GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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SUPER-SIZED 9MM PISTOLS FROM SIG, CZ, ZENITH

Are these high-capacity, spendy semi-autos worth the investment? Some will think so. And for them, we recommend the Turkish Zenith. **— Page 6**









308 WIN. BOLT ACTIONS

The 308 Winchester offers plenty of big-game power in a short-action rifle. But does that power have to cost an arm and a leg? We tested four rifles to find out: The Mossberg 100 ATR, the Remington 783, the Remington 700 SPS, and the Savage Axis. We were surprised to see the least-expensive rifle dominate and earn a Best Buy accolade. **● Page 14**

COMFORT HOLSTERS

We look at a quartet of holsters that claim they are easy on the wearer. We liked three of them. **● Page 22**



NEW HANDGUNS FOR 2017

Here's our annual aggregation of the best and brightest sidearms coming to your dealers' shelves. **● Page 25**



DOWNRANGE: 2 ● FIRING LINE: 3 ● READER SERVICE: 20 ● MEC METALLIC PRESS: 21 ● COMING UP: 32

DOWNRANGE

ARMY CHOOSES SIG P320 PISTOL



Todd Woodard

The U.S. Army has selected the SIG Sauer Model P320 to replace the Beretta M9 service pistol currently in use since the mid-1980s.

"I am tremendously proud of the Modular Handgun System Team," said Army Acquisition Executive Steffanie Easter in an Army release about the pistol. "By maximizing full and open competition across our industry partners, we truly have optimized the private-sector advancements in handguns, ammunition, and magazines, and the end result will ensure a decidedly superior weapon system for our warfighters."

Released in 2014, the P320 is a polymer striker-fired pistol with interchangeable grip modules that can also be adjusted in frame size and caliber by the operator.

All pistols will be produced at the SIG Sauer facilities in New Hampshire.

The Modular Handgun System (MHS) Program provides for the delivery of both full-size and compact P320s over a period of ten years. All pistols will be configurable to receive silencers and will also include both standard- and extended-capacity magazines.

Ron Cohen, President and CEO of SIG Sauer, said "We are both humbled and proud that the P320 was selected by the U.S. Army as its weapon of choice. Securing this contract is a testimony to SIG Sauer employees and their commitment to innovation, quality and manufacturing the most reliable firearms in the world."



Not that the Army asked us before making their selection of the P320, but if you'll recall, we gave the relatively inexpensive SIG Sauer P320 Carry 320CA-9-BSS 9mm Luger, $550, an **'A'** grade back in the November 2016 issue. From that review conducted by Contributing Editor David Tannahill, we said, "Our specific example is the mid-size P320CA Carry edition. A striker-fired black-polymer-framed 9mm, the P320 is the latest generation of pistol introduced by SIG Sauer in 2014. The P320 uses the same lockup system as the P226 MK25. What makes the P320 unique is its modular design. The core of the pistol is its stainless-steel receiver module, which contains the fire-control group, ejector, ambidextrous slide release, and four slide rails. It is this receiver that is marked with the serial number."

It is not a long leap to guess that the pistol's modularity was the reason it got the Army's nod. We said, "From this core, the user can change the grip frame size and color, slide assemblies, and even change to a limited number of chamberings. (The 9mm, 40 S&W, and 357 SIG calibers are interchangeable. The 45 ACP barrel assembly is not.) The grip options are reasonably priced at $47 from the SIG Store. Complete caliber-conversion

— Downrange continued on page 32

GUN TESTS®
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Good Service from Charter Arms

Reader Stephen gets his five-year-old Bulldog repaired by the manufacturer with no fuss. And we're always happy to supply replacement copies if yours is damaged in the mail. Here's how.



Re Good Charter Arms Service

I've been a Gun Tests subscriber for many years, and I have not purchased a firearm without a look at your reviews. Years ago, I purchased a Charter Arms Bulldog in 44 Special following a glowing Gun Tests report, and everything was great about the gun except that it was unserviceable, including a hammer that got stuck half cocked.

At the time I had so many guns that it just went into the gun safe, and also spent a year at a local gunsmith who never found time to take a look at it. Years passed, and I decided to call the folks at Charter Arms to see if they would stand behind the gun. They couldn't have been more cooperative, and invited me to send it to them to be checked out. After a major overhaul, it was returned free of charge. I was especially impressed because the gunsmith who did the work personally called me with a report about what he found and what he did to fix an early model like mine. It's now one of my favorite handguns.

My only regret was learning that the company will not seek approval in California for its auto-pistol-caliber Pitbull revolver. Charter Arms is just one part of "making America great again!" **— Stephen**

The original review was in the July 2012 issue, "A Brace of Snubby 44 Specials: Taurus takes on Charter Arms." The summary read like this: "Our Team Said: We like the Charter a lot. With our heavy handload it vastly outshines any and all 38 Special or 357 Magnum loads for self-defense use, in our opinion. We don't recommend shooting heavy loads in this gun all the time, because good practice can be obtained and the gun will surely last longer with lighter target loads. The full load can be reserved for serious carry purposes and will thus do the gun the least long-term damage. With a change of grips and more barrel polishing, this Bulldog will become the backup gun for one of our staff.

Much as we liked it, little things nagged at us. There was nothing at all serious, just cosmetic. We found some spots devoid of finish on the recoil shield, and the ejector rod began to unscrew after 20 shots. So did that of the Taurus. The slight initial operating roughness would have put a few people off, but we thought it was acceptable. The barrel was not the finest inside, but then, this is not designed as a target pistol. We would have liked a slicker barrel, but that would run the cost up." Glad to hear Charter stands behind its legacy products.

— Todd Woodard

If Your Copy Is Damaged, Email Us for a Replacement

My latest issue of Gun Tests arrived pretty much torn to pieces. It arrived

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.

on January 28, and if at all possible, could you send a replacement? My account number and my address in California is attached (yes, in the "People's Republik of Kalifornia.") I've used my past issues consistently to help me research and decide on my firearms purchases and find that GUN TESTS is, without a doubt, the most valuable publication for this. It's so nice to read a publication that is untarnished by outside influences when you do a review. Please keep up the good work. Thanks, **— Mike**

My recent issue of GUN TESTS January 2017 was delivered almost ripped in half. I was very disappointed, but on page 4, I happened to see a post on damaged issues. If I could get a replacement issue, it would be greatly appreciated. Also, I got a reloader for Xmas. If you have any issues that have tips for reloading, I would be very interested in reading them. Thank you! **— Clint**

Happy to do this, Mike and Clint. The fastest way to get a replacement issue is to email customer service (Customer_Service@GunTests.info), and they will get the machinery in motion to get you a replacement copy. Email is the easiest way to do it because you can send your account information, mailing address, and the request all at once. Speeds the process. — tw

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

Your article on Reproduction M1 Carbines brought back many pleasant memories. In 1964, I bought one through the old DCM/CMP program for the princely sum of $20 ($18.50 plus $1.50 for shipping and handling). It was a 1944-dated Inland that had the postwar rework of adjustable sight and bayonet lug added. It came from the Red River Army Depot, and, other than some well-defined pits in the bore, was in great shape. I thought it was just about the coolest-looking thing ever and was thrilled



Top is the Auto-Ordnance M1 Carbine Paratrooper Model AOM150 in its folded position; bottom is the Inland Manufacturing M1 1945 Carbine.

to have it. And, adding to the fun factor, military ammo was available in sealed coffee cans of 600 rounds at 4 cents per round. In spite of an austere budget, I bought a couple of those incredibly cool "banana" magazines and happily went through two or three of those cans, until Viet Nam began to heat up in '65-'66 and the supply dried up.

I had the privilege of working with many combat veterans from WW II, as well as Korea, during those days, and most of them held the carbine in pretty low esteem. Small and light, it was great for garrison duty, but sadly lacking in other areas. Two former Marines, both survivors of the Chosin Reservoir, especially condemned its cold-weather performance. Another veteran of the Battle of the Bulge related how he emptied a 15-round magazine into the back of a running German soldier, and upon examination of the fallen German, found only three bullets had penetrated his several layers of winter clothing. One of the Marines told me that, after Korea, the Corps turned in all its carbines and never issued them again.

In late 1969, I reported to Viet Nam to fly helicopters with the Marines. Within a week or two, one of the pilots who was leaving for home gave me a beautiful M2 Carbine. Being capable of fully automatic fire, it was, of course, not a legal thing to bring back, so he just gave it to me. It appeared to be in super condition and came with three full 30-round magazines. I was doubly thrilled to have it. Thrilled, that is, until I tried to fire it. It would only fire single rounds, and the operating rod had to be worked manually to cycle the action. Imagine my surprise when I field-stripped it and discovered it had no gas piston. It just wasn't there.

It probably wasn't that great a loss anyway since, by then, .30 cal. Carbine ammo was almost impossible to find, at least in I Corps, where I was. There certainly was none in the USMC supply system. By then, even the ARVNs had M16s. So, I reluctantly walked over to the group armory and gave it to them to dispose of. I have no idea what eventually became of it.

All that being said, I still think that an M1 carbine with a 30-round banana magazine is one of the coolest-looking rifles ever carried by anyone. And, to me, at least, the "cool factor" is definitely important. Semper Fi . **— G.W.**

G.W., I want to thank you for the recollections about these historic firearms. — tw

Advice for Newbies

Love your magazine, especially the upgraded paper. We're relative newbies to owning and shooting guns, so your evaluations are immensely helpful. Because my wallet isn't bottomless, I'm extremely tempted to save money when buying ammunition for the range. I don't mind paying top-dollar for carry and home defense firearms, but the recurring costs of shooting are substantial. My question is, what real-life downsides are there to buying the ammo that typically runs as much as half what the "better" brands charge?

Here's a case in point from a major retailer that advertises 9mm rounds marked down to 17 cents a round from normal 24 cents a round. The ammo is "aluminum case," which the ad says is "a lower price than steel case alternatives," yet the rounds are "consistent FMJ bullet, affordable, reliable accuracy for high-volume range shooters. This ammunition is new production and non-corrosive."

I don't want to be penny-wise and pound-foolish, and certainly



Bullet cases are now available in a variety of materials besides brass, none of which has given us function problems or damaged any firearms we've used the ammunition in. From top are steel-cased 45 ACPs from Tulammo, aluminum-case 44 Magnums from Blazer, and polymer-case ammunition from PCP.

don't want to feed anything into my handguns that may do them gun harm. Can you provide some guidance about these ammo choices? Thanks in advance. **— Mark**

Cheap practice ammo will rarely damage your firearm. I would say "never," but I hate to say never. Generally, aluminum and now polymer cases cost less because those cases can't be reloaded like brass, which keeps its ductility over many uses. We haven't had either damage or massive function problems over the years with low-cost ammo, even with steel cases, and we usually include a lower-cost ammunition choice as part of our bulk testing of all firearms. We like to save money, too, and I can't recall any problems with ammunition, per se, that just didn't run or caused problems across several guns. If you really want to save money, however, start reloading. Or do most of your training by dry firing (with snap caps), and only shoot live rounds to get the 5% of the shot development that require recoil and follow-through to learn. But for your defense firearms, make sure you test them extensively with the loads you expect to use to ensure function is 100%. Our ammunition tests can help you select well-performing loads that you can then prove function perfectly in your own firearms. Welcome to the club! — tw

State-Specific Gun Bans

I've been a subscriber for many years and greatly appreciate your fine magazine. Please review some New York-legal rifles for those of us trapped here until retirement. All kidding aside, some of us can't simply pack up and leave. I recently purchased a Gen 2 Ares SCR and found it to an excellent lightweight rifle, but I know there must be other semiautomatic military-style rifles that are configured to be legal here. I would especially be interested in something in 7.62x39 or 308 Win., but I don't know of any. **— Lawrence**

We've batted this idea around for a few years, and, of course, readers in New York and other locations are affected by the availability of state-compliant firearms. I will take a look at "restricted-feature" firearms and see what we can come up with. Ideally, we'd look for firearms that would be multiple-state compliant, which is no easy task. — tw

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

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

Forward-Mounted-Mag 9mm Pistols from SIG, Zenith, & CZ

Are these worth the investment, or are they just super-sized semi-autos? The Zenith was the softest shooting, while the SIG was refined. The CZ competed well at a fraction of the cost.

In the October 2016 issue, we tested three high-capacity 9mm Luger pistols and found them somewhat lacking in defensive scenarios, though we did enjoy shooting one, the MPA Defender, which was sized more like a regular pistol than the carbine-like SIG MPX and which functioned better than an Uzi Mini Pro. But there are an increasing number of pistols that, save for a couple of features, function more like Short-Barreled Rifles (SBRs), which are controlled by much more stringent regulations under the National Firearms Act and are vastly more expensive and hard to get. The SIG MPX-PSB, for example, is similar to the unit we tested last October except it comes with a Stabilizing Brace, thus the "SB" in the name, compared to the "P" designation we initially tested.

This round, we found products more alike in size to the SIG Sauer MPX-PSB, namely, the CZ Scorpion EVO 3 S1 and the Zenith Firearms MKE Z-5RS with SB Brace. The Zenith and SIG came with a stabilizing brace, while the CZ did not, but it could be purchased separately. The SIG, CZ, and Zenith are tactical looking firearms because they all have a military ancestry that is especially noticeable due to the magazine mounted in front of the trigger guard and not in the grip. The three pistols tested are all semi-automatic, require two hands to shoot with any degree of accuracy, use high-round-capacity magazines compared to typical full-size handguns, and have the ability to be fired with a stabilizing brace. These pistols also represent three different operating mechanisms: the SIG uses a short push-rod gas system; the CZ a simple blowback system, and the Zenith a delayed roller-block mechanism. During firing, we noticed big differences in the mechanisms in both manual operation and cycling when fired, which we will get into. The ergonomics and controls differed as well, yet we found our ramp-up time transitioning between handguns to be short.

