GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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RUNNING THE BULLPUPS

Tested: IWI's Tavor X95 XB16, Kel-Tec's RDB, the Steyr AUG A3 M1 in 5.56mm NATO, and the FN Model PS90 Standard chambered in 5.7x28mm. See which firearm we'd buy on... ● Page 6





44-CALIBER REVOLVERS

Tested: The Ruger GP100 44 Special, a Smith & Wesson Model 69 Combat Magnum in 44 Magnum and a Taurus Tracker, also in 44 Magnum. See who won on... ● Page 15



CASE-PREP STATIONS

Tested: RCBS Trim Mate Case Prep Center, Lyman Case Prep Xpress, RCBS Universal Case Prep Center, and a Frankford Arsenal Platinum Case Trim and Prep Center. See the results on... ● Page 22

DOWNRANGE: 2 ● FIRING LINE: 3 ● 2017 PRODUCT INDEX: 26 ● SHORT SHOTS: 32 ● COMING UP: 32

DOWNRANGE

NICS GETS ATTENTION, GOOD AND BAD



Todd Woodard

The FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) has been getting a lot of attention recently. If you'll recall, a court-martialed Air Force veteran purchased a rifle illegally and used it to kill 25 people inside a Sutherland Springs, Texas, church on Nov. 5. Turns out that the Air Force had not provided the FBI with details of the court martial. The Air Force also missed the shooter's initial arrest on domestic-abuse charges and his 2012 escape from a New Mexico behavioral health facility. Had NICS been properly updated, it's likely the system would have blocked the sale of the murder weapon to the shooter, whose name I won't repeat.

Federally licensed retailers (FFLs) are required to run a background check through NICS when transferring a firearm to an individual. Firearms retailers rely on NICS to ensure the lawful transfer of firearms to law-abiding citizens. About 260 million NICS background checks have been conducted from Nov. 30, 1998 through March 31, 2017; more than 27 million were conducted in 2016 alone.

However, a background check is only as good as the records in the database. That is why the firearms industry supports improving the current NICS system by increasing the number of prohibiting records states submit to the FBI databases, helping to prevent illegal transfers of firearms to those who are prohibited from owning firearms under current law. Including these missing records will help ensure more accurate and complete checks.

States must improve the NICS database by submitting any and all records establishing an individual is a prohibited person, such as mental health records showing someone is an "adjudicated mental defective" or involuntarily committed to a mental institute, as well as official government records showing someone is the subject of a domestic violence protective order, a drug addict, or subject to another prohibited category.

The existing background check system must be fixed, otherwise we'll just have more incomplete and inaccurate checks.

Fixing NICS is complicated, however, because new gun owners keep buying more guns. NICS processed a record 27.5 million background checks in 2016. Then to top that off, Black Friday 2017 saw the system get 203,086 requests, up from the previous single-day Black Friday highs of 185,713 last year and 185,345 in 2015. (I would remind Gun Tests readers that gun checks are not a measure of actual gun sales. The number of firearms sold on Black Friday 2017 is likely higher because multiple firearms can be included in one transaction by a single buyer. Also, most states' CHL holders don't need NICS checks run on their purchases.)

At Gun Tests, we're happy to have contributed to the record-breaking sales of firearms — informed gun consumers are usually active buyers, or so you tell me. But no law-abiding gun owners want firearms in the hands of criminals or other prohibited persons.

Come on, Fibbies, do your job. GT

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Editor.....W. Todd Woodard
Managing Editor..... Tracey Taylor
Sr. Product Coordinator..... Kevin Winkle
Contributing Editors.....R.K. Campbell
Roger Eckstine
Robert Sadowski
David Tannahill
Ralph Winingham
Sr. Tech Coordinator ..... John Taylor
Preproduction..... Cara Blake

TO CONTACT THE STAFF:
GunTestsEditor@icloud.com

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Hurrah for Slide-Racking Effort!

Reader Raul appreciates this new measurement. Reader Jan passes along detailed 10mm experience with Colt and SIG pistols. And Reader Dave would like lasergrip evaluations.

Re "New Full-Size Striker-Fires From Ruger, S&W, Springfield," December 2017

Todd, thank you very much for starting to include the slide-racking forces on your pistol tests. As I age, I am starting to develop arthritis in my thumbs and find that it is becoming hard or impossible to rack the slides on some pistols. For example, I have no problem racking the slide on my 1911, CZ 75, TCP, and Buckmark; but I could not comfortably rack the slide on my buddy's SIG. I still enjoy shooting pistols and hope to be able to do it for a few years before I have to switch to revolvers. Slide-racking force will definitely be one of my considerations when I consider purchasing pistols in the future. Keep up the good work! **— Raul**

Raul, you are very welcome, and I apologize for the delay. We've talked about adding that metric for a few years, but it wasn't until some companies started promoting "slide-racking effort" as a sales angle that the measurement became important to many shooters. — Todd Woodard

Re "Big-Bore Autos: Two More 10mms and One 357 Magnum," November 2017

I appreciated your article on the 10mm Colt Delta Elites and S&W 1076. I have two Delta Elites made in the '80s, and a SIG P220R5-10-HP-SAO Kryptek Highlander camo. I also have a Series 90 Double Eagle 10mm.

When I got the Colts, I bought full-spec 10mm ammo and felt they were not enough gun for the round. I did, however, shoot them more accurately than 45 ACP Government Models.

Years later, a wide range of 10mm ammo was available, mostly what I call "40 S&W-Long" because the power factor is so close to 40 S&W ammo. Guns made for the 40s are usually smaller, and the ammo cheaper, so why bother with a 10mm if that's what you want? Note: I can easily carry one or two Government Models concealed, but, like others, I appreciate compact packages. Accuracy from the Colts was still admirable.

Serious health issues sidelined me from shooting for a couple years, and when I resumed, I had also transitioned to "triple-pane" glasses, and my accuracy had declined considerably. I had the Colts modified with adjustable rear sights, and higher-profile front ones, as well as beavertail safeties. My accuracy was still mediocre, so I asked a much younger person to shoot them. He



was drilling cloverleafs and 1-inch groups at 20+ meters. The problem was me.

As soon as SIG announced the P220-10, I got in line for one, waiting quite a few months for delivery. I produced notably better groups

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.

with it than the Colts. I again asked a younger person to shoot them, and he made nearly identical groups with all the guns. I have a long and happy history with SIGs and attribute my improvement to that.

My groups, shooting standing, off-hand, leaning back against a table, were about 4 inches at 15 meters. I won't tell you what they looked like at 20+ meters.

I then fired all three while seated, with my elbows on a table. My groups were with most holes touching. Emboldened, I stood and fired at a 25-meter target, making about a 4-inch group. Sigh.

My big surprise was the ammo. I had PPU 180-grain rounds that I rate as 40 S&W-Long. I also had a handload I made up some 20 years ago, with 165-grain Remington BJHP bullets. Unfortunately, I have lost the record of the powder charge and primer. I used mixed brass. Out-the-muzzle velocity from the Colts is 1355 fps plus, which makes for a powerful round. It kicks that way, too.

Third was SIG Sauer's Elite Performance V-Crown 180-grain JHPs, rated at 1250 fps with 624 ft.-lbs. of energy. Like the SIG Elite 357 SIG ammo I like, it proved to be hotter than advertised in all three guns. It kicked noticeably harder than the PPU, but I think the energy makes it a formidable and worthwhile round.

Firing from the table, I could see no difference in my groups. For all three guns, PPU ammo tended to hit right of center, while the SIG ammo and my handloads were centered.

The blue DE tossed shells 90 degrees to the right out to between 2 and 4 meters, and as much as two meters back. The first knuckle of my trigger finger was quite sore by the end of 100 rounds because the recoil bangs the trigger guard against it pretty hard.

The stainless DE tossed the shells from 2 to 4 meters out at 90 degrees, to 15 degrees forward. As with the blue gun, the trigger guard battered my trigger finger.

The SIG is about the same size as a 1911 and will fit in many holsters for them. However, it will not fit in a SIG 1911 holster. I got an Uncle Mike's security holster for the P220 that works very well. If you can carry a Government Model 1911, you can carry the SIG.

Colt magazines were becoming expensive and hard to find. Maybe now that Colt is making the guns again, we'll see them more readily available. The 8-round blue magazines I have, when filled, must be inserted with the slide back or they won't lock into place. The stainless magazines, when full, could easily be seated with the slide forward.

SIG P220-10 magazines are expensive, but a person on the SIG forum said P220 45 ACP magazines would work just fine. Since I had a boxful, I got them out and tried them. All worked well, though I found I had to limit them all to seven rounds because an eighth round resulted in a nosedive on the first one. Loading the eight-round P220-10 magazine requires notably more effort to insert the last two rounds. I used an Uplula magazine loader, which worked well.

The SIG tossed the fired shells from 3 to 9 meters out, and 30 to 40 degrees back. The SIG thumb safety is a puzzle. It is advertised as having been deliberately made stiff "for safety." Well, it is uncomfortably stiff, but I can push it off with my thumb or trigger finger. However, it is impossible to engage without shifting the gun and using both hands. That does not fit my definition of a safer gun. Note about the Kryptek camo: It's really impressive to see, and that was why I ordered it. It makes for a cool-looking gun, but I don't think the finish will last. For as little as I've carried it in a holster, I'm surprised at the wear I see on the rail, slide, and front of the frame. I can't imagine it can be touched up.

I think any of them would make great trail guns, but for hunting I'd prefer the SIG because it feels more comfortable shooting full-spec rounds. I hope to go hog hunting in the near future to find out.

I'm still waiting for tests on 10mm self-defense ammo. I worry that full-spec rounds will overpenetrate, and I feel anything moving at 40 S&W-Long speeds would seem pointless in a 10mm gun. For now, I'll stick with 357 SIG guns and ammo. They're smaller, very accurate, and the round is quite effective with proven limited overpenetration. **— Jan**

Thank you for the detailed follow-ups on these handguns. This information could be very helpful to someone who was on the fence about buying one of the 10mm handguns we've reviewed recently. — tw

Re "Options in Precision Rifle: We Test Desert Tech, Howa, Ruger," November 2017

I have been a long-time subscriber and fan of your magazine and always refer to your evaluations when making a new gun purchase. I was very much interested in your article about the long-range shooters, as I have always been a fan of the long shot. You start the article by stating, "... the popularity of rifles that are capable of accuracy beyond the 300-, 600-, or even 1000-yard range is still going strong."

But the range data you provided was only for 100 yards. Why wouldn't you provide us with range data more commensurate with these rifles capabilities? I'm sure your testers spend a lot of time at the range, so why not get data at 300 or 600 yards? That would have been very helpful for us when making a buying decision. **— Peter**

A valid point. — tw



Re Laser Tests

Greetings, Mr. Woodard. I have stopped all magazine subscriptions in favor of reading Gun Tests. I use the information when making purchase decisions. I wish I had found you

when I began buying back in the day, but better late than not at all.

My recent job change has me working late morning to late evening, which turned out to be very beneficial. A month after starting, I caught someone checking my sliding glass door at 0730, just before the break-in was to begin. Sheriff even arrived in a very timely fashion, as he was already looking for them.

We were broke into a couple years ago when my wife was home alone, and I have made several changes since to address that. Some lessons stick with you a long time.

Two things I have found. Night sights work well to find the gun in a darkened room on the night stand, and Crimson Trace laser grips are an excellent visual deterrent because the beam reflects off the glass, curtains, floor, etc., as it did that morning.

I have considered buying another set of Crimson Trace laser grips for my 45 ACP 1911. I cannot justify $250 "on sale" or $300 otherwise. However, every Thanksgiving weekend, the sales begin. Example: I saw a Kimber Micro 9 Woodland with Crimson Trace grips for $500. That's free grips. I also saw a Beretta 92 for $409, a Remington 1911 45 for $400 after sale and after rebate; a Ruger LCR 38 for $309; a Ruger LC9S for $300; an S&W Shield 9mm w/o safety, $279 through Thanksgiving weekend, or $300 until Christmas; and a Ruger LCP 2 for $220. So why buy just plastic grips with a laser and micro switch for $250 to $300 for a Kimber 9 or 1911 full size, when I could buy a whole package for $500? Or another pistol, maybe even with night sights? A complicated, reliable machined pistol, or molded plastic grips with micro switch, battery, and laser. Same price range. Either these fall prices are great deals, which they are, or Crimson Trace is way overpriced.

I don't like the trigger mount, but Hogue now offers a grip and laser, as do other companies.

What do you think about a value and repeated accuracy test with some of the Crimson Trace competitors? I have found Crimson Trace to be reliable and accurate, but I have been hesitant to buy something else.

You all have a very good magazine, seems like the best job in the world. Are you hiring? Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours.
— Dave

Dave asked, "What do you think about a value and repeated accuracy test with some of the Crimson Trace competitors?" I like it. On it. — tw

Re "New Full-Size 9mm Striker-Fires From Ruger, S&W, Springfield," December 2017

I love my M&P9 Pro(s), and I'm an ardent S&W fan, but to compare the 5-inch-barrel Model M&P against the two 4- to 4.25-inch barrel Ruger and Springfield isn't fair. I realize the M2 you tested doesn't say it's a Pro series, but the 5-inch versions have better balance, and because



of the increased span in the sights, are bound to deliver more accuracy. Better to compare apples to apples. The M&P9 standard/duty does come in a 4-inch version. Great new issue all the way around, keep up the great work!
— Marc

Yes, but. The two smaller pistols had an edge in weight and form size that many shooters would have looked at as big advantages in choosing a carry handgun. — tw

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Running the Bullpups: IWI, Kel-Tec, Steyr, and FN Compete

These carbines are compact — 6 to 9 inches shorter than a comparable AR-15 —yet they use the same length barrel. But are they as accurate and handy as a Modern Sporting Rifle?

Bullpups were designed for close-quarters battle (CQB) use in cramped environments where a longer weapon can be a liability. They are smaller and more compact than the typical AR-15 rifle. What also differs is how a bullpup functions. These firearms are configured with the action located behind the trigger group. Your nose rests above the action, not behind it like with an AR or AK. That means the magazine is aft of the trigger, not forward. Thus, your reloading technique changes. Because the action is housed in the buttstock, the overall length is reduced, yet a bullpup still deploys the same barrel length as a civilian AR-15. The balance is different with a bullpup, with the weight of the rifle in the butt, not forward of your firing hand. The ejection port is located in the butt, and each bullpup we tested had a different philosophy on how and where empty cases should be dumped. The muzzle is likewise closer, so reaching out with your support arm and pulling the rifle into your shoulder — like with an AR — is not possible, but the bullpups offer other support-grip options.

Basically, then, everything from reloading to grip and handling changes when running a bullpup, so we wanted to see which bullpup we could adapt to more easily. Our quartet of bullpups included three chambered in 5.56mm, which was the IWI Tavor X95 XB16, the Steyr AUG A3









RANGE DATA

Aguila 5.56mm NATO 62-gr. FMJ-BT	Steyr AUG A3 M1	IWI Tavor X95 XB16	Kel-Tec RDB
Average Velocity	2940 fps	2946 fps	3040 fps
Muzzle Energy	1190 ft.-lbs.	1195 ft.-lbs.	1272 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.06 in.	1.47 in.	2.00 in.
Average Group	1.70 in.	1.83 in.	2.64 in.

