GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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9MM STRIKER FIRES

We test the Beretta APX Compact, Glock 45, and SIG Sauer P320-M17 to see which might be the best choice for your home and personal defense. Also, we size up the new guns against a known quantity, the Beretta 92. ● Page 6



7MM REMINGTON MAGNUMS

Contestants: The Savage 110 Storm, Mossberg's Patriot, and the Howa M1500 HS Precision. Any of the three would get your buck, but one surprised us with its exceptional accuracy. ● Page 16



HOLSTER SHOWDOWN

We tested a box full of Kydex and plastic holsters and found some good gear, some that didn't fit most of us, and a few surprises. ● Page 22

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DOWNRANGE

COOL NEW GUNS AND AMMO



Todd Woodard

New product announcements are coming fast and furious, including Ruger's announcement of the SR1911 Competition Pistol. Over the past year, the Ruger Custom Shop has worked closely with professional shooting team captain and world champion competitive shooter Doug Koenig to develop the first Custom Shop SR1911, a full-sized 9mm pistol suitable for competitive shooting in IDPA, IPSC, USPSA, Bianchi Cup, Pro Am Shooting, and Steel Challenge disciplines. This SR1911 includes a Koenig Shooting Sports low-mass hammer and competition sear and a custom flat-faced trigger shoe, precision-machined disconnector and hand-tuned sear spring. Also, the Ruger Custom Shop hand-fits the slide and frame. Other features include a black-nitrided stainless-steel frame trimmed with a 25-lines-per-inch checkered front strap, matching checkered mainspring housing and Hogue Piranha G10 grip panels, a competition barrel featuring a polished feed ramp, fitted barrel lug, target crown, and an unusual 1:16 slow rifling twist to increase accuracy with lighter-weight match bullets. There's also a fiber-optic front sight and adjustable serrated rear target sight and a bunch of other stuff.



● Brownells is offering a unique DIY project that beats putting shelves in the garage. The HK 416 Project is a parts kit offered by the Iowa-based retailer that allows a shooter to build an HK 416 — the type of rifle used by U.S. Navy SEALs in the 2011 raid against Osama Bin Laden. Disassembled from German military machine guns, the parts kits were available to all Brownells customers in November. The HK416 kits, listed as #100-026-983 at Brownells.com, contain all factory original parts except for the lower receiver, bolt assembly, and barrel. The kits retail for $3,300.



● The Browning X-Bolt Micro Composite rifle is tailored to give younger and smaller-stature shooters the performance benefits of a

— continued on page 32

GUN TESTS CREDO

REMEMBER: BE SAFE, BE SECURE, BE AWARE

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Editor.....W. Todd Woodard
Managing Editor..... Tracey Taylor
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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Lever-Action Fans Comment

Readers Mark and Lin know their way around the Ubertis and pass along some advice on how to make a good rifle even better. Reader Stephen prefers a revolver over his Shield.



Re "Cowboy Up with Lever Guns From Cimarron, Uberti, Taylor's," November 2018

I enjoyed your review of the 1873 from Uberti. I agree that the rubber recoil pad is distracting and probably unnecessary. I prefer a traditional brass or steel buttplate, but with checkering or texture. On my 1892, I added a leather pad for texture, but only because I couldn't figure out how to checker it appropriately. If I were doing it again, I think I would use pin punches and stipple it. Keep up the good work and unbiased reviews.

Also, I appreciated your coverage of 308 bolt-action rifles. I know you've covered the Remington 783 in the past, but I can't help but wish you'd covered the Mossberg Patriot (currently in production) rather than the Trophy. I suppose there's always someone asking for another gun in the mix, but therein lays job security if you're in the firearms-magazine business. **— Mark**

Hey Mark: It's mostly a matter of page space. The four- and five-gun reviews are comprehensive, but they eat pages, and there's always another gun we could have included. The Mossberg Patriot in 7mm Rem. Mag. is covered in this issue on page 16. — Todd Woodard

Read the article comparing the Uberti-built 66 and 73s in the November issue. I have an Uberti 73 with the half-round half-octagon rifle-length barrel in 44-40. I really like the rifle; it shoots well and has a great trigger, which I understand is not the usual thing with stock Ubertis. However, I did have a big issue with the safety bar, which was discussed in the article. In order to fire the rifle, I had to get a death grip on the stock wrist and the lever. The reviewer used the word "distracted" as the situation for a shooter trying to fire the rifle under those conditions, and I agree. Rather than a $200 action job, I opted for a couple of spring kits from The Smith Shop in Warwick, RI. For less than $50, I replaced the stock lifter/lever spring with "Whisper Springs," and installed a coil spring lever safety bar spring. Still had to stone the back of the safety bar a bit so it would move more freely, but both made a huge difference in the function of the rifle. This does not do anything to shorten the lever stroke, but I am not a Cowboy Action Shooter, so that is not a problem for me. Really enjoy GUN TESTS and have made some good decisions and avoided some bad ones by reading the magazine regularly. Thanks for a great job. **— Lin**

Re "9mm Slim Line Compact Pistol Shoot-out: Five Go Head To Head," November 2018

This was a good read, thanks. I've got an S&W Shield and an S&W 442 snubnose 38 on my permit,

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.

so the comparison between the wheelgun and the single-stack pistol in the article was worthwhile. In my experience, the 442 is a lot easier to carry, it's noticeably lighter than the Shield, and with a small round-butt Crimson Trace laser grip (must have), it easily fits in pants and vest pockets and OWB carry under a jacket. The Shield is much easier to shoot well, but for me, its extra weight and angular butt make it a gun I don't carry every day. **— Stephen**

I like wheelguns for everyday carry, too, for all the reasons you mention. And I agree wholeheartedly the Laser Grips are "must haves" on such short-barreled handguns. There's just not much sight radius. — tw



I just finished reading the article "9mm Slim Line Compact Pistol Shoot-out: Five Go Head To Head." I am somewhat confused by the write-up on the S&W M&P9 Shield SW180021BW. I understand this is a Battleworn version. I know it's quite simple to look for that version online, but explaining where or who has it helps. My confusion comes from the magazine capacity that is both listed in the stats and mentioned in the article. Being that I have an S&W M&P9 Shield, when I read it, I immediately looked up what this model's capacity was. You have capacity listed as "6+1 Standard" and magazines listed as "(1) 6- and (1) 7-round." The S&W M&P9 Shield, no matter the version, comes with (1) 7- and (1) 8-round magazines standard. It seems as if the magazines used in the test also have an aftermarket pinky-finger grip extension, which is not mentioned. I'd also like to inquire as to the additional grip surfacing. The article makes it seem like this had been taken to a gunsmith to have the grip refinished. It looks as if it is really just grip tape by Talon Grips. I enjoy the Shield, carry for both on and off duty (LEO), and agree 100% with your review, I just wanted some clarification. Thanks and keep it coming. **— KJZ**

Bob Campbell replies: KJZ, you are correct concerning the magazine capacities. The module for the Battleworn has the correct round counts of (1) 7- and (1) 8-round magazine. The capacity listed in the module (7+1) is also correct for the standard magazine. The text and captions should have reflected those counts. Sorry for the confusion. As far as the grip texturing, it isn't grip tape! Not certain who did the grip re-work, but it is definitely a custom job and turned out well. Also, thanks to Readers Scott and Paul W. for pointing this out.

Re "Firing Line," November 2018

I will not be using Google any longer. Would like to know what you changed to. Thanks in advance. Big fan of your magazine. **—KC**

DuckDuckGo is the search engine I switched to. It does a much better job on firearms searches than the other ones. — tw

Re "Firing Line," November 2018

Hello, Todd. Saw you published my letter in the November issue. Thought I'd give you an update. A friend bought a 12-gauge Shockwave and was kind enough to let me borrow it. Even with the mini shells, it generated too much recoil for my damaged shoulder, so guess I will be sticking with handguns. Thanks again for all the info and advice you provided. Speaking of which, I just read the five 9mm comparison in the same issue, great stuff. Am going to give the Taurus a try. All the best. **— Bruce**

Re "Deep-Penetrating Heavy-Bullet 9mm Loads: Pretty Good Picks," November 2018

Todd, I really enjoyed the review on the heavy 9mm loads. I recently purchased a Ruger PC9 Carbine, and I was curious to see what difference the 16-inch barrel made over the 4-inch pistol barrel. I found the results to be a bit surprising, and thought I'd share them with your readers. I use the same protocol that your testers did: four five-shot strings, and I set my chrono at 10 feet from the end of the muzzle. I'm looking forward to getting my hands on some of your "heavy hitters" and seeing what the results are. Thanks for producing a really fine magazine for serious shooters! **— Mike**

Liberty Civil Defense 50 Grain LA-CD-9-014

Pistol Velocity	1932 fps
Carbine Velocity	2604 fps
Carbine Muzzle Energy	753 ft.-lbs.

Federal 105 Grain

Pistol Velocity	1124 fps
Carbine Velocity	1386 fps
Carbine Muzzle Energy	444 ft.-lbs.



Freedom Munitions 115 Grain

Pistol Velocity..... 974 fps
Carbine Velocity..... 1251 fps
Carbine Muzzle Energy ..... 400 ft.-lbs.

Hornady Critical Defense 124 Grain

Pistol Velocity.....975 fps
Carbine Velocity..... 1294 fps
Carbine Muzzle Energy ..... 461 ft.-lbs.

Mike: Thanks for sending these along. — tw

Re "Firing Line," December 2018

Testing hearing protection is a great idea! Most folks do not understand decibels and don't understand how muffs are likely tested. Now, I'm not a pro, but I have some knowledge of architectural acoustics, hearing loss, and trying to preserve what I have left and I think it is important to address. Do not buy cheap muffs. Muffs should not be a shooter's primary hearing protection; custom inserts should be. The arms on eyeglasses compromise the seal between the cushions and flesh, so that 25 dB muff is really rather less. Facial hair likely degrades the noise reduction more than eyeglass frames. Roll-up yellow cylinders and other generic in-the-ear protection products don't always seal properly. Yellow cylinders work great in my right ear but don't seal at all in my left ear canal. Nor do several other generic products. I have custom, cast-in-the-ear plugs as my primary hearing protection. Do I put active muffs on after I insert my custom plugs? You bet! Hearing-aid lubricant is often a must: My custom left plug will not go into my ear canal without lubrication. Active noise cancellation is fabulous as a second layer! For those who complain about all of this, ask if they would prefer to have strong tones and harmonics ringing in each of their ears, all the time, day and night. **— Ronald**

Re "New Snubnose Revolvers Under $400: S&W, Taurus Compete," December 2018

So much for people bad-mouthing Taurus. Thanks folks! I know they may have had problems at one time, but so have so many others. No question S&W makes a great firearm, but just wanted to give the devil his due. For a good price, you can get a good product in a Taurus. Good news for the little guy.

— GoldenClays on Gun-Tests.com

Re "6.5 Creedmoor Bolt Actions From Howa, Ruger, and Savage," January 2016

Sampson makes a nice triangular rail which is flat on the bottom, specifically for the Ruger Precision Rifle (RPR). It is intended to provide a stable platform for shooting from a bench, window ledge, or fence post. I put one on my RPR and also purchased an aftermarket aluminium bolt shroud. The only thing I don't like about the Sampson rail is that they have KeyMod slots on it. I much prefer the M-LOK.

I own a Savage 10 in 308 Win., and it's a very nice rifle. I wish I owned a Howa also, but enough is enough. By the way, my RPR, sighted in with an SWFA 10x riflescope, printed .441 MOA with Gold Medal 175-grain bullets when it was new, out of the box. All three are excellent choices.

— GWDean on Gun-Tests.com

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

9mm Striker Gun Shoot-out: Beretta, Glock, and SIG Sauer

We test the Beretta APX Compact, Glock 45, and SIG P320-M17 to see which of these pistols might be the best choice for civilian shooters who carry concealed and who need personal defense.

To replace the Beretta M9A1 (M9) and later variants in military service, the U.S. Army tested several handguns and chose the SIG P320, which is designated as the M17 in military service. The Glock 19X was also a participant in the military trials. While not chosen by the military, the full-size-grip short-slide Glock has enjoyed commercial success. The new Glock 45 is a direct result of Glock's experience in the military trials and also a result of criticism of the 19X. A third handgun, Beretta's APX, was also not adopted, and like the M17, is a modular design. We elected to test these three striker-fired polymer handguns head to head to determine which might be the best choice for concealed carry and personal defense for civilians. To add some historical texture, we also shot these firearms side by side with a full-size Beretta 92, or the M9 in its military appellation. The Beretta won't carry as easily as the APX and Glock, but it's comparable to the P320-M17 in size. If we're looking at them as home-defense guns, then size is less of an issue.

As we collected data and choose firearms for inclusion in these shoot-outs, we met old-line shooters and even young shooters who feel that the polymer-frame striker-fired market is crowded, and these handguns are much the same. Nothing could be further from the truth. Beretta, CZ, HK, SIG, Smith & Wesson, and Glock offer different features and different fits and feel for their products. Those who have not tested the pistols extensively and who have not taken time to compare features may feel these pistols are cut from the same cloth, but by assuming that, those shooters abrogate a lot of responsibility in choosing the handgun that suits them best.





Above: The contest was in some ways between the 1970s aluminum-frame Beretta, right, and modern polymer-frame handguns like the Glock 45, left. In the judgment of our raters, the striker-fired handguns won the contest, but the Beretta 92 is far from retired, and it will be many years before it has fired its last shot in anger. Below is the SIG Sauer P320-M17 in sandbox coloring, and below right is the Beretta APX with full-length slide serrations. In the end you would not be badly armed with any of them, but we chose the Glock 45 9mm as the best overall.

Test Details

Gun Tests relies on raters who carry and use firearms on a daily basis, but occasionally we draft a novice with no preconceived notions to see how a pistol may be received by those with less experience. Of course, the novice is closely supervised. The raters must be able to shoot well. Our senior rater on this project was a peace officer for more than 20 years and is both an NRA and state-certified instructor. He was won several competitions and actively trains. He has written 14 books on firearms. Another rater is a military officer with extensive experience in the Middle East and Kosovo and has trained soldiers on the handgun. He is also a certified instructor. Their mix of training, police and military, is unified by NRA training. To test firearms, the shooter must be able to execute a draw from a concealed-carry holster, get on target, and fire quickly and accurately. The rater must also be able to fire accurately from a solid benchrest. This is a skill covered in the NRA basic pistol course 101. Raters also must also be able to discern quality and be able to examine a mechanism for smoothness, leverage, tool marks, and function. One of the raters in this project has extensive experience in industry, including quality control and inspection.

