GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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AR-10 SEMI-AUTO RIFLES

Tested: The F-1 Firearms BDR10-3G and SIG Sauer's 716G2 DMR piston guns in 308 Winchester and a new E.R. Shaw rifle in 6.5 Creedmoor, the ERS-10. See which rifle earns a Best Buy rating on... ● Page 6

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9MM PISTOLS

Who wins a showdown between the Vicker's Tactical Glock 17, a Beretta 92F with Wilson Combat upgrades, the Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard, and CZ-USA's P-10 C? See the results on... ● Page 14

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DOWNRANGE

WISH LIST BOGS DOWN



Todd Woodard

We're already into the second month of the year, and 2018 is looking like 2017 regarding gun legislation. To see how far gun legislation advanced, I checked the January 2017 "Downrange" column, which had a wish list of efforts for gun owners — and saw that not much is moving, or what is moving continues at a glacial pace.

True, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the most far-reaching expansion of self-defense rights in modern American history with the early-December 2017 vote on the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017. The bill, H.R. 38, ensures that Americans who can legally carry a concealed firearm in one state will legally be able to do so in every other state. According to the NRA, the bill "... eliminates the confusing patchwork of state laws that have ensnared otherwise law-abiding gun owners, and have forced law enforcement to waste their precious time and resources enforcing laws that don't do anything to reduce violent crime."

But as I write this, it hasn't passed the Senate. And I can't see any sense of urgency from Republicans to move on this remarkable opportunity. It's been a year since the Republicans were handed control of two of the three branches of government and both legislative bodies.

Where is the reclassification of suppressors out of Class 3, so those of us already hard of hearing can easily buy them before we go completely deaf? Yes, I remember why it stalled — bad optics. Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) was shot on the same day a hearing was scheduled in June to make it easier for Americans to buy suppressors. I'm not sure why those two things became linked, because no suppressors were used in the Congressional baseball park attack or in the Las Vegas shooting. Aaagh! Why are Republicans so scared of the minority whining about "what ifs?"

And there's nothing further on Fast and Furious, the DOJ gun-running plan. We just want to see what former Attorney General Eric Holder was hiding. Must be juicy, because the Obama Administration went to a lot of trouble to keep those files out of the sunlight. Somebody poke Jeff Sessions, please, and tell him to turn over these documents covered by a four-year-old Freedom of Information Act lawsuit.

To be fair, some elements of what I wrote about in the January 2017 "Downrange" have moved along. The aforementioned National Right to Carry is a step closer to reality. Military personnel gained the right to defend themselves with firearms when they're in a civilian setting — such as at recruiting stations. The nomination of federal judges who respect the Constitution, including the 2nd Amendment, continues apace, with hundreds more openings that Trump can fill. His judges might actually honor the *Heller* and *McDonald* precedents and strengthen 2A rulings to the point that no future court can water down the right to keep and bear arms.

But the clock is ticking. If only 44 seats in the House change party affiliation later this year, anything good for gun rights will stop. There may not be another opportunity like this in our lifetimes. GT

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‘Championing’ a Ruger GP100

Reader DB said he finally pulled the trigger on buying Ruger’s Range Champion revolver, but it still needed a bit of tuning to be perfect for him. Also, what’s the best rifle for rats in the barn?



Re “IDPA Revolvers: Ruger’s Match Champion, S&W’s Pro 686 SSR,” December 2014

I just read your review of the Ruger GP100 Match Champion compared to the Smith 686. I know the review is three years old, but I hope my experience will be useful to other readers. I dithered over purchasing the 686 or the GP100 for months. I dry-fired every one I could find of each. Every single 686 in single action had a nearly perfect trigger pull off the shelf. The GP100s ranged from as good as the 686 to almost as good.

I finally opted for the GP100 due to its incredibly strong construction. I went with the Range Champion, hoping that the more expensive model would have a more carefully fitted trigger.

That was not the case. Because no local dealers had one in inventory, I had to order one. It came with noticeable take up. I returned it to Ruger with a very nice letter, expecting one of the company’s pistolsmiths would take a little time with it. Unfortunately, all that was done was to swap the trigger mechanisms. The new trigger was an improvement, but still not what I expected from a $1000 gun. I took it to a local gunsmith who told me the sear was just a little too long. For $40 he fixed it.

It seems a shame that I had to pay a gunsmith to get the trigger right, but I now love the gun. No take-up; clean, crisp trigger break; smooth, light double action, and built like a tank! More accurate than I can shoot, except from a really good rest. My shooting buddy who has been a dyed-in-the-wool Smith fan recently texted me that he wanted to shoot mine one more time before he bought one for himself. **—DB**

Glad you like the Range Champion. Roger Eckstine said the Ruger Match Champion was an awesome gun out of the box, if not quite perfect.

— Todd Woodard

Pest Gitter Follow-up

Hi, Todd. You recommended the RWS-brand pellet gun to fill my specific requirements, and I owe you thanks, as well as feedback. To recap my situation, I run a horse farm in Virginia. Spilled feed attracts uninvited pests. Number one is “pidgins.” Conventional gunfire would frighten horses and run off the customers who ride on my property.

The RWS magnum is the weight and dimensions of a centerfire hunting rifle. The barrel breaks open to cock and load. Quality is excellent, and it comes with a decent scope and mounts. I ordered it from Cabela’s and paid about $500. RWS claims 1000 fps with a 22-caliber pellet. I believe it, but can’t confirm it. At 100 feet I am accurate and lethal on pidgin, rat, starling, and other fur-and-feather pests. I get hits beyond 150 feet, but accuracy and lethality diminish markedly. I have learned

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.



stealth. When fired, the sound does not carry, and does not upset horses and customers. It is effective, enjoyable, and avoids all the problems of traps and poison. It's not the National Match M14 I was trained on. Limited range and lethality remains an issue and I may come back to you about a suppressed 22. — Willson

Music to my ears. I badly want an integrally-suppressed 10-22, preferably a takedown model. But you might check the Gun Tests *archives and find a top-ranked 22 bolt gun and have the barrel threaded for a can you like. If you use a bolt gun that will chamber 22 Shorts and Longs as well as Long Rifles, then it's easy to find subsonic ammo and you don't have to have gas to operate the self-loading mechanism of the semi-auto. Or you can buy the "B"-ranked Marlin XT 22RZ 22 LR, $220 reviewed in the June 2017 issue and shown above. It is already specced for ½x28 tpi, so you'd just need an appropriate suppressor. Please let me know how it turns out if you go that route. — tw*

Re "Guns of the Year 2017," December 2017

About the Rock Island recommendation: Spent an inordinate amount of time trying to track down the Rock Island firearm listed in your 2017 picks article. Just got off a chat session with Armscor; they tell me that this particular firearm, the TAC Standard FS Night 45 ACP, was discontinued in 2016. If so, I understand. Some customers only read the title and the price and say, "I gotta get me some of that." Interestingly, I have had two requests for that gun in the past week. So I know that I've got at least two customers who read your articles. I do have one customer who is a subscriber, and he is always calling me and quizzing me on guns featured in your publication, and he buys quite a few also.

— Steven McKee
Manager, Silverado Arms
Mentor, Ohio

Sorry about that. We bought our sample in July 2016 from Sarcoinc.com, the source listed in the article. I received the article from Bob Campbell in January 2017, and it ran in the April 2017 issue. So the gun was in retail availability at the time of the test, but I didn't check about its avail on the Armscor website prior to it running in the December 2017 issue. For those who want to find the pistol at retail, it's Model 51484, UPC Code 4806015514848. — tw



Re "Five-Shot 44-Caliber Revolvers From Ruger, S&W, and Taurus," January 2018

Received your latest issue and was anxious to read about the 44s. I was disappointed to see no comment about the experience of shooting a ported-barrel revolver. With the Taurus Tracker, was there an increase in perceived muzzle blast? Is there any increased risk of injury to the shooter from ported gas/flame when firing in close quarters? I have never fired a ported handgun and have some concerns about injury/damage to anything in close proximity to the gas ports. **— John**



Thanks for reading. As mentioned in the article, the Taurus revolver exhibited the least felt recoil of the revolvers tested, load for load. I added that perhaps most was due to the Ribber grips, but then some must be attributed to the barrel ports. The ports did not add to muzzle blast; in fact, the Taurus was quite reserved in muzzle blast compared to the shorter-barrel revolvers. I would not wish to fire a ported barrel from the retention position below my eyes. But the blast of the Taurus was never offensive, even when firing from the barricade braced position. On the other hand, all revolvers tend to blast the barricade with cylinder-gap blast. — Bob Campbell

Time for my own "comparison": I decided to test a McLaren P1 versus two trucks, the Ford F-150 and the Chevrolet Silverado. The McLaren was twice as fast in the Quarter Mile, and its track and slalom tests were measured in seconds as opposed to minutes for both pick-ups. However, its payload capacity and cargo space was very limited, so I gave it a "B." This was despite it being among the best commercially available "Super Cars"; it just failed as a truck. Does this sound silly to you? It should. In your January 2018 issue, you did the same thing comparing the Ruger GP100 44 Special to the S&W Model 69 and Taurus Tracker 44 Magnums. The comparison was ludicrous. The GP100 never claimed to be a 44 Magnum, and it beat the other two in head-to-head tests for every category. Except, of course, for the one test for which it was never



designed. In fact, you said, "The GP100 44 Special is more accurate than all but a very few revolvers we have tested." Does this really sound like a "B" grade to you? You can't mark something down for not being something it wasn't. What you did do was put a "B" grade on a great 44 Special revolver that some guy quickly browsing the newsstand may remember. He may not have had time to read your entire write up, and will never know why it got the "B," only that it was graded that way. It's unfair to Ruger, and unfair to the readers of your magazine, and definitely unfair to the guy who just purchased an inferior revolver based on your grade. In the future, please compare apple to apples, and don't downgrade an orange for not being an apple. **— Andrew**

Thanks for reading. Comments like yours are interesting and keep the team thinking. I do not think anyone purchasing an "A"-rated gun will ever get an inferior product. Nor is a B-rated gun always inferior in every way. It simply doesn't meet the test criteria as well as the "A"-rated gun, which in this case included an emphasis on power and accuracy, with reliable function the baseline. It was legitimate to compare five-shot 44-caliber revolvers, even if one was a 44 Special. The data was certainly there to recommend the Ruger to anyone who wants a 44, but who doesn't want a Magnum. And, of course, "Firing Line" is the most closely read part of the magazine, and you've made a strong case for the Ruger. — Bob Campbell

Re "Case-Prep Stations from RCBS, Lyman, and Frankford Arsenal," January 2018

I finished reading the latest issue of GT, and it was another awesome issue. But I really loved the Case Prep Station test. I have the Lyman Case Prep Express and I love it. I got it three years ago on a killer Black Friday sale, and I have used it to prep 44 Magnum, 45 ACP, 50 AE, and 5.56/223 Rem., all with good results. Previously, I had used the RCBS Universal case prep center and found it lacking. But it is good to see that RCBS has improved that tool considerably. So if I may make a suggestion; please keep testing the reloading tools. Case trimmers, progressive reloaders, T presses, scales and so. Keep up the good work! **— M. Penrod**

Re "Downrange," January 2018

Who is responsible for reporting drug addicts to NICS? If the answer is the user, then my impression of the database is that it is a flawed system. Expecting illegal drug users to self report is not reality. In Seattle, "safe" shooting sites for heroin users are an issue. Registered nurses, paid for with taxpayer dollars, are supervising such sites to prevent overdosing deaths. There should be a requirement for heroin users' names to be reported the NICS data base system before using the site. I appreciate Gun Tests — you don't hesitate to tackle the tough issues that impact legal users access, ownership, and use of firearms. Thanks for listening. **— Bruce**

Hey Bruce: I appreciate your comments. Yes, the self-reporting of drug users has always been a ridiculous idea. My recollection is that the 4473 drug provision is almost always used only as leverage in an existing crime. That is, a drug user in possession of a legal firearm when robbing you has both state and federal exposures if he gets caught. — tw

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AR-10s in 308 Win. and 6.5CM: $995 E.R. Shaw Is a Best Buy

If you're looking for more oomph from a semi-auto, SIG Sauer's 716G2 DMR is cutting-edge gunbuilding, and E.R. Shaw's ERS-10 is a bargain. F-1 Firearms' custom rifle is gorgeous.

