GUN TESTS®

THE CONSUMER RESOURCE FOR THE SERIOUS SHOOTER

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NEW RIMFIRES FROM GLOCK, S&W, AND RUGER

Tested: Glock's G44 Compact, $367; the Ruger LCP II Lite Rack, $299; and the Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact 22 LR, $286. All were fine, but one was a standout that we want to buy. ● Page 6



M1 AND M1A RIFLES GO HEAD TO HEAD

Tested: Springfield's M1A Scout Squad and SOCOM rifles as well as the hard-hitting Tanker Garand. These are formidable rifles that offer real power for the outdoorsman and home defender. ● Page 16



PLINKER SHOOT OUT

Should you pay a premium for the Uberti Cattleman 22, or parlay on the cheaper Cimarron Plinkerton? Or perhaps the Ruger Wrangler is the right gun? To see which one you might want, turn to...
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DOWNRANGE

BETTER GUN SHOPPING



Todd Woodard

If you're in the market for guns right now, you probably already know how things have changed in the last two months. Supplies of guns and ammo are very, very tight, though some odd calibers of both firearms and ammunition are in fairly good supply. But whether you're buying locally or online, you can make your experience less frustrating for you, your dealer, and other gun buyers by having your ducks in a row before you go shop. Here's some advice:

#1: Know what you want. This is crucial because we've seen dealers setting up kiosks in their parking lots and hand-delivering guns to people in their cars, just like carryout grocery services are doing. Those are online sales, with only legal paperwork completed on site. In most cases, customers don't get to go into the store. Why would a gun retailer expose his inventory to a bunch of people who might spread the virus inside the store? To narrow your choices, check your back issues of GUN TESTS and look for the Value Guide rankings. Those will give you the grades for many guns by caliber, and then you can order online or call and go pick up your guns.

#2 Line up a local FFL. If you find a brick-and-mortar store that's open, then you'll fill out your 4473s as usual. If you're shopping online, you need to have a receiving FFL already lined up to receive your firearm. Have a copy of the FFL available to email. If you don't have this, a distant retailer who has the gun you want in stock — with ammo — may sell "your" gun because you didn't have the FFL information ready to go at the time of the transaction.

#3 Have a current ID. Or better yet, have a state concealed-carry license. The latter is better because the government gun-check systems are slowing down because of record volumes, or in some cases state systems are being shut down, so no transactions are possible or they're delayed. But CHLs in many or most states don't have to have separate background checks made (check your local laws), so that makes everything go smoother. In either case, you will have to present your current ID or CHL at the time of pickup, and if you don't have it on you, you are SOL. Don't forget.

#4 Be patient. If you have a common last name and you have to clear a background check, be prepared to go back later to pick up your purchase.

#5: Ammo. Every wholesaler I've checked with has been out of ammo, so retail supplies will be sketchy. Keep looking.

Upside: Now you'll know what it's like when your wife is shopping for new shoes. **GT**

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A Jackass? Yes, an Older One

Reader AJ questions that a holster was a real Jackass, and it was. Also, several readers inquired about the ballistic stats for a 308 load. And Reader Vincent would like a gun review for older women.

Re "Shoulder Holsters Compared," April 2020

Good review. Bad picture. The top picture on page 28 of the April Issue is not a Galco Jackass. I have a Jackass and it doesn't look anything like that. The bottom picture appears to be correct. Out of curiosity, what kind of holster is shown in the top picture? **— AJ**



Most of the raters put the Galco Jackass near the top in ratings, in part because of the fit and finish of the decade-old Jackass. Below: We really like the Jackass holster's mag set up.

Right: The Galco Jackass offers good concealment if the handgun slide is short enough.

AJ: I double-checked to be certain. The top picture is a Jackass, just an older one. I gave it away after the article printed. The holster illustrated with the female wearer is the newest and "improved" Jackass. The newer one just looks a little different.

— Bob Campbell

Re "Firing Line"

I noticed one of the letters in a recent issue from someone who liked his XD-S 45 ACP but hated the trigger. I had the same problem with my XD-S 9mm. I bought and installed a BRZ trigger from Overwatch Precision, and it was terrific. No change in springs is required, but the new trigger got rid of that horrible take-up, and it breaks cleanly. Highly recommended. **— John**

John, thank you for the tip. For our other readers, the Overwatch Precision BRZ Trigger is a semi-flat-faced, direct drop-in replacement for the XDS OEM trigger. Each trigger shoe and trigger safety tab is machined in the USA out of 7075-T6 aluminum alloy, and Type II and III anodized. It has a hybrid flat/curved form. The addition of this trigger alone does not change the pull weight. However, pre-travel is reduced. According to the manufacturer's page (OverwatchPrecision.com), the trigger will only work in post-recall XD-S handguns. If you go this route, we recommend you have the trigger installed by a qualified gunsmith. An accompanying Powder River Precision Trigger spring and sear kit is said to deliver a half-pound reduction in trigger-pull weight.

— Todd Woodard

Re "308 Bolt-Action Rifles: We Compare Four Head to Head," April 2020

To Joe Woolley: I read your excellent article about 308 bolt-action rifles in the April 2020 issue of GUN TESTS. However, I was puzzled by the muzzle velocity data for the Black Hills ammo on page 7, which shows velocities ranging from 1098 to 1139 fps. Per the product number for the Black Hills ammo shown in the

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.

table (MidwayUSA.com 280175), the MidwayUSA website shows a muzzle velocity of 2650 fps. So, is the muzzle velocity data in the table erroneous or was your testing staff using an alternate low velocity ammo? **— Paul**

I read with interest the 308 Winchester Range Data in the April 2020 issue of GUN TESTS. The muzzle velocity and associated muzzle-energy data for the Black Hills 168-grain BTHP loads look decidedly low. I would guess that the chronograph malfunctioned and that the shooter didn't notice. **— John M.**

No, this was my error in not transferring corrections from a proof Joe reviewed to final production. The corrected table with all the 308 loads runs below. Thanks to several other readers for catching it as well. — tw

Do you have any idea why Winchester would put such a slow twist rate on a current production 308? It really limits bullet selection. Newer long-range 30-cal bullets are too long for such a slow twist. I almost bought an older Winchester Model 70 22-250 heavy-barrel varmint rifle a few months ago. I ran the serial number with Winchester and found out that it had a 1:14-inch twist. That used to work for 50 grains and below, but now even the Hornady 50-grain Varmint Grenade recommends 1:10. Thank you. Great publication. **— Douglas**

Hey Doug: I would guess that the tooling to make barrel-twist changes isn't that easy to replace, and, overwhelmingly, the loads for those barrels are still mostly traditional styles. But as the performance of longer bullets continues to shine, I'd guess more and more rifles will have updated twists. It has already happened in the AR market. — tw

Women of a Certain Age Carry

Some women, especially those 50 years of age and above, would like to carry a firearm, but they don't because the guns are:

1. Too big in size.
2. Too powerful to handle.
3. Too difficult to conceal in warm climates or hot weather.
4. Too difficult to pull the slide back due to less strength (sometimes a function of age) or a health condition like mild arthritis.
5. Too difficult to pull the trigger.
6. Too expensive.

Has your magazine ever addressed this age group of women specifically? If not, could you in the future, or should these women only hope someone else will protect them? **— Vincent**

308 WINCHESTER RANGE DATA

Hornady 308 125-grain SST Reduced	Tikka T3x Lite	Ruger Hawkeye	Remington Model 7 CDL	Winchester Featherweight
Average Velocity	2498 fps	2338 fps	2462 fps	2530 fps
Muzzle Energy	1733 ft.-lbs.	1518 ft.-lbs.	1682 ft.-lbs.	1777 ft.-lbs.
Best Group	0.92 in.	0.95 in.	0.52 in.	0.45 in.
Average Group	1.18 in.	1.03 in.	0.72 in.	0.71 in.

SIG Sauer 150-grain HT	Tikka T3x Lite	Ruger Hawkeye	Remington Model 7 CDL	Winchester Featherweight
Average Velocity	2839 fps	2692 fps	2781 fps	2827 fps
Muzzle Energy	2684 ft.-lbs.	2414 ft.-lbs.	2577 ft.-lbs.	2662 ft.-lbs.
Best Group	1.44 in.	1.16 in.	0.42 in.	0.64 in.
Average Group	1.59 in.	1.42 in.	1.32 in.	1.04 in.

Black Hills 168-grain BTHP	Tikka T3x Lite	Ruger Hawkeye	Remington Model 7 CDL	Winchester Featherweight
Average Velocity	2673 fps	2512 fps	2619 fps	2651 fps
Muzzle Energy	2665 ft.-lbs.	2355 ft.-lbs.	2559 ft.-lbs.	2622 ft.-lbs.
Best Group	0.64 in.	1.05 in.	0.38 in.	0.79 in.
Average Group	1.15 in.	1.67 in.	0.72 in.	1.17 in.

All groups were shot at 100 yards from a solid bench using a Caldwell TackDriver front rest ($43 at MidwayUSA.com) and a T.A.B. Gear large rear bag ($30 at TABGear.com) with the heavy fill. Muzzle velocity was determined using a LabRadar chronograph. Our 308 Winchester ammunition included Hornady CustomLite 125-grain SSTs (MidwayUSA.com 187296, $29.99/20); SIG Sauer Elite HT 150-grain rounds (BudsGunShop.com 23485, $33.15/20); and Black Hills 168-grain Boat-Tail Hollow Point (MidwayUSA.com 280175 $30.69/20).

I think we can get something going on that. Thanks for the idea. Please send along any guns that you're interested in. —tw

Re "Compact 357s from Rossi, Rock Island Armory, and Colt," May 2020

Certainly the Ruger LCRx in 3-inch 357 Magnum deserves to be in this grouping. IMHO, it's definitely a best buy among these examples and the easiest to carry. A Rossi or Rock Island firearm has to carry its own weight. My wife has a 1911A 9mm Rock Island that sings on any stage (no jams and accurate), and she loves it, but it's brand name clout is minimal. My experience with Rossi has been typically, "Why bother, when for a few bucks more you can get a much better (whatever) and you'll get the extra paid back when you sell it." Colt seems to want to own the high ground called "overpriced." Actually, I wrote Ruger a couple of months after the 2-inch LCR came out and said don't wait, get the 3-inch edition in the works because that'll be a much better version in most circumstances. Glad they did. **— Bruce**



Hey Bruce: The Ruger LCRx 3-inch 357 Magnum 5444 does indeed deserve some consideration. We'll see what we can rustle up. — tw

Casing Question

I just received 2000 rounds of 10mm and 45 ACP with aluminum casings. Not by choice; they substituted it for the brass I wanted. Legal matters are in motion to get my money back or the correct item I wanted. Anyway, I've heard aluminum cases are not safe to shoot, so have you done any testing on the safety and reliability of aluminum-cased ammo? I really like Gun Tests magazine. **—Peter**

Hey Peter: Aluminum cases are fine to shoot. They just can't be reloaded like brass. Some ranges don't allow aluminum-case use because the range harvests brass for recycling, and they don't want to sort the aluminum out. We often use aluminum-case ammunition in our tests. No safety concerns in more than 20 years. Shoot and enjoy. — tw



Best 40 S&W Concealables

Your tests are fantastic. Unbiased, factual, thorough, accurate and performed by knowledgeable individuals. What have you found to be the three most concealable 40 S&W-caliber handguns? **— Parnie**

"Most concealable" is an unusual request for a 40-chambered handgun. The Kahr P40 probably should be on the list. S&W's M&P40c Compact would be another, as would Springfield's XDM 3.8 Compact. — tw

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

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

Testing New Rimfire Pistols from Glock, S&W, and Ruger

The 22 LR contestants: Glock's G44 Compact, $367; a Ruger LCP II Lite Rack, $299; and the Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact 22 LR, $286. All were fine, but one was a standout that we'd buy for sure.

