GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

$5.95 October 2018/Vol. XXX, No. 10



MAGAZINE-FED SHOTGUNS

We like Remington's 870 DM, but is it good enough to supplant tube-fed pumpguns such as the 870 Tactical and Mossberg 590 Tactical? And how does it fare against Mossberg's 590M? ● Page 6



DRY-FIRE TRAINERS

Can these devices save you money and up your performance? We think so. We test LaserLyte, Dry-fire Mag, CheapShot, Laser Ammo, iTarget, Mantis, and G-Sight products to see which offers the most realistic practice environment with the least fuss. ● Page 18



THREE NEW COMMANDERS

Tested: Taurus 1911 Commander, American Classic Commander, and Metro Arms MAC 1911 Bobcut. We find a lot of functionality in these three pistols, and they don't break the bank. ● Page 24

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DOWNRANGE

NEW THREATS TO GUN OWNERSHIP



Todd Woodard

I **honestly** thought that once Donald Trump became president, we'd see fewer onerous gun regulations being rolled out — and, perchance, a rollback of some existing regulations, or even an expansion of gun rights. Silly me. President Trump did make it a campaign pledge to delete two regulations for every new one installed, but that effort hasn't been extended to gun regulations, at least that I've heard of. Moreover, while wide-ranging federal efforts to restrict gun ownership and simply make it harder to own, buy, and transact firearms have stalled at the national level, that doesn't mean that the inalienable right to self-defense with guns isn't being challenged across the country. In fact, the new challenges to 2A rights are especially pernicious. To wit:

In an excellent piece in *National Review* on August 21, 2018, entitled "Corporate Gun Control Might Be the Worst Threat to Gun Rights," writer David French outlines the shape of a new attack gun-banners have rolled out, and I have to say I'm worried because it uses legal and financial levers to attack gun rights.

French writes, "Titans of American banking and communication are taking steps to restrict the use of their funds or platforms by gun makers, gun-rights advocates, and others. The threat is just now emerging, but it may be as great a danger to gun rights as it is to the culture of free speech in this nation, and indeed the two are linked."

He points out that "Citigroup is setting restrictions on the sale of firearms by its business customers, making it the first Wall Street bank to take a stance in the divisive nationwide gun control debate." French says the new Citi policy prohibits the sale of firearms to customers who have not passed a background check or who are younger than 21. It also bars the sale of bump stocks and high-capacity magazines. It would apply to clients who offer credit cards backed by Citigroup or borrow money, use banking services or raise capital through the company.

Also, Bank of America will stop lending money to gun manufacturers that make military-inspired firearms for civilian use, such as AR-15 rifles, French writes.

I would also mention the NRA is suing Gov. Andrew Cuomo and several of his financial appointees for "blacklisting" the NRA from getting insurance coverage in New York State. This is a political attack, of course, but it's not legislative, which gun-rights advocates know how to work against. If Cuomo's tactics hold, then NRA could conceivably be prevented from even operating in the state, and the ban would have been accomplished administratively.

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REMEMBER: BE SAFE, BE SECURE, BE AWARE

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Subscriptions: $49 (U.S.) annually. Outside the U.S. and Canada $72 (U.S.) for one year, $144 (U.S.) for two years. Single copies $7.50 (U.S.). Bulk-rate subscriptions for organizations and educational institutions are available.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to: ***GUN TESTS***, P.O. Box 8535, Big Sandy, TX 75755-8535, or ***GUN TESTS***, P.O. Box 39, Norwich ON, N0J 1P0. **Canada Publishing Agreement** #40016479.

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Two Thumbs Up for EZ, 911

Reader Ed praises the S&W Shield for its ease of use for women and older shooters. Reader Bill tops our pistol caliber-conversion efforts by a mile. And Reader Dean asks about ear muffs.

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

Jackpot! You reviewed and gave an "A" grade to two guns that I am very interested in. First is the S&W M&P 380 Shield EZ. I am an NRA instructor and we are constantly faced with the problem of recommending a semi-auto gun for women and older students who have trouble loading the magazine, racking the slide, and handling recoil. I have felt that the S&W Shield EZ would be perfect for them, but haven't had a chance to fire one. Your review solves that — I now feel that I can recommend it with confidence.

I am also interested in the Springfield Armory 911 as pocket-carry gun, and your review was very helpful. I do have a question about the slide-racking effort. On page 8, you mention that the Shield requires about 9 pounds effort and the 911 requires 9.7 pounds. Is this a typo, or does the 911 really have a racking effort that is that low? Thanks for the good reviews, they are really helpful! **— Ed**

Hey Ed: Yep, Bob Campbell confirms that the slide-retraction effort for the 911 was 9.7 pounds. It does seem like S&W has listened to what the market was asking for when the company made the Shield EZ. — Todd Woodard

Re "Caliber-Conversion Pistols From Rock Island Armory, Glock, SIG," July 2018

Sirs, I enjoyed your July 2018 article on caliber conversion pistols. I figured this idea out early enough to have saved myself a fair amount of money. I have taken it one step further than you, by adding an additional caliber into the mix. My





choice of a host gun is the Glock 23, as I prefer the compact size. For well under $400, less than one new Glock, I have the flexibility of having a conversion barrel for 9mm (G19) with a few mags, and for 357 SIG (G32), which is my favorite. As a bonus, the G23 40-cal mags will work fine with the 357 SIG rounds, negating the need to purchase additional magazines (though G32 mags are cheap and plentiful). Some folks have commented to me that I should consider using different recoil springs, but I have had no issues with

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.



the springs in any of my setups. I prefer to shoot suppressed, and have purchased my barrels threaded. Regarding the point of impact issues you describe, yes, it does happen, but it is minimal. However, with a mini RDC (red dot) mounted, I can zero in each caliber selection within minutes. When you consider many Glock owners like me have made large investments in aftermarket trigger groups, sights, and other internals like titanium recoil springs, safety plungers, firing pins, and such, it would cost a small fortune over and above the base cost of the additional two pistols to outfit the additional pistols to my liking. I figure I have about $1400 invested, and have essentially three custom Glocks in three of my favorite calibers, and with the money I saved, I bought an AAC Tirant 45 can and a few additional thread-pattern pistons for flexibility! Beat that! **— Bill**

That sounds like a super Glock set-up. We can't beat that! — tw

Re "Two 30-30 Lever-Action Rifles: Winchester Vs. Ted Williams," March 2013

I was reading the test between the Model 100 30-30 Ted Williams. I really liked your findings since I happen to own a Ted Williams Model. I traded with a friend of mine probably around 20 years ago. I absolutely will not ever sell or trade this beautiful piece of workmanship. The only problem I have with it is, my friend sort of neglected the preventative maintenance on this rifle, a bit of surface rust started on it. Not much, but to me not much is too much! I've taken very good care of this rifle, and there's only one thing I would like to change about it. That would be the sights on it. My eyes aren't what they used to be, but also I was never really happy with the rear sight, they seemed a flimsy to me. When I first got this rifle, the sight had been bent just a bit and I changed it. Well, the wedge part of it was just too loose for my liking, so I want to change it to an adjustable rear. Otherwise, this is a great rifle. Thanks for highlighting it. **— Stephen**



Re "Downrange," January 2017

Hello, gentlemen. It seems that the rush toward simplifying suppressor access has cooled considerably. I believe that making them commonly available, like normal firearms sales, will result in their appearance in the frequent inner-city street shootings we see every day in the news. This will only hurt the legitimate firearms trade and hobby. Also, as I reflect on the late ammo shortage surrounding the Obama/Clinton presidential runs, it becomes obvious that every entity involved in the manufacture, wholesaling, transportation, and storage of ammunition purposefully held it off the retail market in order to "cash in" when ammo became worth three times what it normally would be sold for. I'm not saying a conspiracy, just the normal ebb and flow involved in marketing. Did anyone notice that shotgun ammo was immune to the "shortage?" Since the political roiling mentioned, even more good ammo factories have been established in the U.S., but when the political pendulum swings to the left again, as it always must, there will be yet again another 'gun-n-ammo' panic driven by fears of super-regulation. Thanks for your excellent publication; I look forward to it each month in print. **— Art**

You may be right on both counts Art, but we take the opposite sides. Even if suppressors become less regulated, they'll still be expensive, and expensive guns aren't being used in Chicago every weekend. Perhaps if prices came down and suppressors were less regulated, that might be enough to commodify their use in crime. And on the periodic ammo shortages of the recent past, we believe they were demand generated, not consciously supply constricted. Folks got spooked by what national-level politicians were saying about gun bans, and they decided the time to buy was right then, rather than wait for the ban-hammer to fall and real restrictions get put into place on rifles and pistols. Classic panic buying, with the resulting supply problems meeting the demand spike, in our opinion. But we will likely never know in either case. — tw

Re "Programmable Automatic Powder Dispensers Compete," June 2018

I have a RCBS Chargemaster Combo. I have two reloading stations and I got tired of moving my RCBS Chargemaster Combo back and forth. I knew about the Chargemaster Lite and after reading your article, I checked out some more online reviews of the Chargemaster Lite unit. All the reviews said it was faster than the Chargemaster Combo unit. I ordered it and started to use it right away. The bottom line is that the RCBS Chargemaster Lite is terribly slow!

I read the manual through and through and saw where it said to start it up 15 to 20 minutes before using it and that's what I do each time. You don't have to do that with the Chargemaster Combo, but start-up time is not an issue with me. I was working up loads for several different-

caliber revolvers in a three-week period. I used different powders, some light and some heavier. One example I was loading was Trail Boss 6.8 grains. Every charge took 1 minute and 25 to 35 seconds. That is unacceptable!



I know the Chargemaster Combo can be speeded up, and I thought I should be able to do that with the Chargemaster Lite. I called RCBS, and they said while you can reset the settings on a Chargemaster Combo to speed it up, you cannot do that on the Chargemaster Lite.

I told the RCBS tech about the slow-trickle issue that I've experienced and about the online reviews. The RCBS tech said the reviews were all correct. He said to manufacture the Chargemaster Lite at a more affordable price, they had to make the trickle speeds slower.

I then purchased a second Chargemaster Combo, and I only use the Chargemaster Lite when I'm loading (cases only) in my den and I'm not concerned with the time it takes to load. The RCBS Chargemaster Combo is the way to go.

I have been for years and am still are impressed with Gun Tests. When I'm ready to purchase any firearm or a related firearm product, I look for those items in my saved issues of Gun Tests. If I can't find the item in the back issues I have, I go online to your website and search for it there. I recommend Gun Tests to all of my shooting friends. **— Pete in Charlotte, N.C.**

How About Hearing Protection

Sir, I will start this out as many of your other subscribers do, by saying that I really enjoy your magazine. I find the articles very helpful in guiding me through an informative purchase. Now here it comes; I would like to suggest that you review Electronic Ear Muffs. (I can hear the moans). Before we get started, I searched the archives and I found an article on the subject in the October 2002 publication; however, and I know it was my failure, I could not print out the article.

The renewed interest by every organization to bring new people into the firearms fraternity, be it self-defense, recreational, target shooting, or hunting, we all know that safety is of major concern and is the first issue addressed by any instructor. Given the fact that the article is almost 15 years old and today's equipment has made so many advancements, I would like to suggest that the topic of ear protection be looked at again.

I would further like to ask that while evaluating the devices, that you somehow rate them for use with handguns, long guns, and diverse types of hats. Ball caps, brimmed hats, hats with neck protection, etc. It is sometimes difficult to use muffs while wearing head gear or a rifle/shotgun versus a handgun. I know I am pushing it, but I would greatly appreciate it. Maybe you could combine the muff test with a firearms evaluation session. I do enjoy your magazine and articles, keep up the magnificent work. **— Dean**

Hey Dean, no problem with the ask. It has been a long time since we visited the topic of hearing protection, and we all need and should use it. So I'll start researching it and see what we can come up with. — tw

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Home-Defense Shotguns: Are Magazine-Feds the New Thing?

We like Remington's 870 DM, but is it good enough to supplant tube-fed pumpguns such as the 870 Tactical and Mossberg 590 Tactical? Not for us. Also, Mossberg's 590M disappoints.

The recent introduction of magazine-fed versions of the Remington 870 and Mossberg 590 pump-action shotguns have led to immense interest in the new designs, but we have not jumped onto the mag-pump bandwagon because, in our view, these shotguns are not without some trade-offs. Some of our shooters see nothing wrong with the tubular-magazine-fed shotgun, which can be topped off on the fly by a trained shooter. Others on our team question the balance of the converted shotguns and the loss of the natural pointing characteristics of the tube-fed pumps. (We use the term "converted" as a means of describing the modifications made to existing pumpgun designs). Despite our misgivings, the magazine-fed pump-action shotguns have been at the top of our test list, so we acquired a Remington Model 870 DM and the Mossberg 590M. To make for a broader field of reference, we added two proven tube-fed pump shotguns. The Remington 870 Tactical features Magpul furniture and XS sights, and the Mossberg 590 Tactical has a heat shield and a SpeedFeed Synthetic Stock. Then, to cap it off, we added a Saiga-style JTS M12AK shotgun, a magazine-fed semi-auto. This allowed us to compare two familiar shotguns against the magazine-fed versions of the same shotguns, as well as a previously tested magazine-fed semi-auto style that ranked well. The test was very involved and very interesting.