Federal Fusion 223 Rem. 62-gr. Fusion	Steyr AUG A3 M1	IWI Tavor X95 XB16	Kel-Tec RDB
Average Velocity	2861 fps	2867 fps	2943 fps
Muzzle Energy	1127 ft.-lbs.	1132 ft.-lbs.	1193 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.08 in.	1.68 in.	1.87 in.
Average Group	1.90 in.	1.85 in.	2.52 in.

SIG Elite 223 Rem. 77-gr. OTM Match	Steyr AUG A3 M1	IWI Tavor X95 XB16	Kel-Tec RDB
Average Velocity	2330 fps	2331 fps	2424 fps
Muzzle Energy	928 ft.-lbs.	929 ft.-lbs.	1005 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.00 in.	1.70 in.	1.90 in.
Average Group	2.00 in.	1.93 in.	2.95 in.

FN PS90	FN 5.7x28mm 40-gr. V-Max	Federal American Eagle 5.7x28mm 40-gr. FMJ
Average Velocity	2063 fps	2006 fps
Muzzle Energy	378 ft.-lbs.	357 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.09 in.	1.10 in.
Average Group	2.09 in.	2.08 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired three-shot groups from a bench using a rest. Distance: 100 yards with optics. We recorded velocities using a ProChrono digital chronograph 15 feet from the muzzle.

M1, and Kel-Tec's RDB. The fourth bullpup was the FN Model PS90 Standard chambered in 5.7x28mm. This is a nice sampling of bullpups because the AUG could be considered the Rolex of bullpups, while the Kel-Tec is the Timex at a much lower price. All performed without malfunctions, so they all took a licking and kept on ticking. One, the IWI, was modular and offered easy caliber conversion. All were optics-ready except the AUG (pronounced "A-U-G" not "awg"), which came from the factory with an optic. One, the FN, we had to study to even determine how to pick it up and shoulder it, but when we did we experienced a clear engineering solution to bad bullpup ergonomics. With the Kel-Tec, we ended up calling it the working man's bullpup. Nothing fancy, but it kept pace with the other three. In hand, the bullpups feel like an AR-15 short-barreled rifle, or SBR, which require special tax stamps to own.

We tested all except the AUG with either a SIG Romeo4B or a Mepro Tru-Dot RDS. Both are red-dot sights that excel at close-to-medium range. At ranges out to 100 yards, the dot suffices for most targets, but a crosshair reticle would shrink groups. The Romeo4B allows the user to toggle between four different reticles: 2-minute-of-angle dot, 2-MOA dot with ballistic holds, 2-MOA/65 MOA Circle Dot, or 2-MOA/65 MOA Circle Dot with ballistic holds. The ballistic holdover points are calibrated for 5.56 NATO and 7.62x51mm NATO rounds. A feature we liked was the activated motion sensor that immediately powers up illumination when the red dot senses motion and powers down when it does not to extend battery life. The Mepro Tru-Dot RDS we like and have used it for a number tests on AR-style firearms. It

On the previous page, three of our bullpups were chambered in 5.56mm: the IWI Tavor X95 XB16 (top left), Kel-Tec's RDB (bottom left) and the Steyr AUG A3 M1 (bottom right). The fourth bullpup was the FN Model PS90 Standard chambered in 5.7x28mm (top right). All performed without malfunctions. The IWI was modular and offered easy caliber conversion, a feature lacking on the others. All were optics-ready except the AUG, which came with an optic. On the shoulder, the bullpups feel like an AR-15 short-barreled rifle in terms of handling. Two of the bullpups — the IWI and Kel-Tec — are compatible with standard AR-15 magazines, which readers could use as a tiebreaker if they were trying to choose between these highly-ranked products.

features a 1.8-MOA dot reticle and is constructed with an aluminum body and tough polymer frame around a large viewing window. This sight is easy to use when shooting with both eyes open. It runs on one AA battery, and you don't need any tools to change the battery or adjust the sight. It also turns off when not in use to conserve battery life. Both are good choices for AR applications, and as we found out, these bullpups, like ARs, have a straight comb and optics needed to be mounted high. Be aware that a bullpup is capable of hitting targets at the same ranges as an AR-15 with an appropriate optic.

Two of the bullpups — the IWI and Kel-Tec — are compatible with standard AR-15 magazines, which we appreciated since we have plenty of AR-15 magazines on hand. We used Brownells' aluminum-body magazines (Brownells.com, $14) Magpul Pmags (Brownells.com, $12.30), and Hexmag tubes (Brownells.com, $12); all were 30-rounders. The AUG and FN used proprietary magazines. Like an AR-15, the FN, IWI, AUG, and Kel-Tec allow the operator to keep his firing hand on the grip while performing a reload with the support hand.

The three brands of AR-suitable ammunition we tested included Aguila 5.56mm NATO with a 62-grain FMJ bullet, 223 Remington Federal Fusion loaded with a 62-grain soft point, and SIG Sauer's 223 Remington ammo loaded with a 77-grain Open-Tip Match (OTM) bullet. For the FN, we used FN 5.7x28mm 40-grain V-Max and Federal American Eagle 40-grain FMJs. We noticed big differences in recoil and muzzle blast between the 5.56 NATO and 5.7x28mm ammo. The 5.7x28mm ammo was similar to shooting 22 Magnum ammo — minimal recoil and not as much muzzle blast as the 5.56mm NATO.

One aspect to remember with a bullpup is the price. These are not inexpensive choices, costing from a few hundred to a thousand dollars more than the typical AR. The attraction with bullpups is reduced overall length and better

IWI MODEL TAVOR X95 XB16 5.56MM NATO, $2000

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The X95 is modular, allowing caliber conversions — a big plus. The rails easily allow a user to attach accessories. It also runs on AR-15 style magazines. The trigger was mushy.



Action Type	Semi-automatic; adjustable long-stroke gas piston; closed rotating bolt
Overall Length	26.13 in.
Overall Height (w/sights)	11.25 in.
Weight Unloaded	7.9 lbs.
Weight Loaded (30-rd. mag.)	8.9 lbs.
Receiver	Steel; polymer shell
Barrel	16.5 in.; 1:7 RH twist; chrome-moly-vanadium; hammer forged; chrome lined
Muzzle Device	A2 Birdcage, ½x28 TPI
Buttstock	Reinforced polymer fixed; rubber pad
Length of Pull	15.8 in.
Magazine	(1) 30-rd; polymer NATO STANAG
Rear Sight	Adj. folding; optic ready
Front Sight	Adj. folding; optic ready
Trigger	7.3 lbs., single stage
Safety	2-pos. lever
Warranty	5 years
Telephone	(717) 695-2081
Website	IWI.us
Made In	Israel



Above: The ability to run AR-15-style magazines in the Tavor bullpup makes the bullpup more practical. Buyers should be aware of a warning on the company's website that says, "Note that the Tavor X95 rifle is assembled in the US from imported and US parts under 18 U.S.C § 922(r). You should only use magazines made in the USA in your Tavor X95. Use of an imported magazine may put you in violation of 18 U.S.C § 922(r)."



The magazine release and selector lever are set up similar to an AR-15's. The charging handle is close, yet still allows easy manipulation.



Peel back removable covers on the forearm to find Picatinny rails at 3, 6, and 9 o'clock.



The IWI uses a standard A2-style birdcage muzzle device.



The Metro red dot was a good pairing with the IWI because it allows the operator to keep both eyes open when aiming.



The X95 has backup iron sights that are inset in the top rail and fold up when needed. They could be co-witnessed with the Metro RDS red dot. The sights worked, but we thought they could be easily damaged in the event the IWI was dropped.



Right: There is ramp up time required when moving from an AR-15 to a bullpup like the Tavor because the magazine is located behind the trigger and pistol grip.



Left: The right side of the firing grip shows the AR-15-style magazine release in a traditional location. Note that the selector can be converted.

maneuverability. We sneaked down hallways and around doorways with both an unloaded AR-15 and the unloaded bullpups to get a sense of the differences. Bullpups, hands down, are more maneuverable. Here's what else we learned about these bullpups:

IWI Model Tavor X95 XB16
5.56mm NATO, $2000

The Tavor X95 is the newest IWI bullpup design and is an upgraded version of the battle-proven SAR design, which has been in Israeli Military service since 2001. The IWI features a long-stroke piston system that we found was clean running and reliable. A gas regulator allows the user to adjust the action to the cartridge. The mechanism is encased in a rugged polymer shell. Disassembly of the X95 is simple and, in fact, the ability to swap calibers is what sets the IWI apart from the other bullpups. IWI offers optional 9mm and 300 BLK conversion kits. Pull out one pin in the butt and rotate the butt pad down. You can then pull the recoil mechanism out. The gas piston can also be adjusted so the X95 can be optimized when shooting with a suppressor.

The operating handle is close to the operator for easier manipulation in cramped spaces. The charging handle can also be reversed on the opposite side, depending on the shooter's preference, a nice feature, we thought. The magazine release operates similar to an AR-15 magazine release. The forearm has Picatinny rails at the 3, 6, and 9 o'clock positions with removable rail covers. The rails allow a user to add a light or laser or other accessories. The Tavor-style pistol grip with the large loop can be swapped out by removing one screw so a standard pistol grip can be mounted. We liked the Tavor grip guard because we could jam it up against a barrier to steady our aim, just like we could with the AUG. The bolt release is small and low profile, again for better manipulation in tight conditions like a vehicle.

The controls, except for the bolt release, were similar to those on an AR-15. The safety selector rotates like that on an AR-15 and can be reversed for left-hand use. The ambidextrous magazine release can be operated with the trigger finger. The charging handle is located on the left side, so cocking the X95 with your support hand and holding the pistol grip with the firing hand provides plenty of leverage. Inserting magazines is where our team needed ramp-up time. Training yourself to move the fresh magazine behind the pistol grip took some getting used to, but we found that we adapted quickly.

Starting out at 25 yards, we used a rest and found the X95 could make five-shot groups into one a ragged hole. Performing fast firing drills with magazine loads, we ran the X95 for speed. A lip on the forend allows an operator to grip the rifle as far forward as possible while limiting the chance of grabbing the muzzle. Recoil was mild and empties were thrown well away via an ejection port just under the shooter's nose. Magazine swaps, at first, were awkward as we learned to run the bullpup. The

bolt release is just to the rear of the magazine and can be manipulated in one motion. Dump magazine, insert magazine, and press the release to slam the bolt forward. The trigger was a bit heavy, and this is a trait of most bullpups because the trigger mechanism is longer, having to reach rearward to fire the mechanism. It broke, on average, at 6.8 pounds — not particularly helpful at the 100-yard range, but it was a trigger a user can easily adapt to. Using a red dot, we were able to get decent groups that averaged just under 2 MOA. The IWI ran strong with no malfunctions.

Our Team Said: The IWI is an easy bullpup to adapt to because many controls are like an AR's. We liked that caliber conversions were available. We liked that the rails could be hidden with the removable panels, and the IWI easily allowed the user to add accessories. Downside: The trigger was mushy. At $2000, we feel this is a good investment for a cutting-edge bullpup design with traditional AR-15 style features.

Kel-Tec Model RDB 17 5.56mm NATO, $1100

The price listed above is the average price from 10 online sites, none of which had the RDB in stock. The MSRP is $1272. The Kel-Tec RDB is a no-frills bullpup that is very functional and simple. The RDB uses two polymer halves that sandwich around a steel action and barrel. The gas-piston system has a gas regulator so a user can regulate the rifle to run on all sorts of ammunition and with a suppressor. The gas regulator can be adjusted with the open mouth from an empty 5.56 NATO case. It's click-adjustable and Kel-Tec recommends firing a round after adjusting the regulator to test reliability. It comes from the factory ready to run on standard M193-type ammo.

It features a left-side charging handle that is non-reciprocating. It locks against the forend when not being used. The RDB's cocking handle required a longer reach than the other bullpups, but it provided good leverage when cocking the weapon with the support hand on

KEL-TEC MODEL RDB 17 5.56MM NATO, $1100

GUN TESTS GRADE: A- (BEST BUY)

The RDB is the working man's bullpup. It is not as refined as the others, but is still very capable. It's a good choice if you want a bullpup at a reasonable cost. However, most places we checked didn't have them in stock.



Action Type	Semi-Automatic; Adjustable Gas Piston	Buttstock	Fixed; removable rubber pad
Overall Length	27.3 in.	Length of Pull	14.25 in.
Overall Height (not including optic)	7.5 in.	Magazine	(1) 20-rd; ambi release
Weight Unloaded	6.7 lbs.	Sights	MIL-STD 1913 top rail
Weight Loaded (30-rd. mag.)	7.7 lbs.	Trigger	5.5 lbs., Single Stage
Receiver	4140 steel; polymer shell bottom ejection	Safety	Ambi. 2-Pos. Lever
		Warranty	Lifetime
		Telephone	(321)631-0068
Barrel	17.4 in.; 1:7 RH Twist	Website	KelTecWeapons.com
Muzzle Device	A2 Birdcage ½x28 TPI	Made In	Florida



The ambidextrous safety selector on the RDB was located under the thumb of the firing hand and was easy to manipulate. The simple magazine release is designed so a magazine can be stripped away with the support hand.



The forend allows mounting of accessories to a supplied rail. Note that the non-reciprocating charging handle folds inward to reduce snagging.



When needed, the charging handle folds out and provides plenty of leverage to cock the RDB.



The RDB top rail offers plenty of space to mount optics.



The SIG Romeo4B red dot was well suited to the RDB.



That slot aft of the magazine is the ejection port on the RDB. It pushes empties toward your feet.

the charging handle and the firing hand on the grip.

The outside texture of the polymer features a very coarse grid pattern that is comfortable and offers plenty of grip purchase. Picatinny rails at 12 and 6 o'clock allow mounting of an optic or vertical grip.

The controls include an ambidextrous rotating safety selector that is easily manipulated by the thumb of the shooting hand like an AR-15, but it requires less rotation than the typical AR-15 selector. The magazine-release lever is also suited for left- or right-hand users. The lever is designed so the magazine can fall free as the operator grasps the magazine to remove it. Because the operator's hand naturally falls on it, the simple metal magazine release must be pressed to drop or strip away the magazine.

Field-stripping the Kel-Tec is simple. Push out two pins, and it disassembles similar to an AR-15. Rotate the grip downward, and the barrel and bolt carrier can be removed from the stock/grip assembly.

The RDB uses a unique downward ejecting system. As the bolt moves rearward, the extractor pulls the cases out of the chamber and into dual ejectors that push the case down a chute so hot empties fall at the shooter's feet.

At 25 yards using a rest, we could create one large hole in the target. At 100 yards, the accuracy ranged between 2.5 to 3 MOA. In speed testing, the RDB ran well with no malfunctions. It also felt more like an AR due to the handguard, which incorporated a ridge so your support hand did not get too close the muzzle. The trigger was not as refined as we would like, but it was usable.

Our Team Said: The Kel-Tec is a basic bullpup that, in our opinion, will get the job done. If you have a need to own a bullpup and have a limited budget, this would be our pick, thus its Best Buy ranking.

Steyr Model AUG A3 M1 w/3X Optic 5.56mm NATO, $2,599

The AUG is the benchmark by which all other bullpups are judged. It is modular in design and has a reputation for reliability and minimal maintenance. This iconic bullpup has been in service with a variety of police forces and at least 20 militaries since 1978. The AUG has a long history of proven performance. Even though the design is nearly 40 years old, it still looks futuristic. The AUG A3 M1 Optics is the latest variant, which features a traditional AUG scope plus the addition of three Picatinny rail sections to mount accessories. This AUG is also made in the U.S.