Within the past few months, two major firearms makers, Glock and Ruger, introduced 22 rimfire versions of popular centerfire handguns. Already in the smallbore pistol market is the Smith & Wesson M&P22. Most 22 pistols can be great trainers if they are rimfire twins of a centerfire handgun. For instance, the Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact has been around a few years and is basically a Shield-size 22 pistol. It isn't difficult to design a 22-caliber pistol that looks like a centerfire handgun. The operating mechanism cannot be the same because a 22 Long Rifle cartridge isn't powerful enough to function a locked-breech action. The action must be a blowback, or perhaps a type of delayed blowback. The trigger action isn't a problem, but for a true tactical trainer, it should be as close to the centerfire handgun as possible. For this test, we chose three different sizes of rimfire handgun which might help their owners practice more often and more inexpensively.



Top to bottom are Glock's G44 Compact 11921822, a Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact 108390, and a Ruger LCP II Lite Rack 13705 22 LR. Each one may have a place in your safe, but we'd commit money from our stimulus checks to the Smith & Wesson first. It had great sights and no malfunctions.

First up was the *Glock G44 Compact 11921822 22 LR, $367*. The Glock 44 has been the subject of considerable interest among both Glock fans and 22 rimfire enthusiasts. Glock has tweaked its marketing toward beginners and sport shooters. The Glock 44 fits that notch, and every Glock fan will want one, although there were some derisive comments on social media that it was a disappointing introduction. Folks wanted a single-column-magazine 10mm or a carbine in 9mm more, it seems. We don't know why anyone would be disappointed with this pistol because the new Glock 44 is a great understudy to centerfire Glocks and a good standalone 22, whether or not you own a Glock centerfire handgun.

Next was a *Ruger LCP II Lite Rack 13705 22 LR, $299*. The Ruger is a 22-caliber version of the popular LCP II 380 ACP pistol. The original LCP had sights that were nothing much more than bumps on the slide. The DAO trigger was too heavy for good, fast shooting or slow-fire accuracy. The LCP II addresses these issues well with improved sights and a much improved trigger action. The original LCP did not incorporate a hold-open device for the slide, the LCP II does. The Lite Rack 22 is identical in most respects to the 380 ACP version, save for the 22-caliber hole in the muzzle. The pistols are the same in overall dimension, and the 22 version of the little 380 is closer in weight to the LCP II 380 than the Glock 44 is to the Glock 19. The 22 LCP II is actually slightly heavier than the 380 ACP version.

The third handgun was the *Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact 22 LR, $286*. All the prices are pre-virus from BudsGunShop.com. The M&P22 Compact is similar to the M&P22, but it differs considerably. The larger pistol is made for Smith & Wesson by Walther, while the M&P22 Compact is made in the USA by Smith & Wesson. The pistol is supplied with two magazines and represents a significantly more affordable option that the other handguns. The pistol is available in two-tone and suppressor-ready versions for greater expense. The pistol is designed to compete

against the Walther P22 and Ruger SR22 . While it may offer a rimfire counterpart to the Smith & Wesson Shield, it isn't really a 22 version of the Shield, save in appearance. The M&P22 Compact is a hammer-fired single-action pistol, while the striker-fired Shield is a double-action-only handgun. The 22 pistol features a 3.6-inch barrel, and the magazines have a capacity of 10 rounds. The S&W is supplied with two magazines in a cardboard box.



Right: All ammunition was reasonably accurate. Best reliability was exhibited by high-velocity loads.



Right: We had surprisingly few failures to fire, the bane of rimfire ammunition. This is one good firing-pin strike the S&W delivered without ignition.

How We Tested

We fired a total of six loads in each handgun, starting with 500 rounds of Remington Thunderbolt at informal targets from 5 to 50 yards. We also fired 100 rounds of Winchester M22s in each gun. These are 40-grain high-velocity loads. Next, we fired 100 rounds of the CCI subsonic polymer-coated Clean 22. The Winchester Super X 37-grain hollow points, the Fiocchi HVHP 38-grain load, and CCI's Mini Mag 40-grain round-nose loads were used for accuracy testing.

The problem is 22 rimfire reliability. A hunter or plinker may accept the occasional malfunction. A self-defense shooter who fires thousands of rounds a year may find even the occasional malfunction to be too much of an aggravation. The question is, how reliable and accurate are these handguns if we want to use them as stand-ins for their bigger brothers? We

22 LR RANGE DATA

Winchester Super X 37-grain Hollow Point	**Glock G44 Compact**	**Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact**	**Ruger LCP II Lite Rack**
Average Velocity	990 fps	910 fps	904 fps
Muzzle Energy	81 ft.-lbs.	68 ft.-lbs.	67 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	1.5 in.	2.5 in.	3.9 in.
Average Group	2.2 in.	3.6 in.	4.7 in.
Fiocchi CPHP 38-grain Hollow Point	**Glock G44 Compact**	**Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact**	**Ruger LCP II Lite Rack**
Average Velocity	980 fps.	917 fps	866 fps
Muzzle Energy	81 ft.-lbs.	71 ft.-lbs.	63 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	1.5 in.	2.0 in.	2.9 in.
Average Group	1.9 in.	3.0 in.	4.0 in.
CCI Mini Mag 40-grain Segmented	**Glock G44 Compact**	**Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact**	**Ruger LCP II Lite Rack**
Average Velocity	962 fps	913 fps	844 fps
Muzzle Energy	82 ft.-lbs.	74 ft.-lbs.	63 ft.-lbs.
Small Group	1.5 in.	2.0 in.	3.1 in.
Average Group	2.0 in.	3.0 in.	4.5 in.

All groups were fired at 15 yards from a benchrest position using a Bullshooters pistol rest. The first chronograph screen was 10 feet from the muzzle of the firearm. We used a Competition Electronics Pro Chrony to gather velocity data. Ammo details: Winchester 37-grain Super X Hollow Point ($6.69/100 from SportsmansGuide.com); Fiocchi 38-grain CPHP plated Hollow Point 22 HVCHP ($38/500 from SportsmansGuide.com); and CCI Mini Mag 40-grain Segmented Hollow Point ($7/50 from AmmunitionDepot.com).

were happy to find these three handguns are among the most reliable rimfire handguns we have tested, even functioning with standard-velocity ammunition with varying degrees of reliability. Accuracy, especially with the tiny Ruger LCP II 22 , was surprising. The Ruger wasn't the most accurate of the three, but it is possibly the most accurate handgun we have ever tested in this size range.

While these handguns are designed primarily for recreation and training, we discovered an unanticipated role they may fill well. They are accurate enough to replace the conventional kit-gun-type field revolver. The pistols tested are compact, subcompact, and pocket-size pistols, but we evaluated them on the same points, for accuracy, reliability, and handling. What niche they may fill for shooters should probably be decided on what tasks you need to perform with them.

Glock G44 Compact 11921822 22 LR, $367

This turned out to be the least reliable handgun we have tested from a maker famed for reliability. The Glock 44 is a Glock 19-size handgun. The primary innovation of the Glock 44 is a "hybrid metal" slide. It is a mix of polymer reinforced with steel. No worries, steel is in the right place for strength. The pistol is identical in dimension to the Glock 19, a good size for a rimfire pistol. The locking block is different, and so is the barrel. The Glock 44 is supplied with the same type of frame inserts as the Glock 19 to ensure good handfit.

The Glock 44 features a 4.02-inch barrel and an overall length of 7.02 inches. After trying it in a half-dozen holsters in both leather and Kydex, the Glock 44 seems to fit Glock 19 holsters well. We used a JMCustomKydex.com Road Dog holster for most of the test. This holster offers a good mix of speed and retention. Holster compatibility allows draw and shoot practice with the Glock 44 if you own a Glock 19. This is a real advantage of the 22 version of a centerfire handgun. You just don't get that kind of utility with a Ruger Standard Model or Browning Buckmark. The Glock 44 handles exactly like a Glock 19. The Glock 44 features a Glock Marksman barrel with fluted chamber. Unlike most other 22-caliber rimfire handguns, the Glock 44 may be dry-fired.

The Glock 44 differs significantly in weight compared to the Glock 19. At just over 14.5 ounces, the Glock 44 weighs less than the 23.5-ounce Glock 19 9mm. A significant difference is that the Glock 44 uses a 10-shot magazine. The magazine is designed to be an easy-load style and features an easily grasped follower spring depressor. The waffle-backed Glock-style magazine is designed for feed reliability over capacity, and it seems to accomplish the former goal.

The pistol isn't a fixed-barrel straight-blowback system, but rather incorporates a separate barrel. The Glock 44 disassembles in the traditional Glock manner. There are no departures from standard Glock

GLOCK G44 COMPACT 11921822 22 LR, $367

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The raters liked the Glock 44. A combination of light weight, modest recoil, and Glock handling make it a winner in the hearts and minds of Glock fans. We did not like the reliability issues. As a trainer, it gets high marks. We would rather have this handgun than a 22 LR conversion unit.



Action Type	Blowback, Safe Action double action only
Overall Length	7.02 in.
Height	5.04 in.
Max Width	1.2 in.
Weight Unloaded	14.6 oz.
Weight Loaded	16.4 oz.
Slide Material	Hybrid, polymer-steel reinforced
Slide Retraction Effort	10.0 lbs.
Receiver Material	Polymer
Front Strap Height	2.7 lbs.
Back Strap Height	2.5 lbs.
Barrel	4.01 in. Marksman Barrel
Grip Thickness Max	1.25 in.
Grip Circumference	5.6 in.
Magazines	(2) 10 round
Rear Sight	Adjustable Glock polymer, white outline
Front Sight	Post front, white dot
Sight Radius	6.0 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	5.8 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.8
Trigger Travel/Reset Travel	0.27 in., 0.7 in.
Safety	Trigger lever
Warranty	Limited lifetime
Made In	USA
Telephone	(770) 432-1202
Website	US.GLOCK.com

RUGER LCP II LITE RACK 13705 22 LR, $299

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The LCP II 22 is fun to fire, which is seldom true of even the best small 380 ACPs. The LCP II excels as a rimfire trainer for the LCP II 380. The LCP II is the lightest and least accurate handgun tested. But it holds as many rounds as the other two and is more reliable than the Glock.



