GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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9MM CARBINES

In this shoot out of compact long guns, we find choices that are very quick to get on target and that come compatible with pistol magazines you may already own.

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New Rifles for 2019 — Pages 15-17









BIG 9MM PISTOLS DUKE IT OUT

When handguns from Glock, CZ-USA, FN, and Springfield dueled at the range, we found four of the best-handling handguns we have fired in some time. These long semi-autos are a joy to use due to their inherent accuracy and low recoil. But which one is the best for you?

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SPECIAL REPORT

We've tested several versions of this rifle over the years, so we're always curious to see if recent upgrades have improved its performance or just added dollars to its price tag.

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DOWNRANGE

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY



Todd Woodard

Gun legislation is swinging wildly from state to state. Some states are seeking to restrict or ban certain classes of firearms; others are expanding gun-ownership rights in ways we wouldn't have thought possible just a few years ago. And the Supremes have taken up a 2nd Amendment case that has the possibility of striking down a gun ban — whodathunkit? Here's a roundup of some of the legal efforts that qualify as *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* (hat tip to director Sergio Leone).

The Good:

- Constitutional Carry legislation has passed in Oklahoma;
- According to the New Mexico Sheriffs' Association, 29 counties are working to become Second Amendment Sanctuary counties in which any new restrictive statewide gun rules won't be enforced;
- The Supreme Court will review a New York City gun law that limits residents from transporting their guns outside their homes, the first Second Amendment case in nearly a decade.

The Bad:

- U.S. House Democrats may have already passed a measure that mandates federal background checks on all gun sales, including private transactions;
- House Democrats have also scheduled a vote on legislation to extend the deadline for federal background checks from three business days to as many as 20.

The Ugly:

- Look no further than California for a cornucopia of horrible anti-gun laws under consideration, including Assembly Bill 18, which would impose an excise tax on handguns and semi-automatic firearms;
- Assembly Bill 879, which would require precursor firearms parts (barrels, ammunition feedings devices and upper receivers) to be sold/transferred through a licensed precursor parts dealer in a similar process to the new laws regarding ammunition purchases; and
- Assembly Bill 1602, which would prohibit an insurer from either selling or advertising liability coverage for bodily injury or property damage resulting from the insured's discharge of a personal firearm.

And take note of this wisdom from the movie, spoken by Blondie (Clint Eastwood): *You see, in this world there's two kinds of people, my friend: Those with loaded guns and those who dig. You dig.* **GT**

GUN TESTS CREDO
REMEMBER: BE SAFE, BE SECURE, BE AWARE

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Shockwaves Create Waves

Reader Bill has upgraded his .410 Mossberg with a laser to get coffee-cup-sized groups from the hip. Awesome idea! And Reader John passes along a hearing-protection tip for eyeglass wearers.



Re "Sub-Gauge Shockwaves Go Up Against Remington's TAC-14," March 2019

Just finished your article on sub-gauge pumpguns. I have a Mossberg Shockwave in .410 bore and really enjoyed your article. One thing that I have done with mine is to install a blue laser. Mounted on the top of the receiver, it puts the push button directly forward of the safety. Group size with slugs is easily contained in a coffee cup during from-the-hip shooting. Thanks again for your great articles. **— Bill**

I have been a subscriber to Gun Tests since its inception and have used your advice to buy many guns — and to avoid even more. I am interested in one of the new short-barreled shotguns for defensive carry in my vehicle (I am licensed to carry). Your review of "Sub-Gauge Pump Guns" was very timely. Do you plan to test the 12-gauge versions? I am particularly interested in how the Mossberg Shockwave stacks up against the Remington 870 Tac-14 and the new V3 Tac-13. **— Dr. Greg**



I have forwarded your request to Robert Sadowski, who has put together the previous coverage we've done of these shotguns. We did test the Mossberg 590 Shockwave 50659 12 Gauge in the October 2017 issue. Issuing the 590 an A grade, Our Team Said: "Loaded with Aguila minishells and equipped with the OPSol Texas Mini-Clip attached, the Shockwave offered a lot of firepower. We really like shooting the minishells through the Shockwave. The 2.75-inch shells were less fun to shoot due to recoil. We found the Shockwave accurate and effective. For a short-range defense weapon in cramped conditions like a vehicle, the Shockwave is a good choice." — Todd Woodard

Re "Firing Line," March 2019

To John's inquiry regarding hearing protection on the range.



After trying several different models, I find the Peltor Comtac to be the best hearing protection to use with glasses. I generally wear them with foam ear plugs at the range so I can turn the volume up loud enough to hear conversation and range commands but still get the most possible hearing protection. I highly recommend them for hunting as well.

I think they make it easier to hear game moving through the woods as they seem to amplify the higher frequency noises like leaves being stepped on while muting low frequency noise like wind blowing. **— Mark**

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.

Re "Which Cowboy Revolver? We Test Three 357 Magnum Guns,"

I enjoyed your article on the 357 Mag Revolvers from Traditions. How about an article on 357 Magnum revolvers comparing the following firearm companies: Traditions, Taylor, Taylor Fine Tuned, and Heritage? **— Rosemary**



Re "380 ACP Shoot out: New Models Versus a Time-Tested Veteran," August 2018

Todd, just wanted to pass on some experience with the S&W M&P EZ 380 ACP. After reading about it in GUN TESTS, I went to take a look at one in our local gun shop. It seemed really great. The lady I took with me could rack it easily and liked the light weight and potentially smaller recoil. Taking it to the range, we were still very impressed, and I started carrying it to see how it would holster/carry in concealed carry. What I found is that the magazine release protrudes too far, and the tightness of the holster would often cause the magazine release to engage, whereupon drawing the pistol, I would find I had no magazine feed. This is a serious problem. I think S&W's goal was to build an easy-to-operate pistol, but the operational needs were not fully investigated before release. Not sure if you have done any investigation of this pistol or not, but I would be interested if your investigators would find the same issue upon further review. It is not constant, but now and then, when I must twist or sit in a way that increases the tightness of the holster, the holster comes in contact with the magazine release. Really enjoy your work. I have made several decisions based on the information you present. Thank you very much. **— Doug**

Doug: Thanks for sending this. Now other readers can be informed of the issue you found. In our test in the August 2018, Our Team Said: "We like the Smith & Wesson Shield. We are generally not comfortable with the power level and wound ballistics of the 380 ACP; however, loads like the Black Hills Ammunition Honey Badger and the Federal HST make the cartridge much more attractive than the previous choice of ball ammunition or a JHP that underpenetrates. The pistol is a joy to fire and use. It is more than accurate enough for personal defense. In fact, while we are not concerned with field and trail use, one of the raters noted it is accurate enough for small game as well, and the centerfire cartridge is far more reliable than rimfire ammunition, making the Shield a better choice for personal defense than any 22 LR rimfire pistol. We like the concept of the Shield and the pistol itself and give it a solid A rating." We'll look into it. — tw

Odd Tastes

Hi Todd & Co. I am a retired pharmacist, but I maintained my FFL to service my community. I have carried concealed for over 40 years and have odd (?) tastes on subjects covered in February 2019 issue and others. I carried a $25.80 Remington/Ithaca 1911-A1 in a Bianchi pancake holster for a few years until the holster got soft and stuck to the 45. I replaced it with an Uncle Mike's Sidekick, size #5. I still wear this holster every day, when I have some form of 1911. I have tried a variety of concealed-carry new-age pistols lauded in your pages and have tried on a like number of inside-the-belt holsters, more than a dozen of each. I have a second, brand-new Uncle Mike's Sidekick. The only problem is, it is impossible to wear this raggedy-ass thing out — 35+ years with Remington/Ithaca 1911s, a Colt Lightweight Officer's model, AMT Hardballer, Springfield Armory Loaded pistol, etc. I practiced with the chosen one that I carried in my pharmacy, as John Shaw had taught me. The stock Remington/Ithaca had the fewest thingamabobs to hang up on. Resting on my right hip, under my iconic pharmacist blouse, I could sweep up the blouse/shirt, withdraw the 1911, and slap-cock it with the left hand on the way to presentation and a two-handed grip. Ready in less than a second! That was always better than the concealed-carry pistols suggested in your magazine. They all either snagged upon presentation or just didn't fit the hand or hit well with the first through third shots. The polymer holsters which came with a couple of them made noise, were uncomfortable, and/or made clicking noises when drawing.

Bottom line: The pistol must settle comfortably in the hand and chew small holes at 10 to 15 yards. The pistol must drop easily into your holster of choice, be secured in place with normal or unnatural activity, and allow presentation with a bare minimum of drag or noise. My choice is a 1911 or clone with as few appendages that can get caught on. I traded most all of the C.C. guns for two 1858s and a 1875 Remington a BP Sharps and a Merwin & Hulbert 44-40. What I kept was the old Remington/Ithaca 1911-A1, the Springfield Armory 1911 Loaded, and the Colt Government 380, all of which fit the hand and point/hit to the desired spot. The new Remington makes an acceptable hole. Dance with who you brung and dance often. Practice, practice, practice. Thanks for a great rag. I have them bound for my customers to read and have at least 50 pistols, rifles, and shotguns for them to try out.

—Mark

Hey Mark: Lots of folks still prefer the 1911 action over all



others. I'm not surprised at your choices. I haven't seen a Colt Government 380 (above) in ages, but from what I've heard, their owners loved them. — tw

Re "Downrange," March 2019

Just read your editorial in the latest GT, received today 2/22/19. I believe that in 10 to 20 years, if/when there's another simultaneous Democrat-controlled White House and Congress, that the conditions existing in NY, NJ, MA, CA, MD, etc., will become mainstream law. The 2nd Amendment will be completely ignored. If those states' infringements are able to exist, they can and will be extended to the entire U.S. under left-leaning legislators. The generations being raised now are living with much different social conditions and expectations than you and I experienced. I'm almost glad I won't be around to see it! Thanks for reading, I enjoy your publication very much. **— Art**

Hey Art: I hate being the bearer of bad news, but I agree with you. The advancing restrictive state laws on gun ownership, and the concurring legal decisions that let them stand, are very worrisome. And there's no end in sight. — tw

Re "Threaded-Barrel 1911 Pistols: Some Choices Come Up Short," February 2019

In the threaded-barrel 45 review, I can see the Custom Carter has a bad sight picture with the suppressor, but do the accuracy test anyway. I would like to see how much that actually did affect the shooting. I personally think the sight picture was as good as many pocket-pistol sights, and I would honestly still like that shooting review on the poor sight picture. I think your guys would not have gone down that much in the actual shooting groups. But we all want to know that, not guess that. Don't cut the tests short because they look like they might be bad. We want the actual results.