Many people would agree that the AR platform is the most versatile of all rifle designs. Created for military combat (as many sporting rifles were originally), Eugene Stoner's design can be long, short, scoped, topped with iron sights, and maintained by novice operators with just a short list of tools. Also, the design allows for a choice of cartridges, for it is the chambering that defines what it can effectively be used for. In this test, we pitted a gas-impingement-operated 308 Winchester AR-10 against a piston-operated 308 and a gas-impingement AR-10 chambered for what is becoming a popular standard cartridge, the 6.5 Creedmoor.

Our 308 Winchester AR-10s were the $3955 BDR10-3G Black/Blue Splash direct-impingement system and SIG Sauer's $3108 716G2 DMR piston-driven system. A new rifle from the makers of E.R. Shaw Barrels, the E.R. Shaw ERS-10 chambered for 6.5 Creedmoor ammunition was a direct-impingement firearm carrying a list price of $995.



Top to bottom: Our AR-10 rifles were the $3108 SIG Sauer 716G2 DMR, the BDR10-3G Black/Blue Splash from F-1 Firearms, and the $995 ERS-10 from E.R. Shaw. The E.R. Shaw rifle was chambered for 6.5 Creedmoor, and it shot on par with most bolt-action rifles of the same chambering and cost a lot less than its competition. The SIG Sauer 716 Generation 2 Designated Marksman Rifle was a rugged, easy-to-shoot long gun that provided long-distance accuracy as well as a higher rate of fire. The F-1 rifle was a custom gun with an elegant finish that proved durable. Its cutaway design would likely rule it out for a military contract and we did have a couple of complaints that knocked its score down. But its pleasing aesthetics made it a comfortable-shooting gun.

We chose four different rounds for collecting accuracy data from the 100-yard line at American Shooting Centers in Houston. The 308 rifles were fed SIG Sauer's 150-grain HT and 168-grain Open-Tip Match (OTM) ammunition, and two rounds from Black Hills Ammunition. They were the 155-grain Sierra Tipped MatchKing (TMK) rounds and the 175-grain boat-tailed hollowpoints (BTHP). Our 6.5 Creedmoor selections for the E.R. Shaw rifle were Federal's 140-grain soft-point "Non-Typical" White Tail rounds and three varieties from Hornady. They were the 140-grain Extremely Low Drag (ELD) Match, 143-grain ELD-X Precision Hunter, and the 147-grain ELD Match rounds. For optics we relied upon our Steiner 4-16x50mm Steiner Predator Xtreme first focal plane scope mounted inside a pair of 30mm Warne rings atop a riser from Yankee Hill Machine. Let's find out which of our rifle trio was most accurate, reliable, and versatile:

F-1 Firearms BDR10-3G Black/Blue Splash, 308 Winchester, $3955

We hadn't really had an "OMG" moment at Gun Tests in 2018 as yet, but just as the new year was upon us, we opened the well-appointed custom gun case from F-1 Firearms. Inside was one of the most modern, well-appointed AR-10 rifles we've handled and also the best looking. Whereas the price of F-1's Billet Full Build AR-10 rifle starts north of $2500, this was a variant beginning in the Special Edition Rifle menu. By "well appointed" we mean with features that are the latest in functional operation, beginning with the Luth-

AR MBA buttstock, which was adjustable for length of pull, comb height, and the buttpad could be moved up or down as well as left and right. The bright-stainless-steel barrel was marked "1X11" for its twist rate and was a product of Black Hole Weaponry, made by Columbia River Arms of St. Helens, Oregon. Much of the remainder of the BDR10-3G was made in house at F-1's Spring, Texas facility.

The BDR10's 7075-T6 aluminum upper was sculpted so that the structure was narrow from side to side. The shell deflector was abbreviated, and the bolt carrier was visible through five diagonal reliefs on the right-hand side and four more on the left. Five windows were open on the left-hand side directly opposite the ejection port. The lower was even more interesting.

The flat sides of the lower were relieved so that the takedown pin protruded slightly, but the magazine release was behind a contour to protect it from unintentional discharge. The ambidextrous safety levers were fashioned as one arrow shape over another and relieved with small holes. The trigger guard was integral with the lower, and its enlarged elliptical shape displayed lightening holes cut into its lower arc. The Tactical Dynamics Skeletonized grip was bolted on using a large Allen-head fastener. Machined from aluminum, the grip featured three open sections on each side and three more between finger grooves up front. The grip was enhanced on its front and rear straps using paracord. A 20-round Magpul magazine was supplied.

The mouth of the magazine well was funneled to act as a guide, but the sides of the well were cut away. Without a magazine in place, the workings of the magazine catch were visible. We wondered if the gun would be prone to stoppages because of debris entering through the reliefs or jamming the magazine release. We didn't experience any stoppages, and one could say that anything that got into the mechanism would have just as much chance as being driven out the way it came in. Even with all the material removed for the sake of style if not faster handling, our F-1 rifle still weighed in just one ounce less than 9 pounds.

RANGE DATA

SIG Sauer 308 Winchester 150-grain HT	**SIG Sauer 716G2 DMR**	**F-1 Firearms BDR10-3G**
Average Velocity	2622 fps	2677 fps
Muzzle Energy	2289 ft.-lbs.	2386 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	1.1 in.	1.3 in.
Black Hills 308 Winchester 155-grain TMK	**SIG Sauer 716G2 DMR**	**F-1 Firearms BDR10-3G**
Average Velocity	2481 fps	2481 fps
Muzzle Energy	2118 ft.-lbs.	2118 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	1.1 in.	1.3 in.
SIG Sauer 308 Winchester 168-grain OTM	**SIG Sauer 716G2 DMR**	**F-1 Firearms BDR10-3G**
Average Velocity	2479 fps	2443 fps
Muzzle Energy	2292 ft.-lbs.	2226 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	0.7 in.	0.7 in.
Black Hills 308 Winchester 175-grain BTHP	**SIG Sauer 716G2 DMR**	**F-1 Firearms BDR10-3G**
Average Velocity	2473 fps	2475 fps
Muzzle Energy	2376 ft.-lbs.	2380 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	0.8 in.	0.9 in.

Federal 6.5 Creedmoor 140-grain SP Non-Typical White Tail	**E.R. Shaw ERS-10**	
Average Velocity	2571 fps	
Muzzle Energy	2054 ft.-lbs.	
Average Group	0.6 in.	
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor 140-grain ELD Match 81500	**E.R. Shaw ERS-10**	*To collect accuracy data, we fired 5-shot groups from a sandbag rest. Distance: 100 yards. We recorded velocities using a CED chronograph, with the first sky screen set 12 feet from the muzzle.*
Average Velocity	2610 fps	
Muzzle Energy	2117 ft.-lbs.	
Average Group	0.8 in.	
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor Precision Hunter 143-grain ELD-X 81499	**E.R. Shaw ERS-10**	
Average Velocity	2583 fps	
Muzzle Energy	2118 ft.-lbs.	
Average Group	0.7 in.	
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor 147-grain ELD Match 81501	**E.R. Shaw ERS-10**	
Average Velocity	2627 fps	
Muzzle Energy	2252 ft.-lbs.	
Average Group	0.7 in.	

The 14.75-inch-long handguard was attached using eight relatively small Allen bolts shielding the chromed barrel and gas tube. The handguard was highly relieved with M-Lock rails along the bottom and sides. The top rail mimicked an M-Lock rail, but only the three forward most cutouts were wide enough to accept the M-Lock mounting pads. The upper, lower, and handguard can be purchased separately as the BDR chassis starting at $725. The F-1 Black Nitride CMB (compensating muzzle brake) consisted of different diameter holes and vents, leaving the bottom side intact to prevent dirt from being kicked up during firing.

The HiperFire 24 3G single-action trigger was set at about 2.8 pounds with little or no perceptible take up or overtravel, contributing to its fast-cycling ability. The F-1 branded Raptor ambidextrous charging handle made bolt manipulation easier, but the choice of the Luth-AR MBA stock turned out to be unsuitable. When the stock was locked at either the first or second forward-most positions, the charging handle was blocked by the adjustable comb unless it was flat against the stock. The result was a minimum length of pull measuring about 14.6 inches instead of 12.5 inches, unless you were willing to do without raising the comb. It didn't make sense to pay the upcharge of $180 for the Luth-AR buttstock if it would interfere with function.

Additional upcharges for special features included $115 for the skeletonized grip, $155 for the coated F-1 DuraBolt Classic bolt carrier, $145 for the Hiperfire trigger, and $300 for the Blue Splash finish. If any feature caused us to want to handle the F-1 rifle with kid gloves it was the finish. The pattern of shiny blue-over-black Type III Class 2 hard anodizing was a great custom look we were afraid would mar. But after the first day or so, we decided to treat the BDR10 like any other rifle that might see hard use. The finish proved highly abrasion resistant. With just a wipe down, the gun looked great after every session.

F-1 FIREARMS BDR10-3G BLACK/BLUE SPLASH 308 WIN., $3955

GUN TESTS GRADE: B-

The custom BDR10-3G offered superb aesthetics and surprisingly good ergonomics. But we'd like more attention paid to basic assembly.



Action Type	Gas operated semi-auto, direct impingement; F-1 DuraBolt Classic bolt carrier
Overall Length	36.6 to 39.75 in.
Overall Height	7.9 in.
Barrel	16.0 in. long; 1:11 twist; stainless steel; CMB muzzle device
Weight Unloaded	9.0 lbs.
Weight Loaded	9.4 lbs.
Sight Radius	NA
Lower Receiver	Anodized aluminum; blue splash finish; Picatinny top rail
Magazine Capacity	20 rds.
Magazine Type	Detachable box, staggered column
Buttstock	5-pos. telescoping Luth-AR MBA; adjustable comb and buttplate glass-filled nylon buttplate
Buttstock Length of Pull	12.5 to 16.0 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	2.8 lbs. Hiperfire single stage
Safety	2 pos. rotating
Warranty	Lifetime, original owner
Telephone	(832) 299-6100
Website	F-1Firearms.com
Made In	U.S.A.



As efficient as it was complicated, the CMB (compensating muzzle brake) did an excellent job of keeping the gun still while being fired, and, like the rest of gun, the brake looked great. The bottom of the brake was closed so it didn't kick up a lot of dust.



Funneled, relieved, and custom finished, the magazine well was a work of art. But it also left much of the gun vulnerable to dust and debris.



The finish was remarkably durable. The skeletonized grip was quite comfortable and afforded the shooter a good deal of control. We also liked the oversized trigger guard and the ambidextrous magazine release levers. Exposing the coated and polished bolt carrier was a great visual touch. The HiperFire 24 3G single-action trigger was set at about 2.8 pounds with little or no perceptible take up or overtravel. Very fast reset.

DU-HA UPGRADES ITS TOTE

If you've ever wondered how I organize multiple rifles for testing, the answer is the $380 Du-Ha Tote from Du-Ha.com. The Tote is an all-in-one storage, toolbox, and gun case that measures 53 inches long, 15 inches wide, and 15 inches tall. The Tote can be configured to carry up to four rifles upright in padded racks. Usually I pack two rifles inside the Tote, leaving plenty of room for an Oehler chronograph and stands, bench bags, eye and ear protection, ammunition, and targets. Recently, I used the newest version of the Tote to transport a complete four-gun roster, including a 48-inch-long Ruger Hawkeye and the shorter but bulkier Desert Tech SRS-A1 rifles. The Tote offers the same compartmentalized approach as filling a container like those seen on transport ships. The Tote is on wheels and can be pulled easily in and out of a truck bed, making quick work of changing from one test roster to another. An $80 Slide Bracket that locks the Tote onto its own set of tracks is also available.

I've been using Du-Ha Totes for about three years without fail and recently purchased the latest model, which featured some very appealing upgrades. All exterior handles (top and sides) are now spring loaded to keep them folded and out of harm's way. Once emptied, the 38-pound Tote is light enough to be picked up like a suitcase. The three exterior latches now seat against steel inserts instead of the rugged polyethylene body. The main hinge has been strengthened, and there's a potent detent to keep the lid open when desired. The new center brace is hinged, making it easier to insert and remove items. The orange-color tool trays can be configured to suit the shooter's needs, and the main box offers removable dividers for more secure storage. If going to the range means cluttering your truck bed with stuff, the new Du-Ha Tote provides an even better way of organizing and securing your guns and gear than the original.

