but not quite as good as the Savage rifle's stock-to-action fit, we thought.

The bolt action is smooth enough, rated the most workable of the test. The safety, mounted on the receiver and pushed forward for fire, was fast and positive in action. The Savage was faster, but the call was close.

This rifle's long barrel delivered the most energy of any rifle tested. Average velocity advantage over the Savage rifle was a solid 80 to 100 fps. The advantage over the 16.5-inch-barrel Remington 700 SPS Tactical was much greater, from 200 fps to even more. This is significant, and you must decide how important this is for yourself. When firing the SPS Varmint during the acclimation period at 25 yards, we decided it was as fast as the other rifles to a first-shot hit, but it was slower for follow-up shots. The heavier weight resulted in a need to balance the rifle and bring it up for each shot. When you move the firing hand to the bolt, the barrel dips under its own weight. For some shooters, maintaining control of the

VALUE GUIDE: MOST RECENT 7.62 NATO/308 WIN. RIFLE REVIEWS			
GUN NAME	**ISSUE**	**GRADE**	**COMMENTS**
Remington Model 783 #85847 308 Winchester, $340	March 2017	A	Best Buy. The Remington 783 was the most accurate rifle tested. There were no demerits.
Mossberg 100 (ATR) #27230 308 Winchester, $200	March 2017	C	This used rifle did not misfeed. We liked the cheek rest. The primary problem was accuracy.
Savage Axis XP 19231 308 Winchester, $390	March 2017	B	There was much to like about the Savage Axis scope-and-rifle package. Accuracy wasn't the best.
Mossberg MVP LR 27697 7.62mm NATO/308 Win., $945	July 2016	A-	The MVP LR is well suited as an entry-level rifle for long-range shooting.
Howa Alpine Mountain Package HMR33143+VX 308 Win., $1577	July 2016	B+	Lightweight and accurate, but we thought the mag release may be an issue for some hunters.
Ruger Precision Rifle 18001 308 Winchester, $1399	April 2016	A	The Ruger is set up for long-range shooting and offers a lot of adjustment options.
Tikka T3 CTR 308 Winchester, $950	April 2016	A-	If you want a rifle to both hunt and dabble in long-range shooting, the CTR would be a good choice.
DPMS LR-308 AP4 7.62x51mm NATO/308 Winchester, $1399	Feb. 2016	A-	A great hog gun—maneuverable enough to get in and out of pickups or Jeeps, with lots of punch.
Patriot Ordnance Factory P308-20 Gen3 7.62NATO/308 Win., $2599	Feb. 2016	B+	A lot of spend for marginally better accuracy than the DPMS. Also, heavier and longer.
PTR PTR-91 G.I. 915304 308 Winchester/7.62 NATO, $850	June 2015	A-	The PTR 91 G.I. is a great rifle. Once broken in, the rifle gave excellent reliability and accuracy.
Century Arms C91 Sporter 308 Winchester/7.62 NATO, $509	June 2015	B	The Century rifle is worth the money. We traced a few short cycles to problematic magazines.
Ruger SR-762 Rifle 5601 7.62x51 NATO/308 Winchester, $2195	Sept. 2014	A	The top end is a fine piece of equipment. The lower could use a better trigger.
Springfield Armory Socom 16 AA9625 7.62 NATO, $1905	Sept. 2014	B+	The Socom 16 is the deluxe model for chores that require stopping power.
Armalite AR-10(T) 10TBNF 7.62 NATO, $1914	May 2014	A	Plain looking, the ArmaLite had a free-floating heavy stainless barrel and a decent trigger.
Springfield Armory Loaded M1A MA9826 7.62 NATO, $1893	May 2014	B+	Polymer stock had the slim shape and feel of original mil-spec stocks. Fabulous accuracy.
Rock River Arms LAR-8 A4 308A1239X 7.62 NATO, $1335	March 2014	A	The RRA Mid-Length A4 was excellent, with a fine trigger and MOA accuracy with match-grade ammo.
SIG Sauer 716 Patrol ODG R716-16B-P-ODG 7.62 NATO, $2186	March 2014	A-	A touch less accurate than the RRA with Federal ammo, but a touch better with Hornady.
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VALUE GUIDE: MOST RECENT 7.62 NATO/308 WIN. RIFLE REVIEWS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Weatherby Vanguard Bolt Action 308 Winchester, $300	Dec. 2013	A-	This used Vanguard was a fabulous bargain, as are other Vanguards, depending on their condition.
Ruger American Rifle No. 6903 308 Winchester, $449	Dec. 2013	B+	We'd pick the American only if we had to cut weight to the minimum.
Savage 11/111 Lightweight Hunter 19209 308 Win., $899	Jan. 2013	A	The Savage was the epitome of a light hunting rifle. We've seen very few 308 rifles this light.
Winchester M70 F'weight Comp. SA 535126220 308 Win., $880	Jan. 2013	A	This slim, trim Model 70 had excellent wood, great finish, and an excellent trigger.
Mossberg 4X4 No. 27656 308 Winchester, $471	Jan. 2013	C	The 4X4 was a solid product with a comfortable stock and an excellent trigger.
Savage Model 10 FCM Scout 18138 308 Winchester, $814	Sept. 2011	B	The forend and barrel could have been shorter, and mag capacity could have been larger.
Steyr Jeff Cooper Scout 308 Winchester, $2975	May 2011	A	The Jeff Cooper Steyr Scout is gray and has the Cooper logo on the right side of the butt.
Ruger Gunsite Scout 308 Winchester, $995	May 2011	B-	A useful rifle for those who cannot come up to the price of the real thing.
Fulton Armory M14 308 Win., $2755	Dec. 2010	A	The rifle shot as well as it looked. It had excellent fitting, too.
Polytech M14S Custom 308 Winchester, ~$1900	Dec. 2010	A	Most parts on this Fulton-modified Polytech are G.I., including a chrome-lined Winchester barrel.
Springfield M1A 308 Winchester, $1739	Dec. 2010	A-	This rifle didn't have quite the accuracy of the Fulton M14, but was probably sufficient.
H&R 1871 Ultra Hunter SB2-808 308 Winchester, $374	Oct. 2010	B	This is solid value in a no-frills rifle, and we came to like and respect it.
CVA Apex 4502 308 Winchester, $652	Oct. 2010	C	Excellent looks, balance, feel, and workmanship. The trigger was superb. Accuracy was lacking.
Steyr Arms SSG69 PII 308 Winchester, $1899	April 2016	A-	The long barrel helps produce additional velocity, favoring longer-distance applications.
Kimber 84M LPT 308 Winchester, $1315	April 2010	A-	The LPT featured superb balance and an excellent single-stage trigger.
Ruger Hawkeye Tactical HM77VLEH 308 Win., $1172	April 2010	A-	This highly accurate compact rifle is a great choice for stowing in the trunk of a patrol car.
Springfield Armory Loaded M1A MA9226 308 Win., $2363	May 2009	B+	This rifle did the best job of handling the 308 round. Custom rifle upgrades make it even better.

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rifle without the aid of a bipod or rest is challenging. We were pushing the design envelope in short-range speed shooting.

At 50 yards, the weight was appreciated, allowing the rifle to simply hang on the target. The results were good, but not as fast as the other rifles. As a fast-moving rifle for brush hunting or firing at predators off hand, this isn't the best choice. When the Remington SPS Varmint was fired from the bench, it came into its own.

The Remington 700 SPS Varmint rifle gave one of the best accuracy showings of any 308 Winchester rifle we have tested. At 100 yards, the rifle put three Gorilla Ammunition 175-grain SMKs into a 0.75-inch group on the first try. As noted above, the Varmint dominated the accuracy portion of the test. Its Gorilla Ammunition average was a 0.9 inches, as was its result with the Hornady ELD Match 168-grain Polymer Tip load. With the Federal Trophy Bonded 165-grain Polymer Tip, the Varmint shot 1.0-inch average group sizes. The smallest group was a tight 0.6 inches with the Federal 165-grain Bonded Core.