The pump-action magazine-fed shotguns were similar, but not equal, in operation and handling to the pumpguns, and the primary difference is in the type of magazines used and the price and availability of the magazines. At present, 3- and 6-round magazines for the Remington 870 DM Hardwood 81351 12 Gauge, top, are very difficult to obtain, and magazines for the Mossberg 590M Mag-Fed Pump-Action 50205, bottom, are expensive. This colored our opinion of the mag-fed pump shotguns because having available gear is vital for training with a tactical shotgun.

Why Have New Magazine-Fed Models Appeared?

There have been mag-fed shotguns before, of course, but why are Mossberg and Remington taking this leap now? Our guess: The AR-15 rifle seems at the top of the heap among popular firearms at present, and there isn't anything wrong with that; the AR-15 is a lot of fun to fire and use. For civilians, however, the shotgun likely remains the best short-range problem solver and also the best home-defense firearm. They are also useful for defense against violent animals. But with millions of ARs being sold over the last 20 years, many shooters have grown accustomed to working with magazines. It seems to us, then, the introduction of magazine-fed shotguns is tied to the popularity of magazine-fed self-loading rifles.

The shotgun offers fast and simple handling and reliability and is simple to use and effective at close range. Shot doesn't carry as far as a cartridge round, making it less offensive than a pistol or rifle in the case of misses. The problems some find with the shotgun are limited magazine capacity and reloading speed, which the new mag-fed models purport to solve.

The most popular pump-action shotguns, the Remington 870 and Mossberg 500, actually spring from the same primogenitor. Remington's smooth Model 31 shotgun was deemed too expensive to manufacture, so during the late 1940s, the Remington 870 was developed. The Mossberg also has features related to the Remington 31 shotgun. These designs are proven; there are plenty of

accessories, parts, and spare barrels available; and they are easily maintained and operated. For many years, a simple pump-action shotgun with a four- or five-shell capacity was all that was deployed. Today, we have extended magazine tubes and shell carriers for shotguns. Some aftermarket add-ons are high quality, others are not, but few affect function. Modern shooters like to have a greater magazine capacity and favor extended magazine tubes. If you find yourself in what would be an uncommon situation engaging multiple threats that



From top, we preferred traditional tube-fed pumpguns, such as the Mossberg 590 Tactical Shotgun Heat Shield SpeedFeed Synthetic Stock 50665 and the Remington Model 870 Express Tactical Magpul 81209. The fifth gun in this test, bottom, was the affordable JTS M12AK shotgun, for which magazines are readily available and comparatively inexpensive. Right: Shotshell wads and slugs made big holes in the targets during the test.



are moving, this capacity could be a life saver. It is good to have all of the gun load carried on the shotgun. Gun belts carrying shotgun shells are heavy and cumbersome and not particularly fast to use. The perceived need for extra firepower is also, we feel, related to the popularity of AR-15 rifles. A shotgun is a different animal and must be looked at in a different manner. As far as quickly reloading the shotgun, this is needed more in room clearing in Afghanistan than in home defense. But we added a Mesa Tactical side-saddle shell carrier to the Remington 870 tactical and used it during a firing test, and the Mossberg 590 purchased was outfitted with a SpeedFeed stock. The shotgun is reliable, and with a good understanding of the available shotshell loads, they may be versatile. While standard pump-action shotguns are formidable, adding custom stocks and sights are beneficial. If any are essential we cannot say, but many of these, such as the Magpul stock and XS sights, are good to have. Just be certain that any additions to the shotgun do not conflict with reliable operation. Train with the shotgun to master it, and train again after any accessory is added.

Mossberg launched its Mag-Fed 590 pump-action shotgun line in January 2018, and we had occasion to test the ***Mossberg 590M Mag-Fed Pump-Action 50205 12 Gauge, $535*** from BudsGunShop.com, against the other four shotguns. The front of the shotgun is built on Mossberg's pump-action tactical platform, which is now married to double-stack shotgun magazines in 5-, 10-, 15-, and 20-round counts. The 590M is initially available in two 10-round configurations. Our test gun, the 50205 base model comes with an 18.5-inch-long heavy-walled Cylinder-bore barrel, bead sight, black synthetic stock and forend, matte-blue metal finishes, and a 10-round, double-stack magazine. MSRP for it is $721. The 590M Mag Fed Tri-Rail 10-Round (50206) option features a Tactical Tri-Rail forend with full-length bottom rail and dual side rails for attachment of lights and accessories. It, too, has an 18.5-inch heavy-walled barrel with a 2.75-inch chamber and adds an interchangeable Accu-Choke choke tube system with a Cylinder-bore tube included. The 50206 also has a protective heat shield, Ghost-Ring sight, black synthetic stock and forend, matte-blue metal finishes, and comes with a 10-round double-stack magazine. MSRP is $801. Standard features of the 590M include non-binding twin action bars, anti-jam elevator in the magazine, dual extractors, anodized aluminum receiver drilled and tapped for optics, cleanout magazine tube, and an ambidextrous top-mounted safety. With the included 10-round magazine, these 12-gauge pump-actions have a total round capacity of 10+1.

The company's description of the patented double-stack magazines includes hardened-steel feed lips, over-molded steel shell ramps, and an anti-cant, rounded follower. Other design features include a molded external shell, proprietary self-lubricating polymer magazine body, heavy-duty ASTM-A-228 music-wire magazine spring, a removable floorplate for ease of cleaning, and a black-oxide finish on the steel components. The double-stack magazines are proprietary, which creates a pricing problem, as we learned.

Remington publicly launched its magazine-fed line of pump shotguns in December 2017, pointing out the Model 870 pump-action shotgun has long been a favorite of tactical, home-defense, military, law-enforcement, and traditional sporting shooters, with more than 11 million sold. The new 870 DMs offer 3- and 6-round magazines, and the company touted the magazines' ability to instantly alternate loads because "invaders in

your home don't wait for you to fill a magazine tube." Five models were available initially, the least expensive of which was our test gun, the ***Remington 870 DM Hardwood 81351 12 Gauge, $324,*** which has been available at that price from BudsGunShop.com recently. The baseline black-synthetic unit, Model No. 81350, has a stock with Super Cell recoil pad, tactical "corn cob" forend, and an 18.5-inch fixed Cylinder bore barrel. MSRP is $529. Another self-defense variation in the line is the 870 DM Magpul 81352, which features a Magpul SGA stock with Super Cell recoil pad, a Magpul MOE M-LOK forend and 18.5-inch Rem Choke barrel with an extended ported tactical choke, an XS steel front sight and XS tactical rail/Ghost Ring rear sight. MSRP for it is $799. The 870 DM Tactical/Predator 81354 has an OverMolded ShurShot thumbhole stock, MSRP $799; the 870 DM Tac-14 (81348) has a Shockwave Grip, Magpul Forend, and a 14-inch barrel (MSRP $559); and the 870 DM Tactical (81360) has a pistol grip buttstock, "corn cob" forend, and an extended ported tactical choke (MSRP $799).

The ***JTS M12AK Semi-Auto Shotgun,*** an AK-style scattergun, $450 from an Academy Sports & Outdoors retail store, represents a box-fed version that has lead the way in magazine shotguns for a long time. We felt it would be good to test the type against our new magazine-fed pump action shotguns. This is a Chinese-made AK-47-type gas-operated self-loading shotgun with a five-round detachable box magazine. Unlike the other two magazine-fed shotguns, the JTS is supplied with two magazines. The receiver features a Picatinny rail. There is a four-position adjustment for the gas system that should allow firing light loads to heavy loads. The stock and forend are standard AK-47 black-synthetic types. The sights are not traditional shotgun sights, but are instead a front post and an adjustable AK-47-type rear sight. In common with all other shotguns tested save the Mossberg 590M, the JTS accepts both 2.75- and 3-inch shells.

Our two tube-fed pumpguns were the ***Remington Model 870 Express Tactical Magpul 81209, $729;*** and the ***Mossberg 590 Tactical Shotgun Heat Shield SpeedFeed Synthetic Stock 50665, $480,*** both of which had specialty buttstocks.

We used six loads during the shooting evaluation. We relied primarily on light birdshot loads during the evaluation to mitigate the effects of recoil and for economy and convenience. These included Estate Cartridge No. 7½ birdshot ($5.43/25 from BudsGunShop.com), Winchester's AA birdshot ($10.75/25 from LuckyGunner.com), and Fiocchi's No. 8 birdshot ($8.07/25 from SportsmansGuide.com) We fired at least 100 light loads in each shotgun during the firing test.

We also used buckshot on several combat courses, firing at 7, 10, and 20 yards. We also fired twenty rounds of each of the following loads in each shotgun: Federal 9-ball 00 buckshot LE13200 ($4/5 shells from AmmoDepot.com) and Hornady's American Gunner buckshot ($7.38/10 shells from TargetSports.com). We also fired each shotgun for accuracy with ten shells using Fiocchi's full-power Aero slug ($8.10/10 shells from VenturaMunitions.com). Individual raters also supplied a number of mixed loads left over from previous testing.

The four pump-action shotguns tested all have the same takedown. Unscrew the barrel nut that rides on the magazine tube and remove the barrel for cleaning. The Mossberg 590 has two rail attachments. The magazine-fed shotguns have wisely not modified this feature. The four pump shotguns, then, are equal concerning maintenance. The fifth shotgun, the JTS AK-type, is also simple, but with the added complication of a gas-operated action. Press a button on the back of the dust cover to remove the dust cover/action cover. Remove the recoil-spring assembly then bolt-carrier assembly. There is plenty of room to clean the barrel from the rear. Considering the difficulty in removing the bolt from a pump-action shotgun, the AK system has much merit. Here's more about each shotgun individually:

Mossberg 590M Mag-Fed Pump-Action 50205 12 Gauge, $530

This was a recent price at BudsGunShop.com. Approaching the Mossberg and the Remington shoot out, we found adherents of each that are adamant their choice is the better shotgun. These are very experienced shooters. This means that they have practiced to the point that one shotgun or the other best suits their style and proficiency, and they will prefer the action or the safety design or one shotgun over the other. With the introduction of the Mossberg 590M and Remington 870 DM, we might expect the choice to be more of the same, with the shotguns being adopted straight down the line by Mossberg or Remington fans. But this isn't happening, for several reasons. One, the Remington magazines are scarce as of this writing. Second, the magazine attachment is different between the Remington and Mossberg. Sometimes the first shotgun that we own is the one we live with — or decide it isn't the one for us. But given two reliable systems, a single feature may sway the user. The Mossberg safety sways some. The Mossberg magazine attachment may sway others.

Finish and accessories are not as important as how the shotgun performs. The Mossberg 590M is a heavy-barrel heavy-duty version of the Mossberg 500 shotgun. This 590M is not supplied with a barrel heat shield. This 590M, unlike the tube-fed 590 20-inch-barrel version tested, did not have the two barrel-band attachments the 590 is known for. (Going forward, we'll designate the magazine version as the 590M and the tube-fed as the 590T, even though the latter isn't an official designation.)

The finish on the 590M is plain matte black and the stocks are synthetic. The sights are a simple bead-front type. The white-outline markings on the receiver look cheap in our opinion, but function isn't affected. The

MOSSBERG 590M MAG-FED PUMP-ACTION 50205
12 GAUGE, $530
GUN TESTS GRADE: D

We liked the Mossberg when examining the piece in dry fire and based on the magazine design. The magazine does protrude more than the Remington, but it holds ten shells. The shotgun did not function as well as the Remington DM or the tube-feds. We would not buy this shotgun at this time.



Action Type	Manual pump action; 2.75-in. chamber	Choke	Cylinder Bore
		Buttstock	Synthetic with recoil pad
Overall Length	39.5 in.	Buttstock Length of Pull	13.87 in.
Overall Height	10.3 in.	Forend	Grooved synthetic
Capacity	10+1	Sights	Bead front
Weight Unloaded	7.8 lbs.	Trigger Pull Weight	6.0 lbs.
		Warranty	2 years
Weight Loaded	8.7 lbs.	Telephone	(800) 363-3555
Barrel	18.5-in. heavy-wall matte-blued steel	Website	Mossberg.com
		Made In	U.S.A.





While it appeared durable, we experienced feed issues with the Mossberg magazine. The 590M suffered several malfunctions, perhaps 35%. We experienced tie ups even while working it in dry-fire drills. Above are two instances of 2.75-inch shells jamming in the 590M.



Here's the shotgun loaded with a 10-round magazine. The piece was supplied with a single ten-rounder shown detached below. Mossberg magazines come in a variety of lengths and specifications. The magazine heads are 3.5 inches long and 2.5 inches wide. The five-round magazine is 5.3 inches tall. The 10 round is 8.0 inches tall; the 15 round is 10.7 inches tall, and the 20 round is 12.6 inches tall.





We liked the Mossberg magazine attachment itself, but we do not like the sharp-shouldered feed ramp inside the gun. The receiver of the Mossberg 590M has undergone considerable modification to accept magazines. At right is a top view of the Mossberg magazine. It looks very well built, thick, and strong.





