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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

www.cargogunclub.org

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

The next meeting will be held at Napoli's on **Thursday, December 8th.**

We will meet at Napoli's in Wylie.

Napoli's
701 N Highway 78 # A
Wylie, TX 75098

For the dinner portion of the meeting, we will be in the meeting room between 5:45 and 7:00 for food and fellowship. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and run until about 9:00.

Under the new Texas Open Carry Law, you could be committing an offence if you remove your pistol from its holster while open carrying. While at Napoli's DO NOT remove your pistol from its holster unless it is an emergency.

Member Don Bridges has volunteered his shop for the meeting. There are a very limited number of chairs at the shop, so please bring a camp chair for the meeting. We will meet there from 7:00 (ish) until 9:00 (ish)

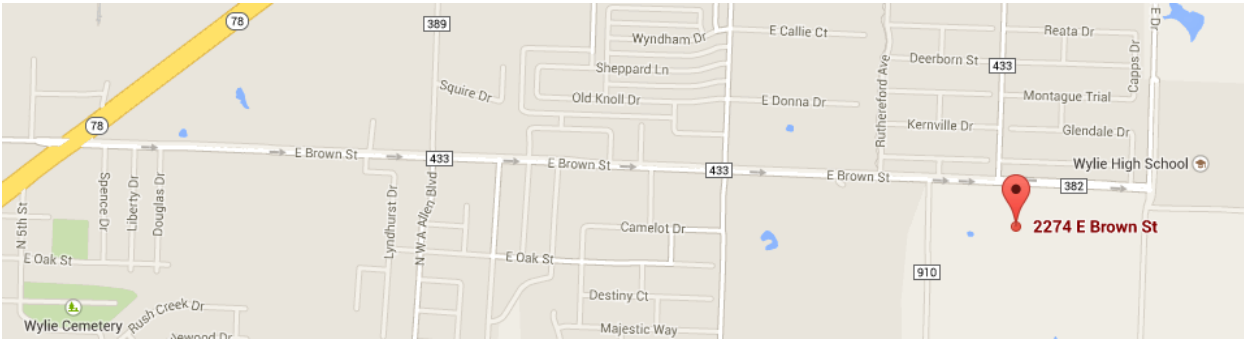
The address is:

2274 EAST Brown Street in Wylie

While heading east on Brown Street, it is 1/2 mile past stop sign that's at the intersection of Brown Street and Kreymer Lane on the right hand side.

The shop is behind a small white house with a picket fence around the front yard.





Meeting gun topics:

- What does the November election results mean to Gun Owners and 2nd Amendment supporters?
- It is Christmas time! What are you asking Santa for this year? Bring something that you received for Christmas to share with the club. It doesn't have to be this Christmas – just any Christmas present that you want to share.
- Have anything non-firearms related to share? Got a great knife that you just picked up, an air-rifle or Pistol, a new tactical flash light or red-dot scope? The club always enjoys seeing this as well.

If you have any suggestions for future speakers or topics please send your feedback to CARGO@att.net.

When was the last time you visited our web site? Please take some time to go to the CARGO website at www.cargogunclub.org

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/new-ffl-form-4473-for-background-checks-incoming/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161118_FridayDigest_96&utm_campaign=/blog/new-ffl-form-4473-for-background-checks-incoming/

New FFL Form 4473 for Background Checks Incoming

by Max Slowik on November 17, 2016

Firearms Transaction Record							
<p>WARNING: You may not receive a firearm if prohibited by Federal or State law. The information you provide will be used to determine whether you are prohibited from receiving a firearm. Certain violations of the Gun Control Act, 18 U.S.C. 921 et. seq., are punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and/or up to a \$250,000 fine.</p> <p>Read the Notices, Instructions, and Definitions on this form. Prepare in original only at the licensed premises ("licensed premises" includes business temporarily conducted from a qualifying gun show or event in the same State in which the licensed premises is located) unless the transaction qualifies under 18 U.S.C. 922(c). All entries must be handwritten in ink. "PLEASE PRINT."</p>							<p>Transferor's/Seller's Transaction Serial Number (If any)</p>
<p>Section A - Must Be Completed Personally By Transferee/Buyer</p>							
<p>1. Transferee's/Buyer's Full Name (If legal name contains an initial only, record "IO" after the initial. If no middle initial or name, record "N") Last Name (Including suffix (e.g., Jr, Sr, II, III))</p>			<p>First Name</p>		<p>Middle Name</p>		
<p>2. Current State of Residence and Address (U.S. Postal abbreviations are acceptable. Cannot be a post office box.) Number and Street Address</p>				<p>City</p>		<p>County</p>	<p>State</p>
<p>3. Place of Birth U.S. City and State</p>		<p>-OR- Foreign Country</p>	<p>4. Height Ft. _____ In. _____</p>	<p>5. Weight (Lbs.)</p>	<p>6. Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female</p>	<p>7. Birth Date Month _____ Day _____</p>	
<p>8. Social Security Number (Optional, but will help prevent misidentification)</p>					<p>9. Unique Personal Identification Number (Instructions for Question 9.)</p>		
<p>10.a. Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino</p>		<p>10.b. Race (In addition to ethnicity, select one or more race in 10.b. Both 10.a. and 10.b. are required.) <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American</p>					

The new form includes more details concerning the law and procedures. (Photo: ATF)

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or more commonly the ATF has announced an update to Form 4473, the background check form. All Federal firearms licensees or FFLs will have to switch to the form on Jan. 16, 2017. The previous form, drafted in 2012, will no longer be accepted from that point on.

Anyone buying from or transferring a firearm through an FFL will have to fill out this updated form. The bulk of the changes to the form are small clarifications to how the background check questions are phrased but one change stands out noticeably.

Question 11.e asks if the person filling out the background check is "An unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana" among other controlled substances. It has a new warning that points out that marijuana use remains "Unlawful under Federal law regardless of whether it has been legalized or decriminalized for medicinal or recreational purposes" under state law.

This change reflects the ATF's longstanding position that local laws don't supersede the federal laws the ATF is tasked to interpret and enforce. As long as there are federal laws that criminalize the consumption or possession of marijuana it will be illegal for cannabis users to purchase firearms.

- and may proceed to question 11.b. (See Instructions for Question 11.a.)
- b. Are you under indictment or information in any court for a **felony**, or any other crime for which the judge could imprison you for more than one year? (See Instructions for Question 11.b.)
 - c. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a **felony**, or any other crime for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter sentence including probation? (See Instructions for Question 11.c.)
 - d. Are you a fugitive from justice? (See Instructions for Question 11.d.)
 - e. Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?
Warning: The use or possession of marijuana remains unlawful under Federal law regardless of whether it has been legalized or decriminalized for medicinal or recreational purposes in the state where you reside.
 - f. Have you ever been adjudicated as a mental defective **OR** have you ever been committed to a mental institution? (See Instructions for Question 11.f.)
 - g. Have you been discharged from the Armed Forces under **dishonorable** conditions?
 - h. Are you subject to a court order restraining you from harassing, stalking, or threatening your child or an intimate partner or child of such partner? (See Instructions for Question 11.h.)
 - i. Have you ever been **convicted** in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence? (See Instructions for Question 11.i.)

In case there was any confusion — agree with it or not, says the ATF, right on the 4473. (Photo: ATF)



atf_form_4473-firear
ms_transaction_recor

It's not a legally gray area even if the enforcement of these and similar laws can sometimes be difficult or even impossible in these municipalities. This supports recent case law as well.

Recently the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that federal laws that prohibit drug users from purchasing firearms still apply to marijuana users, even in states where marijuana use has been decriminalized for medical or recreational use.

[See Also: Ninth Circuit Appeals Court Says No to Guns for Medical Marijuana Users](#)

Other changes to the form include a new format for filling out names for the background check process. Anyone with no middle name will have to mark the form NMN and anyone with only a middle initial must mark their initial with IO for initial only. Additionally, anyone with a name suffix like junior or senior will be required to include that information as well.

The new form uses the stricter term “sex” instead of “gender” for the purposes of identification and includes language detailing federal laws and definitions to help people correctly fill out the form. The updated form also includes instructions on how to proceed if a transfer is initially denied then overturned.

Legal experts at Orchid Advisors have a [detailed list of the changes](#) which number in the dozens. “If you have additional questions regarding the revised Form 4473, please contact your local ATF office. A listing may be found online (<https://www.atf.gov/contact/atf-field-divisions>).”

The new forms can be found online on [the ATF website](#).

<http://crimeresearch.org/2015/12/four-concealed-handgun-permit-holders-use-their-guns-to-stop-violent-crimes-in-the-last-week/>

This is from last year but things like this never make the national news:

Four Concealed Handgun Permit Holders use their guns to stop violent crimes in the last week

19 Dec , 2015



Calumet City, Illinois, December 17, 2015

[A Calumet City resident prevented a gunmen from robbing him by pulling out his gun and firing it at the would-be robber, Midlothian police reported.](#)

The 68-year-old man, who has a **concealed-carry gun permit**, told police that a man tried to rob him and his 9-year-old son Dec. 5 in the 3300 block of 147th Street.

A witness said he heard people arguing outside, heard four or five gunshots and saw a man running through back yards heading south on Turner Avenue, according to police. . . .

Salt Lake City, Utah, December 15, 2015

[He “produced a firearm, pointing it at the EMT first responders,” Jensen wrote.](#)

Hunt [an EMT], who has a **concealed firearms license**, was carrying a gun.

“Logan City detectives and State Crime Lab technicians are still piecing together the sequence of events,” Jensen wrote, “but it is believed there was an exchange of gunfire, followed by a rapid retreat of all personnel to positions of cover.” . . .



EXCLUSIVE
**CROOKS SHOT WHILE ATTEMPTING
ROBBERY WITH UNLOADED BB GUN**

Houston, Texas, December 14, 2015 (see [also here](#))

. . . [It was the end to a night out that a group of people and then men who tried to rob them never expected.](#)

“He plugged him, boom, boom, in the chest,” said one of the four victims, who did not want to give his name.

The man said he, his brother and two women were about to leave a parking lot near the bars along Washington Avenue and Jackson Hill just after 2 a.m. when two men with handguns walked up to their car.

“He said ‘Hey, give me your money,’” recalled the victim. “Well, I don’t carry cash, I just have a card. So I put up my card and my ID, and I was like, ‘Hey man this is all I have.’”

When the suspect slapped the items out of his hand, the victim says his brother got out of the car and shot the would-be robber twice in the chest. . . .

Evanston, Ohio, December 11, 2015

[Cincinnati police said a robbery victim fought back by shooting and killing his 16-year-old assailant late Thursday.](#)

Officers responded to Jonathan Avenue near Fernside Place near Walnut Hills High School about 11:30 p.m. after receiving a report of a shooting, said Captain Russ Neville, the night chief.

When police arrived, they said they a preliminary investigation determined a teen gunman tried to rob one of two contractors rehabilitating a home when the contractor walked outside to retrieve equipment from a van. The contractor turned over his wallet.

The second contractor came to the front door and saw what was occurring, Neville said.

The gunman tried to rob him of his wallet, too, but the man – who has told police he has a **permit** to carry a concealed gun – pulled out his firearm. . . .



[Defensive Gun Use](#)

[From AR15com's newsletter:](#)

November 2016

Wow. Last month I said we were about to have the most important election this country has ever or will ever have, and I'm glad to see we not only made the only correct choice for President, but we won the House and Senate as well!

President Donald Trump has already earned the respect of world leaders, the stock market has hit record highs, and the optimism for the future of this country can be felt everywhere and by everyone except of course for the sore losers that voted for a corrupt selfish criminal who are still crying and rioting in big cities across America.



The differences between "them" and "us" are blatantly on display. They have no respect for the law, the American flag or what it stands for, nor for other people or property. They have no respect for the Constitution or those that have fought for and given their lives for it. They spent Veterans Day rioting and complaining about how this isn't fair; they have no sense of honor.

Most of these idiots have never known anything but the gentle handholding that they've received by their parents, schools, and government. They want what they want, and if they don't get it, they're going to whine and complain until they do. Sadly for them, that's not gonna happen this time.



For 8 years the rest of us have had to suck up the terrible administration that has been in office. No one rioted or destroyed property or called for death to Democrats, even while they sold our government and stole our freedoms.

Well ladies and gentlemen, it's time to fix everything that has been wrong, and these crybabies are going to watch what real work can accomplish. They're going to see what real American people do when the going gets tough, and ultimately they'll benefit from it, even while they remain ungrateful. They'll have to ability to come together and take part, or they damn well better move out of the way.

They will learn that the real heroes in this country are not celebrities; the Hollywood liberals who PLAY heroes on TV. Not the guys that get paid millions dollars to play sports but are too arrogant and ungrateful to respect the national anthem. Our heroes are the service men and women who defend this country; the first responders who put their lives on the line each and every day for all of us, and the working men and women who each day do their part to fuel this country and ask for nothing in return. It is these heroes that carry the burden for the rest.

There is no doubt the next 4 years are going to be difficult. There is no doubt there will be some obstacles. But with a leader in place who RESPECTS the American people and the American principles, there's nothing that's going to get in our way. For it is a leaders job to remove the obstacles that impede progress. Freedom has great rewards, but they do not come freely. They require hard work and sacrifice which the American people are ready to provide.

I look forward to the record progress that this country is going to be making for the next few years and we will all benefit, even the whiney crybabies huddled in the corner who don't deserve it.

For once in a very long time, we will be advancing our Second Amendment rights vs. having to fight to keep what we have left. The NRA played a big role during this election, and will play a bigger role going forward. Our thanks go out to those behind the scenes there who work tirelessly each and every day to preserve the Second Amendment.

For those that took part in the RIA Freedom Challenge, thanks for your contributions; we have some winners announced below but we all win having raised over 2 million dollars for the NRA-ILA! The NRA has been fighting to preserve our rights for years, and now it's time to move them forward.



A quick note from Modern-Musket who represents all of us like no other at the NRA:

Brother and Sister ARFCOM readers,

I wanted to write you directly as the title of my column implies to congratulate you all for a job well done this past election cycle. Despite all the prognosticators who continually downplayed a Donald Trump victory, you and our fellow pro-firearm, pro-freedom advocates proved them all wrong.

Those of you who have followed my posts as either DirectAction or now, Modern-Musket know that as a NRA board member I wear my affinity for the NRA in the highest regard. You further know that I realize that the "power" of NRA is through its membership and our active participation as such.

As I cite numerous times, no matter with pro-firearm organization you identify with here on ARFCOM if we work together....We will Prevail.

And Prevail we did!

As we heed the call to assist our incoming President-elect Donald J. Trump, let me take a minute to also thank you all for participating in my "Operation Double Down" which in conjunction with The NRA's Office of Advancement and the great folks at Rock Island Auctions, we - the ARFCOM faithful - helped raise over 1 million dollars to help fulfill the million dollar match challenge laid down by Rock Island Auctions. Once again proving that ARFCOM never fails.

We now face an opportunity to once again marshal our forces and begin to win back our rights by helping the American Suppressor Association raise a much needed \$100,000 to bolster their drive to make suppressors legal throughout this great country of ours. ASA has developed a comprehensive grassroots program of advocacy that I invite you to participate in.

To answer the call, please go to the [American Suppressor Association](#) and let's make history again.

Lastly, special thanks to the Avila Family for their steadfast support of the initiatives, shooting events and political advocacy that I bring before them. They are all true Patriots.

For God and Country,

MM

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/concealed-carry-holder-shoots-kills-suspect-attacking-sheriffs-deputy/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161118_FridayDigest_96&utm_campaign=/blog/concealed-carry-holder-shoots-kills-suspect-attacking-sheriffs-deputy/

Concealed Carry Holder Shoots, Kills Suspect Attacking Sheriff's Deputy

by Jordan Michaels on November 16, 2016

A Florida concealed carry permit holder shot and killed a man earlier this week who was attacking a Lee County sheriff's deputy.

Eyewitnesses told [NBC2](#) that the suspect had been driving over 100 MPH on I-75. The deputy—who was later identified as Deputy Dean Bardes—gave chase, and the suspect pulled over on an off-ramp.

The details have yet to surface, but apparently the suspect got out of his car, approached Bardes, and began attacking him. It isn't clear why Bardes wasn't able to defend himself, but the suspect managed to "throw [the deputy] to the ground and punch him in all different directions," one eyewitness said.

At this point, a civilian approached with a handgun drawn, but the suspect refused to get off Bardes. The deputy "kept yelling, 'shoot him, shoot him, shoot him,' and then he shot him," said another witness. "I think approximately three shots were heard."

The suspect, identified as 53-year-old Edward Strother, died later that day, but Bardes will be able to make a full recovery.

Witnesses seem to agree that it was a good shooting. "There was a lot of other lives that he was putting at risk, including mine and my daughter's," Nicole Ambrosini told [ABC7](#). "I saw a car approaching me from behind at a very fast rate," which then "swerved onto the shoulder on the left side and had to have been around 120 miles per hour," she said.