Our Team Said: The Remington Special Purpose Synthetic Varmint rifle was a joy to fire off the bench. Off hand, it was slower to handle and gave up something inside of 50 yards to the other rifles in speed. Firing off hand in deliberate fire at 100 yards, it gave up nothing and gave good results. The SPS Varmint was by far the most accurate rifle at the 100-yard benchrest and also the most accurate rifle in firing off hand at 100 yards. If short-range handling isn't a thing for you, then this is clearly an A gun. As it was, we had to knock it down in our overall ranking because it was slow to target, which we recognize as a trade-off for the other excellent performance it delivered.

Browning BAR MK3 Stalker 308 Winchester, $600

After finding a winner among the bolt guns, we decided to compare the winning bolt gun to a popular self-loading rifle. We had to find a well-cared-for used rifle to make the price comparable to our other test

BROWNING BAR MK3 STALKER 031048218
308 WINCHESTER, $600
GUN TESTS GRADE: B

A great all-round field gun and a rifle that will hold its own in accuracy. Pricey, though. Worth noting: Our rifle did not have a composite stock with shim-adjustable cast and drop-at-comb manipulation available on 2017 models.



Action	Self-loading short action, gas-piston operation, multi-lug rotary bolt
Overall Length	44.25 in.
Barrel	22 in. long, matte-blue steel, Sporter contour; chrome-plated chamber 1:12 twist, hammer forged
Overall Height w/scope	6 in.
Length of Pull	13.25 in.
Weight (unscoped, empty)	6.6 lbs.
Weight Scoped (empty)	8.2 lbs.
Weight Scoped (loaded)	8.7 lbs.
Action	Matte-black aluminum alloy receiver, drilled and tapped; hinged composite floorplate
Capacity	4, detachable box
Magazine Type	Fixed Box
Stock	Matte-black composite w/polymer recoil pad, no pistol grip cap, Overmolded grip panels, integral steel sling swivel studs, QD swivel cups, swivels included
Trigger	4.0 lbs. pull weight, gold plated
Safety	Crossbolt
Warranty	None
Telephone	(800) 322-4626
Website	Browning.com
Made In	Belgium



Firing from the benchrest did not show one rifle was particularly more uncomfortable than the other, but the lighter rifles kicked more. The BAR is lighter than either of the two SPSs.



One of the nice things about the BAR is the nearly-flush-fit magazine profile when the magazine is inserted in the rifle.



Then, when it's time to unload, the BAR's hinged magazine received high marks.



Fit finish and ergonomics were high with the BAR Stalker. The grip texture offered a good handhold on the rifle, and it was faster on follow-up shots.

guns. The closest current model to our test gun is the 22-inch-barrel No. 031048218, which sells for $1079 at Able's Sporting Goods and $1100 at BudsGunShop.com.

The Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), introduced in 1967, uses a short-stroke gas system for operation. It has a 20-inch barrel weighing in at 8.2 pounds scoped. The Stalker features a synthetic one-piece stock. The fit of the stock and forend was good. The finish is a matte black that is credibly done. The buttstock has a full pistol grip, and the checkering on the pistol grip aids in getting good adhesion when firing.

Operation is simple enough. The bolt head rotates on seven lugs to engage recesses in the barrel. The lock up is tight. When the rifle is fired, the bolt head rotates on a cam pin in the bolt sleeve or bolt carrier. The extractor is a strong hook type. There is a separate ejector.

The controls are simple. A bolt release is located at the right front of the receiver. The magazine release is under the receiver. It is fast in operation and offers easy reloading, simply opening the magazine on a hinge. It is rated the fastest of the four rifles tested to load or unload. To make the rifle ready to fire, simply rack the bolt to the rear and release. The bolt holds open on the last shot fired. The safety is a push-button type in the trigger guard. We rated the safety fast and positive in operation.

At the range, we used the same loads used with the bolt-action rifles and the same firing tests. Firing at 25 and 50 yards, the rifle proved more accurate than the Savage Axis or the Remington SPS Varmint rifle when speed and accuracy were demanded. Accuracy was equal to the Remington SPS 16.5-inch barrel, but the BAR's speed was greater. Firing off hand at the 100-yard line, the Browning BAR Stalker gave an excellent account of itself. The very nice 4-pound trigger helped. The BAR outshot the Savage rifle, and though not as accurate as the Remington rifles in offhand fire at 100 yards, speed for a fast follow-up shot was excellent.

Firing off a solid bench rest to confirm accuracy potential, we had something of a surprise. The Browning BAR Stalker was more accurate than the Savage Axis. When the raters tabulated accuracy results with the rifle after the 100-yard testing, the Browning proved practically as accurate as the shorter-barrel Remington SPS Tactical and was more accurate with the Federal 165-grain loading. In practical accuracy, the BAR doesn't take a back seat in accuracy to any of the others. It should prove as accurate a field gun as the bolt guns in most field situations, save for the overwhelming accuracy potential of the heavy but accurate Remington SPS Varmint gun at longer range. If handloading is important, the BAR action works brass more, so some loads may not be suitable for the BAR, including very light or very heavy loads. Just the same, with factory loads or standard handloads, the rifle should prove useful and accurate.

Our Team Said: The primary drawback is price. We were lucky to find a used rifle in out-of-the-box condition. A new BAR Stalker is $1050 or higher without sights or a scope, so it is well above the cost for the others as all-round go-anywhere do-anything rifles.

All in, we had no perfect rifle. All were comfortable to fire, although the lightest rifle, the Savage Axis, kicked the most. If the range were to run out to 200 yards, the superior accuracy of the Remington SPS Varmint gun leaves the others coming up short. Just the same, for overall handling and acceptable accuracy, we believe the Remington SPS 16.5-inch barrel rifle is the more useful, go-anywhere do-anything rifle. If you need to sit on a hill and shoot game at 300 yards, the SPS Varmint rifle is the trick. The Browning Stalker is okay in most respects—it comes to target fine and offers faster second shots, but it wasn't as accurate as we would like and it's going to be more expensive new. We would prefer to offer an enthusiastic recommendation to give you, but we just didn't find that kind of performance from this quartet.

Written and photographed by Bob Campbell using evaluations from Gun Tests team testers. GT

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Micro 9mm Pistols From Kimber, Springfield Armory, and SIG

Two of these small Nines are based on the 1911 design, while the third is a new DA/SA pistol from Springfield. All are capable, but we prefer the micro-size 1911s from Kimber and SIG Sauer.

We've received emails specifically requesting we review the Kimber Micro 9 and SIG P938. Readers wrote that they "like the idea of guns made out of actual metal that operate in a very similar manner to a M1911." So we obliged and assembled a pair of 1911 micro-9mm pistols, a Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG) with laser grip and a SIG Emperor Scorpion P938. We also added to the mix a new polymer-frame 9mm with a DA/SA trigger, the Springfield Armory XD-E. It is not a 1911 platform at all, but the XD-E is a pistol in the same size class as the Kimber and SIG. All are chambered in 9mm Luger, have barrels that measure from 3- to 3.3-inches in length, employ single-stack magazines, and are designed for concealed carry.

For speed testing, we performed the Bill Drill at 7 yards firing a magazine as fast as we could while still keeping hits in an 8-inch circle. The intent with this drill is to improve speed without eroding accuracy. It also helps us run the pistol dry, check for slide lock back, perform numerous magazine changes, and repeatedly use the slide release as well as test rapid sight alignment and trigger press. We start at the low ready position. All three pistols performed reliably and consistently.



The Springfield Armory XD-E 3.3 Single Stack XDE9339BE (center) dwarfs the SIG Sauer P938 Emperor Scorpion (left) and the Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG), right. The Micro 9 looks like a shrunk Government 1911 model with its rounded slide top and internal extractor.



Above: Our pistols included, from top to bottom, the SIG Sauer P938 Emperor Scorpion, the Springfield Armory XD-E 3.3 Single Stack XDE9339BE, and the Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG), with the parenthetical meaning Laser Grip. All three pistols performed flawlessly, but we found some differences between the SIG and Kimber that are worth noting. What separates these two 1911-style platforms are aesthetics, controls, and ergonomics. We'd have no issue carrying either pistol. The Springfield Armory XD-E is designed with a double-action-to-single-action trigger, which is a new direction for Springfield Armory. On the Springfield, we would change the decocker and perhaps the geometry of the trigger.