The AUG features a short-stroke gas-piston system with exhaust gas venting out of the front of the rifle. The piston has a valve that is adjustable so the AUG can run on all types of ammo and with a suppressor. The action was smooth and easy to manipulate with the non-reciprocating cocking handle. We had plenty of leverage to cock the weapon and lock the handle in a notch in the receiver. The user can then slap the handle down to allow the bolt to spring forward and load the chamber. We liked the simplicity of use. The bolt carrier rides on two stainless-steel guide rods in the receiver, which attaches to the fiberglass-reinforced polymer stock. The AUG disassembled quickly, what Steyr calls "expedited disassembly," which means the barrel can be removed in seconds without the use of tools. The AUG quickly field-strips into six main components. Barrels with longer lengths are available, but our sample had a 16-inch, cold-hammer-forged barrel with 1:9-inch-twist rifling and a slotted flash hider. The vertical foregrip can folded up or rotated down to a vertical grip. We liked this set up and ensured we grasped the vertical grip when shooting offhand. Another feature is the ability of the user to convert the AUG to left-hand operation, which requires replacing of the right-hand bolt with the optional left-hand bolt (SteyrArms.com, $249) and swapping the ejection port cover.

This newest AUG is equipped with a Picatinny rail on the top side if you want to mount a second optic. Our sample had an integrated 3x optic, which was bright and clear. Like an optic for an AR, the optic on the AUG needs to be mounted high. The scope was positioned 1.95 inches over the stock comb and was easy to aim, with a solid cheek weld. The turret requires a coin or flat screwdriver to make windage and elevation changes. The reticle was a medium crosshair with a range-finding circle, which we thought was well suited

for this bullpup. The scope itself had a topside Picatinny rail so the shooter could mount a CQB red dot or reflex sight. On the right side of the receiver was another short rail. Also different from previous AUGs is the front sling swivel. This new variant features a Vltor quick-detach sling swivel.

Our sample used Steyr proprietary magazines, though a NATO version of the AUG accepts standard STANAG (AR-15) magazines. We liked the clear AUG magazine with the waffle texture, but we could see the NATO version would be more practical for a shooter who already has AR-15 magazines. Additional magazines are available in 10-, 30- or 42-round configurations from SteyrArms.com for $45 to $48.

Going hot, we found the fastest way to perform magazine changes was to use our support hand, like with an AR-15 except we grabbed a fresh magazine first then pressed the magazine-catch release and stripped out the empty magazine then inserted the loaded one. Your work space is more cramped when running a bullpup, and that is one of the trade-offs. Another trade-off is the trigger. The AUG trigger was large and flat as well as glove friendly. It slides rearward with some take-up. Not crisp, but serviceable. The firing grip is also protected by a handguard. The IWI uses a similar set up to protect the trigger if the bullpup is accidentally dropped. The safety is a crossbolt type with a large square button. The bolt release is located above the magazine catch, and both are manipulated with the support hand. At 25 yards, we found the AUG was surgical and spit out brass to right through the ejection port just under our nose. Using a rest out to 100 yards, we could squeeze out five-shot groups that averaged less than 2 inches. The AUG had no malfunctions.

Our Team Said: The Steyr AUG A3 M1 w/3X optic is a well-made rifle with great ergonomics. It is also expensive. We liked this iconic option the best of these closely-ranked products, and if it is in budget, we'd go for it ahead of the others.

STEYR MODEL AUG A3 M1 3X OPTIC
5.56MM NATO, $2,599
GUN TESTS GRADE: A- (OUR PICK)

The AUG is iconic and is the benchmark in bullpup design. The long LOP takes a bit more handling by a small-statured operator. We'd prefer the NATO variant that uses AR-15 magazines.



Action Type	Semi-Automatic; adjustable short-stroke gas piston
Overall Length	28.15 in.
Overall Height (w/optic)	11.25 in.
Weight Unloaded	8.8 lbs.
Weight Loaded (30-rd. mag.)	9.8 lbs.
Receiver	Aluminum; black polymer shell
Barrel	16.375 in.; 1:9 RH twist; chrome lined
Muzzle Device	4-slot brake, ½x28 TPI
Buttstock	Fixed; rubber pad
Length of Pull	15.0 in.
Magazine	(1) 30-rd. polymer double stack
Sights	Integral 3x optic
Trigger	10.2 lbs., single stage
Safety	2-pos. crossbolt button
Warranty	None written
Telephone	(205) 417-8644
Website	SteyrArms.com
Made In	Bessemer, AL

The slotted muzzle brake can be removed and replaced with a can. The gas piston is adjustable, so you can run nearly any type of ammo.



The cocking handle is large and offers plenty of leverage when working the AUG's action.



That is the ejection port. The AUG throws away empties far to your right (when configured for a right-hand shooter).





The AUG's firing grip shows the sliding trigger. That square button is the crossbolt safety.



The Steyr's vertical grip can be folded and stowed. It snaps and locks in place.



The AUG's magazine catch is directly behind the magazine. We liked the construction of the AUG mags, but we would prefer if the AUG ran on AR-15 style mags.



The AUG has some Picatinny rail space on the optic and on the right side of the bullpup. Note the detachable forward sling swivel.

FN Model PS90 Standard 3848950460
5.7x28mm, $1449

The price above is MSRP, but we found new PS90s selling for around $1400 in several places, including Cabela's. The PS90, in our opinion, takes the bullpup design to the next level. It is light weight, ambidextrous, compact, and has great ergonomics.

The big difference between the PS90 and our other test bullpups is the cartridge. The PS90 is chambered in 5.7x28mm, which is a high-velocity small-caliber bullet that is similar to a 22 Hornet. The P90 was designed in the mid 1980s and has been in use with military and police forces in more than 40 nations since 1991. It was designed as a PDW (Personal Defense Weapon) along with the 5.7x28mm cartridge to replace the 9mm and pistols and submachine guns. FN also chambers this round in the FN Five-seveN pistol. Comparing bullpups here, in our opinion the 5.56mm cartridge models offer more options in loads and use, such as target and hunting loads, and cartridges are found in nearly any retail store. We found this round to be very accurate with minimal recoil and not a lot of muzzle blast.

The PS90 is a semi-automatic civilian version of the P90. The PS90 field-strips similar to the AUG. The barrel and optic-support group pulls out of the polymer frame/trigger group, what we'll call the stock. The hammer group is pulled from the rear of stock butt. Simple. Integrated into the stock are two hand grips. The rear firing grip is similar to a thumbhole stock. The front grip allows the user to grasp the grip and place his thumb inside the trigger guard. Sounds confusing until you actually shoulder the PS90 and see how naturally it feels. The front grip also has a lip so your support hand does not get near the barrel. This is important with the PS90 and all the other bullpups since the bare, unprotected barrel is close to the operator's support hand. We'd suggest using gloves, when possible, just in case you fall into AR mode and try to grasp the barrel thinking it is like an AR handguard.

Our sample has a 16-inch barrel with a slotted muzzle brake. The optic bridge is metal and holds the barrel and positions the magazine. It also features a Picatinny rail to mount an optic, and in the bridge are backup iron sights, basically a peep sight paired with a rear hole and post that are small but usable. Controls consist of ambidextrous magazine latches, cocking handles, and safety selector. The cocking handles are rounded ears on either side of the weapon, so it is pretty effortless to cock the PS90. The safety selector is a disc under the trigger, and it rotated to place the on Safe or Fire. The magazine is a rectangular clear polymer box that lays on the top of the PS90 and inside the optic bridge. Cartridges from the magazine are rotated 90 degrees as they are chambered from above, unlike the other magazines, which keep the stack of cartridges parallel and below the chamber. This magazine was easy to load and held 30 rounds. We liked the magazine set up because we

FN MODEL PS90 3848950460 5.7X28MM, $1400

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The FN takes the bullpup design to the next level of compactness. The short LOP made the PS90 quick to the shoulder. This is a unique firearm in an equally unique caliber and as such, would make an excellent defense choice.



Action Type	Semi-automatic; closed bolt, blowback	Buttstock	Fixed thumbhole; rubber buttpad; forward handstop; molded-in rear sling attachment point
Overall Length	26.23 in.		
Overall Height (w/o optic)	8.3 in.	Magazine	(1) 30 rd.; translucent polymer
Weight Unloaded	6.6 lbs.	Sights	MIL-STD 1913 top rail; backup iron sight
Weight Loaded (30-rds.)	7.0 lbs.		
Receiver	Alloy; matte-black polymer shell, bottom eject	Trigger	6 lbs., single stage
		Safety	2-Pos. rotating lever
Barrel	16.04 in.; 1:9 RH twist; hammer forged, chrome lined	Warranty	Implied lifetime
		Telephone	(800) 635-1321
Muzzle Device	Ported muzzle brake	Website	FNAmerica.com
Length of Pull	13.5 in.	Made In	Belgium



Above: The PS90 uses a long, slotted muzzle brake to reduce muzzle climb.



Above: Those are the two grips, with the support hand grip left and firing grip on the right.



Left: That U-shaped lever is the charging handle. It is snag free and works with either an overhand or underhand motion.





Left: Loading the PS90 magazine was easy. Right: Notice how the round is rotated 90 degrees once it is in the FN magazine's body.



The FN's magazine release is located just behind the rear of the magazine.

could easily see the remaining round count while still keeping the rifle in the ready position. Both 10- and 50-round magazines are available (FNestore.com; $29). Empty brass is ejected from the bottom of the stock, similar to the Kel-Tec RDB. When the magazine was empty, the shooter uses the support hand to press the magazine catch, pull the empty magazine out, insert a loaded magazine, and snap it into place. It takes slightly longer than loading an AR-15 magazine.

Going hot with the PS90 at 25 yards, we found this bullpup excels in rapid fire. It is easy to shoot with negligible recoil, similar to shooting a rimfire cartridge. The short length of pull — 13.5 inches — means it shoulders quickly. At 100 yards, we found the PS90 was accurate, and because it was small, we needed to rest it on the bottom of the grip.

In our opinion, bullpup triggers are their weak point, and this test convinced us. The trigger pull on the PS90 measured about 6 pounds, and it was mushy, but like all the other triggers, serviceable. They are by no means match-style triggers. The PS90's trigger slides backward like on the AUG, while the Kel-Tec and IWI triggers pivot.

Our Team Said: The PS90 is well made, reliable, and compact. The cartridge is not as popular as the 5.56mm, but it is proven. If you have a Five-seveN pistol, the PS90 would be a great companion piece. If a cutting-edge bullpup is your desire, then the PS90 is great choice.

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

Five-Shot 44-Caliber Revolvers From Ruger, S&W, and Taurus

These powerful wheelguns can be used for self-protection from both human and animal adversaries, depending on your needs. But if you want top-level power, you'll be happy with the Tracker.

The medium-frame 44-caliber revolver, whether chambered in 44 Special or 44 Magnum, is a great outdoors revolver, often used for defense against animals. We agree that this is a formidable combination, but it also demonstrates formidable recoil, perhaps a step beyond what's necessary to do double duty as a personal-defense round day to day.

To see how a trio of wheelguns would do when pitted against each other at the range, we selected the Ruger GP100 1761 44 Special, a Smith & Wesson Model 69 Combat Magnum 10064 in 44 Magnum and a Taurus Tracker, also in 44 Magnum. All are stainless-steel five-shooters, weigh within a few ounces of each other, and have similar features. The Smith & Wesson Model 69 Combat Magnum is a new version with a 2.75-inch barrel and round butt. The Taurus Tracker 44 Magnum has a 4 inch barrel. The Ruger GP100 chambered in 44 Special is a relatively new introduction, being introduced in 2016.

With an overall length of 7.8 inches and an overall height of 5.7 inches, the 35.8-ounce loaded Smith & Wesson is the most compact and easiest to carry. The 44 Special–chambered Ruger GP100 exhibited one of the finest accuracy performances we've seen, shooting 1.7-, 1.6-, and 1.5-inch average groups with three loads. The Taurus Tracker delivered the highest velocities and energy with two of the three 44 Special loads and both 44 Magnum loads we used — in particular the Winchester Super-X 44 Magnum 240-grain jacketed hollowpoint, which ran at 1288 fps and produced 883 foot-pounds of muzzle energy.

The 44 Special revolver is an outdoors mainstay. Savvy outdoorsmen appreciate the accuracy and modest recoil of the 44 Special. The 44-caliber bullet, particularly a 255-grain semi-wadcutter, offers plenty of mass and has good sectional density that translates to deep penetration at less than Magnum velocity: 1000 fps isn't slow for a heavy revolver bullet. While there are small-frame and ultralight revolvers designed for defense use, a medium-to-heavy-frame 44 Special will safely handle loads that move the cartridge into deer and boar territory out to 50 yards. For protection against bears, feral dogs, and big cats, the 44 Special with heavy loads is adequate. The 44 Magnum is even better if big Western bears are part of the problem. But it is difficult to carry a 46-ounce Smith & Wesson Model 629 loaded handgun on a daily basis. When fly-fishing or hiking, this is a heavy weight on the hip. A medium-frame revolver should offer all of the power we need for animal defense at close range. It is also all of the recoil an occasional user may care to handle. This same revolver isn't too bulky to conceal for personal defense, and with proper loads, it will make a good personal and home-defense revolver. The major manufacturers make this happen by offering five-shot revolvers chambering the 44 Special, allowing the shoehorning of the 44 into a 357 Magnum-size frame. The relatively short barrel and hand-filling grip makes for a revolver that is fast into action. These revolvers are intended for use at relatively short range and the demands on accuracy are not great. However, we found that these handguns are quite accurate. We were concerned with the shooters' ability to control a 35-ounce 44 Magnum revolver









From left, our test handguns included the Taurus Tracker in 44 Magnum, Smith & Wesson's Model 69 Combat Magnum 10064 in 44 Magnum (center, top and being fired), and the Ruger GP100 1761 44 Special, right.

and used a variety of loads to test our fears. We found three capable revolvers that will tax the skill of any shooter to be all he or she can be. Not surprisingly, most of the firing was done with the more genteel 44 Special ammunition, which offered better control and less banging than the 44 Magnums.

RANGE DATA

HSM 44 Special 240-gr. Lead	**Taurus Tracker**	**Smith & Wesson Model 69**	**Ruger GP100**
Average Velocity	781 fps	668 fps	742 fps
Muzzle Energy	324 ft.-lbs.	237 ft.-lbs.	293 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.5 in.	1.8 in	1.4 in.
Largest Group	2.0 in.	2.3 in.	1.9 in.
Average Group Size	1.8 in.	2.0 in.	1.7 in.

Double Tap 44 Special 180-gr. Controlled Expansion JHP	**Taurus Tracker**	**Smith & Wesson Model 69**	**Ruger GP100**
Average Velocity	1013 fps	885 fps	1032 fps
Muzzle Energy	410 ft.-lbs.	312 ft.-lbs.	425 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.0 in.	2.5 in	1.2 in.
Largest Group	2.7 in.	3.3 in.	1.9 in.
Average Group Size	2.3 in.	2.9 in.	1.6 in.

Buffalo Bore 44 Special 200-gr. Barnes TAC XP	**Taurus Tracker**	**Smith & Wesson Model 69**	**Ruger GP100**
Average Velocity	1025 fps	919 fps	998 fps
Muzzle Energy	466 ft.-lbs.	374 ft.-lbs.	442 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.3 in.	2.4 in	1.1 in.
Largest Group	2.9 in.	3.2 in.	1.8 in.
Average Group Size	2.6 in.	2.9 in.	1.5 in.