On the 20 gauges, a guy told me many years ago that the 20-gauge magnum has the same amount of powder and the same weight of lead as a normal 12 gauge. So if these are 20-gauge magnums, you actually have a 20 and a 12 gauge in one gun. Yes 20-gauge shells cost more now than 12, but that was not the case years ago. I do think a 20-gauge magnum kicks harder than a 12, because all being equal on the powder and lead, the 20 is lighter, so it kicks harder than a standard 12. And thanks for throwing in the details on how long leather holsters wear. **— Don**

Hey Don: Sorry it wasn't clear, but on the threaded-barrel 45s, we did shoot the Carter with the suppressor and the gun's open sights, and the results were listed in the table. But the experience showed us the existing sights weren't really usable outside perfect conditions. Because the sight picture in the photo was so thin, that's why we felt compelled to add the Crimson Trace green laser. — tw

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

9mm Rifles from Beretta, Just Right Carbines, and Ruger

In this shoulder-to-shoulder shoot out of compact long guns, we find some choices that are very quick to get on target, and they come compatible with pistol magazines you may already own.

Manufacturers have easily transformed the AR-15 platform to be compatible with 9mm ammo, and we have tested a few of these carbines back in 2015. Since then, there has been an uptick in new 9mm carbine models, so we decided to take a look at these short semi-autos that share ammo with your pistol. What separates these newer 9mm carbines from some AR-15 carbines is their ability to use handgun magazines. Not only do these carbines share the same ammunition, they also share the same magazine in your pistol. That's versatility in our book.

The three rifles we procured were the Beretta CX4 Storm, Just Right Carbines' Takedown Model, and Ruger's PC Carbine. These carbines offer mild recoil, good accuracy, fast follow-up shots, light weight, and maneuverability. Some, like the Ruger, offer all the bells and whistles and propel the 9mm carbine category from a pipsqueak pistol-caliber carbine to a versatile home defense and survival tool. In the past five or six years, 9mm ammunition has also evolved, and there are a slew of viable loads that make these carbines more versatile than 9mm carbines years ago.

Less recoil means better accuracy and faster follow-up shots, and we all know bullet placement is very important in disabling a bad actor. We'll take making the first well-placed shot any day. In our opinion, any of these carbines would made a good choice for home defense, for transport in a vehicle, as survival/prepper choice, small game hunting, and an all-round fun plinker. These also make a great transitional gun for shooters graduating from a rimfire round to a

Our test rifles included the Just Right Carbines Takedown Carbine (top), the Beretta CX4 Storm (center), and the Ruger PC Carbine (bottom).



centerfire round. All of these carbines also offered an adjustable length of pull so smaller-stature shooters are not at a disadvantage.

All three of these carbines feed from handgun magazines and use a simple blowback mechanism. You can feel the bolt sliding back and forth in the receiver as the carbine cycles and that adds to the perceived recoil. These carbines are also light and perceived recoil is always higher in a lightweight rifle. In our opinion, the Beretta does the best job of making the mechanism feel smooth, and that's because the CX4 is more like and oversized pistol than it is a carbine chambered in a pistol caliber. The Ruger and JRC have added flexibility since they are takedown models. Plus the Ruger does a whole lot more. The Ruger PC Carbine is packed with features that actually make the carbine more flexible, adaptable, and useful. Some of our more jaded testers kept going back to the PC Carbine for another try, which says a lot.

How We Tested

We tested accuracy out to 50 yards with open sights and with optics using our range bag as a rest. Range data was collected with optics. We also tested at 25 yards looking at speed. At 25 yards we loaded and fired two rounds and performed a reload to see how easy it was to manipulate the carbines. Those users familiar with the AR platform adapted to the JRC with little ramp-up time. We also started to see differences in the triggers and ease of magazine manipulations. Ammunition consisted of three different bullets weights in 115-, 124-, and 147-grain weights. The Hornady American Gunner 115-grain XTP hollow points offered phenomenal accuracy in the Beretta, which surprised us. The SIG V-Crown 125-grain JHP ran well and best in the JCR. We also tried 147-grain FMJ rounds by Streak. This is tracer-like ammo without the incendiary effect. Nothing burns, but rather glows. In dim light they were cool to see as they streaked down range. In daylight we could not see the streak. We only had one failure in the test, a stovepipe with the JCR. We could not replicate it. Turns out the JCR needed some lube, which is common in blowback mechanisms. Other than that, these carbines chewed through ammo, and we had a ball testing these guns. Here's what we determined.

Beretta CX4 Storm JX49220M 9mm Luger, $699

The CX4 Storm was introduced in 2003. This was the most maneuverable carbine in the trio. It acted more like a pistol than a carbine, and that is because the magazine is located in the grip, like a typical pistol, and the weight of the rifle is above the firing hand. With the Ruger and JRC it was in front of the firing hand. In fact, it was easy to shoot the CX4 with one hand. The CX4 was very comfortable to shoot, and



We had one stovepipe jam with the JRC Takedown and attributed that to a dirty mechanism. We could not reproduce the jam the remainder of testing.

that made all the difference because the trigger was mushy and felt like plastic against plastic.

The barreled action is housed in a polymer shell, so the CX4 is lightweight. Most of the controls can be set up for a right- or left-handed shooter, or a combination. The cocking lever, extractor, ejector, magazine release, and safety can all be set up ambidextrously. We set the charging handle on the left side because most users were right handed, and this provides good leverage to rack the bolt. Shells ejected on the right side. The magazine-release button can be switched, too. You can get the CX4 compatible for either Model 92 or Storm pistol magazines. Our model was set up for Model 92 magazines, and the 15-round magazine was flush with the butt of the grip. The stock is a thumbhole style and straight, so the fully adjustable sights sit high on the carbine. Polymer wings protect the post front sight and rear peep sight. We thought these were excellent sights. A Picatinny rail on the top side allows the user to mount an optic. We mounted a Burris AR-F3 ($299, MidwayUSA.com) red dot, which is a sight you would mount on an AR. It gives you the correct height to line up with your eye when aiming. The AR-F3 combines a FastFire 3 red dot with the AR-F3 mount. The mount has wings that protect the red dot and help avoid accidental button manipulation, and the mount can store a wrench and spare battery. The reticle is a 3-MOA red dot. We liked this set up and thought it well suited for the Beretta due to the straight-comb stock. Also, the stock has spacers built in so you can adjust the length of pull by removing the buttplate and adding or removing a spacer. Sling swivels were built into the stock. The CX4 field strips without tools and comes apart easily.

You can buy side and bottom Picatinny rails ($54; BerettaUSA.com) to mount a light or grip, but we felt rails should have come with the gun.

The outside controls were nicely blended into the stock, like the slide release, which was easily operated by the user's thumb. The Beretta CX4 Storm was sexy looking, but looks can be deceiving.

BERETTA CX4 STORM JX49220M 9MM LUGER, $699

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

The CX4 Storm offered great accuracy with one load, was light weight, and had excellent balance. The trigger was its weak spot, but we still shot some impressive groups. The magazine-release button could be taller. We liked the peep sights. Overall, it was more difficult to manipulate the CX4 than the other carbines.



Action Type	Semi-automatic, blowback
Overall Length	29.7 to 31.5 in.
Overall Height	7.25 in.
Overall Height (w/optic)	8.25 in.
Weight Unloaded	5.6 lbs.
Weight Loaded (15-rnd. mag.)	6.0 lbs.
Receiver	Aluminum alloy, polymer shell
Barrel	16.6 in. long; 1:10 RH Twist
Muzzle Device	None
Stock	Synthetic, rubber buttpad, adj. LOP
Length of Pull	13 to 14 in.
Magazine	(1) 15-round
Sight, Front	Adj. protected post
Sight, Back	Adj. peep
Trigger	6.8 lbs., single stage
Safety	2-pos. crossbolt button
Warranty	1 year, +2 years w/registration
Telephone	(800) BERETTA
Website	Beretta.com
Made In	Italy



The magazine well is flared to aid magazine insertion.



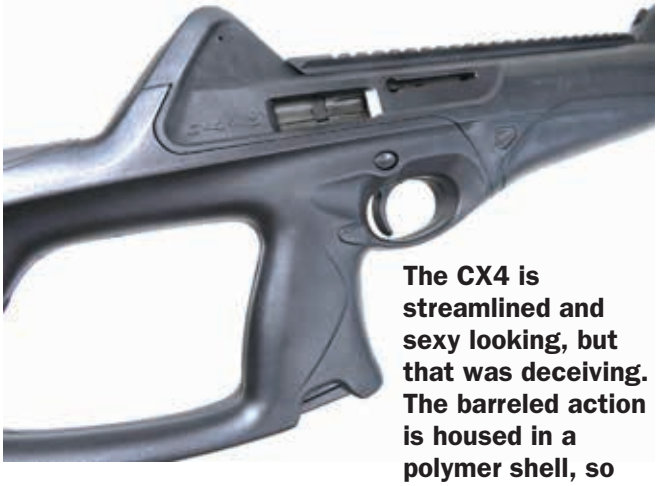
Removable stock inserts allow the user to adjust the LOP.



Right-handed shooters will opt for the charging handle on the left side for better leverage when cocking the weapon.



The AR-F3 combines a FastFire 3 red dot with the AR-F3 mount. The mount's wings protect the red dot and help avoid accidental button manipulation. It can also store a wrench and battery.



The CX4 is streamlined and sexy looking, but that was deceiving. The barreled action is housed in a polymer shell, so the CX4 is light in weight. Most of the controls can be set up for a right- or left-handed shooter.





The 3.5-minute-of-angle red dot was a good pairing with the CX4 because it allows the operator to keep both eyes open when aiming.



We liked the iron peep sights, which were protected with polymer wings.



The charging handle on the CX4 was easy to operate with the support hand.



We did not like the placement of the safety because we had to break our trigger-hand grip to manipulate it.



We used our support hand to press the magazine release because it was hard to press the button with our shooting hand.

JUST RIGHT CARBINES GEN 3 TAKEDOWN CARBINE
JRC9MPTDG3TBBL 9MM LUGER, $598
GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The JR Carbine offered the best accuracy and more customization because it is compatible with some AR-15 aftermarket parts. It has the ability to be customized for a left- or right-handed shooter. Takedown is simple, but field-stripping is a bit cumbersome.