The micro 1911s look similar to a 1911 pistol, but the operating systems are quite different. The Kimber and SIG 1911s are scaled down for conceal carry and have 1911 design elements such as the controls, single-action triggers, and grip angle to create a true back-up-sized 1911. If you are familiar with a 1911, then the transition to one of these micro 1911s will be seamless. The thumb safety, slide release, and magazine release are just like those in the 1911 design. These mini 9mm pistols disassemble with ease, so maintenance is not a chore. We found we liked the mini 1911s in 9mm, and the vote was evenly split between the SIG and Kimber.

The XD-E is an entirely new beast that one tester said looks like a DA/SA trigger mechanism placed in an XD-S receiver mated to a MOD.2 slide. Maybe that's how it got drawn on a cocktail napkin? Who knows. Our team thought the XD-E needed a few tweaks, though it proved to be a capable shooter. Here are the details on all three.

Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG) 3300168 9mm Luger, $659

The Micro 9 looks like a shrunken Government 1911 model with its rounded slide top and internal extractor. The fit and finish were well executed and held up during testing. Our sample was outfitted with Crimson Trace Lasergrips, which, in our opinion, enhanced the shootability of these tiny shooters at close range. The pistol came in a soft case with two magazines. The magazines had an extended rubber bumper floorplate that also acted as a finger rest. The floorplate was rounded on all the edges. In fact, all the edges of the Micro 9 were rounded, making it snag free for concealed carry.

What we liked most about the Micro 9 were the large 3-dot sights. The sights on both the Kimber and SIG were similar in size to sights on a full-size gun, which makes shooting them easier. The Kimber

KIMBER MICRO 9 DESERT TAN (LG) 3300168
9MM LUGER, $659
GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The laser grip complements the large sights on this micro pistol. Edges are smooth for concealed carry, and the beavertail protects large hands.



Action	Semi-auto, short recoil-operated, locked breech, single-action semi-auto
Overall Length	6.1 in.
Overall Height	4.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.2 in.
Weight Unloaded	15.6 oz.
Weight Loaded	18.1 oz.
Slide Material	Stainless steel, Desert Tan finish
Slide-Retraction Effort	14 lbs.
Receiver Material	Aluminum alloy; matte black finish
Front Strap Height	2.0 in.
Rear Strap Height	2.1 in.
Barrel Length	3.15 in.
Pistol Grip	Checkered Desert Tan Crimson Trace Lasergrips
Grip Thickness (max)	1.1 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.25 in.
Magazine	(2) 6-round
Sights	3-dot, laser pointer
Trigger Pull Weight	6.4 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.5 in.
Safety	Manual thumb lever
Warranty	1-year limited
Website	KimberAmerica.com
Telephone	(888) 243-4522
Made In	Yonkers, NY



The magazine floorplate is smooth and snag free. The laser grip is activated by that black pad (left arrow) under the trigger guard. The switch in the grip (right arrow) turns the laser on and off.



The laser beam comes out of the hooded piece on the top of the grip. The laser enhanced usability, our shooters said.



We like the larger beavertail on the Kimber. It amply protects the web of the shooter's hand.

RANGE DATA

Armscor 9mm 124-gr. FMJ	**SIG Sauer P938 Emperor Scorpion**	**Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG)**	**Springfield Armory XD-E 3.3**
Average Velocity	990 fps	1002 fps	1010 fps
Muzzle Energy	270 ft.-lbs.	276 ft.-lbs.	281 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	3.1 in.	3.4 in.	2.7 in.
Average Group	3.5 in.	3.7 in.	3.2 in.
SIG Sauer 9mm 115-gr. FMJ	**SIG Sauer P938 Emperor Scorpion**	**Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG)**	**Springfield Armory XD-E 3.3**
Average Velocity	971 fps	1006 fps	1078 fps
Muzzle Energy	241 ft.-lbs.	258 ft.-lbs.	297 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	3.2 in.	3.3 in.	2.6 in.
Average Group	3.5 in.	4.2 in.	3.1 in.
Aguila 9mm 124-gr. FMJ	**SIG Sauer P938 Emperor Scorpion**	**Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG)**	**Springfield Armory XD-E 3.3**
Average Velocity	968 fps	1008 fps	1038 fps
Muzzle Energy	258 ft.-lbs.	280 ft.-lbs.	297 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	3.3 in.	3.2 in.	2.5 in.
Average Group	3.6 in.	4.0 in.	3.2 in.

Notes: *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.*



Looking from the top the Kimber (right) has the thinnest slide thickness. Note the loaded chamber indicator on the top of the Springfield slide (center).



The Kimber (left) has serrations under the rear sight to cut glare, a larger beavertail, and more hammer surface area. The SIG (right) has night sights and a lower-profile hammer, with texture for a surer grip.

had a left-side thumb safety similar to the set up on a Government 1911A1. It was easy for a right-handed shooter to manipulate the safety with the thumb of the shooting hand, though the SIG provided a bit more safety-lever surface area and was slightly easier to manipulate, we thought.

A button on the front strap activates the Lasergrips. When we grasped the pistol, our grip activated the laser. We could also loosen our grip and turn off the laser. We liked the ease of activation and use. A switch on the left grip allows the user to completely turn off the laser. The grip themselves were textured polymer and felt thicker in our hands compared to the SIG. The SIG felt thin and flat. The magazine-release button was simple to work and dumped the stainless magazines freely.

The Micro 9 had slightly more hammer-surface area for texture than the SIG, so it was a bit easier to cock, though both were easy to cock. The Micro 9 also had a slightly larger beavertail than the SIG, so ham-fisted testers felt more comfortable shooting the Kimber. The trigger is



The slides on the SIG (right) and Kimber required 14 pounds of force to rack and cock the pistols, slightly less than the XD-E.

serrated, so your trigger-finger pad or first knuckle stuck to it better during recoil. There is a polymer insert in the rear strap with fine checkering which helped keep a grip on the gun when shooting. Field-stripping was easier than on a Government 1911 and was the same for both pistols.

In hand, we liked both the Kimber and SIG, but be aware these lightweight 9mms produce recoil. In our opinion, recoil with all three of these pistols was pleasant, but remember, our North Carolina testers like to shoot 10mm pistols and magnum revolvers. The slide required 14 pounds of force to rack and cock the pistol, which was slightly less than the XD-E and SIG.

Twenty-five yards is pushing the range of these small pistols, but due to the single-action trigger, large sights, and a rest, we were able to fire 5-shot groups that averaged 4 inches in size. Our best group was with Aguila 124-grain FMJ ammo, a 3.2-inch group. In close-range shooting, we were able to shoot these pistols fast and accurately. Small pistols require a tight grip because they can easily shift in the hand during recoil.

Our Team Said: At close range, the Kimber Micro 9 was accurate and easy to handle. The laser allowed faster aiming in dark conditions, while the full-size sights made aiming easier overall. We like all the smoothed edges and the beavertail.

SIG Sauer P938 Emperor Scorpion 9mm Luger, $639

The SIG Emperor Scorpion is aesthetically different than the SIG P938 we tested in our August issue. Our sample has an FDE finish and G10 grips. It came in a hard case with two stainless-steel magazines; one with a finger rest and one without that fits flush in the butt. In the case was a SIG polymer OWB holster. We used the magazine with the floorplate finger rest for most of the testing since we liked this set up the best.

The finish was well executed on the SIG, which was our expectation. We also expected this SIG to run, and it did. But let's get into what makes the SIG different from the Kimber.

SIG SAUER P938 EMPEROR SCORPION
9MM LUGER, $639
GUN TESTS GRADE: A

With large sights, a relatively crisp trigger and toothy grips, this pistol was easy to shoot and control.