Of course, the higher-capacity Mossberg 590M magazine, right, is taller than the Remington 870 DM magazine.

590-series is a good choice for the introduction of the magazine-fed Mossberg compared to the lighter Model 500-series build. The safety is mounted on the tang, making it friendlier than Remington to left-handed shooters. We should also note that Mossberg catalogs a left-handed tube-fed shotgun, the Mossberg 590A1 9-Shot 59815, but we have never seen one.

The shotgun's action seemed smooth, and the dual extractors provided smart removal of spent shells. The bead front sight was the same as the Remington DM's front sight and provided a simple neat system for quickly getting on target. Part of aiming a shotgun is by feel and looking down the barrel, and to be accurate, the eye must consistently hit the stock and align with the bead. Felt recoil seemed less than the Remington DM with the slug loads and only slightly more with the other loads. The 590M is fitted with a plastic trigger housing, which we did not like, but so is the 870 DM.

The real difference between the shotguns was in the Mossberg feed device. The 10-round magazine of the Mossberg is a dual-column feed type. It was easy enough to load, although the last few shells required extra effort. The Remington 870 DM magazine's was more difficult to load. We could press the shells into place with the Mossberg and load 10 in approximately the time it took to load and press a shell to the rear and load six with the Remington. The Mossberg has more of the look of a purpose-designed shotgun than a conversion, as in the 590M's receiver has been redesigned more extensively. While the magazine is larger and heavier, loading the Mossberg 10-shot magazine immediately gives the shooter a greater capacity than even an 8-shot tubular-fed magazine. The weight balance is different, too, and while the raters are split on this, the weight of the Mossberg seems to limit recoil because of sheer mass. So does the heavy barrel of the 590M.

The magazine has a lip on the front that is angled in and the magazine is rocked in to load, and it never moved after it was locked in. The Mossberg locks in tight with the proper action and isn't difficult to remove. While the Remington's failure to feed when a magazine was not locked in place may be due to the shooter's mishandling, we never mishandled the Mossberg as far as locking the magazine in place. We did, however, have other problems. The evaluation was limited to the 10-round magazine supplied with the shotgun, so we cannot comment on the 20-round magazine, save to say they are heavier and the balance point may be different. As for durability, we dropped the Mossberg magazine, and the Remington as well, several times on the range. Neither cracked or discharged their loads. We also left each loaded for a full month and found the magazines did not show any problems. Still, from an engineering standpoint, we recommend keeping the Mossberg downloaded to nine rounds. Consulting a source who designs and sells industrial springs, the primary rater confirmed that when a spring is at maximum tension — as with a 10-shell load — downloading one shell lessens the load more than 10 percent. For what we know now, the Mossberg and Remington magazines may end up being as durable as Glock magazines, but it is best to err on the side of caution. Also, the Mossberg 10-round magazine protrudes more than the Remington and may snag. Mossberg also offers a 5-round magazine if that's an issue for you. We did not test any of the other Mossberg magazines because they are quite pricey, and that is a drawback. The magazines, we believe, are overpriced, and this is going to hurt the Mossberg.

As of July 20, 2018, GunmagWarehouse.com had the 20-round Mossberg 590M magazine for $125 and the 15-round magazine for $120. The 10-round magazine is $95. This compares to the Remington's 6-round magazine at $38. The magazine of the Mossberg weighs about 1.6 pounds versus 9 ounces for the Remington, with 40% less capacity for the Remington. The Mossberg magazine is more complex, yes, but the Mossberg standard magazine costs more than twice as much as the Remington. This means a lot in institutional sales. On the plus side, the Mossberg magazines were readily available at this date.

When it came to shooting, the smooth action of the Mossberg developed a catch. The magazine system we liked in dry fire let us down in live fire. When actually loading and firing the Mossberg, the forend seemed to bind approximately 2 inches into travel. The first shells were the Estate birdshot loads, with which we had four failures to feed (actually, the shell failed to chamber with the first magazine). We struck the bottom of the magazine and attempted to get the Mossberg going. We had to remove the magazine. Most often, a shell flipped out as the magazine was removed. The shells were failing to strip from the magazine. We double checked the attachment — apparently the magazine could not be locked in incorrectly — and tried again with the same results.

After changing to Winchester and Fiocchi shells, the problem disappeared as far as feeding but the catch in the action did not. This only occurred when firing shells, not when doing dry fire. With buckshot, the problem seemed less pronounced. These problems did not occur with the Remington 870 DM. While we found the magazine design and attachment superior to the Remington during the initial evaluation, the problem of changing the operation of the shotgun from feeding from a tube to a magazine, without a shell lifter and using a cocking block, seems not to have translated well. The day after the initial test, the primary rater sprayed the 590M with lubricant and loaded a magazine with a mix of birdshot and buckshot. The problem reared its head again, with two shells ejected, a tie up, then we fixed the problem and it returned.

Our Team Said: We were unhappy with the malfunctions. While the Mossberg may not have liked these particular shells, the Remington had no such problem. The Mossberg misfed with several types of shells. The balance of the Mossberg is affected by a fully loaded

REMINGTON 870 DM HARDWOOD 81351 12 GAUGE, $324

GUN TESTS GRADE: A- (BEST BUY)

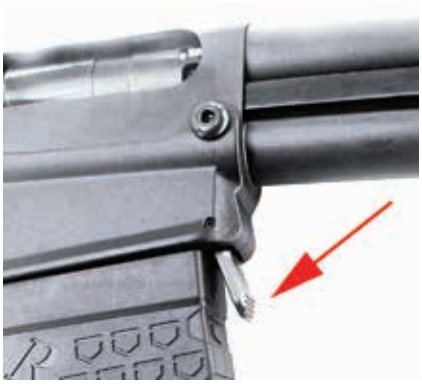
The Remington 870 DM is the least-expensive shotgun tested, yet it may be the best suited for home-defense use. Handling is little different from a standard Remington 870, and the box magazine didn't affect balance as we thought it might have. The modification to the receiver results in a 0.75-inch-taller receiver. The magazine is rugged and reliable, if a bit difficult to load compared to the Mossberg. We liked the 870 DM. It is a good buy and should serve as well as any other pump-action.



Action Type	Manual pump action; 3-in. chamber	Buttstock	Wood
Overall Length	38.5 in.	Buttstock Length of Pull	14.0 in.
Overall Height	8.5 in.	Forearm	Wood
Capacity	6+1	Sights	Front bead
Weight Unloaded	7.5 lbs.	Trigger Pull Weight	6.4 lbs.
Weight Loaded	8.4 lbs.	Warranty	2 years
Barrel Length	18.5 in.	Telephone	(899) 243-9700
Barrel	Steel	Website	Remington.com
Choke Tubes	None	Made In	U.S.A.



Above: The standard 870's bolt and receiver have been considerably modified in the 870 DM. Below, arrow: The magazine release is useful, but it is not the ideal design, we believe. It gave no trouble during the test, but it looks like it could be bumped easily.









Above: The Remington 870 DM combines magazine-feed technology with a proven action. The Remington 870 DM magazine is a combination of sheet metal and plastic. When the Remington magazine is loaded, the top shell is exposed. Extraction and ejection with the 870 DM were positive. The overall length of the magazine isn't a hinderance in handling, or at least no more than an AK or AR.



Right: All the shotguns were given a thorough workout. Strike the magazine home, and you should have no malfunctions with the 870 DM. To us, the Remington 870 DM seemed to handle faster than the Mossberg 590M. The raters with short arms learned to keep the elbow away from the protruding magazine.

magazine that is quite heavy, and the shotgun should be fired and swung on target with a natural feel. But then, we do have 9+1 shells on tap. In the end, the Mossberg had a catch at a certain spot in the action we did not like, and there were feed issues that should not have occurred. We would not buy this shotgun.

Remington 870 DM Hardwood 81351 12 Gauge, $324

The Remington is $200 less expensive than the Mossberg 590M and $50 or more off the price of its stablemate, the black synthetic 870 DM 81350, which widely sells for around $380. The action is typical Remington, smooth and easy to rack. The action was smoother than the Mossberg, we thought. We obtained a wood furniture Remington 870 DM, the only traditional stock shotgun of the test. It worked well for the test as we had a similar 870 shotgun with a conventional tube magazine to test against it.

The Remington features a push-button safety in the rear of the trigger guard. The receiver is all steel. The barrel is the same 18.5-inch length as the Mossberg and likewise is a plain-barrel shotgun with a bead front sight. The fit and finish are the same as most Remington shotguns, credible to good. This shotgun was smoother than the Remington 870 Tactical we tested alongside the other shotguns. The 870 DM's magazine tube, like the 590M, is a dead issue. It is simply there to give the forend and action rails something to run on. The Remington 870 DM will chamber 3-inch shells, which the Mossberg 590M does not. This may be important to some but scarcely matters in home defense. If used with heavy slugs for animal defense, the extra chamber length does matter. The DM receiver is 0.75 inch taller than a similar 870 tube-fed action as a result of the modifications to accept a detachable magazine.

As far as reliability, the Remington 870 really made the Mossberg 590M look bad. There was no question the piece was reliable, with every shell functioning perfectly. The 870 DM handled more quickly than the Mossberg. When racking the action, some shooters allowed the weak-side arm to contact the magazine, but we were able to work around this. We also had this occur with the Mossberg. The bottom line is that the Remington came out of the box shooting and never stuttered.

The Remington magazine attachment extends below the receiver. The Mossberg 590M magazine is released by an ambidextrous button and then rocks back into the receiver. The Remington magazine must be pulled out and it isn't quite as fast to replenish. The Remington release is ambidextrous since it is in front of the magazine. One of our raters came up with an interesting technique. He fired the 870 DM empty, and with the hand fully back on the forend, he slipped his hand to the magazine, pulled it out, and slapped another in. On the other hand, another rater was placing the 870 DM in his truck and bumped the release, jostling the magazine out of battery. But the bulkier 590M is more difficult to stow away. The 870 DM suffered a single failure to feed when it was discovered the magazine was not completely locked in — shooter error.

With slugs, each of the bead-sighted shotguns fired a three-shot group of 3 inches or so at 25 yards, so nothing to separate them from there. Comparatively, the Remington Tactical with XS sights fired groups of less than 4 inches at a long 50 yards. Buckshot patterns were similar with no clear winner. But we could deliver accurate fire easier with the Remington 870 DM. The first few shots will matter most in home defense, defense against large animals, or area defense.

Our Team Said: We really liked the Mossberg 590M's magazine set up, but at the range where it counts, the 590M was not as smooth as the 870 DM. As far as magazine-fed versus tube-fed shotguns — at this point in the mag-fed guns' development, we prefer the tubular-fed shotguns below.

Remington Model 870 Express Tactical Magpul 81209 12 Gauge, $729

This particular model is no longer cataloged on the Remington website, but we found several units online. This price is from NagelsGuns.net. A current unit with Magpul furniture is the 81192 model number, which lists for $565. But it lacks the breaching tube, the top rail, and the XS sight package. The 870 Tactical 81209 we tested features a Magpul stock with an adjustment for length of pull, and there are also optional cheek risers. If you use a red-dot sight, the cheek riser is especially welcome. The Magpul forend has a feature that prevents slippage of the hand when racking the action. This furniture increases the efficiency of the shotgun in most types of shooting. The particular geometry of the Magpul stock makes for excellent fit. The Remington features a muzzle brake with a toothy edge. This removable brake allows the use of Remington type shotgun chokes. This is an advantage for those wishing to stretch the range of the shotgun. We tested the 870 Tactical with the supplied Cylinder choke tube.

The 870 Tactical is well equipped. The greatest addition to the 870 Tactical, in our opinion, was the XS Ghost Ring sight. This sight is very fast and makes for excellent speed at a slightly longer range. Accuracy with slugs was noticeably increased with this sight. The XS sight includes a rail that accepts a combat optic. We mounted a TruGlo red dot to the 870 Tactical at one point with good results. The Remington shotgun's



The Magpul stock on the Remington Tactical came with spacers to change the LOP, and cheek risers (in the plastic) helped get head position right.

REMINGTON MODEL 870 EXPRESS TACTICAL MAGPUL 81209 12 GAUGE, $729

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The 870 Tactical Magpul is a good shotgun, but we question any advantage over the standard Remington shotgun for home defense. We liked the Tactical's ability to take choke tubes. You may also add a red dot on the XS sight rail.



Action Type	Manual pump action; 3-in. chamber	Buttstock	Black Synthetic Magpul
Overall Length	39.0 in.	Buttstock Length of Pull	Adj., 12.5 to 14.5 in.
Overall Height	5.25 in.	Forearm	Synthetic Magpul
Capacity	6+1	Sights	XS Ghost Ring rear, front post Picatinny top rail
Weight Unloaded	7.5 lbs.	Trigger Pull Weight	6.5 lbs.
Weight Loaded	8.3 lbs.	Warranty	2 years
Barrel	18.5 in.	Telephone	(800) 243-9700
Choke Tubes	Remington, Cylinder Bore	Website	Remington.com
		Made In	U.S.A.