— Roger Eckstine



We usually pack our Du-Ha Tote roller ($379 from Du-Ha.com) cabinets into the truck bed with just one or two rifles plus chrono, ammunition, support bags, writing tablet and a small cooler. But it will also hold four rifles. The new improved Tote with improved hinges and locks, makes the toting easier.







Right: The Du-Ha's orange color trays can be removed and reconfigured for small items or larger tools. The removable rifle racks are padded with a thick neoprene insert. Removable panels allow the shooter to isolate one half of the interior from the other when necessary. Far right: Upgrades to the newest Du-Ha Tote include spring-loaded handles to hold them tight against the Tote body and steel inserts for metal-to-metal contact between latch and case lid.

According to F-1, the company's 308 Winchester rifles are tested primarily with 168-grain ammunition. Loaded with SIG Sauer's 168-grain OTM (Open Tip Match) rounds, we printed groups measuring between 0.55 and just less than 0.8 inches across. On average, this was about 0.2 inches narrower than groups fired when loaded with the 175-grain boattail hollowpoint rounds from Black Hills Ammunition. The rifle showed a dislike of lighter bullets, indicated by groups measuring about 1.3 inches across firing both the SIG Sauer 150-grain HT rounds and the easy-shooting Black Hills 155-grain TMK ammunition.

There was a degree of slop between the lower and upper components, and by the end of sessions, the handguard was loose enough to wobble around, hitting the bottom of the gas block. We think that heat from the barrel played a part in loosening the handguard mounting screws. In fact heat waves rising through the skeletonized handguard were enough to distort our view of the target. We also noticed a marked loss of velocity as the barrel heated up. Velocity dropped in a straight line about 135 fps on average between the first and last shot of a string. This was about three times the loss of velocity than with the SIG and Shaw rifles.

Our Team Said: The adjustable comb got in the way of the charging handle, and we thought the buttpad was too hard. Otherwise, the aesthetics and ergonomics of the BDR10-3G were superb, which are two aspects that don't always coincide. To fight mirage, we'd prefer a solid top rail to push the heat waves to either side. Most of all, we'd like to see better fit between the upper and lower and a stronger method of connecting the handguard. This particular model was not Mil-Spec, of course, but addressing these last two issues would likely unlock this rifle's true potential, which in our view was considerable.

SIG Sauer 716G2 DMR 308 Winchester, $3108

The first lines beneath our test rifle found on the company website read "exceptional accuracy… further

SIG SAUER 716G2 DMR 308 WINCHESTER, $3108

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The softest-shooting AR-10 we've handled was also the loudest. This is a high-quality build that was easy to handle. Adding a suppressor would make this a dream rifle.



Action Type	Semi-auto gas piston	Magazine	20 rds., detachable box, staggered column
Overall Length	34.75 to 38.0 in.	Buttstock	6-pos. adjustable/lockable; rubber buttplate
Barrel Length/Twist	16.0 in. long; 1:10 twist; carbon nitride-finished stainless steel	Buttstock Length of Pull	11.5 to 15. in.
Overall Height	8.0 in.	Trigger Pull Weight	2.75 lbs.
Weight Unloaded	8.75 lbs.	Safety	2 pos. rotating
Weight Loaded	10.25 lbs.	Warranty	Lifetime
Sight Radius	NA	Telephone	(603) 310-3000
Action	Aluminum alloy w/carbon nitride finish; Picatinny top rail	Website	SIGsauer.com
		Made In	U.S.A.



Details are where SIG Sauer excels. Right to left, note the chamfering on the locking pin and the contours of the safety selector. The left-side magazine release pivots so that the rearward-facing edge is pushed inward to operate. The bolt-catch paddle is oversized. Bottom, the trigger guard was expanded for use with gloves.



The 716G2 muzzle brake was more a collection of plates than it was an expansion chamber. Note how the brake envelops the threaded barrel. The handguard was tall as well as being long enough to cover almost the entire barrel.



The 716G2 offered a gas system that was immediately accessible and easily tuned by the shooter. This was another hint that this rifle was perhaps designed for attaching a suppressor.

refined." Since the other available 716G2 rifles were referred to as Patrol models, we think its safe to assume that DMR stands for Designated Marksman Rifle. A Designated Marksman is generally referred to as the member of a team or platoon tasked with longer-distance shots while maintaining the capability of laying down a high rate of fire.

The first thing we noticed about the SIG Sauer 716G2 DMR was the tall handguard. The full-length Picatinny rail was raised more than 1.8 inches above the boreline to cover the operating rod. The valve that regulated gas to the piston was readily accessible through a window in the handguard that measured almost 1.5 inches long and 1 inch high. The 15-inch-long handguard covered the entire barrel save for the threads that were covered by the wide-open muzzle brake. With about 150 degrees of diameter machined from the sidewalls of its steel body, the brake was more a display of reflecting plates than we're used to seeing.

In the owner's manual, the handguard was referred to as the Rail Adapter Group #400. Consisting of a lower component that ends at the receiver, the upper half included a Picatinny top rail running continuously from muzzle to charging handle. This is a plus because there was no chance of misalignment should a scope be mounted forward of the upper receiver. The upper and lower parts of the Rail Adapter Group were secured by four bolts from the bottom side of the lower half. Plus, four more bolts just below the top rail at the receiver end each ran through the rear lug of the adapter group lower and into the rifle upper to secure the unit as one piece. There were Keymod inlets at 3, 6, and 9 o'clock. One last innovation on the handguard was that the key-locks on the sides offered a floor inside each inlet, making it easier to stabilize the mounting screws and keep them in place.

SIG Sauer has come up with its own style of machining small parts such as the bolt release, ambidextrous thumb safeties, and even an ambidextrous magazine release. The left-side magazine release pivots while the right-side release was a button that was pushed inward toward the center for the rifle. The charging handle was ambidextrous as well, with twin levers that released a claw hook from each side. The grip was a Magpul product with a SIG Sauer–style knurling on the side panels and a pinch-release cap on the bottom to create a storage area for tools, a small bottle of lubricant, or even ballast. There were holes on each side of the receiver meant for push-button quick-detach sling swivels. The buttstock, another Magpul product, offered another pair of connection points for QD swivels and slots for threading a sling. The buttstock was adjustable for six different lengths of pull, and it could be locked in place to eliminate movement. A 20-round Magpul magazine was supplied.

Through the ejection port we could see that material had been removed from the bolt carrier. Reduced



The SIG's ambidextrous charging handle was very easy to use and required little effort.

mass reduces the shock of setting the bolt carrier in motion, but even more so when the bolt stopped and changed direction returning to battery. We found that the combination of the reduced bolt carrier, efficient muzzle brake, and the rifle's 10+ pounds of weight when fully loaded made the 716G2 DMR one of the softest-shooting AR-10s we can remember. And this was not taking into account the readily available gas valve that enabled the rifle to be tuned to specific ammunition. Together with a precise trigger that began with brief take up leading to less than 3 pounds of resistance on average, we were able to shoot very pleasing groups. The SIG rifle could be depended upon to print five-shot groups measuring about 0.75 inches or less with both our 168-grain rounds from SIG Sauer and the 175-grain BTHP rounds from Black Hills ammunition. Our ammunition featuring lighter bullets printed groups just above the 1-minute-of-angle mark on average.

Our Team Said: The 716G2 DMR proved to be soft shooting and extremely consistent. It was well balanced in the hands, and the ambidextrous charging handle required very little effort to manipulate. The strength of its construction was evident to the hands as well as to the eyes. We doubt any amount of accessory weight such as lasers, lights, etc. would be enough to stress the handguard/Rail Adapter Group or to affect accuracy. The muzzle brake was very efficient, but also very loud, taking away some of the pleasure of shooting this rifle. In our view, with its short barrel and adjustable gas flow to the operating system, this rifle was meant to be shot suppressed. With a "can" in place, the 716G2 DMR might be a dream rifle.

E.R. Shaw ERS-10 6.5 Creedmoor, $995

E.R. Shaw of Pennsylvania has been making rifle barrels for more than 100 years, for both individuals and for famous makers. Chances are many of our readers own a rifle with an E.R. Shaw barrel, even if it was sold under another name. Best known for bolt-action rifles, they also make complete AR-15s and now AR-10 rifles that can be purchased as a set piece or from the "Rifle Builder" menu that appears on the website. Our ERS-10 was one of the maker's first AR-10 production rifles. Chambered for 6.5 Creedmoor ammunition, we couldn't believe our eyes when we read that the MSRP was just $995.

We could see where a little money was saved by attaching a standard A1 pistol grip, single-pull charging handle, standard magazine release, bolt catch/release lever, left-side-only safety lever, and the trigger was pretty much standard fare, breaking at about 4.5 pounds on average. But there were also a number of innovations that were apparent. The forged aluminum lower was

E.R. SHAW ERS-10 6.5 CREEDMOOR, $995

GUN TESTS GRADE: A- (BEST BUY)

There are a lot of guns out there, but few are what we would call bargains. This one stands out.



Action Type	Semi-auto, direct impingement; nickel-boron-coated bolt and carrier
Overall Length (min/max)	38.75 to 41.7 in.
Barrel	20.0 in. long; 1:8 twist; stainless steel, carbon-nitride finish; Shaw brake
Overall Height	7.6 in.
Weight Unloaded	9.4 lbs.
Weight Loaded	10.8 lbs.
Sight Radius	16.14 in.
Lower Receiver	Forged anodized aluminum; Picatinny top rail; A1 pistol grip; flared mag well; oversize trigger guard
Magazine	Magpul 20-rd. detachable box; staggered column
Buttstock	Magpul 5-pos. adjustable; rubber buttplate
Buttstock Length of Pull	11.7 to 14.0 in.
Handguard	15-in. free float M-Lock
Trigger Pull Weight	4.5 lbs., single stage
Safety	Rotating 2 pos.
Warranty	1 year
Telephone	(412) 221-3406
Website	ERShawBarrels.com
Made In	U.S.A.

M-Lock-compatible slots were found at 10, 2 (top left arrow), 4 (top right arrow) and 8 o'clock. E.R. Shaw supplies its own Picatinny rail segments (bottom arrow) that thread into the track found on the interior side of the rail as mounting points. The threaded brackets seated within channels on the interior side of the handguard at 3, 6, and 9 o'clock. Rails could be mounted anywhere along the length of the handguard without interruption.



The ERS-10 was an inexpensive rifle by most standards. One major upgrade was the nickel-boron-coated bolt and bolt carrier.



Note how well the handguard was mated to the receiver. There was also a small overlap shown just below the rail where the two components meet to assure a lasting index. This was indicative of the maker paying attention to what matters most.



expertly machined, including a flared Precision Wire EDM magazine well and oversized trigger guard. The bolt and bolt carrier were Nickel-Boron coated and the 20-inch-long stainless-steel barrel offered a glare-free satin stainless finish. The muzzle brake of E.R. Shaw's own design was stylish and effective without being too loud. The 15-inch-long free-float handguard was another example of some very solid machine work of original design firmly attached to the upper. The handguard offered a Picatinny rail on the top plane with M-Lock compatible slots found at 10, 2, 4, and 8 o'clock. E.R. Shaw supplies its own rail segments that thread into a track found on the interior of the rail at the traditional points of the compass, so there's lots of optional positions to suit most shooters' needs. The buttstock was a five-position adjustable unit by Magpul. A 20-round Magpul magazine was supplied.

At the range, we found that even without a fancy trigger, custom grip, or locking buttstock, our ERS-10 could print five-shot groups of about 0.7 inches on average with every round we tried. Our best performer was the inexpensive 140-grain SP Non-Typical White Tail ammunition from Federal. Tied with many bolt-action rifles, the resulting average distance across our five-shot groups measured center to center computed to 0.60 inches. Averages for our other rounds were 0.8 inches, 0.7 inches, and 0.7 inches for Hornady's 140-grain ELD Match, 143-grain ELD-X Precision Hunter, and 147-grain ELD Match, respectively.

Our Team Said: E.R. Shaw set out to offer an accurate and affordable AR-10 and did just that. This is a well-made rifle that showcases the quality of the company's barrels when mounted properly within well-executed components. There aren't many bargains in the world of firearms, but based on our experience with the ERS-10, this is certainly one that stands out.