Action Type	Semi-Automatic; blowback
Overall Length	34.25 to 31.0 in.
Overall Height	7.5 in.
Overall Height (w/optic)	9.75 in.
Weight Unloaded	6.5 lbs.
Weight Loaded (17-round mag.)	6.9 lbs.
Receiver	6061-T6 aluminum alloy
Barrel	17 in. long; 1:16 RH twist, threaded
Muzzle Device	None
Buttstock	6-position adj.; M-4 style
Length of Pull	10.5 to 14.25 in.
Magazine	(1) 17-round Glock
Sights	None; optics ready
Trigger	5.1 lbs., single stage
Safety	2-pos. rotating lever
Warranty	Implied lifetime
Telephone	585-396-1551
Website	JustRightCarbines.com
Made In	Canandaigua, NY





Above: The safety selector is similar to an AR-15's and was a cinch to manipulate.

Above right: The cocking handle is large and offers plenty of leverage when operating the JRC.



Right: We used our support hand to manipulate the magazine button and reload magazines.



The magazine well is flared, which aids reloading.



The muzzle is threaded for a device and comes with a thread protector.



The handguard unscrews from the receiver, then pulls off the barrel. The barrel is then pulled from the receiver.



The JRC Takedown comes apart easily, without tools, so it stores in small space.



The JRC looks like an AR-15 but uses a simple blowback mechanism. We opted for a Konus red dot optic because the JRC comes without sights.

It was slightly more difficult to operate.

Going hot with open sights, we expected mediocre to okay accuracy and were delighted to find the CX4 was a nail driver. We did shoot some great groups with the Hornady American Gunner 115-grain XTP ammo. Our smallest three-shot group measured 0.39 inch at 50 yards. We had no functional issues with the Beretta.

Our Team Said: The CX4 Storm was very adaptable to left- or right-handed users, but it was not as user friendly as the other carbines tested. The controls made it more difficult to operate, though it ran without incident. The cost was also high compared to the other carbines.

Just Right Carbines Gen 3 Takedown Model JRC9MPTDG3TBBL 9mm Luger, $598

The Just Right Carbine (JRC) offers the AR-15 user fast ramp-up time because the JRC is set up like an AR-15. The safety selector operates just like an AR-15's. In fact the JRC uses an M4-style adjustable buttstock and receiver extension/buffer tube and AR-15 style pistol grip. This means you can customize the JRC with an aftermarket AR-15 stock and pistol grip. From there, the design is pure JRC, which uses a simple blowback mechanism.

The one-piece receiver is machined and looks similar to an AR-15. The trigger guard is beefy, and the Glock magazine fits in the magwell located in front of the trigger guard. The magazine release is a nice-sized button located at the front left side of the magazine well. The top side of the receiver is a Picatinny rail. This rifle cries out for an optic, so we opted for a Konus Pro Atomic Mini Red Dot ($106; OpticsPlanet.com) with a quick-release riser mount. This optic is designed for use on an AR-15, and it was a great set up for the JRC. It uses a 3.5-moa red-dot reticle and offers 11 reticle brightness settings, which allowed use to fine-tune the dot for low light and bright midday light. We liked this economical red dot and thought it was a good choice for plinking.

The charging handle can be set up for a right- or left-handed shooter, and the ejection port can also be set up for ambi users. A plate is used to cover the ejection port on the side you do not want the case to eject. You can also have the charging lever on the opposite side of the ejection port. Ours was set up with the charging handle on the left side and eject port on the right. This gave us better leverage when cocking the carbine. An added bonus with the JRC is its ability to change calibers from 9mm, 40 S&W, 10mm, and 45 ACP with a conversion kit ($279 to $319 depending on caliber; justrightcarbines.com). We like this feature. JRC guns are only compatible with Glock magazines, and one comes with the carbine.

The 17-inch barrel is threaded for a muzzle device

RUGER PC CARBINE 19100 9MM LUGER, $649

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The PC Carbine is versatile, with modular magazine-well inserts for Ruger and Glock pistols. It is also a takedown, so it's appropriate for survival or prepper scenarios. Accuracy was okay, and the factory peep sight convinced us a red dot was the best sight choice.



Action Type	Semi-Automatic, blowback
Overall Length	32.0 to 34.37 in.
Overall Height	6.0 in.
Overall Height (w/ optic)	7.25 in.
Weight Unloaded	6.8 lbs.
Weight Loaded (17-rnd. mag.)	7.2 lbs.
Receiver	Aluminum alloy
Barrel	16.12 in. long; 1:10 RH twist, threaded, fluted
Muzzle Device	None
Stock	Synthetic, rubber buttpad, adj. LOP
Length of Pull	12.62 to 14.12 in.
Magazine	(1) 17-round
Sights, Front	Protected blade
Sights, Rear	Adj. ghost ring
Trigger	5.1 lbs., single stage
Safety	2-pos. crossbolt button
Warranty	None written
Telephone	(888) 220-1173
Website	Ruger.com
Made In	U.S.A.



The PC Carbine comes with multiple buttstock spacers, so adjusting the length of pull is easy with the correct 9/64 hex wrench that's included.



That bit of Picatinny rail allows the user to mount a light or laser. Our nit with it was it is slightly angled up and not parallel to the barrel.



The safety button is located forward of the trigger, allowing for fast access and use.





Left: With the charging handle on the right side of the Ruger PC Carbine, we found the over-the-top method was the best way to rack the bolt without losing the grip with the trigger hand. Right: The charging handle wasn't large enough to use the underside method, like you would use for an AK-style firearm. Some shooters prefer to run the gun from the right side. To each his own style.



The carbine takes down into two components and does not require any tools. The carbine needs to be disassembled to replace the magazine well, but that process is straightforward and simple.



The takedown mechanism is robust and quick to use.



It takes about a quarter-turn before the barrel can be pulled from the receiver.



This is the takedown button. Just press and turn the barrel to remove it from the receiver.

and free floated. Our model is a takedown variant. The handguard is a nicely fluted metal tube that allows for enough grip to unscrew the handguard. Just unscrew the handguard and pull the barrel from the receiver. The takedown feature means you can't use an AR-15 aftermarket handguard, nor can you attach a Picatinny rail for mounting a light, laser, or grip.

We did have one stovepipe jam with the JRC, and that was after a few hundred rounds. We attributed that to a dirty mechanism. JRC recommends the rifle be cleaned at least every 200 rounds, and we would follow that schedule. The bolt does not stay open on the last shot. We'd prefer the bolt to stay open on the last shot because that allows for faster reloads, and it is obvious the rifle has run dry.

Starting out at 50 yards, we used a rest and found we could consistently fire three-shots groups into clusters that averaged 0.75 inches. In fact, with SIG V-Crown 124-grain jacketed hollow-point bullets, one tester was able to shoot a three-shot group that measured 0.32 inches at 50 yards. Nice.

Our Team Said: The JRC Takedown makes a good choice for a survival rifle or a rifle for your go bag when the SHTF. We like the ability to convert calibers, set up the rifle for left- and right-handed shooters, adjustable LOP, takedown feature, and use of some aftermarket AR-15 parts. Accuracy was stellar. We also like the cost.

Ruger PC Carbine 19100 9mm Luger, $467

The Ruger PC Carbine — PC stands for "Pistol Caliber" and not "Politically Correct" — could be considered a second generation of Ruger's PC9 carbine, which was produced from 1999 thru 2006. In our opinion, the PC Carbine we handled here is much better than its predecessor due to the new PC Carbine's feature set, such as a modular magazine well, takedown ability, adjustable LOP, and sight options.

Think of the PC Carbine as a Ruger 10/22 on steroids. It uses a beefier blowback action and features a charging handle that can be switched to the left or right side. We'd swap it to the left side to get that extra leverage when cocking the gun. The magazine release can also be swapped to the left or right side of the rifle. The magazine release on our sample was located on the left side. The aluminum-alloy receiver fits into a traditional-style synthetic rifle stock. The top side of the receiver has a built-in Picatinny rail that's well suited for a red-dot reflex sight. The 16.12-inch barrel is fluted and threaded and holds the front sight, which is a protected blade. The rear sight is a large adjustable ghost ring. Since this is a takedown rifle, Ruger was smart to keep the sights on the barrel so they don't lose zero. The trade-off is a short sight radius, which we learned to live with.

Characteristics that make the PC Carbine stand

9MM LUGER RANGE DATA

SIG Sauer V-Crown 124-gr. JHP	Ruger PC Carbine	Just Right Carbines Takedown Model	Beretta CX4 Storm
Average Velocity	1261 fps	1197 fps	1195 fps
Muzzle Energy	438 ft.-lbs.	395 ft.-lbs.	393 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.65 in.	0.32 in.	1.62 in.
Average Group	0.80 in.	0.42 in.	1.65 in.
Hornady American Gunner 115-gr. XTP	**Ruger PC Carbine**	**Just Right Carbines Takedown Model**	**Beretta CX4 Storm**
Average Velocity	1262 fps	1230 fps	1214 fps
Muzzle Energy	407 ft.-lbs.	386 ft.-lbs.	376 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.05 in.	0.79 in.	0.27 in.
Average Group	1.10 in.	0.82 in.	0.39 in.
Streak Visual Ammunition 147-gr. FMJ (tracer)	**Ruger PC Carbine**	**Just Right Carbines Takedown Model**	**Beretta CX4 Storm**
Average Velocity	1093 fps	1135 fps	1134 fps
Muzzle Energy	390 ft.-lbs.	421 ft.-lbs.	420 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.99 in.	0.68 in.	1.70 in.
Average Group	1.46 in.	0.83 in.	1.86 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired three-shot groups from a bench using a rest. Distance: 50 yards with optics. We recorded velocities using a ProChrono digital chronograph placed 15 feet from the muzzle.

out include the takedown feature. Press a button under the forend, twist the barrel, and it separates from the receiver, creating a small footprint that is easily packed or stowed. It also makes cleaning the PC Carbine barrel easy. The next feature is the modular magazine well inserts. Disassemble the rifle and the insert pops out of the stock via a press of a button. Depending on the insert, you may also need to do slightly more, but it is that simple. It comes with a magwell insert for SR series and Security-9 series pistols. Ruger American ($29.95; shopRuger.com) and Glock ($29.95; shopRuger.com) inserts are available. Our sample included one SR-Series pistol magazine. We wonder why Ruger hasn't created an insert for Beretta 92, S&W M&P, and SIG P320 magazines. We think it would be a simple affair.

The stock is nicely textured in the gripping areas and uses removable spacers to adjust the LOP. The butt pad is rubber. Hex wrenches for rear-sight adjustment, buttpad-spacer adjustment and charging-handle removal are included in the box. Sling-swivel studs are included, and at the forend tip is a bit of Picatinny rail to mount a laser or light. This, we thought, was a great idea, especially if the rifle is to be used as a home-defense weapon.

