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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

[www.cargogunclub.org](http://www.cargogunclub.org)

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

**The next meeting will be the combined November and December meetings and be held at Napoli's on Thursday, December 14th.**

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 **Bar Area** 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 offense 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)

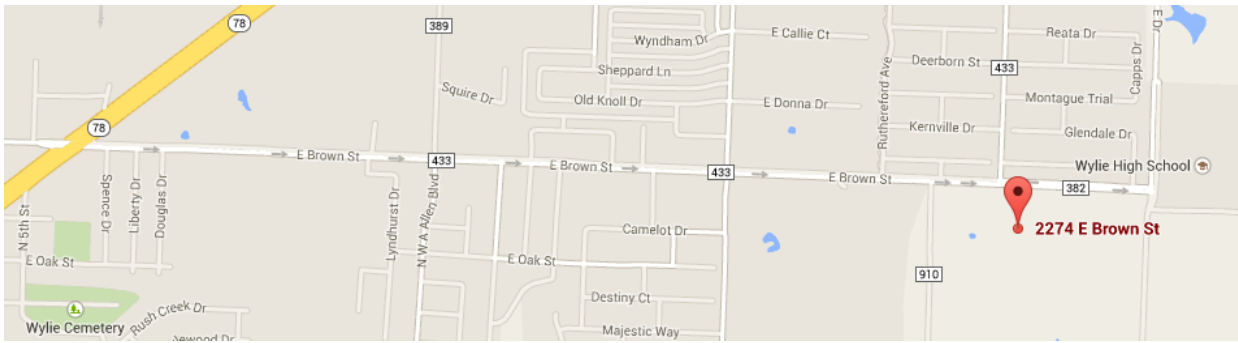
The address is:

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:

- For show and tell, if you have any firearms manufactured by the following:
- **Benelli** Benelli shotguns are generally regarded to be among the world's best, but the initial "Inertia" design for the Benelli semi-automatic shotgun, conceived by inventor Bruno Ciolani, was initially rejected by many gunmakers. How, then, has a relatively young, upstart company - founded in 1967 - grown to become a force to be reckoned with in the shotgun market.
- **Taurus** Forjas Taurus was established in Brazil in Porto Alegre in 1937. It opened an affiliated company in Miami, USA, in 1968 Taurus International began to produce Beretta pistols under license. From the 1990s it began to produce its own range of pistols and revolvers in both countries.
- **Galco Gunleather** Galco International was founded by Richard N. Gallagher in 1969 as a small family business in Chicago, Illinois. Known then as "The Famous Jackass Leather Company," Gallagher specialized in holsters constructed of horsehide.
- **Dan Wesson Firearms** Dan Wesson Arms was incorporated in 1968. The great-grandson of D. B. Wesson, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, had a goal to build the finest revolvers that the shooting world had ever seen. He accomplished this by creating guns that were innovative, virtually indestructible and capable of match-grade accuracy right out of the box.
- **Bushmaster Firearms International** Bushmaster Firearms was founded in 1973 in Bangor, Maine, that went bankrupt and was purchased by Richard Dyke in 1976 and moved to [Windham, Maine](#).
- **Bushmaster Firearms** Bushmaster Firearms was founded in 1973 in Madison, North Carolina. The company is a manufacturer and distributor of firearms, and its known specialty are semi-automatic pistols and AR-15 rifles. Its array of weaponry is used by the military and law enforcement agencies, for home defense, hunting, target competition, and recreational activities.
- **Springfield Armory** Springfield Armory, Inc. is a firearms manufacturer and importer based in Geneseo, Illinois, founded in 1974. It is one of the largest firearm companies in the world. The company is a four-time recipient of the National Rifle Association (NRA) American Rifleman's Golden Bullseye award.
- 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.

**Guest Speaker: Casey Nash** Casey is with Wylie Fire Rescue and will be providing instruction on first aid regarding trauma / gunshot wounds, clotting procedures, etc. This is critical information because many of CARGO members carry firearms on a daily basis. One of the most chilling narratives coming out of the Las Vegas shooting was from a CHL holder and competitive shooter that anguished that she couldn't help more people because she wasn't sure what to do and didn't have the training or supplies to help. Please bring any first aid kits / trauma supplies that you have just in case in your house, car, truck or range bag.

I have been approached by members of CARGO and the community at large about more advanced / intensive training for folks that choose to carry a concealed handgun. As the CHL instructors can attest, many CHL holders fire their handguns when they certify and then very infrequently after that point. With the Texas church shooting, many churches are allowing their members to carry while at church. This is a situation where additional training may make the difference in a life or death situation. I have reached out to two CARGO members Scott Phillips and Larry Browning who both provide advanced pistol training.

Both have offered discounts to CARGO based on the volume of students that we sign up. We are trying to target a Saturday in January or February depending on range availability.

This is information from Larry's classes:

# Tactical & Defensive of Texas

*"The Best Way To Stop A Bad Guy With A Gun, Is A Good Guy With A Gun"*

We all know that bad guys are training to kill us ... wouldn't it be to our advantage to return the favor!

Anyone can purchase a firearm and pull a trigger ... but there are critical weapons skills you should know, that you will not have time to learn in a gunfight.



## Defensive Concealed Handgun

***This is NOT an LTC Class ...  
It is a survive a gunfight class!***

- Situational Awareness
- Command Presence
- Principles Of Marksmanship
- Presentation From Concealed
- Weapon Failures & Malfunctions
- Reloading Techniques
- Engaging Multiple Threats
- Failure To Stop
- Strong & Weak Hand
- Low Light / No Light
- Environment Clearing
- Weapon Transitions\*

Call today to inquire about a private or group Defensive Class

**Winter Special**

**\$450** (pp)

**Call for class information**

Standard Price \$450

**Contact**

**Larry @ 972.989.3278**

Texas DPS LTC/CHL Certified  
NRA Certified  
Advanced Weapon Certs

Member - NRA, TSRA, USCCA

## Tactical & Defensive Of Texas

### Defensive Concealed Handgun Gear Necessary & Critical Information ...

This is NOT a "Learn To Shoot" class ... it is a "Survive a Gunfight" class!

- 1) Primary Handgun (Secondary Handgun If Necessary) (NO Derringers, NO Rifle Round Handguns)
- 2) Minimum 2 Magazines (Three Preferred)
- 3) Minimum 1 Mag Pouch (Two Preferred)
- 4) Quality Strong Side ONLY Holster (NO Crossdraw, SOB's, Shoulder Or Tac Rigs)
- 5) Dress Accordingly For The Weather (Ball Cap, Sun Screen, Jacket, Light Rain Poncho)
- 6) Cover Shirt or Garment (Sport Vest Will Suffice)
- 7) 400 to 700 Rounds Of Factory Target Ammo --- Depending on 1 or 2 day class
- 8) 2 or 3 Snap Caps For Your Caliber Handgun
- 9) Eye & Ear Protection (Eye Glasses or Sun Glasses Will Suffice --- Plugs or Muffs)
- 10) 1 Roll Of 1 Inch Masking Tape (Cream Color)
- 11) Lite Lunch/Snacks, Water/Soft Drinks (NO Alcohol) --- Folding Lawn Chair (Optional)
- 12) Leave your "unloaded" firearm in your vehicle – Do NOT preload your weapon or mags
- 13) Tactical Flashlight w/on-off pressure switch (tail or top) (Maglite, Streamlite, Surefire, or clone)
- 14) If Possibility Of Inclement Weather - Verify Class The Day Before, We Will NOT Call You

Normal Class Duration is 6 to 8 hours – 1 Day Class (\$450) 12 to 14 hours – 2 Day Class (\$600)
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Larry Browning – 972.989.327

Find A Printable Map To The Range On Our Website – [Tac-Def-Tx.com](http://Tac-Def-Tx.com)

Ver. 07.17.15

Larry's has offered a discount to the club / group. Normally the class costs \$450 however, if we have 1-5 students sign up the cost is \$400 for 6-9 students and \$350 for 10 students and above.

I will share the details of the other class option as soon as I get them. Scott's class is the same one that a number of CARGO members have taken in the past initial pricing is \$400/student.

If you have any suggestions for future speakers or topics please send your feedback to [CARGO@att.net](mailto: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](http://www.cargogunclub.org)

## The Latest: 2 men who pursued gunman attend shooting vigil

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas – The Latest on the church shooting in Texas (all times local):

7:50 p.m.

The two men who pursued the gunman after the Texas church shooting visited a vigil together and prayed with community members mourning the 26 people killed in the attack.

Stephen Willeford and Johnnie Langendorff arrived at the vigil with relatives Monday night. They locked arms in a circle and bowed their heads in extended prayer. Many wept openly, including Willeford, who could be seen wiping away tears streaming down his chin.

As the pastor shouted, "Jesus, this is your town," the prayer broke up and the two men left.

Willeford ran from his home with his rifle and confronted the gunman, Devin Kelley, outside the church Sunday. Authorities have said two of the bullets fired by Willeford hit Kelley in the leg and torso. The gunman fled in his vehicle.

Johnnie Langendorff was driving by the church when Willeford flagged him down and they pursued the gunman in Langendorff's truck. Kelley eventually crashed and was found dead in his vehicle.

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7:30 p.m.

A sporting goods chain has confirmed that it sold two firearms to the man who shot up a church in a tiny South Texas community, killing 26 people.

In a statement posted on the company's social media, Katy, Texas-based Academy Sports & Outdoors confirmed that Devin Patrick Kelley bought the weapons from two different San Antonio stores, one in 2016 and one in 2017.

The company also confirmed that the sales were cleared by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

The company extended condolences to the victims and their families and said it was cooperating with investigators.

The Air Force says it failed to report the Texas church shooter's domestic violence conviction to the FBI as required by Pentagon rules. Information about such convictions is supposed to be submitted to the FBI for inclusion in the National Criminal Information Center database.

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7 p.m.

An Air Force couple who retired to La Vernia, Texas, was trying out churches when they were slain in Sunday's shooting in Sutherland Springs.

Robert Marshall tells the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that his son Scott and daughter-in-law Karen were first-time visitors to the First Baptist Church, the scene of a rampage that left dead 26 congregants including children.

Karen Marshall had recently returned to Texas after finishing an assignment at Maryland's Andrews Air Force Base.

Scott Marshall was retired from the Air Force and had been working as a civilian contractor and mechanic at Lackland Air Force Base, about 35 miles west of La Vernia.

The couple met while they were in the service together more than 30 years ago.

Another victim identified on Facebook by her family was 16-year-old Hailey Krueger.

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6:20 p.m.

Texas law enforcement authorities say the gunman who killed 26 members of a church on Sunday was shot three times, twice by a citizen.

Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Director Freeman Martin says Devin Patrick Kelley was shot in his leg and torso by a citizen who pursued him after hearing gunfire. Martin says the third was, "consistent with being self-inflicted."

Authorities say they've collected hundreds of shell casings and 15 magazines that hold 30 rounds each at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, where Kelley opened fire Sunday.

The dead ranged from 18 months to 77 years old and included multiple members of some families.

Authorities say 10 victims remain in critical condition and four are in serious condition.

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5:35 p.m.

The Air Force says it failed to report the Texas church shooter's domestic violence conviction to the FBI as required by Pentagon rules.

Devin Patrick Kelley was convicted of assault against his wife and stepson in an Air Force court-martial in New Mexico in 2012. The conviction should have disqualified him from buying or possessing firearms.

Information about such convictions is supposed to be submitted to the FBI for inclusion in the National Criminal Information Center database.

The Air Force said in a statement that the top two Air Force officials — Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein — have ordered a review of the Kelley case.

Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek says the Pentagon will also ensure records in other cases have been reported correctly across the Department of Defense.

The church shooting left 26 people dead and 20 wounded.

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5 p.m.

The man some call a hero for engaging in a shootout with the Texas church gunman is a former National Rifle Association instructor.

Stephen Willeford says in an interview with KHBS/KHOG television in Arkansas that he was at home in Sutherland Springs when his daughter heard gunfire at the church.

Willeford says he retrieved his rifle, loaded it and ran barefoot to the church. He says: "I kept hearing the shots, one after another, very rapid shots ... and I knew every one of those shots represented someone."

Willeford says he hid behind a pickup truck and exchanged fire with the gunman, adding: "I know I hit him."

The gunman, Devin Kelley, got into his vehicle and fled. Willeford says he ran to a pickup truck and asked the driver, later identified as Johnnie Langendorff, to help him.