This is a shotgun with many good features. We liked the Magpul stock. This grip angle seems to redirect recoil. Note Mesa Tactical shell carrier.



The Magpul SGA stock was adjustable for LOP and comb height. We liked the sling attachment in the butt, too.



We mounted a TruGlo combat red dot at one point in the test with good results.



One of the best features of the shotgun was the non-slip Magpul forend. But the shooter had to be careful not to short-cycle the shotgun with the Magpul forend.



Ghost Ring XS sight may be added to nearly any shotgun with a drilled-and-tapped receiver, better, with a Picatinny top rail already installed. The bold front post is an excellent feature. The magazine holds six shells versus the four-shot tube of the standard 870. Also, we added a six-shot Mesa Tactical Sureshell Polymer Carrier 94740 to the receiver (100-022-971WB, $36 at Brownells.com). While the magazine capacity was not increased, the shotgun did have 12 rounds on tap (or 13 with one in the chamber) all carried on the shotgun.

The 870 Tactical was used by a senior rater who gave it good marks; however, some raters short-cycled the shotgun. It may have been a different feel in the Magpul forend, but the same raters did not short-cycle the Remington 870 DM. There were bright spots on the action rails. Perhaps we wore a burr off. In any case, the Remington 870 Tactical Magpul gave excellent results. Firing quickly and emptying the magazine, we quickly dropped a shell from the carrier into the chamber and another into the magazine and were back in business. This is a viable option.

This brings up interesting tactical points concerning the tube-fed versus the magazine-fed shotguns. Perhaps these questions were not resolved, but we have a good idea of the advantages of each type. When firing the pump-action shotgun with tubular magazine, you may top off the magazine as you go with a shell or two with the weak-side hand. In this manner, the shooter may fire one or two shells and immediately top off the magazine. Another advantage is carrying slug loads to insert into a tube magazine. You may keep the tube downloaded one shell and quickly load a slug into the magazine, hit the bolt release, and chamber and fire a slug if need be. Of course, loading alternating buck and slug loads may be done with either magazine type, detachable or tubular. We prefer the tubular-fed magazine. In short, the tubular magazine is better for staying in action; the magazine-fed shotgun

is better for immediate reloads after you empty the shotgun.

Our Team Said: This shotgun provided excellent versatility with its Magpul stock and forend. However, perhaps this isn't for everyone as a couple of the raters short-cycled the shotgun and others did not. The Magpul stock is comfortable. We liked the Ghost Ring aperture sights for slug use and fast shooting at longer ranges. They were not necessarily an advantage over the humble bead in hallway-length fast shooting, but they had it all over the AK-type shotgun's sights.

Mossberg 590 Tactical Shotgun Heat Shield SpeedFeed Synthetic Stock 50665 12 Gauge, $480

This shotgun was purchased from SCGunCo.com for the price listed. This is the 20-inch-barrel Mossberg 590T with bead front sight and 8+1 capacity. The 590T has two fewer shells in the magazine than the 590M and two more than the Remington 870 DM. Reliability of the Mossberg extended-tube magazine was faultless. We made several observations with the Mossberg 590 fully loaded. Some felt the shotgun was muzzle heavy with the full load of shells, but then this is also a heavy-barrel shotgun. But a point that cannot be ignored is that a fully loaded shotgun with an extended magazine does have a forward weight bias. This weight bias is most noticeable with the 590T. The Remington 870 DM with its magazine weight centered under the action never presented this bias. Accordingly, some felt the DM was the best-balanced and fastest shotgun to use. However, a standard 4-shot-magazine-tube 870 used as a control was even better balanced. This makes an important point for the 870 DM and its balance.

The Mossberg 590T's finish is better than the 590M tested alongside of it. The action is smooth, with a tighter feel than the Remington. The shotgun never stuttered, and while the difference was small, it seemed to give the best groups with buckshot loads. The 590T was fast to load from the SpeedFeed stock,

MOSSBERG 590 TACTICAL SHOTGUN HEAT SHIELD SPEEDFEED SYNTHETIC 50665 12 GAUGE, $480

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The action is smooth, tight, and reliable. Feeding was very smooth. The heavy 20-inch barrel provided excellent recoil control, the best of the test. Pattern tightness was the best of the test with some buckshot loads. The magazine capacity is sufficient, and with the SpeedFeed stock, the Mossberg had sufficient on-board capacity. The 590 gave us confidence and was the only shotgun tested without any type of malfunction.



Action Type	Manual pump action; 3-in. chamber
Overall Length	41.0 in.
Overall Height	3.6 in.
Capacity (2.75 in.)	8+1
Weight Unloaded	7.25 lbs.
Weight Loaded	8.0 lbs.
Receiver	dual extractors; twin action bars; drilled & tapped
Barrel	20.0 in. long; matte-blued heavy-wall steel; heat shield
Choke	Cylinder bore
Buttstock	Black synthetic SpeedFeed stock, 4-shell capacity
Buttstock Length of Pull	13.9 in.
Buttstock Drop @ Comb	1.5 in.
Buttstock Drop @ Heel	2.125 in.
Forend	Black-ribbed synthetic
Sights	Front bead
Trigger Pull Weight	6.0 lbs.
Safety	Ambi tang mounted sliding button
Warranty	2 years
Telephone	(800) 363-3555
Website	Mossberg.com
Made In	U.S.A.

The Mossberg 590 is a sturdy and well-made shotgun. We really liked the SpeedFeed stock, which allowed extra rounds to be carried on the gun, if not in the action itself.



The Mossberg Tactical's barrel attachment is rugged. No other shotgun in the test had this feature.



The standard ribbed forend gave plenty of leverage. Some felt the shotgun was muzzle heavy with a full load of shells, but this is a heavy-barrel shotgun with an extended magazine and a heat shield (bottom). There will be forward weight bias.





JTS M12AK SEMI-AUTO SHOTGUN 12 GAUGE, $450

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The JTS shotgun worked fine and was accurate enough for short-range hunting with slugs, mostly due to its good sights. We did not like a shell sticking in the chamber, but it did not repeat. While the shotgun was generally successful in the test, it does not handle as quickly as the conventional pump-action shotguns. The shotgun features a rail for mounting red-dot sights.



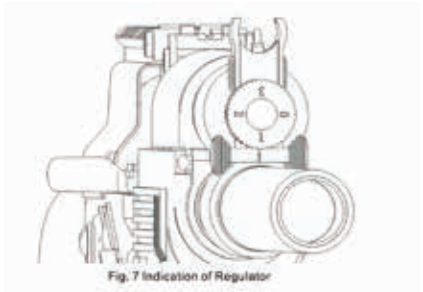
Action Type	Gas-operated self-loading, 3-in. chamber; 4-position adj. gas system	Forearm	Black synthetic
Barrel	18.7 in. long, blued steel; Chrome-lined barrel		
Overall Length	39.37 in.		
Overall Height	5.5 in.	Choke Tubes	Rem Choke compatible
Capacity	5+1	Sights	Open adj. rear; post front
Weight Unloaded	8.5 lbs.	Trigger Pull Weight	7.0 lbs.
Weight Loaded	9.3 lbs.	Warranty	1-year limited warranty
Receiver	Blued stamped steel, Picatinny top rail	Telephone	(281) 723-9627
		Website	JTSGroup.us
Buttstock	13.5 in. LOP, black synthetic AK style	Made In	China



This 12-gauge AK-type 5-round magazine worked well during the test. At $450, the JTS came with two magazines; the other magazine-fed shotguns did not.



The JTS shotgun was a popular gun with the raters, but its weight is a drawback. The JTS's controls and safety were not stiff as some AK types are.



The AK gas system should be trouble free. It was during our testing. The numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3 represent the corresponding gas ports. The number 1 represents the smallest gas port, and the number 3 represents the biggest gas port. The number 0 represents the locking position.

allowing the shooter to quickly grab two shells from one side and then two from the other as shells were expended. We liked the Mossberg's total of 12 rounds on tap, and it was what spurred us to add the Mesa Tactical Sureshell Polymer Carrier to the Remington 870T.

This is the heaviest pump-action shotgun tested, but we gave it no demerits in the action movement and handling. The SpeedFeed stock's recoil pad was effective. The forend gave good purchase as we racked the slide and burned plenty of powder. This simple forend was rated the best of the test by most raters. We liked the dual barrel attachment of the 590T, as no other shotguns had this because it was deleted on the 18.5-inch-barrel 590M. The ability to mount a bayonet was interesting, but not something we foresee needing. The heat shield was appreciated in long firing sessions.

Our Team Said: This is the shotgun we would prefer if we had to bet our life on it.

JTS M12AK Semi-Auto Shotgun 12 Gauge, $450

The first thing you notice is that the piece is heavy, the heaviest shotgun tested. It doesn't really handle like a shotgun. The natural point isn't good. The JTS handles like an AK, not an 870, but then that is the design intent. Anyone who is an AK fan might love this shotgun and groove into it more than we did. We were evaluating shotgun performance, and in fast-moving scenarios, it suffered compared to the other shotguns. A feature we did like is that the JTS accepts Remington-style choke tubes. This gives the shooter greater versatility. The rifle-type sights slowed us down in combat drills compared to the simple front beads or the Remington Tactical's XS sights.

To load the JTS shotgun, seat the magazine and rack the cocking lever. The standard AK-type safety lever proved positive in operation. Some are too tight; the JTS safety lever had a good balance and locked securely but wasn't difficult to move to the



This target was shot until shredded. Shotguns are powerful self-defense and home-defense items. Below: We used Hornady Black buckshot in some phases with good results.





The JTS handles like an AK, not an 870, but then that is the design intent. Anyone who is an AK fan might love this shotgun.



To load the JTS shotgun, seat the magazine and rack the cocking lever. The standard AK-type safety lever proved positive in operation. The safety lever locked securely but wasn't difficult to move to the Safe position.



The JTS was nearly 100% reliable. We made no attempt to fine-tune gas operation for each load, but that's something we'd recommend the end user probably should do.



In case you're a lefty, the Mossberg 590A1 9-shot Model 59815 incorporates most of the features of the right-hand version. We're unaware of another left-hand tactical shotgun available from major builders.

Safe position. We fired the shotgun with the same shells as the other shotguns, and the JTS was nearly 100% reliable. We kept the gas port set at medium, which allowed use with a variety of shells. It seemed to work as designed. Because the shotgun worked at this gas setting, we made no attempt to fine-tune gas operation for each load, something we'd recommend the end user probably should do. When the gas vent is set properly for the particular light or heavy load, the shotgun is reliable. However, we had a problem with the JTS shotgun. A single Federal buckshot shell stuck in the chamber. The shotgun fired, and the shell did not eject. We removed the magazine, and it took considerable effort to rack the bolt and remove the shell. This was inexplicable and did not repeat. The magazine release worked well enough, and the JTS design was faster to reload than the Remington 870 DM.

The sights were criticized for fast combat use, but not for slug use. The JTS was fired for accuracy with slugs in the same manner as the other shotguns, leaning against a standing barricade and firing for groups. Firing at 10 and 20 yards, we were encouraged, seeing some of the best slug accuracy of the test with some 2-inch groups. At 50 yards, the JTS delivered three-shot slug groups that were on average an inch smaller than the Mossberg 590M, Mossberg 590T, and Remington 870 DM, and one half-inch smaller than the Remington Tactical. The smallest 50-yard group with the Fiocchi Aero slug was an exceptional 2.3 inches. The Fiocchi slug has provided excellent results in every shotgun we've shot it in, and the JTS proved to be a good slug gun. We liked this part of the test, and the JTS's weight combined with the recoil-absorbing self-loading action made firing the shotgun with slugs less punishing than with any other shotgun tested.

Our Team Said: The JTS is a credible choice for sporting use, which may seem odd to some considering its AK heritage, but those are the facts. For anyone hunting deer or boar with buckshot or slugs, the availability of choke tubes, including Full choke and Super Full turkey-type chokes makes the piece a versatile hunting gun. Slug accuracy is good for a smoothbore shotgun. The receiver rail would allow mounting a red dot or slug scope. We note again the single malfunction and advise potential buyers to be certain to proof a self-loading shotgun with the defense load you intend to use in it.