Action	Semi-auto short recoil-operated, locked breech, single action
Overall Length	6.0 in.
Overall Height	3.9 in.
Maximum Width	1.2 in.
Weight Unloaded	16.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	18.5 oz.
Slide Material	Stainless steel, FDE finish
Slide-Retraction Effort	14.0 lbs.
Receiver Material	Aluminum alloy; FDE PVD
Front Strap Height	2.1 in.
Rear Strap Height	2.4 in.
Barrel Length	3.0 in., carbon steel
Pistol Grip	Piranha G10 with medallion
Grip Thickness (max)	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.0 in.
Magazine	(1) 6-round steel; (1) 7-round steel
Sights	SigLite night sights
Trigger Pull Weight	6.6 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.58 ins.
Safety	Dual ambidextrous lever
Warranty	Lifetime
Website	SIGSauer.com
Telephone	(603) 610-3000
Made In	Exeter, NH



Without the finger-rest floorplate which allows the pinkie finger to come off the gun, the SIG was harder to handle, as are any small 9mms with a short grip.



The beavertail offers protection against hammer bite, which none of our testers experienced.



We liked the checkered front gripstrap, since it provided a solid hold even when shooting with speed.

The slide of SIG is shaped like the slide of SIG's other models, more blocky and squared off than the Kimber. The sights are large and feature SigLite 3-dot night sights. It took about 15 pounds of effort to rack the slide and cock the pistol. We also liked that the SIG had serrations at the muzzle and rear of the slide. The Kimber had serrations only at the rear. We liked being able to rack the slide with a variety of methods. We also found the larger sights allow the user to rack the slide on the edge of a Kydex holster, table top, and nearly any edge. The outside edges of the SIG were sharper and less smooth than the Kimber.

The SIG features an external extractor and an ambidextrous thumb safety that was slightly easier to manipulate than the Kimber. There was a bit more metal to allow testers to flick it on and off without drastically changing the grip. The serrated hammer had a bit less surface area to grasp and cock. The Kimber had a bit more. The beavertail was smaller than the Kimber's, but none of the testers experienced hammer bite. The face of the trigger was serrated, which we liked when shooting for speed.

In hand, the SIG much flatter and thinner. We liked the rest on the floorplate because it made the pistol feel like a larger model. What sets both of these micro nines apart from other striker-fired or DAO 9mm pistols are the large sights. It's a small pistol, but it feels like a large pistol and makes it easier to shoot.

Using a rest and shooting out to 25 yards, the SIG due to its grip, sights, and fairly crisp single-action trigger, was a pleasure to shoot. One tester was able to shoot five rounds into a 3.1-inch group with Armscor 124-grain FMJ ammunition. On average, the pistol grouped at 3.5 inches. Regarding accuracy, we would say the SIG and Kimber were comparable. For the speed-shooting phase of testing, we liked the toothy texture of the SIG because the gun stayed adhered to our hand with no discomfort. The front grip strap was checkered, and it also had a plastic checkered insert in the rear strap. There was lots of texture without the pattern being raspy to the hand. The Kimber laser grips were slicker to the grasp.

Our Team Said: The SIG was felt thinner and had a better texture than the Kimber. We liked the large night sights. In the opinion of half of our testers, the SIG was preferred. The other half would opt for the Kimber. Recoil was pleasant but more noticeable with these lightweight micro nines.

Springfield Armory XD-E 3.3 Single Stack XDE9339BE 9mm Luger, $519

The XD-E is Springfield Armory's new DA/SA pistol. Known for 1911 pistols and striker-fired pistols, the XD-E is a departure for Springfield. As one of our testers mentioned, the XD-E looks like an amalgamation of Springfield's striker-fired pistols fitted with a DA/SA trigger system. Pistol-design philosophies fall into three major camps: Single-action triggers, striker-fired triggers, and double action/single action (DA/SA)



Left: The extractor for both the Kimber (shown here) and the SIG needs to be pressed down into the receiver for the slide to be re-attached.



The SIG, unlike the Kimber and Springfield, came with a polymer holster plus two magazines.



The SIG's sights were large, similar to sights on a full-size pistol.



Side by side the Kimber (left) and the SIG (right) are nearly identical in size. The Kimber has rounded edges, and the SIG is more angular.



The bottom rear grip strap of the SIG Sauer handgun has a finely checkered insert that provides a good grip. Wasn't too raspy, either.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY XD-E 3.3 SINGLE STACK XDE9339BE 9MM LUGER, $519

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The trigger geometry took some getting used to, and the decocker was hard to manipulate in the firing position. Accuracy was good and the trigger break was consistent.



Action Type	Short recoil-operated, locked breech, DA/SA
Overall Length	6.75 in.
Overall Height (8-rd. mag)	5.25 in.
Maximum Width	1.25 in.
Weight Unloaded	25.0 oz.
Weight Loaded (8-rd. mag)	28.2 oz.
Slide	Melonite-Coated Steel, dual spring, w/full-length guide rod
Slide-Retraction Effort	15.0 lbs.
Frame	Black polymer
Finish	Black
Front Strap Height	1.7 in.
Rear Strap Height	2.4 in.
Barrel	3.3 in. long, Melonite finish
Pistol Grip	Textured polymer
Grip Thickness (max)	1.0 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.62 in.
Magazine	(2) 8- and 9-round steel
Rear Sight	Steel, fixed, white two dot
Front Sight	Steel, fixed blade, fiber optic
Sight Radius	5.37 in.
Trigger Pull Weight (DA)	11.4 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight (SA)	6.0 lbs.
Trigger Span (DA)	3.1 in.
Trigger Span (SA)	2.6 in.
Safety	2-pos. lever
Warranty	Limited lifetime
Telephone	(800) 680-6866
Website	Springfield-Armory.com
Made In	Croatia



The ambidextrous safety/decocker worked (right arrow), but some testers had a hard time manipulating it with sweaty hands. Note how the slide stop is protected by a ridge (left arrow) in the polymer frame.



There was no hammer bite since the hammer was higher. Note the polymer frame between the tester's hand and the slide. The places the slide higher and above the hand.

triggers. All require different training and operating techniques. With DA/SA triggers, the ability to load the trigger before the break is an asset, like pressing back on a double-action revolver trigger. While acquiring the target, the shooter can press the trigger, then when on target, press through to fire the pistol. The initial-DA triggers can be an asset because it takes longer to press the trigger. In a high-stress situation, this can help some users ensure against firing a premature shot. The switch from DA to SA can be confusing for some shooters, but for others, it is not. Our test team has a diverse background and thanks to Uncle Sam, some have had extensive training with the DA/SA M9.

The external hammer of the XD-E provides a simple picture to see if the pistol is cocked or not. What we liked about the XD-E was it could be carried DA/SA or cocked and locked. Due to the smooth trigger press, we'd carry it DA/SA. An ambidextrous thumb control acts as a safety when the hammer is cocked, and it can decock the hammer. Some testers had an issue manipulating the lever, which we'll get into. The hammer had plenty of texture to grasp and cock with the shooting-hand thumb.

Next, to the Kimber and SIG, the Springfield XD-E was larger due the DA/SA trigger, external hammer, and slide. The XD-E is taller in the shooter's hand. Another issue some our testers had with the XD-E was the trigger. Testers with fat, sausage-like fingers felt they couldn't get to the trigger as easily as they could with other DA/SA pistols like those from SIG and Beretta. There is not a lot of space between the front face of the trigger and the inside of the trigger guard. The trigger is curved up in a high arc, which lessens the space. Shooters with average-size hands also found the trigger geometry different, but in use, the trigger was easily pressed to fire the pistol. The looks were a bit deceiving because some testers were able to shoot the XD-E well, while the fat-fingered testers did not have as easy a time.