They sped after the gunman. Kelley's vehicle hit a road sign and flipped into a roadside ditch.

Willeford says he got out of the truck, perched his rifle on the truck's rooftop and yelled, "get out of the truck," but saw no movement. Law enforcement came to the scene. They believe the gunman took his own life.

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4:35 p.m.

The American flag mounted on the fence of Michael Ward's home in Sutherland Springs was hanging upside down Monday. Neighbors say it had been that way since the Oct. 1 Las Vegas shooting, an apparent memorial to the 58 victims of that attack.

Now the Ward family has lost several relatives, including children, in the Texas church shooting.

Leslie Ward was setting up for a yard sale at the house when she heard gunfire.

Her husband, Michael Ward, tells The Dallas Morning News that he ran inside the church and carried out his 5-year-old nephew, Ryland, who had four gunshot wounds.

Ryland was transferred by helicopter to a San Antonio hospital. The boy's mother and two of his sisters were among 26 people killed.

On Monday, items were arranged for the yard sale, but no one was there. The flag remained upside down.

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4:15 p.m.

The owner of a restaurant and store across the street from the Texas church shooting says she sheltered one bloodied survivor.

Terrie Smith says she saw the shooter's body "shaking" from the recoil of his weapon as he opened fire outside the church

Fighting back tears, Smith said she and several customers fell to the ground and crawled back to the store.

She says they locked themselves in and heard firing while the gunman was inside the church.

Smith says that a victim ran out "all bloody in his arms and face." She says: "We let him in. He said 'somebody went in and shot everybody. My family is in there, my family is in there.'" The unidentified man then fell to the ground.

The shooting left 26 people dead and 20 injured.

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3:15 p.m.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz says that the "bravery and courage" of a citizen who shot back at the gunman in the Texas church attack should be celebrated.

The Republican senator from Texas spoke after talking to law enforcement officials and visiting the church in Sutherland Springs where Devin Kelley killed 26 people and wounded about 20 more.

When a reporter asked Cruz about gun control, he noted the recent terrorist attack with a truck in New York and said "Evil is evil."

He then lauded the "ordinary citizen" who engaged the gunman. Cruz says that law enforcement officers showed him where the citizen hid behind a car and took incoming shots from the gunman.

Cruz said he asked law enforcement what would have happened if the citizen had not used his own gun to confront Kelley. Cruz said they responded that the death toll would have been higher.

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2:45 p.m.

The gunman in a mass shooting at a Texas church had been arrested for animal cruelty in Colorado in 2014.

An El Paso County Sheriff's Office affidavit says deputies arrested Devin Patrick Kelley at a Colorado Springs RV park where he lived.

One neighbor told a deputy that Kelley chased the young husky, jumped on top of it and struck the dog with a closed fist several times. Another neighbor says Kelley grabbed the dog, threw it into the air, then onto the ground and dragged it to his camper.

Kelley initially refused to leave the camper to speak with officers in the Aug. 1, 2014 incident. He denied abusing the dog.

Officers arrested Kelley for misdemeanor animal cruelty and took the Husky to a veterinary center.

Kelley was given a deferred probationary sentence and was ordered to pay \$368 in restitution. He complied with the sentence.

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2:40 p.m.

Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen Pence, will travel to Texas on Wednesday to meet with those affected by Sunday's church shooting.

Announcing his travel plans in a tweet, Pence says he will visit family members of those killed, those injured in the attack, and first responders in Sutherland Springs.

Pence says, "We are with you Texas."

At least 26 people were killed Sunday by a lone gunman, identified by police as Devin Kelley, and about 20 more were wounded.

President Donald Trump is in the midst of a 12-day trip to Asia.

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2:20 p.m.

The wife of the First Baptist Church pastor says it gives her "a sliver of encouragement" that their 14-year-old daughter was surrounded by her church family when she died in the shooting.

Sherri Pomeroy says Annabelle Pomeroy was with "the church family that she loved fiercely and vice versa."

Pastor Frank Pomeroy and Sherri Pomeroy were out of town when the gunman opened fire Sunday at the church in Sutherland Springs, killing 26 people and wounding about 20. The gunman was later found dead in his vehicle.

Speaking at a news conference Monday, Sherri Pomeroy said, "Our church was not comprised of members or parishioners. We were a very close family." She added: "Now most of our church family is gone."

She said that her daughter, who she called Belle, would have struggled to deal with losing so many people.

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12:20 p.m.

Authorities in Texas say law enforcement went to the home of the suspected church gunman three years ago to investigate a domestic violence complaint involving him and his then-girlfriend.

Paul Anthony, a spokesman for the Comal County district attorney's office, told The Associated Press that sheriff's deputies were called just after 10 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2014, to the New Braunfels home of Devin Patrick Kelley and his family.

Citing a sheriff's office report, Anthony says a friend of Kelley's girlfriend told authorities she received a text message from the girlfriend that indicated "her boyfriend was abusing her." When sheriff's deputies arrived at the home, they were told by people in the house that there was no problem.

No arrests were made. Kelley married Danielle Shields two months later.

Kelley was discharged from the Air Force the same year after being punished for allegedly assaulting his spouse and child.

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11:25 a.m.

The special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives field office in Houston says three guns have been recovered from the suspect in the deadly church shootings in Texas.

Fred Milanowski (mil-uh-NOW'-skee) said during a news conference Monday that officers recovered a Ruger AR-556 rifle at the church.

Milanowski said two additional handguns were recovered from the vehicle driven by Devin Patrick Kelley — a Glock 9mm and a Ruger .22-caliber. Milanowski says all three weapons were purchased by the now-deceased suspect.

Freeman Martin with the Texas Department of Public Safety said Kelley did not have a license to carry a handgun. He says he did have a "noncommissioned, unarmed private security license similar to a security guard at a concert-type situation."

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11:10 a.m.

Officials say that the 26 people killed in a shooting at a small South Texas church range in age from 18 months to 77 years old.

Freeman Martin, a regional director of the Texas Department of Safety, said Monday that 20 were injured in the shooting Sunday morning at the church in Sutherland Springs. Martin says 10 people were still hospitalized in critical condition.

Martin said those treated in hospitals ranged in age from 5 to 73.

Authorities have said that Devin Patrick Kelley is suspected of killing 26 people during the shooting in Sutherland Springs. He was later found dead.

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11 a.m.

Authorities say the gunman who opened fire in a Texas church had sent threatening text messages to his mother-in-law, who attended the church.

Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Director Freeman Martin said Monday that the mass shooting stemmed from a domestic situation and was not racially or religiously motivated.

Authorities say that evidence at the scene leads them to believe that Devin Patrick Kelley died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after he crashed his car. He had been chased by armed bystanders.

They say Kelley also used his cellphone to tell his father that he had been shot and didn't think he would survive.

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10:10 a.m.

Authorities believe the man suspected of killing 26 people and injuring about 20 others at a Texas church shot himself following a car wreck.

Wilson County Sheriff Joe D. Tackitt Jr. tells CBS News that police found Devin Patrick Kelley dead inside his vehicle Sunday shortly after the shootings in Sutherland Springs.

Tackitt says Kelley was being pursued by two community members and investigators believe gunfire was exchanged before Kelley's vehicle crashed.

The sheriff says investigators believe Kelley shot himself after the wreck.

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10 a.m.

The man suspected of killing 26 people and injuring about 20 more at a Texas church had previously been charged with misdemeanor animal cruelty in east-central Colorado.

Court records in El Paso County indicate Devin Patrick Kelley was cited on Aug. 1, 2014, when he lived in a mobile home park near Colorado Springs. He was given a deferred probationary sentence and was ordered to pay \$368 in restitution. The charge was dismissed in March 2016 after Kelley completed his sentence.

The Denver Post reports court records indicate someone was granted a protection order against Kelley on Jan. 15, 2015, also in El Paso County.

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9:50 a.m.

A manager at a vacation resort says the gunman who opened fire at a Texas church worked for the resort as security guard.

Claudia Varjabedian is a manager at the Summit Vacation Resort in New Braunfels. She told The Associated Press on Monday that Devin Patrick Kelley had been working there the past month and a half.

She says Kelley "seemed like a nice guy" and didn't give her any problems. She said he worked unarmed on his shift as the day security guard.

The riverside resort in the Texas Hill Country is near Kelley's apparent home off a rural highway. Sheriff's deputies were still blocking the gate to his property Monday morning.

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9:35 a.m.

Several people remain hospitalized after a shooting at a South Texas church that killed 26 and injured more than 20 others.

An official with University Health System in San Antonio said five people remained hospitalized Monday — three children and two adults. Martha Rendon (ren-DOHN') says the patients range in age from 4 to 57 years old, with their conditions listed as being from serious to critical.

Rendon also says one of the victims who died Sunday was a pediatric patient that had been transported to the hospital. She declined to release further details on the child.

A spokeswoman for Connally Memorial Medical Center in Floresville said one person was listed in stable condition Monday. Megan Posey declined to release additional details on the patient.

Officials with Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, which received eight patients on Sunday, did not immediately provide an update Monday.

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8:35 a.m.

Officials in Texas have confirmed the identity of the man suspected of killing 26 people at a South Texas church.

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Monday morning said 26-year-old Devin Patrick Kelley is the suspect. DPS said that Kelley lived in New Braunfels, which is about 35 miles north of the Sutherland Springs church where the shooting occurred.

A short time after the shooting Sunday, the suspect was found dead in his vehicle at the county line.

On Sunday, two officials who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity had identified the gunman as Kelley.

DPS says more information will be released later Monday.

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8:20 a.m.

A South Carolina musician with a similar name as the man identified as the gunman in a mass shooting at a Texas church says he's frustrated by hateful message he's received online.

Devin Patrick said on his Facebook page late Sunday that he's saddened by the shooting but at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. But Patrick says his only connection with the tragedy is his name and asks people not to contact him about the shooting.

Authorities have identified the gunman as Devin Patrick Kelley. Officials say 26 people were killed Sunday in an attack that claimed people ranging in age from 5 to 72 years old.

Authorities said about 20 others were wounded. The suspect was later found dead in his vehicle.

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8:10 a.m.

School districts surrounding a South Texas town where a gunman killed 26 people at a church have added counselors to help comfort children, their families and staff.

Sutherland Springs is a town of about 400 that does not have its own school. Nearby districts offered messages of caring and concern Monday, a day after the gunfire. Officials say the victims ranged in age from 5 to 72 years old.

Superintendent Sherri Bays, of the Floresville Independent School District, wrote: "Our hearts are breaking for the families of the deceased and injured."

District spokeswoman Kim Cathey says some Sutherland Springs children attend Floresville ISD schools. Cathey had no immediate information on whether any victims were from the district.

Similar messages of prayers and support were offered by the Stockdale ISD and the La Vernia ISD.

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7:45 a.m.

A sheriff says the former in-laws of a man suspected of killing 26 people at a Texas church attended services there "from time to time."

Wilson County Sheriff Joe D. Tackitt Jr. told CNN Monday morning that the former in-laws weren't in attendance Sunday when the shooting occurred. He says it wasn't clear why the gunman picked that day for the shooting.

The mass shooting occurred Sunday morning at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, about 30 miles southeast of San Antonio. About 20 others were wounded in the attack.

Two officials who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity identified the gunman as Devin Kelley. An Air Force spokeswoman said records confirm Kelley received a bad conduct discharge after being court-martialed in 2012 for assaulting his spouse and child.

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7:05 a.m.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is suggesting there may have been a connection between the gunman who shot and killed 26 people in a South Texas community and the Baptist church where the slayings happened.

Abbott tells ABC's "Good Morning America" he expects people will learn about any such link "in a few days." He said he didn't want to go further, saying "law enforcement is looking very aggressively into this."

"I don't think this was just a random act of violence," Abbott told anchor George Stephanopoulos. But when pressed to elaborate on his connection theory, the governor replied that "it's very important that law enforcement have the ability ... to tie the loose ends of this investigation up."

He called the man, identified by a U.S. official and one in law enforcement as Devin Kelley, "a very deranged individual."

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3:30 a.m.

Authorities say a gunman armed with an assault rifle opened fire inside a small South Texas church, killing 26 people who ranged in age from 5 to 72.

The mass shooting occurred Sunday morning at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, about 30 miles southeast of San Antonio. About 20 others were wounded in the attack.

Two officials who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity identified the gunman as Devin Kelley. An Air Force spokeswoman said records confirm Kelley received a bad conduct discharge after being court-martialed in 2012 for assaulting his spouse and child.