Initially, there is an awkwardness shooting these pistols because they feel like an SBR yet have no stock for a steady aim, and they are too heavy to fire in a Weaver, Isosceles, or hybrid stance with a two-hand hold like a typical handgun. We believe adequate range time and proper training is needed to master these pistols.



The three super-sized pistols tested included the Zenith Firearms MKE Z-5RS with SB Brace (top), the CZ Scorpion EVO 3 S1 (middle), and the SIG Sauer MPX-PSB (bottom). The Zenith and SIG came with braces, while the CZ did not, but one could be purchased separately. All three proved to have good accuracy and reliability and are positioned as defensive firearms. In our opinion, these pistols offer a lot of shooting fun and could be used for self defense, filling a gap between a rifle/carbine and handgun. We preferred the Zenith, though the SIG and CZ performed well. Because the costs ranged from $849 to $2050, the question a potential buyer needs to answer is, "Do I want a novel home-defense firearm?" We are skeptical that many will choose these products for that use, but your mileage may vary.

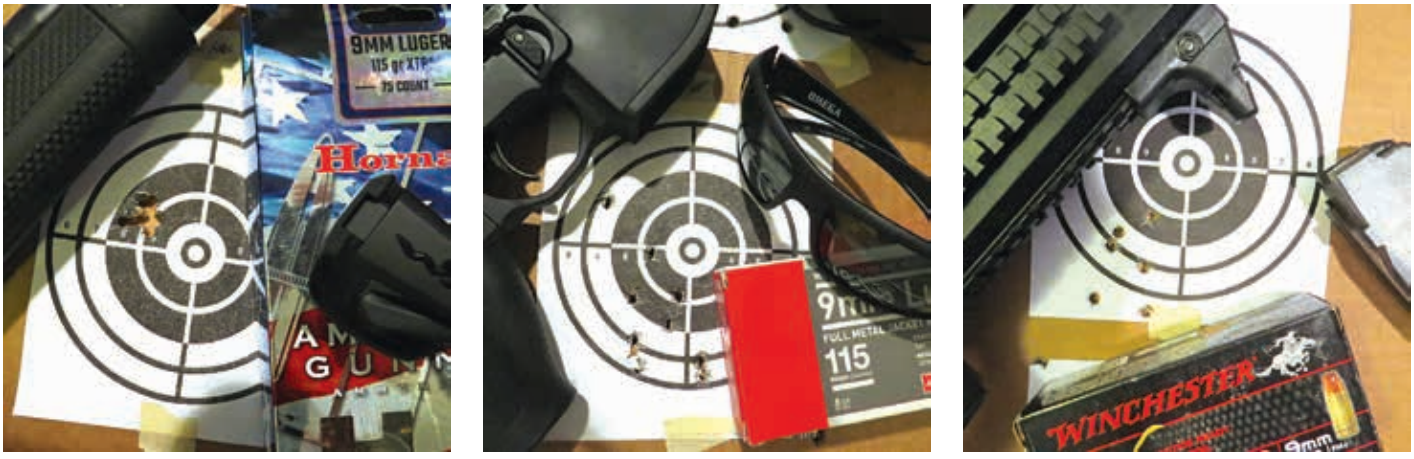


The differences in magazines are apparent. The CZ (top) has a 20-round capacity and was made completely of polymer. The Zenith (middle) is made of steel and holds 30 rounds, while the 30-round SIG MPX magazine on bottom uses steel and polymer.

9MM LUGER RANGE DATA

Hornady American Gunner 9mm Luger 115-gr. XTP	**Zenith MKE Z-5RS with SB Brace**	**SIG Sauer MPX-PSB**	**CZ-USA Scorpion EVO 3 S1**
Average Velocity	1193 fps	1198 fps	1239 fps
Muzzle Energy	363 ft.-lbs.	367 ft.-lbs.	392 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.38 in.	0.64 in.	0.51 in.
Average Group	0.43 in.	0.96 in.	1.03 in.
Winchester Train 9mm Luger 147-gr. FMJ	**Zenith MKE Z-5RS with SB Brace**	**SIG Sauer MPX-PSB**	**CZ-USA Scorpion EVO 3 S1**
Average Velocity	1025 fps	1012 fps	1034 fps
Muzzle Energy	343 ft.-lbs.	334 ft.-lbs.	349 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.80 in.	0.85 in.	0.56 in.
Average Group	0.88 in.	1.1 in.	1.05 in.
Aguila 9mm Luger 115-gr. FMJ	**Zenith MKE Z-5RS with SB Brace**	**SIG Sauer MPX-PSB**	**CZ-USA Scorpion EVO 3 S1**
Average Velocity	1214 fps	1224 fps	1244 fps
Muzzle Energy	376 ft.-lbs.	383 ft.-lbs.	395 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.40 in.	0.54 in.	0.80 in.
Average Group	0.61 in.	0.87 in.	1.21 in.

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



Here's what our test pistols could do at 25 yards. At left is the Zenith, which fired 0.43-inch average groups with the Hornady American Gunner 115-grain XTPs. Middle is the SIG shown with the Aguila fodder and a noticeably larger group. At right is the CZ with the third ammo, Winchester Train 147-grain FMJs.

Most important, we wondered if, out of the box, these similar, yet different, pistols would work as home-defense choices. In our opinion, the upside of these three pistols is that they offer high magazine capacities, decent accuracy, and a lot of shooting fun. Yes, these pistols can make empty brass very quickly. On the downside is cost. Yes, you can purchase a lot less gun for a lot less money and achieve the same self-defense goal as what this trio delivers, we believe. Still, we looked forward to seeing what each firearm could do at the range.

How We Tested

We purchased 9mm ammo off the shelf at a local sporting goods store in North Carolina, Eastern Outfitters (EasternOutfitter.com), choosing Hornady American Gunner 115-grain XTP jacketed hollow points ($47/75 rounds), Aguila 115-grain FMJs ($16/50), and Winchester Train 147-grain FMJs ($17/50). We wanted a mix of bullet weights and bullet types to see if roundnose FMJs had an advantage over hollowpoint ammo in feeding. In short, we found all three pistols chewed through the

ammo equally well with no issues.

We fired for accuracy using open sights and a benchrest at targets set at 25 yards, and found these pistols could shoot some pretty nice groups. After accuracy testing, the pistols were fired using a two-hand hold with and without a sling. We liked using a sling since it gave shooters more stability. We also fired the SIG and Zenith using the stabilizing braces included with the pistol. In the past, we have found we prefer to use a stabilizing brace to achieve a cheek weld in lieu of strapping to our arm. We also fired the pistols using our support hand to grasp the front of the magazine well and the magazine. We wanted to know if applying tension to the magazine would throw them off. Nope. One thing to remember with these pistols, they are not made for bullseye shooting, but instead are able to rapidly squirt lead downrange. A box of 50 rounds can go fast with these pistols. Here is what we found out about them in more detail.

CZ Scorpion EVO 3 S1 91351 9mm Luger, $849

The Scorpion EVO 3 S1 has a reputation to live up to. The original Skorpion vz. 61 was a select-fire blowback operating pistol chambered in 32 ACP with cyclic rate of 850 rounds per minute. The Scorpion EVO 3 S1 is an updated design that also uses a blowback mechanism, but it has a fiber-reinforced polymer receiver in lieu of stamped steel. The receiver of the EVO 3 S1 is made of two polymer halves that sandwich together with a trigger group that snaps underneath and a handguard that slides over the barrel. The barrel is equipped with a CZ flash hider attached via ½×28 threads so you can fit either ½×28 or 18×1 accessories to the muzzle. The Scorpion has a blocky look that makes it look heavier and larger than it actually is, our shooters noted.

The pistol features an ambidextrous thumb safety and magazine release. The safety rotates to either "safe" or "fire" mode. Some shooters found the safety selector rapped against

CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1 9MM LUGER, $849

GUN TESTS GRADE: B-

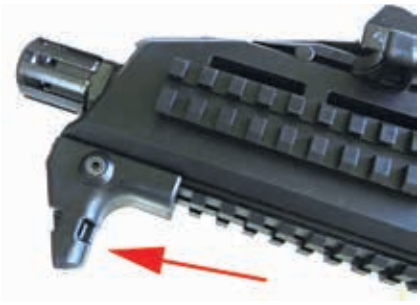
The Scorpion offers a lot of pistol for a low cost, performing well out of the box and is very customizable with aftermarket parts. We lowered the grade due to the safety selector bashing knuckles on recoil.



Action Type	Blowback Semi-Auto
Overall Length	16.0 in.
Overall Height	9.4 in.
Maximum Width	3.8 in.
Weight Unloaded	5.0 lbs.
Weight Loaded	5.5 lbs.
Slide	Steel
Receiver	Polymer
Barrel	7.7 in., 1:10 twist
Muzzle Device	CZ flash hider, ½x28 LH threads
Brace	None
Pistol Grip	Smooth polymer
Grip Thickness (max)	1.25 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.5 in.
Handguard	Polymer, railed
Magazine	(2) 20-round polymer
Rear Sight	Steel, folding, windage adj.
Front Sight	Steel, folding, elevation adj.
Sight Radius	9.5 in.
Trigger	8.4 lbs.
Safety	Ambi., 2-Pos. lever
Dust Cover	None
Warranty	Limited 5-year
Telephone	(800) 955-4486
Website	CZ-USA.com
Made In	Czech Republic



Note the safety selector. It rapped the knuckle of our trigger finger during recoil.



The handstop ensures your support hand does not go past the muzzle. Note the ample rail space.



The sights were well designed. A serrated face toward the shooter cut glare. The rail offers plenty of room to mount an optic.

SIG SAUER MPX-PSB MPX-P-9-KM-PSB
9MM LUGER, $1700

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

The SIG MPX-PSB performed well, and because it was an AR-15/style platform, ramp-up time was short. The short-stroke mechanism produced minimal felt recoil.



Action Type	Semi-auto, short-stroke pushrod gas system
Overall Length	16.85 in.
Overall Length w/ Brace	25.75 in.
Overall Height	11.0 in.
Maximum Width	2.0 in.
Weight Unloaded	6.0 lbs.
Weight Loaded	6.8 lbs.
Upper Receiver	Forged 7075-T6 aluminum
Lower Receiver	7075-T6 aluminum
Barrel	8.0 in., 1:10 twist
Muzzle Device	A2, 13.5x1 LH threads
Brace	SIGTAC SBX
Pistol Grip	SIG AR style
Grip Thickness (max)	1.25 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.5 in.
Handguard	SIG aluminum KeyMod
Magazine	(1) 30-round polymer
Rear Sight	Steel, folding, windage adj.
Front Sight	Steel, folding, elevation adj.
Sight Radius	12.5 in.
Trigger	7.0 lbs.
Safety	Ambi., 2-pos. lever
Dust Cover	Yes
Warranty	Limited lifetime
Telephone	(603) 610-3000
Website	SIGSauer.com
Made In	USA



The SIG's controls are laid out similar to those on an AR-15.



The rear of the lower receiver features a short rail to mount the brace and socket for a QD swivel.



The ejection port is sized for the 9mm cartridge and employs a dust cover.

their knuckles when firing. It was also difficult to flip on/off with the thumb of the shooting hand. HB Industries sells a Right Safety Delete V2 ($13; HBIndustries.net) that removes the right-side safety lever. We would invest in this aftermarket product if we owned the Scorpion. The magazine release is built into the front of the trigger guard with coarse serrations, so your trigger finger can easily dump a magazine, or you can use the thumb of your supporting hand. The cocking handle can also be swapped for either a right- or left-hand shooter. It operates like an HK MP5 and the Zenith. It is easy to operate and lock back. Not a lot of strength is required to cock the pistol or lock it back. The adjustable pistol grip allows you to increase or decrease the distance from the back strap to the trigger face. The grip is relatively smooth on the sides, but the front and rear straps are serrated. The grip butt is flared so your hand does not slide off the grip, even in rapid fire. The bolt release is located on the left side of the pistol in a similar location as an AR-15 bolt-release button.

The top side features an 11-inch Picatinny-style rail with steel front and rear sights attached. The front post is adjustable for elevation and is protected by wings. A tool comes with the pistol to adjust the front sight. The rear sight has four aperture choices that rotate and click into place and is adjustable for windage with a flat-blade screwdriver or a cartridge rim. The shooter-facing side of the sights are serrated to cut glare. We liked these sights. The Picatinny-style rail also allows plenty of options if you want to mount a red dot or reflex sight. The handguard has rails at the 3, 6, and 9 o'clock positions if you wanted to mount a tactical light or laser pointer. A hand stop is located at the very end of the handguard so your supporting hand does go past the muzzle. You can also use the stop to push the pistol toward the target while your shooting hand pulls back. This is another way to fire these pistols more steadily.

The trigger has a slight curve and is coarsely serrated. The trigger guard was also plenty large, so the EVO can be operated with gloved hands.