VALUE GUIDE: RECENT 9MM HANDGUN RANKINGS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Taurus 709 Slim 1-709031FS 9mm Luger, $198	Aug. 2017	A	Best Buy. We would buy this gun, and we would carry it for personal defense.
Kel-Tec PF-9 9mm Luger, $257	Aug. 2017	A-	While the Taurus outshot the Kel-Tec, that doesn't mean the Kel-Tec is out of the running.
SIG Sauer P938 Micro-Compact 938-9-ESR 9mm Luger, $730	Aug. 2017	B	The pistol had enough break-in glitches to be rated down a full grade. We really liked the trigger.
Remington R51 96430 9mm Luger, $400	Aug. 2017	D	It simply refused to function with one type of ammunition. The trigger was poor.
Ruger American Compact 8633 9mm Luger, $579	July 2017	D-	We could not complete our tests without reseating the recoil assembly multiple times.
Honor Defense Honor Guard HG9CLE 9mm Luger, $499	July 2017	B+	Admirably fills the role of a highly concealable fighting gun that's inexpensive and fun to shoot.
Springfield Armory 1911 EMP PI9229L 9mm Luger, $1220	July 2017	A	The EMP delivered accuracy and ergonomics on par with more expensive custom guns.
CZ-USA 75D PCR Compact 91194 9mm Luger, $546	May 2017	A	We like everything about the 75D except the absence of a light rail.
Tristar Canik 55 C-100 9mm Luger, $365	May 2017	C	The safety lever was so stiff as to be unusable. The double-action trigger was also heavy.
CZ-USA 75 P-01 9mm Luger, $576	May 2017	A	A Best Buy. The P-01 offers faultless reliability, smooth operation, and a good trigger action.
AREX REX Zero 1 CP 9mm Luger, $603	May 2017	B	It performed well during the combat test and had credible accuracy. Reliability was faultless.
Springfield XD Mod.2 3.0-Inch XDG9801HCSP 9mm Luger, $556	Feb. 2016	A	This 9mm model offered fast recovery time, 13-round capacity, and was only 6.25 inches long.
Springfield Loaded Target PI9134LP 9mm Luger, $873	Sept. 2015	A	Function of the Loaded Model was flawless. Stainless construction, nice trigger made the deal.
Springfield 1911 Range Officer PI9129LP 9mm Luger, $704	Sept. 2015	A	An easy-shooting 1911 with first-rate fit, finish, and barrel-to-slide fit. Excellent adjustable sights.
Glock 43 Subcompact PI4350201 9mm Luger, $499	Aug. 2015	B+	If you can carry a larger pistol, you should, but the Glock 43 is a good slim line pistol.
Walther Concealed Carry Pistol CCP 5080300 9mm Luger, $452	Aug. 2015	C	The CCP had features we liked, but not enough to overcome its complicated takedown and failures.
Bersa Thunder Ultra Compact Pro 9mm Luger, $405 (Used)	June 2015	A	Trouble free, capable of delivering MOA accuracy and adaptable to any size shooter.

Log on to **Gun-Tests.com** to read complete reviews of these products in the designated months.
Highly-ranked products from older reviews are often available used at substantial discounts.

VALUE GUIDE: RECENT 9MM HANDGUN RANKINGS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Heckler & Koch VP9 9mm Luger, $630	March 2015	B	Ergonomics are excellent. Hand fit can be customized with more extra panels than other handguns.
Walther PPQ M2 Navy SD 2796082 9mm Luger, $576	March 2015	B	Mag release was too light for a defensive handgun. Sights were not well regulated for 115-grain ammo.
SIG Sauer P320 320F9BSS 9mm Luger, $579	March 2015	B	Lack of an easily changeable grip strap and heavy trigger were demerits. Also the heaviest.
Ruger LC9s Standard #3235 9mm Luger, $339	Feb. 2015	A	Best Buy. We found the Ruger to be reliable and accurate enough.
Ruger American Compact 8633 9mm Luger, $579	July 2017	D-	We could not complete our tests without reseating the recoil assembly multiple times.
Honor Defense Honor Guard HG9CLE 9mm Luger, $499	July 2017	B+	Admirably fills the role of a highly concealable fighting gun that's inexpensive and fun to shoot.
Springfield Armory 1911 EMP PI9229L 9mm Luger, $1220	July 2017	A	The EMP delivered accuracy and ergonomics on par with more expensive custom guns.
CZ-USA 75D PCR Compact 91194 9mm Luger, $546	May 2017	A	We like everything about the 75D except the absence of a light rail.
Tristar Canik 55 C-100 9mm Luger, $365	May 2017	C	The safety lever was so stiff as to be unusable. The double-action trigger was also heavy.
CZ-USA 75 P-01 9mm Luger, $576	May 2017	A	A Best Buy. The P-01 offers faultless reliability, smooth operation, and a good trigger action.
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Highly-ranked products from older reviews are often available used at substantial discounts.



On the 8-round magazine (left) of the XD-E, there is a finger rest, while the 9-round magazine (right) has a grip extension. With the larger magazine inserted, the XD-E handles and feels like a full-size pistol.



Note the small space between the trigger face and the inside of the trigger guard. Fat-fingered testers took issue with this design.



The muzzle is blocky but smoothed at the edges. Note that a rail is built into the frame.



In hand, the XD-E is comfortable but not as small as the Kimber and SIG pistols.

The reach of the trigger is a comfortable stretch for average size hands.

The frame had a Picatinny slot to add a light or laser. The slide has a marking similar to a MOD.2 pistol without the deep-cut sculpting. The red fiber-optic front sight is excellent, while the rear sight is windage adjustable and sits flush with the rear of the slide for maximum sight radius. It is also serrated on the part that faces the shooter to cut sun glare. These were excellent sights, and we thought it was easier to acquire the front sight on target due to the red dot. The front sight is dovetailed in place. It took 15 pounds of effort to rack the slide and cock the hammer. In hand, the grip felt comfortable, and we liked the textured front and rear grip straps. The front strap had a subtle finger groove, which fit our second and third fingers. At distance, we found the XD-E was a shooter. Our best 5-shot group at 25 yards was 2.5 inches with Aguila ammo. We found the XD-E was the most accurate of all three pistols, with an average accuracy of 3 inches at 25 yards. When shooting for speed, the larger slide, with more surface area, made it faster to grasp and manipulate. The DA/SA trigger is either loved or loathed. The DA pull was long and felt like 11 pounds, though it was a smooth pull. In SA, there was some take up and pull through required, but it broke consistently. The large sights were excellent due to the red fiber optic. The pistol ran flawlessly.

Our Team Said: The XD-E performed well, and we would not hesitate to use the pistol to defend our homes. It was accurate and reliable. Some testers did not like the trigger nor the decocker.

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**

COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

- **38 Super Ammo Showdown:** We tested SIG Sauer's 125-grain round, Fiocchi's 129-grain selection, the Prvi Partisan 130-grain ball, the Winchester 130-grain unit, Buffalo Bore's 115-grain JHP, 124-grain JHP, and 147-grain rounds; Cor-Bon's 100-grain Pow'RBall, a 115-grain JHP, and the 125-grain DPX. From Federal, we picked up some American Eagle 115-grain JHPs, and several more rounds you'll want to read about.

- **Revolver Holsters:** Alien Gear Cloak Tuck IWB, Garrity Gunleather IWB Standard Holster, Galco Carry Lite, Tagua Gunleather Paddle Holster, DM Bullard Combat Holster, Jeffrey Custom Leather R1 Ranger, Banshee IWB, Tauris Holsters Semi High Ride (Practical Carry), Barber Leather Works Pancake, Gunmate Hip Holster, Jason Winnie 121, SWAPRIG Holsters Cargo Pocket Holster, Lobo Deep Cover Holster, Lobo Gunleather Pocket Holster.

Two Over-The-Counter Exotics from Mossberg and Century

The Shockwave and the RAS47 AK Pistol look like they might fall under NFA rules, but they don't. But before all that, we shoot them and determine if they're products you might want to own.

Pistol-arm braces for AR and AK pistols have been one of the more controversial issues in the shooting industry and public for the past few years. The ATF flipped-flopped its stance on what an arm brace is and what is does when it is attached to a pistol, confusing not only manufacturers but shooters as well. Is a brace legal to attach to a pistol? Can they legally be placed against the shoulder to shoot the pistol or does that make the weapon an SBR (Short Barreled Rifle)? Also confusing was the recent introduction of short-barrel shotguns that look like a Class 3/NFA firearm.

We decided to take a closer look at the ATF's definitions of these exotic firearms and chose the Century Arms RAS47 AK Pistol and Mossberg Shockwave shotgun to see what the current status of these hybrids is. We also know that exotic does not necessarily mean practical, so we tested these guns for home-defense use. We naturally acquired an arm brace for the RAS47 and decided to throw in a 75-round drum magazine. Why? Because we can and it is legal in the state we tested the guns. With the Shockwave, we wanted to better understand why it does not need a special stamp to purchase it. Doesn't a shotgun need an 18-inch barrel to be legal?