SIG Sauer Elite 44 Magnum 240-gr. JHP	**Taurus Tracker**	**Smith & Wesson Model 69**
Average Velocity	1225 fps	1150 fps
Muzzle Energy	799 ft.-lbs.	704 ft.-lbs
Smallest Group	1.9 in.	2.4 in.
Largest Group	2.8 in.	3.6 in.
Average Group Size	2.4 in.	3.1 in.

Winchester Super X 44 Magnum 240-gr. JHP	**Taurus Tracker**	**Smith & Wesson Model 69**
Average Velocity	1288 fps	1131 fps
Muzzle Energy	883 ft.-lbs.	681 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.0 in.	2.6 in.
Largest Group	3.0 in.	3.6 in.
Average Group Size	2.5 in.	3.0 in.



We fired three five-shot groups for accuracy at 25 yards. We recorded velocities with a Competition Electronics Chronograph at 10 feet. Ammunition sources: Winchester 44 Magnum Super X 240-grain jacketed hollowpoint ($324.50/200 rounds @ CheaperThanDirt.com); SIG Sauer Elite 44 Magnum 240-grain jacketed hollowpoint ($21.20/20 rounds @ CheaperThanDirt.com); Buffalo Bore 44 Special 200-grain Barnes TAC XP bullet ($45.40/20 rounds @ MidwayUSA.com); Double Tap 44 Special 180-grain Controlled Expansion jacketed hollowpoint ($22.22/20 rounds @ CheaperThanDirt.com); HSM 44 Special 240-grain lead ($29.60/50 rounds @ VenturaMunitions.com).

Ruger GP100 1761
44 Special,$649

This was our price from CheaperThanDirt.com. This is a distinctive revolver. The cylinder is unfluted, and the grips are a special model from Hogue, designed to combat recoil and offer excellent hand fit. The barrel is 3 inches long. The rear sight is the standard Ruger adjustable sight. We found the range of adjustment good and the sight picture clean and sharp. The front sight is a bright-green fiber optic. This is a burly handgun and the heaviest tested at 36 ounces unloaded. The satin-stainless-steel finish is well polished. We detected no tool marks. Pebble-grain grips offer a good grasping surface. They were tied with the Taurus for firing comfort. The GP100 balances well. It is neither handle heavy nor barrel heavy. The balance point is similar to a Single Action Army Sheriff's Model or Smith & Wesson Model 27 with 3.5-inch barrel, each well-balanced revolvers. The feel is different from the 4-inch-barrel Ruger GP100 357 Magnum in a superior manner for combat shooting versus target shooting.

The cylinder locks up at the front and rear and also by use of a detent in the crane. As for the action, the trigger is smooth in double-action fire with no hitches or hard spots. The single-action trigger breaks at 4.0 pounds even. The raters attempted to qualify the feel of the five-shot Ruger versus the six-shot GP100. Part of the force exerted to press the trigger is used to revolve the cylinder and part to cock and drop the hammer. The GP100 five-shooter may be a little faster than the six-shooter, but this is subjective. We performed the firing evaluation with two goals. First, we determined how smooth the revolver was in combat shooting and recoil control. Personal defense and animal defense are most important. Second, we established the accuracy potential of the revolvers. Study shows that many have survived an animal attack by shoving the revolver into the body of one of the big cats or a bear. These animals attack quickly, bowling the

RUGER GP100 1761 44 SPECIAL, $649

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

For many of the raters, they liked shooting the Ruger GP100 the most among the revolvers tested. However, this is the largest and heaviest revolver as well, so it was expected it might be more docile with 44 Special rounds. Accuracy was outstanding. The GP100 44 Special is more accurate than all but a very few revolvers we have tested. If the contest had been among just 44 Special revolvers, the GP100 might have gotten the top rating, but the other revolvers were 44 Magnums and offered more energy.

Action	Double Action
Overall Length	8.5 in.
Overall Height	6.1 in.
Maximum Width	1.56 in.
Weight Unloaded	36.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	37.8 oz.
Barrel	3.0 in. satin stainless steel; 1:20 RH twist, 6 grooves
Cylinder	Capacity 5 rds., satin stainless unfluted; triple locking
Frame	Satin stainless steel
Front Strap Height	2.5 in.
Back Strap Height	4.5 in.
Grips	Hogue Monogrip, black rubber
Grip Thickness	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference	4.8 in.
Front Sight	Green fiber optic
Rear Sight	Adj. for elevation, windage
Sight Radius	4.5 in.



Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	4.0 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Double Action	14.0 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.5 in.
Trigger Span Double Action	2.8 in.
Warranty	None written
Telephone	(336) 949-5200
Website	Ruger.com
Made In	U.S.A.
State Approved	CA, MA



We like the crane detent lock up. Very strong.



Our raters really like the fiber-optic front sight for home defense use. It is fast to get on target.



The Buffalo Bore load exhibited excellent accuracy in the Ruger. The Ruger sights, its heft and balance, are ideal for home-defense use. Recoil is modest with most loads.

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 69 COMBAT MAGNUM 10064 44 SPECIAL/44 MAGNUM, $732

GUN TESTS GRADE: B-

The Model 69 Combat Magnum is the shortest and most concealable revolver tested. Recoil was pleasant with the 44 Special. When it came to the 44 Magnum, we started cutting skin and having to bear down with a gorilla grip. This revolver has much merit for personal defense when loaded with 44 Specials. When loaded with 44 Magnum, it's a lightweight last-ditch defense against big bears.



Action	Double Action
Overall Length	7.8 in.
Overall Height	5.7 in.
Maximum Width	1.56 in.
Weight Unloaded	34.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	35.8 oz.
Barrel	2.75 in. stainless steel
Capacity	5

Frame	Stainless-steel L-frame
Front Strap Height	2.75 in.
Back Strap Height	4.1 in.
Grips	Black Synthetic
Grip Material	Rubber
Grip Thickness	1.15 in.
Grip Circumference	4.75 in.
Front Sight	Red ramp insert
Rear Sight	Adjustable black blade
Sight Radius	4.25 in.
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	5.5 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Double Action	14.2 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.4 in.
Trigger Span Double Action	3.0 in.
Warranty	Lifetime
Telephone	(800) 331-0852
Website	Smith-Wesson.com
Made In	U.S.A.



Rather than the crane-mounted detent of the other revolvers, the Smith detent rides on the frame.



The skinny ejector rod bugged one rater but never gave a problem.



The Smith doesn't have a solid barrel, but instead has a shroud over the barrel. Here, it looks like lead is trapped between the barrel and the shroud. Not a big deal, but it is different from earlier Smith & Wesson barrels.

victim over, and often go for the neck or head. The defender has little choice but to place the muzzle of the revolver in the body and fire quickly. A self-loader would jam after the first shot. We did not make these rules, the animals do.

During the evaluation, we used a total of eight loads, six 44 Special and two 44 Magnum. Three were fired for accuracy in all three guns. These were the HSM 44 Special 240-grain lead, the Double Tap 180-grain Controlled Expansion JHP, and the Buffalo Bore 200-grain Barnes TAC XP bullet. During the combat evaluation, we also used the HSM 44 Special 200-grain flat point ($33.50/50 rounds @ MidwayUSA.com), the HSM 44 Special 240-grain JHP ($39/50 rounds @ MidwayUSA.com), and the Double Tap 200-grain JHP bonded core ($27/20 rounds @ DoubleTapAmmo.net) These loads covered a range of power from Cowboy Action loads to personal defense to maximum-effect outdoors loads. All are useful in the GP100 44 Special, and, of course, can be chambered in the 44 Magnum wheelguns from Taurus and Smith. To evaluate the two 44 Magnum revolvers, we used the SIG Sauer Elite 240-grain JHP and the Winchester Super-X 240-grain JHP. We fired the revolvers with 44 Special for defense use at 7 and 10 yards in fast double-action work, loading each revolver with 100 cartridges, including a mix of standard velocity and higher-energy loads. We fired for accuracy at 25 yards using both a braced firing position and a Bullshooters rest. We considered a 15-yard test because these are short-barrel handguns, but the medium frames and excellent sights convinced us to go ahead at 25 yards after a few sighting-in runs. Some of the loads are very light, intended for Cowboy Action and general use. They are very pleasant to fire and were found to be accurate. The heavier loads, such as the Buffalo Bore 200-grain Barnes, are maximum-effect loads for the 44 Special. We fired 10 rounds of 44 Magnum in each revolver so chambered, the Taurus

and the Smith & Wesson, on the combat course at 5 and 10 yards, five turns at each distance. We also fired five-shot groups with the 44 Magnum for accuracy, about all the raters can stand. After all, recoil transmits to the shooter when you are in a braced position. We did not use shooting gloves and kept the experience real, and it was plenty real.

In combat-firing drills, all of the revolvers were a handful, but not as difficult as expected. One rater noted his only 44 Magnum is a Ruger Blackhawk with 7.5-inch barrel (Blackhawk, not Super Blackhawk), and it is painful to fire with its thin grips. The two double-action revolvers here were less difficult, he said. The Tracker was more useful on the combat course and more accurate from the benchrest. Each was pretty hairy off the benchrest. The bottom line: If you are bowled over by an attacker and have to go with what you know, either the Taurus or Smith will serve as a last-ditch defense piece when loaded with 44 Magnum loads. We would not use 44 Magnums for home defense. We think 44 Specials in the Taurus and Smith would be plenty for that chore.

The Ruger proved to be the most comfortable handgun to handle in rapid fire, and it was the most accurate in combat drills. It is also the largest and heaviest handgun. Even with the heaviest load tested, the Buffalo Bore 200-grain load, the revolver was comfortable to fire. Tested from the Bullshooters shooting rest, the GP100 was fired with three loads. We had quite a surprise. It isn't unusual for the 4-inch-barrel 357 Magnum GP100 to exhibit group sizes of 1 to 1.5 inches with loads it likes at 25 yards. The GP100 44 Special, however, with its short barrel wasn't expected to be this accurate. We found, however, the GP100 consistently grouped five shots into less than 2 inches more often than not. During the sighting-in phase, getting the revolver on target before the recorded fire, a rater fired a 0.75-inch three-shot group at 15 yards with the Buffalo Bore 200-grain

TAURUS TRACKER 44TRACKER4SS 2-440049TKR 44 SPECIAL/44 MAGNUM, $449

GUN TESTS GRADE: A (BEST BUY)

The Tracker is a formidable revolver. It proved reliable and should be useful as a personal-defense revolver for the home or in carry with 44 Special loads. For defense against wild animals, the 44 Magnum loads are a good choice. The Tracker's ribber grips and barrel ports make for good recoil control. The Tracker is the longest revolver tested, but the handle dimensions are smaller than the GP100 and comparable to the M69. Overall, we felt that the Tracker gave us our money's worth. A few tool marks did not detract from this 44 Magnum's performance.



Action	Double Action
Overall Length	8.8 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.56 in.
Weight Unloaded	33.8 oz.
Weight Loaded	35.6 oz.
Barrel	4 in. long, matte stainless steel 1:18.75 RH twist w/5 grooves; 8 ports
Capacity	5

Frame	Compact stainless steel
Front Strap Height	2.5 in.
Back Strap Height	4.0 in.
Grips	Ribber rubber
Grip Thickness	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference	5.5 in.
Front Sight	Day Glo red insert, fixed
Rear Sight	Adj. for windage, elevation
Sight Radius	5.5 in.
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	6.5 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Double Action	15 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.75 in.
Trigger Span Double Action	3.5 in.
Safety	Taurus Security System; transfer bar
Warranty	Lifetime
Telephone	(800) 327-3776
Website	TaurusUSA.com
Made In	Brazil

Note the Ribber grips. These were the best grips of the test, our raters said. You have to work to control the Tracker revolver properly.







Above right: This is a sighting-in target with the Taurus Tracker at 25 yards. Below right: No adjustable sight set had an advantage over the other. All the rear sights were adjustable for windage and elevation.

Barnes load. The smallest group of the test fired for record with the same Buffalo Bore load was a 1.1-inch group at 25 yards. That is with a short barrel and a fiber-optic front sight.

Our Team Said: The GP100 is easily the most accurate revolver tested, the most capable in combat shooting, and the most comfortable to fire generally. But it can't match the power of the 44 Magnums.



Fired offhand, the Smith & Wesson M69 gave us quite a kick with 44 Magnum loads.

Smith & Wesson Model 69 Combat Magnum 10064 44 Special/44 Magnum, $732

Smith & Wesson has a long history of manufacturing powerful five-shot revolvers, including 38s on the 32 frame and the M60 357 Magnum. The original M69 featured a 4-inch barrel and square grips. The new 2.75-inch-barrel version has much appeal as a lightweight defensive handgun. While the larger M69 with 4-inch barrel recoils more than the heavier original 44 Magnum, the Model 629, it might prove useful as a brush gun for deer and boar. The shorter M69 is a defensive revolver. The M69 isn't a K frame, but is instead built on the bigger L frame, an important distinction. This M69 features a fluted 44 Magnum cylinder. The cylinder is longer than the Taurus but not as wide at 1.72 inches long by 1.53 inch wide compared to the 44 Magnum Taurus cylinder at 1.67 inch by 1.56 inch. You might be able to use longer 255-grain or 300-grain hard-cast bullet handloads more readily in the longer Smith & Wesson cylinder, but we think the shooter's capacity to withstand recoil would fade long before this. In our experience, 44 Magnum shooters fire the 44 Special for economy and low recoil but they are really 44 Magnum fans. Shooters who purchase 44 Specials do so because they appreciate the cartridge's behavior.

The Smith & Wesson features well-designed round-butt-style grips. An option would be to fit Hogue or Pachmayr grips to this revolver, even those that convert the round cut to square butt, if you desire to use it as an outdoors revolver. The stock grips do not offer much pebble grain but proved comfortable in firing. The revolver is well finished in stainless steel. The rear sight is a fully adjustable unit. The front post features the trademark red insert that aids in rapid sight acquisition. The Smith & Wesson M69 features a lockup point in the frame that meets the crane, solidly locking the revolver. The ejector rod does not lock in the barrel shroud. One rater has seen the small-frame 357 Magnum refuse to unlock after battering of the ejector and the old-style under-the-barrel lockup, a reasonable deletion. (This was covered in detail at *American Gunsmith* magazine.) One rater noted that the ejector rod looked thinner than his other Smith & Wesson revolvers. We broke out the calipers and he was correct. The S&W M69 ejector rod is 0.15 inch in diameter, the S&W 442 in his pocket had a 0.19-inch-diameter ejector rod, and the Smith & Wesson Model 20 he keeps at home ready is a heavy-duty 0.24-inch-diameter rod. The Taurus ejector rod measured 0.18 inch and the Ruger 0.21 inch. Whether this matters or not, time will tell, but Smith & Wesson fans are sure to ask. We had no issues with ejection, even with the heaviest loads. The double-action trigger has a different feel that the other revolvers, indeed all were unique. It is heavy but smooth. The single-action trigger is acceptable at 5.5 pounds without creep.

In combat drills, the M69 proved fast from leather and fast onto target. Recoil when using Cowboy Action loads felt subjectively no more than a six-shot 38 Special revolver of the same weight with standard loads and a bit more like the +P 38 Special with other loads, and heavier with the Buffalo Bore load. The Smith & Wesson wasn't as effective as the Ruger or the Taurus during the combat drills, but it was close to the Taurus — and when the short barrel and grip are considered, it did well. There was not a yawning chasm in performance but rather a definite and noticeable difference in combat firing. This was most pronounced with the heavier Double Tap loads.