In hand, the Scorpion was well balanced, our shooters said. We could shoot this pistol one handed, but fatigue would set in quickly—as with all three pistols. The ergonomics were good, except for the safety selector. The Scorpion was the most compact and lightest of the three pistols. An adapter kit ($100; shop.CZ-USA.com) can be purchased that is a buffer tube that a barrel attaches to a SIG brace ($139-$148; SIGSauer.com). Purchasing the extension tube and brace brings the price of the Scorpion closer to the price of the SIG. Two 20-round magazines and a bore-snake cleaning rod is included with the pistol. Additional 30-round ($20) and 10-round ($18) magazines are available from the CZ shop.

The magazines are translucent polymer so you can easily see remaining ammo. We found the magazines easy to load. The feed lips of the magazine are polymer, and we did not see any significant wear.

All ammunition cycled flawlessly through the Scorpion. Magazines seated easily and with authority. The pistol was easy to cock—the easiest of the three tested—since you could pull back on the cocking lever with your support hand and provide good resistance with the firing hand. We fired the Scorpion with and without a sling and we felt the sling offered a steadier aiming position.

Benchrest accuracy was very good, averaging about 1 inch for five rounds at 25 yards. One tester consistently grouped five shots at about 0.5 inch with the Hornady American Gunner and Winchester Train ammo. We did notice the Scorpion had more felt recoil than the other two pistols. The pistol was easy to adapt to and manipulate. Reloads were fast and smooth. The bolt locked back on the last shot fired. We also like that the pistol was easy to shoot with both eyes open. We would prefer a lighter trigger; our sample measured 8.4 pounds, but our accuracy was good,

ZENITH FIREARMS MKE Z-5RS W/SB BRACE #MKZ5RSA009BK 9MM LUGER, $2050

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

If you have always wanted an H&K MP5, then the Zenith is a good, less costly choice. Smooth operating with minimal recoil and excellent accuracy, this old-school pistol performs.



Action Type	Semi-Auto; roller-delayed blowback
Overall Length	17.9 in.
Overall Length w/ Brace	25.75 in.
Overall Height	8.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.9 in.
Weight Unloaded	6.1 lbs.
Weight Loaded	6.9 lbs.
Upper Receiver	Stamped steel
Lower Receiver	Polymer
Barrel	8.9 in., 1:10 twist
Muzzle Device	None, ½x28 LH threads
Brace	SB tactical pistol stabilizing brace
Pistol Grip	Textured polymer
Grip Thickness (max)	1.16 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.5 in.
Handguard	Textured polymer
Magazine	(3) 30-round steel
Rear Sight	Steel, elevation/windage adj.
Front Sight	Steel, protected post
Sight Radius	13 in.
Trigger	5.5 lbs.
Safety	Ambi., 2-pos. lever
Dust Cover	None
Warranty	Limited 5-year
Telephone	(434) 202-7790
Website	ZenithFirearms.com
Made In	Turkey



The Zenith has two magazine releases: a button for right-hand shooters with a long trigger finger and an ambidextrous paddle. We preferred the paddle.



Left: With the brace removed, a butt cap keeps the receiver and trigger group together.



Right: The Zenith uses a non-reciprocating cocking handle located on the left side of the receiver. It is easy to operate.

THE LEGALITIES OF SIG SAUER'S PISTOL STABILIZING BRACE







SIG Sauer's SBX Pistol Stabilizing Brace, shown in the three adjacent images attached to the MPX, is an update to the SB15 Pistol Stabilizing brace, a shooter's aid that is designed to improve the single-handed shooting performance of buffer-tube-equipped pistols. The SBX features a slimmer design with a thicker strap for extra stability. Made from elasto-polymer, the SB15 is manufactured to fit all pistols equipped with an AR-style buffer tube 1.0 to 1.2 inches in diameter. The Pistol Stabilizing Brace uses the operator's forearm to provide stable support, minimizing spin and shift. A flexible cuff with two adjustable nylon straps allows the SB15 to be custom-fit to any user. SIG says the device is "ATF compliant," which they explain as, "ATF has reviewed this product and determined that attaching the SB15 to a firearm does not alter the classification of the firearm or subject the firearm to NFA control." It's $95 if sold separately.

A January 2015 ATF letter signed by Max M. Kingery, Acting Chief of the Firearms Technology Criminal Branch at ATF reads, "These devices are described as 'a shooter's aid that is designed to improve the single-handed shooting performance of buffer tube equipped pistols.' The device claims to enhance accuracy and reduce felt recoil when using an AR-style pistol.

"These items are intended to improve accuracy by using the operator's forearm to provide stable support for the AR-type pistol. ATF has previously determined that attaching the brace to a firearm does not alter the classification of the firearm or subject the firearm to National Firearms Act (NFA) control. However, this classification is based upon the use of the device as designed. When the device is redesigned for use as a shoulder stock on a handgun with a rifled barrel under 16 inches in length, the firearm is properly classified as a firearm under the NFA....

"The pistol stabilizing brace was neither "designed" nor approved to be used as a shoulder stock, and therefore use as a shoulder stock constitutes a 'redesign' of the device because a possessor has changed the very function of the item. Any individual letters stating otherwise are contrary to the plain language of the NFA, misapply Federal law, and are hereby revoked.

"Any person who intends to use a handgun stabilizing brace as a shoulder stock on a pistol (having a rifled barrel under 16 inches in length or a smooth bore firearm with a barrel under 18 inches in length) must first file an ATF Form 1 and pay the applicable tax because the resulting firearm will be subject to all provisions of the NFA," the letter concluded.

even with the heavy trigger pull.

Our Team Said: Recoil was more noticeable due to the blowback mechanism. Some testers did not like the ambidextrous safety selector bumping their knuckle during fire and graded the Scorpion down for this reason. It was easy to cock and the operating handle was reversible. It was the least expensive, yet held its own with the more expensive pistols, and is very adaptable for mounting optics, stabilizing braces and other accessories. In our opinion, this is a good starter pistol due to the cost. We also searched the web and found numerous aftermarket parts available.

SIG SAUER MPX-PSB #MPX-P-9-KM-PSB
9mm Luger, $1700

The MPX-PSB is similar to the MPX-P (B+) we tested a few issues ago. Based on an AR-15 style platform, the MPX series uses a closed, fully locked short-stroke, pushrod gas system mechanism. AR shooters adapted quickly to the SIG since controls and handling are similar. The MPX-PSB is built with an upper and lower receiver, so takedown is similar to an AR-15. The quality workmanship was apparent in the SIG, and that is what we expected from this manufacturer. The matte-black finish was well executed, and there was no wiggle between lower and upper receivers.

In the lower, the bolt release, magazine release, and safety selector are ambidextrous and easy to manipulate. The lever and button touch surfaces are finely serrated. The grip is equipped with SIG's comfortable textured

side panels and coarsely serrated front and rear straps. It also offers a storage compartment for spare batteries. The magazine well is well flared to suck in the translucent magazine. The magazine was easy to load, even to the 30th round, and had a pebble texture on the sides with serration on the front and rear edge. Not enough to snag in a mag pouch, but enough for a sure grip. It also had metal feed lips. We like that we could see how much was still in the tank due to the translucent polymer. The trigger guard is over sized and glove friendly. The rear of the lower has a quick-detach socket and a small rail to attach a brace. The trigger is single stage and broke at about 7 pounds on average.

The upper offers 14 inches of top rail where the folding front and rear sights attach. The sights deploy and fold without pressing a button. A detent keeps them up or down. There are two rear apertures and is adjustable from windage; the front sight is a post adjustable for elevation. It is protected by wings. Since buttons are not required to deploy or stow the sights, the sights can easily fold back if the firearm is accidentally dropped. You also need to be aware that in a tight environment—like getting out of a vehicle or pushing through brush, the sights could accidentally be folded back. We liked the sights, as can be seen in the range-accuracy data, but we'd prefer if they locked in place when stowed and when deployed. The KeyMod handguard allows the user to mount accessories on five different rails. A hand stop is mounted behind the muzzle. The barrel is free floated and is capped off with an A2-style flash hider that can be removed to add your choice of muzzle device. The ejection port is sized to fit a 9mm round and includes a dust cover. The SIG uses a oversized charging handle similar to an AR-15. Cocking the weapon took more effort than with the Zenith or CZ, but was the same when compared to nearly any AR-15 pistol. Since your support hand and firing hand are nearly on top of each other when cocking the SIG, there is enough leverage, so cocking is rather easy. The MPX-PSB is solidly built and is a hefty piece, but it is less bulky than the CZ, we thought.

The MPX-PSB comes well equipped and includes the folding stabilizing brace, QD sling loop and sling, and one magazine. We would have liked an additional magazine, but that's just a nitpick. Additional magazines cost $69 (SIGSauer.com), which we feel is pricey. The SIG was easy to disassemble and clean—just like an AR-15.

At the range the SIG showed some excellent accuracy. With Aguila 115-grain FMJs, our smallest group measured 0.54 inches. The other ammo brands were just slightly larger. On average, we found the SIG capable of 5-shot groups under 1 inch. We feel that with any of these pistols, a red-dot or reflex sight would shrink groups even more, but we think with the good iron sights on these pistols and the distance they are most likely to be used at, an optic is not required.

We ran the SIG with and without the brace, and testers were split on whether it was required. The nice feature of the SIG is the brace can be folded out of the way, which we all appreciated. The pistol can be fired with the brace folded or extended. Reloads were slick and fast since the SIG had a gaping mag well. The bolt locked back on the last round fired, so inserting the magazine with our support hand and slapping the bolt-release button with our support-hand thumb was smooth and fluid. Also, the polymer of these magazines seemed to be slicker against the metal. All controls worked with authority and ease. Some testers could get into a nice rhythm with the SIG since they could grasp the handguard like they would on an AR-15. We ran the SIG hard—as we did with all the pistols—firing one and two handed, side ways, upside down. Nothing jammed in the SIG nor the other pistols.



The MPX-PSB is built with an upper and lower receiver, similar to an AR-15. There was no wiggle between lower and upper receivers. In the lower, the bolt release, magazine release, and safety selector are ambidextrous and easy to manipulate.



The SIG's folding sight enabled us to achieve good accuracy. Note that the sights do not lock in place.

Our Team Said: The transition to the MPX-PSB from an AR-15 was smooth for testers familiar with the AR-15 platform. The SIG was well built, tight with no wiggle. It came with a lot of accessories in the box, but we would have liked an additional magazine. Recoil was very manageable. If you are an AR-15 guy/gal, then the SIG would be the obvious choice.

Zenith Firearms MKE Z-5RS with SB Brace MKZ5RSA009BK 9mm Luger, $2050

The Zenith Firearms MKE Z-5RS is not a clone, but is instead an H&K-licensed copy made in Turkey. It is a civilian version of the iconic H&K MP5, one of the most widely used submachine guns in the world. One of our evaluators was a former SWAT member and MP5 instructor. He could write his name in the dirt with an full-auto MP5 and liked converting AR-15 fans to MP5s.

The MP5 and MKE Z-5RS both employ a delayed roller-block mechanism. In this system, basically before a cartridge is fired, the bolt carrier and bolt are temporarily locked into the trunnion as rollers engage the locking piece. The bolt remains locked until the bullet leaves the barrel and the pressure drops, then the rollers disengage and the bolt carrier moves rearward by the force of the recoil. The SIG short-stroke piston uses gas from a fired cartridge to operate the piston and push the bolt rearward. The CZ's blowback unit uses the force of a fired cartridge to throw back the bolt.

The MP5, hence the Zenith MKE Z-5RS, was originally designed in the early-to-mid-1960s—yes, this is an old-school firearm constructed of stamped sheet steel that is welded to form the receiver. Unlike the clean molded polymer receiver of the CZ or the forged and CNC machined receivers of the SIG, the Zenith is not as refined aesthetically. You can seen hand welds, but the finish was good. The Zenith was the heaviest and the longest of the three pistols, but has a small profile. It is like a pipe with a pistol grip. In the hard-plastic carry case was a factory cleaning kit, two extra takedown pins, sling, three 30-round steel-body magazines, and an SB Tactical stabilizing brace. This brace is similar to the SIG, with a hook and loop strap attaching it to your arm, which we tried, and prefer to use the brace as a cheek weld.

The upper receiver houses the barrel, operating mechanism, and magazine well. A polymer trigger group snaps into the receiver, and a butt cap keeps the pieces together. On the top side is a rear sight drum that has four apertures and is adjustable for windage and elevation. The outer edge of the drum is knurled for a sure grip and to cut glare. The front-sight post is enclosed and protected in a ring. Excellent sights in our opinion. What the Zenith lacks is a Picatinny rail. Aftermarket clamp-style mounts cost anywhere from $20 (Model MNT-P669; Leapers.com) to $400 (Model HKP17660; HKParts.net). The 8.9-inch barrel has a three-lug quick attachment and a ½x28 threaded muzzle. A cap protects the threads. The polymer forend has a coarse texture and is skinny, so it is easy to grasp. On the left side is the cocking handle with a rubber knob. Similar to the CZ, but not ambidextrous like the CZ, it has a longer stroke. Also, it took a little more effort to cock and lock back the bolt with the Zenith than the CZ. The Zenith has two magazine releases: a button for right-hand shooters with long fingers and an ambidextrous paddle a lot like one you might find on an AK. We found ourselves using the paddle since it was faster to manipulate. The magazines are made of steel with a steel follower and floor plate pad and were the easiest magazines we have ever loaded. The mag well is smaller with the Zenith, so extra care is needed to align the mag and the opening.



The Zenith's front-sight post is enclosed and protected in a ring. The rear sight drum has four apertures and is adjustable for windage and elevation. The outer edge of the drum is knurled for a sure grip and to cut glare. This sight set-up gave us best accuracy.

