GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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50-STATE-LEGAL RIFLES

The CA Compliant Saint offers a simple fix for shooters where AR-15 ownership is restricted. Uintah Precision's bolt-action upper and the Troy Pump Action Hunting Rifle have promise as well.

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9MM HANDGUN SHOOTOUT

The Glock 19X, S&W's M&P9 Compact M2.0, Ruger's SR1911 Commander, and SIG Sauer's P225-A1 are all good self-defense handguns, but we think one is a standout.

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POWDER DISPENSERS

Tested: $235 Hornady Lock-N-Load Auto Charge, $300 RCBS Chargemaster Lite, and $275 Lyman Gen6 Compact Touch Screen Powder System. ● Page 24

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DOWNRANGE

S&W ISSUES ADVISORY ON SHIELD EZ



Todd Woodard

Smith & Wesson has launched a "consumer advisory" notice for owners of the M&P 380 Shield EZ Manual Thumb Safety pistol, a common concealed-carry sidearm. It seems the function of the M&P 380 Shield EZ Manual Thumb Safety pistol can be influenced by the type and quality of ammunition used with the pistol. In the case of the M&P 380 Shield EZ Manual Thumb Safety, the company has found "that in very rare circumstances," ammunition that produces a high level of felt recoil can cause the manual safety to move from the Fire position to the Safe position during firing. That means your Shield unexpectedly might not go bang after it's fired. That could be very bad for a concealed-carry gun owner who's depending on the EZ in a self-defense situation.

Should this occur, a company statement says, "You will not be able to fire the next round unless and until the manual safety is reset to the Fire position." So, as of April 4, 2018, Smith has engineered the manual safety so that it will be less susceptible to the influence of ammunition weight, velocity, and loads. Any M&P 380 Shield EZ Manual Thumb Safety pistol produced before April 4 is eligible for a no-cost upgrade.

To determine if this consumer advisory applies to your pistol, please utilize the serial number verification tool on the company's consumer advisory page. Here's a link to navigate to that page: smith-wesson.com/mp-380-shield-ez-consumer-advisory.



If your pistol is subject to this fix, call Smith & Wesson at (800) 331-0852 or email them at MP380EZAdvisory@Smith-Wesson.com. A FedEx return label and shipping instructions to facilitate the return of your M&P 380 Shield EZ pistol will be mailed to you.

Also, it's worth noting a significant ammunition restriction Smith & Wesson posted in the announcement:

WARNING: Read and follow the warnings in your owner's manual. Never use "plus-P" (+P), "plus-P-plus" (+P+); or reloaded ammunition with the M&P 380 EZ. Always use factory-manufactured ammunition produced to SAAMI specifications. **GT**

To follow the progress of our tests, read up-to-date information on new firearms and accessory introductions, learn about gun legislation, and see the latest efforts to restrict the 2nd Amendment, please "Like" the Gun Tests Magazine Facebook page. Also, to see testing videos, check out our YouTube channel @ Gun Tests Magazine.

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Reader Renounces Ranch Rifle

Alan had trouble with his Ruger and eventually sold it and bought a CZ. Reader Duane was unhappy with the self-defense-insurance item, but Readers P. Michael and Mike P. wanted to hear more.



Re "Threaded-Barrel Bolt Guns In 300 Blackout and 308 Win.," May 2018

I was greatly surprised by the positive review that you gave the Ruger rifle. My example would not dependably feed from the magazine, was awkward to single load, frequently failed to fire Remington factory ammunition, and arrived with a stock so warped the barrel was not free floating. When I called Ruger, they read a prepared script, which among other things advised against the use of Remington or Barnes Ammunition. I then sent the rifle back to Ruger. They returned it to me unchanged, although they did include two additional magazines. Unfortunately, the new magazines were no better than the original, and none of the problems addressed. Disappointed, I traded the Ruger for a CZ 527 in 300 BLK. I note that Ruger is now producing a version of this rifle employing AR magazines.

— Alan

Sorry you had trouble with your Ruger American Ranch Rifle. But the rest of the readership is now aware of an owner experience they should know about. Thanks for letting us know. The new version you mention that accepts AR magazines is the Model 26968. — Todd Woodard

In your article you describe the Rugged Suppressors Surge 7.62 suppressor that you utilized in your testing. On page 10 you write, describing the suppressor, "… is made of a 17-4 stainless steel called Stellite with a high-temp Cerakote finish." 17-4 stainless is not called Stellite, they are two separate and distinct alloys. 17-4 stainless is an iron-based precipitation-hardening alloy with 17% chromium, 3 to 5% nickel, and 3 to 5% copper as the principal constituents of the alloy. Stellite is a cobalt-based alloy containing 57% cobalt, 28 to 32% chromium and 11 to 13% tungsten. I looked at the Rugged Suppressors website regarding the Surge 7.62 suppressor, and I see that the build materials are listed as 17-4 stainless and Stellite. Stellite is resistant to the erosive effects of hot, high-pressure propellant gases and is a good choice of material for the internal components of a suppressor. Regards.

—Paul

Thank you for the correction on the materials description. — tw

Just got your May issue and in your write up on the rifle comparison, you claim that a suppressor is incorrectly called a silencer. To be nit-picky, a silencer *is* the technical term as defined by the ATF, the NFA, and in Maxim's original patent. Regardless of that, keep up the good work.

— Michael

Yes, and we recognize both "silencer" and "suppressor" are used interchangeably in modern speech, with silencer being the more widespread usage. Nonetheless, we want to promote the more-accurate

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.

term, suppressor, because silencer is audibly wrong, and hearing "silencer" leads to folks believing that's what the devices do. "Muffler" is better, as is "moderator," but we recognize it's a losing battle to try to stamp out "silencer." We likewise recognize Maxim's marketing prowess in choosing the word back in the day. Thanks for the note. —tw

Re "Buying Self-Defense Insurance: Important Factors to Consider," May 2018

"Self-defense insurance" was an unexpected, but welcome, article in your excellent publication. I suspect the bail-bond issues were enlightening to most readers. Although I understand Mr. Cooper's reasoning for using a plan in which you choose your own attorney, the process of finding one seems overly daunting and suggests I should go with a "plan attorney" who has at least been evaluated by the plan. A follow-up article comparing features of self-defense insurance for some limited number of nationally available plans (USCCA, Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network, CCW Safe, and NRA CarryGuard are examples) would be welcomed by this reader. **— P. Michael**

Gentlemen: With great dismay I noted you wasted a good portion of the May 2018 issue by including an article regarding buying self-defense insurance. If I wanted to learn about same, I would go to a local lawyer or purchase a book on the subject. I am a longtime subscriber to Gun Tests magazine in order to learn about firearms and related gear. In other words, knock off the "filler" articles that have nothing to do with your stated purpose as a magazine, or you risk losing me (and many others) as a subscriber. Happy Trails, **— Duane**

Sorry you were unhappy. I acted on this only after receiving more than 10 requests for this article from other readers. —tw

Re "New Kit-Gun Revolvers from Charter Arms, S&W, Heritage," May 2018

Dear Gun Tests: Another awesome issue for this month. I did not have the same experience with two of the revolvers that you guys had. The first one was the Heritage. Over the past twenty or so years, I've owned four of them. The first one was used, and the other three were all purchased brand new. Now, none of them had a blade-type sight that the one tested had. They all four had rear sight channels that ran parallel to the bores. And I could accurately shoot none of them. On my last Heritage, I tested 20 different loads, all off a sandbag rest, with the target set at 10 feet. The results were not all that favorable. All the Heritages were well made and fun to shoot. As a matter of fact, while fishing on a creek, I fed a school of bluegill bream when I shot a large nest of red wasps into the water, and I then proceeded to clean up when I cast a fly into the struggling wasps, catching four or five large bream. Not too bad for me. Looking back now, I wish I had used that luck to buy a lottery ticket instead of fishing!



Now to the S&W 317. About 15 years or so ago when I first learned of the 317 Airlite, I bought the first one I could find. Mine is the shorter-barrel version, about 2 inches or so long. And sadly for me it has a sight channel for a rear sight. I've had issues with the 317 when low-quality 22 LR ammo falls/slides to the rear of the cylinder, causing the cylinder to jam. Not a big deal; we just don't carry it with low-quality ammo in the 8-shot cylinder. Now on to the accuracy. It's almost non-existent. I've tested 15 different types of ammo and only about four give decent results. But I bought it as a carry gun/kit gun, and I never intended it to be used at a distance greater than 5 or 6 feet. Which is about where I set the targets out to when I did this testing. But I have yet to find a gun that carries nearly as good as it does. The double-action trigger is serviceable, and the single-action trigger is pretty good. So the moral of this story is that I will never buy a firearm with a rear sight groove! Lesson learned. And I tested all my firearms by shooting off a rest, and measuring the groups and put the data onto a spreadsheet that I made. I checked the results before I sat down to write this letter to you.

Questions about the "self-defense insurance": First, anything specific that one should Google to search for this insurance? Second: Will the premiums increase if the insurance is ever used? Third: Can one be dropped for using the insurance, like auto insurance? Fourth: Are the insurance premiums different for different age groups. Example: 15- to 20-year-olds generally pay higher premiums for car insurance. Families generally pay lower auto-insurance premiums. Fifth: Does one's geographic area cause a higher premium? That is, does inner city USA versus deepwoods country USA draw a higher premium? I really enjoyed this issue. Very informative articles, especially the S/D insurance. Never heard of, or thought of, that before. I think it's a good idea in this time of our lives.

And to make all this better, I see that GT has an upcoming issue dealing with powder dispensers and such. It's issues like the May edition that caused me

to renew my subscription for three more years! Keep them coming. **— Mike P.**

Hey Mike: If you check the firms listed in the letter above, you can find several companies that offer self-defense insurance. According to the author, attorney Gordon Cooper, the pricing for various programs varies a lot, depending on the amount of coverage you buy. But he hasn't seen geographic or age-variance premium upgrades that you mentioned. But I'll pass along your full list of questions and see what we might do on the topic in the future. —tw

It was refreshing to see an article on the versatility of the iconic kit gun, (i.e., a small 22-caliber handgun). I recently purchased an S&W Model 317 and find it to be the ideal companion when hiking or fishing. Its light weight and ease of handling make it the handgun to have when weight and size are important. As an avid hiker, I can easily fit it into my pack or secure it in a holster. I usually use snake-shot rounds as the first two rounds in the gun, followed by Remington Thunderbolts. I recently came upon a rapid raccoon that was rolling on the ground where some hikers were trying to avoid it. Once they moved on, I dispatched it to raccoon heaven, and because the round is fairly quiet, it did not draw much attention. Lightweight, compact, and very dependable, what more could one ask for? **— Paul**

Re "Firing Line," May 2018

Hey Todd, your first letter this month from Mike caused me to think maybe it's not just me. I have a Ruger MK II and an S&W Model 22A that both refuse to operate well with







Remington 22 LR ammunition. I can shoot an entire bulk pack of Federal hollowpoints (325 rounds) without a single failure to feed or misfire. I can't get through a box (50 rounds) of Remington Thunderbolts without at least one round hanging up or misfiring. I also shoot an old Winchester Model 61 rifle that I bought when I was 15, and, although it cycles better than the autoloaders, it also chokes on Remington sometimes and clearly prefers the Federal. Also, why no photos of the threaded-barrel bolt guns with the suppressors attached? **— Frank**

Here are the bolt actions in the test with the Surge 7.62 suppressor attached. From top are the Remington and Ruger in 300 BLK and the Savage 308 Win. — tw

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There are two ways to find guns we've reviewed. The Compare Guns feature (top left corner of the page under the logo) allows you to input several descriptors and narrow the search results. Or you can use the Search function. If you search for a common item, such as "22 LR," you'll get tons of references. Basically, the search function finds every instance of the searched-for topic and lists the accompanying articles the topic appeared in. The more specific and unique the reference, the better the search. We do our best to list the catalog numbers for guns we've tested, so that's usually a good place to start. There's also an "Advanced Search" area to help you narrow the results.

We welcome mail from our readers. To send us comments or questions about previous articles in the magazine, email us at: **GunTestsEditor@icloud.com.** *If you'll include the month and year of the article you're writing about, it's a big help. Also, please include your name, address, and phone number. We won't publish your personal information other than your name, but we may need to contact you about material in your letter.* **GT**

Rifles Ready for All 50 States: Springfield, Troy, and Uintah

The CA Compliant Saint offers a simple fix for shooters where AR-15 ownership is restricted. Uintah Precision's bolt-action upper and the Troy Pump Action Hunting Rifle have promise.