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

VALUE GUIDE: RECENT SELF-DEFENSE SHOTGUN RATINGS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Mossberg 590 Shockwave 50659 12 Gauge, $455	Oct. 2017	A	Built to last and well made. We'd opt for the OPSol Texas Mini-Clip and pack it with Aguila Mini Shells.
Century Arms RAS47 AK Pistol 7.62x39mm, $749	Oct. 2017	A	The RAS47 was relentlessly reliable with any ammo we ran through it. Definitely opt for the arm brace.
Remington 870P Standard 12 Gauge, $225	Sept. 2017	A	Best Buy. Patterns were good. Experimentation may find a load that does even better.
IAC (Norinco) Wild Bunch Shotgun 12 Gauge, $300	Sept. 2017	B	Tactically, the design leaves some other shotguns in the dirt. It is fast to load and faster to empty.
Mossberg 505 Youth Pump-Action Shotgun 57110 20 Gauge, $300	Sept. 2017	A	The Mossberg 505 Youth is an overlooked gem. The fit wasn't bad for most raters.
Benelli Nova Tactical Pump 20051 12 Gauge, $372	Dec. 2016	A	Best Buy. Lockup is tight. Sights are among the best combat-style units. 10-year warranty.
Tristar TEC-12 No. 25120 Pump/Auto 12 Gauge, $557	Dec. 2016	A	Modern styling and handles just like the expensive Benelli M3. Reliable, fitted with Benelli tubes.
Mossberg 930 Tactical 85320 12 Gauge, $514	Dec. 2016	A-	The 930 was the lightest kicker and had the highest magazine capacity. Balance is excellent.
IAC Imports Hawk Model 982 Defense 12 Gauge, $233	Oct. 2016	A	Among the least-expensive 12-gauge pumps we have tested. The Hawk never malfunctioned.
Remington Model 870 Express Synthetic Tactical 12 Gauge, $346	Oct. 2016	A	We liked the magazine capacity, and we will take the muzzle brake. Simple bead front sight.
Remington 870 Modified Police 12 Gauge, M4 Stock, $420	Oct. 2016	B	The Adaptive Tactical M4 stock provides a shotgun that handles in a similar fashion to a Colt M4 rifle.
Beretta Model 1301 Tactical No. J131T18 12 Gauge, $1075	May 2016	A	The Beretta performed without a hiccup while producing good patterns and loading fast.
Mossberg Model 930 SPX Tactical 85360 12 Gauge, $836	May 2016	B	Lighter hit to the pocket book. Good handling and flawless functioning.
Benelli Model M4 Tactical No. 1170712 Gauge, $2000	May 2016	B-	We could not get past its higher price and failure to cycle low-velocity loads during our field tests.
Century Arms Catamount Fury SG1874-N 3-inch 12 Gauge, ~$400	Mar. 2016	D	The Fury SG1874-N looked like the Izhmash Saiga, but was plagued by malfunctions.
Century Arms Catamount Fury II SG1875-N 12 Gauge, ~$575	Mar. 2016	D-	Beset by malfunctions, the Fury II SG1875-N shotgun was worse than its stablemate.
Chiappa Triple Threat No. 930-032 12 Gauge, $1599	Oct. 2015	B-	Three barrels. Too unwieldy for anything other than close-quarters self-defense.

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

Dry-Fire Trainers: Save Money While You Gain Performance

We test LaserLyte, Dry-fire Mag, CheapShot, Laser Ammo, iTarget, Mantis, and G-Sight products to see which offers the most realistic practice environment with the least fuss.

Dry-fire training should be part of every shooter's training routine. It helps build the fundamentals of shooting and reinforces muscle memory. In the old days, we bought a SnapCap or other dummy round, loaded it into our firearm, and practiced our grip, sight picture, and trigger press. You knew you were in a good place if you could dry-fire the firearm without flinching and keep the sights rock steady as the pistol fired. The fact is, however, you didn't know if you actually hit the target you were aiming at, nor was there a better way to measure training success and progress. Enter technology, which offers a variety of high-tech lasers, laser-friendly targets, and apps that allows shooters to train in the comfort of their own homes, without the cost of going to a range and, further, without incurring the cost of ammo. The beauty of dry-fire training is you can do it any where you want and at any time. No loud noises, just the clicking of tripped firing pins and a flash of red laser, though some apps and target do have sound effects.



Laser training can take place nearly anywhere in your home. Always make sure your firearm is unloaded.



A rubber plug on all the laser cartridges trips the laser. The plug also prevents damage that dry-firing might cause.

Important Safety Steps to Always Take

Remember when dry-fire training, first be sure your weapon is unloaded and ammunition is not accessible. Holes in the living room wall can be embarrassing at the least and at its worst, deadly for someone in the next room. Always follow common-sense gun-handling safety rules. Also, when using a laser, never point it near your face because it can damage your eyes.

We tested a number of dry-firing trainers to see how they worked, how easy they were to adapt to our existing firearms, and how to track our training progress. We wanted to know if all this dry-fire training improved our shooting skill or were we just wasting our time. We took into consideration those shooters who may be on a limited budget, those who don't use modern technology like smart phones, and those who seem connected to their phone 24/7.

There are a variety of dry-fire trainers from simple low-tech solutions like Dry-fire Mag to easy-to-use high-tech lasers from LaserLyte, CheapShot Tactical Training Laser, and Laser Ammo SureStrike, as well as laser-compatible targets like the LaserPET and iTarget, which can actually measure a shooter's performance. The Mantis doesn't use a laser, but is instead a device attached to the accessory rail that records shot data to your smart phone. Apps like G-Sight and iTarget mean you don't have to invest in more equipment since some of the equipment is already built into your smart phone, if you have one.

When using these devices, the shooter is required to break his grip to rack the slide and reset the weapon's trigger. Some help measure a shooter's training, which means a shooter can measure progress with dry-firing training. The Mantis system was unique in that it allowed us to dry-fire as well as live fire train.

How We Tested

We procured a number a dry-fire trainers in 9mm and used them in a variety of 9mm pistol platforms — Glock G17 Gen3, S&W Shield, S&W M&P, Arex Rex Zero, Kahr CM9, Springfield Armory Range Officer, Beretta 92S, and a SIG P226. This various 9mm pistol platforms allowed us to better understand how different pistols performed with the trainers. We found that with single-action pistols, such as the Springfield Armory Range Officer 1911 and striker-fire pistols such as the Glock, Kahr, and S&W Shield, you need to break your grip to either cock

the hammer or rack the slide. So, essentially, you are practicing one shot each time. With double-action-to-single-action-trigger pistols like the Beretta 92S, SIG P226, and Arex Rex Zero, you can continuously fire the pistol in DA mode without breaking your grip. In SA mode, you have to break your grip to cock the hammer. The biggest drawback in dry-fire training, in our opinion, is you don't get the true experience of firing the handgun because it does not cycle, recoil, or reset the trigger. Live-fire training is still required, and dry-fire should be considered a next-best alternative that has limitations.

We tested in brightly lit interiors all the way down to dark rooms at laser-friendly targets, meaning targets that recorded hits, as well as standard targets and items in the room. We also used the laser to practice our draw, and we found this training exercise to be quite enlightening. We also found training weak hand helped build up the muscle memory in our support arm, something we rarely train for during live-fire drills.

We all wish we had unlimited ammunition and range time, but in reality we do not. The bottom line is dry-firing will help you improve your shooting, and some trainers actually showed us the stats to prove it and suggestions on how to be a better shooter. Here's what we discovered.



The DFM is fitted with an orange floor plate to identify it as a training-dedicated magazine.





With the DFM inserted in the S&W M&P, you can see how the trigger interacts with the spring in the DFM.



The DFM in the Glock G17 provides about 5.5 to 6 pounds of trigger-pull weight.

Dry-fire Mag for Glock Standard Frame, $99
Dry-fire Mag for Smith & Wesson M&P, $99

The Dry-fire Mag (DryfireMag.com) looks like a polymer magazine and is identified as being a training magazine by its orange floorplate. The DFM is designed to allow the user to continuously press the trigger without racking the slide to reset the trigger in either a Glock or S&W M&P pistol. In our opinion, the DFM helped build trigger memory using repetition with a close simulation of the weapon's actual trigger pull without breaking the shooter's grip. We procured two DFMs, one for a 9mm Glock, which will fit all standard-frame Glocks in all chamberings — 9mm, 40 S&W, 357 SIG, and 45 GAP — in full, compact, and subcompact models. The other DFM is for all 9mm and 40 S&W M&P pistols that use a double-stack magazine. It has a 30-day money-back guarantee and is made in the U.S.

To use the DFM on the Glock or S&W M&P, rack the slide to set the trigger and insert the DFM into the magwell. The first trigger press will be heavy as the DFM releases the firing pin. Subsequent trigger presses are 5.5 to 6 pounds. The trigger feel can be adjusted slightly up or down via a screw in the back of the DFM. You can also purchase a Spring Pack ($10.95) that allows you swap out springs of different pull weights.

Our Team Said: The DFM allows you to train without breaking your grip and resetting the trigger. We found the trigger pull of the DFM is similar to trigger pull of our pistols, but not an exact match, and that is because the DFM is not releasing the striker. That is also why the DFM will not work with a laser cartridge. We liked using the DFM even if it was the low-tech option and if the trigger pull weight wasn't exactly like the trigger pull weight in our weapon. We think the DFM would be enhanced if it was the actual weight of a fully loaded magazine because it would give the pistol a more realistic weight and better simulate the shooting experience.

GUN TEST GRADE: A-

LaserLyte Trainer Pistol 9mm, $87

The LaserLyte (LaserLyte.com) comes in a blister pack with batteries already installed and three extra batteries.



O-rings (arrows) on the body of the LaserLyte cartridge protected the chamber and could be replaced. It worked with all laser-compatible targets, and that is the way we preferred to use it.

The 9mm cartridge is built with a brass body and a rubber O-ring located forward and aft of the cartridge to center and secure the cartridge in the chamber. The firing pin hits a rubber pad at the aft end that activates the laser, which flashes for 1/10th of a second. It runs on three LR44 batteries. The cartridge unscrews to insert batteries. Battery life is 3000 shots. The laser power output is 650nm, 5mW, and it is a Class III R laser. It has a three-year limited warranty.

To install the unit, lock the slide back, drop the cartridge into the chamber and press it into the chamber or press the slide release and let the slide chamber the laser cartridge. You can then aim, press the trigger, then watch as a red dot flashes on the target when the firing pin is released. To remove the cartridge, we used a pencil or cleaning rod inserted from the muzzle end to gently push the cartridge out. The LaserLyte worked as advertised.

Our Team Said: We liked the O-rings because they could be replaced as they wore, and they did not allow the brass cartridge to contact the inside of the chamber. It worked with all laser-compatible targets, and that is the way we preferred to use it. On its own, the red-dot flash of the LaserLyte gave the user instance feedback about whether the target was hit. On its own, it is good, with a laser-compatible target, it is better, which we will get into.

GUN TEST GRADE: A-

CheapShot Tactical Training Laser 9mm, $39

The CheapShot cartridge (CheapShot.com) is similar in design to the LaserLyte. It is made in China, comes with batteries installed, and has a one-year limited warranty. The cartridge is brass with no rubber O-rings. Brass is softer than steel, so there is no issue when placing the cartridge in the chamber. It runs on three AG4 batteries and has a battery life of 3000 shots. The cartridge unscrews to insert/remove batteries. The laser power output is 650nm, 5mW, and it is a Class III R laser.



All three laser cartridges — LaserLyte, CheapShot, and Laser Ammo — are inserted the same way, into the pistol's chamber. The CheapShot, right, worked every time we pressed the trigger.

Our Team Said: The CheapShot cost less than the LaserLyte and Laser Ammo cartridges and worked just as effectively.

GUN TEST GRADE: A-

Laser Ammo SureStrike Premium Kit 9mm, $150

The SureStrike cartridge (Laser-Ammo.com) came in a soft zipper case with cut foam to hold all the small pieces: cartridge; secure safety system with short pipe, extension pipe, and nut; six reflective targets, and batteries. Unlike the LaserLyte and CheapShot, the Laser Ammo SureStrike uses a stainless-steel casing and one rubber O-ring at the front. We felt the stainless would likely wear better than the brass models and not tarnish. The Uhr secure system consists of a threaded pipe and nut that helps align the cartridge in the chamber and bore. Plus, for additional safely, a visual orange indicator can be attached at the muzzle, identifying that the gun is being used for training purposes. The laser power output is 630-660nm, < 5mW, and it is a Class III R laser. The SureStrike is made in Israel, and the warranty is one year of 5000 shots for the cap and lifetime for the laser. You will get about 2000 hours, or 18 million shots, before needing to change the batteries.

What sets this laser cartridge apart from the others is that you can buy optional caliber adapters, so the 9mm laser cartridge can be configured to train with 40 S&W, 45 ACP, and 357 SIG ($12.94); 5.56 NATO, 7.62 NATO,



The Laser Ammo SureStrike has a stainless-steel casing and one rubber O-ring at the front. It also comes with six reflective targets that can be taped to a wall or hung from a nail.





The SureStrike included a threaded pipe and a red muzzle cap to identify that the pistol was in training mode.



The SureStrike cartridge (Laser-Ammo.com) came in a soft zipper case with cut foam to hold all the small pieces: cartridge; secure safety system with short pipe, extension pipe, and nut; six reflective targets, and batteries.

and 300 Win. Mag. ($39.95); and 12 and 20 gauge ($39.95) shotgun adapters.

Inserting the cartridge was similar to the other laser cartridges, and the shooter could use just the cartridge or install the pipe extensions and add the safety cap. We found that field-stripping the pistol to remove the cartridge and attached pipe was the best way to disassemble the set up. The SureStrike performed well and worked with every press of the trigger.

Our Team Said: Though the most expensive, the SureStrike offered better construction and an added level of safety with the threaded pipe extensions and safety cap. We also liked that the kit was stored in a case and not easily misplaced. We liked the included target and the cartridges' ability to adapt to other pistol and rifle calibers as well as shotgun gauges.