Field-stripping requires tools, which are included, and the process is similar to a 10/22, meaning it is easy. We like how the stock and forend screws are trapped so there is no fear of losing a screw during disassembly. We found online there are a number of aftermarket parts for the PC Carbine such, as extended-magazine-release buttons and a rear sight Picatinny rail mount (taccom3g.com) and trigger-spring kits (mcarbo.com).

We chose a UTG Reflex Micro Dot ($80) with a green 4-moa single dot to mount on the PC Carbine. We used this same sight on a Glock G40 MOS a few issues back and liked the Picatinny rail mount, six brightness settings, and the single-button operation.

In hand, the PC Carbine is lively and easily aimed. At 50 yards using a rest, we could shoot groups that averaged a little over one inch. At 25 yards during speed testing, the PC Carbine ran well with no malfunctions. The bolt locks back on the last shot. We fired the carbine using the red-dot and iron sights and thought we could live with either. The large ghost ring made target acquisition fast. Shooting with both eyes open allowed us to be fast.The trigger was not as refined as we would like, but it was usable.

Our Team Said: The PC Carbine is a traditionally style rifle that offers a lot of features for not a lot of coin. It also performs well and offers compatibility with many different pistol magazines and aftermarket parts.

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

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

SHORT SHOTS: NEW RIFLES FOR 2019

Ruger Introduces Magnum Models of the Ruger Precision Rimfire Rifle and BX-15 Magnum Magazine. For 2019, Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. has introduced magnum models of the Ruger Precision Rimfire rifle and a new BX-15 Magnum magazine that accept 17 HMR and 22 WMR cartridges. Like its 22 LR predecessor, these new magnum offerings maintain the same ergonomics, trigger, and manual of arms as the larger centerfire Ruger Precision Rifle. The Ruger Precision Rimfire has a molded, one-piece chassis and adjustable buttstock assembly manufactured of glass-filled nylon. The Quick-Fit Precision Rimfire stock allows the rifle's length of pull and comb height to be easily adjusted for proper fit over a range of shooter sizes, outerwear and shooting positions. The 18-inch cold hammer-forged target barrel has a 1/2"-28 muzzle thread pattern for easy pairing with muzzle devices, including the Ruger Silent-SR. The 15-inch free-float handguard with Magpul M-LOK slots provides scope clearance and easy mounting of M-LOK-compatible rails and accessories. The Ruger Marksman Adjustable trigger can be externally adjusted from 2.25 to 5 pounds with a supplied adjusting wrench. The rifle is topped with a flat Picatinny scope base and ships with one 15-round BX-15 Magnum magazine or one 9-round JMX-1 rotary magazine. The BX-15 Magnum is also compatible with Ruger 77/17, Ruger 77/22, and Ruger American Rimfire rifles chambered in 17 HMR and 22 WMR. The magazine has stainless-steel feed lips, a "constant force" spring, high-lubricity polyacetal anti-tilt follower and a glass-filled nylon magazine body. The Nos. 8402 and 8403 are chambered in 17 HMR differ in magazine capacity (15 and 9 rounds respectively) and retail for $529. Likewise, the 8404 (15) and 8405 in 22 WMR (9) also have MSRPs of $529.



Springfield Armory Saint Victor Rifles Announced. New for 2019, the Saint Victor series of rifles weigh in at 6.9 pounds, and the lower receiver on the Saint Victor Rifle is Accu-Tite tension-bonded to a flat-top forged upper receiver and features a 16-inch CMV barrel that is Melonite finished inside and out for corrosion resistance. A patent-pending M-Lok free-float 15-inch handguard protects the mid-length gas system and provides space for accessory attachment. Saint Victor Rifles feature a pinned low-profile gas block, spring-loaded flip-up sights, a nickel-boron-coated single-stage flat trigger, and Springfield Armory's proprietary muzzle brake that eliminates barrel rise and softens recoil. The staked receiver end plate features a QD mount for sling attachment. MSRP: $1073. The Saint Victor Rifle line includes the NFA SBR version in 5.56mm, the ST9115556B. Several versions of the rifle chambered in 5.56mm come equipped with free-float handguards (ST916556BFFH in black; ST916556FDEFFH in Desert FDE; ST916556GRYFFH in Tactical Gray; ST916556ODGFFH in OD green; and ST916556BFFHCA, CA Compliant). The standard Saint Victor Rifles are the STV916556B and STV916556BCA CA Compliant, also $1073.



Weatherby Makes Limited Edition Mark V Wyoming Commemorative Rifles. At SHOT Show 2018, Weatherby announced it was relocating to Sheridan, Wyoming from Paso Robles, California. In 2019, Weatherby will mark the move by introducing two Wyoming Commemorative rifles, the Gold and the Silver. Both versions will be chambered in 300 Weatherby Magnum and will feature the "Bucking Horse and Rider" engraving on the floor plate. The highly figured walnut stocks have raised-comb Monte Carlo designs, right-side palm swells and a custom-designed mountain scene integrated into the classic fine line checkering. You'll pay for the privilege of owning either rifle, with the list price for the Gold model being $10000 and $6500 for the Silver.



SHORT SHOTS: NEW RIFLES FOR 2019

Savage Rolls Out MSR 15 Valkyrie. The new MSR 15 Valkyrie rifle gets maximum performance from the 224 Valkyrie cartridge, which was developed to deliver supersonic velocities past 1,300 yards, extremely flat trajectories and match accuracy. Savage's competition-ready MSR 15 Valkyrie gets the most from the cartridge's unprecedented capabilities with an upgraded 18-inch barrel with 5R rifling and a crisp two-stage trigger. Its Elite Series FDE Cerakote finish protects the upper and lower, and its adjustable mid-length gas system can be customized to specific ammunition for the most reliable cycling. MSRP: $1499.



Mauser Chambers Model 18 in 6.5 PRC. The Mauser 18 hunting rifle has become one of the first long guns chambered for Hornady's hot new 6.5 PRC cartridge. The 6.5 PRC is a magnum version of the 6.5 Creedmoor and has a flatter trajectory and higher impact velocity than the 6.5 Creedmoor. Utilizing moderate powder charges results in repeatable accuracy, low recoil and high velocities with performance beyond 1,000 yards. The 6.5 PRC is an excellent chambering for F-Class benchrest shooting and hunting medium to large game. "The Mauser 18 is a big seller in the United States because of its ultimate reliability, durability and accuracy at an unbeatable price point," said Christian Socher, CEO of Blaser USA. "We wanted to add the 6.5 PRC chambering as an additional caliber option for those who hunt and shoot at longer ranges." With a synthetic stock, the Mauser 18 will withstand harsh hunting environments. A three-position safety allows the shooter to safely carry a round in the chamber without fear of the bolt being nudged out of battery. For optimum grip, the stock features two areas of soft-inlay. The rifle carries a five-round magazine and an adjustable trigger. In addition to the 6.5 PRC chambering, the Mauser 18 is also available in 243 Win., 270 Win., 308 Win., 30-06 Springfield, 7mm Rem. Mag., 300 Win. Mag., and 6.5 Creedmoor. MSRP: $699.



Daniel Defense Goes Outside Semi-Auto with Delta 5 Bolt Action. Daniel Defense has taken the modularity of the AR platform and integrated it into a bolt-action rifle. From an interchangeable cold hammer forged barrel to a user-configurable stock, the Delta 5 features out-of-the-box customization that would normally require professional gunsmithing. Other features include a mechanically bedded stainless-steel action with integral recoil lug, a three-lug bolt with a 60-degree throw and floating bolt head and a removable bolt knob with a 5/16–24 thread. The trigger is an adjustable (1.5 to 4 pounds) single-stage Timney Elite Hunter with two position safety. The receiver is topped with a Picatinny scope base with 20-MOA (5.8 MRAD) of elevation with four #10-32 bolts. The bottom metal is integrated with pillars and barrier stop fitted into a carbon-fiber-reinforced polymer stock with adjustable cheek riser (height, yaw, and drift movements) and buttstock adjustable for length of pull and buttpad height. The handguard has 14 total M-LOK attachment points along forend with one point on the bottom of buttstock. For easier carry, there are three M-LOK QD sling points. The rifle accepts 5-round PMAG 5 7.62 AC – AICS Short Action magazines. MSRP: $2199.



Brownells Releases BRN-180 Upper. The new Brownells BRN-180 incorporates many of the AR-18/AR-180 improvements, including its robust and reliable gas-piston operating system. Key features include: a reliable AR-180 piston operating system, compatibility with current mil-spec AR-15 lowers, and a 223 Wylde chamber. The BRN-180 is a complete, plug-and-play upper assembly that drops onto any standard AR-15 lower. The new Brownells BRN-180 incorporates many of the AR-18/AR-180 improvements, including its robust and reliable gas-piston operating system. Key features include: a reliable AR-180 piston operating system, compatibility with current mil-spec AR-15 lowers, and a 223 Wylde chamber. Attached to the machined 7075 T6 aluminum receiver is a 16-inch barrel with matte-black Nitride finish, a button-rifled bore with 1:8-inch twist, and a 1/2"-28 threaded muzzle. The BRN-180 bolt is a unique design, and will not interchange with standard AR-15 bolts. With the recoil assembly contained in the upper, there is no need for an AR-15-style buffer and spring. The BRN-180 readily accepts many kinds of folding stocks, and can be fired in the folded position. $799.



SHORT SHOTS: NEW RIFLES FOR 2019

Windham Weaponry Makes 9mm Glock Magazine–Compatible Carbine & Pistol. Windham Weaponry has released two new, long-requested additions to its line of firearms — a 9mm Glock magazine–compatible carbine and pistol. "A 9mm Glock magazine–compatible firearm has long been a standing request from Windham customers," said Mark Eliason, Windham Weaponry's vice-president of sales and marketing. Eliason predicted these firearms will be particularly popular with Glock enthusiasts, who can use their existing magazines, and for law-enforcement officials. One of the key details of these firearms is the bolt-hold-back feature — when the last round is fired, the bolt will lock back and stay open, showing that the firearm is unloaded. Additional features on the rifle include a 16-inch barrel with Melonite QPQ finish, a 13-inch Windham Weaponry free-floating M-LOK handguard with a 2-inch rail section, and a six-position telescoping buttstock. The pistol features a 9-inch barrel with Melonite QPQ finish, a mil-spec buffer tube, a 7-inch Windham Weaponry M-LOK free-floating handguard with a 2-inch rail section, and a five-position SB Tactical arm brace. MSRP: $1148.