Written and photographed by Roger Eckstine, using evaluations from Gun Tests *team testers.* GT

VALUE GUIDE: RECENT SEMI-AUTO RIFLE RESULTS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Heckler & Koch MR762A1 7.62x51mm, $3999	Dec. 2017	A+	Price and availability were drawbacks, but this rifle was powerful, well made, and fun to shoot.
Alexander Arms Overwatch 6.5 Grendel, $1613	Dec. 2017	A	Balanced, accurate, and well made, the Overwatch is more portable than any AR-10.
Core30 TAC II Rifle 14898 6.5 Creedmoor, $2470	Dec. 2017	A-	An upgrade in power for the precision 3Gun competitor, the Core30 is a first-class match rifle.
Windham Weaponry RMCS-4 5.56, 9mm, 300 Blk., 7.62x39, $2971	Aug. 2016	A-	Twice the calibers and was accurate with all four, but the takedown method was more complicated.
Century Arms C39 V2 RI2245-N 7.62x39, $749	July 2016	A	Worth the money. If you want a unusually well built and good-shooting AK, this is the one to get.
CMMG MK47 AKM Mutant 76AFCD7 7.62x39, $1650	July 2016	B	Took more breaking in than normal, and we expected better accuracy.
Rock River Arms LAR-47 CAR A4 CL AK1263 7.62x39, $1270	July 2016	D-A	The first grade is with open sights. The second grade is with optics and compatible magazines.
Century Arms C39 Sporter RI2170CN 7.62x39, $657	July 2016	D	We wouldn't buy this rifle with the current trigger. Mediocre accuracy.
Palmetto State Armory AK-47 MOE Edition 7.62x39, $749	June 2016	A	This AK with modern Magpul furniture updated the design; accuracy was acceptable, as was the price.
Century Arms RAS47 Magpul-Zhukov 7.62x39, $800	June 2016	A-	The Magpul-Zhukov furniture enhanced the AK design, especially the adjustable stock.
Palmetto State Armory AK-47 Gen2 Classic Red 7.62x39, $849	June 2016	B+	The Classic Red had beautiful wood furniture, but showed its age in dated ergonomics.
DPMS LR-308 AP4 7.62x51mm NATO/308 Win., $1399	Feb. 2016	A-	Maneuverable enough to get in and out of pickups, with lots of punch.
Patriot Ordnance Factory P308-20 Gen3 7.62x51mm NATO, $2599	Feb. 2016	B+	This is a lot of spend for only marginally better accuracy. We do recognize the quality.
PTR PTR-91 G.I. 915304 308 Win./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 Win./7.62 NATO, $509	June 2015	B	The Century rifle is worth the money. We traced a few short cycles to problematic magazines.
LWRCI M6A2 Gas Piston Carbine M6A2R6B16 6.8 SPC, $2250	May 2015	A	This is a well-put-together gun with heavy-duty components, but that turns into weight.
Battle Rifle Company BR4 Odin 6.8 SPC, $1495	May 2015	B	This gun required a cleaning to function. It was lighter, which makes it easier to carry.

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Highly-ranked products from older reviews are often available used at substantial discounts.

Service-Sized 9mm Handguns Shoot It Out for Carry Honors

We test new guns and new versions of top 9mm handguns: The Vicker's Tactical Glock 17, a Beretta 92FS with Wilson Combat upgrades, the Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard, and CZ-USA's P-10 C.

We recently tested a quartet of 9mm-chambered full-size firearms suitable for daily carry: the Lipsey's Glock 17RTF2 Vickers FDE based on the Glock 17, a Beretta 92FS with Wilson Combat upgrades, an Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard, and a CZ-USA CZ P-10 C. Each one could be thrown into any mix of handguns and do well. But there are specific differences that will make one pistol or another preferable for an individual, and that is what this shoot out is all about.

Full-size 9mm handguns have an impressive reserve of ammunition, they handle recoil well, and offer real power with +P loads. For home defense, a 14- to 18-shot 9mm handgun is effective, perhaps the best all-round home-defense handgun for a trained shooter. In this test, each pistol is an example of a popular carry gun as well, with many shooters concealing a Glock 17 or even a Beretta 92FS for daily carry. Here, all had faultless reliability, which is a prerequisite for a defense firearm in our testing. We also learned the Lipsey's/Vickers Glock gave excellent results on the combat course, and the Wilson Combat-upgraded Beretta aced the field in accuracy. We trust these pistols, but only one was the best performer overall for our shooters. For certain preferences and duties, each has advantages, which we note in detail below.

All handguns tested for personal defense must be proven on the firing range. We tested two examples of upgraded service pistols. A special-run RTF texture Glock 17 from distributor Lipsey's has a Vickers Tactical package added to it, with components suggested by or supplied by well-known trainer Larry Vickers. Likewise, we tested a Beretta 92FS updated with Wilson Combat parts. The results for both are better range performance, especially when performing rapid magazine changes because each package features a magazine guide and magazine base pads.

We matched the Glock and Beretta against the new CZ P-10 C, a polymer-frame striker-fired pistol, and the Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard, which is considered by some to be an improvement over the SIG P226 9mm handgun. We had a mix of two double-action-only polymer-frame striker-fired pistols, a double-action-first-shot pistol with a decocker, and a selective-double-action pistol with decocker.

In the end, the Glock's highly advanced sights provided excellent results on the combat course. Perhaps the RTF frame was another plus. The Beretta 92 provided exceptional accuracy, which we felt was due to the improved trigger action. The CZ is an affordable and reliable handgun, and the Rex Zero is a good example of European craftsmanship. All in, it was hard to isolate a winner among these top-flight handguns with good performance. We think that most shooters will find the Glock 17 to be the best overall handgun for personal defense and home defense. Just the same, the CZ P-10 C is a good buy. Those seeking top-flight accuracy will find the Beretta to be a good fit. The Rex Zero has a quirk we did not like regarding reach to the magazine release, but the Arex is a good performer for some



These were four reliable handguns with different firing characteristics. Top row, left to right: Beretta 92FS with Wilson Combat Upgrades and the Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard. Bottom row, left to right are the Lipsey's Vicker's Tactical Glock 17 and the Best Buy of the group, the CZ-USA CZ P-10 C.

9MM LUGER RANGE DATA

Fiocchi Ammunition 147-grain JHP	Beretta 92FS Wilson Combat	Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard FDE	CZ-USA CZ P-10 C	Lipsey's Glock 17RTF2 Vickers FDE
Average Velocity	960 fps	933 fps	940 fps	973 fps
Muzzle Energy	301 ft.-lbs.	284 ft.-lbs.	288 ft.-lbs.	309 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.4 in.	1.8 in.	2.5 in.	2.8 in.
Largest Group	2.0 in.	2.2 in.	3.0 in.	3. 5 in.
Average Group Size	1.7 in.	2.0 in.	2.7 in.	3.1 in.

Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain +P JHP	Beretta 92FS Wilson Combat	Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard FDE	CZ-USA CZ P-10 C	Lipsey's Glock 17RTF2 Vickers FDE
Average Velocity	1312 fps	1280 fps	1245 fps	1299 fps
Muzzle Energy	439 ft.-lbs.	418 ft.-lbs.	396 ft.-lbs.	431 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.7 in.	2.2 in.	2.3 in.	3.0 in.
Largest Group	2.3 in.	2.7 in.	3.2 in.	3.6 in.
Average Group Size	2.0 in.	2.5 in.	2.7 in.	3.3 in.

Precision Delta PDP Pro 124-grain JHP	Beretta 92FS Wilson Combat	Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard FDE	CZ-USA CZ P-10 C	Lipsey's Glock 17RTF2 Vickers FDE
Average Velocity	1090 fps	1054 fps	1066 fps	1112 fps
Muzzle Energy	327 ft.-lbs.	306 ft.-lbs.	313 ft.-lbs.	340 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.3 in.	2.2 in.	3.0 in.	3.3 in.
Largest Group	2.0 in.	2.7 in.	3.4 in.	3.8 in.
Average Group Size	1.6 in.	2.5 in.	3.2 in.	3.5 in.

Notes: *Average velocity readings were recorded by firing five-shot strings over a Competition Electronics Pro Chrono. The muzzle was 10 feet from the first skyscreen. Ambient temperature:85 degrees. Elevation: 815 feet above sea level. The accuracy figures are the average of three five-shot groups. For accuracy, we fired the test gun from a benchrest at a 25-yard target.* ***Ammunition suppliers:*** *Precision Delta PDP Pro 124-grain jacketed hollowpoint ($394.31/1000 rounds from PrecisionDelta.com); Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain jacketed hollowpoint +P ($15.10/20 rounds from Ventura-Munitions.com); Fiocchi Ammunition 147-grain jacketed hollowpoint ($16.69/50 rounds from SportmansGuide.com).*

shooters, outperforming the Beretta in combat shooting. As usual, the devil is in the details, so here we go:

CZ-USA CZ P-10 C 91520 9mm Luger, $480

All of our prices reflect recent retail costs from online supplier SCGunCo.com. The P-10 C is CZ's effort at a polymer-frame striker-fired handgun. The P-10 C is similar in size to the Glock 19. The slide is well finished in a deeply polished blue. The pistol features well-cut slide serrations and useful forward cocking serrations. The sights are well suited for either precision fire or for fast combat shooting. They feature the popular white three-dot-sight arrangement. The sight picture is well defined. The magazine release is ambidextrous, one of two pistols with this feature in the test. The slide lock is also ambidextrous. The pistol takes down using two levers in the Glock fashion. In common with the Glock, the trigger must be released for disassembly.

The pistol features a hooked trigger guard with a generous opening for gloved-hand use. The frame is roughened just above the trigger guard to allow positioning of the finger in a safe position. The frame is comfortable in the hand and well shaped, with a slight relief on each side that offers an advantage in trigger reach. There was some discussion concerning the frame treatment. The frame is a bit rough, with sharp pyramids on the surface. More workers use typewriters than jackhammers these days, and the frame proved uncomfortable for some shooters when firing +P loads. Just the same, the frame design offered excellent stickiness when firing. It compared well to the Glock RTF frame, which has also been criticized for excess roughness.

The magazine well is beveled to allow rapid magazine changes. There are dimples on each side of the lower frame at the magazine well that aid in grasping the magazine. The steel magazine holds 15 rounds. All of the controls are within easy reach of the fingers without shifting the grip, even for small to average size hands. The trigger action is similar to other polymer-frame striker-fired handguns. The slide partially preps the striker, and pressing the trigger then breaks the striker against the sear. Trigger compression is 5.2 pounds. Reset is sharp and rapid. We liked the heft and balance.

For the firing evaluation, we first loaded the magazines with the CCI Blazer 115-grain FMJ ($12.54/50 rounds at CheaperThanDirt.com). The magazines were loaded to a full 15 rounds. The CZ P-10 C is the most compact pistol tested and the lightest. Recoil was more noticeable than the other handguns, but not excessive. The low bore axis of the CZ allows the slide to ride low over the hand, providing less leverage to create muzzle flip than the aluminum-frame handguns. The striker-fired pistol is also fast into action with a rapid reset. As a result, the combat groups were good to excellent with this pistol. Only the Glock fared slightly better. Two concerns were raised. One rater mentioned he pressed the trigger and it would not budge. He has short fingers and did not properly press the safety lever in the face of the trigger. He did not make this misstep with the Glock. This was easily addressed by training and attention to detail. One of the female raters did not like the grip treatment, and one of the male raters noted the sharp edges became tiresome in a long firing test he had performed with a different CZ P-10 C. These are individual concerns that we pass along for your information. We shot the pistol for combat groups at 7, 10, and 15 yards, for a total of 150 rounds. We used the CCI Blazer 115-grain 9mm load in this combat test ($13.73/50 rounds at CheaperThanDirt.com). Control is good and so are fast follow-up shots. Only the Glock turned in a better showing, our testers said.

Fired for accuracy, we used the Fiocchi 147-grain JHP ($16.69/50 rounds from SportsmansGuide.com), Black Hills Ammunition's 115-grain JHP +P ($15.10/20 rounds from VenturaMunitions.com), and the Precision Delta PDP Pro 124-grain JHP ($394.31/1000 rounds from PrecisionDelta.com) Firing from a solid bench rest, we produced five-shot groups for accuracy. The pistol was more accurate than the Glock 17 in this type of shooting, but it was not as accurate as either the Rex

CZ-USA CZ P-10 C 91520 9MM LUGER, $480

GUN TESTS GRADE: A- (BEST BUY)

Our local FFL had this new handgun and a used CZ P-10 C, one of the first, on hand. The backstory of the used gun was interesting. The former owner, a CZ fan, did not like the trigger. Elsewhere, the CZ P-10 C has good features, including well designed sights, a decent trigger action, and an ambidextrous slide lock and ambidextrous magazine catch. The pistol proved both reliable and controllable in rapid fire. For the shooter looking for a good defensive handgun at a fair price, consider the CZ P-10 C.