Shanta Holditch, another eyewitness, said the suspect "refused to get off the officer... He just kept beating him and beating him."

"[The permit holder] gave him two warnings," said Gord Holditch. "Get off the officer or I'll shoot. Get off the officer or I'll shoot. And then he shot him."

The permit holder is not likely to face charges, [NBC2](#) reports. "From what I've been able to gather, I think this is a perfectly legal defense of others and he should be applauded for it," said Attorney Scott Goldberg.

Interestingly, eyewitnesses also said they saw another man approach the scene from another side. They believe he had a gun as well and was prepared to help. They said they saw him take cover as the shooter shouted warnings to the suspect.

Police closed the off-ramp for more than twelve hours as investigators gathered evidence. NBC2 reports that the sheriff's office had planned a press conference for Monday afternoon, but canceled at the last minute. Police say they're waiting to notify the suspect's next of kin before releasing any additional details.

No word yet on the identity of the permit holder.

Forty-nine-Year-Old Grandmother Shoots, Kills Man Kicking Down Door

by Jordan Michaels on April 20, 2016

A Kansas City man, who police identified as 31-year-old Carvonn R. Williams, was shot and killed last week in an attempt to break down a woman's front door, [KSHB 41 reports](#).

The female homeowner—a [49-year-old grandmother](#) caring for her one-year-old granddaughter—says she had asked Williams to leave several hours before the incident because he had drugs with him. Later that evening, she heard loud banging at the front door and, fearing for her safety, retrieved her firearm. When Williams kicked down the door, she fired several rounds and Williams died at the scene.

According to the KSHB report, police have yet to confirm whether the incident is a clear case of self-defense. [KansasCity.com](#) reports that investigators released the woman after questioning her and are continuing to gather details.

[KCTV 5](#) interviewed a friend of the homeowner, who said the woman is disabled and walks with a cane. She believes her friend was forced to fire. "From what I understand, she did the right thing. You are supposed to protect your home and whoever is in it. If that was me I wouldn't have blinked an eye. If I felt I was being threatened, yeah, I would have."

"Are you facing imminent death or serious physical injury? If you're in that situation, then sure, you can defend yourself using deadly force," explained Missouri defense attorney Greg Watt, according to the KCTV 5 report. "But you also have a duty to retreat. You can't rely upon that just to unload a firearm when you have an opportunity to preserve yourself and retreat from that situation."

KCTV 5 also reports that, in a possible contradiction of the woman's statement, police found no sign of forced entry, and it isn't clear if Williams actually made it inside. Police found him on the front porch when they arrived at the scene.

Home invasion statistics are spotty, but the FBI reports that in 2014 burglaries ("the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft") were [down 20.2% from 2010](#). Over the same period of time, the [FBI conducted 45.5% more background checks](#) to allow private citizens to purchase firearms. The causal relationship here is obviously difficult to determine, but it is an interesting correlation nonetheless.

In 2014, there were an estimated 1,729,806 burglaries in the United States. That's 4,739 a day, 197 an hour, and three every minute. Hopefully, that number will continue to decline as more and more Americans make the responsible decision to protect their home and their loved ones.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2870189&download=yes

Do White Police Officers Unfairly Target Black Suspects?

[John R. Lott Jr.](#)

Crime Prevention Research Center

[Carlisle E. Moody](#)

College of William and Mary - Department of Economics

November 15, 2016

Abstract:

Using a unique data set we link the race of police officers who kill suspects with the race of those who are killed across the United States. We have data on a total of 2,699 fatal police killings for the years 2013 to 2015. This is 1,333 more killings by police than is provided by the FBI data on justifiable police homicides. When either the violent crime rate or the demographics of a city are accounted for, we find that white police officers are not significantly more likely to kill a black suspect. For the estimates where we know the race of the officer who killed the suspect, the ratio of the rate that blacks are killed by black versus white officers is large — ranging from 3 to 5 times larger. However, because the media may under report the officer's race when black officers are involved, other results that account for the fact that a disproportionate number of the unknown race officers may be more reliable. They indicate no statistically significant difference between killings of black suspects by black and white officers. Our panel data analysis that looks at killings at the police department level confirms this. These findings are inconsistent with taste-based racial discrimination against blacks by white police officers. Our estimates examining the killings of white and Hispanic suspects found no differences with respect to the races of police officers. If the police are engaged in discrimination, such discriminatory behavior should also be more difficult when body or other cameras are recording their actions. We find no evidence that body cameras affect either the number of police killings or the racial composition of those killings.

Number of Pages in PDF File: 34



John Lott Crime
Study.pdf

Keywords: discrimination, police use of force, racial bias

JEL Classification: K42, J71

http://www.gunsandammo.com/shoot101/great-drills-to-increase-your-shooting-skills/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=shoot101&utm_term=gunsandammo&utm_content=shoot101

Great Drills to Increase Your Shooting Skills

Words by Brad Fitzpatrick

Getting started in the shooting sports is an investment. For many new shooters, that investment is primarily financial. They need to buy a gun, ammunition, targets, and they may have to pay dues to a shooting club if there isn't a state range nearby.

Perhaps the best investment that new shooters can make is time, specifically time spent improving skills with a firearm. The world's top shooters, whether they are competing with a shotgun, rifle, pistol or airgun, spend hours at the range perfecting their game. New shooters need to follow their lead.

Shooting drills are a great way to improve with a firearm, and chances are that improvement will come quickly. Proper practice will not only help shooters become more accurate, it will make them more familiar with their guns and will reinforce the basic skill sets that are essential to becoming proficient.



These skills will help everyone from hunters to self-defense shooters, but the casual target shooter can also benefit from working on basic drills.

Here's a look at five basic performance drills that will help build basic gun-handling skills. Some are specific to one type of shooting, but many of these will help shooters improve, regardless of the firearms they are using.

1. Dry Fire

Dry firing is pulling the trigger without a cartridge or shell in the chamber and helps improve upon a key element of shooting performance—trigger control.

Begin with an unloaded firearm and, as always, keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire. The idea is to simulate an actual shot on target, so you'll want to go through all of the steps you would take before shooting.

For rifles, I want to be on the bench or in a field shooting position (kneeling, squatting, prone and so forth), I want to be looking at the target through the scope or over the sights, and I try to remain on-target as the trigger breaks.

On the range, when you feel comfortable with this drill, you can have a friend hand you your firearm either unloaded or loaded (again, ensuring the muzzle is always pointed in a safe direction), and you should deliver the shot without knowing whether there is a cartridge in the chamber or not. Dry fires that surprise you will make any flinch immediately apparent.

A flinch is almost always the result of anticipation of the shot, and if you can't remain perfectly still and target centered through the shot, you need to practice dry firing more often.

2. Breath Control

This is primarily a drill for rifle shooting, and it requires shooters to control their breathing so that they are prepared to deliver an accurate shot. Accuracy will increase because you won't rush your shots and muzzle movement will be reduced.

There are a number of different techniques to control breathing, but simplicity is the key. When you are on target and ready to shoot, take a series of deep breaths. These shouldn't be exaggerated—simply focus on breathing and drawing in plenty of oxygen.



After inhaling, slowly let about half of the breath out until you are steady and deliver the shot. You won't have a lot of time to shoot before you need more air, but you will be more relaxed and more stable when you shoot.

If you feel as though you are running out of oxygen, start your breathing cycle over —this isn't a drill that should be done in a hurry.

3. Near-Middle-Far

This is a drill I learned from Monty Kalogeras, owner of Safari Shooting School in Texas. And while Monty trains hunters to face dangerous game, this is a very valuable shooting drill for both pistol and rifle.

As the name suggests, you'll place three [targets](#) at various ranges. For pistol shooting, I like to have those targets at about 10, 15 and 20 feet. The procedure is simple: fire one shot at the close target, one at the middle target, and one at the farthest target, then shoot from farthest to closest.



The primary benefit of this drill is that it makes you reevaluate your sight picture with every shot. For most pistol shooting, that means you'll need to focus on the front sight each time you move to a new target. This helps develop the habit of acquiring the front sight quickly, which will make you a better pistol shooter.

Few shooters know that when using an optic, you need to be focused on the reticle or dot instead of the target, a practice that may seem counterintuitive to many shooters.

4. Crossing Birds

This is a shotgun drill and, in practice, it accomplishes the exact opposite of the near-middle-far drill.

Whereas rifle and pistol shooters need to be focused on their sights, shooting clay pigeons or flying birds demands that you devote your attention to the target. This drill requires that you have two clay target throwers, and [Champion's EasyBird Auto-Feed Traps](#) are a perfect choice.

Place the throwers on the left and right side of the shooter, making certain that the target throwers are angled so the [clays](#) will cross in front of the shooter at about 20 yards.

The shooter then stands in the center between the throwers (and safely away from the flight path of the clays) and calls "pull." Both targets are thrown simultaneously and the shooter must practice breaking both targets in the air.



This drill is best for shooters who have practiced with a shotgun before, because if you can't break one target, you probably won't break two. When done correctly, though, this exercise can take your wingshooting to a whole new level in a hurry.

The secret to success with this drill is to choose one target and focus entirely on breaking that one before shooting the next.

When practicing this drill, I select a clay, swing, and break it (or try to break it, at least) and then switch to the next. Learning to do this makes you a much better wingshooter, and when a flock of doves comes in or a covey of quail bursts up from underfoot, you'll be prepared to shoot a single bird and then switch, if time allows.

It's also great training for those who shoot clay targets with true pair (both targets thrown at the same time) stations.

5. The Double Tap

The term "double tap" most often refers to defensive pistol shooting, but I think this skill applies across all shooting disciplines with some variation.

With pistols, the goal is simple. You want to deliver a shot to the center of the target and quickly fire an accurate second shot. The key term here is accuracy. Speed will come with practice, and if your second shot is off the mark, it's a sign you delivered it too quickly. Begin slowly and follow the same routine—fire, regain focus on the front sight, and fire again.



Rifle shooting has its own variation of the double tap, and learning to place two shots in rapid succession is of the greatest value to hunters. You can shoot these rapid follow-up shots from the bench or from field positions, but the goal is the same—you want to place two shots into the target quickly and efficiently.

Some hunters have a habit of “admiring” their shots on game, but seasoned hunters know that after you pull the trigger you need to immediately be ready to deliver a second shot, and that requires practice at the range.

As with pistol shooting, you need to be sure that you are placing those shots accurately, and that means you need to regain your sight picture between trigger pulls and don’t shoot faster than your skill set allows.

The shotgun version of double-taps is something that many competitive shooters refer to as shooting “chips.” When you break a clay target, try to break one of the pieces of that target before it hits the ground.

The lasting effect of this training is that it will prevent you from dropping the gun after the shot and will encourage follow-through, which is critical to good shotgun shooting. If you miss, you’ll already be prepared to deliver a second shot that might break the target.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/bolt-action-remington-rifle-scope-starting-399-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161121_BlogDigest_199&utm_campaign=/blog/bolt-action-remington-rifle-scope-starting-399-full-review/

A Bolt-Action Remington Rifle & Scope Starting at only \$399? Full Review.

by Jordan Michaels on November 18, 2016



The Remington 783 Scoped comes with a rifle and a scope, everything you need for the range or the tree stand. Shown with the camo stock option.

To learn more, visit <https://www.remington.com/rifles/bolt-action/model-783>.

To purchase on GunsAmerica.com, click this link:

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=remington%20783>.

For years Remington has made a name for itself as one of the premier manufacturers of high-quality bolt-action rifles. Their flagship rifle, the [Remington 700](#), has withstood decades of use by hunters and shooters alike, and is well-known for its outstanding accuracy and reasonable price point.



The rifle comes equipped out of the box with a 3-9X scope that is mounted and boresighted.

But “reasonable” doesn’t always mean “affordable” in today’s economic climate. Depending on the model and features, shooters often pay between \$800 and \$1,500 for a Remington 700, and that’s not even counting a rail, a mount, and a scope. Not everyone (or, at least, not everyone’s spouse) can justify dropping half a month’s pay on a new rifle, no matter how legendary it may be.

The [Remington 783 Scoped](#) might provide an answer to that dilemma. For less than \$400, shooters get a quality rifle along with scope rings and a scope—everything they need to get deer season off to a good start. And, it comes with the scope and rings installed and boresighted.

It’s a great option for young or first-time shooters, too. Christmas is on the way, and the Remington 783 comes in a variety of chamberings (from .223 Rem. up to .300 Win. Mag.). I tested this in .270 Win., which, while a nice caliber, might hit too hard for someone of slighter build. The .223 Rem is a good option for those recoil-sensitive. It’ll get the job done, but it doesn’t hit too hard and the ammo isn’t too expensive.

Speaking of price, keep in mind throughout this review that the Remington 783 (and scope) is a mere \$399 MSRP. It’s not a perfect gun, but it *is* perfect for someone looking to buy a solid rifle on a budget or for a parent hoping to introduce their kid to shooting without breaking the bank.

Before we get into the nitty gritty, here are the specs.



The scope has a 3-9X power range, which is one of the most common and popular with deer hunters.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** .270 Win., .22-250 Rem., .223 Rem., .243 Win., .308 Win., 30-06 Sprg., 7mm Rem. Mag., .300 Win. Mag., .243 Win.
- **Barrel:** 22 inches
- **OA Length:** 42.5 inches
- **Weight:** 8.625 pounds
- **Stock:** Synthetic, dual-pillar bedding
- **Sights:** 3-9X Scope
- **Action:** Bolt-action
- **Finish:** Black
- **Capacity:** 4

- **MSRP:** \$399-\$451

Rifle Features

If you like frills, the Remington 783 probably won't be your cup of tea. This is a working man's rifle—what you see is what you get. But it does include a few nice features I want to highlight.

We'll start where all the magic happens: The barrel. According to the owner's manual, the 783 includes a magnum contour button-rifled barrel that's been free-floated to enhance accuracy. Remington says it's been crafted in their newest manufacturing facility "using proprietary methods that create the tightest tolerances from rifle to rifle." Sounds good to me.



The rifle features a two-position safety as well as a cocking indicator at the rear of the bolt shroud.

I received in a camo-stocked version of the 783 Scoped packaged, which bumps the MSRP to \$451 compared to the \$399 MSRP of the black-stocked model. The rifle's weight was the first thing I noticed coming out of the box. It's hefty enough to handle larger rounds, but light enough to carry all day on a hunt. It's also light enough to take a shot without a rest or bipod, which is sometimes necessary in the field. The rubber shoulder pad also helps absorb the recoil, allowing for longer range sessions and comfortable shooting.

The action itself is what you'd expect from Remington, and in many ways it reminded me of the 700. It's smooth without being loose, and it never failed to load or extract a round. Sometimes the bolt was a bit tough to close, but that's to be expected on a new rifle. The push-feed bolt also includes dual, opposing locking lugs, a 90-degree throw and a sliding plate-style extractor.

The receiver is where 783 departs from its great-grandfather. Unlike the 700, the primary one-piece cylindrical receiver has a small ejection port, which helps with rigidity and accuracy. Some have called the 783 an "evolution" for Remington, and the receiver provides a great example of that evolution.

The action cocks on opening and includes a cocking indicator—a small pin that protrudes from the rear of the bolt—to indicate to the shooter that the rifle is ready to fire. The firing mechanism also includes a foolproof two-position safety that blocks the trigger from releasing the firing pin when in the "Safe" position (it does not, however, prevent the action from being able to be cycled).

The steel detachable magazine is another nice feature. The steel latch makes the magazine easy to remove and easy to install, which, again, is ideal for a new or young shooter. There is an audible and tactile click each time the magazine is inserted, and it doesn't matter whether the front or the back is inserted first (no AK magazine problems here). Plus, the four-round capacity is more than sufficient for a hunt, and the shooter doesn't have to worry about catching an extended magazine on a branch or a vine.



The 783 employs a detachable box magazine manufactured from steel.



Remington says their Supercell Recoil Pad reduces recoil by up to 54 percent.

All those features are helpful, but the trigger is what makes the Remington 783 stand out. Despite its super-low price point, the gun still includes Remington's CrossFire adjustable trigger system. The trigger is set at 3.5 pounds but can be calibrated to be heavier or lighter to fit the shooter's preference. The trigger is adjusted by removing the action from the stock and rotating the trigger adjustment nut with a hex key wrench. It's a simple process, but I didn't feel the trigger needed any fine-tuning coming out of the box. The weight was perfect, and the break was nice and crisp. In the realm of factory triggers, the CrossFire doesn't disappoint.

Remington didn't spare any expense with their Model 783. It functions as you might expect a Remington to function, and it includes features that are usually only included on more expensive rifles. If you're looking for a budget rifle that doesn't *feel* like a budget rifle, the 783 is a great choice.

Scope



The plywood target you see to the right of the reticle is 100 yards away with the scope set to 9X. The picture doesn't do the scope justice, but you get the idea.