Legacy Sports International Mates ORYX with Howa 1500. LSI is now fitting its Howa 1500 STD short actions, mini actions and long actions with the ORYX Chassis by MDT. MDT worked side by side with Legacy to create a custom chassis for the Howa 1500 actions. The result is a full monolithic aluminum chassis with an adjustable length of pull and adjustable comb height. In addition, the large palm swell has an overmolded grip. The ORYX chassis has an M-Lok-compatible forend and accepts AICS pattern magazines. The Mini Action chamberings are 223 Rem., 7.62×39, and 6.5 Grendel. The Short Actions are available in 6mm CM, 6.5 CM, and 308 Win. in 20-, 24-, and 26-inch heavy-barrel choices. The Long Action chambering is 300 Win. Mag. The chassis accepts AICS-compatible magazines and comes in OD green or gray color schemes. LSI offers a H.A.C.T. 2-stage trigger in the packages along with a lifetime warranty and a sub-moa guarantee. MSRPs start at $1059.



Cimarron Firearms Co. Offers 1860 Henry Civilian 44 WCF, 1866 Yellowboy "Pawnee" Carbine with Brass Tacks. Cimarron Firearms has two new reproductions that may be of interest to lever-action-rifle fans. Having been reproduced directly from an original Henry in Cimarron's antique collection, the 1860 Henry Civilian 44 WCF CA239 is considered by many gun-savvy firearms enthusiasts as among the most handsome of all replica arms. It comes in either a brass-framed model or the early-type Henry with color-case-hardened frame. It sports an authentically-styled 24-inch octagonal barrel with the distinctive front-loaded tubular magazine, integrated into its shrouded barrel. Working with the design elements of the unsuccessful Volcanic rifle, an earlier attempt at producing a lever-action self-contained cartridge arm, Winchester plant Superintendent B. Tyler Henry designed this lever gun to handle his new 44 rimfire copper-cased cartridge. Despite only having produced somewhere around 14,000 Henrys between around 1862 and 1866, the gun was sought after by Civil War soldiers who could obtain one with a supply of ammunition. This "Sixteen Shooter" proved itself in battle as well as on the frontier, and was used by many frontiersmen in the years right after the Civil War. It was used by Wells Fargo detective James Hume, Union Pacific Railroad and many other Old West notables, and more important, it paved the way for all future lever-action rifles. Dealer price, $1151. The company is also offering the 1866 Yellowboy "Pawnee" Carbine with Brass Tacks. Chambered in 45 Colt with a 19-inch round barrel, this rifle was originally known as the "Improved Henry" due to its patented loading gate on the side of the frame. Designed by Nelson King, Winchester's plant superintendent, the 1866 model was known as the "Yellow Boy" by the Native Americans because of its brass frame. The '66 model was the first true cowboy lever-action and the first that adapted well to carrying in a saddle scabbard, due to its slab sided design. Cimarron offers several 1866 Yellowboys, including a brass tack-decorated 19-inch "Pawnee" carbine, CA288G19, with a dealer price of $1075.





Big 9mm Shootout: Glock, CZ, FN, and Springfield Compete

We test four of the best-handling handguns we have fired in some time. These big semi-autos are a joy to use and fire due to their inherent accuracy and low recoil. But which is the best for you?

Handguns are designed to give the user a certain amount of useful power in a portable configuration. For home defense, the limits on "portable" are less restrictive than those for concealed carry under covering garments. Weight is a big issue for carry, but length competes with mass as the dimension that causes the biggest pain in the back. But for performance, length is helpful when it allows for a longer barrel that will make for greater velocity and energy, and up top, a longer slight radius on the slide generally improves accuracy. Also, a longer front end tends to dampen sight movement during recoil, important when chambering a more powerful cartridge such as the 357 SIG. As such, a certain class of handguns — long barrel/long slide models — answer a lot of needs for home-defense shooters, and for the right people, could even be carried. In this report, we looked hard at four 9mm Luger pistols that are among the longest offerings in their respective stables, they were:

- the *CZ-USA CZ P0-9 91620* at 8.1 inches in overall length;
- the *FNH FNS-9L Longslide 66725* at 8.25 inches OAL;
- the *Glock G34 Gen5 MOS PA3430103MOS* at 8.74 inches OAL;
- and the *Springfield XD(M) 4.5 XD(M) T9459FDEHCE Threaded Barrel*, whose 5.3-inch-long barrel contributes to its 8.3-inch OAL.

The CZ P0-9 is a longer version of the CZ P0-7, yet in this group, the barrel is the shortest of the test at 4.54 inches, or 0.79 inch longer than the CZ P0-7's. This pistol also features an elongated grip that holds 19 rounds in the magazine versus 15 for the P0-7. An important difference between this pistol and the smaller P0-7 is that the P0-9 is supplied with interchangeable backstraps. To put it in scale, the well-known CZ 75 B is also 8.1 inches long, but the 75 B is 0.4 inches shorter than the P0-9 and holds three fewer rounds in its magazines. Interestingly, the pistol retails for an average $100 less than the smaller P0-7. This product from Ceská zbrojovka Uherský Brod is a polymer-framed pistol, but unlike the others tested, the P0-9 is hammer fired. We expected the CZ pistol to handle differently from the striker-fired guns, and it did.

FN America pitches the FNS-9 Longslide as a competition gun (as does Glock for its G34), saying



At right, from top, the contestants in this big-pistol match up were the Glock G34 Gen5 MOS PA3430103MOS, the Springfield XD(M) 4.5 XD(M) T9459FDEHCE Threaded Barrel, the CZ-USA CZ P0-9 91620, and the FNH FNS-9L Longslide 66725. All fed and fired as we would have liked and showed great manners and pretty good accuracy at the range because of their lengths.

9MM LUGER RANGE DATA

Black Hills 115-grain EXP	**CZ-USA CZ P0-9**	**FNH Longslide**	**Springfield Armory XD(M) 4.5 TB**	**Glock 34 Gen5 MOS**
Average Velocity	1260 fps	1240 fps	1298 fps	1247 fps
Muzzle Energy	405 ft.-lbs.	392 ft.-lbs.	430 ft.-lbs.	398 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	1.6 in.	2.4 in.	1.75 in.	2.0 in.
Average Group	1.8 in.	2.7 in.	2.1 in.	2.2 in.
SIG Sauer V-Crown 124-grain	**CZ-USA CZ P0-9**	**FNH Longslide**	**Springfield Armory XD(M) 4.5 TB**	**Glock 34 Gen5 MOS**
Average Velocity	1180 fps	1212 fps	1220 fps	1199 fps
Muzzle Energy	383 ft.-lbs.	404 ft.-lbs.	409 ft.-lbs.	395 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	2.2 in.	2.8 in.	2.0 in.	1.8
Average Group	2.4 in.	3.1 in.	2.3 in.	2.2
Federal HST 147-grain	**CZ-USA CZ P0-9**	**FNH Longslide**	**Springfield Armory XD(M) 4.5 TB**	**Glock 34 Gen5 MOS**
Average Velocity	980 fps	1050 fps	1044 fps	1039 fps
Muzzle Energy	313 ft.-lbs.	359 ft.-lbs.	355 ft.-lbs.	352 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	1.2 in.	2.4 in.	2.2 in.	2.3 in.
Average Group	1.6 in.	2.7 in.	2.4 in.	2.5 in.

All groups were fired at 25 yards from a solid benchrest position using a Bullshooters pistol rest. We used a Competition Electronics Pro Chrony to measure velocity. Ammunition sources: Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain EXP ($15/20 rounds from VenturaMunitions.com); SIG Sauer 124-grain V Crown ($19/20 from SIGSauerstore.com); Federal 147-grain HST ($30/50 rounds from LuckyGunner.com).

the Longslide has been "tested in every type of major shooting event, from high-speed IPSC/USPSA and grueling 3-gun matches to precision bull's-eye and actions events like the NRA Bianchi Cup." Okay, none of that scares us if we're looking for a dependable, easy-to-shoot self-defense handgun.

The Glock G34 Gen5 is likewise designated as a competition pistol, but it's not Glock's largest 9mm by quite a bit. The G17L Long Slide gets that honor with a 6.02-inch-long barrel and an OAL of 9.53 inches.

Oddly, Springfield's XD(M) 4.5 TB (now discontinued in the two-tone color scheme) is longer than what the company designates as a competition handgun, the 5.25-inch-barrel XD(M)95259BHCE Competition Series 9mm. Despite its nomenclature, the threaded-barrel XD(M) version we test here has a 5.3-inch-long barrel to accommodate the threads and is 0.05 inch longer overall than the 5.25 Model, according to company specs.

Here's what we found out about these longer-than-average handguns:

CZ-USA CZ P0-9 91620 9mm Luger, $402

This was a recent price from BudsGunShop.com. The P0-9 features the Omega trigger system. The action is a double-action first shot. Following shots after the first shot are single action as the slide cocks the hammer for subsequent shots. The action feels smoother than previous CZ pistols. While CZ has offered the CZ 75 pistol in both decocker and manual-safety versions, the Omega system offers relatively simple changing between the decocker and safety versions. We left the pistol in the decocker mode for the test.

The pistol is supplied with two magazines. These magazines hold 19 cartridges. In common with the Springfield XD(M), the grip frame is smaller than would be expected with this type of magazine capacity, but polymer-frame technology allows this efficient engineering. The steel magazines are well made and finished and feature hard-plastic base pads.

The double-action trigger features a bit of take up before the movement stiffens and eventually breaks. It seemed odd that the trigger in single-action mode had more take up. The single-action trigger is easily best of the four trigger actions tested here, even including the single-action Springfield XD(M). Reset is longer than the Glock but works well in rapid fire. The sights are fixed types with a three-dot set up. The design is such that the greatest advantage is taken of the sight radius. The rear notch is well designed for accurate fire but fast enough for good results in rapid fire. Our pistol was supplied with the CZ "day-glo" type sights. They are self luminous but only after being exposed to a bright light source. We would have preferred tritium, but there are few $400

CZ-USA CZ P0-9 91620 9MM LUGER, $402

GUN TESTS GRADE: B (BEST BUY)

CZ has managed to pack a lot of value into the P0-9. This pistol is not only a long-slide version of the P0-7, the grip frame is lengthened as well. The result is a pistol with a 19-round magazine. These magazines are not difficult to load. The pistol exhibited faultless reliability. The only limit was the long double-action trigger press, but some will prefer this option. The Omega action allows easy changing between single-action and decocking type safeties. While the double-action first shot limited first-shot accuracy, the single-action option that many tout as an advantage certainly proved viable as this pistol is the most accurate handgun tested with most loads. This isn't the competition pistol you are looking for, but it is a good all-round personal-defense handgun.