When firing for accuracy off the bench, the Smith & Wesson Model 69 Combat Magnum was accurate with 44 Special loads but less accurate than the other two revolvers. It is certainly accurate enough for personal defense. If outdoors and emergency use are considered, more accuracy may be desirable. Just the same, for this size handgun, it wasn't a dog in accuracy. Recoil was more noticeable with the heavier 44 Special loads, but never uncomfortable. Any heavy load you would use in the other revolvers will be comfortable to fire in the Smith & Wesson revolver. One rater snagged his thumb and opened a cut that bled due to the cylinder release striking his thumb. This was only with 44 Magnum loads. Ammunition testing revealed something not altogether unexpected, but which was present to a greater extent than predicted. The Smith & Wesson developed less velocity with all loads than the other handguns. As an example, the HSM 44 Special 200-grain load developed 781 fps in the Tracker and 742 fps in the Ruger, but only 668 fps in the Smith & Wesson. The heavy Buffalo Bore load was 106 fps faster in the Tracker and 79 fps faster in the Ruger. This may be expected of short-barrel handguns, but with 0.25 inch separating the Ruger and the Smith & Wesson, we feel this was a greater-than-average velocity loss. The deficit was more pronounced with 44 Magnum loads compared to the Taurus revolver, as we show in the accompanying Range Data table as well as in the velocity comparison table on page 21.

Our Team Said: For personal defense, the Smith & Wesson Model 69 makes sense. Losing 157 fps to the Taurus when deploying 44

ADDITIONAL VELOCITY COMPARISONS

Cartridge and Bullet	Taurus Tracker	Smith & Wesson Model 69	Ruger GP100
44 Special HSM 200-grain lead	781 fps	668 fps	742 fps
44 Special HSM 240-grain lead	709 fps	645 fps	684 fps
44 Special HSM 240-grain JHP	706 fps	634 fps	656 fps
44 Special Double Tap 180-grain JHP	1013 fps	885 fps	1032 fps
44 Special Double Tap 200-grain JHP	924 fps	793 fps	812 fps
44 Special Buffalo Bore 200-grain Barnes	1025 fps	919 fps	998 fps
44 Magnum SIG Elite 240-grain JHP	1225 fps	1150 fps	NA
44 Magnum Winchester 240-grain JHP	1288 fps	1131 fps	NA

Magnum loads makes the Taurus look better in the animal-defense application. Based on recoil control and accuracy, we rated the Smith & Wesson below the Taurus.

Taurus Tracker 44TRACKER4SS 2-440049TKR 44 Magnum, $449

This was our price at CheaperThanDirt.com. The Taurus Tracker has been around longer than the other revolvers, being introduced specifically as an outdoors revolver. As we learned, it also has personal-defense applications. The Tracker features a 4-inch barrel so it is larger than the other handguns, but at 32 ounces, it was the lightest revolver tested. For home defense or field use in a proper holster, we don't feel that this makes a practical difference compared to the pay off in velocity, energy, and accuracy with the 4-inch barrel. The Taurus Tracker doesn't fit into a niche of K-frame or L-frame like the S&W, but rather was a fresh effort by Taurus. The design and the Ribber grips make for a revolver that sits low in the hand, with the bore axis lower than the other revolvers. The Tracker's stainless-steel construction, fit, and finish were well done, save for some minor tooling marks. The Taurus also has a lockup detent on the crane.

The rear sight is adjustable. We compared the three sights and could detect no advantage of one rear sight over the other. However, we really liked the green fiber optic of the Ruger. The Taurus front sight features a red insert that is very bright in any type of light, so we rated it above the Smith & Wesson in this area. The barrel is 4 inches long and features four ports on each side to aid in controlling heavy loads, an asset when firing 44 Magnum loads. The Tracker might be a hunter's back-up to finish off downed game, and, of course, it would help the user fend off attacks by man or beast. The front post might allow more accurate aiming at longer range than the GP100. The grip frame is smaller than the Smith & Wesson or the Ruger. This is one revolver that does not need aftermarket grips; in fact, we feel that it would be a mistake to replace the Tracker's grips. The Ribber design gives a little in recoil and insulates the firing hand from the frame. The trigger action uses modern coil springs and is a different feel than the other revolvers. The double-action trigger was not as heavy as the Smith & Wesson, but it was rated to be the least smooth of the three, but useful.

The single-action trigger broke at 6.5 pounds, heaviest of the test. We would have liked a lighter trigger. The cylinder latch of the Taurus pushes forward to release the cylinder in common with the Smith & Wesson, while the Ruger presses in toward the frame. We did not have the cylinder release rapping our thumb with the Taurus as it did with the Smith & Wesson with the heaviest Magnum loads. The overwhelming advantage of the Taurus is the Ribber grips. As far as felt recoil when firing 44 Special loads, no real difference was detectable until we reached the Buffalo Bore 200-grain Barnes load. At that point we felt the Taurus was the most comfortable handgun off the bench, but none were painful. The trigger was smooth enough during the combat-firing stage and trigger reset fast enough for self-defense use.

Our Team Said: Fired for groups at 25 yards, the Taurus was nearly as accurate as the Ruger GP100 44 Special in some instances, but it did not reach the brilliant accuracy demonstrated by the Ruger at its best. However, the Tracker bested the shorter Smith & Wesson Model 69. A lighter trigger action may have made a difference in accuracy for the Taurus. We gave the Taurus an A rating because it performed well with no problems. Function and accuracy were good. It also cost less than the other revolvers, so we rated it a Best Buy. We feel that the Tracker is a good choice for those wishing to deploy a revolver for defense against dangerous animals, and with the proper loads, it would be a stout home defender.



The Tracker's eight ports afforded good recoil control. Firing off the bench while sighting in the Taurus was not uncomfortable.

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

Case-Prep Stations from RCBS, Lyman, and Frankford Arsenal

These devices do not magically turn a spent shell into a fully prepared case. But they do offer elbow grease for getting the job done. We tested a quartet head to head to see what they offer.

If you are an avid reloader of pistol ammunition, you are probably a little spoiled. Thanks to progressive loading machines, spent pistol cases can be deprimed, resized, and belled at the case mouth one after another, just by working a single lever. Preparing rifle cases for reloading is far more tedious, with each spent case demanding not only resizing in terms of diameters but also a return to specified length by trimming the edges of the case mouth, followed by chamfering of the case mouth interior and a cleaning of the primer pocket. Each of these operations touches upon the skills of a machinist or perhaps a tool-and-die maker. As such, we decided to look at some machines that automate the case-preparation process.

When we use the word "automated," we don't really mean it in the truest sense of the word. Case "prep" stations do not enable you to pop a spent shell into one side of the machine and retrieve a fully prepared case from the other. What these machines do is offer a measure of precision and provide the elbow grease for getting the job done. To find out how much help a case-prep station can be, we shopped Brownells.com and its sister company Sinclair International (SinclairIntl.com). We walked away with a $135 Lyman Case Prep Xpress and two RCBS products, the RCBS Trim Mate Case Prep Center ($130) and the $400 Universal Case Prep Center. We also acquired a $200 Frankford Arsenal Platinum series Case Trim and Prep Center. Of the four, only the Frankford Arsenal and the RCBS Universal provided a case-trim feature.

Our test cartridge cases were Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor brass left over from recent tests that had been sized and deprimed on our MEC Marksman press (see the March 2017 issue). The fired cases measured about 1.92 inches in length or more. Our goal was to size the empty cases to as close to 1.91 inches as we could get. Consistent results were what we were after, but convenience and ease of operation would be good reasons to buy a case-prep station, too. Durability and ease of cleanup are additional considerations, but we had to ask, would the skills of a professional machinist be necessary to produce the best results? Or could anyone turn a used case into a match-ready component? Let's find out.



The $130 RCBS Trim Mate is a good, basic machine for processing brass that has already been trimmed. The chamfering and deburring tools proved efficient, and we liked the large and small stainless-steel brush heads for cleaning the primer pockets. Several optional tool heads are available, and frankly with the competition being comparably priced we think more tool heads should have been provided.

RCBS Trim Mate Case Prep Center, $130

The RCBS Trim Mate is so named because it is to be used after completing the trimming process. The Trim Mate took up bench space measuring about 5.5 inches wide by 11 inches deep. Resembling a stepstool, the upper rearward portion was dished to hold alternate tools or cartridge cases. There was also a small well for powdered case-neck lubricant. The lower level offered five workstations, each of them rotating at the same speed when power was turned on. Tools for primer-pocket cleaning, case-mouth chamfering, case-exterior deburring, and brushing out the interior of the case neck were mounted vertically. The fifth station was left empty for optional accessories sold separately, such as a primer-pocket uniformer and a military-crimp remover. A military-crimp remover is useful whenever cases are culled from surplus ammunition, which typically features crimped primer pockets that must be processed. The chamfering and deburring tools were already in place at the front of the lower level, but the position of the tools could be changed to suit the operator.

When it comes to spending more than $100, it would have been nice to include a case-trimming station. Then again, trimming to length is the critical operation, and many reloaders might rather utilize a separate, dedicated

machine, whether it was motor driven or hand cranked. The deburring tool was smooth and efficient and the case neck brush was handy, too. The chamfering tool introduced a steep angle so the resulting chamfer tended to be to brief and narrow. While this does limit how much the case mouth is thinned, some reloaders may prefer a longer more gradual slope to guide the new bullet into place. We had no way of containing the dry lube after it was open, so we might choose another product for this function. While there weren't any guides to help index the cases on the centerline of each tool, applying pressure vertically was easy. Holding each case with the side of the hand or base of the palm on the surface of the machine was helpful.

Our Team Said: The Trim Mate did an excellent job of cleaning the primer pocket, and quickly, too. We think this machine would be a good choice for anyone who regularly processes surplus brass, wherein removing the military crimp at the primer pocket is critical and generally time consuming.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

Lyman Case Prep Xpress, $135

The Lyman Case Prep Xpress, like the RCBS Trim Mate, focuses on refinishing the case after the case mouth has been trimmed. The Xpress took up a squared section of our bench 9 inches across by about 10 inches deep. The actual workspace was a circle offering five stations that rotate simultaneously when the power is switched on. The power cord was heavy duty and removable. Six threaded-brass bushings for keeping the tools handy were provided as well. The selection of tools was more complete than the Trim Mate's starter set, including a closeable plastic cup filled with Lyman dry case-neck lube and a stiff-bristled brush for cleaning the tools. There was a long spire-shaped chamfering tool and an outside deburring tool. Four different-size nylon case-neck brushes were supplied: large and small primer-pocket reamers, large and small primer-pocket uniformers, and a pair of large and small primer-pocket cleaners.



Short of providing a trimming tool, the $135 Lyman Case Prep Xpress was the most complete prep station we could find. Not only did the Xpress provide a compact, well-thought-out work area, but as many as 13 tools were provided for cleaning and reforming the primer pocket, brushing out and lubricating the case neck, and preparing the case mouth both inside and out. The Xpress took much of the work out of efficiently preparing trimmed cases for reloading.

We really liked the quality of the chamfering and case-mouth deburring tools. Given its steep conical shape, we expected a deeper chamfer in response to downward pressure to appear very quickly. But it was surprisingly progressive, so if we wanted just a brief angling of the interior, we could achieve that, and if we wanted to go deeper, it was just a matter of time and patience. The wide selection of case-neck brushes was a plus, and the primer-pocket uniformers and reamers were very effective and performed smoothly. But we didn't like the supplied tools for cleaning the primer pocket. They seemed too aggressive in contact with the inner walls of the primer pocket, yet didn't seem that effective or efficient in removing debris from the area surrounding the flash hole. The extra drag caused us to wobble, and it seemed we were fighting to keep the cartridge case straight up and down as we worked.

Our Team Said: Overall, we liked the unit, but would look for alternate tools heads for servicing the primer pockets.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

RCBS Universal Case Prep Center, $420

The RCBS Universal Case Prep Center combines a six-station work center with a case-trimming lathe. The entire unit measures about 20.5 inches long by 6.5 inches deep and should be hard mounted with the long side parallel to the front of the bench to ensure proper access to the lathe. The unit could be mounted with the lathe to the left or right to suit both left- and right-handed users. Turn on the power, and the case-mouth cutter spins along with all six stations. Tools provided for the stations located on the upper platform included a case-neck deburring tool, case-mouth chamfering tool, and both large and small primer-pocket brushes with steel bristles. Case-neck brushes were not provided. The only assembly required was mounting the handle lever that opened the jaws of the case holder in preparation for trimming.

The speed at which the tools spin was controlled by a rheostat. From a "click" on/off position, the more you rotated the dial, the faster the tools rotated. Two safety features applied. First, there is a lockout feature that prevents the toolheads from spinning with the power on so you can concentrate on case trimming. And each time you press down on the lever to back off the case carrier from the cutter, the power is shut off and all tool heads stop spinning.

Setting up the lathe for case trimming began with choosing the proper pilot. The pilot slipped into the center of the case-trimming tool, acting as a guide for the case neck so that the edge of the case mouth was presented at a 90-degree angle to the cutting surfaces. A selection of nine different pilots ranging in caliber from 22 to 45 was provided. The tip of each pilot was flat and marked with the appropriate caliber.

Whereas the rotating cutting blades remained stationary, the case was brought to the cutters in a two-step process. First, the case was held in a jig referred to as the Shell Holder Carrier assembly that rode on a track bringing it up to the case trimmer. Before settling on any adjustment, we locked down the carrier well back from the cutter by tightening the two knurled thumbscrews. Then we pressed down on the handle to open the jaws of the shell holder and inserted the case to be trimmed. We loosened the thumbscrews and moved the carrier until the case mouth was up against the trimmer. We locked down the carrier by tightening the thumb screws. In Step 2, we used the calibrated micrometer mounted on the carrier to keep track of how much we shortened the case. We turned the micrometer counter-clockwise, pressing the case mouth against the cutter, thereby shortening the case. Turning up the pressure a little at a time, we shortened the case to our desired specifications. Now that we had established our start position, pressing down on the handle allowed us to insert and remove the cases without changing the position of the carrier.

To find out how consistent and accurate the trimming system was, we fully processed 10 cases and measured them with a caliper. Seven of the resulting ten cases measured 1.911 inches in length with the remaining three cases each measuring 1.912 in long.

The deburring tool worked quite well, and the scrubbing action of the steel wire brush was very efficient in cleaning the primer pocket. The chamfering tool required some effort and produced a thin slope inside the case. Bullets with a more linear profile may require more chamfering. We liked the lockout feature that stopped the tools on the upper platform from rotating because working the handle to mount the case does require some manhandling and the extra tools whirring away next to our elbow might give pause. Having to guide the case mouth onto the pilot was perhaps the only glaring weakness of the Universal because the auto-stop feature did not keep the cutter from beginning to rotate once the case mouth approached the tip of the pilot. It was safer, and more tedious, to turn the machine off and on between loading cases. In terms of adjustment, we'd like to have a zero marking on the micrometer to help keep track of how many clicks we had moved from one adjustment to the other. We scratched a line on the micrometer body and found that each click shortened our 6.5CM cases about 0.012 inches.