Action Type..... Blowback, Safe Action double action only
Action Type..... Blowback, single action
Overall Length.....5.02 in.
Height .....3.8 in.
Max Width .....0.85 in.
Weight Unloaded..... 11.2 oz.
Weight Loaded..... 13.97 oz.
Slide Material..... Alloy Steel
Slide Retraction Effort .....8.0 lbs.
Receiver Material.....Glass-filled nylon
Front Strap Height.....1.25 in.
Back Strap Height.....2.0 in.
Barrel.....2.75 in.
Grip Thickness Max.....0.8 in.
Grip Circumference.....4.5 in.
Magazines.....(1) 10 round
Rear Sight ..... Fixed notch
Front Sight..... Post front
Sight Radius .....4.1 in.
Trigger Pull Weight.....5.6 lbs.
Trigger Span .....2.5 in.
Trigger Travel/Reset Travel.....0.25 in., 0.5 in.
Safeties ..... Manual lever, trigger lever, magazine disconnect
Warranty..... None written
Made In .....USA
Telephone .....(336) 949-5200
Website .....Ruger.com

SMITH & WESSON M&P22 COMPACT 108390 22 LR, $286

GUN TESTS GRADE: A (OUR PICK)

The least expensive handgun tested was also the most reliable, beating the Glock on that grade and without the shooter errors the Ruger was prone to. The M&P22 is accurate enough for field use and kit gun chores and makes a good trainer. Downside: Not identical to the S&W Shield.



Action Type..... Blowback, single action
Overall Length.....6.7 in.
Height .....4.8 in.
Max Width .....1.2 in.
Weight Unloaded..... 15.3 oz.
Weight Loaded..... 17.1 oz.
Slide Material..... Aluminum
Slide Retraction Effort .....9.5 lbs.
Receiver Material.....Polymer
Front Strap Height.....2.3 in.
Back Strap Height.....3.25 in.
Barrel.....3.6 in.
Grip Thickness Max.....0.9 in.
Grip Circumference.....5.15 in.
Magazines.....(2) 10 round
Rear Sight .....Adj. windage and elevation, white dot insert
Front Sight..... Post with white dot
Sight Radius .....5.4 in.
Trigger Pull Weight.....7.6 lbs.
Trigger Span .....2.55 in.
Trigger Travel/Reset Travel.....0.24 in., 0.5 in.
Safety..... Manual Safety/Trigger Lever/Magazine Safety
Warranty.....Lifetime
Made In .....USA
Telephone .....(800) 331-0852
Website ..... Smith-Wesson.com



Left to right are Ruger, Smith & Wesson, and Glock magazines. The Smith & Wesson and Glock magazines have easy-load features, such as a tab on the follower. The Ruger is more difficult to load, but it is supplied with a magazine loader.

operation and manipulation. The magazine release, slide locks, and take down are identical to other Glock pistols. The pistol features a Generation 4 grip with finger grooves on the front strap. The Glock 44 features the standard white-outline Glock sights. The rear sight is a variation on the Glock adjustable sight seen on the original Glock 17L and other handguns. An adjustment tool is included. The pistol features well-designed cocking serrations both front and rear, and the light rail is Glock standard.

The rimmed 22 Long Rifle cartridge feeds best in a single-column magazine. Primary concerns in designing a 22 rimfire handgun and magazine are the problems of a rimmed cartridge case, heel-based bullet, and sometimes dirty powder. We have noted in recent months that rimfire ammunition seems more reliable than ever, which is encouraging. There are still problematic, even finicky, 22-caliber handguns. The Glock 44 is not one of these. Just the same, it isn't as reliable as it has been touted to be by some. In short, it was the least reliable of the three pistols, although it ran 100% with some loads.

Fired offhand, the lightweight pistol is Glock-like in handling. The 5.8-pound trigger is smooth and tight like a Glock. The Glock trigger has a certain amount of take up and then a wall, which the shooter breaks the trigger against. The lighter slide doesn't allow as much of a balance against trigger-pull weight as a center-fire Glock, and some shooters may have a problem with this. It requires acclimation. All raters enjoyed firing the pistol, and we busily loaded magazines as we traded the pistol back and forth. We purchased a third







We encountered nagging malfunctions with the Glock M44. Top and bottom are feedway stoppages. Perhaps this was due to improper loading of the magazine, but we were no more careful with the other handguns.Right, the slide caught this cartridge case and flattened it.





Above: The Glock 44 22-caliber magazine is easy to load because of a tab the shooter can hold down, but cartridges must be properly loaded in the Glock magazine to assure feed reliability. Left, if you look closely, the cartridges are not properly staggered in the magazine. Right: We found that when loading the Glock magazine, the cartridges must be at the proper angle or the first round up may misfeed.

magazine for $28 retail. It isn't a fault of the handgun, but one drawback in training surfaced when firing at steel gongs at 15 yards. We saw little movement



Above: The Glock 44, Glock's first rimfire, is a clean design. It compares well to the Glock 19 in handling and size. Below: The Glock is supplied with grip inserts to customize hand size.







The Glock 44's Marksman barrel is well fitted and delivered good accuracy.



We tried the Glock 44 in this Galco Triton, intended for the Glock 19. It worked well.



Fired offhand, the Glock 44 is a joy to use. It demonstrated good runs on the steel plates. Since recoil isn't a factor, concentration on marksmanship is simplified. Young shooters find the Glock is a good way to break into handgun shooting. All shooters found the Glock throws spent cases slightly forward. The Glock's rear sight offers good adjustment. Inset: The front sight is a standard post with a white dot. The contrast of black and white stood out against most target colors.

of the gongs and got little audio feedback. The 22 doesn't have enough momentum to move targets that are sprung for the 9mm. When firing the Ruger LCP II, which developed even less velocity, we taped the gongs over as a reference and then checked for hits as we would a conventional paper target.

During the first part of the firing test of 700 high-velocity cartridges, there were a number of failures to feed, chamber, fire, and eject the Remington Thunderbolts. The first half-dozen failures were failures to feed the first shot. It took some experimentation to align the first round in the magazine properly for feeding. Occasionally, a spent case was caught between the slide and the chamber. All of these occurred during the first 200 cartridges. Then we had 200 trouble-free rounds after a modest break in and solving the first round feed angle problem. But then the Glock occasionally tied up, perhaps at a 5% rate, after becoming dirty at about 420 rounds. After burning up the Thunderbolts, we moved to other types. The Winchester M22 was uneventful. The first cartridge of the Winchester Super-X misfed twice. The CCI subsonic generally functioned; however, we did see failures to hold the slide open on the last shot and a couple of short cycles. The CCI Mini Mag, fired at the end of the test in the dirty gun, sailed through without a single failure to feed, chamber, fire, or eject.

In some cases, we believe the shooter may have been at fault. The Glock M44 rimfire demands that cartridges be carefully stacked in the magazine, not simply dropped in as you hold the follower down, and the angle of the first cartridge to feed is important. Once the first cartridge fed, the rest were likely to. At one point we noticed a staggered off-center cartridge about five cartridges down before we began firing and fixed it. These are wide magazines that fit into a Glock 19 frame designed for high-capacity 9mm magazines. The other 22-caliber pistols use slim magazines. We were glad the Glock is supplied with two magazines, but we really would have liked to



Left: Field stripping is easy enough and pure Glock for the G44 rimfire. Center: Disassembly for the LCP II isn't difficult, but it's not our favorite as the parts are not captive. Note the tiny recoil spring (arrow). Right: The S&W features a fixed barrel and easy take down. Rotate a lever and pull the slide off the rear of the frame.

have two more during the range work.

The pistol handles well with minimum recoil. It could be an able trainer for those deploying a Glock centerfire for personal defense. The pistol is also a viable trainer for young persons or anyone wishing to learn to use a handgun. Because the sights may be changed for any number of aftermarket types, compatibility with Glock pistols is excellent, we thought. When discussing the addition of night sights to the Glock 44, one maker advised they do not recommend their iron sights be shoehorned into the polymer hybrid slide. Time will tell.

After the troubling initial malfunctions and then a long period without any type of tie up, we were really enjoying the Glock M44. We discussed cleaning the pistol, but instead doused it with lubricant to make a 1,000-round test of reliability. On the benchrest, we used three loads. The pistol proved accurate enough for most any use a 22 will be put to. With groups of 1.45 to 2.0 inches at 15 yards, the Glock was the most accurate of the three handguns. While it is also the largest handgun, this was good performance.

Our Team Said: We find the Glock 44 to be a good trainer and is also useful as a field gun for small-game hunting or clearing away pests and rodents. The 22 LR is low on the list for personal defense, but if you cannot tolerate recoil or this is what is on hand, you are far from helpless. But be certain that the pistol is reliable with a specific load that you choose. Downside: It had nagging malfunctions that would have failed a personal-defense handgun.



The Ruger LCP II 22 is a good design that makes the most of a tiny package. The Ruger is perhaps the most fun gun to fire among the three.

Ruger LCP II Lite Rack 13705 22 LR, $299

The grip design and forward cocking serrations are each well designed and effective. The barrel doesn't recoil with the slide, but it tilts a bit as the handgun recoils and the cartridge loads into the chamber.



The 22-caliber Ruger is simple to operate and mostly reliable, but during the firing tests, there were eight to ten times we had failures to feed, primarily with the subsonic loads but also at least twice with high-velocity loads. Ammo or gun malfunction? You be the judge.





Right arrow: Overall, the manual safety is a good addition that requires some practice to manipulate quickly. Left arrow: During the firing test, we sometimes locked the slide back in recoil. The firing-hand thumb met the slide lock during recoil. The Ruger LCP II is the only pistol heavier than its centerfire counterpart. From its snag-free muzzle to the well-designed gripping surfaces, the Ruger is thoughtfully built.

Handling of the Ruger LCP II rimfire is good considering the cramped quarters the hand must operate in. While accuracy is nothing to rave about, this is a reliable handgun that isn't a drag in the pocket.





Left: The Ruger Lite Rack LCP II is supplied with a useful pocket holster. Right, BaddaddyTactical.com offers a quality appendix draw holster for the LCP II.



The Ruger's sights are not the largest of the test, but they work fine within the limitations of a tiny pistol.

The recoil spring is tiny. One rater likened it to a ballpoint-pen spring. There is nothing to be desired in handling the pistol, despite its small size. The slide is easy to rack, and there are two small protrusions on the rear of the slide to aid in cocking. This is a modern feature found on the S&W EZ Rack 9 and other handguns. We found it worked as designed and made for easy racking of the slide.

The safety has an odd-feeling operation at first. The lever doesn't travel in an arc, but rather presses forward to take the safety off. The safety operates well, and it detents into position in a positive manner. However, it must be taken off Safe as the handgun is brought into action and before the pistol is in a firing position. When the handgun is held in the firing position, the safety would be difficult to manipulate without breaking the firing grip. The safety may be moved to the Safe position by moving the thumb rearward without breaking the firing grip. There is also a magazine safety that prevents the pistol from firing if the magazine isn't in place. Some find the magazine safety to be a good touch, but we prefer not to have such a safety on a defensive handgun. The LCP II 380 doesn't have this safety.

The LCP II 22 is supplied with a single 10-round magazine. We ordered another from SCGunco.com for $28. While this drove the price of the pistol up, it is still not an expensive handgun. But adding the magazine to the price brings the total cost of the LCP II with two magazines to $327, $41 more than the S&W. We feel that a pistol should be supplied with two magazines, but then this is a pistol that is found for sale in most shops for $309 or so.