The polymer trigger group is a one-piece grip and trigger guard that offers good ergonomics. The safety selector is located on the left side and is easily operated with the thumb of a right hand shooter. The status of the safety lever is clearly indicated on both sides of the pistol. The trigger is smooth and had a 5.5-pound pull weight. The trigger and the safety selector can easily be removed from the trigger group housing. In fact, the Zenith came apart easily. Remember, there is a reason Zenith provides extra pins as part of the package. They are easily lost in the field or in a work shop, a limitation of the old design.

At 25 yards we found the Zenith pulled away from the pack. Recoil felt like 22 LR rimfire or pellet gun. Minimal to say the least, and the mechanism operated super smoothly. By far much smoother than the SIG, which we thought was smooth, and the CZ. This is the difference in the mechanisms, and in our opinion, it explains the difference in the cost of the pistols. One tester was able to get 10 rounds in a group that measured 0.38 inches at 25 yards using a rest with the Hornady American Gunner ammo. Sweet. In fact, on average, all the ammo grouped five shots under 1 inch. Sweet again. The Zenith had the most surgical accuracy of the pistols tested. Using the brace and firing for speed, we could control the MKE Z-5RS better than the other pistols. The pistol was also easy to operate, and even though it was the longest and heaviest of the pistols tested, it felt more lithe in the hand. We had no issues with the Zenith. It is easy to understand why the H&K MP5 is still in use with many military and LE groups around the world.

Our Team Said: If you are an H&K MP5 fan, then the Zenith is your option. The cost is staggering—more than double the CZ—and we did downgrade it appropriately. The smooth operation, minimal recoil, and accuracy endeared testers to the Zenith. We liked the accessories that came with it.

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

308 Winchester Bolt-Actions: Remington's M783 Rifle Wins

At the beginning, it looked like Big Green's used rifle had everything going against it: It didn't have its scope, it was pitted against more expensive models, and more. But it shot well.

Among the most useful, versatile, and powerful all-round sporting rifles is the 308 Winchester bolt action. These rifles are accurate, reliable, and can take on small to big game in many hunting conditions. When married with a good optic and in competent hands, they are well suited to take a 200-pound target at 200 yards and beyond, as a rule of thumb. The chambering is a joy to use and fire, compared to hard-kicking magnums, and offers plenty of recreational value. The bolt-action 308 is also a useful tactical rifle in many situations, and the round is widely used by law enforcement across the country.

We recently took a hard look at four bolt-action rifles chambered in 308 Winchester, with a special emphasis on looking for affordable options. So we chose two used rifles and one lower-cost new rifle and compared them to a rifle in a higher price range to ensure we weren't missing something that more dollars could provide. These rifles included the now-discontinued Mossberg ATR, the Remington 783, the Remington 700 SPS, and the Savage Axis. In this quartet, we shot three loads for accuracy testing and another load in offhand fire to gauge the accuracy of the rifles. As it turns out, the economy combination rifle that comes from the factory with a bore-sighted scope is a good deal. Though the Remington 783 was the most accurate rifle, we also liked the Remington 700 SPS a lot. Overall, however, the Savage Axis combination seems a best buy. Let's look hard at these rifles and delve into why we made these choices and to see if you agree with our assessments.









Above, top to bottom: Our test rifles got a wringing out in standing, prone, and off the bench. When all was said and done, the Remington 783, bottom, was the best of the quartet, despite its being the lowest-priced entry. The M783, which we bought used for $200 and minus its factory-supplied 3-9x40 scope, was the most accurate rifle in the test, functioned well, and fit our shooters. We also liked the Savage Axis (being shot off the bench and standing) and the Remington Model 700 SPS with a 16.5-inch barrel (prone), which made it surprisingly nimble despite its weight. The Mossberg 100 ATR has since been replaced in the company stable with the Patriot line. It was okay, but when compared to the others, it came in a distant fourth, in our opinion.

Mossberg 100 All-Terrain Rifle (ATR) #27230 308 Winchester, $200 (Used)

We found this item for only $200 used. We also located new versions of it at retail for $284 at TombstoneTactical.com without a scope and $304 at the same vendor

308 WINCHESTER RANGE DATA

Winchester Match 168-gr. Hollow Point Boattail S308M	**Marlin M100 ATR**	**Savage Axis XP**	**Remington M700 SPS**	**Remington M783**
Average Velocity	2590 fps	2660 fps	2450 fps	2623 fps
Muzzle Energy	2501 ft.-lbs.	2639 ft.-lbs.	2238 ft.-lbs.	2566 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.0 in.	1.3 in.	1.3 in.	1.2 in.
Large Group	2.6 in.	2.0 in.	1.7 in.	1.5 in.
Average Group	2.3 in.	1.6 in.	1.5 in.	1.3 in.

Hornady American Whitetail 150-gr. Interlok Spire Point 8090	**Marlin M100 ATR**	**Savage Axis XP**	**Remington M700 SPS**	**Remington M783**
Average Velocity	2700 fps	2776 fps	2611 fps	2739 fps
Muzzle Energy	2427 ft.-lbs.	2566 ft.-lbs.	2270 ft.-lbs.	2498 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.9 in.	1.7 in.	1.6 in.	1.8 in.
Large Group	3.5 in.	2.1 in.	2.1 in.	2.2 in.
Average Group	3.2 in.	1.9 in.	1.9 in.	2.0 in.

Black Hills Ammunition Factory New 175-gr. Match Hollow Point Boat Tail	**Marlin M100 ATR**	**Savage Axis XP**	**Remington M700 SPS**	**Remington M783**
Average Velocity	2545 fps	2480 fps	2370 fps	2505 fps
Muzzle Energy	2516 ft.-lbs.	2389 ft.-lbs.	2182 ft.-lbs.	2437 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.4 in.	1.4 in.	1.2 in.	1.1 in.
Large Group	3.2 in.	1.7 in.	1.7 in.	1.4 in.
Average Group	2.8 in.	1.6 in.	1.5 in.	1.3 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired three-shot groups off a benchrest. Distance: 100 yards. We recorded velocities with a Competition Electronics Chrony Chronograph with the first screen set 10 feet from the muzzle.

with an unspecified 3-9x40 scope. The Mossberg ATR, discontinued in 2014, evolved into the Patriot line, which has a similar rifle (Patriot Synthetic #27864 in 308 Win.) that lists for $396. Our test rifle included a Weaver-style rail for mounting optics, a black synthetic stock, and a detachable magazine. The stock features molded-in sling attachments, a cheek rest, and light checkering on the forend and grip. The bolt handle is elliptical in shape, and the cocking knob is serrated. We found lift and ejection action to be adequate. It wasn't difficult to cycle the action and then to fire the rifle and get a fast follow-up shot. The lever-style safety was positive in operation. The rail was handy in mounting an optical sight. We mated the rifle with a Vanguard RS 41240 BDC ($359.50 from OpticsPlanet.com.) If you're looking for the lowest all-in price, you wouldn't pick a scope in this price range, but for our purposes of needing a proven optic to let the rifle shine, it worked out well. The Vanguard wasn't difficult to quickly sight in using the box method at 50 yards. Loading the rifle wasn't particularly difficult, but the magazine follower seemed prone to tilting. There is no magazine floorplate, so unloading is accomplished by running the cartridges through the action, which isn't ideal. We never did so during the test because we fired the rifle to empty.

During the firing stage, we sighted the rifle in with the Winchester White Box FMJ load, which we carried over to the others as well, using five to 10 cartridges. Next, we fired 20 rounds in each rifle with the Winchester USA 147-grain FMJ load ($19/20 rounds @ CheaperThanDirt.com) off hand, firing at 50 and 100 yards. We also fired five rounds from the prone position. This measured the handling and off hand comfort of the rifles. We liked the ATR's cheek rest during these firing strings. We also settled down for bench rest testing at 100 yards. We used three loads, the Winchester 168-grain Match round ($41/20 from Brownells.com), the Hornady American Whitetail 150-grain Interlok ($29/20 from Hornady.com), and the Black Hills 175-grain Match ($31/20 from LuckyGunner.com) as a heavy-bullet target-grade loading. The Mossberg was smooth enough in offhand fire; however, it wasn't as smooth in operation as the Remington 700 or the Remington 783 and on par with the Savage rifle. Accuracy was the poorest of the rifles tested. We tightened the stock and checked the scope rings to be certain all was in good order, but this rifle simply wasn't very accurate. We liked the nontraditional rail, however, and the rifle was only adequate for deer-sized game at 100 yards or a little more.

Our Team Said: A rifle with this simple design shouldn't offer problems, even at this price point. It wasn't smooth to operate, offered only pedestrian accuracy, showed poor finish execution, and

lacked a floor plate for easy, safe unloading. We can't think of a good reason to chase an ATR in the used, like new, or even new-in-the-box market when there are better choices below.

Remington Model 783 #85847 308 Winchester, $340

We purchased the rifle alone for $200 at a pawn shop. It appeared to be unfired, but was stripped of the glass. It sells for $399 MSRP with the factory 3-9x40 optic, bases, rings, and bore sighting. Slickguns.com recently listed the rifle alone for $343. Cabelas.com recently listed the combo for $340, so it pays to shop around for the best deal.

The Model 783 is an economy gun intended to give better accuracy than the Remington 770 and also greater pride of ownership. We feel that Remington succeeded. The stock is comfortable with light pebbling at the contact points. We did not like the squared trigger guard, but looks do not make for good shooting. One of the raters commented that the trigger guard gave the rifle an air-gun look. The adjustable trigger was welcome, as we tried to set all the rifles at 2.5 pounds for accuracy and comparison. We rated the Remington 783 trigger equal to the Remington 700 and better than the other two rifles. There is no cheek rest molded into the stock. We like the detachable magazine. It is difficult to load the chamber through the comparatively small ejection port. When testing single loads or handloads at the firing range, this may be a concern, but then the detachable magazine was handy enough when firing for accuracy.

We mounted a Meopta rifle scope to test the rifle. This 3-9x40 scope costs more than the two economy rifles put together ($500 @ EuroOptics.com). The owner of the Remington 700 intended to replace the Redfield mounted on the Model 700 with the Meopta, but has been dragging his feet because the Redfield has given good results.

In offhand fire, our raters said they liked the balance and smoothness of operation of the rifle. The Remington

MOSSBERG 100 ALL-TERRAIN RIFLE (ATR) #27230
308 WINCHESTER, $200 (USED)
GUN TESTS GRADE: C

This line was discontinued in 2014 and evolved into the Patriot series. The Mossberg's big rail offers easy scope mounting. The rifle was not as smooth as the others, but may be purchased for just over $300 with a credible scope. The rifle did not misfeed. We liked the cheek rest. The primary problem was accuracy.



Action	Bolt
Overall Length	42.0 in.
Barrel Length	22.0 in.
Overall Height w/Scope	7.4 in.
Length of Pull	13.25 in.
Weight Unloaded	6.75 lbs.
Weight Loaded	8.1 lbs.
Weight Scoped	7.8 lbs.
Capacity	4

Action	Blued machined steel
Barrel	Blued steel, button rifled, free floating
Magazine	Box, no floorplate
Stock	Black synthetic
Trigger pull weight	2.5 lbs., adj. LBA System
Safety	Side lever
Warranty	2-year limited
Telephone	(203) 230-5300
Website	Mossberg.com
Made In	USA



The ATR is a credible choice with decent performance, especially when fitted with a Vanguard scope that cost 150% more than the rifle itself. It included a Weaver-style rail for mounting optics. This rifle simply wasn't very accurate.



The elliptical bolt handle offered easy lift and ejection action. It wasn't difficult to cycle the action and get a fast follow-up shot. The lever-style safety (arrow) was positive in operation.



The trigger was set at 2.5 pounds without difficulty. It was unusual in this test to have all adjustable trigger function. Ten years ago, adjustable triggers were almost the sole province of aftermarket builders.

REMINGTON MODEL 783 #85847
308 WINCHESTER, $340
GUN TESTS GRADE: A (BEST BUY)

The Remington 783 is usually sold as a combination complete with an entry-level rifle scope, but we bought ours used (and perhaps unfired) for $200 without the factory optic. This was the most accurate rifle tested. This is a big plus, and there were no demerits to topple the 783 from the top of the totem pole. While the Remington 700 SPS is smoother, it costs a lot more money.



Action	Bolt
Overall Length	41.6 in.
Barrel Length	22.0 in., 1:10 RH twist
Overall Height w/scope	7.2 in.
Length of pull	13.4 in.
Weight Unloaded	7.4 lbs.
Weight Loaded	7.7 lbs.
Weight Scoped	9.2 lbs.
Capacity	4
Barrel	Matte-blue carbon steel; button rifled
Action	Matte-blue carbon steel
Magazine	Detachable box
Stock	Black synthetic, Supercell recoil pad, dual pillar bedding, free floated
Stock Length of Pull	13.4 in.
Stock Drop @ Comb	1 in.
Stock Drop @ Heel	1.6 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	3.5 lbs., CrossFire Adj.
Sights	Factory 3-9x40 scope; rings, bases, bore sighted
Warranty	2-year limited
Telephone	(800) 243-9700
Website	Remington.com
Made In	USA



Most raters found the detachable magazine handy to work with. It was flush-fit and inserted and removed easily.



The Remington 783 features a strong receiver with a small ejection port. The Remington Model 783 is available in several versions. We think it is a good buy for the deer hunter.



Stock design of the Remington 783 was fine. It had a bit of texture in the right spot for proper grip. The Remington 783 features an adjustable trigger. One tester didn't like the shape of the trigger guard, but it didn't affect function at all.