Innovation in firearms design has always meant finding a way to make guns more accurate, more reliable, less expensive to produce, and for the end user, easier to operate and maintain. And when it comes to trying to satisfy the restrictive demands of different state laws, the word innovation can once again be applied. Naturally, we'd like to see talented people work toward solutions without so much regulation, but we also wondered if makers seeking ways to satisfy the legalities of certain policies, a better firearm, or at least a promising new design, would emerge.

For insight into the world of regulated firearms manufacture and sale, we visited Todd and Amy Arms & Ammo in Petaluma, California (TandAArms.com). A family-owned full-service gun store run by retired Marine Todd and his wife Amy, their bustling shop serves as the epicenter of gun goodies in the more-gun-friendly area of Northern California. At Todd and Amy's, we learned that several inventors have been tackling the problem of providing workable solutions to producing 50-state-legal long guns for some time, including fixed magazines, variations on the pistol-grip stock, and even pump-action designs. In this test, we will look at three production rifles that incorporate elements of AR-type-restricted design found in states such as California, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois, and others. Because of constantly changing laws in these states, you must know your local regulations to see if a particular rifle conforms to your state's regulations. We do not guarantee these firearms will remain legal to own in any state, so check before you buy.

- Our first choice was the $1135 CA Compliant "AR-15" Saint from Springfield Armory chambered in 5.56mm/223 Remington and featuring a full-float barrel.
- Next was a pump-actuated "AR-10" from WorldofTroy.com chambered in 243 Winchester. List price of the Troy Pump Action Hunting Rifle was $899.
- Our third test gun was a full-length bolt-action rifle from Uintah Precision chambered for 6.5 Creedmoor. Why is a bolt-action rifle in this review? Because the threaded barrel, upper, and handguard are configured as an AR platform that was designed to fit an AR-10 lower. Uintah sells the upper alone for $1295, but they were able to supply a matching lower so we had a complete rifle for our tests. Therefore, in the Uintah's specifications chart, the term "as tested" denotes measurements taken



The issue in many AR-restrictive states is function paired with user-friendly features. If a rifle is a semi-auto, such as the Saint at right, it has to come into compliance with restrictive-state laws by making it harder to shoot well, in this case by putting a web behind the pistol grip and making the stock fixed. The Troy pump-action's free-float handguard, directly below, isolated the barrel and supplied a rigid base for the pump action. But it didn't offer a way to connect a sling. We solved that with a $12 ULoop from Blue Force gear. The slide handle did a great job of supplying a strong grip. The beauty of the Uintah UPR-10 complete upper, bottom, is that it will fit onto any AR-10 lower receiver.





for the upper receiver only, as your lower may vary.

For ammunition supply we relied heavily on new selections from Black Hills Ammunition. Black Hills is a family-owned business that came to prominence by developing a 223 Rem. load topped with Sierra's 77-grain bullets for the U.S. military, therefore vastly improving the stopping power of the select-fire M16 rifle and its semi-auto civilian-version AR-15. Our Springfield Cal-legal Saint was stoked with four different rounds manufactured by Black Hills ammunition, ranging in bullet weight from 60 grains to 77 grains. Much of Black Hills production still relies heavily on military contracts, and this stamp of approval is why we so often favor their ammunition.

Black Hills has lagged noticeably behind other makers in offering 6.5 Creedmoor (or 6.5 CM) commercially, and now we think we know why. As of this writing, it has been announced that SOCOM, i.e. USSOCOM (Special Operations Command), is evaluating chambering 6.5 Creedmoor and phasing out the use of 7.62x51 (308 Winchester) ammunition in AR-10-type rifles. The Uintah rifle was fed Black Hills 143-grain and 147-grain ammunition, plus 140-grain rounds loaded by Hornady. Our pump-action Troy rifle was treated to three rounds from Black Hills Ammunition, each topped with Hornady bullets. The 243 Winchester ammunition featured Hornady's 95-grain Hornady SST, 80-grain GMX, and 58-grain A-Max bullets.

To ensure that our rifles had the benefit of high-grade optics, we relied upon the Nightforce ATACR 5-25x56mm SFP Enhanced riflescope (No. C554), featuring 0.10 Milradian click adjustments and extraordinarily clear glass. The reticle was illuminated by pressing the button at the center of the parallax adjustment turret, but "Enhanced' might very well refer to the interaction of the big, bold reticle constructed with fine lines, maximizing the capabilities of second-focal-plane design. Overall construction was robust, but relatively compact. We also tried out the Nightforce SR 4.5x24 Competition riflescope designed for the High Power Service Rifle division when it occurred to us that the California Legal Saint AR-15 may be the gun of the future for competitors in California.

If you are a longtime subscriber to Gun Tests, then you'll remember when reliability was our main concern, and we often found function problems in various firearms. Now, thanks to modern manufacturing methods, today's firearms are so consistent we rarely have to say anything about how well a particular gun functions. But with these guns, we felt like we were turning back the clock. Reliability and function were once again our main concern as we collected accuracy data from the 100-yard benches at American Shooting Centers in Houston. Did we have three rifles displaying worthwhile innovation, or would the demands of creating a rifle to satisfy the demands of lawmakers spoil the progress of a proven design? Let's find out.



Top is the $1135 CA Compliant Saint from Springfield Armory chambered in 5.56mm/223 Remington; middle is an "AR-10" pumpgun from WorldofTroy.com chambered in 243 Winchester, 899; and bottom is a full-length bolt-action upper receiver from Uintah Precision chambered for 6.5 Creedmoor.

Springfield Armory California Compliant Saint w/Free Float Handguard ST916556BFFHCA 5.56 NATO/223 Rem., $1135

The California or CA Compliant Saint variant is available in two configurations. Model number ST916556BCA offers a Magpul two-piece composite handguard and carries a list price of $998. What the extra $137 gets you on our test gun is a free-float handguard. Not only is this a more rigid structure with 12 inches of numbered Picatinny rail across the top, but its slim octagonal profile offered M-Lok channels on the remaining seven sides. The aluminum handguard was a Magpul product held in place using locking plates on both sides attached with two sizable Allen bolts. The operational advantage of free floating the handguard off the barrel is any pressure you put on it, weight of accessories, resting the handguard to support the rifle, attaching a bipod, or tugging at it with a sling, is isolated from possibly moving the barrel offline. Front and rear flip-up sights were supplied, with the rear unit offering both a large and a small aperture. Click adjustments accounted for half-minute adjustments front and rear.

The 16-inch chrome-moly-vanadium barrel had a 1:8 right-hand twist with a muzzle brake that shoved gases to either side so it didn't kick up dust. The top of brake showed bleed holes to add some downward pressure as well. It was Melonite coated to resist corrosion. Bravo Company supplied the oversized trigger guard framing a nickel-boron-coated trigger. A forward assist was in place, and the Saint ran on a mid-length gas system utilizing a low-profile gas block. If this all sounds like the AR-15s we know and love, two aspects on the state's "Assault Rifle" components list (not our term) were avoided to make the Saint California "legal" or in the proper jargon, compliant.

The Saint CA Compliant does not have a vertical pistol grip, nor does it have an adjustable stock.

The design of the Survivor Systems Option Zero stock fills in the area behind the contour of the vertical grip, making it impossible to wrap the thumb around its circumference. This is true for both right-handed and left-handed shooters, and a safety lever was found on both sides of the stock. The Safe position is when the lever is parallel to the bore. The Fire position is altered from the common placement by the lever being held diagonally, pointing roughly from 8 o'clock to 2 o'clock. This works well in concert with the grip. In fact cupping the face of the grip with four fingers while the thumb rides the strong-side safety is the very same grip technique currently in favor with competitors in the Precision Rifle Series competitions as well as being taught to the current generation of military snipers and Designated Marksman. The trigger had the slightest increment of compression and broke at about 7.8 pounds.

The Option Zero stock is one of several products from SurvivorSystems.com. List price is $150, and it is available in black, phantom gray, and flat dark earth. Changing length by not simply working a lever and sliding the buttstock fore and aft was the second component necessary for compliance with California law. Instead, you had to remove the two bolts running through the buttpad and choose up to four 0.37-inch-thick spacers to set length of pull to your personal specification. We chose none and attached the buttpad directly to the stock. However, the supplied bolts were too long unless at least two spacers were in place. A trip to the hardware store for shorter bolts solved this problem. One additional benefit of the Option Zero stock was a secondary magazine well tucked into the structure immediately ahead of the butt pad. Any-length magazine could be stored there, and the release was the same mechanism as the primary magazine well from which

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY SAINT CALIFORNIA COMPLIANT W/FREE-FLOAT HANDGUARD ST916556BFFHCA, 5.56 NATO, $1135

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Saint CA Compliant with free-float handguard is a great way to go legal in 50 states. The M16/AR-15 was originally a fixed-stock rifle. The ambi safety makes the best of the necessary stock configuration. A superior muzzle brake was a nice surprise.



Action Type	Semi-automatic, Direct impingement	Magazine	Detachable
Overall Length (Min./Max.)	35.0 in./36.2 in.	Rear Sight	Flip up, dual aperture
Overall Height w/o Scope	7.2 in.	Front Sight	Flip up
Weight Unloaded	7.1 lbs.	Sight Radius	17.0 in.
Weight Loaded	7.8 lbs.	Trigger	7.8 lbs., single stage
Upper Receiver	Forged 7075-T6 aluminum	Safety	Ambidextrous lever
Lower Receiver	Forged 7075-T6 aluminum	Cartridge Case Deflector	Yes
Barrel Length/Twist	16.0 in., 1:8 in.	Dust Cover	Hinged
Muzzle Device	Muzzle brake	Forward Assist	Yes
Buttstock	Survival Systems Option Zero	Warranty	Limited lifetime
Length of Pull (Min./Max.)	13.0 in./14.2 in.	Telephone	(800) 680-6866
Handguard	12.5 in. M-Lok free float	Website	Springfield-Armory.com
		Made In	USA



The Option Zero combination stock and handgrip also included a secondary well for a spare magazine. The release was located just rearward. As per state compliance regulations, the stock was not immediately adjustable but could be lengthened by adding spacers. An oversight, multiple-length bolts should have been supplied.



The muzzle brake kept the gun stabilized, and the ports shoved gases to either side so they didn't kick up dust. Bleed holes in the top of brake (arrow) added some downward pressure.



The M-Lok handguard allows easy placement and removal of Picatinny rails.

TROY PUMP ACTION HUNTING RIFLE
243 WINCHESTER, $899
GUN TESTS GRADE: B

A modern take on an old design, this gun was actually a lot of fun. Most accurate with the rounds topped with lighter bullets, the Hunter proved more portable than other AR-10 frames.



Action Type	Pump	Magazine	Detachable
Overall Length (Min./Max.)	36.75 in. to 39.25 in.	Rear Sight	None supplied (optional)
Overall Height w/o Scope	7.2 in.	Front Sight	None supplied (optional)
Weight Unloaded	9.1 lbs.	Sight Radius	NA
Weight Loaded	9.8 lbs.	Trigger	6.5 lbs. (avg.) single action
Upper Receiver	Forged 7075-T6 Aluminum	Safety	Left-side lever
Lower Receiver	Forged 7075-T6 Aluminum	Cartridge Case Deflector	No
Barrel Length/Twist	18.0 in., 1:10 in.	Dust Cover	None
Muzzle Device	Troy Medieval muzzle brake	Forward Assist	No
Buttstock	Troy Battleax CQB	Warranty	Limited lifetime
Length of Pull (Min./Max.)	11.5 in. to 14.0 in.	Telephone	(866) 788-6412
Handguard	13.2 in. Troy TRX2	Website	WorldofTroy.com
		Made In	U.S.A.



The slide on the Troy pump gun locked back on an empty magazine. The slide release was located beneath the forward arc of the trigger guard (arrow).



The Troy Lightweight BattleAx CQB stock was a great shoulder and cheek fit. It also had storage space galore for tools, batteries, first aid, lubricant, or just ballast, should you prefer. The stock offered four locked positions controlled by a flush-fit panel located beneath the forward most edge.



The Troy Medieval muzzle brake provided some relief from recoil and offered some potential for close-quarters work as well.

the rounds fed into the chamber.