Wilson County Sheriff Joe D. Tackitt Jr. described the scene inside the church as "terrible."

Investigators have not yet determined a motive for the attack.

<http://www.tacticalshit.com/bomb-shell-under-fire/>

## Bomb Shell, Under Fire

POSTED ON OCTOBER 10, 2017 BY MO\_TARD IN [INTERVIEW](#)

### [Jamie Villamor](#)

Jamie Villamore is a Bullets and Bombshells model of Instagram fame that has worked in the past for Tactical Shit. Not just another pretty face in the gun community, but also one hell of a shooter found herself, smack dab in the middle of Route 91 Harvest festival on the receiving end of sustained plunging fire, in an interview with Tactical Shit she recanted what she saw, what she did and how training may of saved her life that night.



*It's so crazy we train scenarios all day.*

*Never would I have imagined I would literally have to run for my life vs fight back. In this case there was no real way to identify the threat because of the rate of rapid fire.*

*Being inside the concert nobody had access to firearms but even if we did in this scenario it would have done us no good. I felt & still feel there were multiple shooters without a doubt. When I heard the 1st few rounds crack off my man & I looked at each other and both knew what we heard we took off running to get out of the middle of the field.*

*I remember everyone yelling to get down yet 75% of the people didn't look to take cover instead laid down in an open field.*

*Looking back I wonder if I hadn't had the training I have had if I would have done the same my only regret is not having taken an emt course, which I will now be taking. My bf was able to use his belt as a tourniquet to help a lady that had been shot 2 times in the arm.*

***I felt helpless and wish I could have helped more people.***

*I didn't make it home until after 2am as we were literally trapped on the strip not knowing if there were more shooters. I pin dropped my location to 2 army ranger friends [@sgtandbrad](#) and joe & literally ran 1/2 mile to jump in their truck with them. If anything this has motivated me to train harder and take a few emt courses.*

*Still haven't slept much, down in Daytona for Big 3 East trying out all the new guns and training with [Bat Defense](#). got on a plane hours later to get my ass back in gear.*

With everything going on in the news with the Las Vegas shooting, and the conspiracy theories floating around the MOST IMPORTANT thing to remember is that this was a REAL THING that happened TO REAL PEOPLE. People that we know, and no matter how prepared you are to return fire, sometimes you will be put into situations where that's not an option, and the best thing you can do is to help minimize the loss of life by having the RIGHT TRAINING and be able to keep a clear mind and focus on the task at hand.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/gunfight-science-surviving-cqb-assault/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20171030\\_BlogDigest\\_249&utm\\_campaign=/blog/gunfight-science-surviving-cqb-assault/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/gunfight-science-surviving-cqb-assault/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20171030_BlogDigest_249&utm_campaign=/blog/gunfight-science-surviving-cqb-assault/)

## Gunfight Science: Surviving A CQB Assault

by Fred Mastison on October 26, 2017

To many, time spent on the range consists of standing under a covered shooting line and plinking away at targets anywhere from 10 to 25 yards away. Because of range rules in many locations, we must set our gun on a bench while we reload. Running from a holster is seen as a liability to many ranges. Add to this the fact that many gun owners do not seek any professional training and a recipe for disaster is completely in play. The fact is that a majority of defensive shootings take place at what we will call “bad breath distance.” The aggressor will more than likely already be inside your personal space and the ensuing fight will be a close quarter battle. While a single article can never replace real-world training, I can at least offer a few suggestions to consider.

### Where to Carry



Inside-the-waistband carry rigs are popular with CCW users as they keep the gun tight and close to you while still being easy to access.

If you choose to carry a firearm as a defensive tool, you need to carefully decide where you will carry. Many factors will go into this, such as the gun you carry, your physique and your physical ability. The hard-fast rule, however, is that you need to be able to access the gun quickly and smoothly. There is a reason that hip or appendix style inside the waistband holsters are popular amongst serious shooters. It is because they are easy to access and draw from. They are in natural proximity to our hands and provide sufficient support to our guns. In short, you need to be able to get your gun into the fight right now. There will be no time for fumbling around while you dig it out.

My personal choice of concealed carry is at 2 o'clock on my right hip. I use an inside the waistband holster with two belt clips to ensure the holster stays in place with day to day motion. My choice of this location is based on several factors. First and foremost is that it is easy for me to quickly index my handgun should the need arise. My hand and gun are regularly in close proximity and I am confident in my ability to get my gun into the fight from this position. The second reason is that it is a comfortable location. I carry every day and this has proven to be a solid position for me. If you carry daily, you will quickly find out if your carry location is something that

will be long term. Moving in and out of cars, sitting in various chairs as well as general movement will expose rubbing or jabbing from your rig. The last reason I choose this location is range of motion. While I have had students with almost superhuman flexibility, most people have a regular or even diminished range of motion in their shoulders and arms. Choose a position that you can easily get to without straining yourself in the process.

## Modify Your Presentation



The key to getting your gun into the fight is a quick, clean draw.

If you do actually train on your draw, you should also work on what are called “short draws.” This is a situation where you will not have the time or room to execute your standard presentation. The assailant may be too close to fully extend your weapon and you might have to engage them right as the gun leaves the holster. This is why it is essential that you have a very clean draw stroke with solid muzzle awareness. A close quarter shot using a short draw takes place after you have acquired your grip and drawn the pistol straight up out of the holster. At this point in a good draw you would lower your elbow and in turn, bring the muzzle to bear on the target. The support side hand will either be engaged on your torso or possibly pushing the assailant back. With the gun now out of the holster and pointed in at the attacker you can fire. There are obviously many moving parts to this scenario and you need to absolutely know where your support side hand is in relation to your muzzle. A quick note on firing from this position. You should focus on canting the weapon out towards the ejection port side just slightly to avoid self-induced malfunctions. You should also keep your forearm braced on your body to provide good recoil management. If the gun is too loose it will fire once, but can end up creating a stovepipe malfunction because of a lack of sufficient recoil control.



You must learn to fight from all conceivable positions as anything can happen during an attack.

## Get Back

Once you fire your initial shots on target, you need to work to break contact if at all possible. While John Wick may move from one CQB scenario to another as quickly as he can, we want to get some room to work. The greater the distance between us and the bad guy, the better off we are. Stay focused on the assailant as you move back and continue to engage them until they are out of the fight. Remember that just because they fall down, does not mean they are done. I would also caution you against any set pattern of fire such as the “double tap.” This can lead to a habit of stopping your shooting because of a drill as opposed to a solid result. While a “controlled pair” is a great drill, you should be ready for a “controlled magazine” should the scenario call for it.



A good quality inside-the-waistband holster like this one from Alien Gear is well worth the investment.

## Stay in the Fight

If you are ever attacked in close quarters there is a high probability that you will be injured in some way. It is essential to your survival and the survival of loved ones you are protecting that you do not let this distract you from the fight. The human body is exceptionally resilient and given time, you will heal from injury. You must

armor your mind against pain and doubt as you fight. You should have an aggressive mindset and overwhelm your attacker. A fast, deliberate and violent response to an attack will break the assailant mentally as well as physically. There are no half-measures in close quarters fighting. By turning the tables on the attacker, they will very likely whither from the fight. They did not choose you as a target because they wanted to fight. They choose people they believe will be easy targets.

## **Train**

This sounds like a broken record, but training is essential. There are many factors that you must experience in professional training that you will never get in an article. I am constantly amazed at the number of people that have never shot at targets at arm's length. The sound and percussion that you get in these scenarios need to be experienced firsthand. My sincere hope is that you will never have to use these skills in a deadly encounter. My other hope though is that if you are forced into it, that you respond with a well-developed set of skills and win the day.

From the CMP (thank you Danny G.):

## CMP 1911 Information

To all CMP constituents:

The CMP Board of Directors has discussed at length how the sales of 1911s would be handled, if the CMP were to ever receive them from the United States Army.

### Some preliminary decisions further clarified:

1. Decisions concerning the grade and pricing of the 1911s will not be made until inspection has occurred of a substantial quantity which will take an estimated 150 days post receipt.
2. All laws pertaining to the sale of 1911s by CMP will be strictly obeyed.
3. Potential purchasers will have to provide to CMP a new set of documents exhibiting: 1) proof of U.S. Citizenship, 2) proof of membership in a CMP affiliated club, 3) proof of participation in a marksmanship activity, 4) a new form 2A with notary, 5) a signed copy of the 01 Federal Firearms License in which the 1911 will be transferred to.
4. A NICS background check will be performed by CMP on the customer to assure the customer is eligible to purchase prior to shipment to the FFL licensed dealer. The customer must receive a "proceed" from NICS prior to shipment of the pistol to the FFL licensed dealer.
5. The CMP customer will be required to complete a form 4473 in person at the FFL dealers place of business, successfully passing a NICS check performed by the FFL holder, before the pistol can be transferred. This is a second NICS check performed on the customer.
6. Qualified CMP customer will only be allowed to purchase one 1911 per calendar year.
7. No 1911s available in the CMP stores, or on line, only mail order sales.
8. CMP will set the date in which it will accept orders for the 1911s. The date will be posted to the world.
9. Orders will only be accepted via mail order delivery.
10. Orders will only be accepted post marked on the date or after, no early orders.
11. Once CMP receives 10,000 orders, customer names will be loaded into the Random Number Generator.
12. The Random Number Generator will provide a list of names in sequence order through a random picking process to CMP.
13. Customers will be contacted in the sequence provided by the Random Number Generator.
14. When the customer is contacted a list of 1911 grades and pricing options that are available will be offered for selection of one.

[www.TheCMP.org](http://www.TheCMP.org)

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### CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park

*The Most Modern and Advanced Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun Range in the United States*

The latest addition to the CMP is its 500-acre outdoor marksmanship facility in Talladega, Alabama. The park is the first of its kind in the country and is one of the most sophisticated in the world - housing electronic targets similar to those used in the CMP air gun ranges.

15. As CMP proceeds down the sequenced list less grade and pricing options will be available. Again, this done completely random.

**Note:** 1911 type pistols purchased from CMP cannot be transferred to 03 FFL (curio and relic) license. BATF and the United States Army prefer the second background check be performed by a "store front" FFL dealer. Each customer purchasing a 1911 type pistol from CMP will be subjected to two NICS background checks, one performed by CMP and the other performed by the FFL dealer the pistol is being shipped to.

Mark Johnson  
Chief Operating Officer  
Civilian Marksmanship Program  
[www.thecmp.org](http://www.thecmp.org)

The range also contains pistol and shotgun opportunities, including a 5 Stand Field and Sporting Clays. At the heart of the facility stands 13,000 square feet of stunning craftsmanship in the CMP Park Club House. Guests are treated with a back patio area that overlooks the 600-yard range and beautiful mountain views.

For more information,  
[CLICK HERE.](#)

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/stoners-space-age-shoot-off-m16a1-versus-ar-18/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20171030\\_BlogDigest\\_249&utm\\_campaign=/blog/stoners-space-age-shoot-off-m16a1-versus-ar-18/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/stoners-space-age-shoot-off-m16a1-versus-ar-18/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20171030_BlogDigest_249&utm_campaign=/blog/stoners-space-age-shoot-off-m16a1-versus-ar-18/)

## **Stoner's Space Age Shoot-Off—The M16A1 Versus the AR-180**

by Will Dabbs on October 20, 2017

### **The Relative Merits of Black Rifle Evolution**



The original 1956-era AR-10 demonstrates the rudiments of the eventual definitive design.



The original ArmaLite AR-10 had its charging handle as a trigger of sorts nestled within the charging handle.

ArmaLite began as a tiny little division of Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation in the early 1950s. Fairchild built a variety of trainer and transport aircraft during and after World War II. Their most recognizable creation was the 1970s-era A10 Warthog ground attack fighter.

Gene Stoner was the chief bottle washer at ArmaLite, and their mandate was to contrive the most technologically advanced military firearms designs on the planet. With a modest team of engineers, a few resources, and a remarkable excess of vision, these guys first strived to apply cutting-edge aviation technology to the development of small arms. Their efforts changed the way the world makes guns.

At the time the world's proper Infantry weapons were all forged steel and oiled walnut. By contrast, the ArmaLite AR-10, itself the 7.62×51 mm precursor to the AR15, was built from aircraft aluminum and phenolic polymers. The gun's earliest barrels were even made from thin steel sleeves embedded within an aluminum tube. After one of these rigs exploded brilliantly during a military demonstration the ArmaLite guys went back to more conventional steel barrels.