The 3-9X scope was clear and held zero, but, compared to the rifle, it's the all-in-one product's weakest point. Remington doesn't say in the owner's manual who manufactures the scope, and there isn't any branding that I could find. Given that many pre-packaged scopes only include a maximum magnification of 7X, I was pleased to see that this scope goes all the way up to 9X from 3X. The sight picture is clear enough to see paper holes at 100 yards, and I didn't have any trouble adjusting the magnification. The scope even includes a ring to adjust the clarity of the reticle.

But that's about where the nice features end. The first thing I noticed about the scope was the limited eye relief. The eye relief isn't long enough to get a comfortable cheek weld. I had to get my eye so close to the scope that on one shot the recoil pushed the scope back into my forehead.

The scope adjusts .25 inches per click at 100 yards, and the clicks were nice and crisp. But the reticle does not include MOA hash marks, and the tracking only seemed to work half the time. As I was sighting in the scope, I had to move the reticle more clicks than I thought was necessary. Maybe my math was off, but it seemed like the reticle didn't always track as it was supposed to.

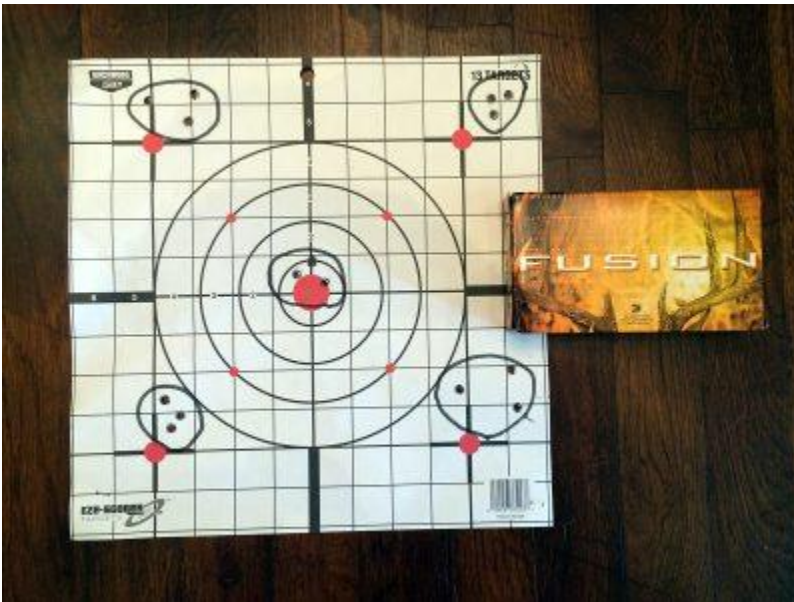
I believe the scope is bore-sighted at 100 yards from the factory. The rings kept the scope in place well enough, though I had to tighten them before shooting for the first time.

All that being said, the scope functions more or less as a scope should: it holds zero and allows the shooter to see the target more clearly. New shooters shouldn't expect to make any 500-yard shots with this scope, but, again, the whole package only costs \$399. Remington says the 783 Scoped is designed to be taken out of the box and into a tree stand. As long as you're not hunting on the Great Plains of Nebraska, that's exactly what the scope allows you to do.

Accuracy

Type	Bullet Weight (grains)	Avg. Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Largest Group (in)	Smallest Group (in)	Average Group Size (in)
Federal Fusion	150	2666	1.56	.63	.94
Hornady Custom	140	2842	1.94	.72	1.32
Hornady American Whitetail	130	2980	2.5	.61	1.69

I tested the rifle at 100 yards with four different types of ammunition using a [Caldwell Lead Sled](#). I shot five, 3-shot groups with each loads. I also recorded the velocity of the bullet at the muzzle for each shot and averaged that data as well.



The Federal Fusion ammo performed the best in the rifle.



And while it liked the other two Hornady loads, the 783 did not like this GMX load at all.

Given the gun's cost, achieving a sub-MOA average with any load on a windy day is an accomplishment. As I test different loads I'll be able to determine exactly what the rifle likes and what it doesn't like. The Federal Fusion is a great contender, but I'm excited to test more loads to determine just how accurate this rifle can be. Though it was a windy day, every load except the some Hornady GMX I tried shot at least one group under one inch. In fact, that Hornady GMX ammo performed so poorly in the rifle I actually pulled it from the shooting results chart I was compiling. It apparently just did not like this load at all.

Conclusion



The author really liked the 783's adjustable CrossFire trigger.

So, should you purchase the Remington 783 Scoped? As with any firearms purchase, that depends on what you want to use it for.

If you're looking for a competition-caliber Remington 700 on the cheap, you're going to be disappointed. But if you're looking for your next deer rifle—or your kid's first deer rifle—you should absolutely order one. With the right ammunition, the Remington 783 is accurate enough to hit your target every time. While the scope leaves something to be desired, the rifle alone is worth what you paid for the entire package. The scope allows you to take the rifle out of the box and onto the range, and the price point allows you to do it without breaking the bank. In today's economy, that's more than enough reason to pull the trigger on a Remington 783.

To learn more, visit <https://www.remington.com/rifles/bolt-action/model-783>.

To purchase on GunsAmerica.com, click this link:

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=remington%20783>.



Apart from a somewhat lackluster scope, the 783 was a great performer. And considering its modest price tag, that is all the more impressive.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/clay-mil-spec-ar-triggers-suck-fix-em/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161121_BlogDigest_199&utm_campaign=/blog/clay-mil-spec-ar-triggers-suck-fix-em/

Clay: Why Mil-Spec AR Triggers Suck, And How To Fix 'Em

by Clay Martin on November 18, 2016

To learn more, visit <http://www.americantrigger.com/>.

Where should you spend your money in your AR? What parts actually matter? I like pistol grips, they are cool. And a proper grip helps your accuracy, right? How about a new stock? An upgraded stock helps get a consistent cheek weld, especially from the prone position. That is important, isn't it? Ambidextrous charging handle? In case I need to get all left-handed up in a firefight?

For my money, the only two parts of the gun that actually matter are the barrel and the trigger. (Optics, I consider to be a completely different discussion.) The barrel is the only part that really actually matters for accuracy, and the trigger is the most important part for how you interface with that barrel. I am a fan of all the cool Magpul stuff in the world, and I have whined once or twice because my hand guard sucked. But the brass tacks is that trigger matters the most. It consistently amazes me that people will spend \$300 on a flashlight and \$150 on a muzzle brake, but balk at the idea of purchasing a good trigger. Let's spend a few minutes dispelling some myths, so we can talk about triggers like grown ups.



The mil-spec parts in an M4 Carbine get the job done, but don't expect a lot of refinement in most cases. *U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ian Schell.*

Myth #1

"I only want to use a mil-spec trigger because that's what the USMC/Navy SEALs/ Task Force Fuscina use, so it must be the best." As a man that served in two services, let's get right down to it on mil-spec. Sometimes it is really on point, i.e. salt-water corrosion standards. Sometimes it is overkill in a stupid fashion that actively hinders progress; i.e. the only authorized carabineers for climbing are steel, screw style locking, with an 8,000-lbs, load capacity. The military is really quick to adapt on some things, and slower than Christmas on a blue

moon with a solar eclipse and a total eclipse of my heart on others. Unfortunately, it tends to be the latter on all things weapons. If you look at the standard issue mil-spec M4, you will notice that it hasn't changed much since 1999. It still has a tiny six-inch quad rail and an A-frame front sight, even though we know both of those are not ideal. It has a pistol grip unchanged since 1983. Why in the name of all that is Holy would you want a trigger blessed by the same paint chip eaters that think this is okay?

Myth #2

“ It was good enough for Gran-pappy when he was killing heathens back in Beirut/Mogadishu/Grenada/ Tal Afar.” Yes, true, you can shoot good groups with a substandard trigger. But that's like saying Mario Andretti can drive a Prius fast. I have shot some pretty amazing stuff with a mil-spec trigger, its just harder and less forgiving. Marines still qualify to 500 yards with a mil-spec, true. And SOF guys regularly do some ninjary stuff with one. The difference between you and those guys is that they are professionals. Not “wear a rainbow colored jersey and shoot tin cans” professionals, either. If you are a grunt and you can't shoot, someone will beat you with a stick until you can. And if you are a SOF guy and you can't shoot you will get fired. Pretty much makes your equipment a non-issue. If one guy there can shoot 4,000 yards with a slingshot, you damn well better figure it out and quick.

Enough said on mil-spec? Good. I lived this life. Until late in the GWOT, most of our issue toys were not great. Finally we got some kickass Daniel Defense uppers with a real hand guard, a Surefire suppressor suite, and some Glock sidearms. And we got to stop walking uphill both ways in the snow to go to school. But anytime you are tempted to think the military is the end all be all on standards, go ask your local sky dive school if you can rent a T-10 and jump it.

What's the Answer?

I'm glad you asked, hypothetical Internet person. Now let's admit that all equipment choices are opinions, and you know what they say about opinions are like. Everybody has one and they all stink. Unless you are drunk and in a stranger's hotel room. Then all bets are off. Let's look at the options for aftermarket triggers.



Swapping out the trigger in your AR can be one of the most important steps to improving performance.

Single Stage: I most often compare this to a high-quality 1911 trigger. Close, but not exactly. Rifle single-stage triggers tend to be a much different affair than any pistol trigger. Rifle triggers in this class have zero take up, zero movement, as soon as you touch them you are putting pressure on the sear. They are often set to some ridiculous ½-lb. release weight as well. This is all well and good for a competition rifle built only to shoot tight

groups from the prone position. It is a terrible idea for either tactical and or run and gun style competition. Why? Keep reading.

Two Stage: Two stage triggers are exactly what they sound like, a longer trigger pull with two separate felt weights. The most common of these is a 3-lb. first stage, with a 4.5-lb. “break” at the end. The take up, followed by the additional pressure needed to cause the rifle to fire, makes this “feel” like it is a 1.5-lb. trigger. This was built to get around the rules of the National Matches at Camp Perry. They mandate a 4.5-lb. trigger, someone builds a Rube Goldberg contraption that satisfies the rules and cheats as much as possible.

Hey, wait a minute! Did you just spend two paragraphs smack talking competitive shooters? Aren’t you the same guy always advocating competitive shooting for tactical guys? The answer is “yes.” But only in the sense that it is also dumb to show up to a NASCAR race in a Baja truck. I believe very firmly there is a lot to be taken from the competitive world for the tactical. Fast and accurate is fast and accurate, period. But you also have to know where the crossover ends. I refuse to have my trigger break weight dictated by some chucklehead in a bondage jacket playing a sport that hasn’t updated its rules since the 60s.

Let’s inject some combat reality into our trigger discussion here. Fortunately, I blasted people’s faces off for a living for 15 years, so I have some opinions. First off, I prefer a trigger with a smidge of take up in it. Yes, I know to “keep my finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire.” In the real world however, you often have made the decision to shoot and don’t yet have a firing solution. Many times I have held the slack out of my trigger waiting on some insurgent twit to poke his head back out so I can ventilate it. No one can deny also that every sniper school in this nation teaches you to keep your finger on the trigger as you prep to fire on moving targets. Whether you ambush or track movers, it’s part of the skill. I have tried this with hair triggers, and I don’t care for it. At closer ranges (400m and in), you often have move your gun a lot to track movers, not a fun time with a 1-lb. trigger.



The author has found that the AR Gold Trigger gives him everything he wants in an AR trigger.

A two stage presents a different problem. Strong forearms are part of soldiering, from climbing rocks to driving a parachute on a HAHO jump. But you will get tired of holding 3 lbs. of pressure on a two-stage trigger waiting to hand out a Sierra 175 grain lobotomy. Human beings aren’t stupid, no matter what we think of our current enemy. No one that has survived past the first year of the war will ever stick their head up for long, or predictably. Every sniper in the GWOT has at one time or another spent some time holding pressure till his forearm cramped waiting on a snap shot. Even worse is a simultaneous sniper shot, where you can spend a lifetime in a tough position waiting on other snipers to also have targets lined up. It’s like the most lethal game of whack a mole in the universe, and you had better not jerk your shot because you were tired. Or worse yet, premature your trigger pull because you accidentally added that extra 1.5 lbs of pressure. You are likely to hear about that on your next performance review.

“But when my Drill Instructor taught me to shoot, he said I should pull my trigger straight back and the break of the shot should surprise me.” I promise I am done dog piling on Camp Perry after this. CMP and other bull’s-eye disciplines have done a lot for marksmanship in this nation. And for that we thank you. But this is not how things work in combat. If the break of the shot surprised you, you didn’t decide when to shoot. We call that a Negligent Discharge in my book. This might get you the best grouping on paper, but it is not going to fly in a high stress world of incoming RPGs. In combat, you had better be the one that decides exactly when the shot flies. As mentioned, people aren’t known for holding still very long on the battlefield. All those people are already dead. And what if you need to take a critical shot on a target that is tap dancing, holding a hostage? In the Iraq war at least, dirt bags were notorious for holding up their babies to avoid the Black Hills burial plan. It doesn’t matter if it is 2 yards or 200, your shot has to break exactly when you tell it to.



A high-quality, drop-in trigger system for the AR like the AR Gold Trigger can make all the difference in your rifle.

“Snipers are stupid, I have an Aimpoint, and I only like to run and gun. Assaulters rule!” Okay fine, but an investment in trigger is going to help here too. Surprise, I was an assaulter too! And I taught CQB in the Army. Not the Army on XBOX either, the one that has PT every morning and wears funny hats to work. First off, CQB sucks with a two-stage trigger. By design, you have a lot of slack to take up, and you need to do it in a hurry. I have done CQB range work with an SR-25, and the inherent long pull of that design is telling. Second, the mechanical reset of that trigger is longer. That might not seem like a big deal in relative distances, but it matters a lot when some one is 3 feet in front of you with a Kalashnikov. You want all your bullets, in that guy, right now.

“That’s cause you hold the trigger to the rear and then release it until you feel the reset right? That’s the pro way to shoot?” Absolutely not. Anyone that thinks this is how you do it in a close-range gunfight is probably also wearing a yellow helmet and riding the short bus to school. I don’t know exactly where that method of trigger control came from, but it’s dumb. For CQB, that is entirely too slow. If you wait to feel the mechanical reset, you are probably also going to feel some 7.62×39 in your favorite chest. Well, second favorite chest. Kate Upton will be fine, but you won’t. It’s unreliable. If you go to the range and try to shoot fast “feeling” the reset, I guarantee you will get a “dead man’s gun” eventually. That is where you have not released the trigger far enough, and when you press it again you get nothing. A fast, and accurate, trigger finger is cyclical. It pulls the slack from the trigger, presses the shot, releases, and starts over. The shorter your slack stage, and shorter your mechanical reset, the faster this is going to be. I will contend, with some of the sport shooting champions, that “split time” doesn’t matter much in a “two hits on paper” world. It does matter in a close range room fight full of savages holding machine guns though, you can bet the farm on that. One of the first things we learned in the GWOT, 2 hits is not enough to reliably shut down human beings INSTANTLY. And they don’t have to be very good at close range to hit you back before they die. 15 hits from a rifle is closer to average from what I have seen. Puts split times in little different perspective huh?

What Do I Need?



American Trigger Corporation offers AR Gold triggers to help shooters enhance the performance of their ARs.

Thankfully, there is a product that answers all these needs. The [AR Gold Trigger](#) from American Trigger Corporation does all this, and has become my favorite trigger over the years. It's crisp, just a hint of take up, and it breaks like a terrorist's neck. That is to say, very satisfyingly. The manufacturer says the take-up is 6 ounces, but it feels like nothing to me. And unlike a real two-stage, it does not move the sear. Mechanically, the take up only moves the trigger itself into position to move the sear. I like this for a variety of reasons. I feel like I am actually setting my finger in position, prepping for an accurate shot. If it is cold and my finger is partially numb, I can still feel the trigger move through its take up. That is very important. If I have to hold the slack out of my trigger waiting on wind correction or a snap target, it is a lot easier to hold six ounces than three pounds. The take-up stage is also very short, short enough I can get away with holding no pressure at all. It has become the standard by which I judge all other triggers, and sets quite a high bar. My personal one has over 80,000 rounds on it. I have used it exclusively in 3-Gun and my teaching rifle for years, and it has taken some abuse. Sports don't quit because the weather got nasty, and neither does training. Rain or shine, sleet or snow, my AR Gold hasn't let me down once.



The author was able to install the AR Gold trigger in 10 minutes into his rifle.

The AR Gold trigger also has the easiest installation you can imagine. I am so far from being a gunsmith; GunsAmerica.com had me [putting together a lower receiver](#) to prove a monkey could do it. The AR Gold is a

one-piece module that replaces all the other parts of the trigger group. All you do is (see the video for this process as well):

- Remove the pistol grip, being careful not to lose the detent and spring.
- Drive the pins out of your current trigger, being careful not to get any on you as sears and springs explode everywhere.
- Remove the safety selector lever.
- Put the AR gold module in.
- Wiggle the safety selector back in, facing the correct way.
- Reinsert pins, reattach pistol grip.
- Function check.
- Have a beer.