The Saint ran without any malfunction, and the muzzle brake did, in our view, an extraordinary job of keeping the gun stabilized. We tried firing with a variety of different-capacity magazines and also configurations, Magpul's polymer P-mags (which are now becoming standard issue to the military), plus vintage steel- and aluminum-body magazines. We also used a $42 Bob Sled from CreedmoorSports.com to make sure the Saint was willing to be top loaded one round at a time to see if it could be a worthwhile investment for the West Coast High Power Rifle competitor.

From the 100-yard benches at American Shooting Centers, we found that the Saint excelled when loaded with Black Hills 5.56mm ammunition topped with 77-grain TMK (Tipped Match King) bullets. All groups hovered around the 0.55- to 0.65-inch mark. This confirms the Saint was more than accurate enough for competition, and the power of the 77-grain rounds should make it a good bet for feral-hog hunting. Black Hills 223 60-grain V-Max rounds landed consistently in groups measuring less than 1 minute of angle (MOA) and so did the 69-grain OTM (Open Tipped Match) 5.56 mm rounds. Our 5.56mm Black Hills rounds topped with Barnes 62-grain TSX Water Resistant rounds printed groups that averaged about 1.2 inches across.

Our Team Said: The last time we tested a Saint AR-15, it did not have a free-float handguard, but it still performed well. The free-float models, of which there are two, are even better and worth the extra $137, in our view.

The only time we weren't sure how to handle the CA Compliant Saint was when we picked the gun up and expected our thumb to wrap around the pistol grip. We learned to carry it like a standard stocked rifle, and we're on board with the thumb resting on the strong side safety. The extra capacity afforded by the Option Zero stock allowed us to carry two magazines at a once. In our home state of Texas, that means up to 61 rounds could be immediately available at any time.

Troy Pump Action Hunting Rifle 243 Winchester, $899

Just imagine if there were anti-gunners in the 19th century clamoring for all rifles to remain as single-shot muzzle-loading designs. The Troy pump-action rifles would have been considered "assault rifles" in that historical fiction, but, today, manual-pump operation (or as some might have it manual slide action) puts our test gun in the category of being legal in all 50 states, at least for now. But are there any advantages or appealing aspects to this design, aside from not being semi-autos?

Troy Industries is well-known among military forces offering a long list of accessories and weapons upgrades found at TroyInd.com. TheWorldofTroy.com is where the company's staffers list their complete firearms, including modern CQB AR-15s, a Mogadishu/Blackhawk Down replica, two forms of manually-operated rifles cycling rounds via a bolt action, and the subject of this evaluation, a pump-action rifle chambered for 243 Winchester. Other Troy pump guns were chambered for 223 Remington, 308 Winchester, and 338 Federal. Further differentiation was choice of buttstock, including an adjustable-length folding stock and the Troy Lightweight BattleAx CQB Stock supplied on our test rifle. The BattleAx CQB offers a large storage compartment behind the pad, QD attachment points on both sides, and a sling loop located rearward atop the comb. A solid lock/release panel is out of the way on its underside, allowing the stock to be anchored at five positions, including full compression. The lower profile of the buttstock offered plenty of room for support.

The beefy AR-10 forged lower was impeccably machined and finished, including an integrated trigger guard that was oversized but contoured upward at the rear to allow for a higher grip position. The fully checkered polymer grip was also a Troy product and offered a hinged floorplate for additional storage and access to the mounting bolt. The

UINTAH PRECISION UPR-10 BOLT ACTION AR-10 UPPER ASSEMBLY 6.5 CREEDMOOR, $1295

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

Capable of very good accuracy, this was a dream upper in need of a little refinement. This makes it possible to have a matched set of semi-auto carbine and a bolt-action precision rifle.



Action Type	Bolt	Rear Sight	NA
Overall Length (upper only)	34.5 in	Front Sight	NA
Overall Height w/o Scope	NA	Sight Radius	NA
Weight Unloaded (upper only)	6.8 lbs.	Trigger	NA
Weight Loaded	NA	Safety	NA
Upper Receiver	Forged 7075-T6 Aluminum	Cartridge Case Deflector	No
Lower Receiver	NA	Dust Cover	None
Barrel Length/Twist	26.0 in. /1:8 in.	Forward Assist	No
Muzzle Device	None/thread guard	Warranty	Limited lifetime
Buttstock	NA	Telephone	(435) 738-2422
Length of Pull (Min./Max.)	NA	Website	UintahPrecision.com
Handguard	15 in. M-Lok free float	Made In	U.S.A.
Magazine	NA		





At left, the Uintah UPR-10's firing pin in the forward position appears recessed. The bolt-action upper utilizes the same floating firing pin as an AR-10. At right, the firing pin is extended. Held by the same hardened steel cross pin as in the semi-auto AR-10, the firing pin was free to float about 0.12 inches. We found the bolt knob to be unnecessarily abrasive. Note the underside of the bolt was relieved to skip over the bolt lock/release found on the lower.

Our only problems with the UPR-10 centered on feeding the ammunition into the chamber. We think double feeds were the fault of the extractor (arrow) being under too much tension. Or perhaps the claw itself needed to be smoothed.



RANGE DATA

Black Hills 5.56mm NATO 77-gr. TMK	Springfield Armory Saint CA Compliant
Average Velocity	2720 fps
Muzzle Energy	1265 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	0.6 in.
Black Hills 5.56mm NATO 69-gr. OTM	**Springfield Armory Saint CA Compliant**
Average Velocity	2788 fps
Muzzle Energy	1191 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.0 in.
Black Hills 5.56mm NATO 62-gr. Barnes TSX	**Springfield Armory Saint CA Compliant**
Average Velocity	2944 fps
Muzzle Energy	1193 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.2 in.
Black Hills .223 Remington 60-gr. V-Max	**Springfield Armory Saint CA Compliant**
Average Velocity	2775 fps
Muzzle Energy	1026 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	0.9 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups from a sandbag rest. Distance: 100 yards. We recorded velocities using a LabRadar chronograph.

one variation to the lower assembly was a pin running vertically through the front of the trigger guard. This was the slide release.

The forged upper offered a Picatinny rail that continued forward the full length of the 13-inch-long handguard. The handguard was attached to the upper with four massive bolts. This was a necessity because the handguard also supports the slide-action assembly, accessed by a polymer handle offering a brief guard profile to the rear and a larger guard profile at the front end. Sliding action was smooth. The handguard did not offer attachment points per se, but we were able to attach a sling using loop hardware from BlueForce.com. For attaching a light or laser, we would recommend mounting across the Picatinny rail atop the handguard so that the light was situated to the side. With the scope in place, any form of mounting hardware would be well out of view. The barrel was tipped with Troy's $45 Medieval muzzle brake, featuring an impact-ready front surface of crowns and points. One 10-round Magpul Pmag was supplied, but it will operate with any-capacity magazine suited to the cartridge.

Our shooters' initial session from the bench overemphasized the need to stabilize the rifle with forward pressure on the slide because it didn't seem to want to stay locked forward. Opposite of what one might expect, working the slide vigorously in dry-fire practice resulted in the locking mechanism improving to the point to where we didn't have to worry about it staying shut. This was comforting because hunting rifles often find themselves supported by natural features such as tree

RANGE DATA

Black Hills Gold 6.5 CM 147-gr. ELD-Match	Uintah Precision UPR-10
Average Velocity	2650 fps
Muzzle Energy	2292 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	0.7 in.
Black Hills Gold 6.5 CM 143-gr. ELD-X	**Uintah Precision UPR-10**
Average Velocity	2615 fps
Muzzle Energy	2172 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	0.9 in.
Hornady Match 6.5 CM 140-gr. ELD-Match	**Uintah Precision UPR-10**
Average Velocity	2702 fps
Muzzle Energy	2270 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	0.8 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups from a sandbag rest. Distance: 100 yards. We recorded velocities using a LabRadar chronograph.

RANGE DATA

Black Hills Gold 243 Win. 58-gr. Hornady V-Max	Troy Industries Pump Action
Average Velocity	3391 fps
Muzzle Energy	1488 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.1 in.
Black Hills Gold 243 Win. 80-gr. Hornady GMX	**Troy Industries Pump Action**
Average Velocity	2836 fps
Muzzle Energy	1429 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.8 in.
Black Hills Gold 243 Win. 95-gr. Hornady SST	**Troy Industries Pump Action**
Average Velocity	2630 fps
Muzzle Energy	1459 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	2.1 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups from a sandbag rest. Distance: 100 yards. We recorded velocities using a LabRadar chronograph.

limbs or outcroppings. Sling carry is another necessity for a hunting rifle, but the only QD attachments points were on either side of the buttstock. Up front, we used a $12 ULoop from Blue Force Gear to provide a sling loop. The Galco Safari Ching Sling turned out to be our best choice because it offered quick access to a cuff loop that aided in controlling the slide action.

The trigger press was clean, breaking at about 6.5 pounds on average. Accuracy from the 100-yard line pointed to a definite bias toward lighter bullets. While our Troy pump-action rifle delivered average-size groups of the 2.3 inches and 1.8 inches firing Black Hills 95-grain Hornady SST and 80-grain Hornady GMX rounds respectively, loading the Black Hills 58-grain Hornady V-Max rounds told a different story. Groups firing the lighter bullets measured between 0.9 and 1.2 inches for an average that we computed to 1.1 inches center to center. Looking back at 243-chambered rifles we've tested over the years, we think this says more about current rifle technology versus older models chambered for the same cartridge. In our July 2002 review of 243 hunting rifles, we saw a marked preference for 100-grain bullets across the board.

Our Team Said: Using the Troy pump-action rifle required a different shooting mindset. The biggest advantage was portability. The Troy was compact, making getting in and out of tree stands easy. Unlike most AR-10s, we enjoyed carrying the Troy over the shoulder, and we even found that Galco's Safari Ching Sling with elbow support fed nicely into the slide-action protocol. Magazine capacity could be as much as 20+1, depending on where you live. The Troy Pump Action Hunting Rifle may be just the truck or ATV gun for chance meetings with pests such as coyotes and pigs.

Uintah Precision UPR-10 Bolt Action AR-10 Upper Assembly, $1295

Uintah Precision is located in the town of Duchesne, Utah, located just west of the junction of the Strawberry and Duchesne Rivers in the Uintah Basin. Uintah Precision makes bolt-action uppers that fit directly on AR-10 lowers. According to the maker, an AR-15 bolt-action upper is in the works for the new 224 Valkyrie cartridge, so we would have to assume that several AR-15-compatible builds are in the works as well. Uintah Precision supplied us with an AR-10 lower complete with a Magpul PRS Gen3 adjustable stock for the purpose of our tests, but customers have to supply their own.

The UPR-10 upper assembly is a deceptively simple design, consisting of a threaded barrel looped through a 15-inch M-Lok handguard and attached to an upper receiver machined to index a manual rifle bolt. We're not sure who made the free-float handguard, but it was pleasingly coated, rigid, and held in place via four bolts in line, clamping on at 6 o'clock just ahead of the upper receiver. The bottom half was an Aero Precision product, and the pins were treated to anti-rotation struts. The rubber grip was by Hogue. The upper receiver, bolt, and bolt handle were each made by Uintah Precision. The trigger was supplied by Velocity, but according to the maker, the bolt was designed to work with every trigger currently available. To date, only the Trigger Tech trigger has needed additional polishing to function properly. Uintah uses Shilen's match-grade barrels and has developed a proprietary method of chambering the barrels so that the bolts are fully compatible with a wide range of cartridges.

To access the bolt all we had to do was push out the rear pin and let the upper rotate away from the lower half. Then rotate the bolt from its lock position and pull it rearward. During normal cycling, the bolt stops on the fortified end loop of the lower. An AR-10 firing pin was used for ignition, and it was held in place by a roll pin much like the folded cotter-style cross pin used in the AR design. The pin exhibited about 0.12 inches of free float. Lockup was achieved by three equally-spaced lugs on the bolt face and was bolstered by the bolt stem seating into the relief in the lower receiver. The standard-design bolt latch and release was left in place but served no purpose and didn't play a part in the bolt-action operation. Actually, the bolt was relieved to work over the latch so the user does not have to modify their lower to attach it to the bolt-action upper.