We really like the sights; they are among the best fixed iron sights found on a (very) small handgun. The trigger features a safety-lever insert into the trigger face. Theoretically, the pistol might be carried with this lever as the sole safety, but we prefer a manual safety. This pistol is likely to be carried in a pocket, not in a belt holster. We began all firing tests with the action set to Safe.

At the range, we fired the Ruger LCP II 22 with the

The pistols were great fun to use with the FirebirdTargets.com Pyrotechnic targets. Center punch the target and blammo!





An advantage of the M&P22 and the Glock M44 is the ability to mount a light like this TruGlo.



The Smith & Wesson M&P22 is a fun gun and a great all around shooter. The M&P22 was the most reliable handgun tested.

The Smith & Wesson 22 is an attractive package.We liked the pistol's firing characteristics, as the results on target show.



same loads as the other handguns. The LCP II isn't a hard-kicking handgun by any means, but at only 11.2 ounces, it is the lightest handgun tested. There is some rearward momentum as the pistol fires. As we neared the end of the 500 Remington cartridges, the raters noted it was tiring to finish the firing program. It is perhaps unusual to fire a brick of 22s in less than an hour, but then that is what we do. The other pistols, larger guns, were largely indistinguishable in recoil. Even though the S&W is dimensionally more compact than the Glock, it weighs about an ounce more. The LCP II was a bit whippy after a few hundred rounds. But the LCP II is designed as a rimfire training counterpoint/understudy for the LCP II 380 ACP. In this regard, it works very well. Incidentally, it weighs slightly more than the centerfire LCP II.

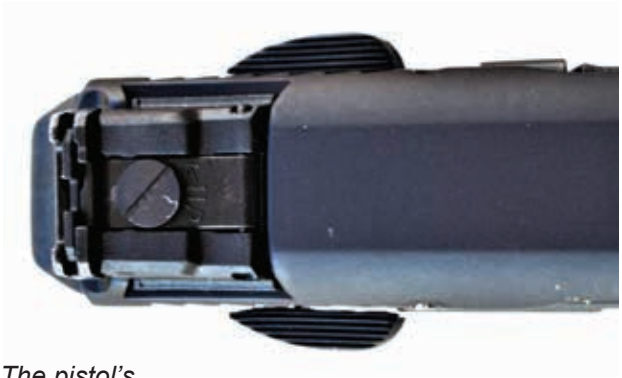
During the firing, the LCP II Lite Rack lived up to its name. The slide is very easy to rack. The firing grip isn't as good as we got with the larger handguns. This would matter more with a centerfire, but we still found that crunching the hand around such a small pistol sometimes resulted in the firing-hand thumb bumping into the slide lock. On at least a half dozen occasions, shooters allowed the support-hand thumb or firing-hand thumb to bump into the slide lock, locking the slide open. The thumb quickly moves to drop the slide when this occurred. We adopted an offset and thumbs forward attitude to cure the problem. We cannot call this 100% shooter error, so we nicked the gun on the slide-lock design. This is probably why the original LCP wasn't designed with a slide lock.

During the firing tests, there were several occasions, eight to ten, when the slide failed to lock open on the last shot, primarily with the subsonic loads but also at least twice with high-velocity loads. We do not think this was shooter related. In firing a total of 1000 cartridges, the Ruger LCP II demonstrated a high level of reliability. The thumb-in-the-slide-lock problem may be addressed with training. The failure to lock open on the last shot with subsonic ammunition is not a demerit because subsonic ammunition isn't rated for this pistol.

The magazines were the least popular of the three pistols. Although they hold as many rounds as the other two pistols, and that is a neat trick in such a small handgun, the Ruger LCP II 22 magazines have sharper feed lips and are more difficult to load. Perhaps there wasn't enough room to include an easy-load feature in such a light handgun. The pistol is supplied with a useful magazine loader.

As for absolute accuracy, this isn't a handgun well suited to 25-yard testing. At 15 yards, the pistol grouped five shots into 2.8- to 4.7-inch groups, which we think is acceptable. The 7.1-pound trigger worked well and broke cleanly.

Our Team Said: The pistol is a good-handling handgun for its size, and the demerits — the slide-lock problem and the





The pistol's adjustable sights are the best of the test. Above, we compared the S&W's sights to the legendary Bo-Mar design. Right, note the ambi-dextrous safety paddles, which makes the M&P suitable for lefties or righties.



This view of the S&W's controls shows a thoughtful layout. From left to right are the grooved takedown lever, the slide-lock lever, the ambi safety lever, and a small beavertail. Also, another good point for the Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact is the high-visibility rear sight, shown here cranked slightly upward. The wide screwdriver slot was easy to fit a tool into to adjust for elevation.

difficulty in loading the small magazines — are related to the pistol's size. The pistol exhibited good performance in firing quickly at man-sized targets. It is accurate enough to take out a reptile at a few yards. Unlike the other two handguns, it doesn't have great utility for hunting. On the other hand, it is a compact 10-shot 22 that is reliable with some loads. We have never tested a handgun this small we liked so much.

Smith & Wesson M&P22 Compact 22 LR, $286

The barrel is fixed. We liked the takedown; twist a lever and pull the slide back and up. The S&W is finished in a nice, dark anodizing on aluminum slide, and the frame is black polymer. The safety is ambidextrous. The slide lock is left hand only. The M&P22 features an adjustable rear sight. The pistol features a light rail that allows mounting modern lights and lasers. The rear sight was rated the top sight of the test by all raters, with one comparing the sights to the legendary Bo-Mar brand in efficiency. The sight appears more robust than the plastic Glock sights. The front post is a good design for accuracy. The slide is reasonably easy to rack, and the grip was rated the best of the test. While the shooter might feel a slim-line 9mm recoil more with such a thin grip, the size was deemed nearly ideal for most hands. A sore spot was the trigger action. The trigger breaks at 7.6 pounds, heaviest of the test. Despite this, we were able to do good work on targets.

During the combat-style phase, we included firing at pine cones, dirt clumps on the berm, and other small targets. The pistol proved fast handling and came on target quickly. The safety is positive in operation, and the trigger, while heavy, is smooth and breaks clean. The pistol was controllable and accurate and produced good, tight groups on paper and wasn't difficult to use on small targets at known and unknown distances. A counterpoint to the performance of both the Glock and the Ruger rimfire handguns came when the final of the initial 700 cartridges were fired. There were no gun-related malfunctions. The pistol never failed to chamber, fire, or eject. There was a single failure to fire. The cartridge had a good indent on the case rim. We wrote this off to the vagaries of rimfire production. The CCI subsonic cracked off when we re-chambered it, ensuring the firing pin hit a different area of the cartridge-case rim.

Firing off the benchrest for accuracy, we learned the S&W M&P22 could produce good accuracy. With five-shot groups of 2.0 to 3.3 inches, the pistol is accurate enough for training and informal target practice. A 22 understudy doesn't need to be much more accurate than its centerfire counterpart, but both the Glock 44 and the S&W 22 are more accurate than their closest 9mm counterparts.

Our Team Said: The pistol is more compact than the Glock and enough larger than the Ruger to improve accuracy. We like the safety system. The sights are excellent. No gun-related malfunctions. Buy this one.

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

Shooting Garand-Based M1 And M1A Rifles Head to Head

We test the Springfield M1A Scout Squad and SOCOM rifles as well as the hard-hitting Tanker Garand. These are formidable rifles that offer real power for the outdoorsman and home defender.

In this day and time, the AR-15 rifle and its many clones are the number-one-selling rifle in the country. For personal defense, recreation and hunting, they are indisputably popular choices. But experienced shooters, veterans, and hunters often prefer the harder-hitting 308 Winchester rifle. The 30-caliber rifle hits hard, ranges far, and offers excellent stopping potential. Also, 308 Winchester ammunition is plentiful. With this in mind, we wanted to test two Springfield Armory rifles in the popular M1A configuration. One is the SOCOM version with a 16-inch barrel, and the other the Scout Squad with an 18-inch barrel. These are fast-handling rifles that outperform the AR or AK rifle at longer ranges. There is plenty of magazine capacity, and the rifles are proven in many years of use. But they are pricey, so we looked around for a similar rifle that we could shoot side by side with the Springfields, but which wouldn't break the bank. The U.S. military never officially used the Tanker Garand, a short-barrel version of the M1 Garand, and the few experimental rifles of the type did not survive. However, enterprising gunsmiths modified Garand rifles into a similar configuration with an 18-inch barrel. Our used test rifle built by Federal Ordnance is a 30-06 Garand that uses en bloc clips to reload. How would this longer-action model compare in all-round survival and sporting use to the M1A short-barrel rifles? Better than you might have assumed.



Below is Springfield Armory's M1A SOCOM, which we rated a notch above the Scout Squad. We felt the SOCOM would simply be easier to stow, and it was also easier to get fast hits with.

Below is the Springfield Scout Squad in FDE, a color the company no longer offers. The rifle comes to the shoulder quickly and moves quickly to cover targets. We liked the shorter SOCOM a tick better.



Below is a used Federal Ordnance M1 Garand Tanker Garand in 30-06 Springfield. Though we like the Springfield chambered in 308 Win. better, this rifle costs half as much.



Springfield Armory M1A Scout Squad FDE AA9120 7.62 NATO, $1455

This is a pre-virus price at BudsGunShop.com. Springfield M1A rifles once took us to the days of blued steel and walnut. Today, the majority of M1A rifles wear synthetic stocks, like this one, that will not warp and which offer good factory bedding. Springfield no longer lists this AA9120 FDE synthetic-stock version on its website, and most retailers show it as out of stock. Not to worry: The AA9126 is a black-synthetic version that is comparable to our test gun in everything except color. The AA9122 is a wood-stock version of the Scout Squad.

This rifle is chambered for the 7.62x51mm NATO round, commercially loaded as the 308 Winchester. The M1A is a semi-automatic version of the M14 in some ways and in others a modern development of

the M1A match-rifle version of the M14. The rifle features a gas-operated action similar in principle to the M1 Garand developed in 1936 and used in World War II and Korea. As the rifle fires, a portion of the gas generated is tapped to a gas tube. The force of this gas is used against the operating rod to cycle the action. As first envisioned, the M14 was intended to replace and perform the duties of the M1 Garand, M1 .30 carbine, M3 submachine gun and Browning Automatic rifle. While it did many things well, it did not replace these weapons overnight, or ever. When Springfield Armory introduced the M1A rifle, civilians had a chance to use and appreciate the M14-like rifle. Today, we have variants the U.S. military never had. We don't know if Springfield Armory based the Scout Squad on the semi-mythical Tanker Garand, but perhaps they did. In any case, they designed a fast-handling M1A variant.

The Scout Squad features a rifle shortened from the M1A's 22-inch barrel to 18 inches. The flash hider is more of a muzzle brake. While all M1A rifles feature a mount to adapt a side-mounted rifle scope, the Scout Squad features a barrel rail for mounting optics.

Also, the rifle features a two-stage trigger. The trigger is clean enough at 5.75 pounds for good offhand and benchrest shooting. The rifle is supplied with a protected post front sight and adjustable-aperture rear. The rifle features a chrome-moly barrel with a 1:11-inch rifling twist.