The Mossberg Shockwave shotgun, top, and the Century Arms RAS47 pistol with arm brace are examples of firearms that look like they should be regulated by the National Firearms Act, but they are perfectly legal to purchase and own without Federal tax stamps or additional paperwork and wait times. State and local jurisdictions may regulate them, however, so know the law before purchasing. Local FFLs will know the law, so if storefront gun shops are selling these products, you can be confident you can buy one in your area. We think the Shockwave and RAS47 are good home-defense and vehicle firearms. If price is a big factor, we'd opt for the Mossberg.



The Shockwave features a bird's-head-style pistol grip that has a fine texture. It is comfortable to hold and fire, even with 2.75-inch shells. A nylon strap is attached to the forend and helps keep a shooter's hand in place when shooting the Shockwave.

Please note that we are looking at these firearms from the federal/national level. We cannot provide legal advice nor do we profess to have the last word on the legal status of these firearms. Our intent is to understand current ATF statues so we can follow the law to the letter. Where you live—the state, county or city—may have specific laws pertaining to these firearms. It would be wise to check with your state police on the status of the Shockwave and an AR/AK pistol in your local area. Where we tested the Shockwave and the RAS47 pistol in North Carolina, both were transferred over the counter without any additional paper work. As responsible shooters, we need to know our local laws and abide by them.

As an example of how state and local laws can affect ownership of the Mossberg 590 Shockwave even though it was being sold elsewhere in the country, it took passage

RANGE DATA

Century Arms RAS47 AK Pistol 7.62x39mm	Hornady Black 123-gr. SST	Red Army Standard 122-gr. FMJ	Winchester White Box 123-gr. FMJ
Average Velocity	2183 fps	2175 fps	2057 fps
Muzzle Energy	1302 ft.-lbs.	1291 ft.-lbs.	1156 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.0 in.	1.2 in.	0.8 in.
Average Group	1.5 in.	1.3 in.	1.0 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired 5-shot groups from a bench using a rest. Distance: 25 yards with open sights. We recorded velocities using a ProChrono digital chronograph.

Mossberg Shockwave 12 Gauge	Winchester Military Grade 2.75-in. 00-Buck	Aguila 1.75-in. #4 buck/#1 buck	Aguila 1.75-in. ⅞-oz. slug
Pattern/Group Size	4.25 in.	10.0 in.	3.25 in.

To collect pattern data with shotshells and slugs, we fired at a distance of 10 yards.





At right are our test rounds for the Century Arms pistol. From left are the 7.62x39mm Red Army Standard 122-grain FMJs, the Hornady Black 123-grain SST load, and the Winchester White Box 123-grain full metal jackets. Near right is one of Aguila's standard 2.75-inch rounds with the 1.75-inch Minishell next to it in correct proportion. We liked the Minishell when fired from the Shockwave, but proper function required the addition of a small accessory piece added to the magwell, the OPSol Texas Mini-Clip. Magazine capacity was the same as a standard Model 590: 5+1 capacity with 2.75-inch shells, 4+1 with 3-inch shells. With Aguila's 1.75-inch minishells, the Shockwave has an 8+1 capacity. These minishells produce mild recoil, but typically do not cycle in a repeating shotgun's action because standard shotguns are designed to use a shell with a minimum length of 2.75 inches.

of House Bill 1819 in the 2017 Texas legislative session to make ownership of the shotgun legal on September 1, 2017. From a company release:

"Thanks to efforts by members of the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate, House Bill (HB) 1819 passed in May 2017, the Mossberg 590 Shockwave will be legal in the state of Texas, beginning September 1, 2017. The legislation was advanced through the combined efforts of Senators Charles Perry and Craig Estes, Representatives Poncho Nevarez and Drew Springer, the National Rifle Association (NRA) and Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA) and clarified Texas state laws concerning the purchase of suppressors and certain firearms, including the 590 Shockwave pump-action. The change in the law hits close to home for Mossberg as the company proudly manufactures the 590 Shockwave at their facility in Eagle Pass, Texas, which is also the home district for Representative Nevarez.

"All of us at Mossberg recognize that this bill would not have passed without the efforts of many," said Joe Bartozzi, Mossberg executive vice president and general counsel. "We were proud to add our small role in the effort and are pleased to recognize the tremendous efforts of Senators Perry and Estes and Representatives Nevarez and Springer, the NRA and TRSA."

Mossberg introduced the 590 Shockwave firearm at the 2017 SHOT Show, accompanied by a determination letter from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE), defining the pump-action as a "Non-NFA Firearm." The 590 Shockwave comes from the factory with a 14-inch barrel, Shockwave Technologies Raptor grip and overall length of 26.5 inches. Because the 590 Shockwave is not capable of being shoulder-mounted and meets the overall length requirement of 26 inches, it is defined as "firearm" under the federal Gun Control Act (GCA).

To read the BATFE letter of classification or for more information on the 590 Shockwave, visit Mossberg.com/category/series/590-shockwave/.

Did we rest the arm brace on our shoulder when

MOSSBERG 590 SHOCKWAVE 50659 12 GAUGE, $455

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Shockwave was like all Model 590 shotguns—built to last and well made. We'd opt for the OPSol Texas Mini-Clip and pack it with Aguila Mini Shells.



Action Type	Pump	Choke	Cylinder bore
Chamber Size	3.5 in.	Grip	Bird's head-style, textured polymer
Overall Length	26.37 in.		
Capacity	5+1 (2.75 in. shells) 8+1 (1.75 in. minishells)	Front Sight	Brass bead
		Trigger Pull Weight	6 lbs.
Weight Unloaded	5.2 lbs.	Safety	Ambidextrous thumb
Weight Loaded	6.0 lbs.	Warranty	Limited Lifetime
Barrel	14 in. long, heavy wall, matte blued steel	Telephone	(800) 363-3555
		Website	Mossberg.com
Receiver	Matte blued steel	Made In	Eagle Pass, TX





The Shockwave Technologies Raptor grip is not capable of being shoulder-mounted, and the overall length of the gun is of 26.37 inches. Because the 590 Shockwave meets the overall length requirement of 26 inches, it is defined as "firearm" under the federal Gun Control Act (GCA) and not a short-barrel shotgun under NFA.



Above, a nylon strap is attached to the Shockwave's forend and helps keep a shooter's hand in place, right, when shooting the Shockwave.



testing? How easy was it to shoot a shotgun with a 14-inch barrel loaded with 2.75-inch shells? All hype? Any substance? We'll start by saying this match up caused a permanent grin on some testers because the guns were fun to shoot even if they might keep someone at ATF up at night.

Mossberg 590 Shockwave 50659 12 Gauge, $455

The Shockwave is manufactured with a 14-inch barrel and shotgun-type receiver fitted with a "bird's head" style grip in lieu of the shoulder stock. It looks very much like a Class 3/NFA firearm, but is not. No tax stamp nor extra paperwork is required to purchase and own the Shockwave. Part of the legal definition of a "shotgun" means it must be made to be fired from the shoulder. Since Mossberg manufactures the Shockwave with a new receiver and pistol grip at the factory, it falls under the definitions in the Gun Control Act of 1968, which calls it a Pistol Grip Only (PGO) firearm. That's why the Shockwave doesn't fall under the National Firearms Act rules and doesn't require a tax stamp. PGO firearms can include certain shotguns having a barrel or barrels of less than 18 inches in length. The final reason why the Shockwave can have a 14-inch barrel is the NFA definition of a "firearm," the overall length must exceed 26 inches. The Shockwave, from muzzle to grip, measures 26.37 inches. Some state regulations prohibit the sale of such PGO firearms, so you must be mindful of your local regulations.

The Shockwave uses a receiver based on Mossberg's robust Model 590 action. The Shockwave comes from the factory with the receiver fitted with the "bird's head" grip and forend strap, which is manufactured by Shockwave. The polymer grip has a fine texture. Our sample is an early model, current models come with a sling swivel post in the grip butt.