Firing from support at a distance of 100 yards, the Hornady 140-grain ELD Match rounds delivered groups measuring about 0.85 inches on average, with little variation. The Black Hills 143-grain ELD-X hunting rounds averaged slightly less because we did have a sub-0.70-inch-wide group. The Black Hills rounds topped with Hornady's 147-grain ELD-M bullets were the most accurate, ringing up groups ranging from about 0.52 inches to just less than 0.8 inches across. Our calculated average read 0.66 inches, but not without some difficulty. At times we struggled, with feeding and cycling not being not as smooth or as quick as we would have liked. Furthermore, the grip lines on the bolt knob were unnecessarily sharp. Certainly, smoothing the bolt-handle knob would be simple.

Regarding cycling, we found that if we stopped our upward rotation of the bolt before it made contact with the upper wall of the relief in the receiver, the bolt handle was better aligned with the channel and the bolt rode smoothly to the rear. So, we think a change in the diameter of the bolt stem or a change in the opening on the side of the receiver is in order. In terms of the double feed, we think a change in extractor spring rate or a slight reconfiguration of the extractor blade would solve the problem.

Our Team Said: We found Uintah's bolt-action upper-to-AR-10-lower concept immensely appealing. Having a matched set of a bolt-action and semi-automatic rifles with the same stock fit has long been a dream of many shooters, and what Uintah has achieved largely meets this goal.

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

SHORT SHOTS

Leupold Announces New QRW2 and PRW2 Rings. Leupold & Stevens, Inc. has expanded its catalog of ring mounts with the introduction of the new QRW2 and PRW2 lines. Based on the familiar cross-slot design, both the QRW2 and PRW2 mounts are all steel. The QRW2 and PRW2 lines are precision machined to offer universal cross-slot compatibility on Weaver and Picatinny rails. The QRW2 line is a detachable option. The PRW2 line is meant for a more permanent mounting solution. Both the QRW2 and PRW2 ring mounts are available now in Low, Medium, and High configurations in many finishes. Both series are made in the U.S.A. and are backed by Leupold's full lifetime guarantee.



Tactical Solutions Reveals Newest Version of X-Ring Takedown Rifle. The new X-Ring Takedown rifle from Tactical Solutions features a Magpul Backpacker stock in Mossy Oak Bottomland camo. The Magpul Backpacker Stock has built-in storage for magazines, the ability to lock in place for easy storage, and it carries an integrated 15-MOA Picatinny rail for scope compatibility. Overall length is 35 inches. The 22 LR takedown rifle only weighs 3.5 pounds. Machined from 6061-T6 aluminum, the 16.5-inch-long X-Ring barrel is paired with a Ruger 10/22 receiver and has a rifled chromoly steel liner with a polished 11-degree crown inside an aluminum shroud. The muzzle measures 0.920 inch in diameter. Rate of twist is 1:16 inches, and the muzzle has ½x28 threads for a suppressor or other device. The rifle comes standard with a Ruger BX Trigger. The MSRP for this rifle is $1205. For more information, visit TacticalSol.com or call (866) 333-9901.



MasterPiece Arms Introduces New Compact Rifle. The MasterPiece Arms MUT 308BA Rifle is an ultra-compact platform with a minimal stored footprint. The specially designed folding Compact Suppressor Ready (CSR) Buttstock comes with an adjustable length of pull and can store a suppressor up to 1.5 inches in diameter (1.570 inch) and 8.5 inches in length. This can take a suppressed rifle measuring up to 48 inches in length and reduce the overall length to 23.5 inches with the suppressor stored in the buttstock. The MPA Light Weight Chassis System is machined from 6061 aluminum. The v-bedding system provides additional clearance for glass-bedding the action and straight section of the barrel. The chassis also includes a built-in inclinometer, thumb notch, lower mounted Picatinny rail and is spigot mount ready. The spigot mount is designed to be inserted in the front of the chassis to provide an extended distance between the front bipod and the rear support. A sling stud can replace the Picatinny rail. The MPA MUT 308BA Rifle includes a precision gun drilled, reamed and honed Spencer/MPA rifle barrel made from 416RQ stainless steel. The hand-lapped barrel is bore and land inspected, and the chamber is indicated within 0.0001 inch or less to the bore of the rifle. The Spiral Fluted One Piece Bolt with DLC coating is hand lapped and fitted to each individual action. The rifle is available to civilians with a barrel length of 16 inches or longer. It is said to deliver sub half-minute accuracy. The Curtis Custom Axiom Action is a Remington 700 type with the bolt being a spiral fluted one-piece design with DLC coating. The chassis weighs 3.2 pounds, and the rifle weight varies according to chambering and barrel length, but curb weight is about 8.6 pounds. MSRP is $3025.



Creedmoor Spotting Scope Mount Saver Solves Wear Problem. Creedmoor Sports offers shooters a commonsense solution to a common problem: the stripping or wearing out of the threaded holes in a spotting scope mount when constantly attaching and unattaching to a tripod. The new Creedmoor Sports Scope Mount Saver resolves this frustrating and often expensive problem. This cost effective "saver" ensures the scope mount and head remain in like-new condition. Measuring 2.178 by 1.5 inches and made from ⅜-inch-thick 6061 black anodized aluminum, the Scope Mount Saver comes with a standard ¼-20 socket cap screw that recesses and mounts flush. Attach it once and leave it. There are three screw holes available to choose from rather than the normal one found on a typical mount. MSRP of $24.95.



Personal-Defense 9mm Handgun Shoot Out: Smith's M2.0 Wins

The Glock 19X, Smith & Wesson M&P9 Compact M2.0, Ruger's SR1911 Commander, and SIG Sauer's P225-A1 are all good guns, but we think the Military & Police is the standout.

The most popular concealed-carry and home-defense handgun in America is likely the 9mm self loader. There are service grade and service-size pistols, compacts, and subcompacts available in this chambering, which has gained popularity because of improved bullet function. In this installment, we are firing purpose-designed compact handguns that are derived from service-size handguns. When the Glock 19X was introduced, with its Glock 17 grip and Glock 19 slide, our shooters knew it would be a hot new gun to test, but we did not quite know what to match against it. The editor dubbed it a Commander-size Glock 9mm, so we found a 9mm 1911 Commander to brace against it — the Ruger SR1911 Commander. The SR1911 Commander is, after all, a full-size Government Model pistol with the slide shortened three-quarters of an inch. The Glock 19X is a Glock 17 with a short slide and full-size grip. Bingo.

European compacts generally have both the slide and the butt shortened. One example is the SIG P225A, a short version of the SIG P220 9mm handgun. Today, SIG offers an updated and revamped P225-A1. We added this double-action-first-shot pistol as a counterpoint to the double-action-only and single-action pistols tested. Next, we added a true compact with both a short slide and short frame, the Smith & Wesson M&P9 Compact M2.0. It seemed fitting to match the M2.0 M&P9 against the Glock 19X Gen5 gun.

How We Tested

While firing for accuracy from a solid benchrest position, we used a Bullshooters rest ($55 from Brownells.com). We used two loads during the combat course, firing 50 rounds of each. The first was a handload using the Hornady 115-grain XTP over Titegroup powder for 1150 fps average, a standard load. We also used a combination of the Hornady 124-grain XTP bullet and WW231 powder for 1220 fps average as a +P-rated load. Most shooters will probably deploy a +P load, and the Commander-sized handguns are more suited to these loads than a sub-compact pistol.

Drawing from concealed carry, we fired at intruder-silhouette targets at 5, 7, and 10 yards. We capped the exercise off by firing 15 rounds at the target at 15 yards. We used three loads for benchrest testing. The Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain JHP +P ($15.08 for 20 rounds from TargetSportsUSA.com), the SIG Sauer 124-grain V-Crown JHPs ($15 for 20 rounds from LuckyGunner.com), and the Federal 147-grain HST. ($20 for 50 rounds, also from TargetSportsUSA.com). This covered the three popular bullet weights and a +P load.

The results were interesting and informative. While all the pistols have



We covered a good mix of action types and features in this shoot out. From top are the SIG P225-A1, the Coyote-brown Glock 19X, the Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 Compact with a prominent accessory rail, and the Ruger SR1911 Commander. These 9mm handguns were reliable and easy to control for the most part. Good sights and good triggers made for good results on target.

their good points, for us, the race came down to the Glock 19X and the Smith & Wesson Compact M2.0, for reasons we detail below.

Ruger SR1911 Lightweight Commander No. 6722 9mm Luger, $739

This is a recent price from BudsGunShop.com. The Ruger SR1911 is an aluminum-frame Commander-type 1911 with a stainless-steel slide and anodized frame. The frame had an even gray appearance. The Ruger suffered a half dozen documented failures to fully go into battery during the first 50 rounds of ammunition, which is sometimes SOP for the 1911. However, it has fired more than 2,000 rounds of ammunition without fail since. The fit of the frame to the slide and the barrel to the locking lugs and barrel bushing was tight, with a slight lateral play if the frame is held in the hand and the slide flexed on the slide rails. The sights were Novak LoMount units, with the popular three-dot insert. We liked the sights, but this was the only pistol tested without night sights, an important consideration for personal defense. The hammer was a lightweight Commander type. The grip safety properly released its hold on the trigger about halfway into compression. The slide-lock safety was well fitted and positive in operation. Trigger compression was clean after a modest take up and breaks at 5.5 pounds. The pistol featured a welcome improvement to the 1911 pistol. The plunger tube was permanently



Clockwise from top left, our test 9mm Luger ammunition included SIG Sauer's 124-grain V-Crown Jacketed Hollow Points, which cost about 75 cents a round, the Black Hills +P 115-grain JHPs, also about 75 cents a round, and Federal's HST LE 147-grain JHPs, about 40 cents a round.

RANGE DATA

Black Hills 9mm Luger +P 115-gr. JHP D9N820	**Glock 19X**	**Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0**	**Ruger SR1911**	**SIG Sauer P225-A1**
Average Velocity	1280 fps	1266 fps	1275 fps	1244 fps
Muzzle Energy	418 ft.-lbs.	409 ft.-lbs.	415 ft.-lbs.	395 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.65 in.	2.45 in.	1.90 in.	1.00 in.
Largest Group	3.25 in.	2.90 in.	2.60 in.	1.60 in.
Average Group Size	2.95 in.	2.65 in.	2.35 in.	1.30 in.

SIG Sauer V-Crown 9mm Luger 124-gr. JHP	**Glock 19X**	**Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0**	**Ruger SR1911**	**SIG Sauer P225-A1**
Average Velocity	1202 fps	1180 fps	1194 fps	1167 fps
Muzzle Energy	397 ft.-lbs.	383 ft.-lbs.	392 ft.-lbs.	374 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.40 in.	2.25 in.	1.70 in	1.25 in.
Largest Group	3.00 in.	2.70 in.	2.50 in	1.80 in.
Average Group Size	2.65 in.	2.50 in.	2.10 in	1.50 in.

Federal Premium HST 9mm Luger LE 147-gr. JHP P9HST2	**Glock 19X**	**Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0**	**Ruger SR1911**	**SIG Sauer P225-A1**
Average Velocity	1020 fps	1000 fps	1030 fps	978 fps
Muzzle Energy	339 ft.-lbs.	326 ft.-lbs.	346 ft.-lbs.	312 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.50 in.	2.20 in.	1.80 in.	1.10 in.
Largest Group	3.10 in.	2.60 in.	2.40 in.	1.70 in.
Average Group Size	2.75 in.	2.40 in.	2.15 in.	1.40 in.

For accuracy, we fired five-shot groups at 25 yards. We recorded velocity with a Competition Electronics Chronograph. The first sky screen was set 10 feet from the muzzle. ***Ammo sources****: Black Hills 9mm Luger +P 115-Grain Jacketed Hollow Point D9N820 ($15.08/20 TargetSportsUSA.com), SIG Sauer 124-Grain V-Crown 9mm Luger JHPs ($15/20 from LuckyGunner.com), and Federal HST Law Enforcement 9mm Luger 147-Grain Jacketed Hollow Point P9HST2 ($20/50 from TargetSportsUSA.com).*

RUGER SR1911 LIGHTWEIGHT COMMANDER NO. 6722 9MM LUGER, $739

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The Ruger SR1911 9mm handles well and is reliable. Like many 1911 handguns, a modest break-in period resulted in several failures of the slide to go fully forward, but many thousands of rounds later, there have been no problems of any type. For those who like the single-action 1911 cocked-and-locked product, this is a good choice. The pistol was rated down based on magazine capacity and a lack of a light rail.