Action	Double-action first shot
Overall Length	8.1 in.
Overall Height	5.8 in.
Maximum Width	1.46 in.
Weight Unloaded	31.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	37.4 oz.
Barrel Length	4.54 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	19-round detachable box
Slide	Steel
Slide Retraction Effort	18 lbs.
Frame	Polymer
Frame Front Strap Height	3.25 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.75 in.
Grips	Pebbled
Grip Thickness (max)	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.75 in.
Sights, Front	Replaceable post
Sights, Rear	Drift adjustable
Trigger Pull Weight Double Action	9.8 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	3.9 lbs.
Trigger Span Double Action	2.8 in.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.55 in.
Safety	Manual/Decocker; Omega option*
Warranty	Limited 5 year
Website	CZ-USA.com
Telephone	(800) 955-4486

**As delivered, decocker safety installed. You may install a safety that offers cocked-and-locked carry.*



CZ's P0-9 magazine accepts almost a full 20-round box of 9mm ammunition. If you put the last one in the tube, they're all gone. A lot of capacity.



While the CZ's takedown isn't difficult, it isn't as simple as the Springfield's or the Glock's.



The tapered CZ magazine offers a rapid reload.



The still-popular double-action-first-shot pistol offers many advantages, including a single-action-trigger option.



The CZ 9mm was steady with little muzzle flip, partly due to the slide running inside the frame.



This is among the best groups fired with the CZ P0-9. Also, the sights offer real speed in combat firing.

service pistols that are delivered with night sights. As it was, the sights were an advantage because none of the pistols were delivered with factory night sights. In a test performed at night by one of the raters, he used a Surefire light on the sights then quickly placed the gun under a pillow in a darkened bedroom. The luminous sights were bright for 10 to 12 minutes and gradually dimmed to normal sight illumination in about 16 minutes.

We like the grip design. The front and rear strap provide good abrasion, and the grip sides offer good adhesion. Control was never an issue. The top of the grip offers a smooth indentation on each side that helps reduce trigger reach. The squared magazine release is positive in operation. The decocker is easily actuated by the firing thumb. The decocker is ambidextrous, while the slide lock is not. Our raters had difficulty reaching the slide lock without canting the handgun. The frame features a mount for combat lights and laser devices. Above the steel trigger are two sections of stippled frame that allow for resting the finger when the finger is in the safe position before firing. The trigger guard is large enough to accommodate a gloved hand and is squared off.

The slide is well finished. There were no tool marks visible on this pistol. The slide features both forward and rear cocking serrations. Each works well enough. However, the CZ P0-9 has a trade-off feature. The slide rides low in the frame, making it sometimes more difficult to rack the slide. The slide actually rides inside the frame rails rather than outside the frame. This results in a low bore axis and less muzzle flip and felt recoil.

Disassembly isn't difficult. Begin by unloading the pistol and then moving the slide toward the rear. Line up the witness marks on the frame with the slide and press out the slide lock. The guide rod recoil spring and barrel are easily removed. While the disassembly isn't difficult, it is more involved than the other handguns.

The pistols were first tested on the combat range, with shooters drawing and firing at ranges of 7, 10, and 15 yards. The CZ P0-9 was holstered and fired from a double-action first shot. We also fired the pistols for accuracy from a solid benchrest, firing the CZ single action during this test. We fired 120 cartridges in each pistol during the combat course, with 100 rounds being a handload using the Hornady 124-grain XTP and enough Titegroup powder for an average of 1200 fps. This is a stout load well suited for all-round use. We also fired 20 rounds of the Double Tap 124-grain JHP +P on the combat course. At 1340 fps (Glock 34), this is a strong load that was a good test of the control inherent in a long-slide 9mm pistol.

Firing off the benchrest for accuracy, we used three modern defense loads. These included the Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain EXP, the SIG Sauer 124-grain V- Crown JHP, and the Federal 147-grain HST. The P0-9

FNH FNS-9L LONGSLIDE 66725 9MM LUGER, $570

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

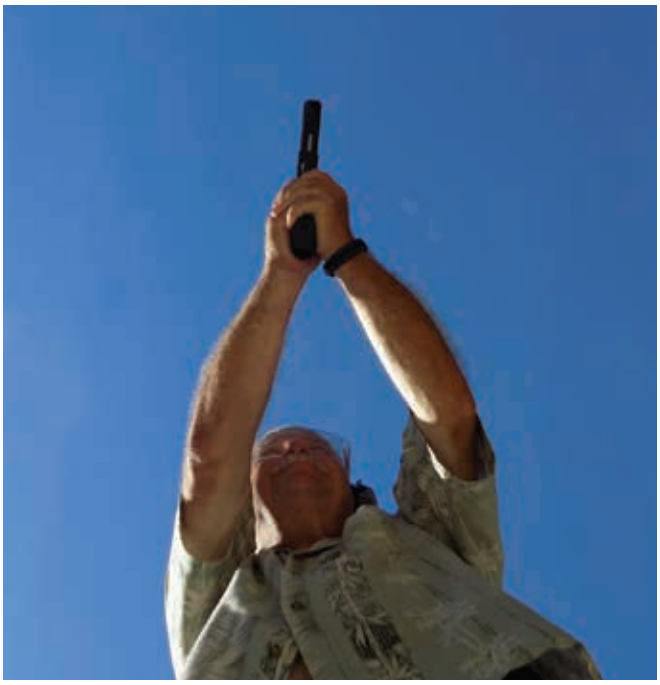
The FNH pistol features sights that were rated from good to excellent on the score cards. The pistol exhibited faultless reliability. The primary complaint compared to the other pistols tested is the heavier trigger. Accuracy wasn't as good as the other handguns.



Action	Double action only
Overall Length	8.25 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.35 in.
Weight Unloaded	26.5 oz.
Weight Loaded	32.9 oz.
Barrel Length	5.0 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	17-round detachable box
Slide	Steel
Slide Retraction Effort	16 lbs.
Frame	Polymer
Frame Front Strap Height	2.5 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.6 in.
Grips	Pebbled
Grip Thickness (max)	1.3 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.8 in.
Sights, Front	Interchangeable post
Sights, Rear	Drift adjustable
Trigger Pull Weight	6.5 lbs.
Trigger Span Double Action	2.7 in.
Safety	Hinged trigger
Warranty	None written
Website	FNAmerica.com
Telephone	(703) 288-3500



FN's Longslide features a light rail. The serial number is imbedded in the frame. The FN is a solid pistol that handles well. The FN 9mm may be described as no frills and high reliability.



The FNH 9mm Longslide performed well in rapid fire. With a long sight radius and heavier weight, the longer pistols are pleasant to fire and make for excellent accuracy in trained hands.



Field-strip is easy enough with this pistol. We felt that the FN recoil spring and guide did a good job in controlling 9mm +P and +P+ recoil.



Some pistols were more accurate than others. This is our first group at 25 yards with the FN 9mm pistol.



Grip pebbling is well done and offers a good fit.



Most raters felt the FN's sights were good service-grade types.



Several drills were fired with one hand during the test period. The pistols are well balanced and easy to use.

Below: Barrel-to-slide fit was good.



exhibited good results on the firing line. Drawing and quickly firing at 7 and 10 yards and pulling straight through the double-action trigger, results were good, but some raters did better than others. At 15 yards, the difference was more noticeable, and the double-action-only Glock and FNH and single-action XD(M) gave better results for the first shot hit. At all ranges the P0-9 gave better combat results once we got past the long DA trigger. The single-action mode is controllable and offers excellent hit potential. In absolute accuracy, the pistol was the most accurate tested overall, but not with every load. With the Federal 147 HST load, the P0-9 pistol delivered a 1.2-inch group at 25 yards. This is excellent performance. During the firing phase there were no failures to feed, chamber, fire or eject. Combat firing was excellent, even considering the long double-action trigger. The CZ P0-9 in some ways gave a surprising performance for the shortest barrel tested.

Our Team Said: The takedown is dated, based on a 1975 CZ 75 design. The pistol is a good DA first shot design, but combat results for the first shot, which may be the most important shot, were not as good as the Glock, FNH, and Springfield's. Just the same, the overall performance for the dollar makes the pistol a solid Best Buy. We don't like to get into "what ifs," but if the pistol had been converted to the manual safety mode and used as a cocked-and-locked single action, the results would have been different on the combat course. But then, we believe the DA-first-shot CZ isn't intended to be carried cocked and locked.

FNH FNS-9L Longslide
66725 9mm Luger, $570

This pistol features the increased weight and balance of long-slide 9mm pistols and is a continuation of the popular FS9 pistol. The FN Longslide is 1 inch longer than the FNH 9mm service pistol. We like the fit and finish of this handgun. While finished in dark color, the FNH FNS-9L's slide and barrel are stainless steel. The pistol features distinctive cocking grooves, including forward cocking serrations. This makes for a tactical advantage not all of the handguns tested share. The FNH pistol is easier to use than most. The pistol features an extractor with a red top that indicates when the chamber is loaded. The pistol features a well-designed post front sight and a serrated rear sight that offers a good sight picture. These high-visibility sights were the best overall, because the also-very-good Springfield suppressor-height sights make it difficult to find a suitable holster. We liked the rear sight cut for speed shooting. This V cut out and white three-dot sights made for good shooting. The trigger guard is the equal of the CZ for gloved-hand use. The pistol's controls are well designed and worked well for all the raters. We liked the magazine release. The takedown is simpler than the CZ's, and we like the Longslide's takedown better than the Glock, and find the Longslide as simple to take down as the Springfield XD(M).

GLOCK G34 GEN5 MOS PA3430103MOS 9MM LUGER, $710

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Glock 34 has good features, and we feel that the Gen5 guns are the best yet, with superior accuracy and features over earlier Glock handguns. The Glock demonstrated a high level of practical accuracy on the combat course. The pistol's fast handling and accuracy for the first-shot hit are good, and reliability is faultless. While it is the most expensive pistol tested, the Glock has a lot going for it. There are also many accessories for this handgun.



Action	Double action only
Overall Length	8.74 in.
Overall Height	5.1 in.
Maximum Width	1.3 in.
Weight Unloaded	26 oz.
Weight Loaded	32.4 oz
Barrel Length	5.3 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	17-round detachable box
Slide	Steel
Slide Retraction Effort	17.5 lbs.
Frame	Polymer
Frame Front Strap Height	2.5 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.5 in.
Grips	Pebbled
Grip Thickness (max)	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	6.1 in.
Sights, Front	Post
Sights, Rear	Adjustable
Trigger Pull Weight	5.0 lbs.
Trigger Span Double Action	2.8 in.
Safety	Hinged trigger/firing pin block
Warranty	Limited 1 year
Website	US.Glock.com
Telephone	(770) 433-8719



Fired offhand, the Glock is a pleasure to handle.