Action	Double-action only; striker fire
Overall Length	7.3 in.
Overall Height	5.25 in.
Maximum Width	1.26 in.
Weight Unloaded	26.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	30.0 oz.
Barrel	4.0 in. long; blued steel
Magazine	15-rd. detachable box
Slide	Steel
Slide-Racking Force	9.8 lbs.
Frame	Fiber-reinforced polymer; interchangeable backstraps
Frame Front Strap Height	2.5 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.6 in.
Grips	NA
Grip Thickness (max)	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.5 in.
Front Sight	Post, white dot
Rear Sight	Adjustable, two dots
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	5.2 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.7 in.
Safety	Firing pin block; trigger
Warranty	5 years
Website	CZ-USA.com
Telephone	(913) 321-1811



Above: The pistol features two spare grip inserts. We used the smaller one. Some raters complained about the texture. Below, The pistol features excellent sights.





Above: CZ's P-10 C proved to be a well-designed combat gun. One rater had short fingers and did not properly press the safety lever in the face of the trigger.

Below: Forward cocking serrations and a frame rail are part of the P-10 C design. Both are good features.



LIPSEY'S GLOCK 17RTF2 VICKERS FDE 9MM LUGER, $630

GUN TESTS GRADE: A- (OUR PICK)

This is as nice a Glock as we have handled. The pistol demonstrates the typical Glock 9mm reliability and handles much like any other Glock 17. The FDE finish is a nice touch. The advantages include the Vickers Tactical sights, which made this gun our top combat choice. The magazine guide and base pads added to the pistol's fast handling.



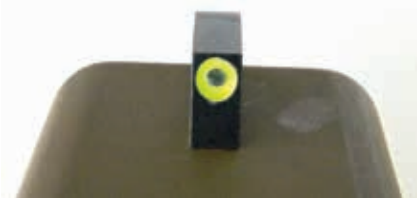
Action	Safe Action, Glock 17 Series
Overall Length	8.03 in.
Overall Height	5.1 in.
Maximum Width	1.4 in.
Weight Unloaded	25.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	32.2 oz.
Barrel Length	4.48 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	(2) 17-rd. detachable box
Slide	Steel; Flat Dark Earth Cerakote finish
Frame	Glock RTF2 Polymer; Flat Dark Earth Cerakote finish
Frame Front Strap Height	2.5 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.5 in.
Grips	NA
Grip Thickness (max)	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	6.2 in.
Front Sight	Wilson Combat Vickers Elite Battle, green tritium AmeriGlo post
Rear Sight	Wilson Combat Vickers Elite Battle, U-notch rear
Trigger Pull Weight	5.5 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.7 in.
Safety	None
Slide-Racking Force	10.6 lbs.
Warranty	1 year
Website	Lipseys.com (FFLs only)
Telephone	(225) 755-1333



The special run of Lipsey's Glock 17 Vickers Tactical pistols are great for combat, in our opinion. Lipsey's is a Baton Rouge, Louisiana-based distributor, not a retailer, which ordered a special run of Glock 17s and Glock 19s from the manufacturer. To buy this pistol, you'll need to ask an FFL to order it for you. Previous runs have sold out.



The Vickers Tactical magazine guide and base pads are well designed.



The brilliant tritium front sight, left, is a true 24-hour sight. The U Notch rear sight allows fast hits on target.

Zero or the Beretta. Still, this was the lightest handgun tested.

Our Team Said: In the end, there was much to like about the CZ's performance. The pistol is reliable, light enough for constant carry, accurate enough for most uses, and exhibits good practical accuracy. The combination of features is attractive. The pistol's frame treatment is uncomfortable for some users, but no more than the Glock rough-texture frame, most felt. Every handgun deserves attention to detail and the CZ will reward a trained shooter with good performance. Because of its price, it earned a Best Buy tag in addition to its high grade.

Lipsey's Glock 17RTF2 Vickers FDE 9mm Luger, $630

This was our price from SCGunCo.com. This is a special-order run from Lipsey's, a major firearms distributor, which began selling the Vickers-enhanced pistols in 2015. This pistol is a Flat Dark Earth (FDE) version of the Glock 17 with custom additions from trainer Larry Vickers. The fit and finish are standard Glock, very consistent and well put together. While the rough texture frame (RTF) has been discontinued in standard production, it is carried on in the Vickers Tactical Glock 17. The trigger breaks at 5.5 pounds, 0.3 pound heavier than the CZ. The grip frame is the discontinued Rough Texture Frame that is rejuvenated in this custom line. It fits the hands well, and the frame offers superior adhesion in rapid-fire strings. The pistol features a magazine well and custom basepads. This enhances rapid magazine changes and ammunition replenishment. The modification doesn't cause any problem when using stock magazines. While the RTF frame and the Vickers magazine well are good to have, the primary advantages in the Vickers Tactical Glock compared to the standard Glock 17 are the sights. The Vickers sights are a special U-notch rear and tritium-dot front. The rear sight is nicely serrated on the rear face to cut down on glare, and the front sight offers a bright, round, green aiming point. These sights proved to be a great advantage during combat

shooting, and they would be the best choice for personal defense, we all felt. The slide lock and magazine catch are not ambidextrous, so that's an issue for lefties. The pistol is well balanced and fits the hand well. The pistol was supplied with an extended magazine release and slide lock in the box, but we did not use these because the gun was well set up as it was.

In firing tests, we began with the Blazer 9mm ammo and found the Glock provided the best results of any of the handguns tested regarding rapid sight acquisition and combat firing. In combat drills, the weight of the Glock provided a better platform for recoil control, and the pistol fared better in combat shooting than the CZ P-10 C, we believe. The Glock also beat the other handguns in combat drills, in particular the rapid trigger reset and easy control. Conversely, in benchrest accuracy, the Glock was the least accurate handgun tested. Using every advantage and using the Bullshooters pistol rest in the final set, the Glock was acceptably accurate, but that is all. Just the same, the pistol was accurate enough for defense use. The sights, intended for fast hits at combat range, played against us in precision fire.

Our Team Said: We rated the Glock down a grade on accuracy and frame roughness because some of the raters did not like the grip texturing. If price is not a consideration, then this pistol is Our Pick for defense use in this test.

Beretta 92FS w/ Wilson Combat Upgrades 9mm Luger, $550 used

We bought this gun used from SCGunCo.com for the price shown. This Beretta isn't to be confused with the Beretta Brigadier-type handgun offered by Wilson Combat. This isn't a Wilson Combat pistol, but is instead a 92FS that was upgraded by an unknown previous owner with judicious choices of Wilson Combat parts. We attempted to value the parts package by pricing the components at Brownells.com. Those parts included Wilson Combat upgrades, as follows:

BERETTA 92FS W/WILSON COMBAT UPGRADES 9MM LUGER, $550

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The Beretta is smooth, well finished, and the most accurate handgun tested. Energy and velocity are also the highest. The double-action first-shot trigger was the smoothest Beretta we have tested and among the best double-action triggers ever tested, due to the addition of Wilson Combat springs. A grip circumference of over 6 inches did not fit all shooters well. The grip and high bore axis worked against the pistol in combat shooting.



Action	Double action first shot; open-slide, short-recoil delayed locking-block system
Overall Length	8.5 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	34.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	40.0 oz.
Barrel Length	4.9 in. long; Bruniton-finish steel
Magazine	15/17-rd. detachable box; reversible magazine release
Slide	Bruniton-finish steel; open top
Frame	Anodized aluminum alloy
Frame Front Strap Height	2.2 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.2 in.
Grips	G10 VZ Grip
Grip Thickness (max)	1.4 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	6.1 in.
Sights	Fixed
Trigger pull weight Double Action	9.0 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	4.0 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.6 in.
Safety	Decocker
Slide-Racking Force	8.5 lbs.
Warranty	None
Website	Beretta.com
Telephone	(800) Beretta



Left: The Beretta 92 turned in a good performance with Wilson Combat upgrades. Fired offhand, the Beretta was the most comfortable pistol to use.



We liked the Wilson Combat magazine guide.



Above: The Beretta extended magazine release was positive in operation.



Above: The Beretta front post isn't very large, but it turned in excellent accuracy results.

AREX REX ZERO 1 STANDARD FDE 9MM LUGER, $634

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

Fit, finish, and an absence of internal tool marks told us that the pistol is built to high European standards. The sights are good; we like the forward cocking serrations, the ambi safety, and the easy takedown. We believe the dual-function slide lock and decocker is an improvement over the SIG P series the pistol is modeled after. The double-action trigger was also heavier than we liked.



Action	Double-action first shot; modified Browning short recoil
Overall Length	7.7 in.
Overall Height	5.7 in.
Maximum Width	1.35 in.
Weight Unloaded	29.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	35.0 oz.
Barrel	4.25 in. long; chrome-moly steel; loaded chamber indicator; nitro-carburized finish
Magazine	17-rd. detachable box
Slide	Chrome-moly steel; nitro-carburized finish
Frame	7075 aluminum alloy; hard-anodized finish; MIL-STD 1913 accessory rail
Frame Front Strap Height	2.8 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.6 in.
Grips	Plastic
Grip Thickness (max)	1.3 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.8 in.
Sights	Fixed
Trigger Pull Weight Double Action	12.5 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	4.2 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.65 in.
Safety	Firing pin catch
Force to rack slide	10.2 lbs
Warranty	Lifetime
Website	FIMEGroup.com
Telephone	(702) 215-3600



The Rex Zero exhibited good quality. Our pistol is a FDE frame-finish variant. The primary advantage of the Arex Rex Zero 1 is in the combination controls. Also, the Rex Zero incorporates a light rail into the frame.



With the Arex, there is no slide lock on the upper frame in SIG fashion. The decocker, arrow, is also the slide lock. With the slide locked to the rear, the decocker lever is pressed to lower the slide. Another press decocks the hammer.



The Rex Zero proved to be accurate and reliable. The Rex Zero came on target quickly. Fired offhand, the Rex Zero was accurate and fast handling.

Wilson Combat action springs tune kit, $14.95; Wilson Combat safety low profile, single, $41.95; Wilson Combat magazine release, $41.95; Wilson Combat magazine guide $49.95; and a VZ Grip, $75. That's a total of $223.80 in upgrades, and the pistol came with one 15-round and two 17-round MecGar magazines, making this Beretta a very good buy.

The Beretta 92 is well finished, with a nice blue metal tone. There were no tool marks. The sights are three-dot types with good visibility in most situations. The traditional open-top slide is a Beretta trademark. While touted for reliability, lightening the slide confers other advantages in a gun this size, such as gross weight reduction.