As shooters learn in NRA basic handgun instruction,

RANGE DATA

Hornady American Gunner 124-gr. +P	**Beretta APX**	**SIG Sauer P320-M17**	**Glock 45**	**Beretta 92 FS**
Average Velocity	1180 fps	1188 fps	1199 fps	1213 fps
Muzzle Energy	383 ft.-lbs.	388 ft.-lbs.	395 ft.-lbs.	405 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	2.5 in.	2.5 in.	2.5 in.	1.8 in.
Average Group	3.0 in.	2.8 in.	2.9 in.	2.0 in.
SIG Sauer V-Crown 124-gr.	**Beretta APX**	**SIG Sauer P320-M17**	**Glock 45**	**Beretta 92 FS**
Average Velocity	1190 fps	1211 fps	1196 fps	1218 fps
Muzzle Energy	389 ft.-lbs.	403 ft.-lbs.	393 ft.-lbs.	408 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	2.8 in	2.8 in.	2.7 in.	1.8 in.
Average Group	3.5 in.	3.0 in.	3.0 in.	2.4 in.
Black Hills TAC +P 115-gr.	**Beretta APX**	**SIG Sauer P320-M17**	**Glock 45**	**Beretta 92 FS**
Average Velocity	1142 fps	1160 fps	1151 fps	1170 fps
Muzzle Energy	332 ft.-lbs.	343 ft.-lbs.	338 ft.-lbs.	349 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	2.5 in.	2.6 in.	2.9 in.	1.7 in.
Average Group	3.3 in.	3.0 in.	3.3 in.	2.3 in.

All groups were fired at 25 yards from a solid braced benchrest position using the Bullshooters pistol rest. We used a Competition Electronics Pro Chrony to measure velocity. The chronograph was 10 feet from the muzzle of the firearm. Ammunition sources: Black Hills Ammunition TAC-XP +P BHAD9N10 ($24.81/20 @ VenturaMunitions.com); Hornady American Gunner 124-grain +P ($17/25 @ LuckyGunner.com); SIG Sauer 124-grain V-Crown ($19/20 @ SIGSauer.com).

the grip, trigger press, follow through, sight alignment, and sight picture are important. In testing these handguns, certain adjustments must be made gun to gun. The double-action-only (DAO) pistols require the trigger be pressed to the rear smoothly until the sear breaks. Reset is rapid as the trigger finger moves forward. The cadences of fire were similar with each DAO handgun. The SIG, however, had less take up, and it put up a "wall" we had to master. With the Beretta 92 and its double-action first-shot trigger, rather than coming to the rear, the trigger finger swings down and rearward to press the trigger. It is interesting that most shooters do not realize how much slower this is and how much effort is expended until you fire the 92 beside DAO handguns. Once the Beretta 92 fires and the trigger is reset, the finger shifts to a straight-to-the-rear single-action compression. With the right technique, the hand itself retains the same firing position.

During the combat firing and range evaluation, we used a practice load for economy. We also fired a magazine of +P loads for function and control evaluation. The pistols each fired 120 rounds on the combat range, hitting man-sized targets at 5, 7, 10, and 15 yards. We used the Winchester 115-grain full-metal-jacket load for this. We also fired 20 rounds of the Winchester 124-grain +P load as a test of control, firing at 10 yards for the X ring with a magazine full.



The pistols were reliable with all ammunition tested. It's a great comfort to report that these handguns can handle any bullet shape.



One of the test rounds was the Black Hills TAC +P load, which has an all-copper bullet. It was pricey, but we'd expect it to do well in penetration.

We fired the excess of the 20-round box in executing precision shots at 10 yards. Firing from a benchrest, we used three defense loads for accuracy testing: the Black Hills Ammunition TAC +P, Hornady 124-grain American Gunner +P, and the SIG Sauer 124-grain V-Crown. Here's what we found:

Beretta APX Compact JAXC921
9mm Luger, $449

This is a recent price from BudsGunShop.com. When you look at the modern Beretta APX, it's good to remember that Beretta is a 500-year-old company that supplied rifles to Napoleon — making firearms that its governmental customers want is second nature. Even after Beretta's success with the Beretta 92, the Beretta APX breaks new ground. This polymer-frame striker-fired handgun is a modern design that should compete with other handguns similarly configured. Beretta chose to develop a modular pistol for use with different frame and slide sizes. That is a fine idea, but as of this writing, spare slides and frames are scarce. So we cannot rate the piece for its modular design. We chose the Compact version of the Beretta APX because this size is more in sync with the Glock 45, and the compact is far more likely to be chosen for concealed-carry use.

As always, reliability is most important. Function of the controls and the suitability of the sights and trigger for combat shooting are important considerations. Dealer support and the availability of spare parts are important for long-term use. When choosing the Beretta APX compact handgun, we discovered that none of our raters had any experience with the pistol, and none had fired or owned the full-size APX pistol either.

The pistol was supplied in a locking box with two 13-round magazines. The Glock G45 and SIG P320-M17 are supplied with three magazines, so the APX came up short on value as soon as we opened the box. Two grip inserts were included, fewer than the Glock 45, but the Beretta 92 doesn't allow for changing the grip at all, and neither does the SIG P320-M17, although the frame may be changed with the M17. The APX and accessories are delivered in a hard plastic box with a lock. When looking over the Beretta, it is easily the most visually distinctive pistol tested with its aggressive cocking serrations. When handling and examining the APX, an impression held by most of the raters is that the slide is overlarge for the frame. This impression continued during testing, and we decided that the slide is a bit overweight and too large for a compact handgun.

There are grasping grooves or cocking serrations from the front to the rear of the slide. Some felt this was too much, but it did not affect holstering in the cheap fabric holster we put to use during the range test. There are few makers offering holsters for the APX as of this date. However, when the grasping grooves of the Beretta were put to use, they proved to be excellent. They are about 1.5mm deep. The Glock 45's forward cocking serrations are as useful as the Beretta APX's, but the SIG, with its forward serrations on the lower portion of the slide, required more effort to clear the chamber or rack the slide.

The sights are good combat-style designs. The

BERETTA APX COMPACT JAXC921
9MM LUGER, $449
GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The APX is the least expensive handgun tested. Yet it is a service-grade pistol with excellent reliability and good combat-shooting ability. The magazines were difficult to load, and the slide was difficult to rack. In addition, the takedown button was difficult to engage.



Action Type	Semi-auto, double action only
Overall Length	6.97 in.
Overall Height	4.8 in.
Maximum Width	1.3 in.
Weight Unloaded	26.4 oz.
Weight Loaded	31.5 oz.
Barrel Length	3.7 in.
Slide	Blued steel
Slide Retraction Effort	19.0 lbs.
Frame	Black polymer
Frame Front Strap Height	1.7 in. w/o magazine basepad
Frame Rear Strap Height	3.3 in.
Grip Panels	Pebbled polymer
Grip Thickness	1.3 in.
Grip circumference	5.8 in.
Magazines	(2) 13 round
Rear Sight	2-white-dot steel, removable
Front Sight	1-white-dot steel, removable
Sight Radius	5.7 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	5.6 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.5 in.
Safeties	Striker deactivation button, firing-pin block, trigger
Warranty	1 year
Website	Beretta.com
Telephone	(800) Beretta
Made In	Italy



The APX Compact field strip is simple enough. The takedown lever was difficult to work initially. The silver button toward the rear of the receiver is the striker release.



The most significant cosmetic feature of the APX is the serrated slide. Fitted with a TruGlo combat light, the Beretta makes a formidable defender.



We had to use a magazine loader to top off the magazine.



While it isn't thin, the pistol isn't as fat as some. Two grip inserts offer adjustment to fit the hand.



This is a strong recoil spring, demanding care in racking the slide.



The blocky Beretta APX came alive in combat shooting. We liked the APX's sights and firing controls.

rear sight features a 0.016-inch-wide notch that provides a good view for quickly acquiring the sight picture. The front post is about 0.0145 inch wide.

The frame is a contrast to the slide design. The frame and handle are actually slim in comparison to the slide and fit most hands well. The handle features a combination of pebbling and serrations that all found provided good adhesion and without a lot of abrasion. There are indentations in the grip that allow the trigger finger to reach the trigger face more easily. The pistol features a square trigger guard. The frame features the now-obligatory rail for mounting a combat light or laser device. The means of changing grip inserts is different than some pistols, with a tab inside the frame, inside the magazine well. Changing the grips of this pistol takes a little longer than the Glock, but the result is secure, and there is nothing to fault in the system.

The trigger action is double action only in common with the Glock and SIG pistols. The striker is partially cocked as the slide moves to the rear in recoil. Next the trigger is pressed, and this moves the striker to the rear and the trigger breaks. According to the Lyman Electronic Trigger Gauge, trigger compression is 5.6 pounds, slightly more than the Glock, but the 0.2 pound difference was not discernible during firing. The face of the trigger seems to be flatter than the Glock trigger. The curvature of the trigger face is less than the SIG and other DAO handguns on hand for comparison. The trigger break is crisp, short, and controllable. Reset is also sharp and clean. The slide lock and magazine release operate smoothly.

The magazine is a well-finished steel unit that holds 13 rounds. While this is the smallest capacity of any magazine tested, the pistol is also a short-frame compact handgun. The tapered magazine and generous magazine well make for rapid reloads under stress. The magazine is feed reliable and features a strong spring. We ran into a problem when loading the magazine that will be a cause of concern for some buyers. The magazine was very difficult to load, even for our adult male raters. It is difficult to press cartridges into the magazine and to the rear. Most will have to use a mag loader because our shooters were taxed to load 10 cartridges, and the final three demanded the mag loader be used. We used a Butler Creek magazine loader, the first time in memory we have resorted to such a device. The Butler Creek magazine loader is a good thing to have for extended firing sessions, but we did not like not being able to load the magazines with finger pressure.

The pistol has a feature not found on most DAO pistols. Many of us do not like to pull the trigger before we field-strip a pistol, and this is a criticism of the Glock. The Beretta APX has a striker release that may be used rather than pressing the trigger.

The striker runs forward but not with enough force to fire the pistol. The firing-pin block is practically identical in appearance and function to the Beretta 92.

The slide's stiffness to rack was a problem. This pistol demanded a great deal of effort to make ready. The Glock was easier to rack. The recoil spring is so stiff that when the Beretta APX is loaded, if you insert a loaded magazine and then rack the slide, the slide may not completely close. In the proper drill, the slide is locked to the rear and then a magazine is inserted. The slide is released to load the chamber. While this tightness may be considered a plus when using NATO standard or +P+ 9mm Luger ammunition, the Glock 45 is equally well suited to heavy loads as far as our testing demonstrates, and it isn't as difficult to load and make ready.

The Beretta APX is disassembled by moving the takedown lever from right to left and rotating the lever. The lever was difficult to manipulate for the first half dozen tries, and even after considerable firing, the lever remained stiff.

Firing tests were undertaken with a total of five loads. During the combat-firing test, the Beretta APX gave good results. The pistol is comfortable to fire. Recoil isn't a factor to be concerned with as the pistol behaves well with good control. The three-dot sights are fast to acquire. With the +P 1200-fps loads, recoil was slightly more noticeable, but nothing a trained shooter will have difficulty with. The Beretta APX played tag with the Glock 45 for top combat firing in this exercise, with the Glock besting the Beretta by a margin. The pistol was not as slide heavy as we thought it would be.

Results were good from the bench, with the Hornady load shooting as small as 2.5 inches. The pistol isn't match-grade accurate, but it is more than accurate enough for personal defense. The Beretta 92, a much larger handgun with a single-action trigger, was more accurate, we found.

Our Team Said: The pistol is accurate in combat firing and accurate from the bench. We liked the cocking grooves, the striker-release safety feature, and the feel of the grip. We did not like the difficulty of loading the magazines, the tight safety plunger, and, at present, the thin selection of holsters.

SIG P320-M17 320F-9-M17-MS 9mm Luger, $650

This was a recent counter price for a P320-M17. This pistol is the new military service pistol, so it warranted attention. There may be internal differences, but the pistol tested is as close as possible to the U.S. M17 available. The M17 is based on the P320. This is a polymer-frame striker-fired pistol. The pistol doesn't have grip inserts as do the Glock 45 and Beretta APX; rather, the piece offers interchangeable frames in its modular design. The pistol offers the option of purchasing different frames for the integral firing unit. Top Gun Supply is one source that offers full-

SIG P320-M17 320F-9-M17-MS 9MM LUGER, $770

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

We liked the SIG P320-M17's reliability and features. The grip fits most hands well and the sights are excellent. We did not like the trigger as well as the other DAO handguns. It was too heavy for our tastes. The pistol is a good choice for those who prefer modular construction and adjustability.



Action Type	Semi-auto, double action only
Overall Length	8.0 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.4 in.
Weight Unloaded	29.5 oz.
Weight Loaded	36.5 oz.
Barrel Length	4.7 in.
Slide	Coyote brown steel
Slide Retraction Effort	17 lbs.
Frame	Coyote brown stainless steel
Frame Front Strap Height	2.4 in.
Frame Rear Strap Height	3.6 in.
Grip	Modular textured polymer
Grip Thickness	1.25 in.
Grip Circumference	5.6 in.
Magazines	(3) 17 round
Rear Sight	SIGlite, removable base plate
Front Sight	SIGlite dot
Sight Radius	6.0 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	6.5 in.
Trigger Span	2.5 in.
Safeties	Manual ambidextrous, firing-pin block
Warranty	Limited lifetime
Telephone	(603) 610-3000
Website	SIG-Sauer.com
Made In	U.S.A.



The SIG P320-M17 differs significantly from the P320. The P320-M17 comes standard with SIGlite front sights and an optic-ready removable night-sight rear plate. The slide is coated in the same coyote tan PVD as the military version, and it includes the same coyote tan grip module.



The SIG features an ambidextrous safety (right arrow) and slide lock (left arrow). The ambi safety and slide lock are ergonomic and well designed. SIG's trapezoidal-shaped magazine release (bottom arrow) works well in speed drills.



An important consideration for military use is that the pistol be ambidextrous.



The SIG's rear sight plate can be removed for mounting a red dot. Note the squared-off rear face that may be used to rack the slide under duress.



It took some time to get the feel of the SIG P320-M17, We had the occasional flyer.

size grip modules with the full-size grip, full-size modules with the medium grip, and carry-size grip modules with the carry grip, from $40 to $59. Some will find this appealing; others less so. From the military's point of view, changing the grip to fit a diverse selection of humans and changing the frame for different missions is practical. The availability of compact and medium frames for the full-size pistol has merit.

The trigger action sparked discussion as to the correct definition. Some of the raters felt that it is a single action. The trigger is pressed and the striker moves a bit and a firing pin block moves away. Trigger reset is a short 0.1 inch. Unlike on the Beretta and the Glock, there is no bifurcated trigger. It's a solid trigger that breaks at 6.5 pounds. The trigger was the most controversial aspect of the SIG P320-M17. The senior rater told the team that it is what it is, and if SIG calls it a DAO fine, but they should rate its usefulness. In general, the raters liked the Glock trigger better for combat shooting. We had to ask ourselves if this was because of long familiarity or because of a real defect in the SIG trigger. We think it is an improvement over the Beretta 92's long 16-pound double-action trigger for first-shot accuracy.