GUN TEST GRADE: A

Laser Ammo LaserPET, $120

The Laser Personal Electronic Target (PET) is a standalone laser training target that is used in combination with the SureStrike laser cartridge or any other laser cartridges. It worked with the LaserLyte and CheapShot, too. The PET is about the size of a smart phone and is made of plastic. It comes with a stand so you can set it up on a flat surface, and it has a hole in the back to hang it on a wall, and it can be attached to a tripod. It takes two AAA batteries. It features four skill modes: Hit Counter, Shot Timer, Magazine Change/Burst Shooting, and Double Tap. Modes are changed by pressing the mode button and scores are deleted by pressing the reset button. Five target cards slide into the LaserPET. Target cards consist of three differently sized bullseyes, a B-27 NRA style target, and a crosshair. Since the bullseye of the target cards vary in size, you can change out the cards to increase the difficulty or place the target farther away. Without a laser target inserted into the unit, the laser sensor window measures 1.8 by 1.8 inches.

We found that we needed to aim precisely with the LaserPET to score a hit. The target cards decrease the size of the laser window. We used the LaserPET to practice our draw from concealment by setting it on the Shot Time mode, and we could see our time decrease from 2.01 seconds to 1.62 seconds over the course of one training session. The Magazine Change/Burst Shooting gives you 5 seconds to make a magazine change and hit the target or hit the target as many times as possible in 5 seconds. With the Beretta, SIG, and Arex, we could use the double-action triggers, but with the striker-fire pistols, it was a time suck to reset the trigger every time. Same with the Double Tap mode, which gives you 4 seconds to hit the target. Using a DA/SA trigger pistol, the drill could be performed in DA mode. With striker-fire and single-action pistols, down time skewed high because we had to reset the trigger. The target zone is small, and we know the saying "aim small miss small" should apply, but it took some skill to draw and fire from the hip — simulating a face-to-face encounter with little time or ability to aim the pistol.

Our Team Said: The LaserPET helps you record hits and times, and this makes the training more valuable because you can chart your progress. In our opinion, this target is well suited to drawing and firing on a target. Most public ranges do not allow this type of training, and for good reason — it is dangerous for bystanders to be swept with a loaded pistol. This allows you to train in ways you cannot at a public range. If you want to get a general indication of your progress, we'd pair the LaserPET with a laser cartridge.

GUN TEST GRADE: A





The LaserPET comes with a stand, right, and five different targets of varying difficulty level, above. This image show the laser hitting the target and recording the hit.

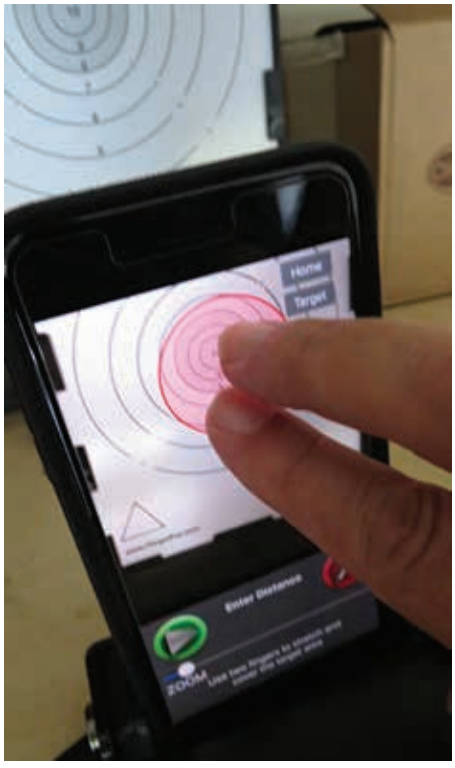
iTarget, Target Sled and Laser Bullet Package, $89
iTarget Quick Draw, $5

The iTarget works with both Apple and Android devices. It comes with a plastic base that holds the smart phone in front of the target. You need to download the free app to your phone and make sure your phone's camera has permission to use the app. We had issues until we realized we needed to go into our phone settings to give the app permission. The system uses the iTarget app, the camera in your smart phone to view a target, and a laser cartridge. The camera of your smart phone





The iTarget records the number of shots and hits and provides a score that is based on the bullseye area you specify.



You use two fingers to center the bullseye on the target, similar to how you enlarge a photo on a smart phone.

captures the laser hits on the target and saves them to the phone.

The first step is to fit the target area into the phone's screen, then specify the bullseye area using the phone's screen. This second step tells the app the area to be scored. Then the shooter sets the distance he will be shooting from.

As the laser hits the target, a subtle gunshot sound is made and a hole appears on the phone screen. The shooter can track his progress by saving the target image to the phone, or you can share it with your friends for bragging rights. An additional Quick Draw app is used to help you practice your draw. The app buzzer sounds, and you are timed on how fast and accurately you can draw your weapon and hit the target. We used iTarget with all the laser cartridges so you can use it for all type of firearms if you have the proper laser cartridge insert.

Our Team Said: We liked that this system provided a holder for your smart phone, which makes using these apps easier. We also liked the ability to save targets and refer to them after multiple training sessions to see if our scores decreased or increased. The Quick Draw app is worth the cost since many of us want to practice our draw and see if we are making progress.

GUN TEST GRADE: A

G-Sight, 10-Shot free download, $5 Shot Timer, $5 Unlimited Shots

G-Sight is an app you download for either an Apple or Android device. We used an Apple iPhone 8 to download the app. The free download allows you to fire 10 shots, untimed, and see the total results on the screen of your phone. The app uses the camera in your phone to record the shots from a laser cartridge. All the laser cartridges worked with G-Sight.

With the app downloaded to our phone, we were instructed to align the target by pinching the edges to zoom into the target — the same as you would to increase the size of an image on your phone. This allowed us to literally focus the app on a specific target. You need a stand to prop up your phone and position the phone in front of the target. The app recorded hits on the phone's screen one at a time and recognized a shot with an audible "gun shot" sound. After 10 shots, all hits appear at once on the phone's screen.





The G-Sight records hits as you fire and has sound effects, if you desire. You will need a stand to prop up your smart phone. We fired shots at the corners and center of the box to see how well the G-Sight recorded hits and found it did a good job.

Our Team Said: In our opinion, the free download was worth the cost. We opted for the Unlimited Shot mode ($5) and felt it was okay. It just recorded our shots on the target similar to what we would have with live-fire training. The Shot Timer mode ($5) was also a bit of a let down, we felt. In Shot Timer mode, you could set the Number of Sessions, Shots Per Session, Time Between Sessions, and Session Lengths and Starting Ready Time. Audio announces "Shooter Ready" and a buzzer goes off to start a session. This does not provide any stats on how fast you fired the first shot or time between shots, so you don't know if you are improving, though it does provide that pressure to be fast on the buzzer. We would have liked to be able to download or share the target; this way, we

could compare targets from different training sessions to see if we improved or not. We'd also like to see the order of shots fired. For a low-budget trainer — if you have a smart phone — pair this with the LaserLyte or CheapShot for best results.

GUN TEST GRADE: B

Mantis Tech Mantis X, $150

The Mantis X trainer (MantisX.com) is quite different compared to the other trainers. It can provide immediate feedback on each shot you take, whether dry-fire or live fire. It uses a sensor that attaches to the Picatinny-style rail of any pistol or rifle. If your firearm doesn't have a rail, an optional barrel mount or floor plate attachment is available ($14 to $25). For revolvers, the floor plate attachment can be attached to the revolver's butt. The sensor uses a built-in battery and is charged via a USB cable. Battery life is about 8 to 10 hours. It is made in the U.S. and has a two-year warranty. The sensor comes in a zippered hard case along with a USB charging cable.

The sensor attaches to your firearm and works via an app the shooter downloads to a smartphone or tablet. It wirelessly communicates with the sensor using a Bluetooth connection. With the sensor attached to the pistol, it records the movement of the firearm for nanoseconds prior, during, and after the trigger press, and sends the data to smart phone, which in turn analyzes each shot's motion and offers recommendations for improvement. Not only does this trainer track your shots, it offers suggestions on improving your accuracy.

In the Settings section of the app, we filled out the info on firearm type, make, and model, left- or right-hand shooter, live/dry/CO2 practice type, mount direction, and mount location on the firearm. The app can be used by multiple shooters and data saved per user. Use any spot as a target. Mantis recommends firing 10 shots at a time, then checking the shot analysis on the app. One display shows direction and magnitude by tracking the movement of the barrel during the trigger pull. Shots are grouped according to movement pattern. A second display shows a shot-by-shot tracking score of each shot and analysis of any trends. A third display offers a detailed trace with different colored traces—Blue: hold/sighting, Yellow: trigger pull, Red: Shot breaking and recoil pattern. There are a variety of training programs: primary hand only, support hand only, reload out of battery, reload tactical, compressed surprise break, etc. Short videos accompany each training program and explain the goal of each program and how to perform the drill. We dry-fired on a chamber loaded with a laser cartridge and dummy rounds. We recommend you use dummy rounds when training with the Mantis because it will force you to fully rack the slide instead of just resetting the trigger, plus you do not want to damage your weapon's firing pin.

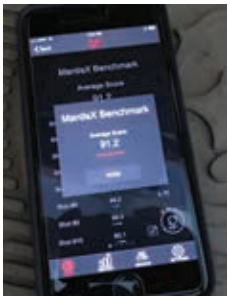
Our Team Said: We used the Mantis in live- and dry-fire training, and we felt this trainer provided the best data collection, plus it offered recommendations on how to correct bad shots. The sensor is about the size of a small laser sight and that poses a problem for some who use a concealed-carry holster that is not compatible with a laser device during drawing drills.

GUN TEST GRADE: A

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



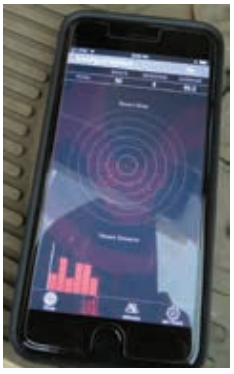
The Mantis X sensor attaches to a firearm's accessory rail via a single screw.



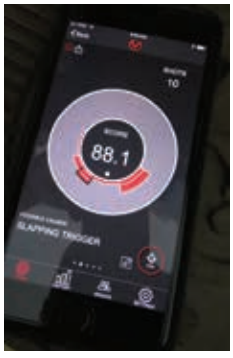
Left: The Mantis X provides a total score averaged from each shot. Initially you create a benchmark, which helps track training

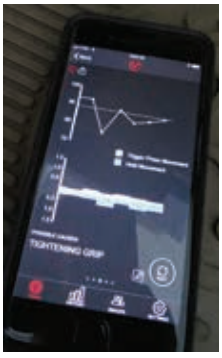


Right: The Mantis X does not need to be calibrated like the other shooting apps. We used the same Okay Industries box as our target.



Left: The History section of the Mantis app is where you find total recent shots fired. Data can be deleted as needed. In the Target section of the app, you can see how you performed during a session.





Right: One Mantis display shows shots grouped according to movement pattern with a score and possible cause for group. Far right: A second Mantis display shows a shot-by-shot tracking score of each shot and analysis of any trends, as well as a suggestion on how to improve accuracy.

We Compare Three New 45 ACP 1911 Commanders Under $750

Tested: Taurus 1911 Commander, American Classic Commander, and Metro Arms MAC 1911 Bobcut. We find a lot of functionality in these three pistols that don't break the bank to perform.

The 1911 Commander is basically a full-size pistol receiver with a shorter 4.25-inch barrel and slide. These 1911 variants are more compact than the full-size issues, yet they offer all the features of the standard 5-inch-barrel variant, albeit with a bit less velocity. Some members of our team like the Commander format with the full-size grip and shortened slide, which makes the pistol easy to hang onto when firing 45 ACP as well as more comfortable to carry concealed due to the shorter barrel. One issue when carrying concealed, though, is the grip, which can print under clothing.

To see which pistol best fit our testers' everyday-carry needs, we procured three 1911 Commander models for testing: the recently introduced ***Taurus 1911 Commander ($459)***, a ***Metro Arms MAC 1911 Bobcut ($746)***, and an ***American Classic Commander ($568)***. The Taurus is manufactured in Brazil, and the Metro Arms and American Classic pistols are manufactured in the Philippines and are both brought into this country by Eagle Imports.

All three showed great fit and finish and chewed through 45 ACP ammo as fast as we could load magazines. All featured the classic GI-style domed slide, long skeletonized triggers and hammers, straight rear grip straps, dovetailed combat-style sights, flared ejection ports, extended beavertails, extended thumb safeties, textured grips, and 8+1 round capacities. In short, these pistols have all the features a modern 1911 shooter expects in a concealable package.

The Bobcut and AC came in hard-plastic cases and included one magazine. The Taurus included a plastic



The American Classic Commander, above, and the MAC 1911 Bobcut, right, both shot well at the range due to their excellent triggers, which had substantially lower pull weights than the Taurus 1911 Commander.