783 is noticeably smoother to run than the Mossberg ATR and slightly superior overall to the Savage Axis rifle. In offhand fire the rifle's balance and heft, which are hard to quantify with measurements, suited the raters better than the other budget rifles. The hold was better than the other rifles, save for the Remington 700, and we liked the trigger action better than the economy rifles.

Firing off the bench, we achieved excellent results. With the Black Hills Ammunition loading, the Remington 783 turned in a three-shot group average of 1.25 inch. The smallest group with the Winchester 168-grain Match load was 1.3 inches, and the Hornady turned in good accuracy for a hunting load. The groups fired were probably the limit of the ability of the trained shooter who fired the majority of the groups.

Our Team Said: We were well satisfied with the performance of this rifle and the price. While the quality optic had a place in this performance, optics cannot make an inaccurate rifle shoot well. The Remington 783 turned in an excellent performance by any standard, and for only $200. If you have an optic already available, it would be hard to beat this rifle on value.

Remington 700 SPS 85538
308 Winchester, $655

This was the retail price for which we purchased the M700. MSRP is $788 MSRP for the Special Purpose Synthetic stocked rifle. This is a standard Model 700 short action placed into a well-made Hogue OverMolded stock. We saw that the Hogue stock would have added $170 to the price of a standard Remington 700 at Cabelas.com.

The rifle features a 16.5 -inch barrel, the shortest of the test. There is a 20-inch-barrel version available. The Remington 700 features a smooth trigger action we liked the best of the test. We also felt the bolt action was the smoothest, with the most comfortable bolt throw. If you fire one rifle one day and then the other the next day, it isn't quite as noticeable. In side-by-side fire, it felt like night and day, and the M700 is smooth.

Also, we felt more secure with the Remington 700 bolt design. The Remington rifle loads through the open bolt, and the ejection port is open enough to allow easy loading. However, half the raters like the box magazine-type better. In a hunting rifle, there is no real advantage to either. If you lose the box magazine, you still have a single shot.

We noticed the rigidity of the action, and there simply wasn't any slop in the Remington 700. However, the Savage Axis felt as tight, but not as smooth.

As for optics, we used a set of DNZ Game Reaper mounts ($51 @ MidwayUSA.com) to mount a Redfield Battlezone 3-9x42mm rifle scope ($294 @ MidwayUSA.com). With the mil-tac reticle, this is a versatile and affordable rifle scope. We have had no complaints while testing this scope on several rifles. It is a good buy for less than $300. We had an advantage in that the owner had the rifle perfectly sighted in for the Hornady load, so we were able to forego sighting the rifle in for that load as a starting point.

At the range, we found the trigger was crisp. We shot the SPS offhand with the same Winchester USA ammunition as the other rifles. Firing quickly and working the bolt, we found we could make good hits more quickly with this rifle than with the others. When going to rollover prone, we found the shorter barrel really handled more quickly. When firing off the benchrest for maximum accuracy, the Remington 700 rifle delivered. Accuracy was around 1.5 MOA on demand with all loads and very consistent. The Remington 700 was more accurate than either the Mossberg ATR or the Savage Axis rifle. However, the Remington 783, the less expensive stablemate for the Remington 700, was more accurate. This may have simply been the luck of draw among different rifles, but then the owner has a lot of time in with the Remington 700, and even with that edge, he found the Remington 783 to be the better shooter. In practical terms we liked

REMINGTON 700 SPS 85538 308 WINCHESTER, $655

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The Remington 700 SPS delivered excellent performance. While the price was twice that of some of the economy guns, the Remington, fitted with a middle-of-the-road riflescope, gave excellent results. It was clearly the smoothest rifle tested. While velocity was less than the other rifles, choosing a longer-barrel SPS variant (the 20-inch-barrel #84207) would solve that, but at the expense of faster handling. We like this rifle, but the Savage Axis or Remington 783 would be plenty for hunting at a much lower price. However, if you're looking for a more maneuverable choice, there's nothing else in this test that's nearly as handy.



Action Type	Bolt
Overall Length	36.25 in.
Barrel Length	16.5 in., 1:10 RH twist, heavy contour, 5/8-24 Threaded Muzzle
Overall Height w/scope	7.5 in.
Stock Length of Pull	13.4 in.
Stock Drop @ Comb	1.25 in.
Stock Drop @ Heel	1.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	8.75 lbs.
Weight Loaded	10.3 lbs.
Weight Scoped	10.0 lbs.
Capacity	4
Action	Matte black oxide, carbon steel
Barrel	Matte black oxide, carbon steel, pillar bedded
Magazine	Fixed Box
Stock	Hogue OverMolded, SuperCell recoil pad, semi-beavertail forend
Trigger Pull Weight	2.5 lbs., externally adj. X-Mark Pro
Warranty	2-year limited
Telephone	(800) 243-9700
Website	Remington.com
Made In	USA



With a hinged floorplate, it is easy to quickly unload the Remington 700.



The 700 is a heavy rifle with good balance. The thick barrel contour accounts for a good chunk of the weight. The Redfield Battlezone scope has been in service for several years.



The Remington trigger was easily adjusted and offered a crisp let off. None of the rifles produced jarring recoil, but the SPS was most pleasant to fire.

SAVAGE AXIS XP 19231 308 WINCHESTER, $390

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

There was much to like about the Savage Axis. While you may opt for the more accurate Remington 783, overall we liked the Savage rifle. The safety is well designed and handy, the detachable magazine easy enough to use, and the rifle is affordable. Accuracy wasn't the best, but accuracy was acceptable with the provided Weaver riflescope.



Action	Bolt	Action	Blued Steel
Overall Length	43.9 in.	Barrel	Blued Steel
Barrel Length	22.0 in.	Magazine	Detachable box
Overall Height w/scope	7.0 in.	Stock	Synthetic
Length of Pull	13.26 in.	Trigger Pull Weight	2.5 lbs.
Weight Unloaded	6.5 lbs.	Warranty	1 year
Weight Loaded	7.7 lbs.	Telephone	(413) 568-7001
Weight Scoped	7.4 lbs.	Website	SavageArms.com
Capacity	4	Made In	USA



The Savage Rifle gave affordable performance. All raters liked the thumb-safety location. The bolt handle was sufficiently roughened for good purchase. The Savage Axis is a light rifle with a fairly thin stock, but shot very comfortably off the bench.



Left: This is two three-shot groups fired with the Savage Axis to confirm zero at 100 yards. The top three holes are one group, and the bottom three holes (there are two shots in the hole at the same height as the "4" on the target) are the second group. This is a good shooter.



Right: Winchester loads, including the inexpensive USA and the more expensive Match loads, gave excellent results.

the smooth action of the Remington 700 better and also the short barrel, but the targets don't lie.

It's worth noting that all of the rifles featured adjustable triggers that allowed the shooter to prepare the rifle for best accuracy results. There were no irregularities with any of the rifles, but the Remington 700, followed by the Remington 783 and the Savage Axis, had what we describe as good triggers. The Mossberg, less so. All of the rifles were set for 2.5 pounds with minimal difficulty during the trial period. All worked as designed, but the very picky will like the Remington 700 SPS trigger the best, we believe. The Savage was very nearly as good.

Our Team Said: If you've ever moved a rifle around in a tight box blind or tried to swing a long-barrel rifle quickly out of a truck cab, the SPS's 16.5-inch barrel will be a revelation. The OverMolded stock resulted in a combination that weighed 10 pounds when set up, but we liked the balance, and that weight meant that felt recoil was the least of the rifles tested. Still, in the end, the SPS came in behind the less expensive, more accurate 783.

Savage Axis XP 19231 308 Winchester, $390

Purchased new at retail, we found this rifle for as low as $390 at BudsGunShop.com. This was the sole combination rifle-and-scope gun purchased, though the 783 is offered that way as well. Depending upon the scope quality, these combinations may be a good buy. The scope here was marked Weaver. The rifle itself offers credible construction. The fit of the stock to the action could have been better; it was not up to the Remington 783's fit, in our opinion, and seemed slightly better than the Mossberg ATR rifle. We have examined Savage Axis rifles with better fit. The action was smooth enough, however, and we rated the action smoother than the Mossberg. We also liked the trigger action of the Savage better than the Mossberg, but equal to the Remington. The stock gave good purchase when firing off hand. We like the handy tang-mounted

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Left: The Battlezone scope gave a good field of view in every position.



The Innovative Targets steel target took a beating during standing shooting. We had no trouble hitting the 7-inch gong on demand.

safety. Several raters noted that they liked this safety better than the side-mount safety of the other rifles, but all the rifles featured safeties that were no problem to manipulate. When the rifle was test fired, it turned out the bore-sighted scope was right on the money for the Winchester 147-grain loading for windage even though the scope was slightly canted to one side. We did not fix this cant since it took just a few turns to get the elevation dead on the money at 50 yards, and we then moved to the 100-yard line. It's a plus that the rifle comes bore-sighted and only needs fine tuning to get centered, but each shooter must be certain that the rifle is properly sighted for the individual load. The rifle was tested with four loads, one in offhand fire and the other three off the bench for accuracy. The rifle was reasonably smooth in offhand firing. Off the bench, the rifle gave very consistent results with an average of 1.6, 1.6, and 1.9 inches for the three loads. This compares to a lackluster 2.3, 3.2, and 2.8 inches for the Mossberg and not that far behind the Remington 700 at 1.5 in two instances and 1.9 in another. As a side note: At one point we took the Vanguard rifle scope and mounted it on the Savage Axis rifle. The scope was much clearer, and overall, was more enjoyable to use, but accuracy was not affected in benchrest testing.

The rifle was also the lightest tested. Just the same, recoil was not a problem. The stock design actually made the rifle as easy shooting as the heavier rifles. The Remington 783 was about the same weight as the Savage Axis, while the Mossberg ATR was heavier, but the Savage kicked the least of these three. (The 10-pound Remington 700 was easy to shoot as a virtue of weight.) Beside the stock, the Savage Axis has the advantage of a vented recoil pad, which none of the other rifles featured.

One concern: The bolt seemed more difficult to lock down after cartridges were chambered. While not an annoyance, this was noticeable, so we took the rifles to the shop and checked each one with a Forster headspace gauge from Brownells.com. While tight, the Savage was in spec, and so were the other rifles.

Our Team Said: Based on accuracy with the factory scope and its light weight for carrying ease while hunting, as well as the safety location, we felt the rifle is a good choice and a good value. Nits we had to pick included that its accuracy, while acceptable, was behind the two tight-shooting Remington rifles, and it lost a step on fit.

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

MEC Marksman Metallic Reloading Press, $225

Best known for shotshell loaders, MEC hits the metallic reloading market with precision.

The Mayville Engineering Company, better known as MEC, is probably the most famous name in reloading shotgun ammunition. The last MEC press one of our staffers purchased was a multi-stage motor-driven progressive press tasked with keeping up with his voracious appetite for competing in the world of trapshooting. So when MEC, active in the shooting sports for more than 60 years, decided to enter the metallic reloading market, we thought it was a good time to begin reloading the 6.5 Creedmoor brass left behind after our tests of the Ruger Precision Rifle. MEC's new loader is a single-stage hand-driven press called the Marksman.

Not to be confused with blue, red, or green reloading presses the jet-black MEC Marksman was fashioned from ductile cast iron. Suitable for loading calibers ranging from 22 Hornet to 416 Rigby, the $225 Marksman can be mounted directly to a bench or seated atop MEC's matching base ($46). At first, we tried mounting the press directly to our bench, but found that the matching black base with the red MEC logo provided a substantial upgrade in terms of strength and versatility in terms of where we could drill holes in our bench. Raising the press from the bench also served to provide better access for the operator. Three heavy 5/16-inch bolts and Nyloc self-locking nuts were supplied to turn the press and mount into one solid unit. Quarter-inch screws with wing nuts were supplied for attaching the unit to the bench.



The $225 MEC Marksman single-stage press is the first metallic reloader from the Mayville Engineering Company. MEC also introduced a dedicated stand that we think is mandatory. Melded to the $46 stand the Marksman is a sturdy, smooth operating press with some welcome features. The "side saddles" help organize up to four different dies, and a tray atop the die keeps bullets in waiting. The dies glide in and out effortlessly thanks to beveled access to precise threading. Spent primers travel down the center of the ram into a removable tray. Position of the control arm can be changed quickly, making it ambidextrous as well as versatile.

Top to bottom there were several features we liked about the MEC Marksman press. A tray was built in at the top of the press, so we were able to place about 40 or more 143-grain 264-caliber rifle bullets. A removable tray was cleverly integrated to catch spent primers that dropped down through the ram and out a "trapdoor," taking dirt and debris away with it. The tip of the ram was fit with a shell-plate retainer that allowed for some movement. This was on purpose, to allow the shell to compensate for any misalignment that could translate into damaging the brass casings.

The 7/8-14 threads machined into the crown of the press were precise, beginning just below an inviting bevel, ready to help clumsy fingers start the dies and prevent cross threading. The mount also provided a pair of holes on each side to support dies in waiting. Using a single-stage press requires the dies to be changed out often, and these keeper holes served not only to store the dies within reach but also away from the bench top where they could come in contact with dirt and debris.