In the round polymer forearm and triangular front sight base of the AR-10, we see the beginnings of the M16.



The M16A1 was the definitive model of the M16 used by the US military during the late 1960s, 70s, and 80s.

The extraordinary lines of those early black rifles were legitimately unlike anything else in the world. We are today jaded to polymer furniture, inline buttstocks, and aluminum gun parts. In 1956, however, this was heady stuff indeed. To a generation raised on Saturday afternoon Buck Rogers serials, the AR15 was science fiction incarnate. Despite some early challenges, the M16 went on to become the longest-serving military rifle in American history.

The direct gas impingement system that defined Stoner's lightweight new rifle was drawn from the WWII-era Swedish Ljungman Automatgevär AG42 rifle. The machined aluminum receivers mimic aircraft structural components. The polymer pieces had their origins in the synthetic Bakelite of WWII.

Stoner designed the 5.56×45 mm round the AR15 fired using a modified .222 sporting cartridge as a foundation. The resulting rifle was radical to its core. American industry was capable of building such a high tech gun. Most of the rest of the world was not. Now hold that thought.



## Morphological Details



The familiar T-shaped charging handle had its debut in the 5.56mm AR15.



The polymer buttstock on the M16A1 was very similar to that of the AR-10 only smaller.

The AR-10 was the grandfather. In its odd space-age architecture, one can divine the rudiments of the definitive model yet to come. The plastic furniture bears a similarity to that of the later AR-15, while the iconic carrying handle and triangular front sight base begin to take form. The charging handle on those early guns was a trigger-looking appendage that slid within the carrying handle rather than today's more familiar T-shaped apparatus.

The standardized M16A1 had evolved significantly by the time it was serving in the torrid jungles of Vietnam. The slick black triangular handguards sported cooling holes aplenty along with stamped heat shields to help keep them comfortable at high round counts. The sling attachment point was on the absolute wrong side of the buttstock for tactical employment but was rendered as a rigid appendage on the A1 model. This did little to make the gun easy to tote but did produce a nasty hand-to-hand weapon should some unfortunate American dogface ever have to resort to the art of the butt stroke.



*The M16A1*



The recoil system telescoped into the buttstock such that the gun produced an audible twang with each round fired. Many's the sweltering day I spent sweating on a military firing range as that buffer assembly cycled mere millimeters from my face. The overall experience was a visceral thing for a young soldier just getting comfortable in his uniform.

Despite the success of the M16, ArmaLite never planned on producing weapons. They were a think tank of sorts whose mission it was to design new guns and then farm them out for production under license. This was the reason most of those early ArmaLite rifles ended up with Colt's prancing pony on the mag well. When the cash cow that was the AR rifle had been sucked dry it was time to build something new.

## Generations



*The M16A1*

The M16 was a truly revolutionary rifle design. However, building one required the capacity to forge and machine aluminum to tight tolerances, draw stainless steel tubing, and manipulate parts in the same manner as the flourishing aerospace industry. In an effort at producing a rifle that was a bit easier to build in nations that perhaps lacked the technological wherewithal of the United States, Gene and his pals went back to the drawing board.

The next generation was actually called the AR-16. It fired 7.62x51mm, just like the original AR-10. The AR-16 massaged some of the high tech aspects of the previous design to allow the rifle to be built in simpler spaces. The AR-16 forewent the complicated forged receivers of the M16 in favor of simplified stamped steel versions.



The Nazis showed the world exactly what advanced mass production techniques could do when they were unleashed upon small arms production. The MP40 submachine gun was the first example of a truly mass produced handheld automatic weapon. The MP44 could be churned out en masse by semi-skilled workers and might have changed the course of the war had it showed up a little earlier. The AR-16 was a variation on this theme.

In the process of this rethink, Mr. Stoner dispensed with the controversial direct gas impingement system of the M16 in favor of a more conventional gas piston design. American troops died in combat in Vietnam when the M16 rifles they were issued failed in the fetid filth of the Southwest Asian jungles. The elegant direct gas impingement design spilled scads of crud back into the rifle's guts and was fairly maintenance-intensive as a result. The gas piston on the AR-16 was intended to remedy that.

Mr. Stoner left ArmaLite soon thereafter. As a result, the AR-16 died a natural death. However, another engineer named Arthur Miller designed a scaled-down 5.56x45 mm version called the AR-180 that was a piece of work indeed.

#### Technical Specifications

	<b>AR-180</b>	<b>M16A1</b>
<b>Caliber</b>	5.56x45mm	5.56x45mm
<b>Barrel Length</b>	18.25 in	20 in
<b>Overall Length</b>	38 in (Extended)	39.5 in
<b>Weight</b>	6.7 lbs	6.35
<b>Action</b>	Short-stroke piston	Direct Impingement
<b>Magazine Capacity</b>	20/30/40	20/30/40

## Differences



The ArmaLite AR-180 was designed after the M16 and was intended to be both more reliable and easier to produce.

The AR-180 was the semiauto civilian version of the selective fire AR-18 combat rifle. This gun was produced variously in England, California and Japan during the course of its production run. Most American enthusiasts got their introduction to the gun in the hands of Arnold Schwarzenegger's cyborg in the first *Terminator* movie.



Many Americans' first introduction to the ArmaLite AR-180 was by watching the James Cameron science fiction classic *Terminator*. *The movie still purchased from Moviestillsdb.com for editorial use.*



The receivers of the AR180 were pressed out of sheet steel for ease of production. The rigid charging handle reciprocated with the bolt.

Where the M16 sports a complicated T-shaped charging handle that effectively seals the action against most battlefield grime, the AR-180 uses a rigid reciprocating appendage. This simplified implement means that the operator can just grab the bolt and muscle it around in the event of a stoppage, so there is no need for a mechanical forward assist. The recoil system on the AR-180 is in the forearm, so the buttstock is free to fold to the side. The magazine releases on both guns are philosophically different yet mechanically similar.

The rear sight on the AR-180 is easily adjustable without a tool, while that of the M16 requires the point of a bullet. The front sights on both guns are nicely fenced and similarly adjustable for elevation with any sharp implement. The selector on the AR-180 is stamped but is in the same spot and works the same way as that of the M16.

Both the AR-180 and M16A1 use the same magazines with a caveat. The magazine release of the AR-180 grabs the magazine via a thin slot not typically present on most M16 boxes. A steady hand with a Dremel tool and a cutoff wheel will convert an M16 mag to AR-180 standards in maybe five minutes.



The solid buttstock of the AR180 was free to fold, as the recoil system was all contained forward in the forearm.

## Range Work

Both the M16A1 and the AR-180 have barrels of similar heft. This makes them both lightweight and maneuverable guns. Recoil from the 5.56mm is piddly no matter what throws it, so both guns are comparably pleasant.



The AR-180

## Performance Specifications

M16A1/AR-180

<u>Load</u>	<u>Velocity</u>	<u>Group Size</u>
Federal 55-gr. FMJ	3,144 fps/3,029 fps	2.75 in./3.2 in.

*Velocity is the average of 3 rounds fired across a Caldwell ballistic Chronograph oriented 10 feet from the muzzle. Group Size is the best four of five shots measured center to center fired from a simple rest at 100 meters.*



The flash suppressor on the AR180 was left open like that of the very early AR-15.

The buttstock on the M16A1 is beefier and subsequently a bit more comfortable than that of the later rifle. In these heady days of collapsing and telescoping everything, it is easy to forget how awesome that old solid M16 stock feels against your cheek. As a result, the M16A1 is slightly more manageable at longer ranges.

Both rifles are about the same length, so they both move around corners at about the same rate. The side-folding stock of the AR-180 makes for handier storage, but I can imagine no circumstance under which one might want to run the gun in this configuration. The open-tipped flash suppressor on the AR-180 grossly differs from the closed birdcage of the M16A1, but they seem comparably effective in dim light.

The real differences between these two platforms arise when you run the guns fast. My M16A1 drops its magazines freely and quickly when you stroke the magazine release. My AR-180 usually requires a little tug. Both guns lock their bolts to the rear on the last round fired.

The ergonomics for the M16 set the world standard. Refresh the magazines and slap the bolt release to get the M16 back in action. Only the Thompson submachine gun is faster. On the Tommy gun, the bolt locks back on the last round and you simply swap magazines and squeeze the trigger to get the gun running again. In the case of the AR-180 one must pull back slightly on the charging handle to release the bolt over a fresh magazine. To do so quickly inevitably involves tilting the gun slightly to improve access with the weak hand. This chore is almost as fast though incrementally more complicated than the similar drill on the M16A1.



The bolt assemblies of the AR-180 and the M16A1 are similar but not interchangeable.

## Parting Shots

The AR-180 was markedly easier to build than was the M16A1, and it benefitted from a generation's worth of engineering evolution not available in 1956 when Gene and his buddies birthed the AR-10. However, in its practical respects both the M16A1 and its younger sibling the AR-180 run about the same. The personality of the two rifles is different due to the twanging recoil spring in the butt of the earlier gun, but they each throw bullets with comparable alacrity. The M16A1 is incrementally faster and incrementally more comfortable than the later gun but not by a great margin.



While there are distinct similarities between the entrails of the M16A1 and the subsequent AR180, differences abound.

The AR-180 never made much of a splash militarily speaking, while the M16 still soldiers on in US military service more than half a century after its conception. However, the AR180 went on to inspire the likes of the HK G36, the Steyr AUG, and the British SA80, all modern designs with plenty of combat cred. So long as each gun is shown appropriate attention with a cleaning kit they are both comparably effective tactical tools.

<http://www.thefirearmblog.com/blog/2014/07/11/umos-universal-manual-operating-system-pump/>

## The UMOS – Universal Manual Operating System Pump Action AR-15 Kit



*Updated.* Your eyes do not deceive you. That is not a free-float fore-end. It is indeed a pump-action [AR-15](#), named the UMOS by [Bentwood Gunsmithing](#) of Nevada.



The UMOS, or Universal [Manual](#) Operating System is a novel retrofit [kit](#) for AR-15s that utilizes existing [barrels](#), bolt carriers, and receivers, to convert a semi-automatic rifle into a pump-action centerfire wonderkind. As an added bonus, converting the rifle to manual operation has quite a few benefits.

- Manually operated rifles are not “banned” or “controlled” in most states, allowing you to have detachable magazines and other “naughty” bits
- You can create a ridiculously quite subsonic build

- [Hunt](#) with an “AR” in states that ban semi-autos.
- Have a familiar stroke for [manual](#) 3-gun divisions.



Compatible with [carbine](#), mid-length, and full [rifle](#) barrels, the kit itself weighs in at 21.5 ounces (which is not bad, considering it replaces the gas block, handguards, etc.) and consists of six [parts](#), with six screws holding it together tightly:

1. Barrel nut,
2. Barrel bushing,
3. Main [tube](#),
4. Operating rod,
5. Pump
6. Pump key



There are a few limitations, namely the [barrel](#) is not free-floated as the [tube](#) affixed to the gas block journal, completely plugging covering the gas port. Bentwood says this may affect accuracy but match grade [barrels](#) will maintain their groups when used appropriately. Bentwood tested splits and the best were coming in at .39 seconds between shots.



The [kit](#) retails for \$350 with the [sight](#) base an extra \$20. It is 100% made in the USA of T6 aluminum and machined Acetal Nylon. It is currently available direct from Brentwood or currently through two California dealers:

1. Sierra Arms in Modesto, CA
2. J&R Sports in Livermore, CA.

**Gallery Below:**

*The brown [rifle](#) is a Brentwood custom [gun](#) with an Aimpoint PRO and Samson 3x magnifier in a RAM mount. Brentwood did their own Cerakote. The black rifle photos are courtesy of [TheLoadoutRoom](#)*





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*Update: Corrected from “Brentwood” to “Bentwood” and the company is from Nevada.*

[https://gundigest.com/article/6-precision-rifles-bolt-action?utm\\_source=wir&utm\\_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-171016&utm\\_content=975765\\_EDT\\_GD171016&utm\\_medium=email](https://gundigest.com/article/6-precision-rifles-bolt-action?utm_source=wir&utm_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-171016&utm_content=975765_EDT_GD171016&utm_medium=email)  
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## 6 Affordable Precision Rifles — Bolt-Action Edition

By [Elwood Shelton](#) - October 2, 2017

**Precision rifles can cost you an arm and a leg, but there are top-notch and highly accurate options that will still leave you with money for ammunition.**

**What are some affordable precision rifles that won't put you in the poorhouse?**

- [Savage Model 10 GRS](#)
- [Tikka T3x Tactical Compact Rifle](#)
- [Howa HCR](#)
- [Bergara B-14 HMR](#)
- [Remington Model 700 SPS Tactical AAC-SD](#)
- [Savage Model 10 BA Stealth](#)

Truth be told, with a little time, effort and modest investment, a shooter can transform most appropriately chambered modern rifles into precision rifles. But not everyone has an overabundance of those factors.