Action	Locked Breech Single-Action Semi Auto
Overall Length	7.75 in.
Overall Height	5.45 in.
Maximum Width	1.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	28.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	34.0 oz.
Barrel	4.25 in. long stainless steel; 1:10 RH twist, 6 grooves
Magazine	9-round detachable box
Slide	Stainless steel
Slide Retraction Effort	17.0 lbs.
Frame	Gray anodized aluminum
Frame Front Strap Height	2.7 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.0 in.
Grips	Black rubberized
Grip Thickness Max	1.3 in.
Grip Circumference Max	5.4 in.
Sights	Steel; drift adjustable Novak 3-dot
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	5.5 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.6 in.
Safety	Manual safety-grip safety
Warranty	None written
Website	Ruger.com
Telephone	(336) 949-5200
Made In	USA
CA Approved	No
MA Approved & Certified	Yes



The SR1911 9mm is a good pistol for 1911 fans. We liked the fit and finish of the Ruger Commander 9mm. We also liked the grip safety, and the other controls were well fitted.



The Ruger's bold front post provided a good aiming point. Of course, we prefer night sights.



The 9mm Luger is increasingly popular, even among 1911 fans.

attached rather than staked on.

The two stainless-steel magazines supplied with the pistol were well made and fit the pistol well. We added two Mec-Gar 9mm magazines to make the test go easier. We elected to draw and fire each pistol on a combat course because this is an important part of concealed-carry use. While a good reserve of ammunition is important, so is an accurate first shot. We also decided to use an inside-the-waistband holster during this drill. We drew from a Wright Leather Works Banshee IWB ($108 from WrightLeatherWorks.com). The raters found the Commander was a fast handgun from leather. Also, it was the thinnest pistol tested and the most comfortable to conceal. Control was excellent, partly due to the low bore axis and partly due to the full-size grip and crisp trigger. However, it was interesting to note that the SIG P225-A1, once we got over the heavy first-shot trigger press, was as capable in rapid fire as the Ruger Commander and perhaps a bit more accurate. We came to the conclusion during this test that the differences between action types and frame size mean more with heavy-caliber handguns than the 9mm, which is one reason the 9mm is so popular. A hard-kicking 40 S&W or 357 SIG will outline the differences in handguns more than the 9mm Luger, we believe.

The Ruger turned in credible groups and was the second most accurate pistol tested, behind the SIG P225-A1. It was also the second most expensive pistol and one of two supplied without night sights. (We added night sights to the Smith & Wesson to bring it on par with the Glock as supplied from the factory, which likewise brought them on par price-wise.) The 1911 requires higher maintenance and a higher standard of training to deploy.

Also, we should note the pistol was originally fitted with standard Ruger plastic grips, but the panels were changed during the first 2000 rounds. The owner, a military-intelligence officer and one of our raters, received

SIG SAUER P225-A1 NITRON 225A-9-BSS-C
9MM LUGER, $880
GUN TESTS GRADE: B-

This pistol carries the highest MSRP of any tested at $1035, but we found the piece for sale at a considerably lower price. The slim grip appeals to many shooters, especially those with small hands. The single-action press is crisp, part of making the SIG a very accurate handgun. What we did not get was a light rail and a high magazine capacity. There was also the problem with the thumb riding the slide lock, preventing the slide from locking on the last shot. This combination resulted in a lower rating.



Action	Locked Breech DA/SA Semi Auto
Overall Length	6.9 in.
Overall Height	5.2 in.
Maximum Width	1.3 in.
Weight Unloaded	30.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	35.0 oz.
Barrel Length	3.6 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	(2) 8-round detachable boxes
Slide	Nitron-finished stainless steel
Slide Retraction Effort	16.5 lbs.
Frame	Anodized aluminum
Frame Front Strap Height	2.3 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.0 in.
Grips	Checkered black G10
Grip Thickness Max	1.25 in.
Grip Circumference Max	5.5 in.
Sights	Steel SIGLites
Sight Radius	5.7 in.
Trigger Pull Weight Double Action	14.0 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	4.25 lbs.
Trigger Span Double Action	2.8 in.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.5 in.
Safety	No Manual safety
Warranty	1 Year
Website	SIGSauer.com
Telephone	(603) 610-3000
Made In	USA
CA Approved	No
MA Approved & Certified	No



The SIG P225-A1 impressed on many counts, but you can get more ammo in a gun and a light rail for less money. Here, a thin 8-round magazine fits into the slim, comfortable grip.





The SIGLite night sights are well designed, although not as visible as the high-profile aftermarket TruGlo sights and not quite as large as the Glock factory sights. Still, we found the SIG night sights excellent for all-round personal-defense applications.

the Commander and a set of custom panels from A Woman's Touch Grips (Facebook.com/AWTgrips).

These grips, with the military intelligence emblem, are nice additions to the pistol, but they did not affect testing.

Our Team Said: We found little to fault the SR1911 on performance, but grading on the curve, this is a pistol with no light rail and less magazine capacity than the striker-fired handguns, all at a higher price. Also, we would have liked to have checkering, grooves, or stippling on the front strap. The other three handguns had this feature.

SIG Sauer P225-A1 Nitron 225A-9-BSS-C 9mm Luger, $880

The SIG P225-A1 is a single-column-magazine pistol with a double-action first shot. Please note this isn't the original P225, which was discontinued a few years ago. The new P225-A1 is a larger handgun that might be best described as a single-column version of the SIG P229 9mm. As with the arrangement of grip and slide on the Glock 19X, some shooters will ask why do they need a single-column 9mm? We're not saying you do, but the single column magazine allows for a thin and very comfortable grip frame which some shooters prefer.

The SIG featured a double-action first shot with the Short Reset Trigger. This trigger allows better work to be done with the DA pull. The double-action press was a smooth 12.5 pounds. Single-action release ran 4.25 pounds. The single-action press, all raters agreed, was the crispest of any of the test guns. The decocker was located on the left side of the frame and was handy in dropping the hammer safely. The SIG also features a positive firing-pin block. The P225-A1 features a set of tritium SIGLite night sights. They are not quite as high visibility as the Glock or the TruGlo sights we tested, but they work well. The sight picture was good for precise shooting.

We drew from a Jason Winnie J121 IWB holster ($90 from JasonWinnie.com). The grip allows for a smooth,

GLOCK G19X G5 PX1950703 9MM LUGER, $594

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The Glock 19X has garnered its share of derision, although we cannot quite put our finger on the reason. It is a credible choice with many of the good features of the Generation 5 Glock. The pistol is fast from leather, fast on target, and reliable.



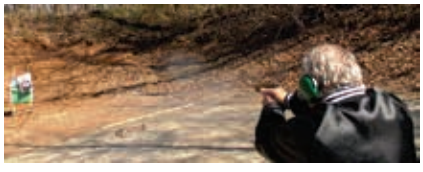
Action	Locked breech Safe Action single-action semi-auto
Overall Length	7.4 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in. w/flush-fit magazine
Maximum Width	1.3 in.
Weight Unloaded	24.9 oz.
Weight Loaded	31.4 oz.
Barrel	4.0 in. steel GMB; hexagonal rifling, RH 1:9.84 twist
Magazines	(1) 17-round; (2) 19-round detachable boxes
Slide	G19 steel, coyote-colored nPVD coating
Slide Retraction Effort	16.0 lbs.
Frame	Polymer, lanyard loop
Frame Front Strap Height	2.4 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.4 in.
Grips	Textured polymer, modular, no finger grooves
Grip Thickness Max	1.3 in.
Grip Circumference Max	6.1 in.
Sights	Steel Night Sights
Sight Radius	5.9 in.
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	5.8 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.45 in.
Safety	Trigger lever
Warranty	1 Year
Website	Glock.com
Telephone	(770) 432-1202
Made In	Austria
CA Approved	No
MA Approved & Certified	No



The Glock was drawn from this JM Custom Kydex holster during most of the testing. We also checked out fit and draw speed from the Ted Blocker COB. We found the short-slide Glock was well suited to these holsters.



The Glock 19X features the typical Glock finger-lever safety in the trigger shoe that prevents lateral discharge. We liked the new Gen5 ambidextrous slide lock (left arrow).



Accuracy in both combat and bench testing was fine, although the Glock was the least accurate handgun from the benchrest.

sharp draw. We came on target quickly and pressed the trigger smoothly to the rear. The pistol was accurate to a first-shot hit at 7 yards and more difficult to manage at 10 yards. In rapid single-action targeting, the pistol set a fast, accurate pace as we fired as quickly as we could regain the sights in recoil. Muzzle flip was the greatest of the three pistols due to the higher bore axis of the SIG compared to the other handguns, but recoil was not uncomfortable. The pistol's grip gives good purchase during firing. Firing from the benchrest firing position, results were likewise excellent. The best group at 25 yards were very good 1.0-inch five-shot efforts with the Black Hills Ammunition +P load. The other loads were accurate as well.

Our Team Said: We liked the SIG P225-A1. There were no failures to feed, chamber, fire, or eject. Accuracy was outstanding. However, the pistol does not have a light rail and was a low-capacity handgun compared to the Smith & Wesson and Glock handguns. Another demerit came during firing. Several of the raters encountered a failure of the slide to lock back on the last round. This was due to the thumb riding the slide lock during firing. This is a common SIG problem not experienced with the other handguns. We rated the pistol down a half grade on this problem. While it is a nice handgun, we feel that the other handguns tested will do the job better for less money.

Glock G19X G5 PX1950703 9mm Luger, $594

This was our price from BudsGunShop.com. The Glock 19X is a mix of the Glock 17 9mm frame and the Glock 19 9mm slide. So we have Glock's version of the 1911 Commander, a full-size frame and short slide. The pistol is built on the Generation 5 improvements. These include a trigger action that feels different from earlier Glock pistols, with different being better, but difficult to describe. (The Gen5 will not accept aftermarket parts of the previous pistols.) The dust cover differed from earlier handguns, and the takedown lock featured a different spring. The slide lock was ambidextrous. The magazine release

SMITH & WESSON M&P9 M2.0 COMPACT NO. 11686
9MM LUGER, $476

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Smith & Wesson 9mm has several good features, such as a pleasing trigger action and good gripping surface. The M&P 9mm Compact features a rail for mounting a combat light, which two of the other test pistols did not. The Smith & Wesson grip insert and system is superior to the Glock's, we felt, based on ease of use and coverage of hand size.



Action	Semi auto, locked breech; double action only, striker fire
Overall Length	7.3 in.
Overall Height	4.8 in.
Maximum Width	1.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	24.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	30.6 oz.
Barrel	4.0 in. long; stainless steel; Armornite finish; 1:10 twist
Magazine	(2) 15-round detachable box
Slide	Stainless steel
Slide Retraction Effort	14.0 lbs.
Frame	Embedded stainless-steel chassis, polymer shell; 18-degree grip angle
Frame Front Strap Height	3.0 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	2.25 in.
Grips	Textured polymer, 4 grip inserts
Grip Thickness Max	1.5 in.
Grip Circumference Max	6.0 in.
Sights	Steel, white dot front, two-white-dot rear
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	6.0 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.8 in.
Safety	Manual safety
Warranty	Limited lifetime
Website	Smith-Wesson.com
Telephone	(800) 331-0852
Made In	USA
CA Approved	No
MA Approved & Certified	No



The Smith & Wesson 9mm is controllable from the barricade position. We find the Smith & Wesson M2.0 to be a credible improvement on previous Military & Police compact pistols.



The Smith & Wesson system of changing grip inserts, we felt, is the better of the two between it and the Glock.



We felt the addition of TruGlo night sights was a good move, and one we'd recommend to our readers who buy this handgun.

may be switched for left-handed users. The pistol was supplied with four grip inserts. There were three supplied magazines, a big plus, we feel. One was a flush-fit 17-round magazine and the others Glock +2 19-round magazines.

We liked the frame texture. In the Generation 5 pistol, the finger grooves have been deleted. The trigger felt better than earlier pistols, but it wasn't lighter at 5.8 pounds. Take up was tight and reset fast. The pistol also featured the new Glock Marksman barrel, intended to provide better accuracy.

The pistol was finished in a Dark Earth color. While we liked the finish, we saw wear marks around the muzzle and the ejection port after a few weeks of use. The pistol was supplied with Glock night sights. We feel that night sights are a plus in a defensive pistol. The Glock and SIG were issued with night sights, and the Smith & Wesson was easily upgraded. It would be expensive to upgrade the Ruger. We compared the Glock using the Tulster AIWB ($60 from Tulster.com), the JM Custom Kydex IWB Dual Loop ($77 from JMCustomKydex.com), and the $104 Ted Blocker Center of the Back holster (TedBlockerHolsters.com). The COB really showed the superiority of the short slide for concealment, yet, the large handle did not interfere with concealed carry, save with truly thin raters and the appendix position. Also, during the firing test we drew from the JM Custom Kydex holster. We did this to explore any speed advantage of the Glock 19X.