A little food for thought before you decide to purchase a paint job or switch all your add ons over to key-mod. It's a travesty that our Grunts don't have decent triggers in their guns, but it's a fact that the DOD mostly doesn't care about small arms. You, however, have a choice. I know how painful it was when I taught in the Army, going from my awesome trigger on Sunday back to a crunchy bag of turds Monday morning. Ultimately the purchase of a good trigger will save you money on ammo, frustration, and generally make your life easier. Try one out like the AR Gold Trigger, you will never go back.

Bond Arms Driving Holster Review

by Eric R. Poole | November 17th, 2016



GUNS&AMMO
www.gunsandammo.com

Sitting in any vehicle qualifies you as a target for carjacking. The unfortunate fact is that many who practice concealed carry are challenged by coming up with a means to quickly access a firearm.

One has to consider how to draw a handgun carried on your person while wearing a seatbelt, and the ability to respond may depend on factors such as what seat you're sitting in and which side is your strong side. Law enforcement officers are faced with this every day and train to overcome such obstacles.

The Ranger II is one of several double-barrel derringer pistols made by Bond Arms in Granbury, Texas, and its silver star certainly conjures thoughts of Texas Rangers. (As an aside, Bond Arms was chosen to mark the 200th anniversary of this prestigious outfit. The Texas Ranger Stars were handmade by Texas inmates of the Texas Department of Corrections.) It should be no surprise then when I tell you that many within the Department of Public Safety count on a Bond Arms derringer for backup protection.

In addition to concealable hand cannons, Bond Arms also offers a variety of model-specific holsters cut, formed and stitched from premium leather. The [Bond Arms Driving \(BAD\) holster](#) was specifically designed to protect against the hijacking of an automobile, and it is handfitted to 10 models featuring barrel lengths ranging from 21/2 inches to 41/4.



GUNS-AMMO
www.gunsandammo.com

A unique strap stitched to the back of the holster wraps around the inside of a belt, over the top of the holster body and is then secured to the outside-facing part of the holster by high-strength Velcro. When removing it from a belt, simply lift up on this strap with one hand, and pull down on the holster with the other.

30-Day Carry

The Ranger II can be ordered chambered in virtually everything from .22LR to .45 ACP. (Bond Arms even offers barrels in .45 GAP and .44-40 Win.) I recently ordered one that could accept .410 and .45 Colt with a 4 1/4-inch stainless steel barrel and wore it faithfully in crossdraw fashion.

Though the BAD holster arrived at no additional charge with the Ranger II, I added a matching slide-shell belt holder for \$29 that has four loops to carry a couple of reloads. I selected a holder attached by means of a steel clip, but one with a belt loop is also available.



GUNS-AMMO
www.gunsandammo.com

While mated to a belt, the holster orients the pistol horizontally and comfortably, which justifies its popularity as a crossdraw concealment option, particularly when sitting. A quick-release thumb-break button unsnaps intuitively, and the underside cut of the holster doesn't impede the user from getting a grip.

The holster draws fast, but presenting a handgun to a target in front of you from a crossdraw holster means sweeping unintended targets left to right, which may or may not be something you're comfortable with.

That said, with the crossbolt safety disengaged, the hammer spur must be cocked with a bit of intentional effort before the trigger can be pulled to fire. It takes that long to orient the muzzle in the direction of a target or threat. When sitting, as in a car, the ability of a shooter to unholster and present the derringer toward a target is actually sped up as long as a lap belt isn't covering or hanging on the grip.



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The time it took me to draw and place an aimed shot into the A-zone of a target placed at 21 feet averaged 3.88 seconds. In addition to its capacity, for this reason G&A cannot recommend this pistol as a primary or sole defensive sidearm for everyday carry. However, it is a legitimate and high-quality backup.

The BAD holster is extremely forgiving in regard to what belt you wear, but the smaller the belt, the more the weight of a loaded derringer holstered (1.76 pounds) pulls the grip down toward the groin, which can elevate the muzzle slightly. Readjusting the Velcro strap to tighten its grip on a belt smaller than 1 1/4 inches wide will usually help to minimize this movement.

Bond Arms	BAD Driving Holster (Right Hand)
Materials	Leather (body), Velcro (strap attachment), stainless steel (hardware)
Carry Type	OWB
Retention Type	Level 2, thumb-break snap
Adjustability	Belt tension
MSRP	From \$92 (\$103 as tested)
Handgun Fit	Bond Arms Ranger II (tested)
Accessory Rail Accommodations	None
Positions to Carry	Crossdraw
Average Time to Attach	5.7 seconds
Comfort Rating	4/5
Concealment Clothing	Loose-fitting T-shirt, light button-up shirt
Average Draw-to-Fire Time	3.88 seconds
Manufacturer	Bond Arms, 817-573-4445, bondarms.com

Draw-to-fire time is the average of five clean draws from under a concealed garment, presented to a stationary target positioned at 21 feet.

As are Bond Arms' derringers, these holsters are exceptionally crafted, American-made products. I'd feel safe in saying that it's the finest quality holster I've seen included with the purchase of any new-in-the-box handgun. I wouldn't hesitate continuing to wear this driving holster, which is available in black or tan, and the optional spare shell carrier for backup.

I would only beg of Gordon Bond that he begin to offer a stitched gun belt and holsters for popular full-size pistols to complete these carry rigs.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/semi-auto-subgun-cz-usa-scorpion-evo-3-s1-9mm-carbine-full-test/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161205_BlogDigest_201&utm_campaign=/blog/semi-auto-subgun-cz-usa-scorpion-evo-3-s1-9mm-carbine-full-test/

CZ Scorpion – Now in Carbine – EVO 3 S1 9mm – Full Test

by Jon Hodoway on July 1, 2016



The new Scorpion EVO 3 Carbine from CZ-USA brings 9mm firepower in a compact, handy and fun-to-shoot package.

For more information, visit <http://cz-usa.com/>.

To buy a CZ Scorpion EVO 3 S1 Carbine on GunsAmerica.com, click this link:

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=CZ%20Scorpion>.

Ceska Zbrojovka a.s. Uhersky Brod (CZUB) of the Czech Republic has been in the firearms business since 1936, making just about every kind of gun imaginable. They began importing guns through normal channels in the US in 1991. In 1997, CZ established a US subsidiary that is currently based in Kansas City, Kansas. Through this subsidiary, [CZ-USA](#), they import, manufacture, distribute and service their entire line of firearms, which includes the iconic American [Dan Wesson](#) revolvers and 1911 handguns.

CZ recently began shaking the market up with several introductions; first came the Scorpion [EVO pistol](#) and the [Bren pistol](#). They have now added the [CZ Scorpion EVO 3 S1 Carbine](#). The Scorpion Carbine is a 9mm. blowback semi-auto polymer fun machine. The Scorpion takes its name from the Škorpion [vz. 61](#) personal defense weapon developed in the late 1950s.

History



A little history is required in order to understand the origins of this pistol-caliber carbine. The Škorpion was developed in the late 1950s by Miroslav Rybář. His design was finalized and accepted by the Czechoslovakian security forces, and later by the Army, in 1961. The intended users of this .32 ACP gun were security forces that needed to maintain a low profile. The Škorpion was designed as a select-fire, blowback-operated machine pistol that can be fired from a closed bolt. To keep the gun compact, it was fitted with a telescopic bolt assembly that actually wraps around the barrel. The rate of fire of a typical blowback machine gun is typically controlled by increasing the mass of the bolt, slowing down the cycle rate. With the design of this bolt, it was not feasible to simply add more mass to the bolt. This resulted in a rate of fire north of 1,000 rounds per minute. This proved to make the gun fairly uncontrollable on full-auto fire, even with the over-folding wire buttstock extended. In an attempt to counteract this, a recoil-reducing device was installed in the wooden pistol grip, which reduced the rate of fire to a relatively controllable 850 rounds per minute.



The model tested came with the factory-equipped false suppressor option made by SilencerCo.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** 9mm
- **Barrel:** 16.2 inches
- **OA Length:** 34.75 inches
- **Weight:** 6.1 pounds
- **Stock:** Folding, collapsing
- **Sights:** Adjustable rear, post front
- **Action:** Straight blowback
- **Finish:** Matte black

- **Capacity:** 20+1
- **MSRP:** \$1,049

Unboxing



The SilencerCo false suppressor covers the 16.2-inch barrel of the carbine and just looks cool.

The new Scorpion Carbine is available in two variants: Both are 9mm and feature a 16.2-inch barrel. One model has a compensating muzzle brake. The model I received has a faux suppressor built by [SilencerCo](#). Both models come equipped with a folding adjustable stock and a forearm that is large enough to accept an actual suppressor without modification, should you choose to add one. The top of the gun has a full-length Picatinny rail fitted from the factory, with a fully adjustable set of aluminum sights. The rear sight features a ghost ring with four different apertures, and the front post can be adjusted by screwing the sight up or down. I was able to easily mount a red dot optic within the abundant available space between the sights. The gun comes equipped with ambidextrous fire controls (10 bonus points!) and a magazine release. The magazine release is located on the rear of the magazine well. The charging handle is almost an exact copy of the HK MP5's. It does not reciprocate and has a locking position that is engaged by pulling the handle all the way to the rear and rotating it upward into a notch in the forearm. Unlike the MP5, the Scorpion's bolt locks open on the last round and is released by a downward-activated control on the left side of the receiver. If you've chosen to lock the bolt handle in the upper position, the bolt release will not send the bolt forward. I did not find this to be a problem, but some users may find it redundant.



The 20-round, translucent magazine of the EVO 3 is a double-row, double-feed design.

The gun was shipped with two 20-round magazines that were a translucent smoke color, enabling you to see the rounds loaded into them. They were of a double-stack, double-feed design. A quick search of the internet shows that 30-round magazines are readily available from multiple sources.

The gun weighed in unloaded at 6.1 pounds, and fully extended it was 34¾ inches in length. The length of pull is adjustable for user preference. The stock has a single button on the left side that allows it to fold to the right, and is retained by a magnet embedded in the right rear of the stock. This I found to be quite ingenious and effective, in both retaining the stock folded and allowing quick deployment of the stock. There are four sling attachment points: two forward of the mag well on either side of the rifle, and two at the rear of the receiver just forward of the folding collapsible stock.

The gun is field-stripped by first locking the charging handle in the rear upward notch. The captive pin is pushed out of the lower front of the lower receiver, allowing the trigger pack to be completely removed from the gun. The gun is then positioned upside-down. The bolt can be slid out of the gun as an assembly by pushing the bolt slightly to the rear with your finger and then, as you begin to let it go forward, simply applying some upward pressure. This elegantly simple and straightforward process takes less than a minute to complete, and the gun is completely field-stripped and ready to be cleaned. Reassembly was not awkward; reinserting the bolt and the trigger pack was as simple as removing them had been.



The trigger pack of the carbine can be quickly and easily removed for cleaning and maintenance.



The EVO 3 S1 Carbine employs a simple straight-blowback system of operation.

On the Range

Once I arrived at the range, I loaded the two magazines full up... and then realized that I had inserted 21 rounds into each magazine. I removed the extra round from each, and figured that this space in the magazine was designed to ensure that a full magazine could be inserted on a closed bolt. With full magazines in hand, I squared up to the target and fired a few shots from about 10 yards determine how the sights were going to perform. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the gun and sights aligned nicely.



The EVO 3 S1 features easy to use and fully ambidextrous controls.

The Scorpion proved accurate and reliable no matter what kind of ammunition I fed it, and feed it I did! True to its ancestor, this gun begs to be shot hard and fast! I found myself frequently surprised by how quickly the magazines seemed to empty themselves. I passed this gun around to half a dozen shooters, and each person was able to quickly master the controls and adjustment with zero instructions. The magazines fed reliably and were easy to load. The left-handed shooter in the bunch remarked about how nice it was to have ambidextrous controls at their disposal.

I was interested to see how the non-reciprocating charging handle would work to clear malfunctions, so I loaded up a magazine was several snap caps in the mix and handed it to a shooter, asking them to fire as quickly as possible. The malfunctions that I had induced were easily cleared, and the shooter was back on target in no time. Some of the carbines on the market today have a rear-charging handle that require you to completely come off the gun to clear a malfunction; this was a nice departure from that.

I measured the accuracy of this gun not by how accurately it fired a tight group from the bench, but rather by how quick a shooter could fire a tight group from the standing position. This served to judge the Scorpion within its intended parameters—all tools are designed for a particular task. The learning curve was short and fast for every shooter I handed this gun to.



The front sight unit is mounted on the Picatinny rail of the 9mm carbine.



The front sight of the carbine is a post unit protected by heavy-duty dual wings.

After everyone had had their turns and the ammunition was gone, we circled up for a quick debrief. Every last participant was enthusiastic about this gun and wanted to know what the price was. A common complaint was the 20-round maximum capacity for the magazines.

The Bottom Line

Of the new crop of semiautomatic 9mm carbines on the market today, this one has got to be my current favorite. The gun is intuitive to shoot, aesthetically pleasing, light, and fast. The current MSRP is \$1,049.00, and the CZ Scorpion compares well to other guns on the market in this price range.

I actually own an MP5, which probably has lowered my willingness to spend money on another 9mm carbine. This gun is much closer to the MP5 than the gun it's named after. I personally think this is the gun that HK should have built when they came out with the UMP to replace the MP5. If I were to compare the Scorpion to other modern guns, I would have to call it an updated iteration of the MP5. My only wish for the Scorpion is that I could fit my full-auto trigger pack and retain my three-lug suppressor. Oh well, we can't always get what we want, can we?

If you're in the market for a pistol-caliber carbine, this one will serve you well at home, in your vehicle or wherever you travel.



A simple and easy-to-use button frees up the stock to fold alongside the carbine.



The EVO 3 S1 Carbine's stock is shown here fully extended.

CZ's New Bren Guns, P-09 Kadet Kit and the Return of the SP-01 Phantom

by Max Slowik on November 17, 2016



The new Bren 2 and updated Bren 1 carbines and pistols. (*Photo: CZ-USA*)

CZ-USA is working on a face-meltingly great new catalog for 2017 and they're kicking things off by announcing the U.S. arrival of the Bren 2 for law enforcement and military use. The Bren 2 is an updated, short-barreled rifle (SBR) version of the already-popular 805 Bren A1/S1.

Developed for military use from the ground up the original 805 Bren was delivered into the hands of soldiers serving in Afghanistan five years ago. Based on feedback from users in the field CZ has been quick to adapt the core design with a few modifications to make the Bren 2 lighter and more compact with improved features all around.

For now the Bren 2 is limited to law enforcement and military sales but the fact that CZ-USA is working to get these guns Stateside will warm the hearts of CZ fans across the country. [Bren 2 improvements](#) include a shorter, lightened receiver, updated ergonomics including a shortened side-folding stock and more vertical pistol grip. The Bren 2 also has a non-reciprocating charging handle, improved ambidextrous controls and an updated gas system.

And CZ isn't quite done with the original 805 Bren yet either. They will have new 805 pistols and rifles hitting the American commercial market next year in 300 AAC Blackout in both black and flat dark earth configurations.



The .22-caliber P-09 Kadet Kit, top, updated 21+1 P-09 Suppressor Ready 9mm, middle, and featherweight 18+1 SP-01 Phantom 9mm, bottom. *(Photo: CZ-USA)*

All-new for 2017 is the CZ P-09 Kadet Kit. The Kadet Kit is a .22 Long Rifle conversion kit for the full-size duty pistol that lets users shoot their gun in their preferred configuration on the cheap and all day long.

The original Kadet Kit was developed for the classic CZ-75 and to this day stands out as one of the best .22 conversion kits for handguns in widespread use. The Kadet Kit was built to military and police standards to lower the cost of training large numbers of shooters without compromising reliability or durability.

The new Kadet Kit elevates the P-09 to a new level of service pistol making it one of the more flexible, fully-featured and multi-purpose handguns on the market today. The fact that the P-09 is part of CZ's economically-minded family of handguns just makes the new Kadet Kit even more appealing.

The P-09 Kadet Kit comes with a .22-caliber slide and barrel assembly with a height adjustable rear sight. The kit comes with two 10-round magazines and has an incredibly low MSRP of just \$249.

For next year CZ is also announcing the return of the full-sized SP-01 Phantom. The SP-01 Phantom is a lightened, almost skeletal polymer-framed CZ-75-pattern pistol that's been updated with a fiber-reinforced polymer that extends flexibility into even lower temp ranges. Unlike the newer P-07 and P-09 the SP-01 Phantom uses the standard CZ-75 trigger system. Many shooters prefer the original CZ trigger to the newer Omega system especially after a long break-in or with a little trigger work.