Luckily, the surging interest in placing a projectile dead on target a country mile away has washed the market with a host of precision rifles. Of course, a gander at some of these fine-tuned instruments can give some shooters second thoughts about their desires for going long. Given the high tolerances the guns require and special material typically called into action, these precision rifles can cost a small fortune.

But take heart; there are precision rifle options for the shooter willing to search that won't break the bank. And that's what we're looking at with the 6 affordable precision rifles listed below, at least when it comes to bolt-actions.

Of course, this talk of affordability is relative. These rifles are \$1,500 or less, which is expensive when compared to the average entry-level model. But when measured against the overall precision rifle market, they're downright steals in some cases. For the marksman dying to really reach out while still putting dinner on the table, these rifles more than fit the bill.

## Savage Model 10 GRS



MSRP: \$1,449

[Savage](#) rifles have built a reputation for being tack drivers and affordable at the same time. But the company has gone above and beyond with its newest creation — the 10 GRS. Marrying Savage’s proven Model 10 short action with the [Norwegian GRS](#) stock has created a precision rifle ready to tackle the greatest distances.

As solid as the company’s actions and button-rifled barrels are, the stock is the bell of this ball. The fiberglass-reinforced nylon [GRS](#) provides the rigidity required for precision work and is intuitive to handle. Additionally, the stock’s pillar-bedding blocks, constructed of 65-percent fiberglass, ensures there’s no play in the Model 10’s free-floating barrel. On top of this, the stock features a fully adjustable cheek riser and length of pull, operated by simple push-button controls.

The rifle is available in calibers perfect for nearly any long-range application, short of hard-target interdiction — .308 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor and 6mm Creedmoor. And the 20-, 24- or 26-inch heavy-fluted barrels on the 10 GRS — depending on caliber — provide superior heat dispersion and plenty of stiffness.

Other top features include 5/8-24 threading for attaching muzzle devices and flush cup sling loops and sling mount for bipod use.

## Tikka T3x Tactical Compact Rifle



**MSRP:** \$1,150

Featuring [Tikka](#)'s rock-solid, single-piece T3 action, this little Finnish gem is accurate and adaptable.

Broached, instead of drilled from bar stock, the action is silky smooth, particularly with the aid of its oversized bolt handle. And it's stiff as overstretched sheets, thanks to the enclosed action design. Conveniently, Tikka has widened the ejection port on the T3 action, now making it possible to feed one round at a time — a difficulty on older models.

A hammer-forged semi-heavy contour 20-inch barrel provides superior [harmonics](#) for its three chamberings — .260 Rem., .308 Win., and 6.5 Creedmoor. And it's hefty enough to shake off the heat from long shot strings.

Tikka's TCR has a more traditional [stock pattern](#) and doesn't boast the adjustments found on many precision rifles. But it does have some unique features. Chief among them is the fiberglass-reinforced synthetic stock's interchangeable grips that make it possible to modify the angle. And it comes with a foam insert that lowers stock-generated noise, keeping shooters stealthy as ever.

The precision rifle has a single-stage adjustable trigger, tunable between 2 and 4 pounds. And to top it all off, the T3x Tactical Compact rifle has an improved rail attachment system with extra screw placements on top of the receiver for a Picatinny rail.

## Howa HCR



**MSRP:** \$1,239

A chassis rifle moving on the street for around \$1,000, balderdash you say? Actually, no. [Howa](#) has pulled off this feat in exquisite fashion with its Howa Chassis Rifle. The Japanese barreled-action manufacturer has teamed up with a couple of other heavy hitters to turn out this affordable precision rifle that dang near anyone can work into the budget.

[Accurate-Mag](#) provides the monolithic 6061-T6 aluminum chassis, delivering a sturdy platform to build the rifle. The chassis free-floats the barrel — as it should be — and comes with ample M-LOK real estate on the forend, so adding a shooting aid such as a bipod is a snap. Furthermore, it accepts all AR-style furniture for further customization.

At the rear, [LUTH-AR](#) has tacked on its MBA-3 buttstock, designed to conform to any shooter behind the trigger. The fully adjustable stock gives shooters six positions of adjustment in length of pull. On top of that, there's an ambidextrous adjustable comb for the perfect cheek weld — a nice touch, given there are left-handed options in the HCR.

The heart of the chassis rifle, however, is Howa's tried-and-true 1500 action. The two-lug push-feed has earned its share of accolades for its performance, precision and reliability — not to mention affordability — over the years.

Howa gives the choice of 20-, 24- and 26-inch barrels in standard and heavy contours, and offers four calibers in its sniper rifle — .223 Rem., .243 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor and [.308 Win.](#)

## Bergara B-14 HMR



**MSRP:** \$1,150

Precision rifles can get pretty specialized pretty quickly, pigeonholing their application. For those shooting for a something that can equally knock the stuffing out of the 10-ring and a whitetail, look no further than [Bergara](#). The Spanish company's B-14 HMR (Hunting & Match Rifle) is about as tightly built a precision rifle as one could expect, without going custom.

While Bergara's actions and barrels are well-respected, it's the rifle's stock that steals the show. At first blush, it appears to be just another synthetic job, with a modified benchrest buttstock, vertical grip and the usual length of pull and comb adjustments. But strip away the polymers, and there's something unique going on underneath this Bergara B-14 HMR. Molded into the stock is an aluminum skeleton running from the grip all the way to the forend. In addition to free-floating the barrel, what Bergara calls its mini-chassis gives the B-14 the stiffness for precision.

The company has embraced the concept of crossover appeal with the rifle, making it sturdy enough to shoot a match, but practical enough to carry into the woods. It sports a No. 5 contour barrel — 22 inches on [6.5 Creedmoor](#), 20 inches on .308 Winchester — giving it enough material to avoid walking when it heats up, but making it less of a bear on a trudge to a deer stand.

The B-14 action is quick and smooth to work, especially with its oversized bolt handle, and feeds cleanly off an AICS detachable magazine. Some other nice features include Bergara's trigger that breaks at 3 pounds, threaded muzzle and integrated QD flush cup mounts.

## Remington Model 700 SPS Tactical AAC-SD



**MSRP: \$842**

The Model 700 has been a top choice of professional [snipers](#) for more than half a century — just ask Army and Marine sharpshooters. So it's no surprise it ends up on a list of precision rifles. The Tactical AAC-SD, in particular, has all the bells and whistles to make it a dandy tack driver, while leaving plenty of money for ammunition.

The renowned 700 action — what you'll find on a lot of custom builds — is bedded in Hogue's Overmolded Ghillie Green stock. The fiberglass-reinforced polymer gives the platform overall rigidity, while a pillar [bedding system](#) free-floats the barrel, ensuring it does not interfere with harmonics.

The AAC-SD is outfitted with a 20- or 22-inch heavy barrel (depending on caliber), injecting another element of stiffness into the platform and preventing barrel whip when it heats up. An interesting point is the twist rate of the .308 Win. — it's 1:10. This is faster than most, in turn more compatible with heavier bullets.

Remington has topped the rifle off with a threaded muzzle able to accept AAC and other 5/8-24 pattern muzzle devices.

The rifle features [Remington's](#) X-Mark Pro trigger, an adjustable outfit tunable between 2.5 and 3.5 pounds. Other notable aspects of the AAC-SD include sling mounts on the forend and buttstock and a very manageable weight at around 7 pounds. The AAC-SD is not long on capacity, however, with a four-round internal magazine.

## Savage Model 10 BA Stealth



MSRP: \$1,207

It wasn't all that long ago that a chassis rifle setup would have run a shooter well over \$2,000. And that's talking entry level. Those days are quickly vanishing as the Savage 10 BA Stealth proves. The on-target rifle comes with all the accoutrements one would expect on similar precision rifles, except the price tag.

Built around Savage's short Model 10 action, the precision rifle comes chambered for .223 Rem., .308 Win., and 6.5 Creedmoor. If a shooter is willing to get closer to or break the \$1,500 mark (and not by much), they can gun up to a long-action Model 110 BA Stealth and pitch [.300 Win. Mag.](#), or [.338 Lapua Mag.](#)

[Drake Associates](#) supplies the chassis for the rifle — its Hunter/Stalker model — which is machined from a single piece of aluminum. The chassis is much slimmer than most and exposes an ample amount of the rifle's 16-, 20- and 24-inch (depending on caliber) fluted barrel. This is good in terms of heat dispersion, giving air the chance to do its job. But given the barrel's heavy contour, shots won't walk much when it gets hot.

[FAB Defense](#) supplies the buttstock, its GL-Shock model that comes with a fully adjustable cheek riser and adjusts for length of pull. Like all Savages, the rifle features the company's outstanding AccuTrigger, adjustable from 1.5 to 6 pounds. A nice touch, the BA Stealth also is outfitted with a muzzle break, which is typically an aftermarket option on most rifles.

## Gun Debate: 7mm vs 30 Caliber

By [Jon R. Sundra](#) October 20, 2017

### Which is superior in the 7mm vs 30 caliber argument? One veteran gunwriter weighs in on the subject.

In the 7mm vs 30 caliber debate, which reigns supreme?

- Any .30-caliber cartridge delivers more energy than a comparable 7mm cartridge.
- However, this increase in energy comes with an increase in recoil.
- The increase in recoil can be as much as 30 percent, according to the author.
- The author also feels there are more bullet weights offered with the 7mm than the .30.
- Both will get the job done in appropriate applications and with good shot placement.

There was a time when there was little argument among America's hunters about calibers. For deer hunters it was the .30-30, and for larger game [it was the .30-06](#). Oh there were other calibers to be sure—like the [.270 Winchester](#) that emerged in 1925 — but there's no question that the .30 caliber dominated from the turn of the last century to the mid-1960s.

Today the .30 can still be called "America's caliber," but it is being seriously challenged by that upstart metric, the 7mm. It all started in 1957 when Remington introduced the .280, a cartridge they hoped would sway those prospective buyers contemplating either the .270 or .30-06.



The .28 caliber is as diverse as the .30 as far as performance levels are concerned. Here's how they stack up (left to right): 7mm-08, 7×57, .284 Win., .280 Rem., 7mm Rem., 7mm Wea., 7mm Rem. SA Ultra Mag, 7mm WSM, 7mm Dakota, 7mm STW, 7mm Ultra Mag and 7.21 Lazzeroni Firebird.

It wasn't that the .284 bore was unheard of on these shores at the time. The [7×57 had been around since 1892](#) and had been adopted as the martial cartridge by nine foreign countries. And it had been chambered for sporadically here in America, most notably by Winchester in its iconic Model 70.



But by and large the 7mm was still considered a “foreign” caliber. While the .280 could in no way be considered a commercial success even today, it did pave the way for the 7mm Remington Magnum that was to emerge five years later in 1962. Since then there have been more 7mm commercial and proprietary cartridges introduced than any other caliber.

I acquired my first 7mm in 1965, and over the half-century since, it’s been my caliber of choice for everything but Cape buffalo, lion and elephant. I’ve taken game on five continents using just about every commercial 7mm, from the 7×57 to Remington’s Ultra Mag., as well as several proprietary and wildcat cartridges, so I can speak with some authority on the subject.

It’s not that I haven’t had experience using other calibers. I have. I’ve been on many industry hunts, both here and abroad where I didn’t have the option to bring my own rifle or choose a specific cartridge. On most of those occasions I was handed a .30-06 or a .300 magnum, and every time it performed just as well as any 7mm I could have used.



If you compare 7mm and .30 cal. cartridges of similar capacity, driving bullets of comparable sectional densities and ballistic

coefficients, it requires about 30 percent more recoil to match the trajectory of a 7mm with a .30. Shown here are pairings of 7mm-08 Rem. and .308 Win.; .280 Rem. and .30-06; 7mm STW and .300 Weatherby; and 7mm Ultra Mag and .300 Ultra Mag.