The handgun, like many new handguns, was tested as much against itself as the other pistols. On the firing range, the Glock was fast to a first-shot hit. It was in league with the Smith & Wesson; however, half of the raters found the pistol was not as fast on target or as accurate in rapid fire as the Smith & Wesson. The Ruger beat the Glock to a fast first shot, but the Glock pulled away from the Ruger in sustained fire. The Glock trigger reset was as fast as the

VALUE GUIDE: RECENT 9MM HANDGUN RANKINGS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE	COMMENTS
CZ-USA CZ P-10 C 91520 9mm Luger, $480	Feb. 2018	A-	A Best Buy. Well-designed sights, decent trigger, ambi slide lock and magazine catch. Reliable.
Lipsey's Glock 17RTF2 Vickers FDE 9mm Luger, $630	Feb. 2018	A-	This was Our Pick. Includes Vickers Tactical sights, a mag guide, and magazine base pads.
Beretta 92FS W/Wilson Combat Upgrades 9mm Luger, $550	Feb. 2018	B	Smooth, well finished, and the most accurate handgun tested. Grip did not fit all shooters.
Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard FDE 9mm Luger, $634	Feb. 2018	B	Fit, finish, and an absence of internal tool marks told us that the pistol is built to high standards.
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.

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
Remington R51 96430 9mm Luger, $400	Aug. 2017	D	It simply refused to function with one type of ammunition. The trigger was poor.
Ruger American Compact 8633 9mm Luger, $579	July 2017	D-	We could not complete our tests without reseating the recoil assembly multiple times.
Honor Defense Honor Guard HG9CLE 9mm Luger, $499	July 2017	B+	Admirably fills the role of a highly concealable fighting gun that's inexpensive and fun to shoot.
Springfield Armory 1911 EMP PI9229L 9mm Luger, $1220	July 2017	A	The EMP delivered accuracy and ergonomics on par with more expensive custom guns.
CZ-USA 75D PCR Compact 91194 9mm Luger, $546	May 2017	A	We like everything about the 75D except the absence of a light rail.
Tristar Canik 55 C-100 9mm Luger, $365	May 2017	C	The safety lever was so stiff as to be unusable. The double-action trigger was also heavy.
CZ-USA 75 P-01 9mm Luger, $576	May 2017	A	A Best Buy. The P-01 offers faultless reliability, smooth operation, and a good trigger action.
AREX REX Zero 1 CP 9mm Luger, $603	May 2017	B	It performed well during the combat test and had credible accuracy. Reliability was faultless.
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.

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



The Ruger, left, shown here with a set of aftermarket grip panels, handles well and ran a great combat course, beating the other three handguns. Also, the Ruger Commander consistently demonstrated higher velocity than the SIG P225-A1 at right, but the owner must decide how important this is. In benchrest accuracy, the SIG outperformed the Ruger.



The Smith & Wesson was drawn from the Galco Stow and Go, left, while the SIG P225-A1 was drawn from a Jason Winnie IWB, right.



The Glock, left, is the simplest to operate. The combination of good handling and night sights make it a good personal-defense pistol. We feel that its features and performance make it superior to the SIG and Ruger pistols tested; however, the Smith & Wesson M2.0 bested it. Depending on your needs, either one is a fine choice.

1911, in our perception.

Our Team Said: The Glock was the least accurate handgun tested. However, it gave the Smith & Wesson Military and Police compact a good contest. The Glock's combat accuracy was good and the absolute accuracy adequate for the task and better than previous Glock 9mm handguns we have tested. The Glock features a light rail and night sights as well as the greatest magazine capacity of any of the handguns tested. The Glock was clearly an effective combat handgun. We rated the Glock 19X down a half grade on the curve on accuracy.

Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 Compact No. 11686 9mm Luger, $476

This was also a recent price from BudsGunShop.com. The Military & Police Compact M2.0 is Smith & Wesson's latest improvement on the M&P line of self-loading pistols. This was the 2.0 version with a different trigger action, or at least one tuned from the previous standard. The pistol featured a new grip treatment as well. The 2.0 pistol featured an ambidextrous slide lock and a manual safety that is also ambidextrous. All raters agreed that the grip's texturing was better than the Glock's treatment for control during firing. The bore axis of the Smith & Wesson seemed lower. The cocking serrations were nicely done. There were tiny forward cocking serrations that do not seem of much use, but the 2.0 pistol was the only one with cocking serrations in this test. The sights were good combat designs. The pistol came out of the box with four grip inserts. We liked the lock that holds the grip inserts in place better than the Glock's pin. It just works well for most users. The Smith & Wesson cost $120 less than the Glock 19X, which doesn't hurt. However, the Smith & Wesson did not have night sights and the Glock came with a total of three magazines. The Smith & Wesson was supplied with two 15-round magazines.

We used a Galco Stow-And-Go IWB holster ($28.80 from TacticalGear.com) on the firing course, and our shooters found the Smith & Wesson never failed to feed, chamber, fire, or eject. Combat accuracy was excellent. In short order, this turned into a contest between the two polymer-frame striker-fired handguns. The Smith & Wesson performed better in combat accuracy than the Glock, according to the majority of the raters. While one rated the two equal in combat firing, the Smith & Wesson was proven to be more accurate from the benchrest firing position by all of the raters. We liked the handling of the Smith & Wesson better than the Glock, and it outshot the Glock 19X by a noticeable margin. We also liked the addition of a manual safety. This gives the shooter more options, and if you do not like the safety simply ignore it. The 2.0 trigger broke at 6.0 pounds, but as it is often said, it felt lighter. We liked the wide trigger added to the 2.0 pistol, and we liked the reset of the new trigger. We added a set of TruGlo TFX Pro night sights ($98 from BudsGunShop.com) to the Smith & Wesson to bring it up to par with the Glock 19X. We could have spent less on night sights, but these are excellent night sights worth the tariff. With them, we were within $2 of the Glock 19X's price, but short a magazine.

Our Team Said: The Smith & Wesson's performance was good enough that we felt justified in naming it a Best Buy. It offered superior handling, a manual safety, better accuracy in both the combat firing and absolute accuracy testing, and a slightly smaller foot print for concealed carry without giving up anything in combat ability.

These four handguns are capable of defending the home and person. Though we believe shot placement means the most, magazine capacity is also good to have, and the Smith & Wesson and Glock outclassed the other handguns in this regard. They also have the ability to mount a combat light. The Glock was delivered with night sights, but it wasn't expensive or troublesome to add night sights to the Smith & Wesson. If you are one who doesn't need self luminous iron sights, the Smith & Wesson is an even better deal.

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

SHORT SHOTS

Crimson Trace Launches Buy One/Get One Free Light Program. Through June 30, 2018, shooters who purchase any new Crimson Trace Laserguard Pro laser sight and light will be eligible to receive a free Crimson CWL-100 Tactical Light. The CWL-100 features an operation pressure pad and corded attachment cap, and it can also be converted into a hand-held flashlight with a second provided endcap. The CWL-100 metal attachment bracket is designed to fit most Picatinny or similar accessory rails. To receive the free Crimson Trace CWL-100 tactical light in this offer, purchasers must complete and submit to Crimson Trace the proof of purchase form found at CrimsonTrace.com along with the receipt. Once Crimson Trace verifies that purchasing conditions have been met, the company will ship the complimentary Crimson Tactical Light CWL-100 directly to the purchaser. This offer excludes Crimson Trace Laserguard Pro laser sight and lights preinstalled on firearms from manufacturers.

Steiner Optics Rolls Out the TOR Fusion. This is a rail-mounted light and aiming laser combination designed for pistols. It's small enough to fit inside most commercially produced holsters on the market. The new TOR Fusion aiming laser features left and right fire buttons for ambidextrous use and is available in red (635 nm) or green (520 nm) visible lasers. Built with a Mil-Grade aluminum machined housing, the TOR Fusion is framed by a rail mount and illuminator bezel, ambient sealed, dustproof, and is splash-proof to IP54 standards. The TOR Fusion's cool white LED and total internal reflector produces a circular illumination spot plus wide-angle flood lighting. A patented constant power drive circuit ensures that the laser output remains stable throughout the life of the battery. The universal rail mount on the TOR Fusion will fit all pistols that have a Picatinny or Weaver style rail forward of the trigger guard. Other features of the TOR Fusion include windage and elevation bore sight adjustment screws, user selectable modes, adjustable laser and illuminator power, optional auto-on, and boost mode. Battery: (1) CR123. Max Continuous Illuminator Power: 350 Lumen. Boost Mode Illuminator power: 470 Lumen. Height: 1.39 in. Width: 1.34 in. Length: 2.70 in. MSRP: $399.

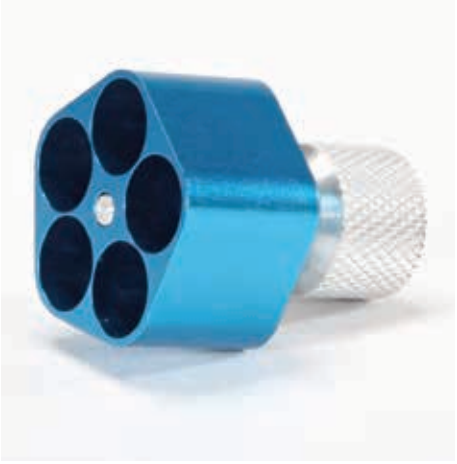


Ruger Introduces GP100 Match Champion 10mm Auto. Sturm, Ruger's new GP100 Match Champion revolver is chambered in 10mm Auto and has polished and optimized internals, a centering boss on the trigger and centering shims on the hammer to produce a smooth double-action trigger pull and a crisp and consistent let-off. An adjustable rear sight and quick-change fiber-optic front sight offer the elements of a great sight picture for plates and paper targets. Featuring a 4.20-inch cold hammer-forged barrel, the GP100 10mm Auto has a half-lug design with an 11-degree target crown, a chamfered cylinder and ejector for easy loading, and custom Hogue hardwood grips with stippled sides. This new configuration ships with three moon clips for convenient loading and aid in the ejection of spent cartridges.





Lyman Products Introduces New Competition Aluminum Speedloaders. Pachmayr's new Competition Aluminum Speedloaders for revolvers are precision CNC machined from solid aluminum. The Speedloader body is cut in a polygon shape, which produces the smallest possible outside dimensions and allows it to easily fit revolvers, such as Smith & Wesson J-, K-, and L-frame revolvers, plus the Ruger LCR and other popular models. The Speedloader is also equipped with a rattle eliminating O-ring, which contacts the cartridge bases and firmly holds the rounds in place. Cartridges are then released with a simple twist of the large, knurled knob. "Revolver speedloaders have been around for a very long time," Trevor Mullen, VP of Global Marketing and Business Development for Lyman Products, explained. "They offer a convenient way to carry extra rounds and make for a quick and easy reload. What sets the Pachmayr aluminum Speedloader apart from the competition are the CNC machining and the polygonal shape. Plus, the aluminum body keeps the Speedloader relatively light weight at 2 ounces without ammo, yet durable for years and years of continuous use."



Programmable Automatic Powder Dispensers Compete

The RCBS Chargemaster Lite leads the way, while Hornady's Auto Lock-N-Load was not quite as handy. Hidden powder pile ups meant the Lyman Gen6 could pose safety issues.

Our reloading pursuits for handguns are generally to provide volume ammunition for training at a discount based on reusable cases and bullets purchased in bulk. The progressive reloading press is capable of producing more rounds per hour than our arms can withstand. But setting the powder drop to exact quantities can be trial and error, a time-consuming exercise of repeated drops to prime the new setting and weigh out the result. But what if the new load is not what you hoped? Using a programmable automatic powder dispenser enables the reloader to quickly develop multiple loads for test without having to reset your powder measure.