The MOS system allows mounting a red dot sight. With the MOS plate removed, there is plenty of metal remaining for safety. The Glock 34 MOS is supplied with four plates to accept popular red-dot sights, including Trijicon, Docter, Meopta, C-More, and Leupold.



The Glock 34, bottom, is shorter than the G17L. The Glock 34 9mm is among the most controllable 9mm handguns we have fired.



The Glock 34 and the TruGlo light were a good combination. The ability to use a combat light is important in home defense. All of the pistols were set up to accept a combat light.



The JM Custom Kydex holster is a viable option that concealed the Glock 34 well in the behind-the-hip carry mode.



Left: This is a sighting in group at 15 yards with the Glock 34.

Below: Fired from the Bullshooters rest, the Glock 34 9mm gave good results.



The grip pebbling is comfortable, and the grip cannot be faulted for adhesion and abrasion. The pistol's wide magazine well allows rapid magazine changes. The pistol's trigger action is similar in design to the Glock, but feels much different in practice. The trigger has minimal take-up then meets a hard spot in the pull. The trigger pull measures 6.5 pounds. The trigger is manageable and some of the raters liked the action, but it was the least-accurate pistol tested on the bench.

Our Team Said: During the combat course, the pistol gave good results. It was fast to draw from a generic belt slide and came on target quickly. The sights are an advantage and the pistol is comfortable to fire. From the benchrest, the trigger limited accuracy. We felt that with sufficient acclimation, better results might be had, but we had never fired the P0-9 either and had better results with the latter gun. In the end, the Longslide is reliable, handles well and is of high quality. It simply isn't the most accurate handgun tested.

Glock G34 Gen5 MOS PA3430103MOS 9mm Luger, $710

The Glock 34 tested is the newest version of the Generation 5 pistol. This was a recent price for the 34G5 at TombstoneTactical.com. This handgun features detail changes, including an ambidextrous slide lock and the new Marksman barrel. The Glock 34 is the longest pistol tested, but it is considerably shorter than the previous Glock 17L. The Glock 34 conforms to competition rules concerning overall length. This pistol is the MOS optics-ready version. We did not test it with optics, just as we did not test the Springfield with a can, but if your heart lies with one or the other, the choice is simpler. Springfield offers an OSP optics ready handgun, and Glock offers a threaded-barrel pistol. In common with the other polymer-frame pistols, the Glock G34 isn't a huge or heavy pistol. This pistol has more weight to absorb recoil than the Glock 17 and with its 5.3-inch barrel, the Glock 34 offers a 7.5-inch sight radius. A shorter sight radius tends to magnify errors in sight alignment, so for more-accurate shooting, longer is better.

This pistol features a sharp and crisp 5.0-pound trigger compression with an excellent feel. We don't know if we were lucky or if Gen5 Model 34 pistols will come with a trigger lighter than the Glock 5.5-pound standard. This trigger allowed a marksman to make good offhand shots with the pistol and to fire good groups from a steady rest. The sights of the Generation 5 Glock 34 9mm are low-profile adjustable sights. These seem improved over those offered a decade ago for the Glock pistols and work well enough and are easy to adjust, although the adjustment screws are quite small.

The pistol's slide lock doesn't require twisting of the hand to operate. The pistol features an ambidextrous slide lock while the Springfield does not. However, the Springfield features an ambidextrous magazine

SPRINGFIELD XD(M) 4.5 XDMT9459FDEHCE THREADED BARREL 9MM, $505

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

This is our pick as a personal-defense, home-defense, and tactical pistol. The slightly longer Springfield barrel developed a few more fps. There were no failures to feed, chamber, fire or eject. Our sole complaint was loading the magazines to capacity.



Action	Single action
Overall Length	8.25 in.
Overall Height	5.6 in.
Maximum Width	1.3 in.
Weight Unloaded	29.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	35.4 oz.
Barrel Length	5.3 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	19-round detachable box
Slide	Steel
Slide Retraction Effort	16 lbs.
Frame	Polymer
Frame Front Strap Height	2.5 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.8 in.
Grips	Textured polymer
Grip Thickness (max)	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.7 in.
Sights, Front	Suppressor-height steel post
Sights, Rear	Suppressor-height rear notch, adj.
Trigger Pull Weight	6.0 lbs.
Trigger Span Double Action	2.6 in.
Safety	Hinged trigger; firing pin block, grip safety
Warranty	Limited lifetime
Website	Springfield-Armory.com
Telephone	(800) 680-6866



A high front sight came on target quickly.



A DM Bullard holster provided the holster example for this test. The balance of speed and retention was ideal.



The XD(M) is a modern polymer-frame handgun with good features.



Disassembly is simple enough with the XD(M) 9mm.



In all tests the XD(M) 9mm proved reliable. It also shot pretty well, as the target at left attests.



The XD(M) has features we like in a carry gun, such as the grip-safety design.



Above: We liked the XD(M) grip treatment. Fired offhand, the 9mm round is controllable and is actually a joy to fire in pistols of thirty ounces or more. Below: The XD(M) has a higher bore axis than the Glock. We found the XD(M) fine when firing double taps, but if you need to place 15 rounds on the target in rapid fire, perhaps the Glock might be the better choice.



release. The sights of the Springfield are superior for personal defense use as far as visibility is concerned. The Springfield's XD(M) grip treatment is good but not superior to the Generation 5 Glock. The cocking serrations of the Springfield, however, are superior even if the forward cocking serrations were not a consideration. The race was on at this point between the Glock and the Springfield. The rest of the field were fast becoming also-rans.

On the combat course the Glock handled well. Here, we have to make an important point — 9mm service-size handguns are easy to use well. They are soft kickers, even with +P ammunition. So, you might take several pistols to the range and get similar results. That isn't what we do at Gun Tests. The pistols are fired in skilled hands to find the greatest advantage. We learn the best points of the pistols. The Glock is a pistol that competition shooters adapt to. The polymer-framed steel-slide pistols sometimes fire low if the shooter isn't experienced. The Glock is perhaps the most neutral of the polymer-frame handguns. The balance or heft is perhaps the best of the pistols tested, with the FN offering practically the same heft and balance.

We fired these pistols a lot, more than any in recent memory, and the Glock frame treatment was never raspy but gave good results in firing heavy loads for extended periods. The Glock 34 MOS is supplied with four plates to accept popular red-dot sights, including the Trijicon, Docter, Meopta, C-More, and Leupold. The pistol is supplied with grip inserts to accommodate various hand sizes, and it is delivered with three magazines.

Our Team Said: In absolute accuracy, the Glock was the second most accurate handgun tested, but it was the most accurate with the SIG Sauer 124-grain V Crown JHP. Competing against a single-action pistol, this was a good showing. Considering the trigger is the same for every shot, this makes the Glock a superior competition handgun. There are many accessories for the Glock. We used an inside-the-waistband holster during the test and found that the JM Custom Kydex holster gave good results. It required some effort to learn to draw the Glock 34 with good speed, but it is possible, with practice. We found the Glock 34 to be a good all-round 9mm handgun, and it would be our choice for competition use.

Springfield XD(M) 4.5 XD(M)T9459FDEH Threaded Barrel 9mm Luger, $505

This was a recent price for this discontinued model at BudsGunShop.com. The XD(M) 4.5 as tested features high-visibility suppressor-ready sights and a 5.3-inch barrel. This extended threaded barrel gives the pistol long-slide performance as far as velocity goes, but without the greater weight of a longer slide. The pistol is a typical XD in many ways, featuring a cocking indicator and a single-action trigger with safety features, including a firing-pin block and the new XD(M) frame treatment. The Springfield features



Right: While we proofed the pistols with several types of ammunition, we used Black Hills, Federal, and SIG Sauer for accuracy testing. Below: Among the proof loads were Winchester +P+ and Hornady's FBI load. The pistols were first tested on the combat range, with shooters drawing and firing at ranges of 7, 10, and 15 yards. We fired 120 cartridges in each pistol during the combat course, with 100 rounds being a handload.



a grip safety. This safety prevents the trigger from dropping the striker. The slide is also locked unless the grip safety is pressed. We find this an advantage in personal defense.

When holstering the Springfield, the slide is rigid as the piece is shoved into the holster. Sometimes tightly-molded holsters will push the slide out of battery unless you are using a cocked-and-locked 1911 or the Springfield XD(M). We would not like to deploy the Springfield XD without a grip safety because the piece is a single action, by our definition. There are certain advantages, such as the ability to field-strip the pistol without pulling the trigger. Field strip is simple enough: Simply turn a lever down and strip the pistol to the slide, frame, barrel, and recoil spring and guide.

The Springfield XD(M) features what Springfield calls a Match Grade Select Fit Barrel. This is a competitor to the new Glock Marksman barrel. Just as we compared the CZ P0-9 to the earlier CZ 75 pistols and the FNH to other FNH pistols, we compared the Springfield XD(M) to a long-slide tactical Springfield on hand. The Springfield barrel has a good fit in the barrel hood, locking lugs, and muzzle-to-slide relationship. The fit is at least comparable to the Glock 34 9mm. Lock up is tight. At 30 ounces the pistol isn't heavy, and it is supplied with three 19-round magazines. These magazines were not difficult to load up to 16 rounds, but after that were quite difficult, requiring us to use the Blackhawk magazine loader, which the P0-9, the other 19-shooter, did not. The magazines also did not like long-nosed 124-grain handloads and were impossible to load past the 17th cartridge.

Of all the pistols tested, the Springfield felt largest in the hand. The XD(M) grip treatment somewhat addresses this, but just the same, this is a larger pistol. The grip is larger than the Glock 34's. The bore axis is also higher. The advantage of the single-action trigger and its straight-to-the-rear trigger compression gave us an advantage over the Glock, and in the end, the sum of all the features led to a great-shooting pistol. The trigger action breaks at a clean 5.75 pounds, not the lightest tested but manageable. When running on the combat course, the pistol exhibited excellent handling traits. We rated it above the CZ because of the CZ's double-action first shot, which limited a centered first shot hit at greater range. The Springfield also outperformed the FN pistol by a margin. The Springfield and the Glock ran neck and neck in the hands of some raters, but the Glock pulled away from the Springfield in overall scores.