Our Team Said: Results from case to case were remarkably consistent. The RCBS Universal Case Prep Center offered the sensation of manning our own miniature machine shop.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

Frankford Arsenal Platinum Series Case Trim and Prep Center, $200

The Frankford Arsenal Platinum series Case Trim and Prep Center is a compact unit that only took up a



We found it easy to think of our $420 RCBS Universal Case Prep Center as our own miniature machine shop. Best if hard mounted on a bench with the pro-style lathe parallel to the side of the bench, it did take up about 21 inches of space, but we found its capabilities impressive. Rotation speed of all tools was adjustable, and a lockout feature allowed the operator to concentrate on trimming without the cleaning and chamfering tools turning at the same time. It wasn't difficult to adjust trim length, and we liked the precision provided by the assortment of pilots. Nevertheless, we often had to hand-feed the case mouth onto the pilot as we released the handle. The safety feature that cuts off power to the cutting wheel whenever the lever is pressed to seat or unseat the cases gives up and lets the cutter spin just as the case mouth approached the pilot. Cutting power at the rheostat-controlled power switch was safer but slower. However, the exposed cutting wheel did make the unit easier to clean.



With six different positions for rotating tool heads, the RCBS Universal was ready for any phase of processing you may need prior to or after completing the trimming process. The black knob in the center was a lockout feature that would stall the toolheads from rotating whenever the operator wanted to concentrate on the case trim feature without distraction.



The RCBS Universal offered a calibration wheel to help the operator keep track of case-length adjustments. But we didn't see a zero line for comparison and had to etch our own. Short of a more sophisticated system, adjustments will need to be checked via trial and error. Note the selection of pilots for keeping the cases perpendicular to the cutting surface.

rectangular section of our workbench measuring about 7 inches wide and about 11.75 inches deep. All the tool heads face front and are backed by an electric motor that spins the trimmer assembly, case-chamfering tool, case-mouth deburring tool (which Frankford Arsenal refers to as an outside chamfer tool), and primer-pocket cleaner. The housing for the electric motor is topped with a storage box for bushings, collets, and cutters. The on/off switch was located on the right side of the unit at the rearmost edge. If the location of the tool heads facing front sounds awkward, this concern was addressed by providing an adjustable stand that lifted the front end about 2 inches, resulting in a very usable orientation. As such, the cases are applied to the tool head in a slightly downward direction.

The chamfer tool was sharply spire pointed and produced a deep chamfer. The deburring tool was fast and efficient. The primer-pocket cleaner had very small black bristles, lending it the appearance of being a solid post. It reminded us of a small pencil eraser. We found that rotating the case in the direction opposite to the spinning pocket cleaner and moving it around slightly sped up the cleaning process.

Whereas the RCBS Universal offered a lathe system to trim cases, the Platinum utilized collets and bushings that align the case and limit its forward movement inside the trim-cutter assembly. The first step was to choose the correct size collet and the proper bushing, which surrounds the case shoulder to hold the case steady at a 90-degree angle to the cutting surface. Small, medium, and large case-body collets were provided to fit calibers 223 Rem., 308 Win./30-06, and magnum-size cases, respectively. Six different-size shoulder bushings were provided, ranging in size from 0.27 inches to 0.49 inches to suit a range of calibers from 17 to 458. Together, the bushings and collets held the cases firmly to provide a measure of trim-length adjustment by limiting how far each case can be pushed against the cutting surface. The case-holder assembly was then rotated in or out to press the case mouth against the cutting surface. The combination of the collets, bushings, and the case-holder assembly sets the amount of material removed from the case mouth and therefore controls case length. Like the RCBS Universal, there wasn't a dedicated zero marking to keep track of settings. Whereas we scribed a sloppy line into the housing of the Universal's calibration wheel, the only available structure available for marking was the case-holder lock nut. Realizing that the case-holder lock nut would be rotated each time we changed calibers, we didn't bother with marking a visual calibration beyond noticing what number on the case holder body was facing 12 o'clock. Whereas case length, that is, just how much material was removed, was controlled by turning the collet adjustment cap. The only way to be sure we were generating the length we wanted was to cut a little at a time and measure case length with a caliper.



Compact and portable, the $200 Frankford Arsenal Platinum Series Case Trim and Prep Center not only offered service for the primer pocket and case mouth area, but it also had a case-trimming feature that was very safe to use. The cutting surface was positioned inside the tunnel-like case body holder, shown above protruding from the face of the machine. By choosing from three supplied case-body collets (small, medium, and magnum), the cases were stabilized so that they could be pushed forward against the cutter without deflection. Caliber-specific collets (ranging size from .17-.458 inch) were supplied to limit forward movement inside the case holder. Albeit a trial-and-error method, case length was finalized by turning the collet adjustment cap. Once the desired case length was established, results proved consistent so long as the operator pressed the case forward gently until the pressure against the cutter was relieved. Cleanup was best achieved by using a brush and a vacuum cleaner.

Once we installed the proper collet and bushing, we realized that the case was indeed held firmly at a 90-degree angle to the cutting surface. We pressed the case in toward the cutter until we felt the pressure wane. Then we removed the case, chamfered the interior case mouth, and deburred the exterior. Out of ten cases trimmed, we found seven cases that measured 1.9105 inches in length, two at 1.9100 inches, and one measuring 1.92 inches long. We decided to take the longest case and press it into the trimmer as hard as we could. This resulted in a trimmed length of 1.857 inches, still usable.

Our Team Said: Did we need the skills of a machinist to operate this machine? Just one: Knowing when to stop applying pressure. The key was to let the bushings and collets do all the work. We liked how compact the Platinum unit was, and it was portable, too. The integral toolbox for extra heads and fittings was a big plus. We liked being able to trim the case safely and move on to the other prep features all in one area. The primer-pocket cleaner was less efficient than the other machines, in our view, but we could trim as well as chamfer and deburr in about the same time it took the other machines to chamfer and deburr. While trim-length adjustment was not precisely calibrated, once the setting was established, the results were very consistent.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

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

2017 PRODUCT INDEX

HANDGUNS

HANDGUNS
Action Arms/ITM AT-84S 9mm Luger, $450 — January
Arex Rex Zero 1 CP 9mm Luger, $603 — May, August*, October*
*ATI/GSG M1911 GERG2210M1911B 22 LR, $365 — June
ATI Firepower Xtreme Hybrid FXH-45 45 ACP, $600 — April
Beretta 950 BS Jetfire 25 ACP, $285 — July
Beretta APX pistol — June
Beretta Model 85F 380 Auto, $350-$375 — August
Beretta Model 92S 9mm Luger, $280-$310 — August
*Beretta Model 96 Vertec Inox 40 S&W, ~$600 Used — November
Beretta Neos 22 LR, $298 — June
*Beretta PX4 Storm JXS4F20FC 40 S&W, $511 — November
*Bersa Thunder Ultra Compact Pro 9mm Luger, $405 (Used) — August, October
*Browning 1911-22A1 051802490 22 LR, $509 — June
Browning Black Label 1911-22LR — March
Browning Black Label 1911-380 Medallion Pro — March, June
*Charter Arms Bulldog 14420 2.5-in. 44 Special, $414 — June
*Charter Arms Bulldog Classic Model 34431 44 Special, $436 — February, June
*Charter Arms Off Duty 3811 38 Special, $404 — February, June
*Charter Arms Pitbull 9mm No. 79920 9mm Luger, $465 — June
*Charter Arms Pitbull Model 64520 45 ACP, $509 — February, June
*Charter Arms Police Undercover No. 73840 38 Special, $402 — June
Chiappa 1873 SAA 22 Buntline, Model: SAA1873-22, 22 LR, $339 — September
*Chiappa Rhino No. 200DS 357 Magnum, $800 — June
Cimarron George S. Patton Engraved Model P — March
Colt 22 Conversion 22 LR, $500 — June
Colt Cobra — March
Colt Combat Commander — March
Colt Delta Elite O2020XE 10mm Auto, $1099 — November
Colt Delta Elite Rail Gun — March
Colt Gold Cup Trophy — June
Colt Lawman MK III 357 Magnum, $450-$525 — June
Colt Police Positive Special 38 Special, ~$300 — February
*Colt Walther Umarex 1911 Gold Cup Trophy 2245708 22 LR, $455 — June
Coonan Classic 1911 No. 100000-000 357 Magnum, $1540 — November
CZ 75 B Matte Stainless 91128 9mm Luger, $783 — January
*CZ Kadet Adapter No. 01610 22 LR, $412 — June
CZ Scorpion Evo 3 S1 9mm Luger, $849 — March
CZ-USA 75 P-01 $576 — May, August*, October*, December
*CZ-USA CZ 75B 01120 40 S&W, $580 — November
CZ-USA 75D PCR Compact 91194 9mm Luger, $546 — May, August*, October*
CZ-USA 805 Bren S1 Pistol — March
CZ-USA P-09 Suppressor Ready — March
CZ-USA Scorpion EVO 3 S1 Pistol — March
CZ-USA SP-01 Phantom — March
Dan Wesson Bruin Bronze 1881 10mm Auto, $2194 — May, November*
Dan Wesson Valor Blue — March
EAA Tanfoglio Witness 10mm Auto, $665 — May, November*
EAA Witness Elite 1911P Polymer 600347 45 ACP, $470 — April
FN 509 — June
*FN Barracuda 357 Magnum 3-inch, $450-$750 (Used) — February, June
*FNH-USA FNP-40 40 S&W No. 47832, $450 — November
FNS Compact — March
*Glock 29 10mm, $637 — November
*Glock 43 Subcompact PI4350201 9mm Luger, $499 — August, October
Glock 43 Subcompact Slimline G43 PI4350201 9mm Luger, $445 — September
*Glock G20 Gen4 10mm, $687 — November
*Glock G22 Gen4 40 S&W, $649 — November
*Glock G23 Generation 4 40 S&W, $649 — November
*H&K USP Compact 40 V 1 40 S&W, $799 — November
*Heckler & Koch P30S V3 40 S&W, $1005 — November
*Heckler & Koch VP9 9mm Luger, $630 — August, October
Heckler & Koch VP9SK 9mm Subcompact — June
*High Standard Supermatic Citation 10X 22 LR, $1275 — June
Honor Defense Honor Guard Sub-Compact HG9CLE 9mm Luger, $499 — July, August*, October*
Honor Defense Honor Guard Sub-Compact HG9SC 9mm Luger, $449 — September
*ISSC M22 M111000 22 LR, $400 — June
Iver Johnson Pocket Ace — March
Kahr Arms CW3833PBR — September
Kahr Arms CW9093PBR — September
Kahr Arms "S" Series S9093 — August
Kahr Arms "S" Series ST9093 — August
*Kahr P40 40 S&W, $707 — November
Kahr PM40 No. 4043 40 S&W, $786 — November
Kel-Tec PF-9 9mm Luger, $257 — August, October*
Kimber Custom TLE II 3200347 10mm Auto, $1028 — May, November*
Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG) 3300168 9mm Luger, $659 — October
Kimber Super Jagare — March
*Kimber Rimfire Target Conversion Kit (Silver) 22 LR, $330 — June
Kimber Rose Gold Ultra II — March
Kimber Rose K6S First Edition — March
Korth Sky Hawk — March
Korth Super Sport — March
*Magnum Research Picuda MLP-1722 22 LR, $600 (used) — June
*Mossberg 715P Autoloading Pistol 37235 22 LR, $308 — June
North American Arms 22M 22 Magnum, $220 — July, December
Nagant M1895 7.62X38mmR, $200-$400 — September
PTAC Bullfrog 22 Magnum, $294 — July
Remington R51 — March
Remington R51 96430 9mm Luger, $400 — August, October*
Remington RP9 — March
*Rock Island Armory Model 206 51289 38 Special, $320 — February, June
*Rock Island Armory TAC Ultra FS 10mm, $819 — November
Rock Island Armory Tactical 2011 W/Tru-Dot Night Sights 45 ACP, $590 — April, December
*Rossi Model R35102 38 Special +P, $390 — February, June
*Ruger 22 Charger Pistol 4917 22 LR, $309 — June
*Ruger 22/45 Lite 3908 22 LR, $515 — June

**** Included in a Gun Tests Value Guide accompanying a regular feature***

2017 PRODUCT INDEX

*Ruger 22/45 Lite No. 03900 P45MK3ALRPFL 22 LR, $499 — June
Ruger American Compact 8633 9mm Luger, $579 — July, August*, October*
Ruger American Pro Duty 8605 9mm LUGER, $579 — December
Ruger American Rimfire Stainless — August
*Ruger LC9s Standard #3235 9mm Luger, $339 — August, October
Ruger LCP II — March
*Ruger LCR Model 5456 9mm Luger, $532 — February, June
*Ruger LCR No. 5401 38 Special +P, $529 — June
Ruger Match Champion 357 Mag. — August
Ruger Security Six 357 Magnum, $430-$450 — June
*Ruger SP101 #5759 (3-in. barrel) 327 Federal Magnum, $600-$800 — June
Ruger SP101 5718 KSP321X 357 Magnum, $450 — February, June
*Ruger SP101 Model #5718 357 Magnum, $659 — June
*Ruger SR40 3470 40 S&W, $569 — November
*Ruger SR40 BSR40 40 S&W, $525 — November
Ruger SR1911 10mm — August
*S&W M329PD Alaska Backpacker IV150545 44 Mag, $750-$900 — February, June
*S&W Model 686 357 Magnum, $600-$850 (Used) — February, June
*S&W Performance Center M327 170245 357 Mag, $1309 — February, June
*SIG Sauer Mosquito MOS-22-B 22 LR, $390 — June
SIG Sauer MPX-PSB MPX-P-9-KM-PSB 9mm Luger, $1700 — March
*SIG Sauer P220-10 Match Elite 10mm, $1417 — November
*SIG Sauer P226R Factory Certified 40 S&W, $725 — November
*SIG Sauer P320 320F9BSS 9mm Luger, $579 — August, October
SIG Sauer P938 Emperor Scorpion 9mm Luger, $639 — October
SIG Sauer P938 Engraved Rosewood Micro-Compact 938-9-ESR 9mm Luger, $730 — August, October*
*SIG Sauer SP2022 E2022-40-B 40 S&W, $570 — November
*Smith & Wesson 940 9mm Luger, $595 to $671 — June
*Smith & Wesson Governor 45 ACP/45 LC/410/2.5 in., $679 — June
Smith & Wesson Governor .410, .45 ACP, .45 Colt Revolver 160410, $809 — July, December
*Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0 11526 — March
Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 11537 9mm Luger, $599 — December
Smith & Wesson M&P9 Shield 180021 9mm Luger, $394 — September
*Smith & Wesson M&P40 No. 209200 40 S&W, $495 — November
*Smith & Wesson M&P40c 109203 40 S&W, $480 — November
*Smith & Wesson M42 150502 38 Special +P, $700 — June
*Smith & Wesson M60 #178013 3-in. Barrel 357 Magnum, $799 — June
Smith & Wesson M649 357 Magnum, $500-$530 — June
Smith & Wesson Military and Police 38 Special, $300 — February, June
Smith & Wesson Model 19 357 Magnum, ~$500 — February, June
*Smith & Wesson Model 41 22 LR, $1000 — June
*Smith & Wesson Model 325PD 45 ACP, $700-$925 — February, June
*Smith & Wesson Model 610 10mm, $833 — November
Smith & Wesson Model 637 38 Sp. +P 170349 — March
*Smith & Wesson Model 638 Airweight 163070 38 Sp., $459 — June
Smith & Wesson Model 929 9mm Luger, $1189 — September, December
Smith & Wesson Model 986 9mm 10227 — March
Smith & Wesson Model 1076 10mm Auto, $800-$825 — November
*Smith & Wesson Model M&P22 122000 22 LR, $419 — June
*Smith & Wesson PC M625-10 45 ACP, $1200-$1400 — February, June
*Smith & Wesson PC M627 170133 357 Magnum, $1079 — February, June
*Smith & Wesson PC M629-8 44 Magnum, $900-$1000 — February, June
*Smith & Wesson PC M657-5 41 Magnum, $750-$850 — February, June
Smith & Wesson Performance Center Shield 11629 — March
Smith & Wesson Victory 22 22 LR, $341 — June
*Springfield 1911 Range Officer PI9129LP 9mm Luger, $704 — August, October
Springfield Armory 1911 Range Officer Elite Champion PI9136ER — September
Springfield Armory 1911 Range Officer Elite Compact PI9126ER — September
Springfield Armory 1911 Range Officer Elite Operator PI9131ER — September
Springfield Armory 1911 Range Officer Elite Target PI9128ER — September
Springfield Armory 1911 EMP Conceal Carry Contour PI9229L 9mm Luger, $1220 — July, August*, October*
Springfield Armory Range Officer Operator PI9131L 45 ACP $873 — April
Springfield Armory XD-E 3.3 Single Stack XDE9339BE 9mm Luger, $519 — October
Springfield Armory XD Mod.2 4-inch Service Model 9mm Luger, $565 — December
*Springfield Loaded Target PI9134LP 9mm Luger, $873 — August, October
*Springfield XD Mod.2 3.0-Inch XDG9801HCSP 9mm Luger, $556 — August, October
*Springfield XD Service Bi-Tone XD9302HCSP06 40 S&W, $605 — November
*Springfield XDM 3.8 Compact XDM9384CSHC 40 S&W, $769 — November
Star Model B 9mm Luger, $220-$240 — August
Star Model Super B 9mm Luger, $290-$320 — August
Tactical Solutions Glock 22 Conversion 22 LR, $332 — June
Taurus 709 Slim 1-709031FS 9mm Luger, $198 — August, October*
*Taurus 905 Model 905SS2 9mm Luger, $528 — February, June
*Taurus Judge 4510TKR-3BUL 3-In. 45 LC/410-Bore, $620 — June
Taurus Judge No. 2-441039T .410, .45 Colt Revolver, $629 — July
Taurus PT 92 AF 92B-17 9mm Luger, $683 — January
*Taurus Public Defender Polymer M4510PLYFS 410/45 LC, $514 — February, June
Taurus Spectrum — March
*Taurus Ultra-Lite M445B2UL 2.0-in. 44 Special, $508 — June
Tristar Canik 55 C-100 9mm Luger — May, August*, October*
*Walther Arms P22Q QAP22522 Tactical Pistol 22 LR, $440 — June
*Walther Concealed Carry Pistol CCP 5080300 9mm Luger, $452 — August, October
*Walther P22 WAP22003 22 LR, $375 — June
*Walther PPQ M2 Navy SD 2796082 9mm Luger, $576 — August, October
*Walther PPQ No. 2776481 40S&W, $680 — November
Walther PPS M2 2805961 9mm Luger, $451 — September
*Walther PPS No. WAP10002 40 S&W, $713 — November
Zenith Firearms MKE Z-5RS W/SB Brace #MKZ5RSA009BK 9mm Luger, $2050 — March