Automatic powder dispensers that drop a preset amount of smokeless powder have been around for a while. The powder charge is



Left: The $235 Hornady Lock-N-Load Auto Charge offered large capacity and could load up to 300 grains of powder at a time. It had three different load speeds, and its fill protocol could be adjusted, including how long the fill tube spun freely until it slowed to trickle. Center: The accuracy of the $300 RCBS Chargemaster Lite was hard to beat. A full-size machine with 2000-grain capacity, we liked that it could be leveled without resorting to shims. The mix of simple mechanics and the latest touch screen technology gave the Chargemaster Lite a hands-on feeling. Right: The $275 Lyman Gen6 Compact Touch Screen Powder System was on the way to earning very high marks. We liked the touch screen, the calibration procedure, its quick 3-minute warm-up (shown here counting down), and its compact size. The Gen6 was a fast worker and accurate, too if you chose the correct mode for the given choice of powder. But the powder reservoir and draw system was not sealed. We think the amount of powder that found its way into the crevices of the unit body could pose a safety risk if accidentally ignited.

routed from its silo into a pan seated atop a scale. When the scale reads the desired preset weight, the stream of powder is shut off. The time saved is obvious but what about accuracy? Can the most fastidious reloader rely on an automatic powder dispenser to drop powder charges with the same accuracy as the common practice of using a manual powder drop to dispense a charge just a grain or two short of the desired load, then making up the rest of the charge by using a "trickler?" A trickler is a small tankard of powder across the top of which there is a pipe with a threaded interior. The center of the pipe has a pickup hole where it crosses through the powder. As the pipe is turned, granules of powder follow the thread to its end, where it tumbles one piece at a time into a pan seated atop a scale. Programmable automatic powder dispensers feed granules of powder through a threaded trickler pipe that rotates quickly until it gets close to the desired load, then slows to a ticking movement until the target weight is reached. We wanted to know if automation would save time and still maintain a high level of accuracy in our load development.

For tests we acquired Hornady's $235 Lock-N-Load Auto Charge Powder Dispenser, Lyman's $275 Gen6 Compact Touch Screen Powder System, and the $300 RCBS Chargemaster Lite. We challenged each machine to deliver a starting load for 40 S&W handgun and a starting load for 6.5 Creedmoor rifle. We asked each machine to drop 4.8 grains of Winchester Super Target (WST) smokeless powder for our handgun loads. Despite being listed as a ball powder, it was plain to see that each particle of WST appeared to be disc shaped. Next, we asked our machines to drop 40.2 grains of Accurate Reloader 17 (RL17) for our rifle rounds. Granules of RL17 resemble tiny lengths of a very fine single-filament wire, sometimes referred to as a "stick"-type powder. Our choice of powders was based strictly on our needs at the time, determined in advance of ordering our test units. We later learned that stick-type powders were among the most troublesome for use in automatic dispensers. The Lyman manual didn't mention RL17 by name, but revealed that their machine was fit with a special adaptor for the fill tube when using such powders. In terms of cleanup, the RL17 powder was easier to evacuate than the granules of WST, which had greater surface area and a more porous texture that was slightly dusty. Given these factors alone, it looked like our three machines were in for a challenge.

Throughout our tests we checked the weight of each dropped load of powder using a Dillon D-Terminator electronic digital scale, $140 from DillonPrecision.com. The Dillon scale, as well as our three test auto-dispensers, each carried an accuracy rating of +/-0.10 grains. Therefore,, we surmised that a reading of within 0.10 grains meant the scales were within spec, but if they were in complete agreement, so much the better. Aside from accuracy, we wanted to know how easy the



A Dillon D-Terminator electronic digital scale ($140 from Dillonprecision.com) was used to check the reading from our auto dispensers. All the scales in our tests were rated as being accurate to within +/- 0.10 grains. We checked and recalibrated our scales frequently throughout the tests.



Listed as a ball powder, Olin's Winchester Super Target handgun powder appears closer to being disc shaped. Note the variation in the sizes of the individual granules. Shown on the RCBS unit.



Shiny, smooth, and eager to roll Accurate's Reloder 17 for rifle ammunition requires a fill tube capable of precise metering. Shown on the RCBS unit.

machines were to setup and maintain. As prescribed in the owner's manual, each machine was to be situated away from the vibration of our loading bench and cell phones were removed from the room. In addition, each unit was leveled and calibrated before use. Buyers of the Hornady and RCBS units were protected by a 1-year warranty. The Lyman warranty was listed as Limited Lifetime. Which programmable powder dispenser would perform the best? Let's punch in some numbers and see what comes out.

Hornady's Lock-N-Load Auto Charge Powder Dispenser No. 050068, $235

The Hornady Lock-N-Load can provide powder loads up to 300 grains in volume from its 1000-grain hopper. This unit provides Normal, Fast, or Slow fill speeds and loads can be dispensed manually, wherein the desired weight is entered before each delivery, or the machine can be set to begin automatically. In automatic mode, returning the pan to its place on the scale began the delivery system after a brief delay (about 2 seconds), during which the scale returned to zero. When the scale read zero, the delivery tube started turning first at a high rate of speed, then it slowed to a series of ticks until the prescribed weight was reached. Then, the fill tube stopped rotating and the unit emitted a beep sound.

To drain the powder silo, we rotated the cap on the spout protruding from the right side of the unit. The spout was small and the plastic used made the action sticky as we aligned the relief in the cap with the hole in the spout. Powder remaining in the drainage area was ushered down through the spout using the supplied brush. Then we turned on the machine to route the powder remaining from the fill tube. We found this unit was prone to static cling, and we had to manually wipe out the removable cylinder that served as the walls of the powder silo.

The feet on the Lock-N-Load were non-adjustable, so we used business card stock to level the unit. Calibration was achieved in about 6 steps that go by quickly. (Readouts can be expressed in either grains or grams.) Two test weights were supplied, weighing 10 grams and 50 grams respectively, which were used in turn until the pan is replaced and zeroed out. The two test weights are stored in cubbyholes integral within the unit body. The rate at which the fill tube ticks can be adjusted, as well as when during the fill cycle it switches from constant rotation to trickle mode. Loading the device with Winchester Super Target, we timed each of the dispensing rates as delivered. The Hornady was able to deliver 4.8 grains of WST in 17 seconds in the fast mode, 35 seconds in the normal mode, and 50 seconds at the slowest rate of speed. We tried adjusting both the trickling speed and the trickling start time, but we didn't find any real difference in performance.

In terms of accuracy in 10 trial drops (at normal speed), the Hornady Lock-N-Load registered a payload of 4.8 grains with the Dillon D-Terminator in agreement six times. Three times the Dillon scale disagreed, reading 4.7 grains, and reported a weight of 4.6 grains once. Filling the pan with granules of Reloder 17 was faster because the little round pieces rolled freely without any attraction between each piece. But this also affected accuracy

Right: Hornady's Lock-N-Load Auto Charge Powder Dispenser No. 050068, $235



Below: The interior diameter of the Hornady's fill tube was machined with large threads. This helped move granules along quickly, but we think it also resulted in a less precise metering than we would have preferred.





The Hornady's keypad was a series of buttons sealed beneath a bubble. They seemed less precise than the touch-screens models, and the force necessary to operate them sometimes caused the machine to shake, releasing loose granules from the fill tube.

Right: RCBS Chargemaster Lite No. 98940, $300



Below: Striations rather than a spiraling thread helped separate and meter individual granules with precision.



Right: The powder drain spout on the RCBS operated smoothly without sticking and offered rapid evacuation.



and cleanup because the gauge of the threads inside the fill spout were large and coarse, trailing off without any additional help to meter individual granules. Any vibration to the unit, including setting down the pan without caution or replacing the top on to the powder silo, was likely to dislodge a piece of powder from the fill tube. Gentle operation of the keys on the control panel, which were manually driven but sealed within a bubble, was required to prevent shaking loose bits of powder that were staged at the end of the fill tube.

Our 10-round accuracy test dispensing the RL17 resulted in the Dillon scale agreeing with the Hornady Lock-N-Load three times. Five times the Dillon registered a reading of 40.1 instead of 40.2. Twice the powder dispenser indicated an overage, wherein the dropped load was more than 0.10 grains over, registering 40.4 grains and 40.7 grains on the Dillon scale. In an effort to improve performance, we contacted Hornady Product Support by telephone, and the representative was able to walk us through resetting trickle speed and the time interval before the machined began the trickle process. In addition, we were supplied via email an updated manual for machines with serial numbers above SN 2840. However, over the course of repeated tests, the performance of our unit remained largely unchanged.

Our Team Said: The best-looking unit in our tests was also the least accurate. We found the control buttons to be awkward and the "reasoning" of the unit to be inconsistent. The updated information sent to us by Hornady's support staff was helpful specifically in showing us how to change modes quickly and reset the machine after an overcharge. But overall performance was nevertheless only slightly improved. Our conclusion was that the Lock-N-Load's ability to accurately dispense different types of powder granules was limited.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

RCBS Chargemaster Lite No. 98940, $300

The RCBS Chargemaster Lite sounds as though it should be a small machine, but this was a full-sized unit with 2000-grain capacity and able to dispense up to 300 grains of smokeless powder at a time. Special features included a quick-drain spout, independently adjustable feet at all four corners to take advantage of the built-in bubble level, and an LCD touch-screen display. The Go button and the on/off buttons located at either side of the unit body were not touch-screen features.

After turning on the machine and letting it warm up, the calibration protocol was a seven-step process utilizing two 50-gram weights that are stored to either side of the silo when not in use. Readouts on the screen walked us easily through the process. We liked the way information on the screen was organized. The numbers were large and easy to read. Prompts at the bottom of the screen were in small print, but nonetheless clear and concise. Left to right, the prompts read Stable, for when the scale is ready to measure, Over indicating more weight than was requested, and Under for too little weight in the pan to match the request. The designations for Auto-Dispense and Manual modes also appeared along the bottom line of the screen. The Manual mode allowed the user to trickle the powder as long as the dispense key is in contact. The Auto-Dispense mode begins rotation of the filler tube as soon as the pan is in place and the scale has stabilized. Rotation continued until the scale

registered the desired weight. There was a third mode referred to as Dispense for filling the pan one load at a time. Dial in the desired load and press the go button.

We found that the quick-drain feature was just that. Featuring a larger opening than the Hornady and smoother operation, rotating the drain spout one-half turn dumped powder from the silo quickly. But we still had to follow up with brushing out the interior, and the clear plastic silo needed to be wiped out. All three manufacturers recommend not leaving powder in the machine. Not just for safety reasons, but also the longer you leave the powder in place, the more susceptible it becomes to static cling, making it more difficult to clean.

Loading the Chargemaster Lite with Winchester Super Target, we punched in 4.8 grains. Over the course of ten tries, a comparison between readings on the RCBS scale and the Dillon scale told us that the two units agreed completely 7 out of 10 times. Three times the Dillon scale read only 4.7 grains, but given each unit is rated for accuracy at +/- 0.10, the RCBS was in spec.

Setting the RCBS to dispense 40.2 grains of Reloder 17 powder, we were rewarded 10 out of 10 times with quantities of powder that weighed the same when checked on our Dillon scale, with no overages. Asking ourselves why the RCBS was so much more accurate than the Hornady when dropping the RL17 powder, we took a careful look at the machine. What we discovered was that the threads that siphoned the powder through the filler tube did not continue all the way to the edge of the tube. Just before the end of the tube, the spiral of threads stopped. The distance from the threads to mouth of the fill tube instead showed deep lines running parallel to the bore. Evidently, when the granules arrived at the end of tube, they were separated and organized by the grooves running back to front.

Our Team Said: The RCBS Chargemaster Lite proved to be an accurate, well-thought-out machine that did what it was supposed to. That is, it makes higher-volume powder delivery more convenient for the operator. The touch screen was responsive without being overly sensitive, and the information was clearly illustrated. Clean up was easy, and the specially configured fill tube kept things clean.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Lyman Gen6 Compact Touch Screen Powder System No. 7750550, $275

The Lyman Gen6 Compact is like the name implies — a smaller unit than either the Hornady or RCBS machines, and it was developed to take up less space than Lyman's Gen5. The maker chooses not to list powder capacity due to the differences in powder configuration, but the removable clear-plastic cylinder was about 1 inch shorter on average than the other units. All three cylinders measured about 3.1 inches across. The Gen6 offered a true touch screen aside from the Enter button that is used to start the loading process in manual dispense mode. The Gen6 had the fastest warm-up time of our three loaders, with the screen counting down from 3 minutes after it had been turned on. It also had the shortest, most convenient calibration procedure consisting of five easy steps. Lyman reports they put a lot of time into making the unit invulnerable to interference from cell phones and computers. Being able to utilize the unit in the vicinity of a cell phone or computer is advantageous because downloading information via Bluetooth from a chronograph for example, is becoming more commonplace.