The rifle accepts a detachable magazine, with 10- or 20-round magazines being most common, but magazines of 5, 15, and 25 cartridges are available. For this test, every 308 magazine used was Springfield Armory. We have not experienced the best reliability with anything other than Springfield-marked magazines.

The M1A features a trigger-guard-mounted safety that is pressed forward to fire. Some

308 WINCHESTER RANGE DATA

Fiocchi Extrema 150-grain SST	**Springfield Armory Squad Scout**	**Springfield Armory SOCOM**
Average Velocity	2599 fps	2557 fps
Muzzle Energy	2250 ft.-lbs.	2178 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.9 in.	2.0 in.
Average Group	2.3 in.	2.35 in.

Hornady Black 168-grain A-Max	**Springfield Armory Squad Scout**	**Springfield Armory SOCOM**
Average Velocity	2540 fps	2555 fps
Muzzle Energy	2406 ft.-lbs.	2435 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.75 in.	1.7 in.
Average Group	2.1 in.	2.0 in.

Black Hills 175-grain Match	**Springfield Armory Squad Scout**	**Springfield Armory SOCOM**
Average Velocity	2430 fps	2390 fps
Muzzle Energy	2294 ft.-lbs.	2219 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.7 in.	2.1 in.
Average Group	1.8 in.	2.2 in.

30-06 SPRINGFIELD RANGE DATA

Fiocchi 150-grain FMJ	**Federal Ordnance Tanker Garand**
Average Velocity	2670 fps
Muzzle Energy	2374 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.0 in.
Average Group	2.4 in.

Hornady 168-grain A-Max	**Federal Ordnance Tanker Garand**
Average Velocity	2600 fps
Muzzle Energy	2522 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	1.75 in.
Average Group	2.25 in.

Winchester Super-X 180-grain Jacketed Soft Point	**Federal Ordnance Tanker Garand**
Average Velocity	2598 fps
Muzzle Energy	2697 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	2.3 in.
Average Group	2.5 in.

We fired five-shot groups from a solid bench rest at a distance of 100 yards. We recorded velocities with an RCBS Ammomaster Chronograph. ***Ammunition details*** *(all from MidwayUSA.com): Fiocchi Extrema 308 Winchester 150-grain SST Polymer Tip 308HSA ($22.09/20); Hornady Black 308 Winchester 168-grain A-Max ($26.09/20); and Black Hills Ammunition 308 Winchester 175-grain Match ($32.49/20).* ***Ammunition details:*** *Fiocchi 30-06 Springfield 150-grain FMJ ($20/20 from TargetSportsUSA.com); Hornady 30-06 Springfield 168-grain A-Max ($32.09/20 from MidwayUSA.com) and Winchester Super-X 30-06 Springfield 180-grain JSP ($18.99/20 from MidwayUSA.com).*

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY M1A SCOUT SQUAD FDE AA9120 7.62 NATO/308 WIN., $1455

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Scout Squad is a reliable, hard-hitting rifle. We like the handling and trigger action as well as the reliability. We experimented more with this rifle than any other tested.



Action.....Gas-operated semi-automatic
Overall Length.....40.33 in.
Overall Height (w/o magazine).....4.6 in.
Maximum Width.....2.6 in.
Weight Unloaded.....8.9 lbs.
Capacity.....5-, 10-, 20-, 25-round magazines
Barrel.....18.0 in. 6-groove 1:11 twist, carbon steel, muzzle brake
Buttstock.....Flat dark earth synthetic
Fore-end.....FDE synthetic
Length of Pull.....13.5 in.
Trigger Style.....Two-stage National Match
Trigger-Pull Weight.....5.75 lbs.
Magazine.....(1) 10-round detachable box
Magazine Release.....Spring-loaded lever
Bolt Release.....Receiver mounted
Rear Sight.....Military .0690 aperture, MOA adj. for windage & elevation
Front Sight.....0.62 in. blade
Receiver Scope Provisions..Rail in front of receiver, side mount
Warranty.....Limited lifetime
Telephone.....(800) 680-6866
Website.....Springfield-Armory.com
Made In.....USA

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY M1A SOCOM 16 AA9626 7.62 NATO/308 WIN., $1799

GUN TESTS GRADE: A (OUR PICK)

The SOCOM is short, powerful, and accurate enough for most any chore. The rifle proved reliable with a variety of ammunition. The choice between this rifle and the Scout Squad is difficult, but in the end, the slightly shorter SOCOM is our choice.



Action.....Gas-operated semi-automatic
Overall Length.....37.25 in.
Overall Height (w/o magazine).....4.6 in.
Maximum Width.....2.6 in.
Weight Unloaded.....8.9 lbs.
Capacity.....5-, 10-, 20-, 25-round magazines
Barrel.....16.25 in., 6-groove carbon steel, 1:11 twist
Buttstock.....Black synthetic
Fore-end.....Black synthetic
Trigger Style.....Two-stage military
Trigger Weight.....5.5 lbs.
Magazine.....(1) 10-round detachable box
Magazine Release.....Lever
Bolt Release.....Receiver Mounted
Rear Sight.....Ghost Ring .135 Aperture, MOA adj. for windage & elevation
Front Sight.....XS post w/tritium insert, 0.125 blade
Receiver Scope Provisions..Rail in front of receiver/side mount
Warranty.....Limited lifetime
Telephone.....(800) 680-6866
Website.....Springfield-Armory.com
Made In.....USA

of the raters used the thumb to move the safety because these are often quite stiff. We didn't feel much difference in pressure needed to operate the safeties. At this point, we should mention these rifles have a free-floating firing pin. Never allow the bolt to slam home on a loaded chamber. The firing pin may take a run and ignite the cartridge. Always insert a loaded magazine, rock it into place, and then either release the bolt or rack the bolt to let it run forward. This slows the bolt down as it properly loads a cartridge from the magazine. The Garand is the same type of action and should also be loaded only from the magazine, not single loaded. The 18-inch-barrel M1A is a bold move for Springfield that has been well received since its introduction. After all, the M1A enjoys a great reputation for reliability and accuracy, and the short rifle is a different type of firearm for a different niche.

The rifle was tested with a total of four different loads. The majority load used was fired during the combat and tactical course. This was the Winchester 147-grain full metal jacket. We also used Fiocchi's 150-grain SST as an example of a hunting load. The Hornady Black 168-grain A-Max is a good example of a tactical round. As an example of a match load, we used the Black Hills Ammunition 175-grain round. We used the Winchester FMJ load in combat shooting, firing 100 cartridges in each rifle. The JSP loads were fired for accuracy from the bench rest. We also fired a full magazine of the Fiocchi 150-grain SST offhand.

To start, we lubricated the bolt and critical areas and loaded five magazines with Winchester FMJs. We fired the rifle at human silhouette targets at 25, 50, and 100 yards, as well as a steel reaction plate at 100 yards. We found the rifle comes to the shoulder quickly and moves quickly to cover targets. Recoil is there with the 308 round, but the gas-operated rifle generates less felt recoil than similar-weight bolt-action rifles. The rifle offered a rapid follow-up shot. It wasn't difficult to fill the target full of holes quickly at 25 yards. At 50 yards, we slowed down a little, and at 100 yards, firing a 5- to 8-inch offhand group takes time, attention to the trigger press, and a good sight picture. But the rifle would do it if we did our part.

At one point, we fitted the rifle with a Leatherwood Hi Lux Scout Scope. This isn't an expensive unit ($140 at Brownells.com), but the rater using it has enjoyed good service with the optic. This 2x7-32mm scope has a long eye relief like a pistol scope. While we found it useful, it should be used only at the lowest resolution in snap shooting or fast shooting. An advantage is that the Scout Scope may be used with both eyes open at the lowest setting. After some acclimation, we found the Hi Lux Scout Scope could be fast at 50 yards or so, but some of the raters preferred iron sights. Most of the shooting was done with iron sights. However, firing off the benchrest, we found that

FEDERAL ORDNANCE M1 GARAND TANKER GARAND 30-06 SPRINGFIELD, $775

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The used Tanker Garand was a great deal of fun to fire. It is accurate enough for hunting to moderate range, and considering its reliability, it could be a life saver. The magazine capacity, ammunition reserve, and handling of the M1A rated better among the testers, however.



Action	Gas-operated semi-automatic
Overall Length	37.5 in.
Overall Height	4.75 in.
Maximum Width	4.75 in.
Weight Unloaded	8.0 lbs.
Capacity	8
Barrel	18.0 in.
Trigger Style	Two-stage military
Trigger Weight	6.75 lbs.
Buttstock	Wood
Fore-end	Wood
Magazine	En bloc clip
Magazine Release	Manual
Bolt Release	Manual
Rear Sight	Aperture
Front Sight	Blade
Receiver Scope Provisions	None
Warranty	None
Telephone	NA
Website	NA
Made In	USA



For area defense, we prefer the Springfield SOCOM rifle, bottom. For pure fun, the wood-stocked Tanker Garand is a neat rifle. Just fyi, the SOCOM is available in a wood-stocked model, as is the Squad.

In our shooters' experience, Springfield magazines are the most reliable and proven in hard use.



Black Hills Match loads gave good results, shooting best-of-test groups in the Scout.



Right: The Springfield Squad Scout and Leatherwood Hilux Scout Scope provided a good experience.



We used Winchester white box FMJ loads primarily in the combat firing test.



Hornady ammunition gave good results in the M1A rifles. We didn't see a lot of velocity differences.



groups could be improved using the highest setting on the Leatherwood Hi Lux. It just takes getting used to. We also briefly mounted an Eotech red dot. This sight is a good performer, but with the M1A demands a chin weld rather than a cheek weld when using this type of sight, not ideal for most shooters.

We started by firing 100 rounds of Winchester FMJs and 20 rounds of Fiocchi jacketed soft points. There were no failures to feed, chamber, fire, or eject. Firing at the steel reaction targets at 100 yards, we seldom missed. The sights offer 1-minute-of-angle movement per click, and the front post offered good visibility, although it would subtend a very small target at 100 yards. In firing for accuracy, we used the Black Hills, Fiocchi, and Hornady JSP loads. Shot from a solid benchrest with iron sights, the rifle exhibited good accuracy for a short-barrel 308 self loader. The various loads averaged 2.0 inches, and consistent.

Our Team Said: There wasn't really anything we did not like about this rifle. We liked the SOCOM more, however.

Springfield Armory M1A SOCOM 16 AA9626
7.62 NATO/308 Win., $1799

This was a pre-virus price at Cabelas.com. The price difference across the board on the Scout Squad and SOCOM averages $120, but it was difficult to find them both in stock at the same outlet or the other for reference. The SOCOM is usually the more expensive. MSRP is $1849 for the Scout Squad and $1985 for the SOCOM.

With the SOCOM, you get a 16-inch-barrel rifle with



We also ran the Scout with an Eotech red dot—perhaps not the best choice for this rifle. When using the Eotech sight, we had to use a jaw weld instead of a cheek weld because the sight sat so high on the top of the rifle.



The Springfield M1A Scout Squad is also available with a wood stock option.