The SP-01 Phantom was a victim of its own success. CZ had to pull commercial sales of the pistol in order to fill a home-grown contract. The SP-01 Phantom was selected as the official sidearm of the Czech Army in 2012. Unloaded it weighs just two-thirds what the steel-framed version weighs and still delivers with a standard capacity of 18+1 rounds of 9mm Luger.

See Also: [Suppressor Ready CZs, New Dan Wessons and the CZ-805 BREN rifle](#)

Whether it's for everyday carry, home defense or competition, the lighter SP-01 Phantom is more than welcome back. It has a suggested retail price of \$636 which works out to a street price in the mid-\$500 range. While not quite as inexpensive as the P-series guns it's still as affordable as ever.

This is just a taste of what's to come from CZ-USA in the coming weeks and months. They are working on new long guns including a big new spread of CZ 527 micro-action carbines, several new shotguns for hunting and sport and even more from their 1911 specialists at Dan Wesson. And that's just the beginning, we can't wait to tell you more.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/want-christmas-top-rimfire-gear-wishlist-22-lr-reloading-kit-volquartsen-17-wsm/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161128_BlogDigest_200&utm_campaign=/blog/want-christmas-top-rimfire-gear-wishlist-22-lr-reloading-kit-volquartsen-17-wsm/

Tom McHale – (Rimfire Gear Wishlist)—.22 LR Reloading Kit?, Volquartsen .17 WSM & More! #Xmas2016

by Tom McHale on November 22, 2016

There's just something about shooting rimfires. Even with all the cool calibers I get to test out, I never, ever tire of shooting rimfire pistols and rifles. Maybe they just bring one back to the pure joy of plinking. The lack of noise, muzzle blast, and recoil isn't a bad thing either as you can focus on the pure enjoyment of shooting. Even with the higher prices of rimfire ammo these days, you can do a whole lot more shooting for your dollar.

Sharp Shooter .22LR Reloading Kit



Sharp Shooter .22LR Reloading Kit – yes, you can do this!

Yes, contrary to popular assumption, you CAN reload .22LR rimfire cartridge cases. It may not be the fastest and easiest thing to do, but when the world ends and is overrun with unemployed Walking Dead Zombie extras, you'll be glad to have to this gear.

The [Sharp Shooter .22 LR Reloader kit](#) includes a pliers-like tool that molds two different .22 bullet shapes and crimps them into place. It also has tools to measure “powder” and clean out the old priming compound from inside the cartridge rim.

While you can buy priming compound, that takes all the fun out of the process. Why cheat when you can make .22LR powder from things like toy gun caps and crushed up match heads? I've used this kit, melting range bullet fragments in a stainless steel ashtray, and once you get the hang of it, it works. MSRP: \$74.95.

Volquartsen IF-5 .17 WSM Rifle



Not only is the Volquartsen a looker, it shoots the smokin' hot .17 WSM.

While "nailing targets" is a figurative term, it's more literal with the smokin' hot .17 WSM cartridge. This beastly rimfire cartridge is derived from a nail gun blank necked down to accept the little .17 caliber bullets.

The [Volquartsen IF-5 .17 WSM Rifle](https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=volquartsen%2017WSM) is all luxury. The laminated stock is a work of art. The receiver and I-fluted barrel are both stainless steel and machined to perfection. There's a muzzle brake that covers 1/2x38tpi threading if you want to suppress it. I had a chance to try one of these out and tested it with American Eagle Tipped Varmint and Hornady V-Max 20-grain loads; they clocked in at a whopping 2,960 feet per second. Remember, that's from a rimfire. MSRP: \$2,108.50. If you would like to buy a Volquartsen rifle in .17 WSM on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=volquartsen%2017WSM>.

CCI Suppressor .22LR Ammo



CCI Suppressor is optimized to reduce mess and keep the noise down.

Since we determined that suppressed .22s are the best thing ever, it's important to use the right ammunition. CCI has a new offering called, not surprisingly, [CCI Suppressor](#). Yes, CCI has other subsonic loads, and standard velocity rimfire ammo is often subsonic too. However, the CCI Suppressor Ammo is purpose-built for silencer use. It uses a cleaner burning powder because rimfire suppressors get exceptionally dirty. It also uses a specially designed 45-grain lead hollow point bullet. Not only does the heavier bullet help with semi-automatic pistol and rifle reliability, but it's also designed to expand at the lower 970 feet per second-rated velocity so you can use this load for quiet varmint control if you like. MSRP: \$5.95 per box of 50.

Smith & Wesson Victory pistol



For the money, you can't beat the simplicity and accuracy of the Smith & Wesson Victory.

Don't let the looks of the [Smith & Wesson Victory](#) pistol fool you. Yes, it appears at first glance to be the love child of a Smith & Wesson 22 A-1 and a Ruger, but it's not. This pistol is brilliantly designed in its simplicity. One Allen screw removes the receiver and barrel from the frame, at which point the bolt and recoil spring slide out. It's the easiest .22 pistol I know to clean and maintain. One other Allen screw lets you change barrels, and the folks at Volquartsen offer a couple of really nifty aftermarket models.

With its modularity, shooting performance is stunning. I've been using one for over a year, and it is stunningly accurate, even with the standard factory barrel. From 25 yards, it'll shoot .5 to .75-inch 5-shot groups all day long with regular ammo, not premium match stuff. If you like, you can order models with threaded barrel or Kryptek camo finish. This is a fantastic little plinker. MSRP: \$409.00 to \$459.00. To purchase a Smith & Wesson Victory pistol on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=Smith%20Victory>.

Triumph Systems Pop Packs



Yes, Triumph Systems Pop Packs are fun, but they'll also exercise your shooting brain.

Part of the fun of rimfire plinking is making a big mess, but you really should be training instead of playing, right? Why not do both? [Pop Packs](#), developed by Triumph Systems, help develop cognitive shooting skill and accuracy, but the best part is they explode colorful goo all over when you hit them. Each pack is marked with a combination of three variables: shape, number, and color. You can yell to your range buddy, "Hit the red ones!" or you can get fancy and say "Get the red triangle number 3!" It sounds easy, but you know what they say about that. Oh, the mess is not only biodegradable but won't stain clothes or even Danner Mountain 600 boots. Yes, I know this from personal experience. MSRP: \$18.99.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/want-christmas-clays-suppressor-wishlist-gemtech-tracker-armageddon-gear-cover-hornady-sonic-cleaner/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161128_BlogDigest_200&utm_campaign=/blog/want-christmas-clays-suppressor-wishlist-gemtech-tracker-armageddon-gear-cover-hornady-sonic-cleaner/

Clay Martin – (Suppressor Wishlist) – GemTech Tracker, Armageddon Gear Cover, Hornady Sonic Cleaner & More! #Xmas2016

by Clay Martin on November 22, 2016

In the hopes that congress gets off its collective fat ass and passes the [Hearing Protection Act](#), I am putting together a suppressor-oriented Christmas wish list. Also very useful for all of us that already live in the free states, and got it together for the big win. T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the house, crept some assassins, quiet as a mouse Ah, the good old days. Nothing like giving some heathens an early morning present! Every time I hear suppressed fire, I think about terrorists dying, and that is worth the price of a tax stamp. So here is a little insight into the goodies I want for Christmas, and would be good for the suppressor-owning or soon-to-be owning person in your life.



The Armageddon Gear Suppressor Cover is a great accessory for the serious suppressed precision rifle enthusiast.

Armageddon Gear Suppressor Cover

If you have shot any amount of rounds out of a gun with a scope on it, you know just how quickly the heat off the suppressor makes it hard to see. The heat shielding in the [Armageddon Gear Suppressor Cover](#) buys you some more time, and also keeps you from burning yourself or others when you move.

Keep in mind, this is for precision guns. Nothing will stop the heat if you are running a small-frame gun at the cyclic rate. Everything from Armageddon Gear is built right here in the U.S., and the owner is a fellow Army veteran. As a bonus, they turn the left-over parts of the suppressor covers into the best beer koozie in the universe. Every piece of kit I have from Armageddon gear lives up to the bullet proof reputation they have built. MSRP: \$74.95.



The Gemtech tracker is a terrific screw-on suppressor.

Gemtech Tracker

The [Gemtech Tracker](#) is an awesome entry-level suppressor, from a company with a tremendous name in the industry. If you have already spent the time and money to own a suppressor, you might as well buy a good one. And yet, we don't all have money to burn. Quick detach is neat, and handy, but not an absolute necessity. It adds to the price also, and you need flash hiders from that manufacturer for every gun.

Enter the Tracker—this is a screw-on type can that works for multiple calibers. One other quick advantage to screw on, it is harder for a newbie to accidentally leave it on the gun for so many shots it gets stuck. This is from carbon fouling, it happens to them all, and removing a screw on type is MUCH easier. MSRP: \$599.

Tactical Solutions Buckmark Threaded Barrel



Want to suppress your Browning Buckmark pistol? Then take a look at the Tactical Solutions threaded barrel.

There is not a lot in this world more fun than a suppressed .22 pistol, and a threaded barrel like the [Tactical Solutions Buckmark Threaded Barrel](#) is step one. The accuracy in these barrels is awesome. Let us also not leave out that they look cool. Grab a [Trail-Lite scope base](#) while you are at it, and your pistol is also red dot capable.

Tactical Solutions has been in the .22 game a long time, and it shows in the attention to detail in everything they make. Also available for Ruger pistols if that is your brand of choice. MSRP: \$240-\$260. To purchase a Browning Buckmark pistol on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=buckmark>.



The Gemtech Mist integrally suppressed barrel for the Ruger 10/22 is a great high-performance accessory.

Gemtech Mist-22 barrel

A suppressed 22 pistol is fun, but ultimately a 22 rifle is more useful. If you have the spare coins, the [Gemtech Mist](#) Integrally Suppressed 10/22 barrel blows the doors off a normal-sized suppressor. With suppressors in general, for actual decibel reduction, bigger is always better. The trade off is that no one wants a 12-inch suppressor hanging off their gun. The Mist solves this problem like a boss.

Since your rifle barrel must be 16 inches anyway, unless you are spending SBR tax stamp money on a .22, Gemtech made this all one piece. 16.1 inches total length, and most of it is baffle stack. Hands down the best .22 suppressor I have shot. Side by side with a regular thread-on, you can hear the night and day difference. MSRP: \$550. To purchase on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=gemtech%20mist>.



The Hornady Lock-N-Load Sonic Cleaner makes short work of cleaning your suppressor.

Hornady Sonic Cleaner

With all this suppressor goodness floating around, you have to keep them clean. Not something most manufactures tell you, but eventually enough carbon will build up to affect accuracy. You have two options when that happens, if you don't own the type of suppressor you can take apart yourself.

One involves lots of dawn dish soap and hot water, and makes a terrible mess. The other is the [Hornady Lock-N-Load Sonic Cleaner](#). Toss your cans in, enjoy a single malt scotch, and you are ready to go another day. MSRP: \$625.

Review: LabRadar Doppler Radar Chronograph

by Keith Wood | November 21st, 2016

Like many outdoor writers, I have a love/hate relationship with chronographs. On one hand, the data that chronographs provide is essential for creating safe and precise handloads, determining exterior ballistics, and measuring key metrics including standard deviation.

On the other hand, chronographs are cumbersome to move, time-consuming to set up, subject to light and weather conditions, and are often prone to failure at the worst possible moments.



The LabRadar unit uses a standard SD card for data storage which allows velocity data to be downloaded to spreadsheets such as Excel. This allows data to be labeled, stored, and printed for the record and is very useful for handloaders.

[LabRadar's My Personal Radar](#) is a chronograph that uses Doppler radar technology for its input data which is a total departure from previous designs.

Given my frustration with other models on the market, I ponied-up and paid full retail price for one of the new units so that I could give it a try.

The LabRadar unit is about the size of a small laptop computer and fits into a nylon carrying case that will cost you another \$40. By comparison, my Oehler 35P chronograph fills an entire hard-sided long gun case. Given the amount of gear that I take to and from the range, the small overall size of the LabRadar unit is a good thing.

Traditional chronographs work by firing the projectile over two or more sensors that are placed at a fixed distance apart. The sensors "see" the projectile pass over them and, based on the time it takes to travel between the sensors, calculate velocity.

These systems require two factors, both of which can frustrate the operator: appropriate lighting conditions and a projectile path that crosses each of the sensors on the way to the target, confining the shooter to a narrow path to the target.



For every user-designated series of shots, the LabRadar provides key aggregate data: average velocity, highest and lowest velocity recorded, extreme spread and standard deviation. In addition, it indicates how many shots were recorded so that the user can detect any “misses”.

At the risk of sounding like a whiner, setting up my chronograph to ensure that the bullet will pass perfectly through the skyscreens and hit the target downrange is a giant pain and my least-favorite part of evaluating a firearm. I haven’t shot a skyscreen yet, but I worry about it every time I set them up.

Dim or uneven lighting conditions can confuse chronographs and lead to a very frustrating experience. On more than one occasion, I have found myself testing a rifle close to a deadline in failing daylight where the chronograph cannot get a reading. An additional hour-long roundtrip to the range before work the next morning is something I’d rather do for fun rather than out of necessity.

The exception to the skyscreen dilemma rule is the Magnetospeed Chronograph, which mounts directly to the barrel. It does not confine the shooter to a specific window from which to shoot through, however because it mounts to the barrel it can negatively affect accuracy.

If you wish to test accuracy and velocity at the same time, which saves time and ammunition during the evaluation of a firearm, you are out of luck. Sure, I could measure the velocity of a cartridge without shooting for score but if I’m testing something like a .338 Lapua, blasting a minimum of thirty rounds (ten of each load) downrange merely to measure velocity is a waste of money, recoil, and wear and tear on the rifle.

Because the LabRadar uses radar to track the bullet, lighting conditions are irrelevant—you could fire shots inside a cave or at midnight and you would get a velocity reading. As for being required to fire through a window, the LabRadar system works the other way around: you orient the radar toward the target where your bullet will be heading instead of having to fire over the skyscreens.

So, on paper, the LabRadar is the answer to my prayers since it avoids the biggest issues that I have experienced with other chronographs but how does it work in practice?

Let’s start with the unit’s operation. The LabRadar is a menu-based system that uses an LCD display and eight buttons for operation: power, arming, display, menu, trash, select, and up and down arrows. If you are even remotely familiar with any type of computers or electronics, the unit is simple and intuitive to operate. If you use a flip phone, you may have to read the directions.

The LabRadar operates in three velocity ranges (archery, handgun, and rifle) which the user selects through a menu. Once the system is powered on, the user selects a new series and arms the Doppler radar. When the shooting is over, the radar is disarmed and the results can be reviewed using the menu buttons. Unit of measure can be toggled between feet, yards, and meters. The sensitivity of the unit can be adjusted along with a host of other options.



Beyond velocity, data such as power factor and kinetic energy can be displayed so long as the user inputs the relevant bullet information.

The Labradar is equipped with a threaded female adapter for mounting to a tripod or other mount. Bench top and tripod mounts are available for sale by the company, though I chose to mount mine using my Manfrotto camera tripod. For shooters used to traditional chronographs, the biggest adjustment when using the LabRadar is where to position the unit. The LabRadar is designed to be positioned next to the firearm, even with the muzzle as the muzzle blast triggers the tracking operation.

After some experimentation, I found that placing the Labradar directly in front of my chair at my shooting bench was the best position. This location allows me to readily access the menus on the unit without it being in my way. Because I lean slightly to my right to shoot from my bench rest, the LabRadar's position does not block my view of the target. Once the LabRadar is in position, a sight mounted on the top of the unit is used to orient it to the target—I simply loosen the ball head on my tripod, aim the LabRadar, and re-tighten the ball head. When set up in this manner, I had no issues with the LabRadar reading my shots.

With the setup complete, the system is armed by pressing the “arm” button twice and the blue standby light turns orange. When a shot is fired, the muzzle velocity of that round immediately pops up on the display along with the bullet's velocity at various distances out to 100 yards. You can adjust these distances in the menu but, for example, you will see readings at 20, 40, 60, 80, and 100 yards downrange. When you are done with a series of shots, the unit is disarmed and the series can be reviewed.

The display will show the average velocity, highest and lowest velocities, extreme spread, standard deviation, and number of shots recorded. Individual shots in the series can be deleted if desired for any reason. If the bullet weight and caliber are entered into the system, the LabRadar will also provide power factor and kinetic energy figures for the load in question.

A standard SD card (not included) provides storage for your data and the shot data can be downloaded to a computer in .CSV format using either the SD card or the included USB cable. Once the data is downloaded, it can be opened in Microsoft Excel or Apple Numbers spreadsheet form and labeled, stored, or printed for future reference.

No chronograph is useful if it does not provide accurate readings. My first chronograph was worthless in this regard, providing readings approximately 10% below the actual velocities across the board. When it comes to accuracy, the Oehler 35P is considered the gold standard of non-industrial chronographs.



The author found that placing the unit to the left of the muzzle, directly in front of his position at the bench provided the best results. With the LabRadar so positioned, the unit's controls were at his fingertips and the Doppler radar consistently recorded his shots.