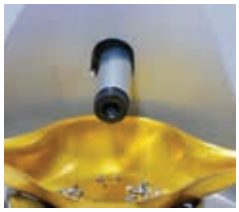
Lyman Gen6 Compact Touch Screen Powder System No. 7750550, $275



Emptying the Gen6 was at least as quick as the RCBS machine. The right side of the unit body featured a trapdoor that folded down to expose the release gate and act as a chute. The advantage was you didn't have a flow tube sticking out, so the machine maintained a trim profile. But the chute did not lock into the down position. In contact with a funnel, it was prone to trying to shut while powder flowed from the drain. We think this resulted in granules of powder being leaked into the unit body.

Unlike the other units, the Gen6 can be disassembled and cleaned internally. The fill tube, which turned like an axle, was seated across a removable component referred to as the "fill box." The base of the silo was removable and played a part in seating the fill box. Remove the base and the fill box could be slid through the right side of unit body. This allowed for a more thorough cleaning. Whereas powder stored inside the Hornady and RCBS units had only two paths, out the fill tube or down the drain, much of the interior of the Gen6 was unsealed. While Lyman did their homework when it comes to reducing static cling, we found that even when the machine appeared to empty and clean, loose powder could find its way into the unit body in and around the fill box. Keeping the interior of the machine free of loose powder was imperative to assure safety.

The Gen6 will deliver powder measured in grams, grains, or ounces. The system works in only one speed, and Lyman claims it will dispense at a rate of 2 grains per second. Actual speed of delivery, in our opinion, depends on the configuration of the powder, but it was fast. Asking for 4.8 grain of WST, the unit filled the pan to specification in just 14 seconds in the Auto-dispense mode. The elapsed time began when placing the pan on the scale. There was a brief delay of little more than one second and the fill tube began rotating. Actually, there is a caveat here. The Gen6 arrived with a limiter nozzle that screwed into the end of the flow tube. The limiter was designed to enhance the accurate metering of powders, such as our other test powder Accurate



Right: Wobble in the fill tube of the Lyman Gen6 resulted in an up-and-down motion. In the up position shown here, granules of Reloder 17 powder tended to bunch up at the mouth of the fill tube instead of metering evenly by falling into the tray. Lyman recommends using the supplied limiter seen here affixed to the end of the fill tube for stick powders.



Right: When the wobble in the fill tube caused it to point downward, multiple granules of Alliant Powder's Reloder 17 were prone to drop at one time.



A trap door on the side of the Gen6 was folded down to form a chute. Slide the panel upwards and the machine began to drain. However, the chute did not lock into place and could easily be folded up with contact. We think this resulted in granules of powder being leaked into the unit body.



When our tests were through for the day we drained the silo, rotated the fill tube until it was empty and vacuumed the interior. Had we not removed the fill box we never would have known how much loose powder was hidden inside the machine.

Reloder 17. The RL17 powder rolled around freely, unlike the WST that appeared to be a pile of discs that offered a degree of resistance. Filling the pan with 4.8 grains of WST was 6 seconds slower per fill, taking an elapsed time of 20 seconds.

We actually preferred using the limiter no matter what powder we were loading for the following reasons. First, it's a small part easily lost, and keeping it in place was the best way to keep track of it. In addition, it's not uncommon to hit the fill tube or shake any of these machines when removing or replacing the pan. This results in granules of powder dropping from the fill tube. The limiter greatly reduced this problem. As seen above, the difference in fill time was minimal, and we think it is reasonable to assume the limiter should enhance metering for all types of powder.

Finally, the limiter did assist in addressing a problem with the Gen6 that we think is characteristic of how the fill tube connects to the drive shaft. Though stabilized by two bearings in the fill box, the tube was connected by a fitting that was actually a tightly wound spring. This allowed the threaded connector to float. We're not sure why the drive shaft was not solidly mounted, but the result was the fill tube rotated with a small degree of wobble. Making sure the fill box was properly seated reduced the wobble of the fill tube, but did not eliminate it completely. As a result, the fill tube seemed to move up and down slightly as it rotated.

Nevertheless, we think the limiter helped minimize excessive metering. Working in the manual mode, pushing start after entering the desired load, the Gen6 delivered a powder charge that weighed out on both the Gen6 and our Dillon scale 7 out of 10 times at the requested 4.8 ounces. Three times the Dillon indicated the drop was 0.10 grains short. Switching to Auto-dispense mode, the two scales agreed 10 out of 10 times.

Loaded with RL17 powder, the manual dispense mode proved more accurate. The Gen6 scale read the requested amount of 40.2 grains had been fulfilled nine times, but indicated a drop of 40.3 grains once. The Dillon scale read the same as the Gen6 every time. In auto-dispense mode the two scales agreed that the Gen 6 had dropped 40.3 grains on one fill and 40.5 grains on another fill. Another drop registered 40.4 on the Gen6 and 40.2 on the Dillon. One more drop showed a variance of 40.2 on the Gen6scale and 40.3 on the Dillon. Both units agreed on the remaining six drops.

Our Team Said: We liked operating the Lyman Gen6, and it was on the way to receiving a very high rating. Our only gripe had been that we think the machine could just as well have been perfectly accurate if the fill tube stayed level throughout its rotation. That there was a difference in delivery between the Auto and Manual modes remains a mystery. But in trickle mode, the wobbling motion of the fill pipe did appear to show a collection of granules on the up swing, while throwing multiple pieces of powder on the downswing. Our bigger disappointment came when we realized it was not a sealed unit and powder could be trapped beneath the fill box without any telltale signs to warn the operator. Removing the fill box we found a large residue of both powders piling up inside the unit body, even though from the exterior it appeared to be clean and empty. Even if this was by way of our own carelessness, this could not have happened with the other machines because the only path stored powder could follow inside the Hornady or RCBS products was out the fill tube or down the drain. Curious, we turned the unit over and tapped the Gen6 on our bench (not recommended for maintaining the electronics). More powder dropped out from crevices we had no way to access.

GUN TESTS GRADE: C

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

Quick Hits: Recommended Glass

We use a lot of optics products during our regular testing of rifles, handguns, and shotguns, which gives us a chance to form opinions about how those products perform in the field.

We've had a chance to use quite a few new optics this year, including red dots, lasers, scopes, binoculars, and spotting scopes, while we have performed firearms testing for future issues. We shoot a lot of firearms every year, and with that round count comes the insight that what's on top of the guns matters as much as the gun itself in many cases. Following are a few recommendations for optics that have proven themselves as worthwhile complementary products in firearms evaluations, but which we haven't tested in head-to-head comparisons as yet.

Bushnell

The new XRS II 4.5–30x50mm riflescope is Bushnell's flagship optic. Models are configured with first-focal-plane reticles, and reticle options include an illuminated G3 reticle ($3289), G3 reticle ($3149), H59 reticle ($3149), and TRMR3 reticle ($3149). ED Prime Glass creates rich color and contrast, and lock turrets with RevLimiter Zero Stop will not turn past zero. Gorgeous, but spendy.



Bushnell XRS II

Swarovski BTX Spotting Scope

The BTX is a unique system combining the features and benefits of a spotting scope and a binocular. The BTX offers both-eye viewing through all objective modules in the Swarovski ATX/STX series. It simply attaches to the objective. The BTX also features an adjustable forehead rest, which can be retracted for more comfortable viewing, and an aiming aid is integrated above the right eyepiece. When we've been spotting a lot of long-distance targets, we found this is an excellent piece of glass that your body will thank you for by reducing eyestrain and headaches. ($2988)



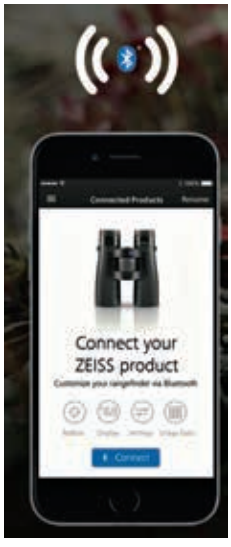


Swarovski BTX

Zeiss Victory SF Binocular Laser Rangefinder Series

The premium Victory SF binocular laser rangefinder series is available in four models: 8x42mm, 10x42mm, 8x54mm, and 10x54mm. These binos are designed with enhanced ergonomics for comfortable operation over extended periods. Range capability is out to 2,500 yards. What is really cool, they can also connect to the Zeiss B.I.S. II ballistic calculator via Bluetooth technology, so with one click, the range, angle, equivalent horizontal distance, and holdover values can be quickly displayed. These are elegant tools with the best-possible glass and function, and they allow the shooter or spotter to get distance and firing solutions prior to putting the riflescope on a faraway elk or mule deer. Suggested retail prices start at $3250.





Zeiss Victory SF Binocular Laser Rangefinder Series

Centerpoint

The Precision Lock Turret line of scopes features zero-locking and resetting capabilities plus side-focus parallax adjustment and a ballistic 3x6 reticle. Would we put the scopes in a paint shaker or submerge them? No. But for your plinker, they're worth a look. That's a lot of features for $100.



Centerpoint Precision Lock Turret

Aimpoint

The CompM5 (suggested retail $1068) is a compact red-dot sight—in fact, it's the smallest in the Comp series—powered by a single AAA battery, which gives it up to five years of continuous on power at position seven. An advanced wedged lens system offers dot clarity and makes the sight parallax-free. The CompM5 is compatible with Aimpoint 3XMag-1 and 6XMag-1 magnifiers as well as all generations of night-vision devices. The sight is offered in standard height for MSR mounting and absolute co-witness configurations.



Aimpoint CompM5



Barska

The 1-4x24mm Level HD riflescope is designed for close- to mid-range targeting with both hunting and tactical rifles. It is equipped with an illuminated HRS bullet-drop-compensating reticle, which can be used to estimate range and elevation adjustments when shooting 223 Rem. ammunition. This reticle can also be switched to either red or green and features adjustable brightness settings. ($465).



Barska 1-4x24mm Level HD

Crimson Trace

The Laserguard Pro ($379, red or green) will fit Glock's sub-compact pistols. The Laserguard ($229, red; $309, green) product line now includes red and green laser diodes for Smith & Wesson's M&P 2.0 pistol and SDVE series of pistols, as well as the Sig P320 and the Heckler and Koch VP9/40 and VP9SK pistols.



Crimson Trace Laserguard Pro

Nikon

The Black X1000 riflescope series is now called the FX1000 line, still



Nikon Black X1000 6-24x50SF Matte Illuminated X-MRAD Reticle Product 16384, $650

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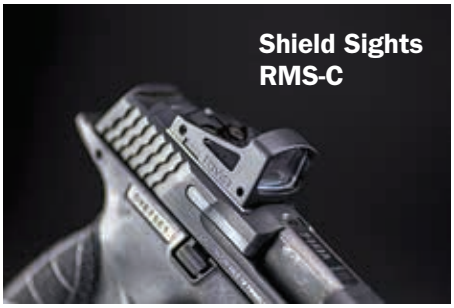
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with a first-focal-plane configuration and MRAD reticle option. Models include 4-16x50mm and 6-24x50mm. The P Tactical line includes a 1.5-4x20mm, 2-7x32mm, 3-9x40mm, 4-12x40mm. The M Tactical line includes 1-4x24mm, 3-12x42mm, 4-16x42mm.

Shield Sights

Two new handgun sights have been added to the RMS line, and they eliminate an irritating problem. The RMS-C ($420) is a compact sight slimmed down to fit on narrower slides without any overhang, making the overall system more concealable. The RMS-C will fit the Smith & Wesson Shield, Glock G43, 1911 models, and 2011 model pistols.



The RMS-W ($490) is water resistant and probably worth the slight price uptick. Both models fit the same footprint as the RMS, so existing users can easily upgrade.

C-More

The MT series ($48) of pistol-mounting kits allows shooters to mount a red-dot sight to a variety of centerfire and rimfire pistols. Very handy system if you have a lot of firearms you want to share a red dot between.



C-More MT Series mounting kits

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

COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

● Bargain Hunter: We test a quintet of 357 Magnum double-action wheelguns to find which one is worth hunting for: Smith & Wesson Combat Magnum Texas Range Edition, $800; Smith & Wesson Model 66, $420; a Taurus Model M66 Nickel, $325; and two 4-inch Ruger GP100 revolvers in stainless and blued finishes, $500 and $480, respectively.

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