The grip frame fit the raters' hands well, and there were no complaints about adhesion when firing. The magazine well is beveled for rapid reloads as well. We like the slide lock and magazine release. Manipulation is flawless, and the controls are well designed. The ambidextrous flipper-type safety is ideal for a combat pistol. It falls under the thumb quickly and offers a measure of security and speed. We recommend the pistol be carried on Safe. There is no speed penalty in actuating the safety with this system. There are cutouts at the bottom of the grip that allow the shooter to grasp and jerk the magazine in case of a stuck magazine. Most of us have experienced a stuck magazine at one time or the other, but the raters cannot recall this happening with a Glock or SIG pistol. Just the same, the military wanted this feature, and it was also applied to the Glock 19X. It isn't carried on in the Glock 45.

The P320-M17 offers an easy field strip. Rotate the takedown lever 90 degrees and remove the slide from the frame. The takedown lever also releases the fire-control module, and with a little effort, it may be removed from the frame.

One of the best features of the M17, in our opinion, is the sight set. The front set is a single tritium insert that is visible in dim light and bright in darkness. The rear night nights are twin dots. The rear sight may be used to rack the slide against a belt or boot heel. The SIG M17 rear sight plate is removed to mount a red-dot optic. At this point the SIG shows its modular design by allowing an

easy way to mount a red dot, placing it head and shoulders above the others for modern use. It may not be the best concealed-carry handgun, but it is a credible combat pistol. The frame has the standard rail for mounting combat lights.

On the firing line, the pistol never failed to feed, chamber, fire, or eject. Reliability was good. There were no problems with any of the pistols tested. We liked the feel of the handgun, and the sights were excellent for combat use.

Speed drills were easily carried out. When firing +P loads, we felt the SIG P320-M17 exhibited the least recoil of any of the handguns tested. The Beretta 92 was as comfortable, but the SIG P320-M17 demonstrated less muzzle flip. In firing from a solid bench rest, the pistol exhibited good accuracy. The raters felt the sights were an advantage. The 6.5-pound trigger is the heaviest of the test. The press is difficult to manage when attempting to achieve maximum accuracy. The fired groups, however, were acceptable. The SIG Sauer Elite V-Crown provided a 2.75-inch group, and the Black Hills loading was slightly smaller with a 2.5-inch group. The accuracy was very consistent.

Our Team Said: The P320-M17 is flawlessly reliable. We feel that the night sights are an excellent addition to the P320 design. We like the dual safety levers and ambi slide lock. Speed reloads were good and felt recoil modest. The trigger break wasn't the best for absolute accuracy, but it was acceptable for a service pistol. The forward cocking serrations are not as aggressive as those on the Beretta APX or the Glock 45, and this may be important to you. But we did not rate the pistol down in this regard. The SIG features a modular design, and there are spare frames readily available.

Glock 45 9mm Luger, $546

The Glock 45 9mm was introduced less than a week prior to our obtaining the pistol. The Glock 45 is basically a variant of the Glock 19 but with significant differences related to the sights, slide, and features. This pistol is a Generation 5 with the recoil rod and spring changes, dual slide lock, and other Gen5 improvements. Older trigger parts will not fit the Gen5, and neither will existing aftermarket triggers. (God help anyone with an aftermarket trigger or 3.5-pound disconnect in a service or personal defense handgun.) The Glock presently holds over 75% of the American police market. Glock developed the Glock 19X for military sales, but it did not win the contract. American law enforcement has expressed an interest in the short-slide long-grip pistol but wanted a black gun, not a coyote brown one. The Glock 45 features the Gen5 grip with aggressive checkering and no finger grooves. The Glock 45 features the new Marksman barrel, a modified polygonal rifled tube. The fit of the new barrel seems tighter compared to several Gen4 Glock pistols on hand. The pistol features forward cocking serrations. They worked as well as the Beretta APX's, although the Beretta

GLOCK 45 9MM LUGER, $546
GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Glock 45 is fast from concealed carry. The action allows a trained shooter to make fast hits, and the piece is reliable. We especially like the bright front-dot sight.



Action Type	Double action only
Overall Length	7.4 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.3 in.
Weight Unloaded	24.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	31.4 oz.
Barrel Length	4.0 in.
Slide Material	Steel
Slide Retraction Effort	16.1 lbs.
Receiver Material	Polymer
Finish	Tenifer
Front Strap Height	2.4 in.
Rear Strap Height	4 in.
Grip Panels	Pebbled polymer
Grip Thickness	1.3 in.
Grip circumference	6.1 in.
Magazine	(3) 17 round
Rear Sight	Dual-dot tritium
Front Sight	Single-dot tritium, bright orange
Sight Radius	5.9 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	5.4 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.45 in.
Safeties	Trigger lever, firing-pin block
Warranty	1 year
Telephone	(770) 432-1202
Website	USGlock.com
Made In	Austria



The Glock 45 features the same grip as the Glock 17, but it has the Glock 19 slide. We liked the forward cocking serrations.



The Glock's front post sight is visible. We liked the combination of front and rear tritium sights.



Some of the raters used an inexpensive new holster from Uncle Mike's. This ITW style worked well enough.



The Glock 45 proved reliable and combat capable. The Glock 45 fit most hands well.



The raters tested the pistol in a Werkz IWB during the combat drills. It allowed for a clean draw and presentation.



Take down is straightforward and standard Glock. The new Marksman barrel proved accurate.

had greater breadth to catch when the hand is moving and sweating. The cocking serrations are superior to the SIG P320-M17, in our view. The pistol is supplied with the same type of grip inserts as other Gen5 Glock pistols. The Glock 19X is supplied with three magazines, including two with grip extensions, making the pistol a 19-shooter. The Glock 45 is supplied with three 17-round magazines. We are not shooting against the Glock 19X, but the differences should be understood. The Glock 19X also featured a grip cut-out that made for easy clearing of a stuck magazine. The 19X arrangement was found to pinch fingers when speed loads were executed, at least for some shooters. The Gun Tests crew did not experience this problem when testing the 19X or with the similarly configured SIG P320-M17. The Glock 45 is configured to meet the consumer's need. The magazine well is flared. This works well in practice, and the Glock 45 was at least equal to the SIG P320-M17 9mm in speed loads.

The Glock sights are excellent, at least as good as the SIG in slow fire and superior in dim light. These sights feature two green dots in the rear and a bright-orange dot around a tritium roundel in the front. The rear sight is configured to make racking the slide possible by butting the rear sight into the belt or boot heel. A combination of a good sight picture for daylight shooting and excellent visibility in dim-light shooting earned the highest rating for sights. The Glock trigger in the Gen5 is upgraded from previous Glock pistols, and the parts do not interchange. The trigger spring now compresses rather than stretches, and there are differences in the ambidextrous slide stop. The trigger feels different than original Glock triggers up to the Gen4. The new trigger is tighter and is crisper than the Gen4. How much real difference this makes is debatable, but there is a discernible difference to shooters who have used the Glock.

In common with the Glock 19X, the Glock 45's long Glock 17-size handle and short slide makes for fast work. The Glock short slide clears leather quickly and smoothly. Combat-firing tests confirmed our initial impressions. The pistol is fast on target and proved capable on the firing range. All polymer-frame pistols are slide heavy to an extent, but the Glock 45 pistol gave good results. The SIG P320-M17 was more neutral, the Beretta APX similar to the Glock. The Glock pistol gave the best combat results by a margin. The Beretta 92 was superior once we got past the long double-action first shot, but for speed to a first shot hit and overall combat ability, the Glock 45 won the test. The Beretta APX was very close. The SIG, we felt, did well but was limited by the 6.5-pound trigger action. Fired from the bench, the Glock 45 performed well, but its five-shot groups were

overall less accurate than the Beretta and generally equal to the SIG.

Our Team Said: We liked the Glock 45. There is really nothing to change and no drawbacks. This is a combat pistol well worth its price.

Beretta 92 FS JS92F300M 9mm Luger, $562

This is a recent price from BudsGunShop.com. The military version of the 92 FS has been America's service pistol since 1981. The Beretta has been proven the world over in combat and in police use in the United States. It is interesting to note that although Glock once held a price lead over Beretta, there is little difference in the price of the polymer-frame Glock and SIG pistols and the aluminum-frame Beretta.

We felt the Beretta was the best finished of the pistols tested. The Beretta is certainly the heaviest pistol tested at 34 ounces. It is also the largest overall in terms of length and height, which makes it less suitable as a carry handgun for most people, in our opinion. The Beretta features a double-action first-shot trigger. The trigger is pressed against a drawbar that cocks and drops the hammer. After the first shot, the slide cocks the hammer for subsequent single-action shots. The long double-action trigger press is difficult to master for some, and it limits accurate fire, especially on the crucial first shot. It is best used for fast reactive shots at short range. The single-action trigger at 4.2 pounds is another matter. This single-action trigger allows excellent accuracy. Both combat accuracy and absolute accuracy are good with this trigger.

The Beretta features a trademark open-top slide with an integral front sight. The rear sight is well designed for general use, but it is not as good as the night sights found on two out of three of the polymer-frame handguns tested. This is the only pistol with an integral front sight that cannot be changed. ToolTechGunsight.com offers a night-sight package that includes removing the rear sight from your frame, machining off the front sight, and installing a Trijicon 3-dot rear and pinned front sight tandem for $299 plus $18 shipping.

The safety is mounted on the slide. Slide-mounted safety levers are not as fast to manipulate as frame-mounted levers. The safety is much inferior to the dual safety levers of the SIG P320-M17. The Beretta safety lever may be placed on to move the trigger out of battery. The safety is also a hammer decocker. By pressing the decocker downward, the hammer is safely lowered from full cock without touching the trigger. There is a positive firing-pin block that prevents the pistol from firing if dropped.

The pistol features front- and back-strap serrations. The grip is checkered and offers a good grasping surface, but it produces little adhesion when firing. We were surprised to find that the Beretta was supplied

BERETTA 92 FS JS92F300M 9MM LUGER, $562

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The Beretta 92 shows the age of its design with a slide-mounted decocker and long DA trigger pull. The pistol is reliable and accurate as well as soft shooting. But the other pistols were the better combat guns, we believe.



Action	Semi-auto, double-action first shot
Overall Length	8.5 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.5 in.
Weight Unloaded	34 oz.
Weight Loaded	40 oz.
Barrel Length	4.9 in.
Barrel	Steel
Magazine	15/17-rd. detachable box
Slide	Steel
Slide Retraction Effort	15 lbs.
Frame	Aluminum
Frame Front Strap Height	2.2 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.2 in.
Grips	Plastic
Grip Thickness (max)	1.4 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	6.1 in.
Sights	Fixed
Trigger Pull Weight Double Action	9.0 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action	4.0 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action	2.6 in.
Safety	Manual, decocker
Warranty	1 year
Website	Beretta.com
Telephone	(800) Beretta
Made In	Italy



The Beretta 92's grips offered good checkering, but the grasping surface did not equal the grip quality on the polymer pistols, in our opinion.



Some of the features of the Beretta are 1970s style, but the piece functions flawlessly. Most of the raters felt the slide-mounted safety of the Beretta 92 was slower than the frame-mounted SIG P320-M17 safety.



The sights worked well, but we liked the night sights better on other guns better. However, the Beretta in single-action mode was more accurate than the others.



There were no visible tool marks, and the Beretta is well put together. Accuracy in some cases was match grade with these service pistols.

with three magazines. We like this and felt that this was a good touch.

The Beretta is easy to field strip. Lock the slide of the unloaded pistol to the rear and rotate the takedown lever down and run the slide forward off the frame. We like this takedown better than the Glock; on our pistols, it is equal to the SIG and not stiff as the Beretta APX lever.

For the combat-firing test, the pistol was loaded with the same FMJ and +P loads as the other handguns. The long double-action trigger press limited first-shot hits. In managing the double-action first-shot trigger, our senior rater noted that some get it and some do not.

Once we got past the heavy first trigger press, and we decocked and went through this press with every magazine load, the Beretta featured excellent combat results. Groups were well centered. Firing the +P loads wasn't a chore, and the pistol doesn't demonstrate heavy recoil or muzzle flip. In slow-fire accuracy, the pistol was the most accurate from the bench, producing five-shot groups at 25 yards as small as 1.7 inches.

Our Team Said: After the evaluation, we had to look hard at the Beretta 92 in context with the other handguns. We have rated it highly in the past, but while its reliability and accuracy are not questioned, the pistol fell short compared to the others reviewed in this test. The Beretta's grip is larger than the polymer-frame pistols, which will limit its appeal. The sights are not as well suited to combat use as the other pistols, and the sights are not easily changed. A frame-mounted decocker isn't necessary with DAO pistols. The primary shortcoming is the trigger action. Compared to a modern double-action-only pistol like the Glock 45 or Beretta APX, the double-action-first-shot pistol has several drawbacks. After a shot is fired and if the shooter is engaged in tactical movement, the Beretta 92 should be decocked for safety. The DAO pistols simply require the trigger finger be taken off the trigger face. The size and weight of the pistol are a drawback compared to the other pistols, if concealed-carry is an option. The pistol does not accept a combat light.

The Beretta 92 is a pistol from the era of the SIG P226 and CZ 75. The Beretta APX and SIG P320-M17 are of the Glock era. In the end the Beretta is a classic firearm, but it was not the best combat firearm tested. Anyone using a Beretta 92 9mm for personal defense that is familiar with the handgun and shoots it well need not trade the Beretta, but it was at the bottom of the list in this test. Based on long-term experience, we feel that the SIG P226, CZ 75 Omega and Rex Zero 9mm are tactically as capable as the Beretta 92, while individuals will prefer one pistol to the other. Of them all, this team of raters prefers the Beretta over the other full-size pistols mentioned above.

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

Hunting Rifles in 7mm Mag From Mossberg, Howa, Savage

The contestants: The Savage 110 Storm, Mossberg's Patriot, and the Howa M1500 HS Precision. Any of these bolt guns will do the job in the field, but one surprised us with its exceptional accuracy.

Rifles chambered in 7mm Remington Magnum are popular hunting setups for whitetail deer up to elk. We looked at three hunting rifles in 7mm Rem. Mag. in a price range to suit nearly any budget. At the low end is the Mossberg Patriot ($542), a traditionally styled hunting rifle with a walnut stock and matte-blued metal. A midrange-cost firearm is the Savage 110 Storm ($849) with a matte-stainless barreled action and synthetic AccuStock. This was the most modern looking rifle of the trio. At the high end is the Howa M1500 HS Precision ($1119). This rifle features an HS Precision laminated stock and a sub-MOA guarantee. The other rifles did not offer an accuracy guarantee. All rifles use a push-feed bolt-action design with two locking lugs, which means the bolt lift on all three is 90 degrees. They also have a cocking indicator that protrudes from the rear of the bolt to tell the user the rifle is cocked. You can see the cocking indicator and feel it. All featured a free-floated barrel and fairly good trigger. What separated the Savage from the Howa and Mossberg was the customizable stock.



The Savage 110 Storm (top) allows the user to adjust the length of pull and riser to suit his stature and scope choice. It was also easy to shoot and easier on the shooter. The Mossberg Patriot (center) is a traditionally styled hunting rifle that performed well for the cost. The Howa M1500 HS Precision (bottom) features an HS Precision stock, among other features that made it easy to shoot. It also lived up to its sub-minute-of-angle accuracy guarantee with all but one of the loads.