The drive handle was offset from the unit by way of about a 30-degree bend in the control arm and topped with meticulously machined synthetic ball. The arm could be locked down anywhere within a 180-degree arc to accommodate both right and left-handed operators without being removed from the machine. The advantage here has more to do with available space than which of the operator's hands are stronger. The smooth action of the Marksman provided enough leverage so that, in our view, strength was not really a factor. We think this was a big plus if your bench, like ours, was crowded with other loading presses or case-processing machinery that dictates how much clearance is available to either side. Changing the position of the control arm did not require removing the arm or any other part of the press. We just loosened the jam nut and rotated the arm.

Given that 6.5 Creedmoor is booming in popularity and recipes and components are still somewhat limited, we ended up trying a number of combinations, such as a variety of bullet length, primers, etc. On top of that we used our test session to train a newcomer to reloading, so the MEC Marksman was treated to a workout.

Our Team Said: The MEC Marksman press proved to be as easy to use as it was handsome. Buying the mount was definitely worth the money. The side saddles provided to hold "dies in waiting" sped things up, and so did the precision threading. If we could ask for any change at all, it would be for a more secure lockdown of the control arm. As it is, the single jam nut does an adequate job of holding the control arm in the desired position, and our only incident of forcing the arm to rotate out of position was due to a cartridge case that had not been properly lubricated before sizing. Then again, a second jam nut or lock washer working against a stop would probably eliminate the possibility of it coming loose entirely.

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

Comfortable Holsters: We Test Four to See How Well They Work

We strap on StealthGear and Comfort Holsters to see if they do what we expect: Retain our carry firearms in a safe, accessible, way — and not bug us so much that we have to take them off.

The inside-the-waistband holster is the most concealable of all holster types, but it is also the least comfortable. The IWB holster rides close to the body, so when the temperature soars, perspiration is thick, and our clothes cling to the body, a leather holster may become soaked with sweat and adhere to the body. Also, a stiff Kydex holster may become uncomfortable in the same conditions. Perhaps, then, a mix of modern material may be the best bet for making an effective defensive handgun wearable and bearable. To find out if they offer a better ride for our handguns, we took a look at four holsters from StealthGear and Comfort Holsters. We found much to like. We also discovered that such comfort is expensive compared to conventional holsters.



These inside-the-waistband holsters are designed to be more comfortable than others, and they did the job well, in the opinion of our testers. Clockwise from top left are the StealthGear Onyx, the Comfort Holsters Bentley, the StealthGear Onyx, and the Comfort Holsters Jaguar.

Holster Comfort

We will cover a lot of ground in this review. But since the holsters make the claim for greater comfort, that must be the focus point of this test. Still, we first evaluated each based on its merits as a holster, and our team found these four to be viable concepts in terms of retention and presentation.

So, compared to other holsters of the type, such as hybrids and Kydex, will these holsters exhibit a higher degree of comfort? Are there trade-offs? In this case, any trade-off is minimal. There is no trade-off, we felt, with the Onyx design. The padding does not make the holster more difficult to conceal. The Onyx is about 10 inches across its breadth compared to 7 inches with the Bentley. However, when both are laid on a table, the Bentley is taller. So, if you have a weak lumbar area and need to spread the weight of the handgun out on the back for increased comfort—exactly the scenario one of our raters faced—the Onyx gets the nod. If your belt space is limited and allocation of belt space is important, the Bentley would seem to make more sense. Both perform well, and the Bentley seems to offer more ease when reholstering. For pure comfort, the Onyx seems to be the better bet, particularly if you share the back problems one of our raters had. Since the Onyx costs $25 less than the Bentley, that is also a plus.

As for the Jaguar, Kydex holsters of this type are usually the least comfortable of all IWB holsters. In this case, the gel insert helps in this regard more than the suede backing, we feel, and makes a tough design friendlier. The Jaguar is only about 3 inches across, taking up the least space of any of the holsters tested. It is the most concealable, but in the context of the test, we thought it was the least comfortable overall. Here are further details on each make and model:





Above left: We tested the StealthGear Onyx with a full-size Beretta 92 and the compact rail-equipped Beretta 92A1. Right: The Heckler & Koch P7M8 is a difficult handgun to holster. The Onyx gets it right.



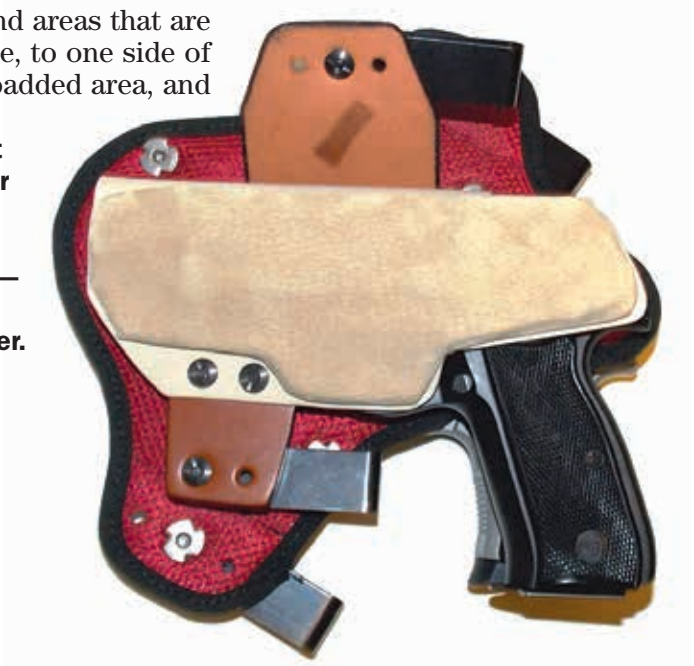
Above: The Onyx magazine carrier worked well during our testing.

StealthGearUSA.com
Onyx, $99

At the same time we tested the Onyx, we also tested the company's Double Magazine Carrier, $79. We ordered two holsters, each for right-hand access, one for the Beretta 92A1 9mm handgun and one for the Heckler & Koch P7M8. These are very different handguns, and the Beretta has most of the balance in the slide, while the HK has more balance in the handle. We felt this would be a good test with such different handguns. As for construction, the first thing we noticed was that the Onyx looks similar to other hybrid-material holsters in outline, but it differs considerably in specifics. The holster is a Kydex component that is well molded to the individual handgun. The Onyx holster uses a backing that StealthGear refers to as a platform. This platform is the primary difference between the Onyx and other hybrid types. The unique structure of the backing is accomplished by use of a product called VentMesh. This mesh was designed for comfort in load-bearing platforms such as backpacks. It is also designed to keep moisture away from the body. The holster utilizes a type of cell foam that helps with pressure from the weight of the handgun against the body. Another material called Rhino mesh is used in high-contact points. Finally, the VentCore backing is used to help with fighting perspiration. This padding is marked with diamond-pattern cuts throughout its application.

There are areas where this mesh is not vented on the handgun side. Unvented areas protect the handgun from perspiration. There are areas that are padded and areas that are not. As an example, to one side of the handgun is a padded area, and at the lower area, or foot, of the holster there is padding. The Onyx seems designed for comfort, but it also minimizes the gun's footprint. The padding does not compromise concealment, we felt. The padding compresses when worn. The width of the gun gives a certain footprint and is a constant dimension. The Onyx is as concealable as any other hybrid type and is more comfortable than those worn for comparison, our testers said.

The holsters are screwed on rather than riveted to the platform. However, each holster is specific to the handgun and backing, and there is no easy interchangeability. This is for the best. As illustrated, there is a considerable difference between the size and shape of the Beretta and HK holsters. It would be a waste to make a large backing for a lighter handgun. The back of the holster is open, with the handgun resting against the backing. The Onyx uses a combination of molding and body pressure for retention. When wearing and using the Onyx, we felt that the claims are valid. The Onyx is a comfortable holster. When compared to other hybrid-type holsters on hand, the difference is noticeable. The draw was good and reholstering the handgun after the draw was not



While not the most comfortable holster by a margin, the Bentley is the smaller of the two—Bentley is shown over an Onyx holster.





Left: The Bentley holster is molded for the CZ 75, but the ambidextrous CZ 85 worked as well. Right: The Bentley's suede backing did not work loose during weeks of carry.



Above: When laid on a table side by side, the Bentley, left, is taller than the Onyx, right. Part of the bulk is due to the gel, we believe, which is similar to the fluid in shoe inserts. Our testers liked the feel.



The gel-filled pad of the Bentley adds to the bulk of the holster, but it works well in eliminating discomfort by the wearer.

difficult. Overall, the Onyx holster has much merit for those who cannot tolerate conventional holsters or simply desire a more comfortable holster. You will pay more for the Onyx than others, but much goes into the design.

The magazine carrier is also a good design. Often, the magazine carrier is worn on the belt rather than IWB, but in this case the carrier coupled with the magazine and light-ready Kydex holster makes sense.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A (BEST BUY)

ComfortHolsters.com Bentley, $125

If we were marketing types instead of professional reviewers, we might call the Comfort Holster Bentley a "Tri Hybrid" for the combination of its materials. There are unique features, but before commenting on these features, we wore the holster and executed presentations to determine if it were suitable for concealed carry and personal defense. It is. The unit features a strong and well-molded Kydex holster that is attached to two leather wings that hold the belt clips. These leather wings are rigidly attached to the holster body. The longer one is flexible, while the shorter wing is quite rigid, though with some flex. This holster is molded for the CZ 75 pistol and used with a CZ 85 handgun. The fit was good. This is a true holster shell that does not rely upon the holster backing for retention. The mounting of the belt clips allows good retention and spreads the weight of the handgun out on the body. There is good adjustment for height and cant of the holster. The rear belt clip is closer to the holster body. This aids in keeping the holster secure on the draw. Compared to leather, there is no break-in period; compared to a Kydex holster, there is more comfort. This comfort is achieved by a suede backing on the body side, which is a good step on its own. But under the suede is a gel-filled component. This is similar to the popular gel insert for shoes, and those who remain on their feet for long periods attest to the effectiveness of this component. But it isn't valuable without a good pair of shoes. The same is true for the gel-backed holster—the design must be solid, which it is. One note: The adhesive used is quite pungent when the holster is first removed from its packaging, but this becomes less noticeable after a day or two in the open air.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A



The Jaguar, molded for the Glock 19, gave excellent results.

ComfortHolsters.com Jaguar,$100

The Jaguar is a conventional Kydex IWB in appearance. The holster is set up as illustrated for the FBI tilt. One of our raters has many years of law enforcement experience and feels that the Jaguar, as tested with the Glock 19, featured the sharpest draw of any combination tested. The draw angle helps in getting a full size handgun from the holster quickly, and the draw was sharp. This design is more comfortable than holsters without the suede backing, but not as comfortable as the other holsters. However, it is the most compact holster tested.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

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

New Handguns at SHOT 2017

As they do every year, our writers poked all around the firearms industry's annual show in Las Vegas to find interesting new pistols and revolvers coming to your local gun shop.

At the 2017 SHOT Show in Las Vegas, GUN TESTS staffers ran across dozens of new products that caught our eye because of new features, claims of improved accuracy or function, and other aspects that made them stand out. Following are some of the handguns we saw, shot, and handled at the show. — *Todd Woodard*



Browning Black Label 1911-22LR



Browning Black Label 1911-380 Medallion Pro



Cimarron George S. Patton Engraved Model P

Browning

The New Black Label 1911-22LR Gray full-size and compact models are available with or without a rail. The slides on both are machined aluminum, and the barrel has a gray anodized finish. The frames are composite, with a machined 7075 aluminum subframe and slide rails. Sights are fiber-optic. SRP: $699.99; $719.99 with the rail. A Black Label 1911-22LR Medallion full size and compact will also be offered with similar features for $670.

The Black Label 1911-380 Medallion Pro model, in full-size and compact versions, features a matte-black frame and a blackened stainless-steel slide with silver brush-polished flats. The grips are made of intricately checkered rosewood with a gold Buckmark. Barrel length on the full-size model is 4¼ inches; on the compact model, it's 3 5⁄8 inches. SRP: $800; $880 with night sights. Black Label 1911-22LR Medallion full-size and compact versions will also be offered with similar features for $670.

To keep up with the demand for suppressor-ready firearms, the new Buck Mark Field Target Suppressor Ready 22LR model will feature a heavy, round, 5½-inch suppressor-ready barrel in matte blued finish. It also will offer an integral scope base with a Pro-Target rear sight and front blade sight. Grips are Cocobolo-laminated target. SRP: $600.

The new Buck Mark Lite Flute UFX model will feature a 5½-inch steel barrel with an alloy sleeve and fluting in a matte blued finish. Pro-Target rear sights and a Truglo/Marble Arms fiber-optic front sight are standard. Grips are Ultragrip FX ambidextrous. SRP: $560.

Cimarron

For 2017, Cimarron is offering five new single-action revolvers. The George S. Patton Engraved Model P has a 5.5-inch barrel and is chambered for 45 Colt. It is nickel-plated and laser-engraved, and has poly-ivory grips with Patton's GSP insignia and a lanyard ring. SRP: $748. The Texas Ranger Engraved Model P has a 4.75-inch barrel and is chambered for 45 Colt. It has a nickel-plated finish and is also laser-engraved. The poly-ivory grips have the Texas Ranger insignia on both sides. SRP: $772.

Cimarron's Bad Boy is a single-action revolver chambered for the 44 Magnum. It comes with a 6- or 8-inch octagonal barrel, a flat-top pre-war frame, adjustable sights, blue finish, and two-piece walnut grips. Suggested retail: $570. The new Pistolero is a sleek, classically designed single-action for Old West firearms collectors or re-enactors and is chambered for the 45 Colt. It has a 4.75-inch barrel, with a blue finish and case-hardened frame. It is also available in nickel. SRP: $485, blue; $552, nickel.