Note the well-designed gripping surface under the scope on the FDE stock. We liked the forward rail for mounting optics as well.



Though not for everyone, the Scout Scope on the Scout Squad knocked down its share of plates.

more of a muzzle brake than a flash hider. The front sight also features a narrow tritium insert. The Scout Squad shooter may fit an XS Sights front blade for $63 to come on par with the SOCOM. We liked the balance and fit and feel of the SOCOM rifle. We did not attempt to mount an optic on this rifle.

In common with the other M1A, the bolt was easy enough to rack and all functions were positive. Each rifle had a stiff safety, but after a few dozen manipulations, the safety was a bit easier to move. The magazines slid in properly and locked in place as designed. The magazines were not difficult to load to full capacity.

Firing the SOCOM offhand, we felt little difference between this rifle and the 18-inch-barrel Scout Squad.



The SOCOM is our top pick. With the short 10-round magazine, the rifle handles well. We also like the all-black businesslike stock.



The M1A front sight is easily adjusted. We like the tritium slash on the front sight of the SOCOM rifle.

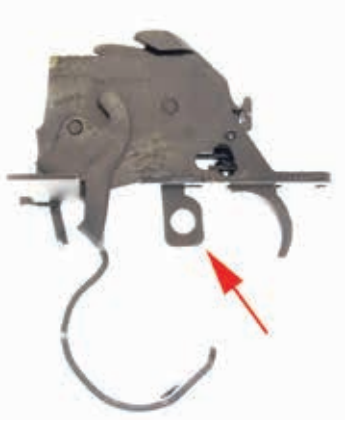


Adjusting the rear sight is a simple matter of turning large, easy-to-use knobs.



Our experience is that the M1A is simple to disassemble and maintain.

We did not fire in dim light; however, in certain firing sessions when clouds covered the sun, the sky was darker and we detected some muzzle flash with the shorter rifle. This was also true of the other M1A rifle but was slightly more pronounced with the SOCOM. This was most noticeable with the Fiocchi hunting load, but was almost nonexistent with the Hornady Black in either rifle. Fired offhand in rapid fire at the same ranges and the same type of targets as the



Each rifle featured a practically identical trigger-guard-mounted safety. The top image shows the left side of the assembly. Push the tab (arrow) in the middle forward to Fire.



The Garand is easily disassembled beginning with unlatching the trigger guard.



Right is the en bloc assembly for the Federal rifle. It holds eight rounds.



To load the 30-06 rounds into Tanker Garand, push the clip and rounds down into the top of the action. To avoid getting your thumb busted by the closing action, control the bolt handle with your palm.

Scout Squad, the SOCOM presented no difficulty getting hits. The slightly shorter sight radius seemed no deterrent to getting fast hits. In fact, we found the SOCOM faster in moving between targets and getting rapid hits out to 100 yards. Fired at the steel gong at a 100 yards, the rifle delivered excellent function. We had no difficulty sighting the rifle in properly and delivering good results in fast-paced drills. We rated the rifle a notch above the Scout Squad in this regard, which was counterintuitive but true. We felt the SOCOM would surely be easier to stow, which it was, but it was also easier to get fast hits with. In firing for absolute accuracy the SOCOM exhibited good practical accuracy. With the Hornady Black load, it was more accurate than the Scout Squad, but not with the other two loads.

Our Team Said: We feel that if you wish to own and use a short-barrel M1A1 that handles quickly, get the SOCOM. If you value greater accuracy, get the full-size 22-inch barrel M1A.

Federal Ordnance M1 Garand Tanker Garand 30-06 Springfield, $775 (used)

It is difficult to qualify the value and selling price of the Tanker Garand because so few come up for sale. The version listed was purchased at a fair price, we feel, and seemed well put together. The term Tanker Garand is an odd one in some ways because the original experimental Garand these pieces are modeled after were not intended for use in tanks. Jungle Garand might be a better title. They were a short-barrel version of the Garand intended to be useful in the Pacific at close quarters and for paratroopers.

A few original rifles were modified and not adopted for manufacture. They may have been unsuitable for warfare or they may have been discontinued simply because the war was over before they were properly tested. In any case, the survivors are in a museum. Original Garand rifles were chambered for the 30-06 Springfield cartridge. Later rifles and some Tanker Garands were chambered for the 308 Winchester. Ours is one of the former versions chambered for the 30-06.

All modern Tanker Garands are custom or small-shop production. The rifle features a barrel shortened to 18 inches. The result is a lighter rifle at 8.0 pounds, versus 9.5 pounds for the full-size version. Other than that, the rifle operates and fires in the same manner as the M1 Garand rifle.

The Garand is gas operated, and the resemblance to the M1A is obvious. The greatest difference is that the Garand uses an en bloc clip, a sheet-metal assembly loaded with eight cartridges. To load the rifle, the shooter locks the bolt to the rear. Push the loaded clip into the Garand's internal magazine. As the clip is loaded, the follower is pressed down and



Short, light, powerful, and handy to use, the Tanker is an interesting piece. It is similar in operation to the M1A1, save for the magazine system.



The Tanker's rear aperture is a bit tight for fast shooting.

the clip locks in place. The thumb has pressed the clip into place. The outside of the hand then moves the operating handle slightly to the rear and quickly moves away, releasing the bolt to fly forward and load the rifle. The safety is in the same location as the M1A previously discussed. The rifle is fired, and after the eighth round, the bolt locks to the rear and the en block clip is ejected with a distinctive *ping*.

The Tanker Garand features good wood-to-metal fit. The finish on the parts and final fitting seemed good. The trigger is lighter than either of the Springfield rifles, but then the parts have been around a long time. The last military Garand was manufactured in 1957, to the best of our knowledge. The rifle seemed to be well put together and did not look like a parts gun, which of course it is.

We collected three loads for firing and accuracy testing. First came the affordable Fiocchi 30-06 Springfield 150-grain FMJ. This load was used in firing 96 rounds off hand, consisting of 12 en bloc clips loaded with eight rounds. Next came the M1 Garand load by Hornady, using the 168-grain A-Max and the Winchester Super-X 180-grain JSP. The Garand, the raters noted, handles differently than the M1A. Other than the difference in loading, the balance is different. The en bloc clip is easy to use well, but it operates differently than the 20-round magazine of the M1A. The Garand has a different balance because it doesn't have a protruding magazine. If carried in a rack or behind the truck seat, the Tanker Garand is less obtrusive.

In firing, we loaded the rifle and worked over targets on the same course as the M1A. There was greater recoil, not by a great margin, but noticeable compared to the M1A. The Garand has a shorter length of pull and it doesn't have a recoil pad. The Garand simply pushes a bit more horsepower. In firing, control was excellent for those using proper technique. After a bit of acclimation, our shooters made both rapid hits and rapid reloads. The drill to reload is different, of course. The shooter takes the rifle down from the shoulder to push in the en bloc clip loaded with cartridges. The M1A may be reloaded from the shoulder if you have long arms and practice. Eight rapid, accurately delivered 30-06 cartridges will be up to the task of stopping most threats, man or beast. With practice, the reload is fast and sure, but for those who do not master the drill, getting an M1 thumb — the powerful bolt pushing the thumb into the chamber — is more than possible and not very pleasant.

Fast hits were possible and comparable to the M1A. Firing at man-sized targets and steel plates, the results were good to 100 yards. The Garand handles well, and it is perhaps underrated for close-quarters combat. We ran across one shortcoming, simply a consideration, and one which the owner will address at a later date. The rear aperture is the proper sight for a standard Garand. When the barrel is shortened, the front post assembly is moved closer to the rear peep sight. To our eyes, the sight picture was a bit too tight. A gunsmith will have to remove the rear sight and very slightly drill it out.

This sight may have been an impediment in fast reactive shooting, but just the same, the Tanker Garand handled very quickly. The natural balance was excellent. One of the raters said that while recoil was greater, the Tanker Garand and the SOCOM rifle gave up little in rapid handling to the M1 30 Carbine. We did not all agree with that comparison, but the Tanker Garand is a fast-handling rifle. In firing off the benchrest, the Tanker Garand's small aperture was perhaps more of an asset than an impediment, although time between aiming each shot was greater. The rifle turned in credible groups. The Fiocchi loading averaged just over 2 inches. The rifle did not like the heavy 180-grain JSP as much, with a 2.5-inch 100-yard group. The Hornady Garand load gave excellent accuracy, with a group of 1.75 inches for five shots.

Our Team Said: As it turned out, the Tanker Garand is a good shooter, fast shooting, and reliable. The two Springfields outclass this 30-06, but if you can find this Federal Ordnance M1 Garand as a used product in good shape, it will often be available at a several-hundred-dollar discount under the others. That alone might make it Your Pick.

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

Cowboy Plinker Shoot Out: Cimarron, Ruger, and Uberti

When you plunk down money, should you pay a premium for the Uberti Cattleman 22, or parlay on the dirt-cheap Cimarron Plinkerton? Or perhaps the Ruger Wrangler is the right gun?

If we were to put together a list of top plinking pistols, we would have to put single-action rimfires at the top of that list. The ammo cost is low, recoil is nil, and muzzle blast is tolerable, especially for new shooters. To see which of three single-action wheelguns hit the tin can for us, we assembled three rimfire revolvers that spanned a sizable price range and size. We started at the low end with a Cimarron Plinkerton, followed that with a new Ruger Wrangler, and capped the cost level at the high end with an Uberti Cattleman 22. Size-wise, the Uberti is a full-size pistol, the Cimarron is scaled down, and the Ruger the smallest of the bunch.

All of these revolvers had similar barrel lengths and traditional sights, consisting of a front blade and notch or groove rear sight. If we were to buy on looks alone, the Uberti would come out ahead. It is hard to beat a smooth, well-fitted walnut grip, case colors, and deep bluing. The Ruger and Cimarron were a bit rough on fit and finish, but tolerable due to their respective prices and performance.



Our 22 LR plinker players included, top to bottom, the Uberti Cattleman 22 at $453, the Cimarron Plinkerton at $172, and the Ruger Wrangler, $210. We were surprised at the lower fit-and-finish quality of the Cimarron (now made by Chiappa) and the Ruger.

We found all three of these single-action rimfires performed well, and we especially liked the free-rotating cylinder of the Ruger and the large loading gates on the Uberti and Cimarron. We had no issues with any of these revolvers. We fired a lot of 22 LR ammo, and the most we experienced were sticky empties, but the ejector rod made those easy to unload.