Still, the Springfield may be the preferred pistol for some shooters. We liked the scalloped-type cocking serrations, and in several drills, we were able to easily rack the slide using the elevated sights. As a tactical rather than a competition pistol, the forward cocking serrations and high sights gave the pistol an edge on all others tested, an important consideration. Despite the height of the sights, they were well regulated for 115- and 124-grain loads at 15 yards. And it is suppressor ready, if that is a primary concern, just as the Glock is optics ready for those who prefer a pistol with those sights. The XD(M) pistol has changeable grip back straps that allow customizing the piece to your hand size.

In benchrest accuracy, the pistol gave good results. The CZ P0-9 had an advantage over the other three pistols in single action. The FN was limited by a heavy trigger. The Glock 34 gave slightly better accuracy than the Springfield XD(M) in absolute terms. We do not feel that this advantage would be apparent in anything but long-range competition.

Our Team Said: As a personal-defense, home-defense, and tactical pistol, the Springfield has it over the Glock 34 by a margin. One advantage that we feel may vary from gun to gun was velocity. The 5.3-inch Springfield barrel developed 1290 fps with the Black Hills Ammunition 115-grain EXP versus 1260 fps for the CZ and 1240 fps for the Glock. In common with all of the pistols tested, there were no failures to feed, chamber, fire or eject. The tall steel sights and the ability to rack the slide with the sights are a consideration. The forward cocking serrations are also a plus.

Written and photographed by GUN TESTS *Staff, using evaluations from* GUN TESTS *team testers.* **GT**

Springfield Armory's Socom 16 CQB Keeps Pace at the Range

We have tested versions of this rifle over the years, so we're always curious to see if recent upgrades have improved its performance. Here, we found this beast of a rifle offers accurate, dependable fire.

In 1974, Springfield Armory of Geneseo, Illinois began offering a civilian-legal semi-automatic rifle based on the M14, which it christened the M1A. Since then, Springfield Armory has offered several versions of the rifle, including a number of carbines utilizing a 16.25-inch-long barrel. In the September 2014 issue of GUN TESTS, we evaluated the Springfield Armory Socom 16, which added a scout-style scope mount positioned forward of the ejection port. This was a simplification of the Socom II we covered in 2012 that featured a multi-rail forend made by Vltor Weapons Systems. The subject of this evaluation is the newest carbine, the $2442 Socom 16 CQB. The CQB uses the same barreled action as previous carbines but sheds the traditional stock in favor of a carbon-fiber-reinforced polymer stock by Archangel featuring a 5-position adjustable-length buttstock.



The $2442 Springfield Armory Socom 16 CQB offers a carbine-length M1A in a carbon-fiber-reinforced polymer stock by Archangel Manufacturing exclusively for Springfield Armory. The adaptation features an adjustable-length buttstock with a secure snap-on cheekpiece to raise the eye. The factory-installed scope mount (a $299 option) combined with adjustable length of pull helped make the rifle more competitive with its AR-10 counterparts. We would have preferred an adjustable-height cheekpiece, but, as shown, the configuration proved both pleasing and effective.

Springfield Armory offers two CQB models. Item number AA9611PK ships with a Vortex Venom red-dot sight affixed to the bracket recognized as the en bloc clip designed to guide the loading of clip bound ammunition, a remnant of its Garand heritage. The dot is positioned to co-witness with the 0.125-inch-wide front post as viewed through the 0.135-inch rear ghost ring aperture. The front sight, made by XS Sights of Fort Worth, featured a tritium insert. Nevertheless, we chose its brother, item number AA9611, with iron sights only, but with a factory-installed optical scope mount. Why? With limited availability of scope mounts for the M1/M1A platform, we wanted to see what Springfield Armory had to offer. The scope mount added $299 to the cost of the rifle, including installation. We could have purchased an aluminum mount from the Springfield Armory online store for $155 and put it on ourselves, but we wanted to make absolutely sure it was done properly. In addition, the steel mount is not available separately. We then affixed a 4-16x50mm Steiner Predator scope with 30mm tube using extra-low-mount rings. Along with the adjustable-length buttstock, we wondered if this would provide optimal eye relief as well as comfortable length of pull.

The Archangel stock was, in our view, closer to being a chassis application due its drop-in construction. But this stock is not sold separately online at ArchangelManufacturing.com. Features included sockets for QD (quick-detach) sling swivels on each side of the forend and just above the pistol grip. In addition, the forend offered a traditional grip relief as well as vents on each side and beneath the stock. The true function of the venting was to attach sections of Picatinny rail. Two 1.6-inch-long sections offering three slots were mounted on each side of the forend. Plus, a single 3.1–inch length of rail (seven slots) was bolted to the underside, to which we mounted a bipod.

The buttstock resembled the basic configuration of an AR-15 with a compression lever available to set length of pull. Lockup was secure in terms of side-to-

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY SOCOM 16 CQB 7.62X51 AA9611, $2442 AS TESTED

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

Rugged and more versatile than past M1A carbines, this is a powerful workhorse that can be quickly adjusted to fit any shooter.



Action	Semi-automatic gas piston
Overall Length (inches)	35.5 to 38.5
Overall Height w/o Scope (inches)	8.2
Maximum Width (inches)	3.0
Weight Unloaded (pounds)	9.6
Weight Loaded (pounds)	10.4
Capacity (rounds)	10+1; (20-round magazines available)
Magazine	Staggered column
Barrel Specifications	16.25 in. long; 1:11 in. twist; carbon steel
Buttstock	5-position adjustable
Finish	Carbon-fiber-filled polymer
Buttplate	Rubber, 0.75 in. thick max.
Bedding Block/Pillars	No/No
Forend	Composite, M-Lok rail
Sight, Front	Post w/tritium insert; 0.125-in. blade
Sight, Rear	Mil aperture
Sight Radius	NA
Receiver Scope-Base Pattern	Picatinny forward mount; 4th gen.; 1-piece receiver mount
Trigger Pull Weight (pounds)	6.4, two stage
Safety	2 position
Warranty	Lifetime
Telephone	(800) 680-6866
Website	Springfield-Armory.com
Made In	U.S.A.



Sections of Picatinny rail were attached on both sides and on the underside of the forend. In addition, the polymer stock offered inlets for QD sling swivels front and rear. The muzzle brake proved very effective.





Above: The Archangel buttstock on the CQB offered a pleasing contour, a rubber buttpad that was not sticky nor slippery, and five locking positions. The comb riser was lined up with the center of the bore. The small knurled tabs just below the cheek piece (center) were used to remove the buttstock.

Left: There haven't been a lot of good scope mounts available for the Garand M1/M1A, certainly not when compared to the long list of riflescope mounts available for the AR-10 or other rifles. This factory-installed all-steel unit was rock solid.

308 WINCHESTER RANGE DATA

Black Hills Ammunition 155-grain Hornady A-Max	**Springfield Armory Socom 16 CQB**
Average Velocity	2564 fps
Muzzle Energy	2262 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	0.9 in.
Black Hills Ammunition 168-grain Hornady A-Max	**Springfield Armory Socom 16 CQB**
Average Velocity	2520 fps
Muzzle Energy	2369 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	1.1 in.
Hornady Custom Lite 125-grain SST	**Springfield Armory Socom 16 CQB**
Average Velocity	2388 fps
Muzzle Energy	1583 ft.-lbs.
Average Group Size	1.5 in.

Accuracy data was computed from five-shot groups fired from bipod/benchrest support from the 100-yard line. Velocities were measured using a LabRadar chronograph.

side wobble, but the unit did move forward and back about 0.05 inches. The comb of the buttstock was augmented with a securely fit snap-on riser that resulted in comb height being as close to the center of the bore as we could measure. We noticed that the diameter of the faux buffer tube was too large to accept any of the popular aftermarket buttstocks. (Bolt reciprocation relied on a piston gas drive, so no buffer spring was present). A buttstock with adjustable comb would have been preferable, in our view, because the fixed comb limited our choice of scope rings to extra low to achieve proper eye alignment.

Peeking through the stock on the underside was the vertical paddle for magazine release and the trigger guard with a two-position safety. Once in battery, the safety was pulled rearward into the trigger guard. For safety-off, ready to Fire, the lever must be pushed forward from within the trigger guard. While this may intuitively run counter to safe practices, the movement required considerable pressure. Likewise, the trigger required deliberate action. The M1A trigger was a two-stage design with a length of take up for warning and a press of about 6.4 pounds for ignition. Yet the trigger was actually quite smooth. The safety lever itself offered a round hole measuring about 0.25 inch in diameter, so the safety can actually be padlocked in the Safe-on position. Manually, the bolt could be locked rearward by pressing down the tab on the left side of the action. However, releasing the bolt was best achieved via pulling back on the charging handle.

For range tests, we visited American Shooting Centers located west of Houston in George Bush Park. We collected accuracy data from the 100-yard benches and measured velocities using a LabRadar chronograph. We found inserting the 10-round magazine to be a bit clumsy. The catch mechanism was built, in our view, for strength and not speed. The M1A magazine is inserted with the leading edge of the magazine pointed up and into the well followed by the rear edge of the magazine being rotated upward into the latch. As we've found in the past, the longer 20-round magazines (also available) were easier to work with due to the increased leverage. But a look into the magazine well of the Socom CQB added another factor. Although the Archangel stock offered a

— continued on page 32

GUN TESTS
THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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feed-ramp contour to the magazine well, there was a gap between the stock itself and the bottom metal. This often got in the way when inserting the magazine.

The CQB (Close Quarters Battle) rifle is a fighter's gun, not a target rifle. Nevertheless, we were able to land sub-minute-of-angle groups firing Black Hills Ammunition topped with 155-grain A-Max bullets. Black Hills Gold Ammunition topped with 168-grain Hornady bullets also proved capable of delivering some shots into 1 moa, but five-round groups measured about 1.2 inches across, on average. The M1A platform is a beast but was still able to cycle Hornady Custom Lite low-recoil rounds reliably. This made for a very comfortable shooting experience. The 125-grain bullets were less accurate, with five-shot groups measuring about 1.3 to 1.6 inches across.

Our Team Said: The adjustable stock on the Socom CQB made the rifle an easy fit for different-sized shooters. There's no question that shooting the rifle from positions required less effort compared to its traditionally stocked stable mates. Connecting the contour of the stock with the bottom metal would speed reloading and a standard dimension "buffer tube" would offer the buyer more appealing options. But, if there was any doubt that the M1A series could be used effectively with a scope, the factory-installed mount made all the difference. With the increasing availability of variable-power tactical scopes, the Socom CQB is definitely worth consideration.

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

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