The El Malo is a single-action Colt replica designed to be used by hunters, historic re-enactors, or Old West collectors. It's chambered for the 45 Colt and is available with a 4.75-, 5.5-, or 7.5-inch octagonal barrel. It has the standard blue and case-hardened finish. SRP: $545.

Colt

Often considered to be the manufacturer that saved the 10mm round from obscurity in the 1980s, Colt has readied yet another offering in that powerful chambering with the new Delta Elite Rail Gun. Aimed toward the outdoorsman who requires a sidearm stout enough for midsized game in the proven 1911 platform, the Delta Elite now comes with an accessory rail. All of the enhanced features from the newly redesigned Delta Elite are present on the Rail Gun version, including the upswept beavertail grip safety, extended thumb safety, all stainless-steel construction, composite stocks with Delta medallions, and Novak white dot sights. The SKU



Colt Delta Elite Rail Gun



Colt Combat Commander



Colt Cobra

is O2020RG, and the SRP is $1299.

Colt continues to update and upgrade its product line with the release of the newly updated Combat Commander. Designed for the 1911 enthusiast who wants something more compact for concealed carry, the Combat Commander now features the same upgraded ergonomics as the Colt Lightweight Commander and Colt Competition Pistol.

The new Combat Commander features an upswept beavertail grip safety and undercut trigger guard to allow users to get good purchase on the grip and Colt G10 grips. A Dual Spring Recoil System aids in shot recovery with a 4.25-inch barrel, which is 0.75 inch shorter than a standard Government Model. The redesigned Combat Commander features blued carbon steel construction, wide angled cocking serrations and Novak LoMount sights. It is available in 9mm (O4942XE) and 45 ACP (O4940XE), and has an SRP of $949.

The Colt Cobra marks Colt's return to the world of double-action revolvers. Its small frame and 2-inch barrel make it suitable for concealed carry. The Cobra features all-matte-stainless steel construction as well as a rubber-wrapped grip that's been moved rearward to help manage recoil. The Cobra is chambered in 38 Special and is +P capable. Other features include a fiber-optic front sight, LL2 (Linear Leaf) Mainspring design, and a 6-round capacity. OAL: 7.2 inches. Unloaded weight: 25 ounces. The model number is COBRA-SM2FO and has an suggested retail price of $699.

CZ-USA

The 805 Bren S1 Pistol with its 11-inch barrel has proven a popular SBR candidate for customers wanting to convert it into an NFA firearm. Those who don't wish to register with the ATF can equip it with CZ's adapter kit, which allows easy installation of aftermarket arm braces. Chambered in 223 Remington/5.56 NATO, and now 300 Blackout, the pistol uses the STANAG magazine from the AR-15/M16. Picatinny rails top and bottom mean it easily accepts optics and lights, and an effective two-port muzzle brake helps keep the pistol solidly on target and reduces recoil and muzzle flip. SRP: $1,799 to $1,899.

Falling somewhere between the Scorpion Pistols and Carbine, the EVO 3 S1 Pistol is perfectly set up for those who desire a two-stamp gun. The extended forearm will hide most suppressors and offers M-LOK attachment points. With a 7.7-inch barrel and a 5-inch flash can, the barrel is extended to just past the forend. A factory folding stock is an aftermarket option for this unique 9mm. SRP: $949.

The latest addition to the CZ line of handguns is the P-10 C. This



CZ-USA 805 Bren S1 Pistol



CZ-USA P-09 Suppressor Ready



CZ-USA Scorpion EVO 3 S1 Pistol



CZ-USA SP-01 Phantom

pistol is decidedly CZ, from the way it feels to the way it shoots. With the CZ grip angle, the P-10 avoids that brick-in-the-hand feeling that has plagued many in the striker-fired genre, allowing it to point naturally. Interchangeable backstraps allow it to fit a wide variety of hands. Designed to minimize creep and stacking, the P-10's trigger breaks at a clean 4 to 4.5 pounds and rebounds with a short, positive reset. It has a fiber-reinforced polymer frame, a nitride finish, a generous trigger guard, and metal three-dot sights. Capacity is either 15+1 or 17+1, depending on the mag used. The CZ P10-C is available in 9mm Luger

or 40 S&W, and a suppressor-ready variant is available in 9mm. SRP: $499 to $541.

Loaded with features, but without all the flash of the Urban Grey series, the 9mm standard black P-09 Suppressor-Ready now comes with high night sights and extended magazine bases, in addition to the obligatory extended, threaded barrel. SRP: $629. A new addition to the P-09 is the Kadet Kit. It is a scaled-up version of the P-07 kit to fit on the longer P-09 frame. Topped with the new Shadow 2 serrated target sight and a rear height-adjustable-only sight, the P-09 Kadet Kit ships with two magazines. SRP: $249.

Due to demand, CZ has brought back the SP-01 Phantom. This is essentially a polymer-framed SP-01 Tactical, with interchangeable backstraps and mag compatibility with the standard 75 platform. The SP-01 Phantom has long been a favorite in the CZ community and has the distinction of being the current sidearm of the Czech Army.

Starting from scratch, CZ engineers took the best features of the original Shadow and improved upon them. The higher beavertail and an undercut trigger guard bring the shooter's hand closer to the axis of the bore. Increased weight at the dust cover/rail helps keep the muzzle down during recoil. The Shadow 2's swappable mag release has an adjustable, extended button with three settings to allow shooters to set it in the most comfortable position. The new trigger components provide a smooth DA and crisp and clean SA pull while drastically reducing trigger reset. Available only in 9mm. SRP: $1299 to $1399.

Dan Wesson

Customers have been asking for a blued-steel version of the Dan Wesson Valor. The new gun has the same features and attention to detail as its other stainless pistols, but it comes in a more traditional material and finish. Wearing a set of red-and-black double-diamond G10 grips with polished flats and bead-blasted rounds, the Valor Blue, in either 9mm or 45, is a classic beauty. SRP: $1766.



Dan Wesson Valor Blue



FNS Compact



Iver Johnson Pocket Ace

The A2 stands as a testament to the most-copied pistol design in history. Drawing its lineage from the 1911 A1, the A2 and A2 Commander in 45 Auto are Dan Wesson's vision of what the third generation of the military 1911 could have looked like. A lowered and flared ejection port, modern combat sights, a tactical beavertail, and an extended thumb safety, as well as a hint of undercutting to the trigger guard, make this one combat-ready pistol. The A2 will be produced in limited numbers. SRP: $1363.

When police departments approached Dan Wesson to build a more reliable, durable 1911 to replace what they'd been carrying, the company developed a model just for them. The frame sports a Picatinny rail, 25-LPI checkering, an undercut trigger guard, and a recessed slide stop. This pistol is equipped with an ambidextrous thumb safety, an extended magazine release, and a detachable two-piece mag well. It's finished off with a set of G10 grips and either a matte stainless or black Duty finish. Available in either 9mm or 45 Auto. SRP: $1701 to $2012.

A fully stainless take on the Commander-length slide with an Officer-sized frame, the Pointman Carry is easily concealed and also incredibly comfortable to shoot. With features closely mirroring the full-size Pointman Nine, its reduced grip length makes it disappear under even thin cover garments, and its 9mm chambering makes recoil nearly non-existent. SRP: $1597.

Equipped with a Trijicon RMR and with an extended, threaded barrel, the Fury is a double-stack beast begging to be unleashed on paper and steel. Chambered in 9mm or 10mm, capacities are 18+1 and 14+1, respectively. It also has a crisp, super-short-reset Elite Series trigger job. SRP: $4899.

FN

The FNS Compact offers the same features as the standard FNS models, but it has a 3.6-inch barrel and is designed to be snag-free for better concealment and a faster draw. The front sight also has a larger dot for faster target acquisition. The FNS Compact has a 12- or 17-round capacity, depending on the magazine used, weighs 23.4 ounces, and is 6.7 inches long. SRP: $599.

Iver Johnson Arms

The Pocket Ace is a new derringer from Iver Johnson. It is chambered for 22LR and is a four-barrel single-action pistol. Made in the U.S., it is built from stainless steel and has a rotating firing pin, an integrated ambidextrous safety, and a 2-inch barrel. Overall length: 4 inches, and it has an unloaded weight of 7 ounces.

Kimber

For 2017, Kimber Mfg., Inc., unveiled the Kimber Super Jägare, a 10mm 1911-style hunting handgun.

This powerful 1911 features a 6-inch ported stainless steel barrel housed in a ported stainless steel slide, wearing a Diamond-Like Carbon (DLC) coating. A Leupold DeltaPoint Pro rear-mounted red-dot sight ensures rapid target acquisition, while green and black G10 grips with black checkered inlay and a serrated front strap provide a positive grip. Additional features include an ambidextrous thumb safety, Round Heel Frame, two-hole trigger and high undercut under the trigger guard. The Kimber Super Jägare weighs in at 42 ounces and has an eight-round magazine capacity. SRP, $2688.

Kimber also announced the expansion of its gem-tone handgun collection with the creation of the Kimber Rose Gold Ultra II. The new Kimber Rose Gold Ultra II is a striking 1911-style personal defense handgun with a precious-metal-like shimmer. Available in both 45 ACP and 9mm, the Kimber Rose Gold Ultra II boasts a highly polished stainless steel slide with rose gold PVD coating and cut scroll engraving and border. Rose gold PVD-coated small parts and thin ball-milled G10 grips accent the matte black Round Heel Frame, while Tactical Wedge 3-dot tritium night sights ensure rapid sight acquisition in low light environments. Additional features include an ambidextrous thumb safety and ball-milled grooves on the front strap. Weight: 25 ounces. Barrel length, 3 inches. All edges are rounded and blended, preventing snags on clothing or holsters. Suggested retail price is $1652.

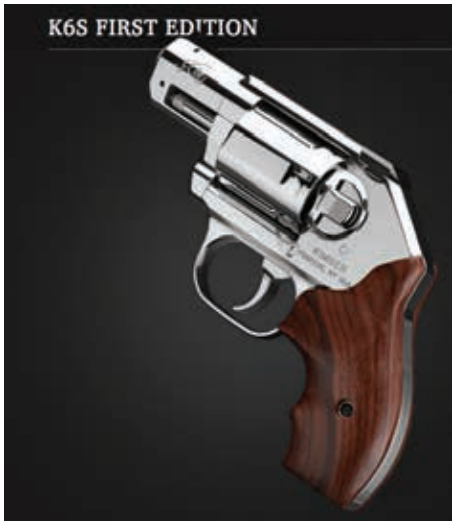
Kimber updated and expanded its current offerings within the Kimber K6s revolver product line. The current K6s product line now includes the K6s Stainless, K6s Stainless (NS), K6s Stainless (LG), and K6s DCR (Deluxe Carry Revolver). Introduced in January 2016, the Kimber K6s is a light small-frame six-round 357 Magnum revolver. Each K6s revolver weighs 23 ounces and offers a compact ergonomic frame, 2-inch barrel, and 1.39-inch-diameter cylinder, all machined from stainless steel. Additional features include



Kimber Super Jagare



Kimber Rose Gold Ultra II



Kimber Rose K6S First Edition

an internal hammer, smooth match-grade trigger, and edges that are rounded and blended to prevent snags on clothing or holsters.

The K6s Stainless and K6s Stainless (NS) feature a low-glare brushed stainless frame finish, black rubber grips and white 3-dot sights or 3-dot tritium night sights, respectively. The K6s Stainless (LG) wears ergonomic black wood and rubber Crimson Trace Master Series Lasergrips. The K6s DCR wears a Smooth Satin frame finish, checkered Millennium Rosewood Grips, and provides a red fiber-optic front sight and black rear sight. Suggested retail prices are: $878 for the K6s Stainless, $919 for the K6s Stainless (NS), $1177 for the K6s Stainless (LG), and $1088 for the K6s DCR and $2039 for the K6s First Edition.

Kimber also announced updates to several 1911-style handguns, including the Kimber CDP, Covert, Eclipse, Warrior, TLE II and Stainless II 1911-style handgun families. The Kimber CDP (Custom Defense Package) 1911 family now features a charcoal gray KimPro II frame, silver KimPro II slide and small parts, flat top slide and thin slide serrations. Ultra CDP models feature a flush-cut barrel and Round Heel Frame. Five models are available, chambered 45 ACP and 9mm.

Kimber Covert pistols now have a gray KimPro II finish on the frame and slide for additional resistance to the elements, matte black small parts, digital camouflage Crimson Trace Lasergrips and a flush-cut barrel (on Ultra models). Three models are available, chambered in 45 ACP.

The look of the Kimber Eclipse handgun family now features all-steel construction, a gray KimPro II frame, brush-polished slide, matte black small parts, 30 lines-per-inch front strap checkering, tritium night sights and black and gray G10 “Cyclone” grips. Three models are available, chambered in 45 ACP, 10mm and 38 Super.

The Kimber Warrior pistols now feature a lanyard slot mainspring housing, Kimber Tactical Rail, 24 lines-per-inch front strap checkering, G10 grips and a KimPro II finish. Five models are available, chambered in 45 ACP.

Three new models have been added to the Kimber TLE (Tactical Law Enforcement) II family, each featuring extended magazine wells

and new G10 grips. There are 14 TLE II models are available, chambered in 45 ACP, 10mm, or 9mm.

Kimber Stainless II models also received an upgrade for 2017. All Stainless II models now feature a fiber-optic front sight. Four models are available in 45 ACP and 9mm.