We equipped the trio with variable-power scopes. In the middle is a Simmons AETEC 2.8-10x44mm ($188; MidwayUSA.com), and at the bottom end of cost is a Simmons Whitetail Classic 3-9x40mm scope ($90; MidwayUSA.com). At the high end was a Vortex Crossfire II 4-16x50mm ($279; OpticsPlanet.com). All three were well constructed, used a second-focal-plane reticle, and featured capped turrets. We thought the Simmons Whitetail Classic was a great deal, and it performed well even with its plain Truplex reticle. The Simmons AETEC scope was light weight and short, so it didn't add a lot of weight to the rifle. It also uses aspherical lenses, which gives the user a flat, distortion-free image. The AETEC also used a Truplex reticle and had the best clarity and contrast between the Simmons scopes. The Vortex Crossfire II also had good clarity/contrast and a Dead-Hold BDC reticle, which we felt offered better aiming. There are numerous hold marks on the vertical and horizontal crosshairs that allow the shooter to be more accurate if he understands his reticle. The simplicity of the Truplex reticle requires the shooter to guesstimate holdover and wind compensation. The Vortex scope was the longest and did provide more eye-relief adjustment in the rings, which also made it easier to mount. Smaller scopes on long-action rifles can be tight to fit, with less room to adjust eye relief. We used Weaver rings with all the scopes and found the 7-M-M did not rattle them loose.

For a spotter we used a Styrka S7 15-45x65mm spotting scope ($748; OpticsPlanet.com). This spotter features an angled eyepiece and comes with a carry case that protects the spotter yet unzips so you can mount it to a tripod and still protect the spotter. Not that we weren't careful, but we did drop the spotter on the cement deck from bench height and it survived the fall. It has a rubber-armor skin. A sunshade is built in, and the magnification ring rotates smoothly and easily, which we like especially when the magnification is high and the field of view is small. It could be adjusted without losing the target. It also has coarse- and fine-focus knobs and a rotating tripod mount that allows the user to adjust the eyepiece for more comfortable viewing. We used it during the day and in the setting glare of the North Carolina sun, and we easily could pick our hits on paper.

We used a variety of hunting ammo in bullets

RANGE DATA

Federal Premium Vital-Shok 7mm Rem. Mag. 175-gr. Trophy Bonded Bear Claw	Howa M1500 HS Precision	Savage 110 Storm	Mossberg Patriot
Average Velocity	2864 fps	2888 fps	2823 fps
Muzzle Energy	3188 ft.-lbs.	3242 ft.-lbs.	3079 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	0.98 in.	1.00 in.	1.38 in.
Hornady Precision Hunter 7mm Rem. Mag. 162-gr. ELD-X	**Howa M1500 HS Precision**	**Savage 110 Storm**	**Mossberg Patriot**
Average Velocity	2972 fps	2969 fps	2903 fps
Muzzle Energy	3178 ft.-lbs.	3171 ft.-lbs.	3032 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.05 in.	0.87 in.	2.05 in.
Federal Fusion 7mm Rem. Mag. 150-gr. Fusion SP	**Howa M1500 HS Precision**	**Savage 110 Storm**	**Mossberg Patriot**
Average Velocity	3027 fps	3030 fps	2965 fps
Muzzle Energy	3052 ft.-lbs.	3058 ft.-lbs.	2929 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	0.91 in.	1.12 in.	1.18 in.
Federal Premium Vital-Shok 7mm Rem. Mag. 165-gr. Sierra Gameking BTSP	**Howa M1500 HS Precision**	**Savage 110 Storm**	**Mossberg Patriot**
Average Velocity	2901 fps	2898 fps	2832 fps
Muzzle Energy	3084 ft.-lbs.	3077 ft.-lbs.	2939 ft.-lbs.
Average Group	1.2 in.	1.04 in.	1.55 in.

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

weights that included 150-, 162-, 165-, and 175-grain projectiles from Federal Premium and Hornady. We used low-cost Federal Fusion soft points ($31.53) and Federal Vital-Shok with Sierra GameKing BTSP bullets ($37.09), as well as more expensive Hornady Precision Hunters loaded with ELD-X bullets ($40.50) and Federal Vital-Shok loaded with Bear Claw bullets ($46.12; all from CheaperThanDirt.com). We were able to get a sub-MOA group out of all the rifles, but the Howa and Savage continually surprised us with some excellent groups.

How We Tested

We test-fired the rifles using a UTG Rubber Armored Full Metal QD Bipod ($54.97; Leapers.com), which is designed to attach to the front sling-swivel stud or a Picatinny-style rail. We like the rubber feet since they stick to the deck when you load the bipod by leaning into it. The legs are also fully adjustable from a height of 6 to 8.5 inches. The legs also rotate forward and aft and lock into five different positions. We were also practical and fired the rifles using a knapsack as a rest, which would be more likely how the rifle would be fired in the field.

These skinny barrels heated up fast, so we allowed them to cool prior to changing brands of ammo. It should be rare that more than three shots would be fired in succession in a hunting situation. Sustained shooting with these hunting rifles is not the norm, but we did fire enough to make the barrel too hot to touch to see if it effected accuracy. We didn't see an impact change, but we did get nice mirages through the scope from the heat waves rising off the barrels.

Howa M1500 HS Precision HHS63701 7mm Remington Magnum, $1119

This rifle uses Howa's 1500 action, which is known for its accuracy and reliability. The barrel was 24 inches long, which the 7-M-M uses to get the most velocity out of the load. The barrel had a slightly heavier #2 contour, which gave the rifle some heft. The muzzle was threaded with a thread protector screwed in place. The Howa uses a proprietary HACT trigger that can be adjusted, but we left it at the factory setting. In our opinion, this is a fairly good trigger, but we would adjust the pull weight a little less to get the best accuracy out of the rifle.

The three-position safety locks the trigger as well as the bolt, depending on the position. On the left side of the receiver is the bolt stop, which, when pressed, allows the bolt to be pulled fully rearward and out of the receiver. We liked the oversized bolt handle because it allowed us to cycle the action better. It made us feel more in control since the bolt filled our

HOWA M1500 HS PRECISION HHS63701 7MM REMINGTON MAGNUM, $1119

GUN TESTS GRADE: A (OUR PICK)

The Howa lived up to its accuracy guarantee. We like the HS Precision stock, the large bolt handle, and smooth action. Though more expensive, we would buy this rifle in a heart beat.



Action Type	Bolt, push feed
Overall Length	4.5 in.
Height Unboxed	4.5 in.
Height As Tested	7.27 in.
Width Stock	2.0 in.
Weight Unboxed/Unloaded	7.8 lbs.
Weight As Tested	10.9 lbs.
Weight As Tested/Loaded	10.96 lbs.
Barrel Length/Twist	24 in.; #2 contour; 1:9.5 RH
Barrel Finish	Matte black
Barrel Muzzle Device	None; threaded muzzle
Stock	Aluminum bedding block; hand laminated with Kevlar, fiberglass, and carbon fiber
Stock Buttpad	Rubber
Stock LOP	13.5 in.
Stock Comb	Straight
Stock Sling Attachments	2 studs
Trigger Pull Weight	3.7 lbs.
Trigger Style	Two stage, HACT adj.
Trigger Guard Material	Aluminum
Safety	3-position lever
Magazine	3-rd. internal box, hinged floorplate
Magazine Release	Button front of trigger guard
Bolt	Two lug, 90-degree lift
Bolt Release	Receiver latch
Sights	None, drilled and tapped
Accuracy Guarantee	Sub-MOA
Warranty	Lifetime
Telephone	(775) 828-0555
Website	LegacySports.com
Made In	Japan



The Howa's large bolt handle was an asset, especially because the two-lug bolt has a 90-degree throw.



The HS Precision stock had a black-spiderweb-type pattern that camouflaged the stock and provided texture for a sure grip.

hand. The edges were also smooth, so cycling the action was easier. All three rifles had slick actions, but in our opinion, the Howa had the slickest.

What was also slick about the Howa was the HS Precision stock. This stock is made of laminated fibers and molded so it is stiff. An aluminum bedding block keeps the barreled action place. The finish of the stock was a spiderweb paint style that gave the stock texture while making it aesthetically pleasing to the eye. The black solid-rubber recoil pad did help with absorbing recoil. The floorplate was well fitted to the stock, and the bottom metal was indeed metal. A button on the outside front of the trigger guard dumps rounds from the internal box magazine.

The magazine was easy to load, and there was plenty of room to load cartridges one at a time.

We found it easy to shoot this rifle. The slick action, ease in loading and unloading, the large bolt knob, and the extra heft made felt recoil tolerable. Don't think this is a pussycat — it does produce noticeable recoil, but we thought the balance of weight and stock made it a sweet shooter.

Ring bases were not included with the Howa, so we purchased Weaver two-piece bases ($7), which are the same bases used for a Remington Model 700, and Weaver Tactical Four Hold rings ($33.32). The

Vortex Crossfire II scope was longer and gave us more leeway to mount it on the Howa.

All of our smallest groups were sub-MOA except with the 165-grain Vital-Shok Sierra Gameking BTSP bullets. We think if we adjusted the trigger to a slightly less pull weight, all of our groups would be sub-MOA. Even our average groups were sub-MOA with the Federal Premium Vital-Shok 175-grain Trophy Bonded Bear Claw and the inexpensive Federal Fusion 150-grain Fusion SP.

Our Team Said: The Howa had more weight and lived up to its accuracy guarantee. We like the HS Precision stock, the large bolt handle, and smooth action. Though more expensive, we would buy this rifle in a heart beat.

Savage Arms 110 Storm 14361 7mm Remington Magnum, $849

The 110 Storm is outfitted with Savage's new AccuStock, which has a modern look and allows the user to customize the LOP and riser to suit his stature. Just remove two screws in the soft, rubbery recoil pad and choose between four spacers to change the LOP from 12.75 to 13.75 inches and change the comb with five different risers. We liked this set up because we could make the rifle and scope adjust to us and not the other way around. The synthetic stock has a permanently embedded aluminum chassis that holds the barreled action onto the stock. This is another stiff setup that does not allow movement between the action and stock. At the shooter's hold points, the pistol grip and forend, there is rubbery checkering that makes gripping the rifle sure.

The two-position safety falls under the thumb of a right- or left-handed shooter and slides forward and aft. A red dot shows the safety is forward and ready to fire. In safe, the trigger is blocked and the bolt cannot be opened. The middle position just blocks the trigger and the bolt can be opened. This safety

SAVAGE ARMS 110 STORM 14361 7MM REMINGTON MAGNUM, $849

GUN TESTS GRADE: A (BEST BUY)

The AccuStock with AccuFit and the AccuTrigger make this rifle easy to shoot well and absorb the recoil of 7mm rounds. The action was not as slick as the others, but it was plenty smooth.



Action Type	Bolt, push feed
Overall Length	41 to 44.5 in. (depending on insert)
Height Unboxed	4.5 in.
Height As Tested	7.5 in.
Width Stock	1.87 in.
Weight Unboxed/Unloaded	7.25 lbs.
Weight As Tested	8.60 lbs.
Weight As Tested/Loaded	8.66 lbs.
Barrel Length/Twist	24 in.; 1:9.5 RH
Barrel Finish	Matte stainless
Barrel Muzzle Device	None
Stock	Synthetic w/aluminum bedding block; adj. comp and LOP
Stock Buttpad	Rubber
Stock LOP	12.75 to 13.75 in.; 4 inserts
Stock Comb	Adj.; 5 risers
Stock Sling Attachments	2 studs
Trigger Pull Weight	Adj., 3.8 lbs. factory set
Trigger Style	Single stage
Trigger Guard Material	Aluminum, enlarged
Safety	3-position button
Magazine	2-rd. detachable box
Magazine Release	Ambi. lever, front of magazine
Bolt	2-lug bolt; 90-degree lift
Bolt Release	Receiver latch
Sights	None; drilled and tapped
Accuracy Guarantee	None
Warranty	1 year
Telephone	(800) 370-0708
Website	SavageArms.com
Made In	U.S.A.



The synthetic stock had a checkered rubber insert that gave the Savage a sure grip, along with other options.



The muzzle was nicely crowned to protect the rifling. The Savage shot very near MOA with all ammunition.

is convenient. This model Savage has a bottom bolt release, which is a button located in front of the trigger guard. Press the button and the trigger at the same time, and the bolt can be removed from the receiver. This is slightly more difficult than the other rifles. The bottom metal is actual metal that is well fitted to the stock.

The detachable box magazine fit securely and snapped into place with a click. Push the magazine release toward the magazine and the magazine drops into your hand. A nice set up. The magazine was easy to load and insert and was made of metal. Also, we found loading the magazine while it was inserted into the magwell was easy. We could also load single rounds with ease. There was plenty of room to do this even with the scope mounted. The trigger guard is also metal.

We needed to purchase bases for the Savage, so we used a Weaver one-piece base ($18.32) and Weaver Grand Slam rings ($26.04). This mount allowed us to more easily position the short Simmons Whitetail Classic scope. This was an inexpensive setup, yet it stood up to the abuse of the 7mm's recoil.

Going hot, we found the Savage to be easy on the shoulder, The recoil was tolerable for extended shooting. We attribute that to the AccuStock design and soft rubber recoil pad. Our best three-shot groups ranged from 0.50 to 0.99 inches. With Hornady Precision Hunter ammo loaded with a 162-grain ELD-X bullet, we achieved sub-MOA accuracy. This rifle was accurate. Average three-shot group sizes opened up to about an inch. This Savage was nipping at the heels of the Howa in the accuracy department. Some testers like the AccuTrigger best out of the three rifles. Between the stock and trigger, it was easy to shoot the Savage well, and the data confirms that.

Our Team Said: We liked the Savage for its ability to be customized to the shooter. We also think the AccuStock and

MOSSBERG PATRIOT 27894 7MM REMINGTON MAGNUM, $542

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The Patriot offers low cost with a traditional look. The accuracy was not as good as the Howa or Savage, but it was accurate enough for most hunting.



Action Type	Bolt, push feed
Overall Length	42.75 in.
Height Unboxed	4.75 in.
Height As Tested	7.5 in.
Width Stock	2.0 in.
Weight Unboxed/Unloaded	7.0 lbs.
Weight As Tested	8.60 lbs.
Weight As Tested/Loaded	8.66 lbs.
Barrel Length/Twist	22 in. fluted; 1:9.5 RH
Barrel Finish	Matte blued
Barrel Muzzle Device	None
Stock	Walnut
Stock Buttpad	Ventilated rubber
Stock Length of Pull	13.75 in.
Stock Comb	Straight; cheek rest
Stock Sling Attachments	2 studs
Trigger Pull Weight	2.1 lbs. factory set, adj.
Trigger Style	Single stage
Trigger Guard Material	Polymer
Safety	2-position lever
Magazine	3-rd. detachable box; polymer
Magazine Release	Ambi. lever, front of magazine
Bolt	2-lug bolt; 90-degree lift
Bolt Release	Receiver latch
Sights	None; Weaver bases
Accuracy Guarantee	None
Warranty	2 year
Telephone	(203) 230-5300
Website	Mossberg.com
Made In	U.S.A.