And why wouldn't it? It's indisputable that a .30 caliber delivers more energy than a comparable 7mm. I'm talking 7mm-08 vs. .308; .280 Rem. vs. .30-06; 7mm STW vs. .300 Wby.; 7mm Ultra Mag. vs. .300 Ultra Mag. That's not the point, or at least it shouldn't be whenever one hears the 7mm vs 30 caliber argument. The only logical reason for choosing a .28 caliber over a .30 has to do with the question of how much ballistic performance you need to get the job done, and what you are willing to pay for it in terms of recoil.

Again, from a purely ballistic standpoint, everything the 7mm can do the .30 can do better. By "better" I mean a bigger hole and more energy delivered, all other things equal.

If you push a .308 bullet of comparable sectional density and ballistic coefficient over the same trajectory as a .284, it will arrive with about 15 percent more energy. But doing so generates almost 30 percent more recoil, assuming rifles of equal weight.

Now there are many who feel that an extra 15 percent is worth it. I don't. With a magnum 7mm of one variety or another I've shot from every conceivable field position, many times from prone, with the toe of the butt on the ground and with just the bony top of my shoulder backing the gun up. In such a position there's a tendency to crawl up on the scope, yet in 50 years I've never suffered a magnum eyebrow. I can't say the same for several .300 magnum guys I've shared camps with or witnessed shooting.



An experienced hunter who shoots often and year round won't have an issue with shooting a .300 magnum, even off the bench where 27 to 28 ft.-lbs. of recoil can be ... well, less than fun. But for the average hunter, that's a lot of recoil — enough to affect one's ability to shoot the gun up to its accuracy potential.

To back up that statement, all one has to do is look at competition shooting. Regardless of the specific discipline, whether it's benchrest at 100 yards or F-Class at 1,000 yards, every shooter will be using the heaviest rifle the rules allow with a cartridge that gets the job done with the least amount of recoil.

There are those who contend that a .30 caliber simply provides more margin of error in case of a poor shot. If we're talking strictly in terms of the theoretical, one might make a case for the .30, but in the real world that's pure bull-pucky. A bad shot with a .30 is no better than a bad shot with a 7mm. Period.



Another thing I particularly like is the fact that, for the handloader, there are more bullet weights offered in 7mm than in .30. Consider: among the various manufacturers, handloaders can choose 7mm bullets of 100, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 139, 140, 145, 150, 154, 160, 162, 168, 170 and 175 grains. If you've got a particularly finicky rifle with regard to its shooting a specific bullet weight better than others, you've a better chance of finding it if you've got a .284-inch hole in the barrel.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that, based on my experiences over the half century I've been hunting, I've never been disappointed or felt the need for anything larger than a 7mm. Regardless of where I've hunted — from Alaska to Zambia, South Africa to Siberia, the South Pacific to the Arctic Ocean — there's been a 7mm in my hands. And I'm talking about hunting the world's largest non-dangerous game: eland, zebra, gemsbok, kudu, roan, sable, elk, red deer ... you name it. And whenever I feel I need something more potent than a 7mm, I want something a lot more potent, like a .375 or a .416.

*Editor's Note: This article is an excerpt from the May 2015 issue of [Gun Digest the Magazine](#).*

[https://gundigest.com/handguns/concealed-carry/concealed-carry-in-your-car?utm\\_source=wir&utm\\_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-171016&utm\\_content=975765\\_EDT\\_GD171016&utm\\_medium=email](https://gundigest.com/handguns/concealed-carry/concealed-carry-in-your-car?utm_source=wir&utm_campaign=gd-dwb-wir-171016&utm_content=975765_EDT_GD171016&utm_medium=email)

## How To: Concealed Carry In Your Car

By [Jorge Amselle](#) - October 9, 2017

**Can I carry my gun while traveling in my car? In many cases yes, but there are certain considerations to concealed carry in your car.**

### Can you carry a gun in your car?

- Before you concealed carry in your car, know state and local gun laws.
- With more room in a vehicle, carrying a secured rifle or shotgun is an option.
- The console and glove box are two options for a handgun, but there are others.
- If you carry a gun in your car, check it regularly.
- This is done not only to ensure functionality but also that it has not been stolen.

Most people don't think of their car or truck as part of their [concealed-carry system](#). But keeping a gun in your car, especially a shotgun or rifle, can absolutely be part of your personal defense plans. I would caution anyone doing this to be mindful of local and state laws as they relate to concealed carry in your car, especially if you cross state lines.

Living close to the Maryland/Washington, D.C. border — two of the least gun-friendly places in the United States — and conducting business and having family in both places, I do not keep a gun in my car. I don't want to take the chance that I might forget that my gun is in my car and end up arrested. In D.C., it's a felony to even have ammunition.



A close friend put it better than I could regarding why vehicle carry is a good idea. The fact is, he explained, a handgun is completely unsuitable for self defense. The only reason anyone carries or uses handguns is that they are smaller and more convenient than rifles or shotguns. A handgun, for him, was primarily a tool to use in an emergency that could help him get to a “real” gun. Rifles and shotguns are far more powerful than handguns, and accurate from longer distances.

[Vehicle carry](#) of long guns is especially appealing when traveling. If you’re planning a weeklong getaway to the mountains or the beach — even if you have no plans to go shooting — it’s a great comfort knowing you have the means with you for serious personal protection. Likewise, if you are on a drive far from home where there’s a possibility of being stuck or stranded, you might feel under-armed with just your pocket pistol.

Keeping a loaded (or unloaded, depending on local laws) rifle and/or shotgun in a case in your vehicle is a good backup for times when your handgun might not be enough gun. With this type of carry, make sure to keep your long gun cased and preferably locked or secured in some manner, in case your car gets stolen or broken into. You will also want to keep the case out of sight, because thieves will often smash and grab what they can see of value.

There are rifle cases for carbines designed to look like a tennis racket case. [Blackhawk](#) makes a whole line of these “Diversion” bags. [Renegade Ridge Tactical](#) makes a great diversion bag for a carbine rifle that fits on the back of the driver’s or passenger’s seat in a vehicle and allows for very fast access of a loaded rifle.



Of course, many people also choose to carry handguns in their vehicles. Depending on your state and local laws, you may be able to carry a loaded or unloaded gun with you at all times in your car. You may be able to keep it unlocked and within reach, say in a center console or glove box. Of course, if you have a concealed-carry permit, you will have more options in this regard.

### [5 Standout Concealed Carry Revolvers For Personal Defense](#)

Several companies make gun cases, car handgun safes and other options specifically for concealed carry in your car. One innovative design comes from [Titan Gun Vault](#), which has a locking steel case that pops the gun up grip first when you open it. It also has a separate area for a loaded magazine so you can carry an unloaded gun

and load it very quickly if needed. Be aware that in some areas, a full magazine within reach of a semi-automatic pistol could be considered a loaded gun.

There are other concealed carry car holsters available. Some actually secure the gun, such as The RAC, which looks like a bike lock. Some vehicle gun mounts only hold a firearm in place with a simple holster or magnet, such as the one from Magna-Arm. This type of car gun holster might also be suitable for people who are not allowed to carry at work. At least you can be armed while going to and from work.



One of my concerns with keeping a gun in my car — besides the fact that if it's the only gun I carry, I'm defenseless when I'm away from my car — is that it could get stolen. For this reason, you probably shouldn't keep your most expensive guns or family heirlooms in your vehicle on a full-time basis. A friend keeps a cheap but reliable shotgun and rifle in his vehicle, what some folks refer to as "trunk" guns.

Unless you are always parked in a climate-controlled garage, your vehicle will be subject to temperature extremes, humidity and the usual bumps and shakes as you drive. All of this is harmful to guns and ammunition over the long term — the more exposure, the worse the problem becomes.

My recommendation is to check on your gun at least every couple of weeks to make sure it's still there and that it has not developed any rust or maintenance issues. Any ammunition you keep in your car should be replaced at least annually, if not every 6 months. Take it to the range and shoot it up. This will help improve your shooting while ensuring that your ammunition is as functional as possible at all times.

Finally, there's a very important caveat. If you lend your car to anyone, make sure they are aware that you keep firearms inside, that they are not a prohibited person or will not be violating any laws by transporting the firearms, and that they will not be traveling to any place where the firearms are not legal to transport or possess. Better yet, remove the firearms from your vehicle before lending it to anyone if there are any doubts at all.

**Editor's Note:** This article is an excerpt from [Gun Digest's Shooter's Guide to Concealed Carry](#).

## AR: Vertical Grips or Not?

by Kyle Lamb | September 29th, 2017

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In some circles, tactical gurus speak of the ill effects of using a vertical grip on your AR. As a former operator, I find this radically amusing. Defining why and why not isn't an easy task; actually, defining why not is almost impossible for me. So cutting to the chase, I love the vertical grip on a tactical rifle. For that matter, if I were to step back into the tactical 3-Gun world, I would more than likely attach a short vertical grip to that blaster as well.

The benefits quickly outrun the negatives.

Driving the Gun When trying to drive your AR from target to target, the vertical grip works well as a reference point to position your hand in precisely the same location each time. That being said, I use a nonstandard grip on the front end of my rifle, starting with the hand wrapped around the vertical grip and the thumb either over the top or along the side of the Picatinny-railed, free-floating handguard. I prefer to run the thumb down the side as it helps point the carbine more naturally; more importantly, it allows for the activation of the infrared (IR) laser tape switch attached at the 10:30- to 11-o'clock position on the carbine. This position offers more control for starting and stopping the gun effectively. This technique is similar to that used by top 3-Gun shooters, with the only change being the addition of the vertical grip as a reference point. If you had nothing else to worry about other than driving the gun from target to target, a simple hand stop would accomplish the same task with a much smaller piece of plastic or aluminum rather than an entire vertical grip. As the carny says on late-night TV, "But wait, there's more!"

## ADVERTISING

[inRead invented by Teads](#)

Lights, Lasers & Curb Feelers Remember the days of the curb feeler on the old Cadillacs? Other than those who roll in low riders, it seems that the curb feeler has lost its appeal. As tactical shooters, we sometimes have additional accessories add to the front of our carbines. At the very least, you should have a light that can be used for room entries and searching. For almost the entire ground-pounding sector of the U.S. Army, there are also other accoutrements that come in handy during combat operations. An IR laser is a *must* if you want to effectively engage threats at night; thermal is an option but not widely used at the infantryman's level and would not necessitate the use of a vertical grip. The laser, on the other hand, is generally mounted forward of the receiver and attached to the handguard. Can you manipulate an IR-laser-mounted carbine without a vertical grip? Of course, but having a vertical grip allows easier manipulation and a better hold.



The vertical grip allows shooters to have a repeatable point reference and effectively control recoil.



When shooting under a low obstacle, the vertical grip can be used to control recoil as well as quickly build a position.



Junkyard Prone: Shooting over a car hood can be enhanced by grabbing the vertical grip to maintain a solid position. This grip improves accuracy and recoil control.

Firearm Retention If shooting wasn't enough, we in the tactical world must also be concerned with firearm retention, or the ability to hang on to our carbine if we find ourselves in a wrestling match. The plan isn't to roll around on the ground with another man entangled in our rifle system, but that can sometimes become reality. I like the forward vertical grip for additional leverage as we attempt to jerk the carbine from the aggressor's hands; if this is not successful, the bad guy may use the vertical grip to our disadvantage. Staying switched-on with our head on a swivel should help eliminate some of this, but always be ready to fight until you can shoot the bad guy off your carbine.

Nonstandard Shooting Positions This is where the forward vertical grip shines. The distance from the front of the receiver is not an arbitrary measurement. This distance allows for a lethal grip when driving the gun from target to target while allowing us to bend our support arm slightly, which in turn increases strength. Straight arms are not the style when you want to shoot fast. In addition to the slightly bent elbow, I like to have enough room between the front of the receiver and the vertical grip to build a very tight prone position. If the grip is too far back, I won't be able to build this position. If I am trying to get up and down quickly to shoot under a car, the vertical grip also comes into play. Using the vertical grip to hold the front of the carbine steady works like a champ. I hook the vertical grip on my forearm as I build my position; once in position, I use the vertical grip to adjust the height of the front of the gun, as well as to control recoil.



This isn't Lamb Yoga; this is the use of the vertical grip to shoot with one hand if the support hand is out of commission.



Use the vertical grip to hook the thumb and bottom of the foot to shoot the Stacked Foot position. This position is excellent when shooting down hill or from the rooftop.



If shooting from a seated position with one hand, the vertical grip can be used to control recoil. This will also aid in clearing a malfunction one handed.