The Beretta takedown is easier than the Glock. The Beretta has a higher bore axis than the Glock or the CZ pistol, and this was a factor in combat shooting. The Beretta features a combination safety/decocker. If a manual safety is important to you, then this pistol and the Rex Zero are contenders. However, you give up an ambidextrous safety by adding the Wilson Combat safety. Some like the look of the pistol better without the ambi safety. The Beretta is a large handgun, and hand fit is an issue, but the raters managed to do good work with it anyway. The pistol's trigger action was very nice, a result of careful tuning perhaps, or simply dropping in the Wilson Combat spring kit. The trigger breaks at 9 pounds in double-action mode and a smooth and crisp 4 pounds in the single action. The VZ grips aided in adhesion without causing abrasion. The extended magazine well was an aid in rapidly changing magazines without a misstep. We rated the Glock and the Beretta even in this regard and really liked the addition. Coupled with the Wilson Combat speed magazine latch, the pistol was very fast and smooth to operate. The Beretta is easy to control, with little muzzle flip. It was the most comfortable pistol to fire with all loads. The Beretta is also the heaviest gun tested, and this weight

VALUE GUIDE: RECENT 9MM HANDGUN RANKINGS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 11537 9mm Luger, $599	Dec. 2017	A	The M&P9 M2.0 is a refined striker-fire pistol with a crisp trigger, excellent grips, and good accuracy.
Springfield Armory XD MOD.2 4-In. Service 9mm Luger, $565	Dec. 2017	A-	An easy to shoot pistol due to the fiber-optic front sight, the thin, textured grip, and consistent trigger.
Ruger American Pro Duty 8605 9mm Luger, $579	Dec. 2017	B+	The American is quite capable and ran well with good accuracy. The grip inserts gave some trouble.
Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG) 3300168 9mm Luger, $659	Oct. 2017	A	The laser grip complements the large sights on this micro pistol. Edges are smooth for concealed carry.
SIG Sauer P938 Emperor Scorpion 9mm Luger, $639	Oct. 2017	A	With large sights, a crisp trigger and toothy grips, this pistol was easy to shoot and control.
Springfield Armory XD-E 3.3 XDE9339BE 9mm Luger, $519	Oct. 2017	B	Trigger geometry took some getting used to. Decocker was hard to manipulate in firing position.
Walther PPS M2 2805961 9mm Luger, $451	Sept. 2017	A	The Walther PPS M2 is a class act. It was the most expensive pistol tested, but it earned an A anyway.
Smith & Wesson M&P9 Shield 180021 9mm Luger, $394	Sept. 2017	A	Best Buy. Well designed grip checkering, good sights, a decent trigger action, and good reliability.
Glock 43 Subcompact Slimline G43 PI4350201 9mm Luger, $445	Sept. 2017	B	Accurate enough for personal defense, reliable, and fast handling.
Honor Defense Honor Guard Sub-Comp. HG9SC 9mm Luger, $449	Sept. 2017	B	The only defect was the problematic slide lock, which we found far too heavy to operate quickly.
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.

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
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.
CZ 75 B Matte Stainless 91128 9mm Luger, $500 used	Jan. 2017	A	Superb fit and finish. Handling is better than the Taurus and at least equal to the AT-84.
Action Arms/ITM AT-84S 9mm Luger, $450 used	Jan. 2017	B	The AT-84 is as desirable as any other CZ 75 of the era, and the excellent sights make it a fine shooter.
Taurus PT 92 AF 92B-17 9mm Luger, $360 used	Jan. 2017	C	Performed decently for the price, but we had reservations. Accuracy was poor with some loads.
Steyr S9-A1 9mm Luger, $483	Nov. 2016	A	Best Buy. Performance was good by any standard. The trapezoidal sights take some getting used to.
CZ-USA 2075 Rami B 91750 9mm Luger, $530	Nov. 2016	B	A reliable and accurate pistol. Most will prefer a decocker lever, and such a model is available.
Glock G43 Proglo Talo Edition UI4350501 9mm Luger, $489	Nov. 2016	B	The best thing about the Glock was the addition of AmeriGlo sights for combat shooting.
SIG Sauer P320 Carry 320CA-9-BSS9mm Luger, $550	Nov. 2016	A	The P226 MK25 is a professional-grade tool. Less-than-stellar accuracy was a surprise.
Arsenal Firearms AF1 Strike One AWP 9mm Luger, $750	Nov. 2016	B	The Strike One is effective for those it fit. Graded it down a notch because of flaws in the finish.
Beretta M9A3 JS92M9A3M 9mm Luger, $1099	Nov. 2016	B	Worked well for shooters with larger hands, and it was fast in speed drills. Not that accurate.
SIG Sauer P210 Legend 210-9-Legend 9mm Luger, $2000	Nov. 2016	B	The nicest-looking and most finely built pistol in the test. However, you will have to pay a premium for it.
SIG Sauer P226 MK-25 9mm Luger, $1000	Nov. 2016	B	The P226 MK25 is a professional-grade tool. Less-than-stellar accuracy was a surprise.
Masterpiece Arms Defender MPA30DMG 9mm Luger, $680	Oct. 2016	A-	Best Buy. Enjoyable to use and handle. Good practical accuracy. Reliable with a range of ammo.
SIG Sauer MPX-P 9mm Luger, $1700	Oct. 2016	B	Heaviest and most expensive of the pistols tested. Suffered a malfunction with subsonic ammo.

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also limits muzzle flip. In the combat-firing test, the Beretta turned in credible results, but it was behind the other three pistols when firing for maximum speed. We fired using the double-action trigger at 7 yards to begin the test. Results were better than the Rex Zero and behind the polymer-frame handguns. Moving to 10 and 15 yards, we found the Rex Zero turned in tighter combat groups. However, firing the three accuracy loads from the benchrest was a surprise. The Beretta turned in excellent groups. The smallest groups were just over an inch and a half. One of the raters summed it up: "If I were in a fight with a takeover gang, the Glock is the best choice. I can get hits on multiple targets quickly. If a shooter is behind cover at 20 yards and the only target is tiny, the Beretta gives me an advantage." The Beretta is clearly a very accurate handgun.

Our Team Said: The Beretta was rated an A initially; however, brainstorming addressed practical considerations, and its less competitive combat-shooting ability compared to the higher-ranked guns had to be accounted for. The pistol also doesn't have a provision for a light rail. As purchased, this is a good buy, and the pistol is certain to fill a real need for someone.

Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard FDE 9mm Luger, $634

The Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard is a service-size 9mm handgun that bears a great deal of resemblance to the SIG P226R. The company that manufactures the Rex Zero is located in Slovenia and has a reputation for producing military-grade gear. The Rex Zero is a conventional locked-breech handgun that butts the barrel hood into the ejection port for lock up and uses an angled locking wedge for unlocking. The pistol is a double-action-first-shot handgun. The handgun type with a manual safety to complement the decocker is often referred to as a selective double action. The Rex Zero transfers energy to the hammer by means of an internal drawbar versus the Beretta's Walther P38-derived drawbar located on the right side of the frame. The double-action first shot is heavy at about 15 pounds versus 9 pounds for the Beretta. The single-action trigger is light enough at 4.25 pounds with the typical slower reset of the SIG-type pistols. The slide is well machined, with useful forward cocking serrations. The sights are good service-grade units with three-dot white inserts. We found the sights were well designed and well regulated for 124-grain loads. The hammer and trigger are conventional designs. We liked the wide, smooth trigger face.

The grips are indented for better trigger reach. The pistol is more comfortable for most hand sizes than the Beretta 92, despite a similar circumference. The primary difference in the pistol's layout and the SIG P226 is in the controls. The magazine release is ambidextrous. Some of the raters were unable to actuate the magazine release from the firing position using the firing-hand thumb. All were able to hit the release properly using the firing-hand trigger finger; others had to shift the grip to reach the magazine release. So, it can be done, but only by using a different manual of arms. The forefinger activation is the preferred drill and is superior, we believe, to shifting the grip.

In the other controls we find improvements to the SIG P Series. The most interesting is the combination slide lock and decocker. The SIG, it has been noted, is subject to the student riding his thumb on the slide lock, and as a result, the pistol does not lock open on the last shot. With the Arex design, there is no slide lock on the upper frame in SIG fashion. The decocker is also the slide lock. With the slide locked to the rear, the decocker lever is pressed to lower the slide. Another press decocks the hammer. We used the lever quite a lot and attempted to produce a malfunction, such as dropping the slide and the hammer simultaneously, but were unable to do so. The combination lever is a viable improvement and works as designed.

The Rex Zero also incorporates a safety into the design. Located in the spot that normally is occupied by a slide lock, this safety allows carrying the pistol hammer to the rear and safety on or hammer down and safety on. You may choose not to engage the safety as well. It isn't cocked and locked carry by definition, as the slide isn't locked by the safety. We feel the value of this safety is in tactical movement. When you have fired and then you are moving, you would have to decock a conventional Beretta or SIG-type pistol to make it safe. Not so with the Rex Zero (and the CZ-75 among a few others). Simply apply the safety, and then take the safety off when you are ready to fire.

The test pistol was supplied in a flat dark earth finish. There is a rail for mounting combat lights, a big plus over the Beretta and an equal feature found on the polymer-frame handguns. The frame serrations and grip treatment allow for adequate abrasion and adhesion when firing. The pistol is supplied with two magazines.

During the range drills, we used the Blazer 115-grain FMJ loads. The pistol was drawn and fired at combat ranges. The long and heavy double-action trigger allowed a straight-through trigger press, but it was harder to manage than the Beretta. The Rex Zero suffered in making first-shot hits compared to the Beretta. However, in the single-action mode, the heft, balance, hand fit, and control were superior to the Beretta. The difference was such that the Rex Zero gave a better showing, overall, than the Beretta. In benchrest fire, the single-action trigger was controllable and the sights were clean and crisp, leading to the Arex being more accurate than the Glock or the CZ P-10 C. The Beretta, however, was considerably more accurate with all loads.

Our Team Said: Once we mastered the reloading technique necessary to change magazines quickly, the Rex Zero was a capable combat pistol. We rated the pistol down a half grade based on the need to adopt a non-conventional manual of arms for reloading and another half grade based on the heavy double-action trigger.

Written and photographed by Gun Tests *staff.* **GT**

Alternate Bolt-Release Levers for the AR-15: We Test Three

Tested: The $29 Troy Industries Ambidextrous Bolt Release, the $30 Magpul BAD Lever, and the $80 BattleBar from Smith Tactics. Our call? It's a coin flip between Troy and Magpul.

When it comes to ambidextrous capabilities, the AR platform still lags behind the modern semi-automatic pistol. How would ambidextrous controls make the AR-15/AR-10 more desirable? One easy answer is to accommodate the left-handed shooter. Another reason would be to help keep the weapon in the fight should the operator be left with only one available hand. Ambidextrous thumb safeties are somewhat popular, and so are magazine releases, but to a lesser extent. The focus of this evaluation is to compare three different aftermarket products that offer a secondary method for releasing the bolt of the AR-15 or AR-10 rifle. They are the $30 Magpul BAD Lever, the $29 Troy Ambidextrous Bolt Release Lever, and the $80 BattleBar from Smith Tactics. Neither the Magpul or the Troy Industries units required disassembly beyond separating the upper and lower ends of the rifle. The BattleBar required replacement of the hammer and trigger pins with supplied components. All three units were made from aluminum.

Protocol for loading the AR-15 begins with pushing the magazine upward into the magazine well until it clicks then tugging on the magazine to make sure it is seated. Next, the bolt release is pressed to bring the gun into battery. Mounted on the left-hand side of the receiver directly above the magazine well, the release is the upper portion of the combination bolt-lock and









Above are the various components for the bolt-release systems. Left is the $29 Troy Industries Ambidextrous Bolt Release; center is the $30 Magpul BAD Lever; and right is the $80 BattleBar from Smith Tactics. In the installed images at right, top to bottom are the Troy, Magpul, and Smith units. The Magpul and Troy Industries products simply attached to the existing bolt release paddle. So did the BattleBar, but it also required an exchange of trigger and hammer pins with the supplied components.

release lever that pivots with a seesaw motion on a centralized roll pin. Throughout this entire process, the strong hand remains in place, supporting the rifle and maintaining access to the trigger and thumb safety.

By adding any one of our test products, the operator can save some time by moving the hand directly to the support position after seating the magazine. This may seem like a minor consideration, but experienced AR operators point to instances wherein the support hand is needed to push open a door or the shooter needs to fire immediately after completing a reload. Also, participants in High Power Service Rifle competition can use this feature when top-loading single rounds is mandatory. Placing a round into the chamber and closing the bolt with the strong hand is a lot easier than untangling a gloved support hand from a sling. For tests, all three components were mounted on multiple rifles to check fit and function. Let's see how efficiently the three bolt-release levers operated.





The Magpul BAD lever appears to take up less space inside the trigger guard than the Troy Industries unit, but only when the bolt was locked back (left). When a threat is imminent and the rifle is in battery, as shown at right with the lever down, we'd rather have a clearer path to the trigger.





One advantage of the Troy unit over the Magpul BAD lever, in our view, was that it took the same position, and therefore the same amount of space inside the trigger guard, whether the rifle was in battery, left, or the bolt was locked back and the action open, right.



The BattleBar extended leverage from the existing release lever to a paddle seated just above the thumb safety. We thought making the bolt release available to the strong-hand thumb would allow us to operate without changing our firing grip. But the action proved difficult to engage and the edges were uncomfortable to the touch. Perhaps wearing gloves would make a difference, but in our view, the angle of the pad did not supply enough leverage to be efficient.