The stock featured an outlined stippled texture at hold points, which we feel worked well and looked good.

The muzzle was recessed to protect the rifling, and the barrel was fluted.



GETTING MORE OUT OF THESE RIFLES

Because hunting rifles are loaded and unloaded during outings, we liked the convenience of the Savage and Mossberg detachable magazines. These magazines, when fully loaded, were easy to insert in the magwell and snap into place with the bolt closed. Though we have had issues being up in a tree stand and fumbling with a detachable magazine with numb fingers, the traditional Howa floorplate can't be dropped, but it dumps out rounds that can slip through fingers and get lost in snow, tall grass, etc. We like being able to push down on the cartridges in the magazine to partially close the bolt on an empty chamber. Problem solved.

At the bench or in the field, the ability to single-load a round is a time-saver. All three rifles allow this procedure, which is a characteristic of push-feed bolt actions. We found the large bolt knob on the Howa was easy to manipulate, and because all three rifles had a 90-degree bolt throw, the bolt handle is nearly flush with the eye piece of the scope. A larger knob means easier cranking. On this function, we liked the Howa, followed by the Savage, and then the Mossberg.

Remember not to lean your head close to the eyepiece of the scope with the 7mm, or else you will get clocked by the eyepiece during recoil. Use the eye relief the scope allows and keep your cheek weld farther back on the stock comb. The riser inserts of the Savage made shooting the 7mm more enjoyable, with the Howa's stock coming in second. The Mossberg transferred recoil to the face, but that is normal with a traditional wood stock.

AccuTrigger work in unison to make this rifle easy to shoot well and help absorb recoil. The action was not as slick as the Howa or the Mossberg, but it was plenty smooth. Because of the price, this is a Best Buy.

Mossberg Patriot 27894
7mm Remington Magnum, $542

While we appreciate the practicality of synthetic stocks, wood stocks are traditional and typically more expensive than polymer-stocked rifles. This variant of the Patriot line sports a nice walnut stock and matte-blued metal. The wood-to-metal fit was good. The stock featured outlined stippled gripping areas on the pistol grip and the side and bottom of the forend. It also included a black-plastic grip cap. It was well executed and practical.

The barrel length is 22 inches, 2 inches shorter than the standard barrel length of 24 inches for a 7mm. That means we might lose velocity and energy, which we indeed noted in ballistic data collection. The barrel was fluted, and the muzzle was recessed to protect the rifling in case you drop it. The bottom pieces are polymer and were well fitted to the wood. The detachable box magazine was made of polymer and snapped into place with a click. It was easy to load and insert on a closed bolt when fully loaded. The magazine release is located forward of the magazine, and, when pressed, the magazine falls free. A shooter can hold the rifle with his shooting hand on the grip and use a support hand to press the magazine release and have the magazine drop into the palm of the hand. We like this set up. The trigger guard is also polymer and that helps keep the rifle to a lithe 7 pounds. Some testers prefer metal, but for the cost we are not complaining.

The Patriot uses a two-position safety lever located on the right side of the receiver behind the bolt handle. Press it forward to Fire, revealing a red dot in the stock. Rearward is Safe. The safety locks the trigger, but it allows the bolt to be manipulated.

We mounted the Simmons AETEC 2.8-10x44mm on the factory-included bases. We like it when a manufacturer includes bases since it saves us time and money. We had plenty of room to mount the short, compact AETEC scope. We also thought the scope and rifle made a great pair for a lightweight traditional hunting rig. At 7 pounds sans scope, this is a lightweight rifle you can tote up and down mountains.

In extended shooting sessions at the bench, we found the light weight of the Patriot was not our friend. The recoil was more noticeable with the Patriot compared to the other two rifles. Putting that into perspective, a hunter may only need to fire one round to down a deer, so we'd guess the Patriot wouldn't be fired round after round very often. The LBA trigger was our friend, and we felt this trigger came in second to the Savage's AccuTrigger. Inserting single cartridges or loading the magazine while it was inserted in the magazine well was an easy chore with plenty of room. The bolt was slick and smooth. The bolt knob was flat on the end. We preferred the bolt knobs on the Savage and Howa better because they made manipulating the bolts faster and easier.

The accuracy of the Patriot gave us confidence to know we could kill an animal humanely. Ironically, the least expensive rifle grouped the least expensive ammo the best. With Federal Fusion 150-grain Fusion SP bullets, we were able to shoot a three-shot best group that measured 0.85 inches. On average, the Fusion ammo grouped 1.18 inches, and that my friends is elk meat in the freezer. All other ammo grouped between 1.15 and 2.05 inches.

Our Team Said: The Patriot Walnut is a low-cost option with a fine traditional look. It did not have the accuracy of the Howa or Savage, but it was still accurate for hunting. The shorter barrel also siphoned off velocity and energy, but we like the value in this rifle. It is less expensive mounted with a scope than the other rifles without a scope. If we were frugal, we would opt for the Patriot and put our remaining budget into an elk hunt.

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

Testing Plastic and Kydex Holsters: The CYA Is a Bargain

We tested a box full of holsters and find some good gear, some that doesn't fit most of us, and a few surprises. Some of these units are suitable for appendix carry, a method that has some detractors.

This report is prompted by reader requests to look into modern concealed-carry holsters. Some of them are relatively inexpensive, but others are much more expensive. While it isn't a completely bad idea to purchase a cheap generic holster to get the hang of IWB, appendix, or crossdraw carry, a holster properly chosen may last for several years to a decade. They are not a lifetime investment like a quality firearm is. Holsters are a renewable resource that must be replaced from time to time. And like a handgun, there may be times when one holster will not solve every problem, particularly if you live in a true four-season climate. A belt scabbard and an IWB may cover most of your needs, and in some cases combination holsters, such as the Galco Corvus tested below, do an admirable job at several chores.

For this test, we choose holsters for the Glock 43, a single-column-magazine 9mm that seems to be a popular carry gun. We also included the Smith & Wesson Shield and larger Glock handguns. We do not rely upon smaller handguns for carry, and our raters, a mix of military, police, and university-level instructors in this case, do not deploy handguns smaller than 9mm caliber. The Glock 43, Glock 17, and Smith & Wesson Shield 45 ACP were the handguns tested.

Also, the reader request included a suggestion to test modern appendix holsters. Appendix carry occurs near the front of the belt and to one side of the belt buckle. This carry is controversial. Some point out the obvious danger of an accidental discharge resulting in immediate removal of pretty important gear from the shooter's front side. Women have a more complex circulatory system in the same area and would also be subject to a terrible wound if shot in that area. If you are planning on having a negligent discharge with appendix or any other carry, then you need to rethink and retrain. But by observing safety practices and avoiding mistakes, you will not have a negligent discharge if you appendix carry.



We tested a number of holsters and found some that were versatile and others more specialized. Big finding: Kydex is at least as useful as leather and sometimes more so.

Appendix carry may have the advantage of being discreet. When you bend or stoop, the holster and handgun carried in the small of the back, IWB style, may print against the clothing. Not so with appendix carry. You may get a shove in the body from the gun in appendix carry when bending, so be careful until you acclimate to the gun's position. Also, we feel that for most of us, appendix carry is best suited to more compact handguns. The Government Model steel-frame 1911 one of our raters carries daily isn't well suited to appendix carry due to its length. Another advantage is that when moving about in normal human interaction, an arm on the back may reveal the hard bulge of a handgun. Few people will be touching your firearm in the appendix position.

The holster must have a balance of speed, security, and access. It cannot be buried under the clothing to the extent that it is difficult to access. A very fast draw isn't necessarily the main ingredient of a successful concealment rig. Good concealment that allows surprise is. Perhaps the adversary doesn't know you are armed, and he should not. There should be no indicators



The test procedure included shaking the holster with the handgun upside down. This simple shake test must be done with an unloaded handgun.

that show you are armed.

Let's look at reality. There is no draw faster than a standard belt holster carried on the point of the hip. This is also a holster that isn't compatible with concealed carry. The holster must be worn behind the hip under a covering garment at the least, and for better concealment, we move the holster inside the pants, or inside the waistband fashion as we call it. You must practice the draw to clear clothing, and is a real danger when clothing becomes tangled. The appendix carry requires less movement. Also, during the course of the day, you sometimes encounter people who like to bump into you or perhaps give a friendly pat. Some know you are armed; most should not. If they pat the groin area, they probably know you pretty well.

There are also martial-arts advantages to the appendix carry. While many have criticized the crossdraw, as an example, for making the handgun available to the gun grabber, this isn't true when the wearer is well trained and aware. When the handgun is worn toward the front, the gun grab will not be a surprise as much as a rearward originating attack and you have both hands, not one, to defend against the attack.

The most dangerous part of training is re-holstering a loaded firearm. Trigger discipline and understanding how a trigger may snag on the holster is important, no matter what style of holster you adopt. Here's what we thought of several holsters in more detail:

CYA IWB, $38

This holster is available from CYASupply.com. The holster was tested in flat dark earth, carbon fiber, and black finish. This allowed three raters to test this holster independently. The holster is secure, providing the wearer uses a quality gun belt; the same is true with all the holsters. Retention is good. Ideally, the holster should demonstrate a good, tight fit that



CYA IWB

isn't easily overcome with a slow draw but which is fast when a hard tug is given. The CYA holster performed in that manner. We held the holster and an unloaded gun upside down and shook the holster. Retention did not fail. The holster is provided with an Allen wrench to tighten the holster and adjust tension. It came out of the box properly set. Comfort is as good as any other holster. One rater had recently had a hernia operation and found that the holstered Glock 43 did not impede his movement. And, although skeptical at first, he found speed and access superior to the IWB holster he had worn behind the hip.

GUN TEST GRADE: A (BEST BUY)

Galco Corvus, $64

This holster is available from GalcoGunleather.com and also Brownells.com. The Corvus is supplied with two sets of belt loops (plastic) and a single set of IWB belt loops. When first examining the Corvus, we were not certain how the slight curve of the holster would feel in IWB carry. As it turns out, it hugs the curve of the hip very well. As an IWB unit, the holster is concealable and offers adjustment for ride, either deep in the trousers or higher above the belt line. The holster is versatile. As an appendix holster, we found



Galco Corvus

that the dual belt loops actually offer better concealment than the single belt loop. The single position on the face of that type of holster extends a few tenths of an inch, but with the Corvus, the dual loops are flatter, although the width is greater. The draw and re-holstering were solid. The holster functions well as a strong-side holster with the belt loops firmly attached and may be concealed under a jacket or vest. The draw is faster when the holster is offset from the body in this manner. The only drawback came from the tests in which the triple-checked unloaded firearm was shaken upside down for retention. About one out of three tries resulted in the firearm being dropped on the padding we used to catch the firearm. When jumping in a standard IPSC test, it did not occur. We really like the versatility of the Corvus, but we rated it down a grade based on the retention.

GUN TEST GRADE: B

Galco Triton IWB, $52

This was the price of our sample from Brownells.com. An advantage of the Triton is that this holster is often available at well-stocked super stores and is usually in stock and ready to ship at outlets such as Brownells.com. We ordered the Triton for the SIG P220R 45 ACP to evaluate the holster with a large handgun to test the viability of appendix carry with a heavy pistol. The Triton is designed as an IWB but worked well in the appendix


Galco Triton

role. Retention was excellent. In fact, we had to back off the adjustment screws for the ideal balance of speed and retention, and the holster maintained a firm grip during vigorous shaking upside down of this heavy P220. When wearing the Triton/SIG combination in the appendix position, the longer handgun was more likely to pinch than the Glock 43, but the holster itself gave a nudge rather than a punch in the gut.

The combination is reaching the limits of comfort, but for those who prefer the power and accuracy of a 45-caliber P220, it is a viable combination. The Triton is available for smaller and many other popular handguns.

GUN TEST GRADE: A

GearCraft IWB Plus, $70

This item was available from GearCraftHolsters.com. One of our raters is normally resistant to holsters with the magazine pouch attached because the correct draw of the magazine is from the weak side. However, he reports that most of his students do not carry a spare magazine, and this holster goes a long way in encouraging all CWP holders to deploy a spare magazine. As delivered, the holster did not retain the handgun during the initial drop test, but a few turns of the retention


GearCraft IWB Plus

screws cured that shortcoming. The holster rides comfortably in the appendix position. The balance of speed and retention is good. The magazine is angled toward the non-dominant hand for a rapid draw, something that isn't possible with conventional IWB carry. We liked this holster very much. It is larger and wider than the others. If you carry the spare magazine in a dedicated pouch, do not choose this holster.

If you do not wish the holster to extend to the belt buckle, do not choose this holster. As a load-bearing device with the holster containing the handgun and the spare magazine in a single unit, it has much merit. A spare loaded magazine was subjected to the drop test with an empty handgun and both were retained.

GUN TEST GRADE: A

GearCraft Quickie, $40

This item was available from GearCraftHolsters.com. The Quickie takes a single attachment point and moves it behind the trigger guard instead of on the face of the holster for good concealment. The belt attachment features a good hook. We had to tighten the Quickie to achieve acceptable retention; however, it still wasn't as tight as we would like. It is fast, and body compression held the larger Glock pistols this holster is molded for (the G19/G23) in the holster along


GearCraft Quickie

with proper molding. This is a holster best suited for IWB rather than appendix carry.

GUN TEST GRADE: B-

JM Custom Kydex AIWB with wing claw, $90

This item is available from JMCustomKydex.com. We ordered this holster for a rater's personal Glock 22 carry gun. This holster is designed as an appendix holster. Removing the wing allows standard IWB carry. There are two holes on each side of the holster for the belt-loop attachment; this allows adjustment of the ride and cant of the holster. We found the balance of retention and speed to be ideal. The adjustment range is good. The draw is good and sharp. There is a Velcro component permanently attached to the back of the holster that adds to the comfort of the holster. The claw is an anti-roll-out device. There is a tendency of the handgun to shift forward, away from the body, in appendix carry. This device prevents that roll-out and keeps the holster tight against the body. There is also a body shield





Top: The AIWB by JM Custom Kydex shows mature design and good execution. Bottom: This is the claw or anti-roll-out device of the JM Custom Kydex holster.

behind the handgun, sometimes called a sweat guard. We like a holster that insulates the body from the handgun. This holster does that. This JM Custom Kydex holster also eliminates roll-out or canting from the body, which limits some AIWB holsters. As the raters evaluated this holster, we found no drawbacks and no trade-offs. It also works as well as a standard IWB due to the belt loop's ability to be adjusted, and with removal of the claw. This is a tactically superior holster offered at a fair price.