I don't care if the buttstock is touching my shoulder at this point because the grip controls recoil and the shooting arm controls elevation. Hooking the vertical grip on your forearm works well and is a great reason to add a vertical grip, but there are many other ways to make use of this extra carbine appendage. When shooting over the hood of a vehicle, we use a position I call Junkyard Prone, or JYP. This position allows you to attain a lower silhouette while being able to quickly engage. The vertical grip can be used here if you want to snake your support arm under, in front of the magazine well and over the edge of the hood, grabbing the vertical grip. When making longer shots, this version of JYP is extremely stable and helps control recoil more than some of the other JYP positions.

When shooting the stacked feet position or down a steep grade, I also use the vertical grip to hook my thumb as I grab the bottom of my boot with my fingers. This position is fast and stable if the terrain forces you to build a whacky position; this same position also works from a rooftop.

## What Doomsday Preppers Can Teach You About Home Defense

by Richard Nance | April 23rd, 2013

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The [topic of doomsday prepping](#) is quite divisive. To many, the idea of stockpiling food, fuel, generators, medical supplies, [firearms and ammunition](#) to prepare for a natural disaster and/or large scale civil unrest seems more than a little extreme. On the other hand, preppers are typically surprised at how many of their neighbors fail to take basic precautions for themselves and their families in the event of a catastrophe.

You need look no further than Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath to comprehend [the importance of disaster planning](#). Americans were able to see firsthand the chaos that ensued in the days and weeks following the hurricane. The importance of self-reliance became crystal clear, as government assistance was not readily available. In fact, many credit Katrina as being the catalyst for the recent wave of interest in prepping.

### ADVERTISING

To put it simply, “If it’s predictable, it’s preventable.”

Sure, being prepared is great. But some tend to take prepping to the extreme. For instance, most would agree [having a first aid kit](#) in your vehicle is a reasonable step to help ensure you can provide medical treatment, if necessary.

Although converting your personal vehicle into an ambulance would enable you to better treat someone who was injured, your significant other might not appreciate rolling around in your “meat wagon.” It’s important to strike a balance between preparation and practicality.

Regardless of your stance on prepping, there is a definite correlation between preparing for a hurricane, wildfire, tornado—even a zombie apocalypse—and preparing to defend your home from a criminal intruder. When it comes to home defense, you can learn a lot from preppers.

Preppers tend to be, well, prepared. This is in stark contrast to many homeowners, who seem to believe that their hunting rifle or shotgun will virtually appear in their hands fully loaded, should someone break into their residence.

Assuming you will readily access and load a firearm you’re not used to shooting—particularly one that’s not intended for defensive shooting—is far more absurd than someone who goes a little overboard planning for worst-case scenario. Far too many homeowners confuse mere ownership of a firearm with having a practicable home defense plan.

At the very heart of prepping is the acknowledgment that bad things happen even to good people and that we are vulnerable. Therefore, preppers by nature take the notion of protecting and providing for their family very seriously. Storing supplies is one thing, but preppers understand that without weapons and training, they will likely be unable to [safeguard their cache from desperate neighbors](#) who were less prepared but better armed.

A diligent prepper understands the pros and cons of various types of firearms and has ample personal defense ammunition on hand. With an understanding that skill-at-arms may be all that separates their life-sustaining rations from hungry, desperate outsiders, the true prepper has considered likely home invasion scenarios and developed a solid plan to safeguard their family and supplies. And you can bet that the hard-core prepper is not only mentally prepared to take a life if necessary, but also proficient in the tactical storage and deployment of firearms because he understands that in an emergency, seconds count.

While some preppers take the concept of having a safe room to the extreme—i.e., spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on an underground bunker—the concept of having a designated room in your home where family members would converge in the event of a break-in is certainly viable.

A safe room is intended to be a rally point, where you can account for all family members and share information relevant to thwarting the home invasion. This is also the place where you or a designated family member can call 911 to initiate the police response.

Integral to the safe room concept is the notion that it’s much easier to defend a single room than to search the entire residence for bad guys, who could be waiting to ambush you. You should consider keeping a safe in the room in order to store a rifle or shotgun. While it may be more practical to be armed with a handgun while moving to the safe room, there are several advantages to having a long gun once you’re there.

Because of the longer sight radius and multiple points of contact to your body, a long gun is inherently easier to shoot than handgun. A long gun will also provide you better ballistic capabilities than a handgun and, in the case of an AR-15 with a 30 round magazine, a much higher ammunition capacity.

When you're armed with a long gun and monitor the door to the safe room from a position of cover, you're at a tremendous advantage because you can narrow your focus to a single point. Of course, a prepper would have his most essential supplies in this room, but from a home defense standpoint, this is unnecessary.

A safe room doesn't have to be elaborate, but at a minimum it should have a solid core door that is capable of being locked with a deadbolt from the inside. Ideally, there should be large, heavy furniture items within the room that can provide a degree of cover.

You may be tempted to dismiss preppers as paranoid or out of touch with reality. Just remember, the same is often said of individuals who carry a concealed handgun or own an AR-15 for home defense. There's a fine line between paranoid and prepared. If the unthinkable were to occur, the paranoid prepper just might look pretty darn smart.



## Remington 870 Special Purpose Marine Magnum

During a major disaster, you need guns for both defense and obtaining sustenance: The 12-gauge shotgun is arguably the best for each. Load it with 6's to kill birds for the pot, slugs to take down deer and elk, and buckshot to fend off would-be looters. Since you'll be too busy finding food and avoiding the undead to clean your gun, we've selected a reliable, anti-corrosive model: the 870 Marine Magnum. There's a reason [Remington](#) has sold about 10 million 870s since 1950 -- they work -- and the nickel-plated Marine Magnum version is as rust-proof as it gets.



## Kahr PM9

The PM9 is an intriguing little gun with a thin frame and 3-inch barrel. It's convenient and comfortable for daily carry, yet packs a sturdy wallop when its seven-round magazine is fed +P 9mm ammo. A polymer frame and

stainless slide add durability. During the apocalypse, you need a gun you can keep on your person at all times, even if you go outside at night to relieve yourself (forget indoor plumbing). [Kahr](#) makes just such a gun.



## McMillan TAC-50

If you want any kind of security at your post-apocalyptic shelter, you'll need to set up a perimeter. And what better way to keep plunderers at bay than with the extended reach and terminal ballistics of the .50 BMG? The [McMillan](#) TAC-50 is renowned for its accuracy, and weight-shaving measures such as barrel fluting reduce its heft to 26 pounds with optics and bipod. It's not exactly light, but it's less robust than other .50-caliber guns and mobile enough for transport in case you need to switch caves.



## Holland and Holland Royal Side by Side Shotgun

We make this recommendation not as a gun to procure food or kill zombies, but because one day repopulated humans or our alien overlords will inherit the earth. Given that most of our written history will be wiped out during the disaster (on the bright side, this will include the '70s), we need at least one [Holland and Holland](#) Royal to survive. How else will future peoples know that we were once a civilization that appreciated art, culture and fine scroll engraving? Sure, we went out as a bunch of stinky, toothless, knuckle-dragging looters, but dammit we invented the best-bespoke shotgun!



## Bushmaster Carbon 15 M4 Carbine

Desperate human looters. Terrorist invaders. Herds of zombies. Post-apocalyptic Earth is not without its pitfalls. But with an M4 carbine and a few 30-round magazines, you are set for a lot of onslaughts. There was a time when many didn't consider semi-auto rifles a good choice for tight-quarters defense, but that changed when low-recoil rounds like [Hornady Tap ammo](#) hit the market, enabling shooters to get back on target in a hurry. Add to that the medium- to long-range ballistics of the 5.56/.223, and [Bushmaster's](#) AR-15 can be considered one of the most versatile rifles available.



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## Springfield M1A SOCOM II

When society falls, there will be two kinds of people: Those who starve to death a week after the last Whole Foods closes, and those who own deer rifles. So, if one day you wake up and discover that you're a doomsday sportsman, we suggest the [Springfield](#) M1A SOCOM II. Chambered in [.308 Win.](#), it packs plenty of punch for practically any big-game animal in North America. And since safety traveling to and from the hunt has never been of greater concern, we picked a gun with a host of tactical features -- a 16-inch barrel, 10-round magazine, Tritium front sight and an extended optics rail, to name a few. Eat well and stay safe.



## Smith & Wesson Model 629

Semi-autos are all the rage these days thanks to advantages such as fast magazine reloads and increased capacity, but revolvers may reclaim their dominance once gun cleaning supplies run short and gunsmiths close up shop. Their design is simple and reliable, with far fewer springs and moving parts to maintain. As the author's revolver-carrying, retired law-enforcement grandfather puts it, "I carry a revolver because I know without question that it will go bang every time." After the world goes to hell, the last functional repeating firearms on the planet could very well be stainless steel revolvers such as [Smith & Wesson's](#) Model 6



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## **AK-47**

One pervasive theme of this essay is a focus on reliability, and the AK-47 is arguably the most durable autoloader ever invented. You can practically pick up a handful of sand, throw it in the action and Kalashnikov's brilliantly simple design will keep on running. That's why Arab tribes are still able to use many of the AK-47s confiscated from Russian troops in the '80s. The AK and its many variants require little maintenance, and it seems even when their tolerances are a little off, the action's ability to cycle is not affected. With a 30-round magazine of 7.62x39 ammo, it will take a determined effort if anyone's going to steal your canned goods.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/welcome-new-age-silencercos-maxim-9-integrally-suppressed-9mm/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20171023\\_BlogDigest\\_248&utm\\_campaign=/blog/welcome-new-age-silencercos-maxim-9-integrally-suppressed-9mm/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/welcome-new-age-silencercos-maxim-9-integrally-suppressed-9mm/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20171023_BlogDigest_248&utm_campaign=/blog/welcome-new-age-silencercos-maxim-9-integrally-suppressed-9mm/)

## Welcome to the New Age: SilencerCo's Maxim 9 Integrally Suppressed 9mm

by Sean Utley on October 16, 2017

Times have changed. In the past, there's was a claim about pistol suppressors that, up until recently, still had relevance. The claim was that compared to rifle suppressors, pistol suppressors made less sense. Yes, a suppressor adds length and an uneven weight to a pistol but neither of those is the real gripe. The real gripe was that in a world of practicality, the suppressed pistol was void because you couldn't holster it. Instead, you'd have to thread the suppressor on your pistol at the range, and then lay it on a table or something similar in between shooting sessions. This would make serious training with a suppressed pistol less likely to occur. On the other hand, a suppressed rifle can hang harmlessly and comfortably on a sling or sit on a bipod allowing the operator to load mags, and do other administrative duties without having to put the firearm in a less than ideal location. This theory held water until now, with the release of SilencerCo's [Maxim 9](#).





## SPECS

- **Type:** Striker-fired semiautomatic; recoil operated
- **Cartridge:** 9mm
- **Weight:** 2 lbs., 5 oz./ 2 lbs., 7 Oz.
- **Overall Length:** 9.54 -10.75 inches
- **Barrel Length:** 4 in.
- **Diameter:** 1.58 x 5.41 in.
- **Capacity:** 17 +1 rds.
- **Magazine:** Glock 17 Type
- **Sights:** 3-dot tritium inserts
- **Mfg. Noise Rating:** 139.9 dB (hearing safe with subsonic)/ Hearing safe with all 9mm ammo
- **MSRP:** \$1,499

- **Manufacturer:** Silencer Co.



The Maxim 9 is an integrally suppressed pistol chambered in 9mm. Let's address the obvious; the Maxim 9 looks otherworldly. At the risk of dating myself, it first reminded me of the pistol wielded by RoboCop. Actually, RoboCops' automatic pistol looks less futuristic than the Maxim 9. Just like any gun-guy would, I immediately sent out pictures to other gun-guys to get a gauge on the aesthetics of the Maxim 9. A good friend said it best "I honestly think those are cool, maybe they are a gimmick, but at least it's \*\*\*\*\* innovative." *Innovative*, that's it. If you could design an integrally suppressed pistol, would it look much different from the

## Maxim 9?



The Maxim's aesthetics aside, it's actually full of features that we're used to seeing and they all culminate in this one product. The feature that is less familiar is the integral suppressor. The Maxim 9 uses stackable baffles that rest on two guide rods. These guide rods thread into the front of the frame and allow the baffles to be placed in different length configurations. If you've seen the also-innovative SilencerCo Salvo shotgun suppressor, it's very similar. Individual baffles cut from 7075 aluminum stack one in front of the other.