Magpul Industries BAD Lever, $30

The Magpul BAD lever was an L-shaped device that clamped over the bolt-release pad in what could be referred to as a "clam shell" pattern. One Torx-head screw was used to secure the unit. The lever ran down along the left side of the receiver and poked through the trigger guard to the right-hand side. A slight angle was added to keep the lever tucked in against the forward most arc of the trigger guard. The operator could release the bolt by pushing from right to left or by pushing downward on the paddle. Either way, operation was crisp and sure. We did notice that once the bolt was released, the contact point rode lower inside the trigger guard.

Our Team Said: The single attachment screw was robust and did a good job of keeping the BAD Lever attached. A small amount of blue LocTite was visible in the threads of the screw, and we would recommend making sure it stayed in place. We liked the way the lever hugged the upper interior of the trigger guard when the bolt was back. We were not so pleased because, when the bolt was in battery, the BAD Lever took up additional space. The BAD Lever was otherwise foolproof.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

Troy Industries Ambidextrous Bolt Release, $29

Like the Magpul BAD lever, the Troy Industries Ambidextrous Bolt Release mounts via a clamshell covering the release lever. The Troy's extension drops down just a little lower than does the BAD and makes a 90-degree turn to bring its control pad to the right-hand side of the receiver. The Troy lever prefers to be pushed crossways from right to left rather than pressed downward. The Troy unit was a little heavier-made than the Magpul unit and utilized a flat-head screw as well as a small Allen screw to lock it into place. Nevertheless, there was a small amount of play as the unit could be rotated forward and back even when tightened down. But there was an extra groove where the two parts meshed to surround the release paddle that helped keep the unit attached. We proved this by not securing the screws with LocTite. After about 500 rounds, the lever was loose and freely rotating on the release paddle. But it never came off the gun. We used LocTite and torqued



The gauge of the BAD Lever's single mounting screw contributed to a rock-solid connection with the bolt-release paddle.



The Troy ambidextrous release connected with an Allen screw (top arrow) on the outer surface and a flat-head screw facing the interior of the action (bottom arrow). A secondary groove in its "clamshell" helped the unit stay in place, even if the screws worked loose. The Troy unit also provided leverage points, designated with horizontal lines, to assist in setting the bolt in the locked position as well as applying pressure for a left-hand-side release.

down the screws. About 800 rounds later, it's still holding strong. If the control point of the Troy unit is ever so slightly larger, it did not change its position inside the trigger guard whether the bolt was locked back or in battery.

Our Team Said: We had hesitated to use LocTite at first because the flat-head screw offered a shallow slot that we would probably strip if we had to remove it or tighten further if the adhesive were in place. But the only way to securely mount the Troy was to use plenty of LocTite, even if there was still a little bit of play. In use we like the way the lever returned to the same position. Overall it seemed more substantial than the BAD Lever. Ultimately we were split on choosing the BAD over the Troy. They both proved effective when properly attached. The decision to mount either of these components might rely more on your willingness to give up space inside the trigger guard rather than on which unit was better than the other.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Smith Tactics BattleBar, $80

The BattleBar from Smith Tactics does not make the AR-15 ambidextrous per se, but was designed to allow the operator to close the bolt without using the left hand or removing the strong hand from the grip. Instead of providing right-side access to the bolt release via a crossing lever, the BattleBar essentially moves the release paddle from it actual position to a point directly above the thumb safety.

The BattleBar mounts to the left-hand side by first applying a bracket to the receiver that is held in place by the hammer pin and the trigger pin. Threaded locking pins are supplied to replace the standard pins, the caps of which are Allen screws that serve to hold the bracket in place. A gasket was supplied to provide a backing between the bracket and the receiver body. The BattleBar itself consisted of a paddle that fits over the original release paddle on the forward end and is connected to a plate that extends parallel to the receiver with a matching release paddle on the rearward end. There's a roll pin that slips into a fitting at the forward end of the bracket. The rearward end of the BattleBar is seated inside the fitting at the opposite end by inserting an Allen screw, thereby creating an axle on which the unit rotates. As with each of our alternative bolt-release units, the original lever remains operational. The BattleBar the thumb safety was still accessible (and functional), but the selector arrow was partially obscured.

Installation was no more difficult than replacing the trigger and hammer pins. We tried the BattleBar on MilSpec rifles from DPMS, Palmetto State Armory, Anderson Arms, and Noveske. The BattleBar worked on each one, but the amount of force needed to press the paddle and release the bolt was heavier than we would have liked. We also thought the edges of the paddle were unnecessarily sharp, leading to discomfort. The contact point offering the most leverage was at its rearmost edge, causing us to open our shooting grip substantially. Gripping the handguard to help get more pressure on the bolt release took away the advantage of one-handed operation. In terms of mounting, we found a slight gap, about a sixteenth of an inch, between the BattleBar and the receiver on each rifle. We found that the smaller the gap, the less effort was required to release the bolt. To see if our BattleBar was out of spec, we ordered a second unit from Brownells.com. This second unit mounted closer to the receiver and seemed to rotate more freely. Nevertheless, the amount of force necessary to release the bolt was just as excessive and the results were the same.

Our Team Said: The BattleBar did offer a secondary method of releasing the bolt, but the amount of effort was excessive. To compensate, the operator was forced to change the strong-hand grip to the point where any advantage of single-hand operation and a quick return to fire was lost.

GUN TESTS GRADE: C

Written and photographed by Roger Eckstine. **GT**

Revolver Holsters: Balancing Comfort, Speed, and Retention

Garrity's Gunleather, DM Bullard, Jeffrey Custom Leather, Wright Leatherworks, Tauris Holsters, Barber Leather Works, Jason Winnie, and Lobo Gun Leather all craft top-rated carry products.

Revolvers remain an important part of the personal defense scene. In some shops, the majority of handguns sold for personal defense are revolvers, usually small-frame 38s and compact 357 Magnum revolvers. The 357 Magnum remains a popular handgun among a large and loyal group, such as for outdoors carry and animal defense. Still other shooters deploy big-bore revolvers in 44 Special and 45 Colt chamberings. In all these cases, the shooter has to have a good holster to carry these handguns.

The design of a holster is important, and there are features specific to the revolver. A high ride keeps the revolver cylinder off the belt line. The revolver handle must be tilted into the draw, so the cant of the holster is important. The holster must retain a balance of speed and retention. The revolver cylinder presents a problem with concealment. The cylinder bulge inhibits the design of an inside-the-waistband holster, as an example. If the cylinder bulge rides below the belt line too much, the draw is affected. One of our senior raters noted that in the early days of police transition to the self-loader handgun, many of the holsters offered were simply revolver holsters without the cylinder bulge. The difference in balance and center of gravity wasn't understood or tended to.

In this evaluation, we considered that the modern revolver holster should be an individual design. Our focus is on concealed carry, with consideration given how revolvers might be used in the field. We tested a number of holsters from major makers and found them satisfactory to excellent in fit and function.

The fit of the holster should be sufficient that the revolver may be carried during normal day-to-day movement, even a brisk walk or run, with no danger of losing the handgun from the holster. The holster should allow a good sharp draw. After the revolver is drawn, the holster must not collapse, and the user should be able to re-holster the handgun without difficulty. Here's what we found:

Alien Gear Cloak Tuck IWB, $29.88

This was our price at AlienGear.com. The first thing we noticed when we unwrapped the holster was a genuine leather smell. The backing is leather, and the Cloak Tuck features a Neoprene backing that works well to insulate the holster from the body. The cylinder sits against this backing during normal wear, and the result is a long curve rather than a sharp protrusion of the cylinder into the body. The plastic portion of the holster is a very good fit. It was molded for the Ruger SP101. The fit on the trigger guard gave the holster excellent retention. The tilt is what we used to call the FBI tilt, and this is ideal for a rapid presentation from leather. This is also called a rear rake because the barrel is tilted to the rear. The holster is supplied with an extensive hardware kit that allows a range of adjustment. The balance of speed and retention are excellent. Speed out of the holster was good, and when wearing the holster, we found the Cloak Tuck was as comfortable as a load-bearing device may be. The foot print is larger than traditional IWB holsters, but the fit and speed are excellent. We rated it down a grade because of its large footprint.







For $30, the Alien Gear hybrid IWB represents a good value, and it offers good-to-excellent adjustment. It is a comfortable holster, but that comfort comes at the expense of a wide footprint.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

Garrity's Gunleather IWB Standard Holster $90; Options, $30

Order this at GarritysGunLeather.com. Garrity's IWB holster featured a tight fit on the Smith & Wesson 442 used for testing. The Garrity's IWB holds the revolver tightly and does not collapse when the revolver is drawn. The reinforced holstering welt is strong and keeps the holster mouth open and helps keep the revolver secure

in the holster. The edging, where the halves of the holster are stitched or glued together, is very well done. This IWB demands a break-in period because the fit is very tight. At least 50 draws will be needed before you begin carrying this holster, per our experience. Once broken-in, the holster is very fast on the draw. We normally prefer dual belt loops, but this is a compact design for a small revolver. The belt loop allows a range of adjustment for rake or cant by use of a set screw in the attachment of the belt loop/snap to the holster body. This is a solid choice for concealed carry.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Galco Carry Lite, $35.95

We purchased this at Galco.com. The Carry Lite is a mass-produced holster often found on the shelves at larger stores. The construction is adequate, and the holster will accept a few revolvers in a certain range. It is not a fit-them-all holster, but it will accept, as an example, a Ruger LCR 357 Magnum and the Ruger SP101 in one size range and in another size range, a 2.5-inch-barrel S&W Model 19 and a Charter Arms Bulldog. The holster features a positive thumb snap for retention, an interesting features because more than a few agencies require all off-duty holsters to have a thumb break, so this one fits that criteria. The belt clip is properly positioned for concealed carry, holding the revolver at the proper angle. The revolver cylinder rides high on the belt. Some do not like a thumb break because it slows down the draw, but this break is easily removed as the revolver is drawn. However, the user must practice with the thumb break. The thumb break is secure, and it falls under the thumb easily, and the thumb break itself is reinforced. The holster is adequately molded, but some effort is required to re-holster. Still, the Carry Lite isn't as tightly molded as some of the holsters tested, so we rated it down a grade. Choosing between this holster and the Alien Gear holster will be a hard choice for some, but we would point out the Carry Lite has a smaller footprint than hybrid holsters at 4.5 inches versus 9.5 inches. We like the Carry Lite because it puts a good, but affordable, holster in the hands of many shooters.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

Tagua Gunleather Paddle Holster, $34.95

We bought this at an Academy Sports store. The holsters are also available at TaguaGunLeather.com. One of our raters carries a Smith & Wesson 442 as his daily carry revolver and the larger Smith & Wesson 360 when circumstances permit. The larger 38 Special features an exposed hammer for single-action fire and a larger grip. It is the more accurate, if larger revolver. The paddle holster is a good fit for the J-frame revolver. Retention is good, but it isn't as tight as some of the other holsters. The paddle is stabilized in the inside of the pants by a stub on the paddle. The plastic paddle is quite thin. At some shops on line, this holster is advertised as a fast-

Garrity's IWB holster offers excellent fit. It has a narrow footprint and excellent retention. The Garrity's IWB is well finished with excellent stitching.



We believe the Galco Carry Lite offers a good value in off-the-shelf leather. The Galco's reinforced thumb break offers good retention.