The controls are like other Model 590 shotguns, including the ambidextrous safety button located at the top rear of the aluminum-

CENTURY ARMS RAS47 AK PISTOL 7.62X39MM, $749

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The RAS47 was relentlessly reliable with any ammo we ran through it. We'd definitely opt for the arm brace since it allows better control and accuracy. The drum magazine makes it heavy and bulky. For that reason, we would think twice about using the drum to defend our home or use it as a vehicle gun.



Action Type	Semi-automatic, long stroke piston
Overall Length	20.5 in.
Overall Height	81.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	6.5 lbs.
Weight Loaded (30-rd. mag)	7.9 lbs.
Barrel	10.6 in. long, 4150 steel, nitride finish
Muzzle Device	Slant brake
Handguard	Black Magpul Zhukov
Grip	Black textured Magpul MOE AK
Receiver	Stamped steel, blued
Magazine	(1) Magpul PMAG 30-round
Rear Sight	Tangent leaf, elevation adjustable
Front Sight	Winged post, windage adjustable
Sight Radius	15.0 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	5.4 lbs., single stage
Safety	2-pos. lever w/bolt hold-open notch
Warranty	1 year
Telephone	(800) 527-1252
Website	CenturyArms.com
Made In	U.S.A.



The drum magazine alters the weight and balance of the pistol. It does offer the joys of capacity of course, but handling suffers.



Some testers felt that two 30-round magazines were easier to manipulate than the 75-round drum and nearly as fast.

alloy receiver. Left- and right-hand shooters find that the thumb of the shooting hand falls directly on top of it. It uses double action bars so the slide pumps smoothly, and the forend is coarsely ribbed polymer, which provides a good grip surface. The strap is helpful, as we found out during range testing. The Shockwave is equipped with a heavy-wall barrel like the barrels on Mossberg military 590A1 models. The plain barrel features a brass bead for rough sighting. In hand, the Shockwave is compact and very maneuverable, but we wondered how easy it would be to shoot.

At the range, we had an assortment of Aguila 1.75-inch and Winchester 2.75-inch shells. We also fired a few 3-inch shells through the Shockwave just for the experience. Recoil was brutal with 3-inch shells. Magazine capacity was the same as a standard Model 590: 5+1 capacity with 2.75-inch shells, 4+1 with 3-inch shells. With Aguila's 1.75-inch minishells, the Shockwave has an 8+1 capacity. These minishells produce mild recoil, but typically do not cycle in a shotgun's action because repeater shotguns are designed to use a shell with a minimum length of 2.75 inches. The OPSol Texas Mini-Clip (opsolmini-clip.com) is an aftermarket accessory that allows shooters to reliably cycle Aguila minishells. We acquired a Mini-Clip to see if this inexpensive adapter would allow us to run the Shockwave with 1.75-inch minishells. It did. The OPSol Texas Mini-Clip is made of a flexible polymer that snaps into the loading port of the receiver. Push the Mini-Clip in the loading port so it is flush to the rear and the bottom of the port, then rack the slide a few times to make sure the Mini-Clip is in position. It can be quickly removed without tools. The Mini-Clip reduces the size of the loading port so a minishell is perfectly positioned as it moves from the magazine tube to the elevator assembly. The Mini-Clip is compatible with all Mossberg 500, 590, and 590A1 models.

Shooting the Shockwave is a lot like shooting an AR/AK pistol; a bit



This is not the typical AK muzzle brake, but we liked how it performed on the RAS47.



The safety selector is notched so the bolt can be locked rearward.



If you wanted to mount an optic, the RAS47 has a side mount. Century Arms sells a $93 mount for a micro dot.



To attach the arm brace, the pistol grip is loosened and the arm brace slid between the grip and the bottom of the receiver.



We liked how the arm brace fit seamlessly into the rear of the pistol's receiver.



This is a typical group we could shoot using the Century Arms pistol's open sights. We were impressed with the accuracy.

awkward. We could shoot it one-handed, but follow-up shots were slow since you need two hands to cycle the action. With a two-hand hold, we fired the Shockwave at eye level, using the brass bead to aim, which gave us the best accuracy. We also fired it from the hip, which allowed for fast follow-up shots and good accuracy out to 10 yards. With our support hand held in place by the strap and firing hand on the grip, it cycled smoothly. The strap helped keep our hand in place, especially with 2.75-inch loads.

We found the Shockwave gave us tight patterns at 10 yards, not what we expected from a 14-inch barrel with a Cylinder bore choke. The Aguila buckshot minishell averaged a 10-inch pattern on an 18-inch wide target. Recoil was mild. Firing from the hip, we braced the grip on our hip and pumped as fast as we could and easily maintained control using minishells. Shooting Aguila minishell ⅞-ounce slugs offhand, we were rewarded with 4-inch 3-shot groups at 10 yards. We removed the Mini-Clip and loaded 2.75-inch Winchester military grade buck shot. At 10 yards, we averaged 4.5-inch patterns. The 2.75-inch shells had substantially more recoil. The 3-inch shotshell delivered brutal recoil and an 18-inch pattern with birdshot. We would avoid shooting 3-inch shells in the Shockwave.

Our Team Said: Loaded with Aguila minishells and equipped with the OPSol Texas Mini-Clip attached, the Shockwave offered a lot of firepower. We really like shooting the minishells through the Shockwave. The 2.75-inch shells were less fun to shoot due to recoil. We found the Shockwave accurate and effective. For a short-range defense weapon in cramped conditions like a vehicle, the Shockwave is a good choice.

Century Arms RAS47 AK Pistol
7.62x39mm, $749

In 2015, an open letter from ATF stated an arm brace added to a pistol did not "make" the pistol an NFA (National Firearm Act) firearm. But—and here's where confusion originated—if the arm-brace-equipped pistol was fired from the shoulder, that constituted a "redesign" of the firearm and made it an NFA firearm. This contradictory position by the AFT had manufacturers and shooters confused. Was an arm-brace-equipped pistol legal or not?

SB Tactical, an arm-brace manufacturer, requested the ATF reconsider its original position, and the ATF responded to SB Tactical in a letter dated March 2017. The ATF response helps clarify the ATF's original position, stating, "the use of stabilizing braces, as designed, would not create a short-barreled rifle (SBR) when attached to a firearm" and further states "an NFA firearm has not been necessarily been made... even if the attached firearm happens to be fired from the shoulder." However, the ATF did not fully put the matter to rest. The ATF stated that attaching an arm brace to a pistol and modifying the brace, such as removing the Velcro straps or making the attachment point sturdier or permanent, will create

a Short-Barrel Rifle, which comes under NFA rules. The ATF's letter was addressed only to SB Tactical, so a question remains if this applies to all manufacturers of arm braces. Also, keep in mind that your local and states laws may differ from the ATF's federal statue. Obviously, this is still a gray area, but suffice to say customization and modifications made to an arm brace could be construed as a pistol being made into an SBR, so don't do them.

We attached an RAS arm brace (CenturyArms.com) to our RAS47 pistol. The brace is flexible rubber with a Velcro strap designed to be attached to a shooter's arm. The process of attaching the arm brace to the RAS47 was as simple as removing the pistol grip. With the grip removed, the arm brace slides in between the receiver and pistol grip. Tighten the pistol grip screw and you are good to go. The arm brace is not permanently attached and is easily removed.

The RAS47 is very much a modified RAS47 rifle except without a stock. The 10.6-inch barrel is capped with a muzzle brake ported on the top. The RAS47 came equipped with a polymer Magpul handguard and pistol grip. We liked the Magpul furniture because it updated the look of the RAS47, and the handguard protected the shooter from a hot barrel and gas tube. The action on the CA was smooth and easy to operate. The trigger was a single stage with the creep we expect in an AK. "Serviceable" describes it best, not awful by any means for a combat-style trigger. It field-strips like any AK rifle, which means it is easy and fast to tear it down and reassemble. The receiver is stamped steel. The RAS47 has a bolt-hold-open notch on the safety selector that allows the bolt to be held open. We liked this safety feature. The magazine release is T-shaped and provides more surface area to grasp, making it easier to operate than the typical AK magazine release. The RAS47 had a nicely executed blued finish. Since the RAS47 is equipped with a side mount, one could mount a red-dot optic.