How We Tested

We tested a variety of 22 LR ammunition, including inexpensive Remington Thunderbolt, PMC Target, and CCI Mini Mag. All of these cartridges offered a range of velocities so we could better understand what brand of ammo these smallbores preferred. We used our range bag as a rest and fired at targets set at 15 yards. We also used Federal Game Shot cartridges. While these revolvers make great plinkers, they also are good for dispatching snakes. In fact, the Ruger helped dispose of a fat copperhead squatting on the patio of one of the testers. A blast of the #12 shot at 5 feet sent the viper to snake heaven. We tested the shot cartridge at 10 yards. In the end, we liked all

22 LR RANGE DATA

Remington Thunderbolt 22 Long Rifle 40-grain RNS	Cimarron Pinkerton	Uberti Cattleman	Ruger Wrangler
Average Velocity	1026 fps	945 fps	930 fps
Muzzle Energy	94 ft.-lbs.	79 ft.-lbs.	77 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.80 in.	0.89 in.	0.78 in.
Average Group	0.86 in.	0.98 in.	1.06 in.
PMC Target 22 Long Rifle 40-grain RNS	**Cimarron Pinkerton**	**Uberti Cattleman**	**Ruger Wrangler**
Average Velocity	946 fps	844 fps	845 fps
Muzzle Energy	79 ft.-lbs.	63 ft.-lbs.	63 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.72 in.	0.80 in.	0.88 in.
Average Group	0.87 in.	0.90 in.	1.03 in.
CCI Mini-Mag 22 Long Rifle 36-grain HP	**Cimarron Pinkerton**	**Uberti Cattleman**	**Ruger Wrangler**
Average Velocity	837 fps	811 fps	809 fps
Muzzle Energy	78 ft.-lbs.	76 ft.-lbs.	75 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group	0.70 in.	0.73 in.	1.06 in.
Average Group	0.87 in.	0.86 in.	1.19 in.
Federal Game Shot 22 Long Rifle #12 Shot	**Cimarron Pinkerton**	**Uberti Cattleman**	**Ruger Wrangler**
Pattern Size	11.0 in.	11.2 in.	12.2 in.

To collect accuracy data, we fired five-shot groups from a bench using a rest. Distance: 15 yards for bullet cartridges, 10 yards for shot cartridges. We recorded velocities using a ProChrono digital chronograph set 15 feet from the muzzle.

three rimfires; what determined the final grade was fit and finish, shooting to point of aim, and cost. Here's what we determined.

Cimarron Plinkerton ASPLINK1 22 LR, $172

This was a pre-shutdown price at BudsGunShop.com. The Cimarron Plinkerton is inexpensive and looked it. This model is actually discontinued by Cimarron, but it is available from Chiappa Firearms. The Plinkerton and the Chiappa 1873 SAA 22 are virtually the same revolver. Both are manufactured by Chiappa in Italy.

The barrel and fluted cylinder were made of steel. The frame, one-piece grip frame, and barrel sleeve were made of Zamak alloy, which is a combination of zinc and aluminum. The finish on the cylinder did not match the finish on the rest of the revolver. The finish looked thin.

Another complaint were the two-piece grips. They were well fitted to the grip strap, but the area where the grip and the frame met was sloppy. The plastic grip panels protruded above the surface of the frame about 0.125 inches, and because this is the area where the user grips the revolver, it can rub the skin during recoil. Albeit the recoil isn't much with a 22 LR, but the repetition of extended shooting can wear on the user's trigger finger.



Cylinders varied between the models. The Ruger (left) is a six-shot with countersunk chambers. The Cimarron (middle) uses a centerfire-size cylinder with six chambers and they are not countersunk. The Uberti (right) manages to put 12 chambers in a full-size cylinder.

Besides those two well-deserved gripes, the Plinkerton has nice heft and is similar in weight to a centerfire revolver. In fact it looks like a standard six-shooter. The grip was slightly smaller than a



Note the difference in grip sizes, from smallest (Ruger, left) and midsize (Cimarron, center) to full-size (Uberti, right).

traditional centerfire. We thought the grip worked fine except for the aforementioned grip panels.

The action had three distinct clicks when the shooter thumbed back the hammer. The hammer needs to be on half cock to rotate the cylinder to load or unload. The loading gate was sized for a centerfire cartridge, so there was plenty of room to load the tiny 22 LR cartridges in one of the six chambers. The chambers were not countersunk. Because the cylinder is designed for a longer centerfire cartridge, the 22 LR bullets need to leap about 0.7 inches before entering the forcing cone. We expected some splatter, but did not experience any during live fire.

The firing pin is fixed into the frame, and there is no transfer bar. Do not carry this revolver with a live round chambered under the hammer and firing pin.

The hammer at full cock came back quite far. A large-handed user might get the web of his hand pinched between the hammer and backstrap, but we had no issues. The hammer had good checkering on the spur, but the edge was a bit sharp. We'd take a file to this if we owned the gun and refinish the repair with a black Sharpie pen. The hammer was easy to cock, and the cylinder indexed and rotated like a traditional centerfire six-shooter.

While the Plinkerton operated similar to a traditional SAA, it did have a unique safety lock that blocks the hammer from contacting the firing pin. A key is required to rotate the safety in place. When locked, the revolver can be loaded and unloaded and the hammer snapped, but it will not contact the firing pin. You might want to use this lock when storing the revolver.

Also similar to a traditional single action is the skinny trigger. It had creep before it broke at 2.5 pounds, on average. We liked the pull weight and know that it contributed to our accuracy data results. The ejector rod head was a traditional crescent-shaped piece and rotated away from the barrel so your finger doesn't get scorched when reloading after extending firing.

The sights consisted of a blade front and a notch in the top strap of the frame.

To field-strip the Plinkerton, place the hammer on half cock, open the loading gate, and push the base pin button while pulling out the cylinder rod. The cylinder then falls out of the loading gate side of the frame. The cylinder had a removable bushing like a traditional centerfire single action.

At the range we started thumbing and squeezing with inexpensive 40-grain Remington Thunderbolt

CIMARRON PLINKERTON ASPLINK1 22 LR, $172

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

The inexpensive Cimarron offered all we expected in a rimfire single-action revolver, but you have to live with rough fit and finish. It did not shoot to point of aim, but it was accurate.



Action	Revolver, single action
Overall Length	10.0 in.
Overall Height	5.25 in.
Maximum Width	1.6 in.
Weight Unloaded	33.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	36.6 oz.
Cylinder Gap	0.008 in.
Barrel Length	4.75 in.
Capacity	6
Frame Material/Finish	Zamak alloy/matte black
Cylinder Material/Finish	Steel/matte black
Frame Front Strap Height	2.1 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.0 in.
Grips	Checkered plastic
Grip Thickness (max)	1.5 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	5.7 in.
Front Sight	Ramp blade
Rear Sight	Fixed notch
Sight Radius	5.5 in.
Trigger-Pull Weight	2.5 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.8 in.
Safety	Key-activated gun lock
Warranty	1 year
Telephone	(877) 749-4861
Website	Cimarron-Firearms.com
Made In	Italy

ammo, and we were rewarded with a best five-shot group that measured 0.8 inches. The best groups became progressively smaller with the 40-grain PMC Target ammo (0.72 inches), and the 36-grain CCI Mini-Mags (0.70 inches). On average, all ammo grouped under an inch. That's the good news. The bad news is the Plinkerton shot low and to the left. We needed to use some Kentucky windage and elevation to

RUGER WRANGLER MODEL 2003 22 LR, $210

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Wrangler re-envisions the rimfire single-action revolver in the same way Ruger did with the Single-Six in 1950s, but the fit and finish aren't up to Ruger standards. However, it did shoot to point of aim, was accurate, fun to shoot, and costs a fraction of what a Single-Six does.



Action	Revolver, single action
Overall Length	10.25 in.
Overall Height	5.0 in.
Maximum Width	1.4 in.
Weight Unloaded	30.0 oz.
Weight Loaded	33.6 oz.
Cylinder Gap	0.007 in.
Barrel Length	4.62 in.
Capacity	6
Frame Material/Finish	Aluminum/zinc alloy/silver Cerakote
Cylinder Material/Finish	Steel/blued
Frame Front Strap Height	2.1 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.0 in.
Grips	Checkered black plastic
Grip Thickness (max)	1.3 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	6.0 in.
Front sight	Ramp blade
Rear Sight	Fixed notch
Sight Radius	5.25 in.
Trigger Pull Weight	4.8 lbs.
Trigger Span	3.0 in.
Safety	None
Warranty	None written
Telephone	(336) 949-5200
Website	Ruger.com
Made In	USA

UBERTI CATTLEMAN 22 MODEL 356186 22 LR, $453

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

The Uberti is a traditionally styled revolver that is well made and accurate. The extra capacity is something the other revolvers fall way short of.



Action	Revolver, single action
Overall Length	10.0 in.
Overall Height	5.25 in.
Maximum Width	1.6 in.
Weight Unloaded	36.8 oz.
Weight Loaded	44.0 oz.
Cylinder Gap	0.007 in.
Barrel Length	4.75 in.
Capacity	12
Frame Material/Finish	Steel/casehardened, blued
Cylinder Material/Finish	Steel/blued
Frame Front Strap Height	2.1 in.
Frame Back Strap Height	3.0 in.
Grips	Smooth walnut
Grip Thickness (max)	1.5 in.
Grip Circumference (max)	6.0 in.
Front Sight	Ramp blade
Rear Sight	Fixed notch
Sight Radius	5.75 in.
Trigger-Pull Weight	3.3 lbs.
Trigger Span	2.8 in.
Safety	None
Warranty	5-year limited
Telephone	(800) 264-4962
Website	Uberti-USA.com
Made In	Italy



The Cimarron, left, had a slightly longer grip than the Ruger, center, but it is still smaller than the Uberti, right. The Ruger's grip is the same size as a SIngle-Six. Meaty-handed shooters might get hammer bite, though we did not experience it. The Uberti uses a full-size grip.



Left: If the inexpensive Chiappa-made Plinkerton can get the butt smooth, why can't Ruger? Middle: Note the rough seam on the Ruger's butt. Right: The Uberti uses a traditional grip frame. Fit and finish were nice.

center our shots on the target. You could take a file to the front blade to adjust the elevation, and for the windage bend the blade. Our fear is the the Plinkerton's die-cast metal could be brittle and easily break, and we wouldn't do it. Don't blame us if you break your sight. The shot load gave us an 11-inch off-center pattern at 10 yards.

When unloading, we needed to use the ejector rod on all chambers. The dry lubricant on 22 LR bullets gunk up the chambers, so the cases do not fall free. The cylinder had plenty of back-and-forth rotation, and we looked at the front of cylinder to line up the ejector rod with the front of the chamber. We noticed the ejector rod housing was not exactly flush with the side of the barrel. We could see light between the barrel and housing.

Our Team Said: The Plinkerton was fun to shoot and offered all we expected in a rimfire single-action revolver. We did not care for the rough-fitting grip panels and thin-looking finish. We also did not like that it did not shoot to point of aim, but it was accurate. The price was reasonable, but in this case, you get what you pay for.

Ruger Wrangler 2003 22 LR, $210

This was also a BudsGunShop.com price prior to the lockdowns. We think old man Ruger would have been delighted with the manufacturing cost savings — which translates to less cost to the user — of the Wrangler because one of his company's flagship products is the rimfire Single-Six. He may have also cussed up and down over the finish quality on the grip frame. Just to set the level, the Wrangler is an inexpensive brother to the Single-Six — less than half the cost — and like we've said earlier, you get what you pay for.