GUN TEST GRADE: A

Keepers Concealment Errand, $90

This holster is available from KeepersConcealment.com. The Keepers Errand is billed as a holster for faster on and off use, such as when you are running an errand, yet it is said to be capable for all-day use as well. The Errand has a sweat guard, a durable clip-on belt attachment with a hook that securely locks on the belt, and a Velcro attachment point. The holster is supplied with two foam wedges. Out of the box, retention was correctly set, and the holster passed the drop test handily, with all raters taking a turn shaking the pistol. However, the draw was sharper with this holster than with the Keepers holster reviewed below. After testing the Errand extensively, we find a credible holster well worth the price.

While the other Keepers holster would be a good choice for some, three of four of the raters prefer the Errand over the more expensive holster and would even stay with the Errand if each were the same price. We feel that the Errand's added expense over some tested is well justified by the Velcro addition and the wedges that add to both comfort and roll-out prevention. It is among the top holsters tested.

GUN TEST GRADE: A



Keepers Errand

Keepers Concealment The Keeper AIWB, $170

The Keeper is a holster with many good features, and it is also the most expensive holster tested. The holster has the appearance of a bulky holster at first glance, but it isn't. It actually follows the lines of the handgun closely. The holster features a very solid attachment point consisting of a tunnel loop. While more time is needed to thread the belt through a tunnel loop versus a snap-on belt attachment, this is clearly the superior method for retention. The holster features a sweat guard to separate the handgun from the body.

The belt loop is covered with Velcro, and more important, a long Velcro attachment runs from the front to the rear of the holster. A tension screw allows good adjustment for the draw and retention of the handgun. A bit of rocking and a strong tug are required to draw the pistol. The Keeper demands a strong tug and much practice for the draw. For most shooters, this system may be too complicated.

GUN TEST GRADE: B

Written and photographed by GUN TESTS *staff.* **GT**



Keepers Concealment The Keeper AIWB

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2018 PRODUCT COVERAGE

HANDGUNS

Action Arms/ITM AT-84S 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
American Classic ACC45B 45 ACP	*Oct.
American Classic Commander ACC45C 45 ACP	Oct.
American Eagle Syntech Action Pistol	May
American Tactical Imports 1911GI HGAFX45GI 45 ACP	*Oct.
Arex Rex Zero 1 CP 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Arex Rex Zero 1 Standard FDE 9mm Luger	Feb., *March, *June
Arsenal Firearms AF1 Strike One AWP 9mm Luger	*Feb., *June
Beretta 92FS W/Wilson Combat 9mm Luger	Feb., *March, *June
Beretta M9A3 JS92M9A3M 9mm Luger	*Feb., *June
Bersa BP9MCC 9mm Luger	Nov.
BFR Short Cylinder BFR44MAG7 44 Mag.	Aug.
Browning Black Label 1911-380 Pro Stainless	May
Browning Black Label 1911-380 051904492 380 ACP	*Aug.
Bushmaster SD AR Pistol	May
Charter Arms Boomer Model 74429 44 Sp.	April
Charter Arms Bulldog Classic Model 34431 44 Sp.	*April
Charter Arms Off Duty 3811 38 Sp.	*April
Charter Arms Pathfinder Lite Model 52270 22 LR	May
Charter Arms Pitbull 9mm No. 79920 9mm Luger	*April
Charter Arms Pitbull Model 64520 45 ACP	*April
Charter Arms Police Undercover No. 73840 38 Sp.	*April
Chiappa Rhino No. 200DS 357 Mag.	*April
Chiappa 1873 SAA 22 Buntline SAA1873-22 22 LR	*July, *Aug.
Cimarron Bad Boy Hollow Point 44 Mag. revolver	May
Cimarron Bad Boy Model CA360-Bad Boy 44 Mag.	Aug., Dec.
Cimarron CA081 44-Cal. Second Model Dragoon	*July
Cimarron Evil Roy ER4104 357 Mag.	*July, *Aug.
Cimarron Percussion Peacemaker	May
Colt 1903 32 ACP (Ammo test)	April
Colt Cobra COBRA-SM2FO 38 Sp. +P	April
Colt Delta Elite O2020XE 10mm Auto	*March
Colt New Frontier P4840 45 Colt/45 ACP	*July, *Aug.
Colt 2nd-Generation 1851 Navy 36 Cal.	*July, *Aug.
Colt 2nd-Generation 1860 Army 44 Cal	*July, *Aug.
Colt 2nd-Generation Second Dragoon 44 Cal.	*July, *Aug.
Colt Mfg. Co. Commander XSE O4012XSE 45 ACP	*Oct.
Colt Mustang XSP Pocketlite O6790 380 ACP	*Aug.
Colt Single Action Army Second Generation 45 Colt	July, *Aug.
Coonan Classic 1911 100000-000 357 Mag.	*March,
Coonan Classic 1911 100000-005 357 Mag.	March, Dec.
CZ 75 B Matte Stainless 91128 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
CZ P-10 Urban Grey Suppressor Ready	May
CZ P-10 C FDE White Nitride 9mm pistol	May
CZ-USA 75D PCR Compact 91194 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
CZ-USA 75 P-01 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
CZ-USA 2075 Rami B 91740 9mm Luger	*Feb., *June
CZ-USA CZ P-10 C 91520 9mm Luger	Feb., *March, *June
Dan Wesson 50th Anniversary Limited Edition 1911	May
Dan Wesson Bruin Bronze 1881 10mm Aut	*March
Dan Wesson Guardian Commander 45 ACP (Ammo test)	April
EAA Bounty Hunter 770080 44 Mag.	Aug.
EAA Tanfoglio Witness 10mm Auto	*March
EAA Witness Match 45 ACP (Ammo test)	April
Enfield MK2 5-in.-barrel 38 Smith & Wesson (Ammo test)	April
FN America FNX-45 Tactical FDE 66968 45 AC	Sept.
FN Barracuda 357 Mag. 3-in.	*April
Glock 43 Subcompact G43 PI4350201 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Glock 17 Gen5 9mm Luger	March
Glock 42 380 ACP Subcompact Slimline	*Aug.
Glock G19X G5 PX1950703 9mm Luger	June
Glock G21SF PF2150203TB Short Frame TB DAO 45 ACP	Sept.
Glock G35 Gen3 40 S&W	July
Glock G43 Proglo Talo Edition UI435-5-1 9mm Luger	*Feb., *June
Heckler & Koch Mark 23 45 ACP M723001-A5 45 ACP	Sept.
Heritage Mfg. Big Bore Rough Rider 357 Mag.	*July
Heritage Mfg. Small Bore Revolver RR22B4 22 LR	May, *July, *Aug.
Heritage Mfg. revolver 3-in barrel 32 H&R Mag. (Ammo test)	April
Heritage Mfg. Rough Rider RR22MB9 22 LR/22 WMR	*July, *Aug.
Honor Defense Honor Guard HG9CLE 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Honor Defense Honor Guard HG9SCF FIST 9mm Luger	Nov.
Honor Defense Honor Guard HG9SC 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Iver Johnson break-top revolver 38 Smith & Wesson (Ammo test)	April
Kahr CW 380 3833 380 ACP	*Aug.
Kel-Tec PF-9 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Kimber Custom TLE II 3200347 10mm Auto	*March
Kimber K6s Model CDP 357 Mag.	April
Kimber Micro 9 (LG) 3300168 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June, *Oct.
Kimber Micro Carry Advocate Brown 380 ACP	*Aug.
Kimber Tactical Pro II 45 ACP	*Oct.
Lipsey's Glock 17RTF2 Vickers FDE 9mm Luger	Feb., *March, *June, Dec.
Masterpiece Arms Defender MPA30DMG 9mm Luger	*Feb.
Metro Arms Co. MAC 1911 Bobcut M19BC45C 45 ACP	Oct., Dec.
Nighthawk 6-in. Echelon 1911	May
Remington R1 1911 10mm Hunter FDE	May
Remington R1 1911 Enhanced Double Stack 15 45	May
Remington R1 1911 Executive Commander	May
Remington R1 1911 Limited 9/40/45 Double Stack	May
Remington R1 1911 Limited 9/40/45 Single Stack	May
Remington R1 1911 Limited 9/40/45 Tomasie Custom	May
Remington R1 1911 Tactical 45 ACP Double Stack	May
Remington R1 1911 Ultralight Commander	May
Remington R1 Commander 96336 45 ACP	*Oct.
Remington R51 96430 9mm Ruger	*Feb., *March, *June
Remington R51 Subcompact Smoke	May
Remington RM380 Micro 96454 380 ACP	*Aug.
Remington RM380 Micro Carry Blue	May
Remington RP45 pistol	May
Rock Island Baby Rock 380 ACP (Ammo test)	April
Rock Island Armory Baby Rock 51912 380 ACP	*Aug., *Oct.
Rock Island Armory Model 206 51289 38 Sp.	*April
Rock Island Armory Tactical II Compact 51479 45 ACP	*Oct.
Rock Island Armory TCM TAC 51943 9mm Luger/22 TCM	July, *Oct.

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Romanian TT33 7.62mm Tokarev (Ammo test)	April
Rossi Model R35102 38 Sp. +P	*April
Ruger 10/22 Target Lite	Jan.
Ruger American Compact 8633 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Ruger American Pro Duty 8605 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Ruger Bisley Vaquero 5130 38 Sp./357 Mag.	*July, *Aug.
Ruger EC9s 3283 9mm Luger	Nov.
Ruger GP100 1761 44 Sp.	Jan., *April
Ruger GP100 357 Mag. 2.5-in. barrel (Ammo test)	April
Ruger GP100 GP-141 38 Sp. +P/357 Mag.	Sept.
Ruger GP100 KGP-141 38 Sp. +P/357 Mag.	Sept., Dec.
Ruger LC380 3219 380 ACP	*Aug.
Ruger LCP 380 ACP	*Aug.
Ruger LCP 3701 380 ACP	*Aug.
Ruger LCP-C Custom 3740 380 ACP	*Aug.
Ruger LCP-CT 380 ACP	*Aug.
Ruger LCP-LM No. 3718 380 ACP	*Aug.
Ruger LCR Model 5456 9mm Luger	*April
Ruger LCR No. 5401 38 Sp. +	*April
Ruger LCRx Model 5460 357 Mag.	April, Dec.
Ruger New Model Blackhawk 5242 45 Colt/45 ACP	*July, *Aug.
Ruger New Model Single-Six 0624 22 LR/22 WMR	*July, *Aug.
Ruger New Vaquero 5108 38 Sp./357 Mag.	*July, *Aug.
Ruger New Vaquero NV-34 5107 357 Mag.	*July
Ruger Redhawk 357 Mag.	Jan.
Ruger Security Six 357 Mag.	*April
Ruger SP101 #5759 (3-in. barrel) 327 Federal Mag.	*April
Ruger SP101 327 Federal Mag.	Jan.
Ruger SP101 5718 KSP321X 357 Mag.	*April
Ruger SP101 Model #5718 357 Mag.	*April
Ruger SR1911 CMD-A 6711 45 ACP	*Oct..
Ruger SR1911 Lightweight Commander No. 6722 9mm Luger	June, *Oct.
Ruger Standard Model MK III 6-in barrel (Ammo test)	April
Ruger Vaquero Bisley No. 5129 45 Colt	July, *Aug.
S&W Bodyguard 380 109380 380 ACP	*Aug.
S&W M329PD Alaska Backpacker IV150545 44 Mag	*April
S&W Model 686 357 Mag.	*April
S&W Performance Center M327 170245 357 Mag	*April
Shooters Arms Mf'g Commodore CIA HG1009-N 45 ACP	*Oct.
SIG Sauer 1911 C3 1911CO-45-T-C3 45 ACP	*Oct.
SIG Sauer Carry Scorpion 45 ACP	*Oct.
SIG Sauer MPX-P 9mm Luger	*Feb.
SIG Sauer P210 Legend 210-9-Legend 9mm Luger	*Feb.
SIG Sauer P225-A1 Nitron 225A-9-BSS-C 9mm Luger	June, Dec.
SIG Sauer P226 MK-25 9mm Luger	*Feb.
SIG Sauer P226 Nitron No. E26R-9-BSS 9mm Luger	July
SIG Sauer P238 238-380-NBS12 380 ACP	*Aug.
SIG Sauer P238 Tactical Laser 238-380-TL 380 ACP	*Aug.
SIG Sauer P320 Carry 320CA-0-BSS 9mm Luger	*Feb., *June
SIG Sauer P938 Scorpion 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June, *Oct.
SIG Sauer P938 938-9-ESR 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Smith & Wesson 940 9mm Luger	*April
Smith & Wesson Combat Mag. M19 38 Sp. (Ammo test)	April
Smith & Wesson M&P 380 Shield EZ 180023 380 ACP	Aug., Dec.
Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 11537 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 Compact 11686 9mm Luger	June
Smith & Wesson M&P9 Shield 180021 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Smith & Wesson M&P9 Shield Battleworn SW180021BW 9mm Luger	Nov.
Smith & Wesson M42 150502 38 Sp. +P	*April
Smith & Wesson M60 #178013 3-in. Barrel 357 Mag.	*April
Smith & Wesson M649 357 Mag.	*April
Smith & Wesson Military and Police 38 Sp.	*April
Smith & Wesson M19 Combat Mag. Texas Ranger 38 Sp. +P/357 Mag.	Sept.
Smith & Wesson M66 Combat Mag. 38 Sp. +P/357 Mag.	Sept.
Smith & Wesson M69 Combat Mag. 10064 44 Sp./44 Mag.	Jan., *April
Smith & Wesson M317-3 Kit Gun 22 LR	May, Dec.
Smith & Wesson M325PD 45 ACP	*April
Smith & Wesson M637-2 163050 38 Sp. +P	Dec.
Smith & Wesson M1076 10mm Auto	*March
Smith & Wesson M&P Bodyguard 38 103039 38 Sp. +P	Dec.
Smith & Wesson PC M625-10 45 ACP	*April
Smith & Wesson PC M627 170133 357 Mag.	*April
Smith & Wesson PC M629-8 44 Mag.	*April
Smith & Wesson Model 638 Airweight 163070 38 Sp.	*April
Smith & Wesson PC M657-5 41 Mag.0	*April
Springfield Armory 911 Bi-Tone PG9109S 380 ACP	Aug., *Oct.
Springfield Armory 1911 EMP PI9229L 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June, *Oct.
Springfield Armory 1911 Mil-Spec 38 Super	March
Springfield Armory Mil-Spec 38 Super (Ammo test)	April
Springfield Armory XD 357 SIG (Ammo test)	April
Springfield Armory XD MOD.2 4-in. Service 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Springfield Armory XD9113HCSP06 XD Service 4-in. 357 SIG	March
Springfield Armory XD-E 3.3 XDE9339BE 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Steyr S9-A1 9mm Luger	*Feb., *June
Taurus 709 Slim 1-709031FS 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Taurus 856 Model 2-856021 38 Sp.	Dec.
Taurus 905 Model 905SS2 9mm Luger	*April
Taurus G2S 1-G2S931 9mm Luger	Nov.
Taurus Curve 180CRVL 1-180031L 380 ACP	*Aug.
Taurus Model 66 38 SP. +P/357 Mag.	Sept.
Taurus PT 92 AF 92B-17 9mm Luge	*Feb., *March, *June
Taurus Public Defender Polymer M4510PLYFS 410/45 LC	*April
Taurus Tracker 44TRACKER4SS 2-440049TKR 44 Mag.	Jan., Dec.
Traditions Frontier 1873 SAT73-126 38 Sp./357 Mag.	*July, *Aug.
Tristar Canik 55 C-100 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June
Uberti 1873 Cattleman Old West No. 355131 45 Colt	July, *Aug.
Uberti Cattleman Bisley 346040 38 Sp./357 Mag.	*July, *Aug.
Walther P22 (Ammo test)	April
Walther PPK/S 4796006 380 ACP	Aug.
Walther PPS M2 2805961 9mm Luger	*Feb., *March, *June