The Oehler has been my workhorse for the past three years and, though I'm not crazy about setting it up, its accuracy is never questionable. When comparing loads fired from the same box of ammunition, through the same firearms, in the same environmental conditions, muzzle velocity results between the Oehler and the LabRadar were identical.

The [LabRadar](#) is, in short, the best chronograph that I've ever used when it comes to accuracy, user-friendliness, and useful features. The negatives? Well, \$559 isn't cheap but an Oehler 35P retails for \$599 so the LabRadar is hardly the most expensive chronograph on the market. My only real complaint is battery life.

The LabRadar unit uses six AA batteries and essentially requires full battery power in order to arm the Doppler which means that you can go through batteries fairly quickly. The workaround to this issue is a rechargeable battery pack that plugs into the USB port on the unit. You can purchase the battery pack from the company or use other compatible USB chargers on the market.

Some users on online forums have reported the possibility of the LabRadar inadvertently picking up shots from other shooters on the firing line on crowded ranges. This is not a concern for me since I have my own range but both end users and the manufacturer claim that these events can be eliminated by manipulating the settings.

Finally, the LabRadar's velocity ceiling is 4000 feet per second. This is not an issue for me but, if you plan on shooting cartridges that really scream, it is something to consider.

Meaningful changes in consumer chronograph haven't taken place in decades, until now. The Doppler radar chronograph from LabRadar is leap forward in useable technology for shooters. In comparison to other models on the market, the LabRadar is faster to set up, will not affect point of impact or accuracy, does not confine the shooter's point of aim, and presents the data in a useful and archiveable format. The LabRadar has become my standby chronograph for load development and firearm evaluation.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/unleash-saw-civilian-m249-now-available-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161205_BlogDigest_201&utm_campaign=/blog/unleash-saw-civilian-m249-now-available-full-review/

Unleash the SAW! – Civilian M249 Now Available – Full Review

by Jon Hodoway on June 26, 2016



The new 5.56 M249S from FN delivers a semi-auto version of the battle-proven M249 SAW light machine gun.

For more information: [FN M249S](#)

To purchase on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=M249S>



U.S. Army soldier fires a full-auto variant of the M249 squad automatic weapon (SAW). (*U.S. Army Photo by Gertrud Zach/released*)

While at Shot Show, I had the opportunity to both shoot and handle the new [FN Military Collector Series](#) of guns from FN. With FN providing true military grade firearms like the M16, M4 Carbine and M249 SAW directly to the U.S. military, it is clear this is a company that knows how to produce true mil-spec hardware. The FN Military Collector Series provides civilian shooters with semi-automatic variants of these battle-proven firearms.

I quickly asked when I would be able to get demo guns and was promised a shot as soon as they were available. I received the [M16](#) first, followed by the M4 Carbine. I continued to press for the M249S, a semi-automatic version of the M249 SAW, so hard that I knew I would eventually get one, or a restraining order. The day has finally arrived, and let me tell you upfront, this gun is amazing.

First Things First

I am going to go ahead and get a few things out of the way so you can enjoy reading the rest of the article. I will answer a few questions and save you from having to post them in the comments section.

- “Who would want a gun that costs \$8,000 or more? Would you have to have more money than sense to buy one of these things? You could buy like 15 ½ Glocks with that money.” I guess you should ask the people on the waiting list who would want one of these. I am just like you; I’m making payments to the orthodontist, but I have made some frugal life choices. I don’t own a motorcycle or a boat, and I don’t live in a palatial neighborhood. Comparing prices in this situation is sort of irrelevant—who needs 15 Glocks? Unless you can come up with a Glock 18 for me, I don’t need 15 more of the same.

Un-boxing

Usually, the box a gun ships in is fairly unremarkable. It is just a plain brown rectangular chunk of cardboard with some packing material in it. I was actually a little surprised when I picked this gun up from my FFL. The box is shorter than I had expected and it was definitely thicker and wider than any other gun I had received before. As I began the un-boxing process, there was an unmistakably utilitarian, industrial/military feel to everything. The components were all in giant sealed bags. The instructions were all laminated to stand up to soldiers who might not be the most delicate flowers.



The M249S can feed from a disintegrating belt system that holds the 5.56 NATO rounds.



The belt of ammunition is held inside a plastic box that is located under the gun.



The disintegrating links hold the 5.56 NATO rounds for feeding, but fall away as the rifle fires.

The receiver was in one giant bag and the barrel was inside a box within another bag. The ammunition box with 200 links was in its own nifty little compartment, along with the instructions and one 30-round metal FN magazine. I have never seen an M249 SAW shipped to a government depot, but I can imagine this is probably close to how she would look.

There were at least three warnings stating clearly that this does not operate like your daddy's shotgun. As a matter of fact, the good folks at FN reached out to me via email and provided me with a link to [instructional videos](#) that forwent all of the nasty requirements of reading the instruction book. I wonder if they reached out to my wife—it was like they knew I wasn't going to read that instruction manual. All jokes aside, I did watch all the videos in the series and found them to be very easy to follow. I even referred back to them as I assembled the gun, got my manual of arms together, and finally linked 200 rounds of .223.

The internal parts have been redesigned to comply with the ATF ruling on semi-auto versions of machine guns, changing it from an open-bolt design to a closed-bolt design. On the M249S, there have been some blocks put in place to make sure the full-auto parts will not “drop in.” In the new design, the firing pin is now a moving part versus the fixed one in the full-auto version. The trigger pack has been changed to use a hammer instead of the usual bolt release found on the end of the trigger assembly. This simply means this gun fires semi-auto only from a closed bolt.



The M249S has a top cover that can be opened to set up the feeding of the 5.56 NATO rounds into the rifle.



Once the rifle is set up for firing, the top cover (shown in the open position) can be closed down.



In addition to feeding from a belt, the M249S can also feed from AR-15/M16 magazines. It is shown equipped with a 30-round Magpul unit.

In simple terms, the full-auto version of the M249 fires from the action being locked open. A pull of the trigger releases the action to feed a round and fire it with a fixed firing pin, over and over until the trigger is released. When the trigger is released, the action locks open again awaiting the next trigger pull. In the closed-bolt system, a round is first chambered and when the trigger is pulled a hammer is released to strike a moving firing pin. The case is ejected and new round is fed into the chamber, awaiting the trigger to be pulled for a follow-up shot.

A significant feature of the M249S (like its military sibling) is that the cold hammer forged barrel assembly (with the carry handle and heat shield) is removable by pressing down on the wire lever at the front top of the receiver. Then the barrel slides forward. The primary purpose is to install a fresh cold barrel after sustained fire. I found the primary benefit to be allowing the gun to fit into a much more compact footprint for both storage and transport.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** 5.56 NATO
- **Barrel:** 20.5 inch (removable)
- **OA Length:** 40.5 inches
- **Weight:** 17 pounds (empty)
- **Stock:** Fixed
- **Sights:** Ghost ring rear, post front
- **Action:** Closed-bolt, semi-auto
- **Finish:** Parkerized
- **Capacity:** Belt- or magazine-fed
- **MSRP:** \$7,999

First Impressions

The best way I can describe this is that moment in the movie “Christmas Story” where the Daisy Red Ryder BB Gun makes its appearance. I immediately snapped a picture with the tagline “Anyone want to guess what I’m doing today” and posted it to Facebook.



The M249S can be easily and quickly broken down into its primary components.



It comes equipped with a rugged steel folding bipod assembly.

This gun is serious business. From what I can tell this gun is built every bit as solidly, part-for-part, as the military machine gun. The only difference I can find is the engineering that went into making it civilian legal. They use the same hammer-forged barrel. All of the external parts, bipod, sights and feeding mechanisms are identical. This gun is not some bantamweight—this is in the heavyweight category. These descriptions make me feel like I’m describing some piece of farm equipment from Belarus; to the contrary, there is a certain elegance to the finish, fit and engineering that go into this rifle. As I was taking pictures, I was struck by how aesthetically pleasing this gun is. There are plenty of great guns out there that are ugly as hell—this is one that can be appreciated at face value.

When I went through all of the components that came with the gun, the only add-on that I could conceivably come up with was some type of optic. The military typically uses either an Elcan or a Trijicon on this platform.

Prepping a Belt-Fed Gun



The linked ammunition feeds from the box to the rifle, but must be inserted correctly for proper functioning.

Remember those handy videos I mentioned earlier? Well I think I watched the one about linking the ammunition, getting it in the box and chambering the first round about 15 times. I've actually owned belt fed guns before, but my Browning 1919 featured a cloth belt. I knew in principle how the disintegrating belts worked and how the gun fed the ammunition. But as always, success is in the details.

Task A is developing a system for linking the ammunition. This involves un-boxing 200 rounds of 223 ammunition. Next is finding a nice, flat, clean work surface to begin the linking process. Once you figure out which side of the link is up and which side is down, you can begin laying them out and simply inserting the rounds. Once I figured out my system, it took about the same amount of time as I would normally have spent loading magazines.

The next couple of steps in this operation are a lot like giving an angry cat a bath in the bathroom sink: You know what's supposed to happen, but the cat is not going to comply. Now that you have 200 rounds of ammunition linked, count out 15 and then fold over, then repeat. It's like folding layers of dough over. Now, making sure that the end of the belt is in the proper position, pick up these rounds and begin feeding them into the ammunition box. Imagine being halfway through a game of Jenga on your kitchen table and deciding to pick it up and move it to a waterbed- it can be done, but probably not on the first try. Finally, once you have the rounds correctly inserted into the box and the end of the belt protruding correctly from the box, you get to tackle the task of snapping on the lid. The best way I can describe this challenge is putting a twin size fitted sheet on a queen-size bed. It's not going to be a gentle process.

Okay, so I may have gone a little heavy on the exaggerated similes; the point is, there is a learning curve at play here. If you can work past the learning curve, you will reap big rewards at the shooting range.

On the Range

The first thing I wanted to try out at the range was the 30 round magazine. I had heard stories about these guns being finicky when running from a magazine and then going to a belt. There were also tales of the magazines being eaten in the process of emptying them. One thing I would point out: all magazine guns should have a magazine cover door like this one that, in the default position, is self-closing (this is the equivalent of a toilet

seat that will put itself down). Simply push the magazine through the closed door, snap it in place and you're good to go. I flipped the bipod to the down position and settled in behind the gun. I wanted to run the 249 with the traditional covered notch at the front and ghost ring in the rear, as they were easy to acquire and afforded a good cheek weld.



The M249S magazine port features a self-closing dustcover/door that closes when a magazine is not inserted.



The magazine port is located just below the port for the belt feed of ammunition.

The first thing that you notice when firing this gun is that the trigger is fantastic. The only machine gun trigger that I have ever operated that was better than this one was the electric switch on a GE. The trigger of the FN249S is about 4½ pounds, with a reasonable amount of take-up and a pull as smooth as silk. The engineers at FN have done an incredible job of making this user-friendly.

With the bipod providing stability in the front, the well-engineered buttstock in the rear, and the pistol grip in hand, it is 100% controllable no matter how fast you fire. Firing faster gave me just a slight push to the rear without any shaking or fidgeting.



The rear sight of the M249S is a rock-solid and sturdy winged assembly with an adjustable peep unit.

Most semi-automatic .223 rifles eject brass like a push mower without the safety guard in place. The FN 249S just neatly deposited the rounds out of the downward-facing ejection chute to the right of the gun. Ejecting the spent magazine is simple; just push in the lever on the magazine well cover and it pops right out. After running several full magazines through the gun, I inspected the feed lips. There was some paint scratching, but no signs of damage or what I would interpret as abuse.

The moment of truth had arrived, and it was time to put the box on and let this thing eat. The box has a male clip that slides into the female portion mounted to the gun. There is no way to put a magazine and a box of belted ammunition on at the same time. The belt feeding mechanism is exposed by pinching the two clips behind the top cover. Half of this mechanism is in the top cover, and the other half is on the receiver. Once the belt is laid in, you lock it in by pinching those same pins together again. Then you pull the charging handle to the rear and let it fly home. Laying the belt correctly is the most difficult part of this. As my first attempt demonstrated, you must lay the first loaded round in the center of the belt feed mechanism. Otherwise you get a click instead of a bang.



The rifle features a self-regulating gas system unit.

Once I had corrected my error, the gun came to life. At first I was cautious and observed the gun showering from the bottom of the gun a chorus of belt links and brass that I had so diligently put together the night before. This lasted for about 10 rounds, and then it was time to open her up. As I began to work the trigger faster and faster, I was rewarded with both center mass hits on the target and piles of brass and links at my feet. I then made a quick adjustment on the sights and moved the target out to the available hundred yards. My shot timer told me that I was delivering about 200+ rounds per minute of dead-on fire at 100 yards. I'm not aware of any other semi-automatic .223 rifle that can deliver 200 rounds on target in a minute. I even went so far as to put a second target up and work transitions, being careful not to sling rounds between targets. This only slightly diminished the rate of fire.

This gun ran perfect. The only issue that I encountered was the smoke coming off of the barrel. I don't believe that I could damage this barrel short of buying several thousand links and running them all together. This gun is purpose-built for this kind of action, and performs as such.

Final Thoughts

This gun is everything I hoped it would be and frankly, for the price, it should be. The FN 249S put a smile on my face every time I shot it. I took it out to a different range later and fired off of a tower with multiple targets, and everyone at the range was eager to join in. I encourage you to take a turn on this gun if you're given the opportunity; you will not be disappointed. You may knock this gun on practicality, but you will not knock it on function, reliability or authenticity.

I try to put my biases aside when I review a gun, but I'll admit that I'm a fan boy of this platform. And there are a few things you need to be aware of; it's not all fun and games. This gun is heavy and has its own manual of arms that you must respect. This is not a gun that you're going to pick up and immediately take to the range to shoot. You will have to invest some effort into the aforementioned learning curve to be successful. But, trust me, it is well worth the effort!



A simple yet effective cross bolt safety is located in the lower trigger housing assembly, just above the pistol grip.



The buttstock sports a fold-up support that helps keep the M249S from sliding down off your shoulder under recoil.



In addition to the standard M249S, FN has also released a limited edition of the rifle for an MSRP of \$9,499. It comes with serialized ID tags, certificate of authenticity, spare barrel assembly and numerous accessories, all packed in a hard case. *Image courtesy of FN.*

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/heizer-pocket-ak-and-pocket-ar-gel-test/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161205_BlogDigest_201&utm_campaign=/blog/heizer-pocket-ak-and-pocket-ar-gel-test/

Heizer POCKET AK and POCKET AR Gel Test

by Jon Hodoway on April 23, 2016

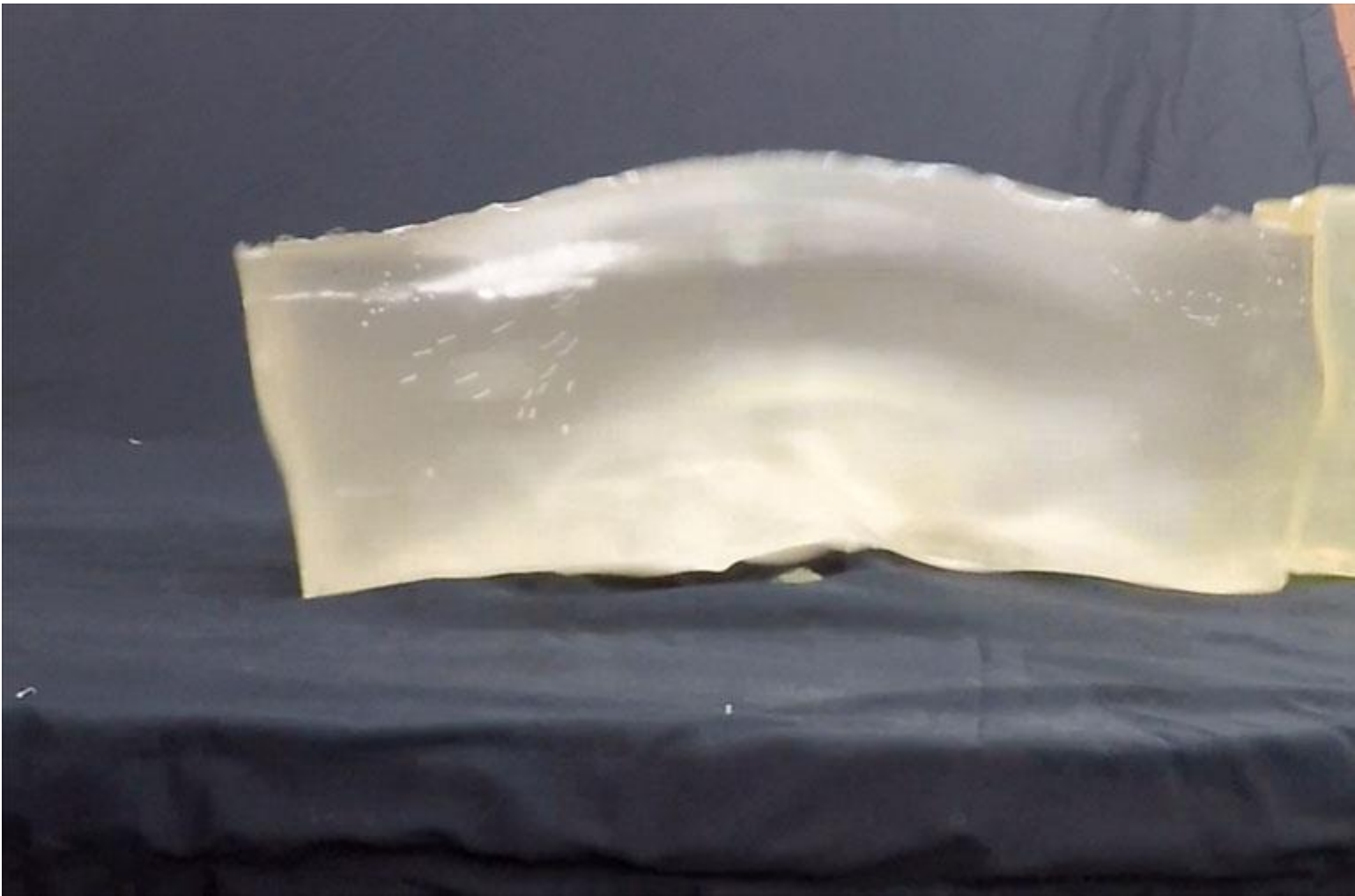
Editor's note: The good folks at GunsAmerica fight to review everything cool, new and hot. Unfortunately, the opportunity to do so sometimes means they have to share some pain in the name of teamwork. The article you are about to suffer through is such an instance. The punisher: Heizer's single shot pistol, available in .223 and 7.62 x 39. If you have not read the full review, [I would encourage you to click over](#). This supplement will focus solely on the results of our ballistic gel testing. There was some concern that the attenuated barrel, coupled with the ample porting, resulted in the very low velocities recorded in that review, and that these velocities would have a very real effect on bullet performance. Is this true? Enter Jon Hodoway with the ballistic gel!