Above: We'd opt for the extra features built into the Metro Arms MAC 1911 Bobcut (center) as a conceal carry 1911, but the Taurus 1911 Commander (bottom) and American Classic Commander (top) are great values and are certainly worth the cost.



bushing wrench for ease of takedown. At first glance, these three Commanders looked the same in terms of features, if not cosmetics, and it was the value-added items in each that eventually allowed us to judge one over the other.

How We Tested

We used a combination of hollow-point and full-metal-jacket bullets in different bullet weights. Ammunition consisted of Winchester White Box, which is loaded with a 230-grain FMJ bullet; Winchester Defend, which comes with 230-grain JHP bullets; hot HPR 185-grain rounds loaded with JHP bullets, and a handload with a 158-grain SWC bullet. We tested accuracy at 25 yards using a rest. You can see that range data does not lie, and the Metro Arms pistols with 4.6- to 4.8-pound trigger-pull weights provided us with better results that the Taurus with the 8.5-pound trigger-pull weight. At 15 yards, we performed a version of the Mozambique Drill — two shots to center of mass and one shot to the cranial pocket — from a low-ready position. We performed reloads using all three magazines in all three pistols. We were looking at the pistol's ability to be carried concealed, drawn from concealment, ability to be fast on target, and fast to allow follow-up shots. It was hot at the range. Sweaty palms and gun oil do not mix well if traction is the goal, so the appearance and effectiveness of slide serrations and slide-retraction effort was an issue for some testers. While we dinged the heavier trigger on the Taurus, we found it was quite competitive with the Metro Arms and American Classic pistols. It was a tough call, but the range data and features with the Metro Arms MAC 1911 Bobcat allowed it to prevail. Here's why.

Taurus 1911 Commander 1-191101COM 45 ACP, $459

The affordable Taurus Commander features an 8-round magazine, Novak low-profile sights, extended beavertail, and traditional rounded hammer. Its matte-black finish was well executed, giving the Taurus a no-nonsense, all-business look. The receiver is a cast alloy steel — like the other pistols, which have hard-chromed finishes — and weighs 38 ounces unloaded. While the Taurus looks understated, the features functioned well. The

RANGE DATA

45 ACP Winchester White Box 230-gr. FMJ	**Metro Arms MAC 1911 Bobcat**	**Taurus 1911 Commander**	**American Classic Commander**
Average Velocity	821 fps	834 fps	816 fps
Muzzle Energy	344 ft.-lbs.	355 ft.-lbs.	349 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.9 in.	2.3 in.	2.2 in.
Average Group	2.1 in.	3.5 in.	2.4 in.
45 ACP Winchester Defend 230-gr. JHP	**Metro Arms MAC 1911 Bobcat**	**Taurus 1911 Commander**	**American Classic Commander**
Average Velocity	836 fps	825 fps	830 fps
Muzzle Energy	357 ft.-lbs.	348 ft.-lbs.	352 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.0 in.	3.6 in.	1.9 in.
Average Group	2.1 in.	3.8 in.	2.0 in.
45 ACP HPR 185-gr. JHP	**Metro Arms MAC 1911 Bobcat**	**Taurus 1911 Commander**	**American Classic Commander**
Average Velocity	963 fps	949 fps	998 fps
Muzzle Energy	381 ft.-lbs.	370 ft.-lbs.	409 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.9 in.	3.3 in.	1.9 in.
Average Group	2.0 in.	3.9 in.	2.3 in.
45 ACP Handload 185-gr. SWC	**Metro Arms MAC 1911 Bobcat**	**Taurus 1911 Commander**	**American Classic Commander**
Average Velocity	940 fps	930 fps	940 fps
Muzzle Energy	363 ft.-lbs.	355 ft.-lbs.	363 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.9 in.	2.4 in.	1.9 in.
Average Group	2.2 in.	2.5 in.	2.3 in.

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

beavertail grip safety is just long enough to combat hammer bite and make the concealing footprint of the pistol smaller. It uses the traditional rounded-hammer style that appeared on original Commander variants. We found the grip safety worked easily with a large speed bump, so even a sloppy grip deactivates the grip safety. The extended safety lever disengaged and engaged with a crisp, positive snap. The long, three-hole trigger has an adjustable trigger stop. The skeletonized trigger face is grooved. The trigger pull averaged 8.5 pounds, which, for us, is at the margins of what we'll accept for a defensive carry piece. We would have liked a lighter trigger pull because it would increase accuracy. The slide featured coarse serrations at the front and rear, and these we found easier to grasp and hold onto with sweaty and oily hands.

The Taurus name was rollmarked on the left side of the slide. Grips are polymer and checkered in the traditional double-diamond pattern with a subdued Taurus logo molded in the center. A feature we really liked was the finely checkered front and rear grip straps. This provided a sure grip even with wet hands.

The Novak sights — both the front and rear — are dovetailed into the slide, and the rear sight is easily adjustable for windage. Just loosen it with a hex wrench and tap it over. The 3-dot sights offer easy and fast sight acquisition. We liked these sights.

The magazine well is slightly chamfered to make inserting the magazine easier when reloading. The steel magazine body has a plastic bumper that helped when slamming a fresh magazine home and when ejecting the magazine onto a concrete deck. There were witness holes for all rounds, so it was easy to determine how many rounds were remaining, or missing, in the magazine. MecGar manufactured the magazine.

The slide-to-frame fit is tight and precise. A traditional barrel and muzzle bushing set up is used with a one-piece recoil guide rod. The Taurus Commander uses a firing-pin

TAURUS 1911 COMMANDER 1-191101COM
45 ACP, $459
GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The trigger was a bit too heavy, but the sights are good, it has nice grip appointments, and great fit and finish make this an excellent choice as a carry piece.



Action Type	Short recoil-operated, locked breech, single action
Overall Length	7.9 in.
Overall Height	5.8 in.
Maximum Width	1.25 in.
Weight Unloaded	38 oz.
Weight Loaded	42.5 oz.
Slide Material	Forged steel
Slide-Retraction Effort	21.0 lbs.
Receiver Material	Cast steel
Finish	Matte black
Front Strap Height	2.6 in., checkered
Rear Strap Height	3.25 in., checkered
Barrel Length	4.2 in.
Pistol Grip	Checkered polymer
Grip Thickness (max)	1.2 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.25 in.
Magazine	(1) 8-round steel, plastic base pad
Rear Sight	Steel, Novak white two dot, drift adj.
Front Sight	Steel, Novak white dot, drift adj.
Sight Radius	5.75 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	8.5 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.8 in.
Safety	Manual thumb, grip safety, firing pin block
Warranty	Unlimited lifetime
Telephone	(305) 624-1115
Website	TaurusUSA.com
Made In	Brazil

The Taurus felt good in hand. We liked the checkered front and rear grip serrations. The finely checkered front strap allows the user to better manage recoil and grip the pistol better.



The beavertail provided plenty of protection to the shooter's hand. The rounded hammer is the traditional Commander hammer style. Note there is no hammer lock as on older versions of the Taurus 1911s.



The Taurus uses a recoil spring plug and solid guide rod. It field strips without tools.



disconnector that prevents a round from being fired if the slide is not fully forward. With the slide fully forward in battery, the sear spring pushes the disconnector into a recess in the bottom of the slide. The disconnector then engages the sear so that the hammer can move forward when the trigger is pulled. A firing-pin-block lever pushes the firing-pin block out of the way as the trigger is pulled.

At 25 yards and resting off shooting bags, we found we had to concentrate and manage the trigger, making this Commander more difficult to shoot accurately. We expected 4-inch groups at 25 yards, but were rewarded with 3.5-inch groups, but to get them we had to work at the trigger. At 15 yards and shooting Mozambique with the Taurus, we could easily control initial shots and fast follow up shots due to the checkered front and rear grip straps. We had a lot of fun shooting the Commander.

Loading eight rounds into the magazine was not a chore. The Taurus was easy to control during rapid fire, and we were able to manage recoil with little effort.

Our Team Said: As a concealed-carry option, the Taurus Commander is a natural fit. At speed, we could keep all hits in the appropriate zones. For the cost, we think the Taurus is a good buy, if you can learn to manage with the trigger. Or get a competent professional to give it a trigger job.

American Classic Commander ACC45C 45 ACP, $568

The American Classic Commander is part of the Metro Arms American Classic series of 1911 pistols. Our sample featured a well-executed hard-chrome finish and hardwood grips laser cut with a fish-scale texture. We liked the feel of the American Classic. The domed slide had the Novak-style black sight dovetailed in, which we liked. The Metro Arms slide marks were subdued. Slide serrations were not as coarse as the Taurus and were only located at the rear of the slide. With the 20-pound slide-retraction effort and slick hands, it was harder to manipulate the slide. The 3-dot sights were good and easy to use.

AMERICAN CLASSIC COMMANDER ACC45C
45 ACP, $568
GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

The American Classic is a fine variant of the Commander with excellent fit and finish and no sharp edges. Our only ding is the lack of a serrated front grip strap. The trigger was crisp, and the three-dot sights were very good.



Action Type	Short recoil-operated, locked breech, single action
Overall Length	8.0 in.
Overall Height	5.5 in.
Maximum Width	1.25 in.
Weight Unloaded	36.9 oz.
Weight Loaded	41.4 oz.
Slide Material	Forged steel
Slide-Retraction Effort	20.0 lbs.

Receiver Material	Cast steel
Finish	Hard chrome
Front Strap Height	2.6 in.
Rear Strap Height	3.2 in., serrated
Barrel Length	4.25 in.
Grip Panels	Textured hardwood
Grip Thickness (max)	1.25 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.37 in.
Magazine	(1) 8-round steel
Rear Sight	Steel, Novak-type white two dot, drift adj.
Front Sight	Steel, ramp white dot, drift adj.
Sight Radius	5.75 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	4.8 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.8 in.
Safety	Manual thumb, grip safety
Warranty	1 year
Telephone	(732) 493-0302
Website	AmericanClassic.EagleImportsInc.com
Made In	Philippines



The metro American Classic had the longest beavertail. Note the interior of the hammer and the aesthetic webbing; we either hated it or loved it. The rear portion of the rear sight is serrated to reduce glare.



The American Classic uses a standard GI-style recoil spring plug.



In hand, the American Classic has the feel of a full-size 1911.

METRO ARMS CO. MAC 1911 BOBCUT M19BC45C
45 ACP, $746
GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Bobcut offers a crisp trigger pull and bobbed grip for better concealment. The red fiber-optic front sight and front and rear grip serrations pushed it past the other Commanders.



Action Type	Short recoil-operated, locked breech, single action
Overall Length	7.8 in.
Overall Height	5.4 in.
Maximum Width	1.25 in.
Weight Unloaded	34.5 oz.
Weight Loaded	39 oz.
Slide Material	Forged steel
Slide-Retraction Effort	21.0 lbs.
Receiver Material	Cast steel
Finish	Hard chrome
Front Strap Height	2.6 in., textured
Rear Strap Height	2.4 in., textured
Barrel Length	4.25 in.
Pistol Grip	Textured hardwood
Grip Thickness (max)	1.25 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.37 in.
Magazine	(1) 8-round steel
Rear Sight	Steel, Novak-type white two dot, drift adj.
Front Sight	Steel, red fiber optic, drift adj.
Sight Radius	5.75 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	4.6 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.8 in.
Safety	Manual ambi. thumb, grip safety
Warranty	1 year
Telephone	(732) 493-0302
Website	MACpistols.EagleImportsInc.com
Made In	Philippines

The MAC's bobbed rear grip strap did not reduce the pistol's effectiveness. The rear grip strap reduces the MAC from printing under garments. We'd conceal carry the MAC with a flush-fit magazine to further reduce the chance of printing. The front grip strap on the MAC was stippled and offered great adhesion as well.



The MAC uses a one-piece guide rod to enhance accuracy. A paper clip is required to field-strip the pistol.



The MAC had the smallest beavertail, but we experienced no slide bite. The rear sight is serrated to reduce glare. We liked these sights.





The rear face of the rear sight was serrated to kill sun glare.

The three-hole trigger was further lightened with cuts and is adjustable for overtravel. The trigger face texture allowed our finger to adhere to better than the Taurus trigger serrations. We liked the pull weight, which averaged 4.8 pounds. The hammer was well serrated, but instead of the standard skeletonization, a version of the Metro Arms logo, which looked like webbing, filled in the interior. Some liked this cosmetic touch; others did not. The extended slide safety worked exactly how we wanted it to. The slide stop was also extended, so we could comfortably rest our thumbs on it when shooting or not, depending on your grip style.

The back strap was straight and serrated, and there was plenty of speed bump in the grip safety to disengage the safety even if our grip was not the best. The very tip of the beavertail was the longest of the three pistols tested.

The 8-round-capacity magazine was manufactured in Italy by Act-Mag. It featured a steel body, eight witness holes, and a plastic floorplate. The magazine was easy to disassemble. Just depress the button in the floorplate and it slides off the body. The magazine-release button is finely checkered and protrudes from the frame in a way that makes manipulating the button easier, yet the shooter does not worry about an accidental magazine eject.

The American Classic uses a Series 70-style mechanism and a traditional GI-style recoil plug and recoil spring. So it field-strips without the use of any tools, and the slide stop protrudes enough from the right side of the receiver so it is easy to push through.