LONG GUNS

Alexander Arms Overwatch 6.5 Grendel	*Feb.
AR-15 Aero Precision Receiver/Brownells 5.56mm/223 Rem.	April

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Auto-Ordnance AOM130 M1 Carbine 30 US Carbine	*April
Auto-Ordnance M1 Carbine Paratrooper AOM150 30 Carbine	*April
Barrett MRAD 14361 300 Win. Mag.	Sept.
Battle Rifle Company BR4 Odin 6.8 SPC	*Feb.
Benelli Montefeltro No. 10865 20 Ga.	Aug., Dec.
Beretta Model 1301 Tactical No. J131T18 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Benelli Model M4 Tactical 11707 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Benelli Nova Tactical Pump 20051 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Bergara HMR Pro	April
Blaser R8 Professional 30-06 Springfield	*March, *Sept.
Browning A-Bolt Micro Hunter 035020216 7mm-08 Rem.	March, *Sept.
Browning Buck Mark Camper UFX Suppressor Ready	May
Browning Buck Mark Plus Lite Fluted UFX Suppressor Ready	May
Browning Citori CXS 12-ga. Shotgun	March
Browning Citori CXT 12-ga. Shotgun	March
Browning Silver Field Micro Midas 011412605 20 Ga.	Aug.
Browning Silver Field Mossy Oak 12-ga. Semi-Auto Shotgun	March
Browning X-Bolt Micro Midas 035346209 22-250 Rem.	*March, *Sept.
Browning X-Bolt Pro	April
Browning X-Bolt Pro Long Range	April
Browning X-Bolt Micro Composite	April
Century Arms C39 Sporter RI2170CN 7.62x39	*Feb.
Century Arms C39 V2 RI2245-N 7.62x39	*Feb.
Century Arms C91 Sporter 308 Win. 7.62 NATO	*Feb.
Century Arms Catamount Fury SG1874-N 3-in. 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Century Arms Catamount Fury II SG1875-N 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Century Arms RAS47 AK Pistol 7.62x39mm	*Oct.
Century Arms RAS47 Magpul-Zhukov 7.62x39	*Feb.
Chiappa Triple Threat 930-032 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Cimarron 1866 Yellow Boy Short Rifle Model CA221 38 Sp.	Nov.
CMMG MK45 AKM Mutant 76AFCD7 7.62x39	*Feb.
CMP-2 Inland Carbine 30 US Carbine	*April
Core30 TAC II Rifle 14898 6.5 Creedmoor	*Feb.
CVA Optima V2 LR	April
CZ-USA CZ 527 Youth Carbine 03050 7.62x39mm	March, *Sept.
CZ-USA 455 American Syn. Suppressor-Ready 02114 22 LR	July
CZ-USA 557 Sporter Short Action 04806 243 Win.	*March, *Sept.
CZ-USA Supreme Field Over/Under Shotgun	March
Desert Tech SRS-A1 6.5 Creedmoor	*March, *Sept.
DPMS GII AP4 Optics Ready	April
DPMS GII Compact Hunter	April
DPMS GII Hunter 243 Win. and 260 Rem.	April
DPMS LR-308 AP4 7.62x51mm NATO/308 Win.	*Feb.
E.R. Shaw ERS-10 6.5 Creedmoor	Feb.
E.R. Shaw Mark X bolt-action rifle	April
F-1 Firearms BDR10-3G Black/Blue Splash, 308 Win.	Feb.
FN Model PS90 3848950460 5.7x28mm	Jan.
Fulton Armory Service Grade M1 Carbine 30 US Carbine	*April
Heckler & Koch MR762A1 7.62x51mm	*Feb.
Howa 24-in. HB 6.5 Creedmoor HKF92507KH+AB	*March, *Sept.
Howa Alpine Mountain Package HMR33143+VX 308 Win.	*March, *Sept.
IAC Imports Hawk Model 982 Defense 12 Ga.	*Oct.
IAC (Norinco) Wild Bunch Shotgun 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Inland Manufacturing M1 1945 Carbine 30 Carbine	*April
Israeli Arms International 30 Carbine	April
IWI Model Tavor X95 XB16 5.56mm, NATO	Jan.
Iver Henriksen Mauser 98 338 Win. Mag.	*Sept.
JTS M12AK Semi-Auto Shotgun 12 Ga.	Oct.
Kel-Tec Model RDB 17 5.56mm NATO	Jan.
Krag 1898 Springfield 30-40 Krag	*Sept.
Legacy Sports Howa HCR 6.5 Creedmoor	*March, *Sept.
Legacy Sports Howa HMA90622MCC+ 6.5 Grendel	*Mar., *Sept.
LWRCI M6A2 Gas Piston Carbine M6A2R6B16 6.8 SPC	*Feb.
Mauser M12 30-06 Springfield	*March, *Sept.
Mossberg 100 All-Terrain Rifle 27230 308 Win.	*March, *Sept.
Mossberg 505 Youth Pump-Action Shotgun 57110 20 Ga.	*Oct.
Mossberg 590M Mag-Fed Pump-Action 50205 12 Ga.	Oct.
Mossberg 590 Shockwave 50659 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Mossberg 590 Tactical HeatShield SpeedFeed 50665 12 Ga.	Oct., Dec.
Mossberg 835 Ulti-Mag Shotgun	March
Mossberg 930 Shotgun	March
Mossberg 930 Tactical 85320 12 Ga.	*Oct..
Mossberg Blaze 22 LR	April
Mossberg International 715T 22 LR	April
Mossberg International SA-20 Field 75789 20 Ga.	Aug.
Mossberg Model 930 SPX Tactical 85360 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Mossberg MVP Long Range 27697 7.62 NATO/308 Win.	*March, *Sept.
Mossberg Patriot Cerakote	April
Mossberg Patriot Revere 6.5 Creedmoor	April
Mossberg Shockwave 20-ga. Shotgun	March
Mossberg Patriot Super Bantam 243 Win.	April
Mossberg Trophy Hunter 308 Win.	Dec.
Palmetto State Armory AK-47 Gen2 Classic Red 7.63x39	*Feb.
Palmetto State Armory AK-47 MOE Edition 7.62x39	*Feb.
Patriot Ordnance Factory P308-20 Gen 3 7.62x51mm NATO	*Feb.
Proof Research Switch	April
PTR PTR-91 G.I. 915304 308 Win./7.62 NATO	*Feb.
Remington 700 MTD Tactical Chassis	April
Remington 700 SPS 85538 308 Win.	*March, *Sept.
Remington 870 DM Hardwood 81351 12 Ga.	Oct.
Remington Model 700 SPS-T 84205 300 Blackout	May, *Sept.
Remington Model 700 SPS Tactical 85538 308 Win.	*March, *Sept.
Remington Model 700 SPS Varmint 84218 308 Win.	*March, *Sept.
Remington Model 783 #85847 308 Win.	*March, *Sept.
Remington Model 870 Express Tactical Magpul 81209 12 Ga.	Oct.
Remington Model 870 Express Synthetic Tactical 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Remington 870 Modified Police 12 Ga., M4 Stock	*Oct.
Remington 870P Standard 12 Ga.	*Oct.
Remington V3 Field Sport Black Synthetic 83401 12 Ga.	Aug.
Rock River Arms LAR-47 CAR A4 CL AK1263 7.62x39	*Feb.
Ruger Hawkeye Mark IV VT 17980 6.5 Creedmoor	*March, *Sept.
Ruger American Rifle Ranch 06968 300 Blackout	May, *Sept., Dec.
Ruger American Rifle Standard 6903 308 Win.	Dec.
Ruger American Rimfire Standard 8305 22 LR	July
Ruger Precision Rifle 18001 308 Win.	*March, *Sept.

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Ruger Precision Rifle 18005 6.5 Creedmoor	*March, *Sept.
Ruger Precision Rifle 18008 6.5 Creedmoor	*March, *Sept.
Savage 110 BA Stealth 22639 300 Win. Mag.	Sept., Dec.
Savage Arms 10PT-SR 22356 308 Win.	May, *Sept.
Savage Arms MKII FV-SR Threaded Barrel 28702 22 LR	July
Savage Arms Model 12 LRP 19137 6.5 Creedmoor	*March, *Sept.
Savage Axis 19223 308 Win.	*March, *Sept.
Savage Axis II Compact Muddy Girl 22230 243 Win.	March, *Sept.
Savage Axis II XP 57095 308 Win.	Dec.
Savage Model 12FV 18393 308 Win.	Dec.
Savage Model 110 Big Game	April
SIG Sauer 716G2 DMR 308 Win.	Feb.
Springfield Armory California Compliant Saint w/Free Float Handguard ST916556BFFHCA 5.56 NATO/223 Rem.	June, Dec.
Steyr Model AUG A3 M1 3X Optic 5.56mm NATO	Jan.
Steyr Pro THB	April
Steyr SSG 08 6001138 300 Win. Mag.	Sept.
Steyr Zephyr II	April
Taylor's & Co. 1873 Comanchero Rifle 2043COM 357 Mag.	Nov., Dec.
Thompson Center Compass No. 10071 22-250 Rem.	*March, *Sept.
Tikka T3 CTR 308 Win.	*March, *Sept.
Tristar TEC-12 No. 25120 Pump/Auto 12 Ga.	*Oct.
TriStar Viper 410 Shotgun	March
Troy Pump Action Hunting Rifle 243 Win.	June
Uberti 1873 Competition Model 342905 357 Mag.	Nov.
Uintah Precision UPR-10 Bolt Action AR-10 Upper	June. *Sept.
Weatherby Mark V Altitude	April
Weatherby Mark V Camila Deluxe	April
Weatherby Mark V KCR	April
Winchester Model 1873 Carbine	April
Winchester Model 1892 Carbine	April
Winchester Modified Model 70 338 Win. Mag.	*Sept.
Winchester Super X4 Semi-Auto Shotgun Turkey model	March
Winchester XPC	April
Winchester XPR Sporter	April
Windham Weaponry RMCS-4 5.56, 9mm, 300 Blk., 7.62x39	*Feb.

ACCESSORIES/SUPPLIERS/SERVICES

ACT Mag Nickel SIG P220 Magazine	March
Aimpoint CompM5	June
Alien Gear Cloak Tuck UWB	Feb.
AT-84 Used CZ-75 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Barber Leather Works Pancake Holster	Feb.
Barska 1-4x24mm Level HD	June
Browning 1977 Issue Browning Hi-Power 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Buffalo Bore 3E/20 45 Colt 255-gr. SWC Standard Pressure	July
Bushnell XRS II 4.5–30x50mm riflescope	June
C-More MT Series mounting kits	June
Canik 55 CZ-75 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Centerpoint Precision Lock Turret	June
CheapShot Tactical Training Laser 9mm	Oct.
Checkmate 9-Round 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Colt Factory 38 Super Magazine	March
Crimson Trace Laserguard Pro	June
CZ-75 Factory 9mm Luger Magazine	March
DM Bullard Combat Holster	Feb.
Double Diamond Threaded Barrel	July
Dry-fire Mag for Glock Standard Frame	Oct.
Dry-fire Mag for Smith & Wesson M&P	Oct.
Du-Ha Tote roller	Feb.
Elite Tactical Systems Glock Magazine	March
FNH from Gunclips.net Browning Hi-Power 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Frankford Arsenal Platinum Series Case Trim/Prep Center	Jan.
Galco Carry Lite	Feb.
Garrity's Gunleather IWB Standard Holster	Feb.
Glock Factory 17L Magazine	March
Glock Factory 40 S&W Glock 22 Magazine	March
G-Sight, 10-Shot free download, Shot Timer, Unlimited Shots	Oct.
GunMate Hip Holster	Feb.
Hornady Lock-N-Load Auto Charge Powder Dispenser 050068	June
iTarget Quick Draw	Oct., Dec.
iTarget, Target Sled and Laser Bullet Package	Oct., Dec.
J&G Sales Tokarev TT33 magazine	March
Jason Winnie Leathergoods 121	Feb.
Jeffrey Custom Leather R1 Ranger	Feb.
John Inglis 1944 Browning Hi-Power 9mm Luger Magazine	March
JM Custom Kydex IWB Dual Loop	June
Kareen Original Browning Hi-Power 9mm Luger Magazine	March
KNS 17-Round Glock 17L Magazine	March
KNS Extended 29 Round Glock Magazine	March
Laser Ammo LaserPET	Oct., Dec.
Laser Ammo SureStrike Premium Kit 9mm	Oct., Dec.
Lobo Gun Leather Deep Cover Holster	Feb.
Lobo Gun Leather Pocket Holster	Feb.
Lyman Case Prep Xpress	Jan.
Lyman Gen6 Compact Touch Screen Powder System 7750550	June
Magpul 17-Round Glock 17L Magazine	March
Magpul Industries BAD Lever	Feb.
Magpul PMAG 27 GL9	July
Mantis Tech Mantis X	Oct., Dec.
Mec-Gar 9-Round 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Mec-Gar 13-Round Browning Hi-Power 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Mec-Gar 38 Super Magazine	March
Mec-Gar CZ-75 Compact-CZ-75 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Mec-Gar CZ-75 Full-Size CZ-75 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Metalform 1911 9-Round 9mm Standard Luger Magazine	March
Metalform 1911 10-Round 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Nikon Black X1000 6-24x50SF X-MRAD Reticle 16384	June
ProMag 17-Round Glock 17L Magazine	March
RCBS Chargemaster Lite No. 98940	June, Dec.
RCBS Trim Mate Case Prep Center	Jan.
RCBS Universal Case Prep Center	Jan.
Romanian Tokarev Original magazine	March
Ruger SR1911 9-Round 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Rugged Suppressors Surge 7.62	May

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Scherer Extended 29-Round Glock 22 Magazine	March
Self-Defense Insurance: Factors to Consider	May
Shield Sights RMS-C	June
SIG P220 Factory Magazine	March
SIG Sauer Caliber X-Change Kit 357 SIG	July
SilencerCo Osprey 45	Sept.
Smith Tactics BattleBar	Feb.
SwapRig Holsters Cargo Pocket Holster	Feb.
Swarovski BTX Spotting Scope	June
Tagna Gunleather Paddle Holster	Feb.
Taiwan-made Unmarked Tokarev TT33 magazine	March
Taiwan-marked PT92 AF Magazine	March
Taurus Holsters Semi High Ride (Practical Carry)	Feb.
Taurus PT92 AF Factory Magazine	March
Ted Blocker Center of the Back holster	June
Triple K 15-Round Extended Magazine	March
Triple K Browning Hi-Power 9mm Luger Magazine	March
Troy Industries Ambidextrous Bolt Release	Feb.
Wright Leather Works Banshee IWB	Feb.
Zeiss Victory SF Binocular Laser Rangefinder Series	June