The Tagua paddle holster is affordable, but we felt that retention should have been better. The Tagua belt paddle was too thin for hard use, in our opinion.

draw holster. It is, in fact, very fast. This is because the holster is offset from the body. This affords an excellent draw angle. The leather fitting and finish aren't custom grade, but we got our money's worth. Also, the holster is a fair field holster, but we would prefer something more secure when hiking. We graded the holster down a half notch on retention and another half notch on concealment. We rated it down another half grade on the thin paddle. The holster is as concealable as any other paddle holster, but the offset makes this holster less desirable for concealed carry, in our view.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B-

DM Bullard Combat Holster,$85

This is available from DMBullardLeather.com. The DM Bullard Combat holster was ordered for a 3-inch-barrel GP100 44 Special. A surprising number of revolver shooters carry a large revolver such as this one. It isn't

difficult to hide under a concealed-carry vest with the proper drape. With a short barrel and heavy frame, the weight is in the handle, which the holster must accommodate or the rig won't be balanced properly. The Combat holster offers a relatively flat pancake type design. The belt loops hold the handgun and holster tight against the belt line. The holster allows a good sharp draw. Retention is good. The lip of the holstering mouth is slightly flared. Although the holster mouth doesn't collapse on drawing, this lip makes for faster reholstering. The holster is double stitched, an important consideration when you are carrying a heavy revolver. This DM Bullard Combat unit is a good example of an all-round serviceable holster. We also tested an example with the optional basketweave finish. Results were the same. If you like the basketweave cosmetics, go right ahead and buy that one and pay the added expense.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Jeffrey Custom Leather R1 Ranger, $155

Order this at JeffreyCustomLeather.com. The Ranger is a unique high-ride holster designed for maximum concealment as a belt holster. This holster was ordered for a 4-inch-barrel Ruger GP100. It takes a good-quality leather holster to keep such a heavy revolver secure. The Ranger is supplied with a full leather lining and molded sight channel. These are options with some custom holsters, and they are time consuming and make the holster more expensive. We find the sight channel makes for a real speed on the draw when the handgun has high-visibility sights. The leather lining is nice to have, but is not demanded for concealed carry. The holster is also supplied with a body shield. The Ranger rides very close to the body with the belt properly tightened, and the holster features a high ride and forward cant. When wearing the Ranger R1 with a heavy revolver, we found it to be one of the most comfortable holsters tested. While expensive, this holster delivers your money's worth.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Wright Leather Works Banshee IWB, $108

This is available from WrightLeatherWorks.com. The Banshee IWB was molded for the S&W J-frame 38 Special. This holster may appear worn because it has been in service for many months with one of the raters. This holster spreads the weight of the handgun out along the body of the holster. We like the dual belt-loop design. These snaps keep the holster secure. The gun handle rides above the belt line, allowing a good draw. Retention is good, and the holster mouth is reinforced to prevent the holster collapsing on the draw. The loops are adjustable for ride; the carrier can choose either low ride or high ride inside the pants, and the cant and rake may be adjusted to an extent by using these options. If you are going to spend money on a custom-grade holster, this one gives you many options.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A







The DM Bullard Combat holster is a good design for overall comfort. Basketweave, right, is a nice cosmetic choice, but isn't necessary. The holstering lip of the DM Bullard holster isn't obtrusive and it offers a fast reholster. The double stitching on the DM Bullard holsters is first class. Hard use takes its toll, so we like double stitching.



The Jeffrey Custom Leather Ranger R1 is an excellent design that works well for concealment under a vest or long coat. The Jeffrey Custom Leather R1 rides close to the body. The ride is high and the draw sharp. A holster of this design must have excellent stitching, which is apparent.



The Wright Leather Works Banshee is compact and rides close to the body. Dual belt loops offer excellent support and adjustment opportunities.

Tauris Holsters Semi High Ride (Practical Carry), $150

The price listed above is for the standard holster at TaurisHolsters.com. The unit we tested has options on it that ran the price up to $225. This is a standard semi-high-ride in most particulars, but we added two options. The first is a retention screw, which was an affordable upgrade at $15, and the second, shark trim, at $60, which was a vanity. This makes for an expensive holster at $225, but it comes out to be a flawless custom holster as well. Sharkskin is practically scuff proof and is very durable. Just the same, most users may not need shark-trimmed leather. The retention screw allows adjusting the tightness of the holster and also will serve to tighten the leather many months from now when the holster becomes worn. The Semi High Ride holster may be ordered in crossdraw for no extra charge, and the choice of cant includes muzzle back, muzzle forward, and muzzle vertical. The FBI tilt is a good all-round cant that we usually specify so that a number of raters may evaluate the same holster. The Tauris holster shows an ideal balance of speed and retention. Speed is good, even faster than the Tagua paddle, but with much better retention. The black finish is less likely to flash "gun" if the user inadvertently exposes the handgun. The break-in period was modest.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Barber Leather Works Pancake Holster, $110

We ordered this holster with no frills; it is simply the standard version from BarberLeatherWorks.com. This is a highly developed pancake type. The original pancake holster set off a revolution in holster design, but the original tended to allow the holster to collapse and did not offer the best retention.

The Barber Leather Works holster is tightly molded to the individual firearm, in this case a Ruger SP101. The belt loops are properly spaced for a rear rake (the muzzle faces to the rear) and forward tilt (the handle is tilted forward) for a rapid draw. The holster body is defined apart from the pancake holster by double stitching. This double stitching keeps the handgun secure and tight against the holster body itself. There is a holstering welt that keeps tension on the cylinder and also prevents the holster from collapsing. Because we did not order a contrasting holstering welt, it isn't obvious from the photos, but the welt definitely keeps the handgun secure. The fit is very tight, and this holster demands a break-in period. But once that break-in is done, the combination of fit and design makes for a very fast holster that provides excellent retention. The IWB holster is great for concealed carry, but it gives up something in speed and simplicity to the pancake.

This is a close-riding holster that may be concealed by a properly draped sport shirt or a carry vest, and the footprint is minimal for easy hiding when out in public.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A



A snubnose 38 revolver with hand-filling grips comes out very fast from the Tauris high-ride holster. Finish of the Tauris Semi High Ride was impeccable, and the retention screw is desirable.





The black Barber Leather Works pancake offers low-key concealment. The ride is high and stitching excellent. The holstering welt offers plenty of retention. Note the double stitching around the belt loop. This ensures a tight fit and excellent retention in all situations.

GunMate Hip Holster, $14

We bought this at an Academy Sports store, but it's also offered at many other outlets. This holster is the least expensive tested and was included both on that basis and on the basis of popularity. The clerk at the gun section of a super store told us that half the people purchasing a revolver buy this holster or one very similar. Compared to the formless-floppy-no-shape holsters also on the rack for $7 to $10, the GunMate holster is okay for range work. We may stop short of calling the formless rigs dangerous, but we believe that they are unsuited to personal defense. The GunMate was an incremental step up. The GunMate holster has a closed bottom. There is a type of edging sewn around the fabric body. The holster is supplied with a long plastic component and a shorter fabric component to act as a thumb break. There is a single spring-steel belt clip applied. It allows both left- and right-hand configuration. We have seen shooters show up for a personal-defense class with the holster worn improperly on the belt by using the IWB belt clip and wearing the holster on the belt as an OWB. It isn't difficult to change the plastic component left to right for the thumb break, but it is very difficult to change the spring-steel clip. Some raters found it frustrating. One bent the steel clip out of shape. When worn as a strong-side holster, there is little retention and

the thumb break must be used to retain the revolver. The holster is a loose fit. But the thumb break is very stiff, and it is difficult to move the thumb break on the draw. When used as an IWB, body compression holds the revolver to an extent, but the poor fit doesn't give the user much retention.

GUN TESTS GRADE: F (BELT HOLSTER)
GUN TESTS GRADE: D (IWB)

Jason Winnie Leathergoods 121, $90

Available from JasonWinnie.com, this holster is well fitted to the individual handgun and provides good retention. We first thought a break-in period was needed, but then realized this is simply a good, tight fit. When holding the holster in the hand, some effort is required to break the handgun loose. But when properly worn snugly against the body and secured by two belt loops, the user simply yanks the handgun and is good to go. The design allows the two belt loops to keep the holster rigidly attached to the belt. The holster also rides low in the pants. The belt loops are practically even with the holster body, but there is sufficient cut out in the design to keep the handle isolated, allowing for a good, sharp draw. When our team studied this holster and compared it to others side by side, it is an outstanding design.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

SwapRig Holsters Cargo Pocket Holster, $29.75

Available from SwapRigHolsters.com at more than 6 inches wide, this isn't a typical pocket holster. This holster is designed for use with the popular cargo-style pants. There is a retention screw that allows adjustment for different handguns. The holster also fits various pocket handguns up to the Smith & Wesson Shield class. The holster is a good, tight fit in many cargo pants pockets. Adjustment is good, and we found the holster allowed a good, sharp draw. When drawing from a pocket holster, blade the hand going into the pocket and bring the gun from the holster. If you confirm the grip in the pocket, then you are impeding the draw, perhaps making a pocket draw impossible. Holsters designed to fit more than one handgun are not ideal, and we graded the holster down a grade on fit. However, it is a holster with much utility and it is ambidextrous.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

Lobo Gun Leather Deep Cover Holster, $84

This unit from LoboGunLeather.com was $90 as tested. When ordering the Deep Cover, we recommend that you spend an extra $6 and add the hammer shield/sweat guard. This holster uses the popular Ulti Clip. It is worn by placing it inside the pants and wearing the shirt over the holster. The belt clip goes over the top of the belt. If you are legally armed and using a tuckable holster, the belt clip remains visible, while it doesn't with an IWB and the shirt tail worn out. However, some do not like the sport shirt worn outside, or their job prevents them





The GunMate holster, according to our sources, probably sells at a rate of fifty to one in most stores over more expensive holsters. In our view, it is okay for range use. It would be a serious liability for concealed carry, we believe. The fabric belt loop of the GunMate holster is secure enough, but the holster itself doesn't offer adequate retention.



The Jason Winnie IWB features offset wings that keep the weight of the revolver spread along the belt line. The wings outline secure attachment points, while the revolver is allowed to ride low in the pants. We like the fit and finish of the Jason Winnie holster, in particular, the dual loops, excellent stitching, and a well designed holstering welt. The belt loops are secure, and they offer relatively easy-on-and-off holstering. The Jason Winnie holster also features double stitching and a reinforced holstering welt. This is a well-built unit a lot of shooters would like.





The SwapRig cargo pocket holster is a specialized product in this niche. The retention screw helps adjust tension for different sizes of handguns (revolvers and pistols) carried in a pants pocket.



The Lobo Deep Cover holster features excellent retention, including a pinched trigger guard. Fit and finish are excellent. The Lobo Pocket holster is rigid and well stitched. It keeps the handgun stable in the pocket. This welt is designed to stabilize the holster during the draw.





Left: The detail image shows how closely set to the Lobo Deep Cover holster body the Ulti Clip sits. Right: The Ulti Clip, shown attached to the inside of the Lobo Deep Cover, offers steel-trap like retention.

from wearing such an outfit. One of our raters works in the media and wears a tuckable as often as possible with his Kimber 1911. When the suit coat comes off, the holster isn't visible. It is true that much practice must go into this type of draw. The Lobo Deep Cover is as comfortable as any IWB. The tuckable concept works well. If you do not cover the holster with the shirt, you simply have a deep-riding IWB. The belt clip is rigid. This holster allows excellent concealment, and fit and finish are first class. There is one concern: The fit is tight, very tight. We worked this out in a few dozen repetitions. When simply holding the holster, the gun seems tight, and it is, but when the holster is properly affixed to the belt, the draw isn't as difficult. But a break-in is demanded.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Lobo Gunleathers Pocket Holster $50

This item is also available from LoboGunLeather.com as a pocket-carry style popular for small revolvers. In our view, a holster is essential for pocket carry, though we recognize many people disagree, and they pocket-carry every day in lightweight clothing. One of our raters began his police career 40 years ago and had his grandmother sew a leather lining in his uniform pants to carry a snubnose 38. This was okay, but it limited him to those modified trousers. The Lobo Pocket Holster is ambidextrous, as most pocket holsters are. The holster is double

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Left: The Lobo Pocket holster is rigid and well stitched. It keeps the handgun stable in the pocket. Right: The welt at the bottom of the holster is designed to stabilize the holster during the draw.

stitched and offers good retention. The holster must be stabilized for a good sharp draw. We found that the ring finger may stabilize the holster at the bottom or the thumb at the top. The holster is a good, tight fit, and it is possible to slant the holster and snag the lip of the holster on the trousers to expedite the draw, depending on if the pocket is side loading or top loading. The holster has a stiff welt and spine. This is an aid in stabilizing the holster in the trousers. We tested this holster extensively in both right- and left-hand draw and found it ideal for most uses.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Written and photographed by Gun Tests Staff. **GT**

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- Four Guns in Four Cartridges: While uncommon, these have power: The Glock 17 Gen5 9mm, the Springfield 1911 38 Super, the Springfield XD 357 SIG, and the Coonan 357 Magnum square off.

- Hunting Rifles for Compact Shooters: Not every shooter averages 6 feet in height. Some people are physically closer to tank drivers than football defensive ends. With children and the increasing number of women participating in the shooting sports and in the hunting fields, there is growing need for rifles for more compact shooters. Therefore, we tested three compact centerfire-hunting rifles: the Browning A-bolt Micro Hunter in 7mm-08 Remington, the CZ Carbine in 7.62x39mm, and the Savage Axis II Compact in 243 Winchester.

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