The pistol ships with two 30-round magazines, but we also ran it with a CA AK47 75-round drum magazine ($126; CheaperThanDirt.com) made in Romania. We anticipated the drum would be fun to shoot and help us make empty cases real fast. It did both with no jams. Loading the drum required us to read the manual, which we highly recommend since these rounds are under a lot of spring tension and placement of the rounds in the drum is important. Loading the drum was tedious compared to firing the drum. The RAS47 ran without incident and barked through 75 rounds as fast as we could press the trigger. The drum wiggled side to side after inserted, but we had no issues with function. While there is a novelty aspect to the drum magazine, some testers felt three stick magazines were just as useful and easier to carry. Plus, the weight of the drum loaded is 5 pounds, which is added the 6.4 pounds of the pistol. A standard 30-round magazine makes the pistol easier to manipulate. If the SHTF, we'd probably want the drum. We could live without it and still have a very serviceable pistol.



The drum magazine is tedious, yet easy to load. You should not store the drum fully loaded under maximum spring tension.

At the range, we found there is nothing subtle about the RAS47. We tore through 30-round Magpul magazines without a hitch. Inexpensive Red Army Standard steel case, new Hornady Black brass case, and Winchester White Box brass-case ammo all ran well through the pistol. Using a rest, one test member could shoot about 0.8-inch 5-shot groups with the Winchester White Box ammo at 25 yards. With the Red Army Standard and Hornady Black ammo, smallest groups were 1.0 and 1.2 inches, respectively. Nice.

The RAS47 is a large pistol, requiring two hands to fire accurately and recover from the recoil, which was manageable but noticeable. When we moved to the drum magazine, the weight of the pistol greatly increased, and the extra weight did help reduce felt recoil. We felt the muzzle brake did a good job of managing muzzle climb.

We have used arm braces in previous tests of AR pistols and found an arm brace awkward to shoot when the pistol is strapped on the arm. For speed shooting, we rested the arm brace against our cheek as well as against our shoulder. Using the arm brace against our shoulder was not the most comfortable shooting. Some testers had to watch out not to get their noses jammed against the dust cover during recoil because the face was close to the receiver. Shooting it this way allowed us to gain better control of the pistol. We became quite efficient with quick 3- to 4-shot bursts. Some testers found that shooting too quickly caused the muzzle to climb rapidly. Those experienced testers found the RAS47 controllable and effective in rapid fire against our cardboard targets. It was easy to maneuver with it through doorways, down narrow halls, and around corners.

Our Team Said: The RAS47 is large and heavy, but it offers tremendous firepower in a relatively compact package. The cost is high compared to other home-defense firearm options. In our opinion, the arm brace helped shooters control the pistol. This would make a good vehicle gun and home defense tool.

Special thanks to Eastern Outfitters (easternoutfitter.com) of Hampstead, NC, for their assistance.

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

VALUE GUIDE: RECENT SELF-DEFENSE SHOTGUN RATINGS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Remington 870P Standard 12 Gauge, $225	Sept. 2017	A	Best Buy. Patterns were good. Experimentation may find a load that does even better.
IAC (Norinco) Wild Bunch Shotgun 12 Gauge, $300	Sept. 2017	B	Tactically, the design leaves some other shotguns in the dirt. It is fast to load and faster to empty.
Mossberg 505 Youth Pump-Action Shotgun 57110 20 Gauge, $300	Sept. 2017	A	The Mossberg 505 Youth is an overlooked gem. The fit wasn't bad for most raters.
Benelli Nova Tactical Pump 20051 12 Gauge, $372	Dec. 2016	A	Best Buy. Lockup is tight. Sights are among the best combat-style units. 10-year warranty.
Tristar TEC-12 No. 25120 Pump/Auto 12 Gauge, $557	Dec. 2016	A	Modern styling and handles just like the expensive Benelli M3. Reliable, fitted with Benelli tubes.
Mossberg 930 Tactical 85320 12 Gauge, $514	Dec. 2016	A-	The 930 was the lightest kicker and had the highest magazine capacity. Balance is excellent.
IAC Imports Hawk Model 982 Defense 12 Gauge, $233	Oct. 2016	A	Among the least-expensive 12-gauge pumps we have tested. The Hawk never malfunctioned.
Remington Model 870 Express Synthetic Tactical 12 Gauge, $346	Oct. 2016	A	We liked the magazine capacity, and we will take the muzzle brake. Simple bead front sight.
Remington 870 Modified Police 12 Gauge, M4 Stock, $420	Oct. 2016	B	The Adaptive Tactical M4 stock provides a shotgun that handles in a similar fashion to a Colt M4 rifle.
Beretta Model 1301 Tactical No. J131T18 12 Gauge, $1075	May 2016	A	The Beretta performed without a hiccup while producing good patterns and loading fast.
Mossberg Model 930 SPX Tactical 85360 12 Gauge, $836	May 2016	B	Lighter hit to the pocket book. Good handling and flawless functioning.
Benelli Model M4 Tactical No. 1170712 Gauge, $2000	May 2016	B-	We could not get past its higher price and failure to cycle low-velocity loads during our field tests.
Century Arms Catamount Fury SG1874-N 3-inch 12 Gauge, ~$400	March 2016	D	The Fury SG1874-N looked like the Izhmash Saiga, but was plagued by malfunctions.
Century Arms Catamount Fury II SG1875-N 12 Gauge, ~$575	March 2016	D-	Beset by malfunctions, the Fury II SG1875-N shotgun was worse than its stablemate.
Chiappa Triple Threat No. 930-032 12 Gauge, $1599	Oct. 2015	B-	Three barrels. Too unwieldy for anything other than close-quarters self-defense.
Standard Mfg. DP-12 DP01130 Pump-Action 12 Gauge, $1700	Oct. 2015	C	The unique double pump was too unwieldy and too pricey for us.
Remington Model 870 Pump 81180 20 Gauge, $530	Sept. 2015	A-	Good trigger, good handling and good patterning combined for its good ranking.

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—continued from page 2

He said, "If for some reason you can't bring your guns into a hotel, make sure that they are not visible from your car. You don't want to have any luggage, packages, guns or anything visible. Put them in your trunk, cover them up. Don't allow them to be seen, and make frequent trips to check on your motor vehicle if you're worried about looters and thieves."

He said if possible, stay in a motel where you know the windows face outward and try to get a parking spot right under your windows so you can just look out your window and check on the car and your valuables.

Walker said that once you return, you'll have concerns about protecting your property, and perhaps even your neighbor's property, with a firearm.

"This is actually one of the more complex issues in Texas law because Texas is one of the few states that allows somebody to not only use force, but use deadly force, not only in the protection of their own property but in the protection of a third party's property, and this is a very, very misunderstood application of the law," he said.

Walker said that what Texans you have to remember is that there are no presumptions like those whenever you're defending yourself or you're defending a third person to prevent an imminent threat, such as murder, a sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, and aggravated kidnapping. He said, "The law says that if you have a reasonable belief that those are occurring, then you're given the legal presumption that your use of deadly force was justified and was reasonable, and so that's a very, very important thing… Those presumptions don't apply with regard to property, so even though Texas law says you can use deadly force to defend property, it says that you can only do this if you have a reasonable belief that the property is being threatened, and you have a reasonable belief that the property could not be protected through any other means."

Also, he pointed out that you may not want to put yourself in harm's way, so you want to call and wait for the authorities, get valuable information about any lawbreakers, such as how many there are, what they look like, what kind of car they were driving, that sort of thing.

One area to be especially watchful about is, if you have to evacuate your area and you wind up in a shelter which could be in a school, the rules do not change. Walker said, "If you do get evacuated to a shelter and that shelter happens to be property owned by a school district, then the Texas Penal Code applies and you will have to leave your guns in your car—you cannot bring them into the building. Otherwise, you will be committing a felony… If it's a building owned by an ISD, then it is a school 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."

The least interesting man in the world says, "Stay dry my friends." GT

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