Read the full review: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/heizer-defense-pocket-ak-pocket-ar/>

Read about the PAR1: <http://heizerdefense.com/category/products/guns/par1-guns/>

Read about the PAK1: <http://heizerdefense.com/category/products/guns/pak1-2/>

Buy one on GunsAmerica: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=heizer>



Winchester 223 round impacting ballistic gel.

Gel Testing Plan

Brief aside: I'd like to clear up some misconceptions and describe what ballistics gel does, and does not do. Anyone who has studied the aftermath of gunshot wounds can tell you that ballistics in the human body can result in almost any outcome imaginable. Simply put—any round, whether through skill or luck, can result in the instantaneous death of a human or animal. On the flip side of that—the most powerful round can completely and utterly fail to incapacitate or kill a human or animal. When it comes to a human target, all bets are off. Have an example: a .22 rimfire round fired from a small handgun striking an adult male just under the armpit, missing the ribs, can penetrate both the lungs and the heart. It isn't far-fetched.

Consider the murder of Corporal Mark Coates of the South Carolina Highway Patrol. During a traffic stop, the subject began to struggle with Corporal Coates and they both fell to the ground. The subject fired a .22 caliber handgun into Corporal Coates' chest, but the round was stopped by his vest. Corporal Coates was able to force the man off of him and return fire, striking him five times in the chest with his .357 caliber revolver. As Corporal Coates retreated for cover (and to radio for backup) the man fired a second shot; the round struck Coates in the left armpit and made its way quickly into his heart. The subject, who had been skillfully struck five times by larger and more powerful rounds, survived the incident. He was sentenced to life in prison.

So why even mess with ballistic gel? Because it serves as a great way to see what different rounds do in the same basic, and control, scenario. If you took the average density of muscles, internal organs, circulatory system, nervous system and fluids, you would end up with a medium very close to the density of ballistic gel.

Our test medium was Clear Ballistics gel that is approved for bullet testing by all relevant government agencies. As I indicated above, your results will probably vary and predicting the exact results of a round's performance in a gunfight is truly a fool's errand.



Once the 223 is chambered less than an inch of barrel is available before porting.

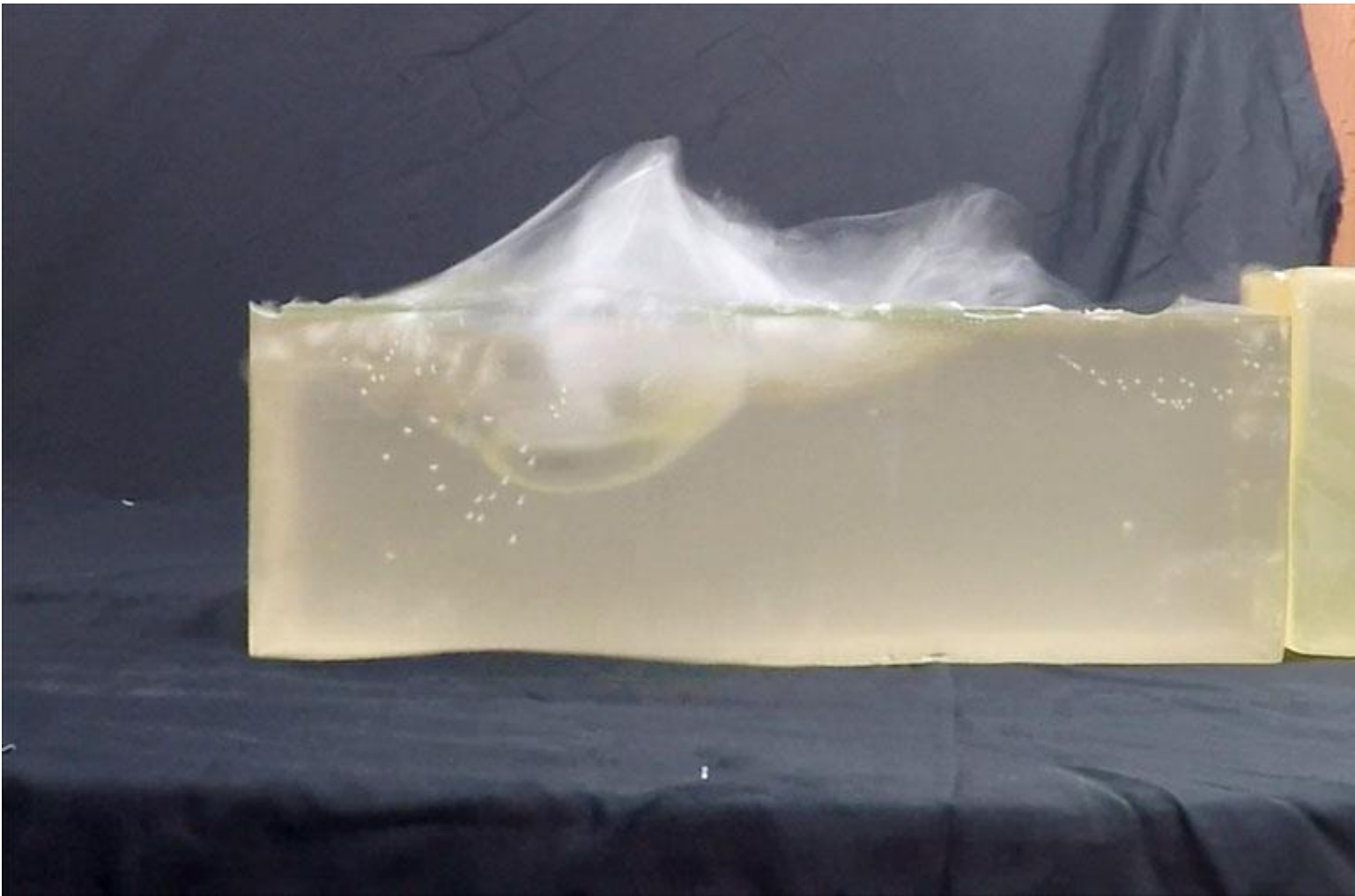


The 76 2 x 39 has a small amount of barrel before the porting begins.

Considering that our Heizer was launching a .223 round at just under 1100 ft./s and a 7.62 x 39 round at 900 ft./s, I felt it appropriate to select ammunition that would perform the most effectively for this platform. When the time came to select the ammunition, I looked for the lightest, fastest rounds that were also designed for optimal expansion.

.223

I found two .223 loads that looked promising. The first was the [Lehigh Defense 45 grain Controlled Chaos](#), advertising a velocity of 3,300 fps. The second load I settled on was the [Winchester Varmint X 40 grain](#), which indicated a muzzle velocity of 3,100 fps. Both of these rounds touted the fact that they would expand and fragment upon impact. I wondered if they'd ever met a Heizer before.



Lehigh defense round entering ballistic gel rapid change of direction and exit out of the top.

The Lehigh Defense has consistently been a showstopper in ballistic gel. If it advertises penetration, fragmentation or expansion, the results are usually quite spectacular. Unfortunately, the spectacle was largely foiled, as the Heizer's demure ported barrel gave consistently erratic performance. The bullet would enter on a desirable trajectory, only to quickly change direction and exit the gelatin. I repeated the test several times to ensure that this was not the result of user error. The camera and evidence left in the gel indicated that there was little to no expansion, and not much of an energy dump prior to exit.



The Winchester. No expansion.

The Winchester offered a consistent and more predictable path. Although the ballistic tip did separate from the bullet, there was zero expansion. Reviewing the photography indicated that there was a moderate temporary wound channel.

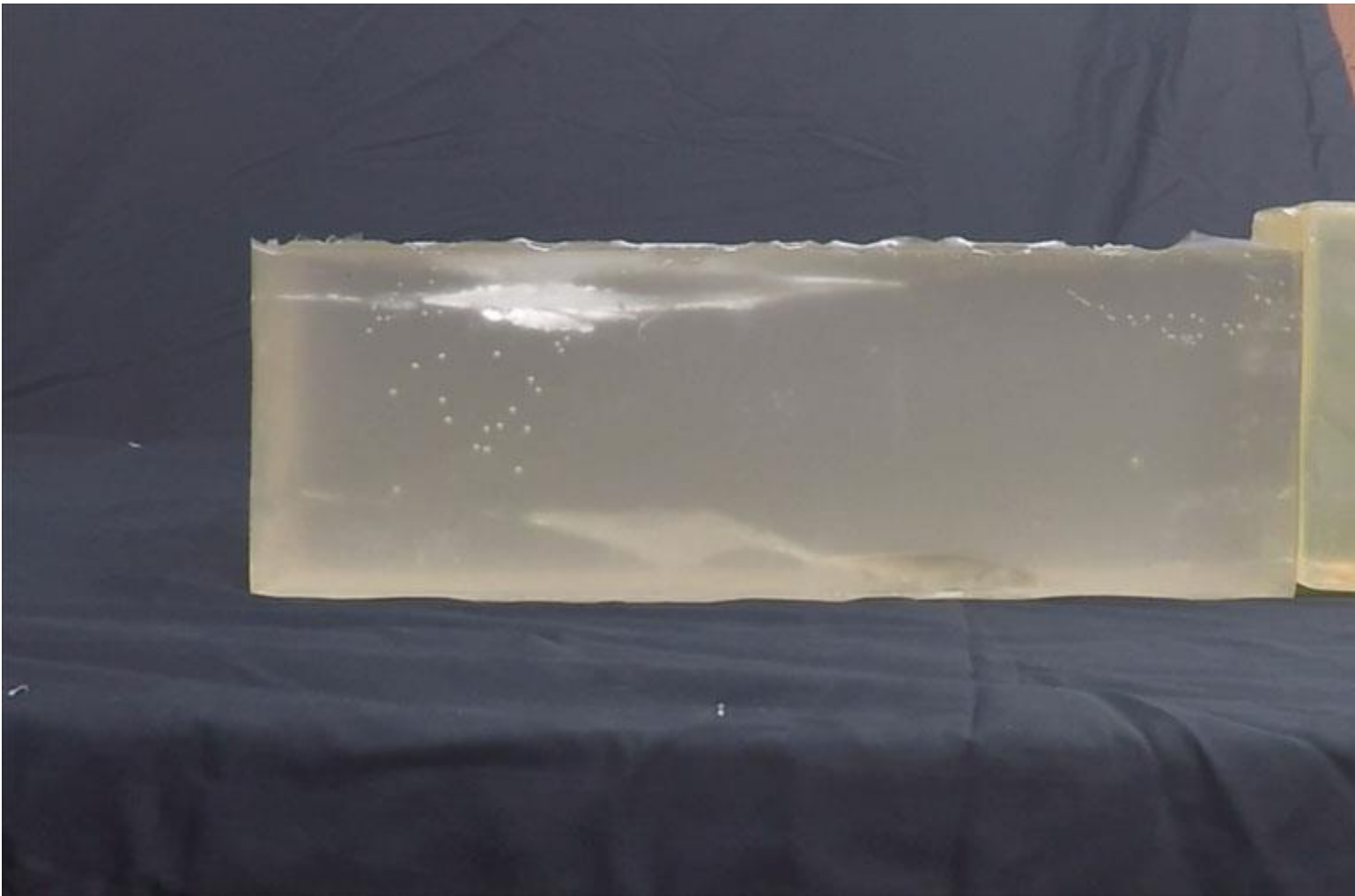
To put this frankly- the terminal ballistics offered by the Heizer was not what I'd hoped for. These two rounds fired from the Heizer made even a .380 automatic look like a beast. I do not fault the rounds in any way; I believe that this platform, with its short barrel and porting, consistently fails to provide sufficient velocity for these rounds to perform the way they would form a rifle.

This is hardly Heizer's fault. They have never made promises about terminal ballistics. And they've made far fewer promises than some of those who are still pushing bird-shot through .410 revolvers as the *end-all-be-all* for self defense. We, the end users, simply make assumptions about performance that are often erroneous.

But shooting guns is always fun, right? So what was impressive? Well—the muzzle flash, report and recoil could only be outdone by the Smith and Wesson .500 Magnum.

So what about the 7.62×39?

Really good 7.62 x 39 is much harder to find than boutique .223. The Hornady steel case rounds are among the best. This round was able to bring the muzzle flash, report and recoil levels all the way up to Damn Near Unbearable! I'm pretty sure that wielding this gun hurt me just about as badly as it hurt the gel. The performance in the ballistic gel was, again, lackluster at best. I could have re-used the bullet if the ballistic tip hadn't broken off. There was no fragmentation and no expansion. The camera does record that this round outperformed the others in both penetration and energy dumped to the target, but that's not an exceptionally high bar to clear.



Permanent wound cavity on top is 223 one cavity on bottom is 7.62 x 39.



7.62 x 39 bullet retrieved from gel zero expansion ballistic tip broken

And just to round things out, the Heizer exhibited a very nasty habit of locking itself closed after each round of 7.62 x 39. This feature was remedied through the use of a hammer and brass rod, after which the gun performed as designed.

Conclusions

First and foremost, let me say that I would not want to be shot with either caliber offered by this firearm. We can mock ballistic gel results and velocity measurements all we want, but being shot is being shot—all bets are off. If I were going to use this for a self-defense handgun, I would definitely choose the 7.62 x 39, as it has the largest potential to achieve the desired effect.

That being said, this is one of those situations where I would urge you to choose a different caliber. I believe that you would be much better served by the option offered by Heizer in .45. If this is the platform for you.

When I add in the second factor—hand shock—I grow even more concerned. Practice is an important part of proficiency. While the gun shoots straight, shooting it isn't easy. This Heizer is quite the conversation piece, and everyone is free to make the choice to carry the gun they want. If someone has a compelling reason for this caliber choice, drop me a line and I'll gladly reconsider my stance here.



Porting on short barrel significantly reduces velocity and increases flames.



Flame coming from barrel firing 223 Lehigh defense.



Winchester 223 temporary wound cavity flame beginning to form at rear of temporary cavity.



Flame from Winchester 223 caused by burning gases and pressure change from block collapsing on temporary cavity.



Gloves were used for the 7.62 x 39 rounds to dampen the Recoil.



The 223 caught just prior to Round leaving the barrel recoil is significant. Look what the blast did to the ash on my cigar.

What's the Best Slide Serration Technique?

by Patrick Sweeney | November 2nd, 2016 [0](#)

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I was asked recently, “Why don’t you like forward cocking serrations?” Part of it is that I’m a curmudgeon, a crusty old relic of bygone days. I learned on pistols that didn’t have them, I got along fine without them, and I didn’t need them. There’s also the fact that the sharper ones act like a cheese grater in holsters.

The general question of how to use cocking serrations safely and properly is a more interesting one. Let’s discuss their strengths and weaknesses when racking a slide. We’ll start with the normal grooves, those on the back of the slide.

There are two ways to grab and use them, slingshot and overhand. I’m sure there’s a firearms instructor out there who has figured a third way and named it after himself. If so, good for him.