AMMUNITION

Aguila 5.56mm NATO 62-gr. FMJ-BT	Jan.
Aguila 40-gr. HV 22 Long Rifle	April
Aguila 71-gr. FMJ 32 ACP	April
Aguila 115-gr. FMJ 9mm Luger	April
Aguila 357 Mag. 158-gr. SJHP	April
Aguila Supermaximum 22 LR 30-gr. CPHP	May
American Eagle 38 Sp. 158-gr. LRN	Nov.
Armscor 36-gr. High-Velocity Hollow Point 50015	July
Armscor 38 Sp. 158-gr. FMJ	April, Nov., Dec.
Armscor 9mm Luger 124-gr. FMJ	July
Armscor 22 TCM 40-gr. JHP	July
Black Hills 5.56mm NATO 62-gr. Barnes TSX	June
Black Hills 5.56mm NATO 69-gr. OTM	June
Black Hills 5.56mm NATO 77-gr. TMK	June
Black Hills 9mm Luger +P 115-gr. JHP D9N820	June
Black Hills 380 ACP HoneyBadger 60-gr.	Aug.
Black Hills 115-gr. +P JHP	Feb.
Black Hills 115-gr. 9mm Luger EXP	Nov.
Black Hills 308 Win. 175-gr. Match	Dec.
Black Hills .223 Rem. 60-gr. V-Max	June
Black Hills 44 Mag. 240-gr. JHP	Aug.
Black Hills 308 Win. 175-gr. BTHP	Feb.
Black Hills Factory New 357 Mag. 125-gr. JHP	Sept.
Black Hills Gold 6.5 CM 143-gr. ELD-X	June
Black Hills Gold 6.5 CM 147-gr. ELD-Match	June
Black Hills Gold 243 Win. 58-gr. Hornady V-Max	June
Black Hills Gold 243 Win. 80-gr. Hornady GMX	June
Black Hills Gold 243 Win. 95-gr. Hornady SST	June
Blazer Brass 357 Mag. 158-gr. JHP	Nov.
Browning BPR 22 LR 37-gr. Frag HP	May
Buffalo Bore 9mm Luger Standard Pressure 147-gr. JHP 24I	Nov.
Buffalo Bore 38 Super 115-gr. JHP	March
Buffalo Bore 38 Super 147-gr. JHP	March
Buffalo Bore 44 Sp. 200 gr. Barnes TAC XP	Jan.
Buffalo Bore Outdoorsman HCLFN 147-gr. 24L/20	Nov.
CCI Blazer 40-gr. 22 Long Rifle	April
CCI Blazer 115-gr. FMJ 9mm Luger	April
CCI Blazer 158-gr. RNL 38 Sp.	April
CCI Blazer 200-gr. Gold Dot 44 Sp.	April
CCI Mini Mag 22 LR 36-gr. CPHP	May
CCI Short Target 22 Short 29-gr. LRN	May
Century Int'l Arms Red Army 86-gr. FMJ 7.62mm Tokarev	April
DoubleTap +P 9mm Luger 147 gr. JHP	Nov.
DoubleTap 9mm 115-gr. JHP	March
DoubleTap 38 Super 115-gr. JHP	March
DoubleTap 38 Super 125-gr. JHP	March
DoubleTap 44 Sp. 180-gr. Controlled Expansion JHP	Jan.
DoubleTap 44 Sp. 200-gr. Controlled Expansion JHP	Jan.
DoubleTap 9mm Luger 165-gr. JHP	Nov.
DoubleTap 357 SIG 115-gr. JHP	March
DoubleTap 357 SIG 125-gr. JHP	March
DoubleTap 357 Mag 158-gr. Bonded	March
Eley Subsonic 05400 38-gr. Lead Hollow Point	July
Federal 6.5 Creedmoor 140-gr. SP Non-Typical White Tail	Feb.
Federal 9mm 124-gr. HST	March
Federal 38-gr. Copper- plated Hollowpoints 22 Long Rifle	April
Federal 357 Mag 125-gr. JHP	March
Federal 357 Mag 140-gr. Barnes	March
Federal 357 Mag 158-gr. Hydra-Shok	March
Federal American Eagle 95-gr. FMJ 9mm Luger	April
Federal American Eagle 124-gr. HST hollowpoints 9mm Luger	April
Federal American Eagle 125-gr. FMJ 357 SIG	July
Federal American Eagle 223 Rem. 55-gr. FMJ AE223J	April
Federal American Eagle Practice and Defend Pack 9mm Luger	April
Federal Champion 38 Sp. 158-gr. LRN	Dec.
Federal Classic 200-gr. SWHP 44 Sp.	April
Federal Edge TLR 200-gr. Edge TLR	Sept.
Federal Fusion 7mm-08 Rem. 139-gr.	March
Federal Game-Shok 22 LR #12 shot	May
Federal Power-Shok 30 Carbine 110-gr. SPRN 30CA	April
Federal Premium Barnes Exp. 357 Mag. 140-gr. HP	Sept.
Federal Premium Black Cloud Steel PWBX142 3-in.	Aug.
Federal Premium Gold Match 190-gr. Sierra MatchKing BTHP	Sept.
Federal Premium Hydra-Shok Deep 135-gr. PD9HS5H	Nov.
Federal Premium HST 9mm Luger LE 147-gr. JHP P9HST2	June
Federal Premium HST 380 ACP 99-gr. JHP P380HST1S	Aug.
Federal Premium PD 357 SIG 125-gr. JHP	July
Federal Premium HST 147-gr. P9HST2	Nov.
Federal Premium HST +P 147-gr. P9HST4	Nov.
Federal Premium Micro HST 9mm Luger 150-gr. P9HST5S	Nov.
Fiocchi 40-gr. 22FHVCRN 22 Long Rifle	April
Fiocchi 73-gr. FMJ 32 ACP	April
Fiocchi 90-gr. 380 ACP JHP 380APHP	Aug.

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2018 PRODUCT COVERAGE

Fiocchi 95-gr. FMJ 380 ACP	April
Fiocchi 115-gr. FMJ 9mm Luger	April
Fiocchi 124-gr. TCFMJ 357 SIG	April
Fiocchi 125-gr. CMJFB 38 Sp.	April
Fiocchi 129-gr. 38 Super	April
Fiocchi 142-gr. Truncated Cone 357 Mag.	April
Fiocchi 147-gr. JHP	Feb.
Fiocchi 147-gr. 9mm Luger JHP 9APDHP	Nov.
Fiocchi 146-gr. RNL 38 Smith & Wesson	April
Fiocchi 308 Win. 150-gr. SST	Dec.
Fiocchi 158-gr. Extrema 357 Mag.	April
Fiocchi 200-gr. JHP 45B500 45 ACP	Sept.
Fiocchi 230-gr. CMJ 45 ACP	April
Fiocchi 230-gr. FMJ 45 ACP	April
Fiocchi Cowboy Action 45 Colt 250-gr. LRNFP 45LCCA	July
Gorilla Ammunition 9mm Luger 115-gr. JHP	Nov.
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor 140-gr. ELD Match 81500	Feb.
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor 147-gr. ELD Match 81501	Feb.
Hornady 6.5 Creedmoor Precision Hunter 143-gr. ELD-X 81499	Feb.
Hornady 243 Win. 95-gr. Hollowpoint	March
Hornady 357 SIG 147-gr. XTP	March
Hornady 9mm 124-gr. AG +P	March
Hornady AG 9mm Luger 115-gr. XTP	July
Hornady Black 308 Win. 168-gr. A-Max	Dec.
Hornady Critical Defense 30 Carbine 110-gr. FTX 81030	April
Hornady Critical Defense 44 Sp. 165-gr. FTX	April, Aug.
Hornady Critical Defense 45 Colt 185-gr. FTX 92790	July
Hornady Critical Duty FlexLock +P 135-gr. 90226	Nov.
Hornady Custom XTP 9mm Luger 147-gr. 90282	Nov.
Hornady Interlock 7mm-08 Rem. 139-gr.	March
Hornady Interlock 7.62x39 123-gr. Z-Max Tipped Hollowpoint	March
Hornady Match 6.5 CM 140-gr. ELD-Match	June
Hornady Match 168-gr. BTHP 8097 308 Win.	May
Hornady Match 308 Win. 168-gr. BTHP 8097	May
Hornady Non-Typical Whitetail 170-gr. SP	Sept.
Hornady Match 178-gr. ELD Match	Sept.
Hornady Zombie Max 223 Rem. 55-gr. V-Max 83271	April
HPR 45 ACP 185-gr. JHP	Oct.
HSM 44 Sp. 200 gr. Lead	Jan.
HSM 44 Sp. 240-gr. Lead	Jan., April
HSM 44 Sp. 240-gr. JHP	Jan.
Jesse James Ammo Inc. 9mm Luger 124-gr. JHP	Nov.
MagTech 32 ACP 71-gr. JHP 32 ACP	April
MagTech 98-gr. JHP 32 Smith & Wesson Long	April
MagTech 115-gr. FMJ 9mm Luger	April
MagTech 146-gr. RNL 38 Smith & Wesson	April
Monarch 145-gr. Full Metal Jackets 308 Win. Savage	May
Monarch 308 Win. 145-gr. FMJ	May
Moylan 230-gr. FMJ 45 ACP	April
PPU 7mm-08 Rem. 140-gr. Pointed Soft Point Boattail	March
PPU 85-gr. JHP 7.62mm Tokarev	April
PPU 146-gr. RNL 38 Smith & Wesson	April
PPU Brass 45 ACP	April
PMC 38 Sp. 158-gr. LRN	Nov.
PMC Pistol Match 22 Long Rifle Pistol Match	April
Precision Delta PDP Pro 124-gr. JHP	Feb.
Prvi Partizan 7.62x39 123-gr. Pointed Soft Point Boattail	March
Prvi Partizan 130-gr. FMJ 38 Super	April
Prvi Partizan 45 ACP 185-gr. SJHP PP-R4.31	Sept.
Prvi Partizan 243 Win. 90-gr. Soft Point	March
Prvi Partizan 243 Win. 100-gr. Soft Point	March
Remington Game Loads 7/8-ounce Lead GL206	Aug.
Remington Gun Club Target Loads GC1218	Aug.
Remington Buffalo Bore Outdoorsman HCLFN 147-gr. 24L/20	Nov.
Remington Thunderbolt 22 Long Rifle 40-gr.	April
Remington UMC 300 AAC Blackout 120-gr. OTFB L300AAC1	May
Remington UMC 300 AAC Blackout 220-gr. Subsonic 21422	May
Sellier & Bellot 86-gr. FMJ 7.62mm Tokarev	April
Sellier & Bellot 300 AAC Blackout 147-gr. FMJ SB300BLKB	May
SIG Sauer 38 Sp. +P 125-gr. JHP	April, Dec.
SIG Sauer 308 Win. 150-gr. HT	Feb.
SIG Sauer 308 Win. 168-gr. OTM	Feb.
SIG Sauer Elite 44 Mag. 240-gr. JHP	Jan.
SIG Sauer Elite 125-gr. FMJ 38 Super	April
SIG Sauer Elite 223 Rem. 77-gr. OTM Match	Jan.
SIG Sauer Elite V-Crown 9mm Luger 147-gr. E9MMA3-20	Nov.
SIG Sauer V-Crown 9mm Luger 124-gr. JHP	May
SIG Sauer V-Crown 44 Mag. 240-gr. JHP	Aug.
Silver Bear 94-gr. FMJ 380 ACP	April
Speer Gold Dot 38 Sp. 125-gr. GDHP	Dec.
Speer Lawman 125-gr. FMJ 357 Mag.	April
Tula 91-gr. FMJ 380 ACP	April
Tula 130-gr. FMJ 38 Sp.	April
Tula Steel Cased 124-gr. FMJ 9mm Luger	April
Winchester 37-gr. HP Super 22 Long Rifle	April
Winchester 71-gr. FMJ 32 ACP	April
Winchester 115-gr. FMJ 9mm Luger	April
Winchester 9mm 124-gr. PDX +P	March
Winchester 308 Win. 185-gr. Hollowpoint	May
Winchester 357 SIG 125-gr. SXT	March
Winchester Defend 45 ACP 230-gr. JHP	Oct.
Winchester M-22 40-gr. Black Copper-Plated LRN WINS22LRT	July
Winchester PDX1 Defender 125-gr. JHP 357 Mag.	April
Winchester PDX1 Defender 147-gr. S9MMPDB1	Nov.
Winchester Super-X 44 Mag. 240-gr. JHP	Jan.
Winchester Super-X 200-gr. Silvertip HP 44 Sp.	April
Winchester USA 230-gr. 45 ACP FMJ Q4170	Sept.
Winchester White Box 40 S&W 180-gr. FMJ	July
Winchester White Box 45 ACP 230-gr. FMJ	Oct.
Winchester Wildcat 40-gr. 22 Long Rifle	April
Wolf 7.62x39 124-gr. Hollowpoint	March
Wolf 85-gr. JHP 7.62mm Tokarev	April

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Compiled and edited by Managing Editor Tracey Taylor. **GT**

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top-tier firearm in a compact size. The chamberings include the 6mm Creedmoor and 6.5 Creedmoor, two rounds hunters are looking closely at to replace harder-kicking rifles but still have satisfactory downrange performance. This compact bolt-action rifle features a black composite stock with a shorter 13-inch length of pull that is paired to the X-Bolt action. The receiver has a matte-blued finish and is drilled and tapped for scope mounts. A 20-inch barrel keeps weight low. Other chamberings include 243 Win., 7mm-08, and 308 Win. MSRP is $960.



● Magnum Research, Inc., maker of the Desert Eagle pistol, has launched the new 429 DE pistol cartridge. The .44-caliber pistol cartridge has a 25% velocity increase and 45% energy increase over a 44 Magnum. It has a velocity of 1600 fps with 240-grain bullets and 1750 fps with 210-grain bullets. The 429 DE features a 30-degree shoulder and a neck long enough to hold and crimp a 240-grain bullet without set back under recoil. Based on the 50 AE cartridge, the 429 DE is made with Starline brass and is loaded by HSM in Montana with Sierra bullets. The 429 DE rounds are available in boxes of twenty ($42) and are distributed by Magnum Research. Pistols are coming soon. **GT**

COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

● Inside-The-Waistband Holsters: In this installment, we test more than a dozen holsters from makers large and small. We tested traditional designs that have stood the test of time, such as the Galco Summer Comfort and the bold new designs from Urban Carry. We also tested the DeSantis Hidden Truth, a Kydex design, as a counterpoint to leather. Others included the Wright Leatherworks Cobra, a combination IWB/OWB design, and the Jeffrey Custom Leather EZCarry, a holster that may be worn between the belt and the trousers as well as IWB.

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