LONG GUNS

Alexander Arms Overwatch 6.5 Grendel, $1613 — December
Armalite AR-10(T) 10TBNF 7.62 NATO, $1914 — October
Auto-Ordnance M1 Carbine Paratrooper Model AOM150 30 Carbine, $941 — February
B14 Series BMP (Bergara Match Precision) Chassis Rifle — April
BAR MK 3 DBM — April
BAR Safari 100th Anniversary Model — April

**** Included in a Gun Tests Value Guide accompanying a regular feature***

2017 PRODUCT INDEX

Barrett Lightweight Rifle — April
Benelli 12-gauge Super Black Eagle 3 — April
*Benelli Model M4 Tactical No. 1170712 Gauge, $2000 — October
Benelli Nova Tactical Pump 20051 12 Gauge, $372 — October
*Beretta Model 1301 Tactical No. J131T18 12 Gauge, $1075 — October
Browning A5 Light Twelve 12 Gauge, $750 (used) — May
Browning A5 Sweet Sixteen No. 0118005004 16 Gauge, $1700 — May
Browning A5 Sweet Sixteen 16 Gauge, $650 (used) — May
Browning BAR MK3 Stalker 031048218 308 Winchester, $600 — October
Browning B15 over/under shotgun — April
Browning Micro Trap — April
*Browning T-Bolt Target/Varmint No. 025176270 17 HMR, $799 — November
Browning X-Bolt Micro Midas No. 035346209 22-250 Remington, $860 — February, November*
Browning X-Bolt Medallion Safari Grade bolt-action rifle — April
Bushmaster Minimalist SD Carbine — April
*Century Arms C39 Sporter RI2170CN 7.62x39, $657 — December
*Century Arms C39 V2 RI2245-N 7.62x39, $749 — December
*Century Arms C91 Sporter 308 Winchester/7.62 NATO, $509 — October, December
*Century Arms Catamount Fury SG1874-N 3-inch 12 Gauge, ~$400 — October
*Century Arms Catamount Fury II SG1875-N 12 Gauge, ~$575 — October
Century Arms RAS47 AK Pistol 7.62X39mm, $749 — October
*Century Arms RAS47 Magpul- Zhukov 7.62x39, $800 — December
Century International Arms Coach Shotgun JW-2000 20 Gauge, $300 — January
*Chiappa Triple Threat No. 930-032 12 Gauge, $1599 — October
*Citadel M-1 22 Carbine CIR22M1W 22 LR, $399 — February
*CMMG MK47 AKM Mutant 76AFCD7 7.62x39, $1650 — December
CMMG MkW ANVIL XBE — April
CMMG Rifle, MK4T 5.56mm, SBN, CO, 5.56mm NATO, $1000 — April
*CMP Greek Issue Service Grade Garand 30-06 Spring eld, $550 — February
*CMP Service Grade M1 Garand (Int'l Harvester) 30-06, $550 — February
Core30 TAC II Rifle 14898 6.5 Creedmoor, $2470 — December
*CVA Apex 4502 308 Winchester, $652 — October
*CZ-USA 527 Varmint 03066 17 Hornet, $725 — November
CZ-USA 557 Sporter Short Action No. 04806 243 Winchester, $792 — February, November*
CZ-USA All-American — April
CZ-USA Bren 2 — April
CZ-USA CZ 455 AMERICAN 02110 22 LR, $400 — June
CZ-USA Swamp Magnum — April
Desert Tech SRS-A1 6.5 Creedmoor, $4495 — November
DPMS GII AP4-OR — April
*DPMS LR-308 AP4 7.62x51mm NATO/308 Winchester, $1399 — October, December
*DRD Tactical CDR-15 5.56 NATO, $2091 — December
*Early Winchester M1 Carbine 30 US Carbine, $550 — February
FN M249S — April
*Fulton Armory M14 308 Win., $2755 — February, October
*Fulton Armory Service Grade M1 Carbine 30 US Carbine, $1000 — February
*Fulton Armory Service Grade M1 Garand 30-06 Springfield, $1400 — February
*H&R 1871 Ultra Hunter SB2-808 308 Winchester, $374 — October
Harrington & Richardson Pardner Compact SB1-250 20 Gauge, $187 — January
Heckler & Koch MR762A1 7.62X51mm, $3999 — December
HM Defense HM10 Monobloc rifle AVENGER M308 — September
*Howa 24-Inch HB 6.5 Creedmoor, HKF92507KH+AB $1000 — November
*Howa Alpine Mountain Package HMR33143+VX 308 Win., $1577 — October
*Howa Hogue Youth 2N1COMBO No. HWR66204+ 243 Win., $641 — November
Howa Kuiu Vias and Verde rifles — April
IAC (Norinco) Wild Bunch Shotgun 12 Gauge, $300 — September, October*
*IAC Imports Hawk Model 982 Defense 12 Gauge, $233 — October
*IAI American Legend, Inc. 30 Carbine, $538 — February
Inland Manufacturing M1 1945 Carbine 30 Carbine, $1079 — February
Iver Johnson IJ700-18 — April
Kimber 84M LPT 308 Winchester, $1315 — October
Legacy Sports HOWA HCR HCRL92502MCCFDES 6.5 Creedmoor, $1450 — November
Legacy Sports HOWA Mini Action No. HMA90622MCC+ 6.5 Grendel, $855 — February, November*
LWRCI M6A2 Gas Piston Carbine M6A2R6B16 6.8 SPC, $2250 — December
Marlin 1894 Cowboy — April
Marlin 7000 22 LR, $219 — May
Marlin XT 22RZ 22 LR $220 — June
*Mossberg 4X4 No. 27656 308 Winchester, $471 — October
*Mossberg 4X4 No. 27657 243 Winchester, $471 — November
Mossberg 100 All-Terrain Rifle (ATR) #27230 308 Winchester, $200 (USED) — March, October*
Mossberg 505 Youth Pump-Action Shotgun 57110 20 Gauge, $300 — January, October*, December
Mossberg 590 Shockwave 50659 12 Gauge, $455 — October, December
Mossberg 702 Plinkster 22 LR, $160 — May
*Mossberg 930 Tactical 85320 12 Gauge, $514 — October
Mossberg MMR PRO — April
*Mossberg MVP LR 27697 7.62mm NATO/308 Win., $945 — October
Mossberg Model 500 Cruiser .410 Pump Action No. 50455, $467 — July
*Mossberg Model 930 SPX Tactical 85360 12 Gauge, $836 — October
Mossberg Shockwave — April
Mossberg Tactical Optics Ready MMR — April
*Palmetto State Armory AK-47 Gen2 Classic Red 7.62x39, $849 — December
*Palmetto State Armory AK-47 MOE Edition 7.62x39, $749 — December
*Patriot Ordnance Factory P308-20 Gen3 7.62 NATO/308 Win., $2599 — October, December
*Polytech M14S Custom 308 Win., ~$1900 — February, October
*PTR PTR-91 G.I. 915304 308 Winchester/7.62 NATO, $850 — October, December
Remington 700 AWR (American Wilderness Rifle) April
Remington 700 Magpul — April
Remington 700 SPS 85538 308 Winchester, $655 — March
Remington 870P Standard 12 Gauge, $225 — September, October*
Remington Model 700 SPS Tactical 85538 308 Winchester, $600 — October
Remington Model 700 SPS Varmint 84218 308 Winchester, $606 — October
Remington Model 783 #85847 308 Winchester, $340 — March, October*
*Remington Model 870 Express Synthetic Tactical 12 Gauge, $346 — October

**** Included in a Gun Tests Value Guide accompanying a regular feature***

2017 PRODUCT INDEX

*Remington Model 870 Pump 81180 20 Gauge, $530	October
*Remington 870 Modified Police 12 Gauge, M4 Stock, $420	October
Rock River Arms LAR-8 A4 308A1239X 7.62 NATO, $1335	October
*Rock River Arms LAR-47 CAR A4 CL AK1263 7.62x39, $1270	December
Ruger 10-22 M1 Commemorative Rifle 22 LR, $339	May
Ruger 10-22 Takedown Lite	April
*Ruger American Rifle No. 6903 308 Winchester, $449	October
*Ruger American No. 6904 243 Winchester, $449	November
*Ruger Gunsite Scout 308 Winchester, $995	October
Ruger Hawkeye Mark IV Varmint Target 17980 6.5 Creedmoor, $1139	November
*Ruger Hawkeye Tactical HM77VLEH 308 Win., $1172	October
*Ruger K77/17-VHZ 7212 17 Hornet, $969	November
*Ruger Precision Rifle 18001 308 Winchester, $1399	October
*Ruger Precision Ri e 18005 6.5 Creedmoor, $1399	November
*Ruger Precision Rifle 18008 6.5 Creedmoor, $1599	November
*Ruger SR-556 Takedown 5924 5.56 NATO, $2199	December
*Ruger SR-762 Rifle 5601 7.62x51 NATO/308 Winchester, $2195	October
*Savage 11/111 Lightweight Hunter 19209 308 Win., $899	October
Savage Arms 10/110 Stealth Evolution Chassis Rifle	November
Savage Arms Mark II F 26700 22 LR, $228	June
Savage Arms Model 12 LRP 19137 6.5 Creedmoor, $1252	November
Savage Axis 19223 308 Winchester, $240	October
Savage Axis XP 19231 308 Winchester, $390	March, October*
Savage B17, B22, and B22 Magnum bolt-action rimfire rifles	April
Savage Mark II BTV 28750 22 LR, $390	June
*Savage Model 10 FCM Scout 18138 308 Winchester, $814	October
Savage Model 10 GRS	June
Savage MSR 15 Patrol and MSR 15 Recon	April
SIG Sauer 716 Patrol ODG R716-16B-P-ODG 7.62 NATO, $2186	October
SIG Sauer M400 Classic RM400-16B-C 5.56mm NATO, $1250	April
SIG Sauer MCX Virtus	September
Smith & Wesson M&P15X and M&P15T rifles	June
*Springfield M1A 308 Win., $1739	February, October
*Springfield Armory Garand 30-06, $1061	February
*Springfield Armory M1 Garand 30-06 Springfield, $1348	February
*Springfield Armory M1A AA9627 SOCOM II 308 Win., $2090	February
Springfield Armory Saint ST916556B 5.56mm NATO, $900	April, December
*Springfield Armory SOCOM 16 308 Win., $1,727	February
*Springfield Armory Socom 16 AA9625 7.62 NATO, $1905	October
*Springfield Armory Loaded M1A MA9226 308 Win., $2363	February, October
*Springfield Armory Loaded M1A MA9826 7.62 NATO, $1893	October
*Springfield Loaded M1A MA9826 7.62 NATO/308 Win. $1893	February
*Stag Arms Model 9T 9mm Luger, $1275	December
*Standard Mfg. DP-12 DP01130 Pump-Action 12 Gauge, $1700	October
Stevens 555 Compact	April
*Steyr Arms SSG69 PII 308 Winchester, $1899	October
*Steyr Jeff Cooper Scout 308 Winchester, $2975	October
Stoeger M3000 Tactical	April
*Surplus M1 Garand 30-06 Springfield, $450	February
Thompson Center Compass No. 10071 22-250 Remington, $399	February, November*, December
*Thompson Center Dimension No. 8402 243 Win., $679	November
*Tikka T3 CTR 308 Winchester, $950	October
*Tresna Defense JAG9G BU 9mm Luger, $1100	December
Tri-star TT-15 DTA	April
Tri-star Viper Max	April
*Tristar TEC-12 No. 25120 Pump/Auto 12 Gauge, $557	October
Uberti 1886 Lever Action Sporting	April
Uberti 1886 Lever Action Hunter Lite	April
Weatherby Camilla	April
*Weatherby Vanguard 2 Deluxe 257 Weatherby Magnum, $1149	November
*Weatherby Vanguard Bolt Action 308 Winchester, $300	October
*Winchester M70 Featherweight Comp. SA 535126220 308 Win., $880	October
Winchester Model 1866 lever-action Grade I Short Rifle	April
Winchester SX4 Waterfowl	April
Winchester SXP Shadow Marine Defender	April
*Windham Weaponry RMCS-4 5.56, 9mm, 300 Blk., 7.62x39, $2971	December