The construction of the Wrangler uses zinc and aluminum alloy to keep the tiny handgun's weight and price to a minimum. The frame is machined from cast-aluminum alloy. The barrel and cylinder are made from steel. The grip frame is cast from a zinc alloy. This makes the revolver lightweight. In fact, we dropped it in our back pocket and took it for our morning walk in the woods with the dog. It travels well and makes an ideal trail gun. The checkered hammer and smooth-faced trigger are both MIM (metal-injected molding) stainless-steel parts. Ruger finishes the Wrangler with a Cerakote finish that allows the exterior to appear the same no matter what the metal type, unlike the Cimarron. Our model had a silver Cerakote frame, barrel, and grip frame. Other colors are available. The cylinder, cylinder pin, base pin button and ejector head have







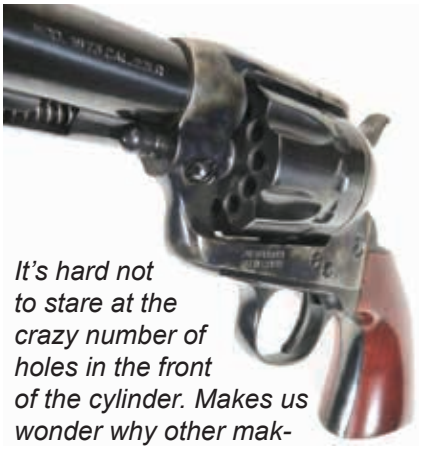
Left, the Cimarron's loading gate was full size and allowed ample room to load cartridges. Center, the Ruger's loading gate is small and not friendly to fat-fingered users. Right, the Uberti's loading gate is large and allows loading of two 22 LR cartridges at a time.



Arrow: Note how the Plinkerton's plastic grip overlaps the frame. This is a big miss for Cimarron.



The trigger is standard wide Ruger-style; we would have liked the pull weight to be less.



It's hard not to stare at the crazy number of holes in the front of the cylinder. Makes us wonder why other makers haven't done this as a matter of course. Why shoot 6 when you can shoot 8, 10, or 12?

a blued-black finish. The cylinder is unfluted and has two decorative lines milled at the rear of the cylinder. The two-piece grips are black checkered plastic that slightly overlapped the frame. At the butt, we noticed rough finishing. You can actually see the mold marks were not completely smoothed and the Cerakote was used to fill the gaps. Poor work from Ruger to say the least, but remember — you get what you pay for.

The barrel length is 4.625 inches, and the sights consist of a wide front blade and wide notch molded into the frame topstrap. We liked these sights.

Unlike the traditional single-action operation, the Wrangler allows the user to open the loading gate and spin the cylinder without having to thumb back the hammer to half cock. The six-shot cylinder is also free wheeling, so it rotates both clockwise and counterclockwise, making loading and unloading faster. There's no need to rotate fully around to load a missed chamber like with the Uberti and Cimarron. We like this feature a lot because it is easy to rotate past the chamber when loading or unloading. The downside of this type of cylinder is that it may not automatically re-engage the cylinder latch if it's rotated a little too far either way after the loading gate is closed. We found the hammer felt stuck and the cylinder didn't rotate because the cylinder latch catch was not engaged with cylinder notch. Solution: Just rotate the cylinder until you hear a click to engage the latch into the notch for proper alignment, and now you are ready to fire.

Ruger also incorporates its transfer-bar safety mechanism, plus a loading gate interlock. With the loading gate open, the revolver cannot be cocked or fired. We like these safety features. You can carry the Wrangler full loaded because of the transfer-bar system.

The chambers are countersunk, so you need to make sure the cartridges are fully seated in the chamber. We did note that the loading gate was small so there was not a lot of room for fat fingers. The loading gate was also a bit stiff to open but loosened up with use. The frame is smaller than either of the other two guns tested. The grip is the same size as the Single-Six. While this gun weighs less, it does have nice balance in hand.

The wide Ruger-style trigger broke at 4.8 pounds on average. We would have liked it a pound lighter. The bullet has about 0.3 inches of chamber length before reaching the forcing cone. The Wrangler's point of aim was dead on, which really endeared us to this revolver, however, we did note in the range data the accuracy did not match the Uberti nor the Cimarron. The best five-shot group we fired was with



The Cimarron, left, has a crescent-shaped ejector-rod head that rotates away from the barrel. The ejector-rod head of the Ruger, center, is small and does not rotate away from the barrel, meaning it could singe fingertips if the barrel is hot. The Uberti, right, has a nice crown on the muzzle. Also, the ejector-rod head is crescent shaped and rotates away from the barrel when ejecting empties.



Left, the Plinkerton's sights were thin; we liked the wider sights on the Uberti and Ruger. Center, the silver Cera-kote made the Ruger's front blade stand out on a dark target. Right, Uberti beefed up the width of the front blade and widened the rear notch, so the sights are user friendly but sturdier than the others.

inexpensive 40-grain Remington Thunderbolt ammo that measured 0.78 inches. On average and with all ammo types, the Ruger averaged a little over 1-inch groups. This is still very darn acceptable for a dedicated plinker. The shot load gave us a 12-inch pattern.

The ejector rod head was tiny, and it did not rotate away from the barrel so your finger could get burned when reloading after extending firing. It field-stripped with fewer steps than a traditional wheelgun. Open the loading gate, push the base pin button, and pull out the cylinder rod. The cylinder then falls out of the loading gate side of the frame.

Our Team Said: The Wrangler is inexpensive and offers all the proven safety features of Ruger's rimfire revolvers. It also shot to point of aim and was lightweight. This would make a good starter gun for a small newbie shooter. If they drop it and scratch, who cares? The craftsmanship on the butt is a big miss in our opinion, but we think for the price, the Wrangler will find its way into many camping, hiking, and fishing kits.

Uberti Cattleman 22 356186 22 LR, $453

This was also a recent pre-Covid price at BudsGunShop.com. The Cattleman 22 is a traditionally styled revolver with all the heft of centerfire single action. Unlike the other rimfires tested, which have a six-round capacity, the Cattleman 22 has a 12-round capacity. At first glance, it looks like a centerfire revolver, but what gives it away are the extra bolt notches in the cylinder. Those extra bolt notches and six flutes give the Uberti a slightly unbalanced look. When the Uberti is cocked, you expect the cylinder to rotate more, but because this is a 12-shooter, the cylinder indexes slightly each time the hammer is cocked. We also noticed the front-sight blade is not as tall as the blade on a centerfire model.

The operation of this Uberti follows the same operation as a traditional single action, except there are only two clicks when the hammer is cocked, not three clicks. The hammer needs to be at half cock to rotate the cylinder. Because the Uberti is based on the full-size centerfire model, the loading gate gives you ample access to two chambers at a time. There is also plenty of room for fingers to push the cartridges into the chambers, which are countersunk.

There are a few other differences in this Uberti. First, there is no removable cylinder bushing. We also noticed a small firing-pin-sized notch machined into the recessed chambers. This notch allows the gun to be dry-fired without damage to the firing pin or cylinder. We thought this was a nice touch, but we still



The Uberti firing pin is located in the hammer, so make sure it rests on an empty chamber if carrying the revolver loaded. If dropped, the hammer could be driven forward onto the rim of a live round, creating a negligent discharge. There's no need to take that risk.

suggest you use either spent cases or 22 snap caps if you dry-fire a lot.

The fit and finish were nicely executed. The bluing was deep and nicely polished. The case colors were not the brilliant colors we've seen on Uberti's centerfire revolvers. They were mostly grays and blue. The grip frame and main frame are fitted nicely, and the one-piece walnut grips have a light varnish and are well fitted to the frame and grip frame. The grip is full size on the Cattleman 22, not scaled down like on the other two revolvers.

Like the Cimarron, the Uberti has a manual lock safety. The Uberti uses the cylinder base pin, which has two notches around the muzzle end of the cylinder base pin. The rearward notch allows the hammer to fully fall. To use the safety notch on the pin, depress the latch button and push the cylinder base pin into the frame until you hear a click. That means the second notch is engaged and blocks the hammer from falling completely forward. This is a good idea when storing the revolver. You still need to carry the Uberti cowboy style, with the hammer resting on an empty chamber. We actually found that difficult to do because the chambers are inset, and you can't see the cartridge rims from the outside the cylinder. We resorted to counting clicks rather when rotating the cylinder. The bullet has about 0.6 inch of chamber length before it reaches the forcing cone and barrel. We got no splatter.

Going hot, we found the front blade and rear notch are both wide enough to actually see them well. The trigger pull broke at 3.3 pounds on average with a very slight creep. Loading and ejection were easy because the Cattleman 22 indexed the chambers with the loading gate in the frame.

After thumbing back the hammer and squeezing the trigger, we found the Cattleman 22 gave us just under 1-inch five-shot groups. Many holes piled up onto each other. It shot to point of aim. Our best group was with 36-grain CCI Mini-Mags at 0.73 inches. The shot load gave us an 11.2-inch pattern at 10 yards. Use of the ejector rod was required to eject empty brass on all chambers. The ejector-rod head was crescent shaped and rotated away from the barrel when ejecting empties, so there were no singed fingertips from a hot barrel. The back edge of the hammer was rounded, and the checkering on the hammer allowed for easy cocking. The Cattleman 22 also field-stripped like a traditional single action.

Our Team Said: The Cattleman 22 offers twice the plinking fun because it is a 12-shooter. Well made and carrying the heft of a centerfire revolver, this might not be the best choice for a small, newbie shooter. This is an adult 22. You will be toting some heavy iron if you are looking for a trail gun. The price reflected the time and effort in the finished product.

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

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COMING UP IN GUN TESTS

- Bargain Hunter: Used scatterguns for home defense. Tested were the Winchester 1200 Defender, $225; Winchester SXP Marine Defender, $255; Iver Johnson Champion, $50; and the Remington 870 Magnum, $275.

- More Single-Action Rimfires: Tested are the Chiappa 1873, Heritage Rough Rider, and Traditions Rawhide Rancher.

- Barrel-Length and Performance Testing for the 9mm Luger: A reader wondered if we would be willing to conduct an extensive test of 9mm Luger ammunition in subcompact, compact, service-length barrel handguns and a carbine. So we fired more than 2,000 cartridges over a period of 14 months to find a decent all-around load that performed acceptably in all of the firearms in the battery.

- The "Modern" 45-70: We tested the Marlin 1895G Guide Gun 70462, $633; the brand-new Henry X Lever 010X, $817; and a used Browning Model 1885 High Wall.

- Tactical Shotgun Shoot Out: We test four modern self-loading shotguns: the Rock Island Armory VR 80, Beretta 1201 FP, Benelli MK4 H20, and Remington V3.

- High End Handguns: We test five expensive 1911s, each costing more than $1000 to higher than $3000. We believe there is a certain sweet spot for your money — after that you may be wasting your money on frills that are not needed. To see what seemed essential and what seemed frivolous, we compared the Dan Wesson Heritage, $1227; Springfield Loaded Operator PX9105LL, $1162; Guncrafter Commander, $3285; the Nighthawk Falcon, $3395; and a Devil Dog Arms pistol, $1149.

- Rifles in 350 Legend: This new cartridge is touted as a game-changer for Midwestern deer hunters. To see if that's true, we tested a Winchester XPR Hunter True Timber Strata package rifle with a Vortex 3-9x40 Crossfire II scope, a Ruger Ranch Rifle, and a Savage Model 110 Hog Hunter 57534.

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