Suggested retail prices start at $1173 for CDP models, $1427 for Covert models, $1252 for Eclipse models, $1392 for Warrior models, $1007 for TLE II models, and $891 for Stainless II models.

For 2017, Kimber expanded its Micro 9 product line to include five new variants. The Micro 9 is a micro-compact carry pistol chambered in 9mm Luger.

The new Micro 9 models include the Micro 9 CDP (SRP: $924), Micro 9 CDP (LG) (SRP $1142), Micro 9 Stainless Raptor (SRP $889), Micro 9 Bel Air (SRP $864), and Micro 9 Sapphire (SRP $1061).

Nighthawk Custom

Nighthawk has teamed with a German revolver manufacturer to offer a line of wheel guns that deliver the quality and precision that customers have come to expect from Nighthawk. Since the 1950s, Korth has been the premier revolver manufacturer in Europe. These nicely machined wheel guns are built just north of Frankfurt. Their triggers are so smooth and stack-free, they'll make your knees weak. Initially, Nighthawk will be offering three of these revolvers, which have been configured to Nighthawk specifications. The Sky Hawk is a compact six-shot revolver chambered for 9mm Luger, but neither half- nor full-moon clips are required. Every part is machined from billet steel or aluminum, and it's available with a 2- or 3-inch barrel. A gold bead front sight, Hogue grips, hard-coated frame, a TSA-approved travel case, a cleaning rod, a grip-removal tool, lubricating oil, a lanyard, and a proprietary speed loader are standard. SRP: $1699.

The Mongoose is a six-shot duty-size fighting revolver, available with



Korth Super Sport



Korth Sky Hawk

either a 3-, 4-, 5¼-, or 6-inch barrel. Like the Sky Hawk, all parts are fully machined, and the handgun is available with either a black or silver finish. With its ergonomically designed and easy-to-access cylinder release, and its skeletonized, high-speed hammer, this 38 Special/.357 Magnum revolver will amaze you with the precision you can deliver on target. A pre-fitted additional cylinder for the 9mm Luger can be ordered. SRP: $3499.

Had old-time police PPC shooters seen a 38 Special/357 Magnum revolver like this, they'd have thought they'd died and gone to doughnut heaven. But the Super Sport is not just a pistol for old cops; this thing is ready to compete head-to-head with any handgun made. It comes with Picatinny rails and a four-way adjustable front sight that is unlike anything you've ever seen. A pre-fitted additional cylinder for the 9mm Luger can be ordered. SRP: $4800.

Smith & Wesson

Smith & Wesson Corp. announced the debut of the M&P M2.0 pistol, said to be an entirely new platform in nearly every aspect of the pistol, including the trigger, grip, frame, and finish in 9mm, 40 S&W and 45 Auto versions of the full-size design.

Highlights of the M&P M2.0 pistol include an extended stainless-steel chassis and high grip to barrel bore axis ratio for reduced muzzle rise and faster aim recovery. The M&P M2.0 pistol further improves performance with a fine-tuned, crisper trigger, lighter pull, and a tactile and audible reset. The pistol includes an aggressively-textured grip and four interchangeable palmswell inserts in S, M, ML, and L sizes. Rifling twists are 1 in 10 inches for 9mm and 40 S&W and 1 in 15 inches for 45 Auto. Other features include tactical white 3-dot steel sights, an ambidextrous slide stop, reversible magazine release, and optional ambidextrous thumb safety. A pistol sear deactivation lever allows for safe take-down without having to pull the trigger. The finish is Armornite, a hardened nitride formulation on the barrel and slide. There's also a Cerakote FDE finish over Armornite on Flat Dark Earth M2.0 slides. The M&P M2.0 pistol base model is priced at $599 SRP and includes two magazines, a limited lifetime warranty, and a lifetime service policy.

Elsewhere, The Performance Center announced a number of new pistols, revolvers, and slide kits for 2017. The new Performance Center M&P45 Shield pistol (#11629) has factory ported barrels and slides. The factory porting helps keep muzzle flip down which assists the shooter to get the pistol back on target faster. The Performance Center M&P45 Shield pistol can be purchased with either adjustable HI-VIZ fiber-optic sights or Tritium Night Sights (#11727.)

Available in multiple configurations, the full-size pistols can be purchased in the standard 4.25-inch barrel or the 5-inch long slide. Both barrel lengths can be available in two of the most popular pistol calibers, 9mm and 40 S&W. A Performance Center sear and an adjustable trigger stop are included.

For the first time in 2017, customers can "hot rod" their M&P pistol with the new Performance Center C.O.R.E.

slide Kits. Each slide kit comes with a ported barrel and slide. The slide is cut to accept five different optic mounting plates and white-dot front sight and drift-adjustable rear sights. Also included are three C.O.R.E.-style palmswells, allowing the user to customize the grip and feel of the M&P's natural 18-degree grip angle. Slide kits are available for a number of different pistol configurations.

In 2017 the Performance Center 38 S&W Special +P compact revolvers come in two new versions. Both variations come with a 1.88-inch barrel, Performance Center-tuned action and an internal hammer to reduce snagging while drawing. One version (#10186) comes with a custom textured wood grip and a matte silver finish, while the other version (#170348) has a cylinder that is cut for moon clips and a synthetic grip with a stylish wood insert. The bright-finish on the cylinder flutes contrasts with the black synthetic grips. The thumb piece and side-plate screws complete the appearance.

The Model 637 38 S&W Special +P (#170349) revolver comes standard with a Performance Center-tuned action and an external hammer for easy cocking. The matte finish blends well with the textured wood grips.

Big-bore fans will like the newest additions in the Performance Center Handgun Hunting category. The new 460VXR revolver (#11626) now has an option with a 7.5-inch barrel with muzzle brake, holds five rounds of the 460 S&W Magnum, has a Performance Center-tuned action, chrome trigger, and custom teardrop hammer. It has an integral scope base and a HI-VIZ green fiber-optic front sight. A gun rug and carry sling are included.

The newest S&W500 revolver (#11623) comes with a 3.5-inch barrel and a Performance Center-tuned action. Features include an unfluted cylinder, chromed trigger, overtravel stop, custom teardrop hammer, HI VIZ fiber-optic front sight, and a Performance Center embossed gun rug.

The 2017 Model 586 L-Comp revolver (#170170) comes with an integrated compensator and is chambered in 357 Magnum and 38 S&W Special +P, plenty of pop for a concealed-carry revolver with a 3-inch ported barrel. Other goodies include a Tritium front night, Performance Center trigger and trigger stop, a teardrop hammer, and a tuned action.



Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0 11526



Smith & Wesson Performance Center Shield 11629



Smith & Wesson Model 637 38 Sp. +P 170349



Smith & Wesson Model 986 9mm 10227

Consumers looking for a carry gun will be interested in the compact 9mm Model 986 revolver (#10227.) The 2017 version features a seven-round CNC-machined titanium cylinder with a Performance Center-tuned action. The 2.5-inch barrel has a recessed precision crown, making the revolver easy to conceal. Add a chromed custom teardrop hammer, trigger and trigger stop and this looks like a great wheelgun option.

Remington

The big pistol news from Big Green is the new RP high-capacity, striker-fired polymer pistol. Available in 9mm or 45 Auto, with a respective capacity of 18+1 or 15+1, this is a seriously sized duty pistol with a very slim grip profile. At 26.4 ounces total weight, the balanced slide helps control muzzle rise and makes the 9mm version possibly the smoothest-shooting duty-size pistol on the market. The RP is also affordable. SRP: $489.

The R1 10mm Hunter Long Slide is a handgun built with the hunter in mind. From the accurate, 6-inch, match-grade barrel to the match-quality, fully adjustable sights, Picatinny rail, and VZ Operator II G10 grips, this pistol will get the job done at distance. SRP: $1310.

The Remington 1911 R1 Limited is a handcrafted version of the most trusted pistol platform in history, with all the features today's top competitors demand. Accuracy and speed are key in competition, and with the Limited's match-grade trigger and barrel, wide serrations, and ambidextrous thumb safety levers, it is race-ready right out of the box. Available in 9mm or 40 S&W, the Limited has fully adjustable match sights, G10 grips, and a PVD finish. SRP: $1250.

As the name implies, the Remington R1 Tactical is a fighting pistol. It comes with a Trijicon rear sight, a beveled oversize ejection port, a

PVD finish, a Trijicon front sight, an ambidextrous safety, checkered mainspring housing, a stainless match barrel, a rail, VZ G10 grips, and two 8-round mags. SRP: $1250.

Re-engineered and reintroduced, the Remington R51 has the same appeal for personal protection and concealed carry as it did two years ago. Its low-bore axis helps tame +P 9mm recoil, and its snag-free profile makes it ideal for covert carry. The single-action design allows for one of the best triggers in its class, and at $448, it will not break the bank. An R51 with a Crimson Trace Laser Guard is available for $648.

Ruger

Ruger's LCP II features a short, crisp, single-action trigger with an inner trigger safety, improved sights, a larger grip surface, an easy-to-rack slide, and an improved slide-stop mechanism with last-round hold-open. The LCP II comes with a pocket holster and holds 6+1 rounds of 380 ammunition. SRP: $349.

The striker-fired American Compact features a trigger with a short take-up and positive reset. It has a modular grip system, can be fieldstripped easily, and has an ambidextrous slide stop and magazine release. SRP: $579.

The new Mark IV is a revised version of the ever-popular Mark III. The Mark IV is available in Target and Hunter versions, and its most notable feature is how easy it is to take apart. It has a simple, one-button takedown for quick and easy fieldstripping.

Taurus USA

For 2017, Taurus USA introduced its first firearm that is designed, engineered, and manufactured in the United States. The Taurus Spectrum is the first semi-automatic pistol equipped with soft-touch panels integrated into the grip and slide. The panels are made by PolyOne Corporation, a global provider of specialized polymer materials, services, and solutions. Taurus says the enhanced grip design contours enable the hand to naturally conform to the firearm, providing a more secure grip. The 380 ACP-chambered Spectrum has an extended magazine option that holds seven rounds and features a finger groove to maintain comfort when firing.



Remington RP9



Remington R51



Ruger LCP II



Taurus Spectrum

Taurus addressed the challenges of slide racking by replacing traditional slide serrations with indentations on the slide. Additionally, the soft touch material used on the grip is also incorporated into the slide design to enhance traction. The Taurus Spectrum has a 7- to 9-pound true double-action only (DAO) trigger system with a non-energized striker, which means there is no pre-cock or pre-load applied, ensuring no contact between the sear and striker.

It requires only one turn on the takedown pin to disassemble the gun, separating the slide assembly from the frame. The trigger does not have to be pulled to disassemble the gun. A reversible magazine release suits both right- or left-handed shooters.

The Taurus Spectrum is available in eight standard colors, which a black, gray or white frame option, either black or gray overmold color option, and with either a black or stainless slide color option. SRP: $289

Three house colors are available in the following configurations: black frame, FDE overmold, black slide; white frame, cyan blue overmold, stainless slide; and gray frame, mint overmold, black slide. SRP: $305

Uberti

The 1858 New Army Buffalo Bill Commemorative 44-caliber limited-edition Black Powder has an 8-inch barrel, blue finish, and simulated ivory grips. It is a replica of the 1858 Remington carried by Buffalo Bill. It also has ornate hand-chased floral engraving on all external components, and a gold inlay on either side of the barrel carries the Western hero's name and significant dates. SRP: $1,049.

Compiled by Gun Tests *staff. Some of the descriptions above are from* SHOT Daily, *a trade magazine published at the show for the dealers and distributors who attend. Used with permission.*

— *Downrange continued from page 2*

kits are pricier at $400. This modular design brings the user a tremendous amount of ergonomic, economic, and operational flexibility. This can a very real advantage, in that the user can use different setups of the same firearm for recreational shooting, home defense, and concealed carry, while not having to adapt to different triggers and other controls."

Take, for instance, the very different handfit requirements of a 125-pound woman and a 250-pound man. The P320 offers a lot of variability without a lot of extra cost to ensure each soldier's pistol fits him or her.

Also from our review, this safety note: "Unlike some striker-fired pistols, the user does not have to pull the trigger to field-strip the gun. This lessens the possibility of a negligent discharge."

Accessories? The P320 is your Huckleberry: "The frame comes with a three-slot Picatinny rail on the dust cover. The tritium SIG-Lite three-dot sights were universally liked. The SIG P320's design benefits from many years of industry refinements in ergonomics. Most of the testers liked the grip shape, size and stippled texture. The frame has finger indentations on both sides of the frame that make it easier to reach the trigger and magazine release. The triangular magazine release is nicely sized and reversible and ejected the magazines with vigor. The slide release is ambidextrous, which accommodates both left- and right-handed shooters and allows users with weaker hands to press both sides to release the slide. While the slide was a little loose, all the testers found the slide easy to rack."

And for training: "The testers found the P320 comfortable to shoot and it created only moderate recoil. One of the male testers found the grip a little loose in his hand, but the rest of the testers found the grip to be a good fit. One of the female shooters noted that the pistol was a natural pointer for her."

Although it was the least expensive pistol in the test, the P320 proved to be the most accurate pistol of the five guns tested. It was also easily the most flexible and ergonomic design in this test. Congrats to SIG Sauer for making an affordable, useful firearm for our soldiers. **GT**

COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

- Modern Compact 9mm Handguns: CZ 75 P01, a double-action first-shot pistol with a light rail and decocker; the CZ 75 D, the Tri-Star C 100, an affordable clone and copy of the CZ 75 compact, and the selective-double-action with decocker Arex Rex Zero compact.

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