Slingshot

The slingshot is just that. Using a right-handed shooter as our example, you hold the pistol in your right hand, then pinch the slide between your left thumb and forefinger with your left palm facing down. Pull back, let go, and you’re in business.

The strengths of this method are simple: You can’t point the pistol at yourself while doing it, and you end up with the pistol pointed pretty much at the intended target. The weakness is plain to see: You’ve got just a thumb and forefinger on the slide, and that’s it.



The slingshot method of manipulating the slide is intuitive and effective at clearing malfunctions as well as recharging the chamber. This method is also convenient for working small, compact autos.

Those with weak hand strength don't like it. You can improve the technique. Instead of holding the pistol out at arm's length and pulling the slide back, hold the pistol close, pinch hard, and punch forward with your right hand. This gets stronger muscles involved, and the punching makes up a little for the left hand only having two fingers involved. The slingshot method also keeps your fingers clear of the ejection port.

The process is useful enough that I'm told it's the apparent norm in Israel. There are lots of people armed there — and openly — but since there is so much public transportation, it is prudent that a lot of them carry pistols hammer-down on an empty chamber. We refer to this as Condition Three.

Additionally, in the early days they had such a hodgepodge of pistols to carry, the only way instructors could hope to even try to train everyone on everything was to teach them in Condition Three carry.

They modified it by training people to turn the pistol on its side, "gangsta" style, but only for working the slide. Draw, lift up close to your face, grab and punch, and turn the pistol upright before you start shooting toward the threat. For a lot of people, and for a lot of pistols, slingshot works.

Over the Top

Overhand changes this. Your left hand is still palm down, but you grab the slide by putting the heel of your hand against the left side of the slide and wrapping your fingers over the top. This gets the heel of your hand and a few fingers onto the slide, and since you have to bend your arms to reach, it gets bigger, stronger muscles involved in the slide-racking process. That's the good part.

The downsides are potentially really bad. First, if you aren't careful where your pistol is pointing, the mechanics of overhand can have you pointing the muzzle at the shooter to your left. You must be diligent in keeping the muzzle pointed downrange or in a safe direction when using the overhand method of racking a slide from the rear.



The most effective way to work a pistol's action is to grasp the slide over the top, just in front of the rear sight, using all of the fingers of the support hand, and to rack it to the rear. At the end of its rearward travel, simply let it go, and let the slide return to battery under the pistol's own spring tension.

The second downside deals with the pinkie finger of your support hand. Particularly with shooters new to learning this method, the pinkie can cover the ejection port. If the reason you're working the slide is to clear a malfunction, this little finger might just be an obstruction.

Worse yet, if you have big hands or are sloppy in grabbing the slide, your whole hand is in the way. I know of at least three competitive shooters who have scars on the fingers or palm of their left hand from unloading, having their hand in the way, struggling with the now-recalcitrant pistol and having the round that's trying to get out inadvertently go off.

Admittedly, three shooters aren't many considering the tens of thousands of competitive shooters I've met and for the many millions of rounds we have all fired. But who wants to be "that guy"?

A traditional rear blade sight or adjustable match target sight known for having sharp corners can be painful for shooters used to employing the overhand method of working the slide. The current popularity the overhand method enjoys should be partly credited to the prolific use of lower-profile, ramped-style sights.

Slide-Mounted Safeties

So far, we've been discussing the use of slide serrations in terms of pistols such as the Model 1911, which feature a frame-mounted safety, or various striker-fired ones with internal safeties.

Pistols with slide-mounted safeties, such as the Beretta 92FS, have problems with both methods. It is all too easy, with pretty much any of them except the spring-loaded variants, to push the slide-mounted safety from a Fire to a Safe position when working the slide. When you have a slide-mounted safety, it is on you to keep the lever where you need it.



Forward Serrations Now, on to pistols with forward cocking serrations. As I've mentioned, the sharp ones shred leather holsters. They also grate little bits of Kydex off the plastic ones. They add friction to the draw. My biggest problem with forward cocking serrations is the way I too often see them used.

Picture this: The shooter reaches up and over with his left hand and clamps down on the top of the slide, on and forward of the ejection port, with fingers on the cocking serrations. Then, he pulls the slide back. Sound familiar? If this is you, stop it. Stop it right now! If this is not familiar to you, then you're lucky. You're probably not spending much time at a public range.

The problems? First, your fingers are way too close to the muzzle, and the positional dynamics don't work to keep them away from hazard. Second, your hand or thumb fully covers the ejection port.

To avoid that, you can use just the thumb and forefinger, but that means you have to exert more force, and that worsens the third problem; the action moves the muzzle up, more toward you. Last, the action causes your left-hand thumb to collide with your trigger finger. You don't want to be doing anything that discourages proper off-the-trigger finger placement.



Some potential gun buyers are attracted to pistols featuring both front and rear slide serrations. However, front serrations offer limited benefit and require that the support hand be awkwardly close to the muzzle.

Now, you've probably seen this used by the hotshot shooter at your gun club, the guy who has been to so many tournaments he can't remember them all. Because the hotshot does it is not a reason to learn a bad habit.

The Underhand

Here's the correct way to use forward cocking serrations: Reach under the pistol, from the side, and with your palm facing up, pinch your thumb and as many fingers as you can on the serrations. Pull back. If you are chambering a round, pull back and let go. If you are just checking the chamber, pull back just enough, and let go.

We'll call this the underhand method. Be aware, this is usually a bad way to clear a malfunction. Your left hand doesn't have a lot of space to move, and you may not be able to clear a malfunction properly. This is what I alluded to in the beginning: You sure won't be changing the status of your slide-mounted safety with this method.

I have a mix of methods, a bad habit I learned from the early days. I chamber a round or clear a malfunction with slingshot or overhand, whatever works. I chamber-check with the underhand, and I strive to do everything on a pistol with a slide-mounted safety underhand.

This is true unless I'm using a revolver, and there I just drop the empty one and draw the next one, repeating as necessary. See? There's another reason I like wheelguns.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/sub-1000-seekins-ar-freedom-munitions-223-wylde-g-rifle/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20161114_BlogDigest_198&utm_campaign=/blog/sub-1000-seekins-ar-freedom-munitions-223-wylde-g-rifle/

A Sub-\$1,000 Seekins AR? The Freedom Munitions .223 Wylde G.I. Rifle

by Jon Hodoway on November 11, 2016



The Seekins Precision G.I. rifle from Freedom Munitions combines top-notch quality and features with a sub-\$1,000 price point.

To learn more, visit <https://www.freedommunitions.com/firearms/rifles/seekins-precision-gi-rifle/ar-15-223-seekins-rifle-kit.html>.

To purchase a Seekins product on GunsAmerica.com, click this link:
<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=SEEKINS>.

I was recently sent a gun from a company that I had previously only purchased ammunition from, which was interesting. The good people at [Freedom Munitions](#) had formed a partnership with their neighbors, Seekins Precision, in Lewiston, Idaho. Seekins has a great reputation as a quality boutique manufacturer of AR parts and complete rifles. The cool product of this partnership is that Freedom Munitions is now stocking what they call the [G.I. Rifle](#), which has all the best options that Seekins offers for around a grand! The exciting part is that they have this rifle in stock now, ready to ship to your FFL.

What makes the G.I. rifle so unique is the fact that Seekins Precision rifles are usually not “price point” products. Seekins has a great reputation for quality, and prices their rifles at reasonable ranges for the quality you are receiving. But, these prices often range from above \$1,500 (with some around \$1,250 at the lowest). So, the sub-\$1,000 ballpark price of the G.I. is notable. Sure, \$949.50 is still a lot of money, but you get a lot for that money with this rifle that makes it a real value, in my opinion. Read on to find out more.



The rifle was equipped with the optional 60-degree ambidextrous safety lever, which the author liked.

Unboxing

The GI Rifle came in a plastic hard case precut outlined in the Mil-spec high-density 2.2-lb. polyethylene to match the rifle and all the accessories. Also included were three Freedom Munitions-branded AMEND2 30-round magazines (one comes standard with the rifle). These magazines were black polymer with a textured grip, anti-tilt follower and stainless steel spring. The magazines can be painted with Cerakote.

The rifle has a 16-inch barrel with a twist rate of 1:8, is chambered in .223 Wylde (which means that it can shoot both 5.56x45mm and .223 Remington) and has an ArmorBlak coating. From what I can tell, ArmorBlak is a durable coating that, unlike Melonite, will not affect the heat treatment of the metal. The barrel was capped off with a A2X Flashhider, threaded at 1/2x 28. Covering the barrel was the beautiful 12-inch Seekins Precision [MCSR](#) M-LOK Free Float Handguard. This is a traditional gas-operated gun, featuring an M16 bolt carrier group and an M4 feed ramp. The upper receiver has a Mil-Spec 1913 Picatinny rail feeding into the matching rail on top of handguard.



The buttstock on the G.I. is a Mission First Tactical Battlelink Minimalist MilSpec unit.

The buttstock on the rifle is the [Battlelink Minimalist MilSpec adjustable stock from Mission First Tactical](#). The stock is made from military-grade reinforced, super-tough polyamide. This makes for a very strong yet incredibly light stock. The pistol grip, also from Mission First Tactical, feels good in the hand and has storage in the grip for kit of your choice.

Housed within the lower receiver is a milspec standard trigger. The selector switch is fully ambidextrous and offers you the choice between a 90-degree standard throw lever and a 60-degree short throw lever. My sample rifle was set up with the 60-degree option. The selector has a diamond texture added that aids in maintaining contact with the lever, and it has the added benefit of looking great. The trigger guard is oversized and uniquely-shaped to add to the appearance and facilitate the use of gloves. The bolt catch is the Seekins oversized catch with an aggressive diamond texture for positive operation. Locking the bolt back is facilitated by the bottom portion of the catch, which is also oversized and diamond textured for this reason. Even the mag release button, billet CNC machined from a solid piece of aluminum, is diamond textured to match the other controls.

So, it should be clear by now that while the G.I. rifle has an introductory-level price point, it is very well-appointed on enhancements and feature upgrades. This is not a bone-stock M4-style carbine, but a nicely appointed little rifle.

Let's Be Clear

The following is a clarification to avoid confusion, not necessarily a point of criticism. The G.I. Rifle's upper and lower receiver are CNC made from 7075-T6 aluminum forgings. This is not a complaint, but I want to clarify this, as Seekins is best-known for their very creatively-machined billet receivers. Both the selector switch and bolt catch are manufactured using metal injected molding (MIM). They claim that this allows for the selection of a proprietary material that is considerably stronger than billet or factory milspec.



A 12-inch Seekins Precision MCSR M-LOK Free Float Handguard comes standard on the G.I.

Now, for my opinion: All of the AR-15 style guns that I currently own are manufactured using an aluminum forging. I have never had an issue with this material. I do believe that the billet is a stronger, more durable base to build the gun from. However, on this platform I believe that its advantage is primarily to allow for a higher, more detailed level of artistic customization. I have had some less-than-spectacular results with MIM parts, and as a rule I generally try to avoid them. That being said, I am not in the manufacturing business, nor am I any class of an engineer. I will defer to others who've told me that it is quite probable that the claims made about the process and materials are completely accurate in regards to producing a better part using MIM over machining from billet.



The G.I. has all the features you want from an AR and none that you do not, and all at a great price.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** .223 Wylde
- **Barrel:** 16 inches
- **OA Length:** 30-34 inches
- **Weight:** 7.3 pounds
- **Stock:** Battlelink Minimalist
- **Sights:** None (Picatinny rail)
- **Action:** Direct gas impingement
- **Finish:** Matte black
- **Capacity:** 30+1
- **MSRP:** \$949.50

Range Prep

The GI Rifle did not come with optic or sights installed, and I wanted to choose an optic that reflected the potential of this gun. To that end I mounted up the [MeOpta Meostar 1-6X24 RD](#) with a 30mm main tube. I selected this optic due to its impressive 113-foot field-of-view at 100 yards. It also came with windage and elevation turrets that offered easy adjustments. The illuminated red dot in the center had eight levels of intensity to choose from. Each of these eight settings are followed by an intermediate off position, so that the dot can be turned off and back on without having to cycle through all of the options to return to your preferred level of brightness. Nice! I found that it had plenty of power for daylight use, and the adjustment allowed for use in the faintest amount of ambient light.



The rifle comes with one 30-round polymer magazine branded with the Freedom Munitions logo.

The reticle in this scope is the K-Dot 2, which features a dot in the center framed by horizontal and vertical guidelines. I found that this setup allowed me to bring my eye quickly to the center of the scope. With the magnification set at 1X, this essentially functioned as a red dot optic, allowing me to shoot with both eyes open. The magnification can be dialed up to a power of 6X as needed for performance at longer ranges.

The Meostar 1-6X24 RD was just an incredible scope on all levels. I intend on using this optic as a hunting scope, for self-defense and even for competition shooting. With the clear glass and excellent light-gathering ability, this is a remarkable optic.

Since I had received this rifle from Freedom Munitions, I thought it would only be appropriate to shoot some of their [remanufactured .223 55 grain FMJ](#) through the gun. I also grabbed some [Black Hills 5.56 77 grain Open Tip Match](#) (OTP) as well as some [Aguila 62-gr. FMJBT](#) ammo.

On the Range

Upon arriving at the range, I wanted to zero the scope on the rifle. I had done a bore sighting, so I knew that I would at least be on paper to begin with. To start off, I was using the Freedom Munitions 55-grain FMJ. As usual, the first few rounds were major adjustments, with the subsequent rounds and adjustments becoming progressively smaller. However, I couldn't quite reach the point where I felt like the rifle was really fine-tuned and dialed in. It seemed as if there was some kind of wandering zero, or perhaps that the scope wasn't securely mounted to the rifle. I was just about ready to pack the rifle up and head home when I decided to try one more variable, and that was the ammunition.



The author ran both some remanufactured Freedom Munitions 55-grain ammo as well as some Black Hills 77-grain match ammo through the rifle.

I switched to the 77-grain Black Hills and instantly the rifle began to reveal its true potential. At 100 yards my next three shots, although they did not impact the center of the target, were less than an inch apart and there were only two holes for the three shots! I began to realize that I had cracked the code, and it was apparent to me that the Freedom Munitions loads were simply not capable of producing the accuracy that the rifle could. I went back and analyzed my previous work with the Freedom Munitions rounds and discovered that I was getting about a 3-inch group at 100 yards. But, bear in mind that this is not designed to match ammunition, but rather good remanufactured range and practice loads.

Now that I had the rifle well and truly zeroed, I set about determining the overall functionality of the gun. As I've said many times before, a gun that truly works well is more than just the sum of its parts. First and foremost, I noticed the 60° short throw selector was a pleasure to run, although I do believe that this is going to be one of those love it or hate it features. To me, it was faster and provided a better sense of control than I typically experience with a 90° selector. I plan on installing this on some of my other rifles soon. The other two controls were certainly an improvement over the standard fare, but not quite as pronounced as the selector. The magazine release was an extended version with their diamond texturing, and I found it easy to manipulate without inadvertently dumping a magazine on the ground. The bolt catch/release lever was easy to operate, and provided a superior feel and function as well.

SHOOTING RESULTS

<i>Load</i>	<i>Velocity</i>	<i>Accuracy</i>
Aguila 62-gr. FMJBT	2,908	1.12
Black Hills 77-gr. Match	2,750	.77
Freedom Munitions 55-gr. FMJ	3,160	2.9

Shot for accuracy at 100 yards. Group sizes measured in inches, and velocity in feet per second.

The magazines that came with the gun ran without a single malfunction, and appeared to be sufficiently durable. They don't particularly have any defining features that set them apart from most of the other high-quality polymer magazines on the market today. I also ran a variety of metal and polymer magazines through the gun, and none of them had any issues.

I took this gun to the range several times, and each time the gun performed at 100%. Mind you, there was no cleaning or maintenance done between trips. When I finally took the gun apart for photography, it was obvious that this gun was not some sensitive Sally; it was built for serious purposes.



The G.I. rifle, despite its low price, comes with several upgrades/enhancements such as an enlarged trigger guard and specially textured bolt catch lever.



For those on a budget (like an LE officer buying his own weapon), the G.I. offers a lot of bang for the buck.

Final Thoughts

As they say, you get what you pay for—or at least you should. There are probably a few people out there who are going to tell me what all this-and-that they could get for \$949.50, and how this gun is not a good value, etc. Well I'm putting my money where my mouth is on this one: I sent the folks at Freedom Munitions a check for this particular gun. This G.I. Rifle is light, reliable, and accurate, and it has some innovative controls. Make no mistake, there are certainly cheaper guns out there, and I own a few. There are more expensive guns out there, too, and I own a few of those. Nevertheless, I'm hard-pressed to find a better value in this price range on the market today.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that "A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse."

Thank you,
Paul Curtis
President - CARGO
www.cargogunclub.org

"If you can read this, thank a teacher. For the fact that it is in English, thank a Veteran."

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