ACCESSORIES/SUPPLIERS/SERVICES

Alien Gear Cloak IWB, $36	January
Barber Leather Works Chameleon, $30	January
Barber Leather Works Snaps and Straps, $120	January
Blackhawk! No-Latch Ambi Charging Handle	May
Blackhawk! Tuckable Holster, $32	January
Bog-Pod Rapid Shooting Rest	September
Champion Workhorse Electronic Trap	May
ComfortHolsters.com Bentley, $125	March
ComfortHolsters.com Jaguar, $100	March
Cook's Holsters IWB w/Adjustable Belt Clip, $58	April
Cook's Holsters Tuckable IWB, $48	April
Discrete Defense Solutions IWB, $65	January
Falco IWB Holster, $33	January
Gerber Center-Drive Multi-Tool	May
Gold Star Holsters IWB, $50	January
Gun Mate IWB, $7	January
Hidden Hybrid Holsters HHS S1, $60	January
Hodgdon CFE BLK Powder	May
Hogue Knives X1-Microflip	September
Howard Leight Impact Sport Bolt Electronic Earmuff	May
Jason Winnie IWB J211,$74	April
Jeremiah 20:11 Holsters IWB Joshua 1:9, $65	April
JM Custom Kydex AIWB Standard, $77	April
JM Custom Kydex AIWB w/Anti-Rollout, $85	April
kt-mech.com Gunfighter IWB .060 Kydex, $47	January
MEC Marksman Metallic Reloading Press, $225	March
Mernickle Holsters PS 2, $80	January
PJ Holster IWB, $50	April
PJ Holster Pocket Holster, $40	April

**** Included in a Gun Tests Value Guide accompanying a regular feature***

2017 PRODUCT INDEX

Quest IWB, $10	January
SIG Sauer SRD22X	September
StealthGearUSA.com Onyx, $99	March
Stealth Gear Onyx, $99	January
Tagua 4-in-1 Holster, $43	January
The Master's Holster #5317 Reversible IWB, $60	January
Wright Leatherworks Pocket Holster, $54	April
zZz Custom Works UC Stealth Holster, $80	April

AMMUNITION

Aguila 1.75-in. #4 buck/#1 buck	October
Aguila 1.75-in. 7/8-oz. slug	October
Aguila 9mm Luger 115-gr. FMJ	March
Aguila 9mm Luger 124-gr. FMJ	August
Aguila 30 Carbine 110-gr. FMJ	February
Aguila 50-gr. FMJ 25 ACP	July
Aguila 9mm 124-gr. FMJ	October, December
Aguila 158-gr. SJHP 357 Mag.	November
Aguila 357 Magnum 158-gr. SJHP	June
Alexander Arms 6.5 Grendel 123-gr. Lapua Scenar	December
American Eagle 6.5 Grendel 120-gr. Open Tip Match AE65GDL1	December
American Eagle 120-gr. OTM	February
American Eagle Syntech 115-gr. FMJ	September
Armscor 9mm 124-gr. FMJ	October
Armscor USA 10mm Auto 180-gr. Full Metal Jacket	May, October
Atlanta Arms 9mm Luger 147-gr. FMJ	September
Barnes TAC +P 45 ACP 185-gr.	July
Beretta Model 85F 380 ACP	August
Black Hills 5.56mm NATO 69-gr. OTM New Manufacture	April
Black Hills 5.56mm NATO 77-gr. OTM New Manufacture	April
Black Hills 5.56mm NATO 77-gr. TMK New Manufacture	April
Black Hills 22-250 Rem. 36-gr. Varmint Grenade	February
Black Hills 22-250 Rem. 50-gr. Hornady V-Max	February
Black Hills 38 Special D38N3 148-gr. Hollow Base Wadcutter (HBWC)	February
Black Hills 223 Remington 60-gr. V-Max New Manufacture	April
Black Hills JHP D357N2 125-gr.	February
Black Hills Ammunition 9mm Luger 115-gr. Full Metal Jacket	January
Black Hills Ammunition 45 ACP +P 185-Grain Barnes TAC-XP Hollow Point	July
Black Hills Ammunition 115-gr. JHP EXP	July
Black Hills Ammunition 115-gr. TAC JHP +P	May
Black Hills Ammunition 115-gr. JHP +P	September
Black Hills Ammunition 124-gr. JHP +P	July
Black Hills Ammunition 125-gr. HoneyBadger	July
Black Hills Ammunition 185-gr. TAC +P	April
Black Hills Ammunition Factory New 175-gr. Match Hollow Point Boat Tail	March
Black Hills Gold 80-gr. GMX	February
Black Hills Gold 95-gr. Hornady SST	February
Black Hills Gold 308 Win. 155-gr. TMK	December
Brenneke Black Magic Magnum 12-Gauge 3-in. 602-gr. Slug SL-123BMM	August
Browning Ammunition 147-gr. BXP X-Point	July
Buffalo Bore 115-gr. JHP	November
Buffalo Bore 124-gr. JHP	November
Buffalo Bore 147-gr. JHP	November
Buffalo Bore Full Power 110-Grain Soft Point Round Nose 46A/20	July
Buffalo Bore Heavy 44 Special 190-gr. LSWC HP 14C	January
Buffalo Bore Tactical Load 125-gr.	February
Buffalo Bore Tactical Load 140-gr.	February
CCI 40-gr. JHP 22 Magnum	July
CCI Blazer Ammunition 44 Special 200-gr. Speer Gold Dot Jacketed Hollow Point 3556	January
CCI Mini-Mag 22 Long Rifle 40-gr. RNS	September
CCI Velocitor 22 LR 40-gr.	May
CCI Velocitor 40-gr. Copper-Plated HP	June
Cor-Bon 100-gr. Pow'RBall	November
Cor-Bon 115-gr. JHP	November
Cor-Bon 125-gr. DPX	November
Cor-Bon DPX 44 Special 200-gr. DPX Hollow Point Lead-Free	January
Cor-Bon Jacketed Hollowpoint 110-gr. SD357110/20	February
Cor-Bon Pow'RBall 100-gr. PB357100	February
Double Tap 115-gr. JHP	November
Double Tap 115-gr. TAC JHP November	
Double Tap 125-gr. Bonded JHP	November
DDupleks Broadhead Hexolit 32 12-Gauge 2.75-in. 495-gr. Expanding Steel Slug	August
DDupleks Monolit 32 12-Gauge 2.75-in. 1.125-oz. Flat-Nose Solid Steel Slug AM1934	August
Federal 130-gr. Hydra-Shok 357H52PDH	February
Federal American Eagle 10mm Auto 180-gr. Full Metal Jacket	May
Federal American Eagle 115-gr. JHP	November
Federal American Eagle 124-gr. Full Metal Jacket AE9AP	August
Federal Buckshot 292-gr.	July
Federal HST P9HS12 9mm Luger 124-gr. Jacketed Hollow Point	January
Federal Power-Shok 110-Grain Soft Point Round Nose 30CA	July
Federal Premium .410 Handgun Personal Defense 2.5-Inch PD412JGE 000 Buck Shotshell Ammo	July
Federal Premium Law Enforcement Tactical 12-Gauge Hydra-Shok 1-oz. 2.75-inch Rifled Slug LEF127RS	August
Federal Premium Vital-Shok 12-Gauge 2.75-in. 1-oz. TruBall Hollow Point Ri ed Slug	August
Federal Trophy Bonded 165-gr. Polymer Tip	October
Fiocchi 40-gr. JSP 22 Magnum	July
Fiocchi 230-gr. FMJ	April
Fiocchi HV 22 LR 40-gr.	May
Fiocchi HV 40-gr. Lead RN	June
Fiocchi Shooting Dynamics 44 Special 200-gr. Semi-Jacketed Hollow Point 44SA	January
Gorilla Ammunition 135-gr. All Copper JHP	May
Gorilla Ammunition 175-gr. Sierra MatchKing	October
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor 143-gr. Precision Hunter ELD-X	November
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor 147-gr. ELD Match	November

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2017 PRODUCT INDEX

Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor Match 140-gr. ELD — December
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor Match 147-gr. ELD — December
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor Precision Hunter 143-gr. ELD-X — December
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor White Tail 129-gr. InterLock — December
Hornady 6.5 Grendel 123-gr. A-Max 8150 — December
Hornady 30 Carbine 110-gr. FMJ — February
Hornady 35-gr. XTP 25 ACP — July
Hornady 45-gr. FTX 22 Magnum — July
Hornady A-Max 123-gr. — February
Hornady American Gunner 9mm Luger 115-gr. XTP — March, August, December
Hornady American Gunner 12-Gauge 2.75-in. 1-oz. Rifled Slug 86231 — August
Hornady American Whitetail 100-gr. Interlok — February
Hornady American Whitetail 150-gr. Interlok Spire Point 8090 — March
Hornady Black 123-gr. SST — October
Hornady Critical Defense 30 Carbine 110-gr. FTX — February
Hornady Critical Defense 38 Sp. +P 110-gr. FTX Hollow Point 90311 — February
Hornady Critical Defense 44 Special 165-gr. Flex Tip eXpanding 90700 — January
Hornady Critical Defense 110-Grain FTX 81030 — July
Hornady Critical Defense 185-Grain FTX 45 Colt 92790 — July
Hornady Critical Defense Lite 100-gr. FTX Hollowpoint 90240 — August
Hornady Custom Ammunition 44 Special 180-gr. XTP Jacketed Hollow Point 9070 — January
Hornady ELD Match 168-gr. Polymer Tip — October
Hornady FTX 140-gr. — February
Hornady FTX 185-gr. 45 Colt — July
Hornady FTX Critical Defense 125-gr. — February
Hornady Steel Match 9mm Luger 115-gr. HAP — September
Hornady XTP 147-gr. Hollowpoint — September
Hornady Zombie Max 185-gr. — March
HotShot 7.62x38mmR (7.62mm Nagant) 98-gr. FPJ — September
IWI 30 Carbine 110-gr. SP — February
Liberty Ammunition Civil Defense 9mm Luger 50-gr. HP — December
Lightfield Bucks, Boars and Bears 12-Gauge 2.75-in. 465-gr. Sabot — August
Lightfield Commander IDS Plus 12-Gauge 3-in. 1.375-oz. Sabot Slug LFCP3-12 — August
Lightfield Hybred EXP 12-Gauge 2.75-in. 1.25-oz. Sabot Slug LF-12 — August
Lightfield Hybred-Elite 12-Gauge 3-in. 1.25-oz. Sabot Slug — August
Noveske 308 Win. 110-gr. FB Tipped — December
PMC Target 22 Long Rifle 40-gr. RNS — September
Prvi Partizan 110-Grain Soft Point Round Nose — July
Red Army Standard 122-gr. FMJ — October
Remington #6 shot 219-gr. — July
Remington Express Managed Recoil 12 Gauge 2.75-in. 1-oz. Rifled Slug 20290 — August
Remington Thunderbolt 22 Long Rifle 40-gr. RNS — September
Sellier & Bellot 22-250 Rem. 55-gr. SBT — February
SIG Elite 124-gr. V Crown — May
SIG Sauer 9mm 115-gr. FMJ — October
SIG Sauer 9mm Luger 115-gr. FMJ — August, December
SIG Sauer 10mm 180-gr. FMJ — November
SIG Sauer 38 Special +P 125-gr. JHP — June
SIG Sauer 223 Remington 77-gr. OTM Match Grade Rifle — April
SIG Sauer 308 Win. 150-gr. HT — December
SIG Sauer 308 Win. 168-gr. OTM — December
SIG Sauer Elite 124-gr. V Crown JHP — November
SIG Sauer V-Crown 10mm Auto 180-gr. Jacketed Hollowpoint — May, November
SIG Sauer V-Crown 124-gr. Jacketed Hollowpoint — August
SIG Sauer V-Crown 125-gr. JHP 357 Mag. — October
Speer Gold Dot 110-Grain Gold Dot Soft Point 24465 — July
Speer Gold Dot Ammunition 44 Special 200-gr. Jacketed Hollow Point 23980 — January
Surplus 7.62x38mmR (7.62mm Nagant) 100-gr. FPJ — September
Tulammo 30 Carbine 110-gr. FMJ — February
Winchester 6.5 Creedmoor 140-gr. Match BTH — November
Winchester 125-gr. Silvertip — November
Winchester 357 Magnum PDX1 Defender 125-gr. JHP — June
Winchester JHP 110-gr. Q4204 — February
Winchester M22 40-gr. Copper-Plated RN — June
Winchester M22 22 LR 40-gr. — May
Winchester Match 168-gr. Hollow Point Boattail S308M — March
Winchester Military Grade 2.75-in. 00-Buck — October
Winchester PDX 310-gr. — July
Winchester PDX +P 9mm Luger 124-gr. Jacketed Hollow Point — January
Winchester PDX1 12-Gauge Defender 2.75-in. 1-oz. Segmented Rifled Slug Shotshells — August
Winchester PDX1 Defender 125-gr. JHP 357 Mag. — November
Winchester PDX1 Defender Ammunition 410 Bore 2.5-Inch S410PDX1 (10) — July
Winchester Silvertip 145-gr. X357SHP — February
Winchester slug 88-gr. — July
Winchester Super X 37-gr. Plated HPs — June
Winchester Super-X 410 Bore 2.5-Inch 0.2-Oz. Rifled Slug X41RS5 (5) — July
Winchester Super-X Cowboy Action 158-gr. Lead Flat Nose USA38CB — February
Winchester Train 9mm Luger 147-gr. FMJ — March
Winchester White Box 9mm Luger 115-gr. FMJ — September
Winchester White Box 123-gr. FMJ — October
Wolf FMJ 100-gr. — February

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Compiled and edited by Managing Editor Tracey Taylor. GT

GUN TESTS
THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

SHORT SHOTS

Ruger recently announced additions to its SP101, GP100, and Redhawk revolver lines, and to its 10/22 rifle line.

Ruger SP101 in 327 Federal Magnum: The compact, all-stainless steel Ruger SP101 is now chambered in 327 Federal Magnum, which approximates the performance of 357 Magnum but allows an increase in capacity to six rounds. This model features a 3-inch barrel, fixed sights, and a cushioned rubber grip with engraved wood grip panels.

GP100 Seven-Round: The GP100 is now available in seven-round-capacity models chambered in 357 Magnum. These new model offerings are available in three popular barrel lengths — 2.5, 4.2, and 6 inches. These new seven-round models feature one-piece rubber grips with hardwood inserts, adjustable rear sights, and fiber-optic front sights. See our reporting elsewhere in this issue about the GP100 chambered in 44 Special.

Redhawk with Sleeve and Shroud Barrels: The Redhawk is now available with accuracy-enhancing sleeve and shroud barrels. Barrel sleeves are cold hammer-forged in-house at Ruger, and the sleeve and shroud barrel assembly provides for consistently tight tolerances. These new Redhawks are offered in 4.2- and 5.5-inch barrel lengths, and feature unfluted cylinders with eight-round capacity chambered in 357 Magnum.

10/22 with Scope and Case: The 10/22 is now available with a factory-installed Weaver 3-9x40 scope featuring a Dual-X reticle. This blued model with an 18-inch barrel and black synthetic stock is packed in a Ruger-branded hard case that is under 48 inches long.

10/22 Target Lite with Black Laminate Thumbhole Stock: The 10/22 Target Lite features a black-laminate thumbhole stock, cold hammer-forged barrel tensioned in a black-anodized aluminum-alloy barrel sleeve, and the BX-Trigger. The stock also has a rollover comb, a flat forend, and installed swivel studs. GT

COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

- Alternate Bolt-Release Levers for the AR-15: MagPul's BAD lever, the Troy Ambidextrous Bolt Release lever, and the BattleBar from Smith Tactics.
- We test four guns in four cartridges that live in the 38 and 357 neighborhoods. The Glock 17 Gen5 9mm, the Springfield 1911 38 Super, the Springfield XD 357 SIG, and the Coonan 357 Magnum square off.

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