At 25 yards, the American Classic gave us better accuracy due to the lighter trigger pull, our shooters said. Some of the smallest five-shot groups measured 2 inches, which we thought was excellent. Average accuracy was about 2.25 to 3 inches. We also discovered the Metro Arms pistols had, on average, a 10-fps



The rear back strap texture differed between the three pistols. The Taurus (left) was finely checkered, the American Classic (center) was serrated, and the MAC (right) was stippled. All worked satisfactorily, we thought.



Right: The recoil spring system differed in each Commander model. The MAC Bobcut (bottom) uses a one-piece guide rod that required a paper clip to field strip. The American Classic Commander (center) uses a GI-style recoil spring plug. The Taurus 1911 Commander (top) uses a recoil spring plug and guide rod.

higher muzzle velocity than the Taurus. The Winchester Defend ammo with a 230-grain JHP provided the best accuracy followed by the faster HPR and handloads, which used a 185-grain bullet. During speed shooting, the American Classic could slip due to the lack of front serrations.

Our Team Said: We found the American Classic to be a great example of the Commander variant, but we would have preferred more front grip texture to keep the pistol from moving in sweaty hands. We wouldn't hesitate to own and use this pistol as a concealed-carry option.

Metro Arms Co. MAC 1911 Bobcut M19BC45C 45 ACP, $746

We liked the look of MAC 1911 Bobcut. This pistol is part of the MAC (Metro Arms Company) series of 1911 pistols. Fit and finish were superb, and this looked like a pistol costing twice as much. The fit was tight, with no wiggle or rattle. In fact, all three pistols were tight. It wore a hard-chrome finish and hardwood grips with a fish-scale texture along with the Metro Arms logo layered in the center.

The MAC had all the features of the American Classic and the Taurus Commander but was enhanced for concealed carry, which in our opinion made it a better pistol. The most obvious difference is the bobbed-butt grip, which decreases the weapon print in 1911s. We all know that the edge of the traditional mainspring can stick out when under a concealing garment. The Bobcut eliminates that edge. It also eliminates about 2 ounces from the weight of the pistol, which makes it more comfortable to carry for extended periods of time. Another difference compared to the American Classic are the front and rear grip serrations. These helped control the pistol in rapid fire. The MAC also had an extended ambidextrous thumb safety that made it easy to operate for both strong- and support-hand use. The tip of the beavertail was rounded and less pointed, as well.

The slide wore a subdued MAC logo on the left side. There was also a proper skeletonized hammer, in our opinion — there was no webbing inside the hammer that distracted from the pistol's lines. The rear sight was a Novak-style — like the other pistols — but the front sight was a red fiber optic. The red dot offered a nice contrast, and it was easier to drop the red dot between the white dots when aiming. We also felt focusing on the red dot was easier than the white dots on the other pistols, especially in rapid fire.

This is a Series 70 pistol, but it uses a one-piece extended guide rod, which means accuracy is slightly enhanced and field-stripping requires a tool. To field-strip the MAC, lock the slide back and insert a paper clip in the hole of the guide rod. This will trap the recoil spring and allow you to continue disassembly like a standard GI-style 1911.

At 25 yards, we found the red fiber optic front sight an asset, along with the light 4.6-pound trigger pull. One tester consistently shot 1.9-inch five-shot groups with all the ammo tested. We suspect these pistols are far more accurate than our testers' ability to shoot. The MAC preferred the hot HPR cartridges loaded with 185-grain JHP bullets. The plain-jane ball ammo — Winchester White Box with a 230-grain FMJ — also performed well, with five-shot groups averaging slightly more than 2.2 inches. In speed drills, we easily managed the MAC. We did note that racking the slide with sweaty and oily hands made manipulating the MAC a bit harder because it required 21 pounds of slide-racking effort. Even though the Taurus required the same amount of effort, the Taurus's coarse serrations were easier to grasp and hold onto.

Our Team Said: Even though the MAC Bobcut was the most expensive Commander tested, we discovered the additional cost meant better enhancements for concealed carry and shooting. This pistol performed like a much more expensive Commander.

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

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

VALUE GUIDE: SMALLER 1911-STYLE PISTOL RATINGS (ALL CHAMBERINGS)

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE	COMMENTS
Springfield Armory 911 Bi-Tone PG9109S 380 ACP, $559	Aug. 2018	A	Unlike a full-size 1911, carry the Springfield hammer down instead of cocked and locked.
Rock Island Armory TCM 51943 9mm Luger/22 TCM, $960	July 2018	A/F	The TCM TAC Ultra is an excellent Commander-size 1911 platform in 9mm. Many failures in 22 TCM.
Ruger SR1911 L'wt Commander 6722 9mm Luger, $739	June 2018	B	For those who like the single-action 1911 cocked-and-locked product, this is a good choice.
Kimber Micro 9 Desert Tan (LG) 3300168 9mm Luger, $659	Oct. 2017	A	The laser grip complements the large sights on this micro pistol. Edges are smooth for concealed carry.
SIG Sauer P938 Emperor Scorpion 9mm Luger, $639	Oct. 2017	A	With large sights, a crisp trigger and toothy grips, this pistol was easy to shoot and control.
Springfield Armory 1911 EMP PI9229L 9mm Luger, $1220	July 2017	A	The EMP delivered accuracy and ergonomics on par with more expensive custom guns.
Rock Island Armory Baby Rock 51912 380 ACP, $356	Aug. 2016	A	The Baby Rock has a lot going for it. Had a stiff slide-lock safety that loosened up during testing.
Ruger SR1911 CMD-A Model 6711 45 ACP, $899	May 2015	A	Good looks, decent accuracy, a good trigger, and nothing that doesn't belong.
Colt Mfg. Co. Commander XSE O4012XSE 45 ACP, $940	April 2015	A	Consistently the more accurate handgun. Ambi safety, forward serrations, frame cut.
Remington R1 Commander 96336 45 ACP, $573	April 2015	B	This is a traditional 1911 Commander with no extraneous features.
Shooters Arms Mf'g Commodore CIA HG1009-N 45 ACP, $429	Nov. 2014	D	Not reliable with hollowpoints and showed annoying quirks with the original slide lock.
Kimber Tactical Pro II 45 ACP, $1317	Oct. 2014	A	Kimber's quality control and attention to detail really shine in this pistol.
SIG Sauer Carry Scorpion 45 ACP, $1213	Oct. 2014	B+	Quite accurate. Cerakote coating, frame rail, and G10 scaled grips were good features.
SIG Sauer 1911 C3 1911C0-45-T-C3 45 ACP, ~$650 (Used)	July 2014	A	The pistol is just the right size, with the Commander slide on an Officer's Model frame.
Rock Island Armory Tactical II Compact 51479 45 ACP, $591	July 2014	B	The RIA has features that allow this little pugnosed 45 to shoot like a big gun.
American Classic ACC45B 45 ACP, $506	July 2014	D	This Commander-length 1911 had promise. However, the pistol failed to feed reliably.
American Tactical Imports 1911GI HGAFX45GI 45 ACP, $500	April 2014	B	Fitting and trigger should have been better. Sights and beavertail are good additions.

Log on to **Gun-Tests.com** to read complete reviews of these products in the designated months.
Highly-ranked products from older reviews are often available used at substantial discounts.

SHORT SHOTS

Viridian Introduces New X Series Gen 3 With Camera To Consumer Market. Viridian Weapon Technologies has expanded its X Series Gen 3 product line with the addition of a full-HD digital camera and microphone. The new X Series Gen 3 with Camera product line creates an entirely new category for personal protection, training, and recreational/competitive shooting. The first two products from the lineup — X5L Gen 3 Green Laser with Camera and XTL Gen 3 Taclight with Camera — have begun shipping and are now available for purchase online and at select retailers. "In 2017, we introduced the world's first Weapon-Mounted Camera with a light and optional laser designed to clearly capture full-HD video and crisp audio from handguns and long guns," said Viridian President and CEO Brian Hedeen. "This technology was developed specifically for law enforcement, addressing limitations officers can face with body cameras. The X5L Cam and XTL Cam are designed to give customers a convenient, high-tech solution for capturing footage while training, competing, defending, or just having fun." The X Series Gen 3 with Camera comes standard with a 500 lumen LED light, green laser (on X5L Cam), multiple operation modes and Viridian's proprietary Instant-On technology, as well as a 1080p full-HD digital camera and microphone. The X5L Cam and XTL Cam feature 1920x1080 HD video, integrated microphone, removable/rechargeable battery and more. The X5L model also delivers a 5mW green laser sight (510-532nm). Both include a 2-year limited warranty.



Firearms Storage and Rescue Dry Pouch with Bone-Dri Technology. Humidity and moisture can affect your guns' performance and make cleaning difficult. The new Firearms Storage Pouch from Absorbits Ballistics deploys the company's patented Bone-Dri technology, developed to dry out smart phones that get dropped into water, and applies it to firearms. Each pouch is $30. We haven't tested this yet, but it has promise if it works. The shooter can transport firearms and not worry if they are around moisture, such as during concealed carry, where your sidearm can get wet from perspiration. Just place it in the pouch and it will dry while you store it, the company says. If the gun is already wet, they advise wiping down all components of the firearm with a soft cloth, then place the unloaded and opened firearm and loose ammunition inside the Absorbits pouch. The firearm and ammunition should be dry in 6 hours. Of course, you can keep your firearm and ammunition in the pouch while not in use for protection against moisture in any environment. Available at Absorbits.com and Amazon.com.



Auto-Ordnance Releases "Vengeance" Custom WWII M1 Carbine. Auto-Ordnance's newest WWII commemorative firearms rollout is the custom engraved "Vengeance" Auto-Ordnance M1 Carbine. This model features wood furniture engraved with images recalling December 7, 1941, the "Day of Infamy" when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the naval and air forces of Imperial Japan. The rear stock features highly detailed depictions of the attack on Pearl Harbor. On the opposite side is depicted the B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay, symbolizing the end of the war when the United States forced the surrender of the Imperial Japanese government. Engraved on the front handguard is a battle damaged American flag. The Auto-Ordnance M1 Carbine is a faithful reproduction of military models, with all-steel components, Parkerized finish, and walnut stocks. The "Vengeance" rifle gives shooters an opportunity to own a new firearm that is accurate, reliable and custom engraved to commemorate the M1's role as a vital part of American Military History. The "Vengeance" M1 rifle is chambered in .30 caliber and features a custom engraved walnut stock and handguard. It ships with a 15-round magazine. The model number is AOM130C1 and it has an MSRP of $1391. Contact your local firearms dealer to purchase.



Wilson Combat Announces 300 HAM'R Cartridge. Wilson Combat has announced its 300 HAM'R, an AR-15-length chambering that the company says will deliver near-308 Winchester effectiveness in the company's WC15 rifle platform. Wilson says terminal-performance testing on more than 200 Texas feral hogs has proven it to kill much more effectively than the 6.5 Grendel, 6.8 SPC, 7.62×39, or 300 Blackout. "Due to the optimization of bullet weight to barrel twist, accuracy has proven to be outstanding," a company release said. "Sub-1-inch groups are the norm with multiple bullet choices for varying applications such as hunting, target shooting and tactical use." Undoubtedly, shooters will want to see how the 300 HAM'R compares to the popular 300 Blackout or 7.62×39, and WilsonCombat.com/300-hamr/ lists several ballistics comparison charts for the 300 HAM'R with 110- to 150-grain bullets.



— continued from page 2

More broadly, French also points out that "Facebook has recently restricted any links to a website called CodeIsFreeSpeech.com, which contains downloadable plans for a number of entirely legal firearms," such as the Colt 1911.

Likewise, YouTube prohibits any content that "intends to sell" firearms or provides instructions on "manufacturing a firearm." French points out, "The latter prohibition is broad enough to (if YouTube wishes) include information on assembling a firearm from its component parts — a necessary part of firearm cleaning and maintenance." And there's more that French detailed:

- Reddit has banned certain gun forums and updated its policies to forbid using Reddit to "solicit or facilitate" (extremely broad terms) transactions or gifts involving firearms.
- Amazon Web Services has reportedly removed the website CodeIsFreeSpeech.com from its servers.
- Shopify just updated its free-speech policies to deny space for "the kind of products intended to harm." The company also placed on its "restricted items list" all semi-automatic weapons packaged with detachable magazines "capable of accepting more than 10 rounds." It also reportedly deleted the accounts of Spike's Tactical and Franklin Armory, according to French.

I agree when French writes, "… that these actions represent not the culmination of a gun-control campaign, but the front edge of a wave of corporate censorship and suppression." This is a vastly different threat than what gun ownership has faced in the past. **GT**

COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

- New Snubnose Revolvers Under $400: We pit three 38 Special revolvers against each other. Will the S&W Model 637-2 be the top snubby, or will the 6-shot Taurus 856 and slick S&W M&P Bodyguard 38 offer enough value to rule the roost?

- Threaded-barrel 1911 45 ACPs: Included are the Remington 1911 R1 Enhanced Threaded Barrel 96339, ATI ATIFGX45K FX1911, and Kimber's America 1911 Warrior SOC 3000253 pistols.

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