In its full glory, the Maxim is 10 3/4 inches long. In this longest configuration, the Maxim 9 is at its quietest. At this length even supersonic ammunition falls under the magic 140 dB hearing-safe threshold with an average rating of 136 dB. Keep in mind that this rating can vary with ambient conditions and altitude.

The full-sized Maxim is an angular beast and close in length to a 6-inch barreled revolver. But in all honesty, it doesn't feel any less balanced than a typical full-size pistol. SilencerCo has done an excellent job of distributing the weight of the Maxim. It makes sense when you consider that basically all of the internal workings are situated over the grip itself. The Maxim 9 weighs 39 ounces, which while isn't svelte, is a nice weight for an 1911 chambered in 9mm. This weight should help tame recoil.

Balance is slightly improved by removing two baffles and reducing the Maxim to its 9.54-inch length, but naturally, you lose sound reduction performance. Less volume means less sound attenuation. This short configuration requires the use of subsonic ammunition to be hearing safe. It's a fair trade-off though.

The Maxim 9 features a 4-inch barrel. Forward of the barrel is a lightweight series of baffles. Only the rearmost 3 inches, which is the slide of the Maxim, actually cycles. The barrel is fixed and does not tilt, much like a Beretta 92. The Maxim 9 has dual recoil guide rods and springs which are located in the uppermost portion of the slide and extend into the forward portion of the frame. There they are captured by a recoil rod lever latch. Lifting this latch while pressing a button on the rear of the slide allows the Maxim 9 to be field stripped. It's fairly simple and another sign of solid, forward-thinking innovation from SilencerCo.



The Maxim 9 is a striker-fired pistol with a trigger that was developed by SilencerCo. If there is one complaint about the pistol, this is it. A few days of dry firing and handling the Maxim 9 and it begins to feel like any other pistol and its uniqueness becomes a welcomed excitement. But during dry-fire sessions, the trigger almost feels like a bad joke in an otherwise very serious firearm. It's stiff, gritty and feels like it wants to get stuck—and that's just in the first stage. Then it hits a wall and takes what seems like another 9 pounds to get it to fire. An assumption can be made that a trigger upgrade will be made available for the Maxim 9. Let's hope so because the rest of the pistol is so good. I should note the Maxim 9 utilizes a trigger safety much like other striker fired

pistols, as well as an internal drop safety.



The grip was designed for average-sized hands. I fall in the category of smaller hands and found the Maxim 9 grip to be acceptable. Trigger actuation was made easier by choking up on on the grip and inserting more finger

in the trigger guard. It's unclear whether this is due to a larger grip or the bad trigger. My intuition tells me a trigger fix will fix a lot, including any grip challenges. Feeling the backstrap of the Maxim 9 from inside the magwell you get the feeling there may be room for interchangeable backstraps in future iterations.

The magazine release can be relocated on the left or right side of the grip. The Maxim 9 is fed by Glock 17 mags. Longer, Glock compatible magazines will fit, and SilencerCo. provides a Magpul PMAG GL9 with each Maxim 9. The slide lock is ambidextrous and the Maxim 9 sports steel sights with 3-dot style tritium inserts.

Advanced pistols need to be accessory-ready and SilencerCo addressed this with a removable plate on the top of the slide, for the attachment of miniature red dot optics. On the bottom, three KeyMod slots sit at the ready for the attachment of a light or other accessory.



## Presto Change-O

Shortening the Maxim 9 is an easy chore. After confirming the pistol is unloaded, loosen the two hex bolts in the front of the suppressor. After that, you can slide the baffles off of the two baffle guide rods. Next, you unscrew the guide rods and replace them with the shorter versions included with the Maxim 9. Secure the

shorter rods, replace the baffles in the short configuration, and tighten the hex bolts in the front.



## Shooting

There are no surprises when shooting the Maxim 9, which seems to be the expectation, based on its unconventional looks. It shoots like a good pistol should, minus all the noise and concussion. The extra weight helps keep recoil down. The trigger becomes less of an issue as well.

Firing the Maxim at 25 yards revealed that the sights on this sample were off by quite a bit with all groups printing on the left side of the target. We didn't have the best targets for testing so it was difficult to make out a point of aim. Regardless the Maxim 9 managed smallest groups in the 2-inch range, with three different types of ammo. The SIG Sauer V-Crown 147-grain worked well with the Maxim 9 and had the best average at 2.6 inches.

<b>Ammo</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Velocity (fps)</b>	<b>Extreme Spread</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>Gr</b>
SIG Sauer V-Crown	147-gr. JHP	1,020	65	17	
Federal Premium	124-gr. HST HP	1,186	47	15	
Remington Subsonic	147-gr.	913	178	49	
<b>Tested Average Noise Rating: 140.5 dB (SIG Sauer V-Crown)</b>					

## **Lasting Impressions**

The Maxim 9 is a departure in conventional thinking, and a welcomed one at that. It's a true viable suppressed pistol that is practical in its function and use. Whether you use it for carrying, which can be done with the proper holster, or for home defense, the worry of permanently damaging your or someone else's hearing is eliminated. More pistols like this need to be developed. With all the available technology there's no reason for manufacturers not to continue moving toward hearing safe firearms.

The Maxim 9 represents what's possible and maybe more so, what's necessary in the gun world. Is it perfect? No. But it's more than a good start. Nice work, SilencerCo.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/cartridge-showdown-308-vs-30-06-6-5-creedmoor-fluff/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20171023\\_BlogDigest\\_248&utm\\_campaign=/blog/cartridge-showdown-308-vs-30-06-6-5-creedmoor-fluff/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/cartridge-showdown-308-vs-30-06-6-5-creedmoor-fluff/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20171023_BlogDigest_248&utm_campaign=/blog/cartridge-showdown-308-vs-30-06-6-5-creedmoor-fluff/)

## The Great Cartridge Debate: .308, .30-'06, 6.5 Creedmoor & More

by Phil Massaro on September 29, 2017

We're all guilty, each and every one of us, myself included. We'll be at a summer barbecue, or sharing a beer at the local pub, or sitting around the campfire, and the cartridge debate will begin. And, once it begins, you're bound to hear all sorts of boastful claims, insistent arguing points, hand-me-down tales of perfect, flawless performance in the hands of various uncles and grandsires, and all sorts of reasons why any other cartridge than the metallic hero receiving adoration at that moment is a silly, wasteful, childish design. Sometimes you'll hear – possibly simultaneously, if the crowd is large enough and the tongues are loose – that old cartridge should be put out to pasture, as their time is over, or that anyone using a new-fangled this or that magnum is a damned fool and should stick to the tried-and-true cartridges, like the late Mr. so-and-so did.



Just a few of the different .30 caliber cartridges, from the small to the tall.

Gun writers – present company included – can be equally guilty. We're human after all, with opinions like everyone else, but the articles we write can sometimes put a skew on how cartridges are perceived. The companies themselves have a bit of culpability in this mess as well; you'll see the newest cartridge touted as a miracle cure for all of our shooting woes up to that point. Sometimes it may be a valid point, other times a twist on numbers or lengths or velocities and such. But that's all irrelevant, as are most of the arguments about

cartridges and calibers. In many ways, it's all been done, and in other ways, we can firmly believe the best is yet to come. But, I do feel that we beat each other up unnecessarily. Healthy discussion is always good – especially when working toward the goal of researching the perfect cartridge for a particular shooter or situation – but it seems that the discussions have turned to arguments, for reasons I can't quite explain.

## Overlap & Redundancy

Let's face one simple fact: there is a lot of cartridge overlap and redundancy. No, there is a ton of cartridge redundancy, but that's okay. There's plenty of room for what we have, but some cartridges come with a caveat: depending on the mood of the market, ammunition may or may not be readily available. And there's another valid discussion point: does the availability of a cartridge dictate its popularity, or does the popularity of a cartridge ensure its availability? Let's look at the comparison arguments, and their validity or invalidity first, then address with the popularity/availability issue.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, cartridges were shrinking and shrinking fast. Our American hunting rifles were coming down in size; the huge .45 and .50 caliber blackpowder cartridges were giving way to the .30 and .32 caliber guns, and then again to the .25 caliber cartridges. In England, the Rigby-designed .450 Nitro Express – released in 1898 – truly opened the eyes of the Indian and African hunters who had relied on the .500 and .577 calibers, or the behemoth four and even two-bore muzzleloaders. Mauser's 7x57mm cartridge led to a whole lot of cartridge development on both sides of the pond, and the resulting field reports were equally enlightening and confusing. The first 25 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought us some wonderful cartridges – possibly the best era of cartridge development ever – but there were no rules. Writers, hunters and guides soon developed opinions, and things sort of settled out, with some good, firm guidelines as to which cartridges were suitable for a particular situation. The projectiles available for these cartridges played a definite role in the development of a reputation, and as the projectiles went through a development phase, the cartridges limits – real or perceived – changed along with them. By 1925, we had the spectrum pretty well covered. The 7x57 Mauser, the .30-'06 Springfield, the .30-30 Winchester, the .416 Rigby, the 6.5x55 Swedish Mauser, the .375 H&H Belted Magnum, the .450 and .470 Nitro Express, the .250-300 Savage, the .270 Winchester, the .404 Jeffery and the .300 Holland & Holland Magnum; all were available to the hunter/shooter by the 1926 hunting season. I'll ask anyone to name the big game hunting situation that can't be covered, and covered well, by one of those cartridges.



Two great combatants in the cartridge debate, the .30-'06 Springfield (left) and the .308 Winchester (right).

The wildcatters were already hard at work, including Townsend Whelen and his .35 caliber namesake, playing with those cases that would go on to become irrefutable classics, and by the late 1940s, the velocity race was in full swing. The ever-increasing speed – brought to the foreground by the .270 Winchester and Holland's Super .30 – became the focal point, at least to some. The classic battles of Jack O'Connor and Elmer Keith, basically boiling down to Jack's belief in lighter bullets at higher velocity against Elmer's faith in heavier bullet weight at moderate speeds, highlighted the opposite ends of the spectrum. The introduction of Roy Weatherby's cartridge lineup was indicative of the American love of velocity, and the resulting arguments regarding the 'best' cartridge design.

## **The .308 Versus The .30-'06**



– The .308 Winchester – the Army’s replacement for the .30-’06 – has been both loved and cursed by the hunting world. Look at it for what it is, and you have a very good hunting cartridge.

The U.S. Army’s development and adoption of the 7.62mm NATO, and the subsequent 1952 Winchester release of the civilian version – the .308 Winchester – sparked one of the largest in-caliber arguments; one that rages on to this very day. Is the .308 on par with the .30-’06? Why would anyone shoot this new cartridge, which can’t handle the heavy 220-grain slugs? Why would anyone still be shooting the .30-’06, when the .308 produces enough velocity, and from a shorter, handier rifle? And so it goes on, and on and on.

The .30-’06 Springfield may well be one of the most useful cartridges ever developed, and though it is over a century old, the design is still perfectly sound, not unlike the round rubber tire. It worked in 1906, it worked in 1956, it worked in 2006, and will continue to work for as long as copper/lead bullets are propelled by smokeless powder. The .308 Winchester is indeed a shorter, lighter, and possibly more efficient cartridge design. The fact that the early rifles wouldn’t handle the heavy 220-grain bullets had all to do with the twist rate of the initial barrels, and nothing to do with the case. It does run a bit slower than the ’06, but so what? It still produces energy and velocity figures that will cleanly and effectively kill game out to sane hunting ranges, and makes one helluva target cartridge. Should we still be arguing over this? Seems a bit silly to me. I have used a .308 Winchester for a quarter-century, and have killed all kinds of game with it, yet wouldn’t hesitate to use a .30-’06 in its place. Same goes for the .300 Winchester Magnum, I’ve used it for years, but it’s no magic design; like the ’06, it works. In the .308’s case, the modern, premium bullets have made it even better, but the same can be said for the ’06 and the .300 Winchester Magnum.

## **.300 Magnums**



The .300 Holland & Holland was once the .300 Magnum, but the release of the .300 Winchester Magnum forced it into near obscurity.

Speaking of .300 Magnums, perhaps we should take a look at those as well. When you said “I shoot a .300 Magnum”, prior to 1963, you were more than likely referring to the .300 Holland & Holland (the .300 Weatherby was in existence, but rare in comparison). The 1950s trio of Winchester Magnum cartridges – the .458, .338 and .264 – was based on the .375 H&H case, cut down to 2.500” and necked to handle their respective bullet diameters. Norma beat Winchester to the punch, regarding a .30 caliber version, introducing the 2.560”-cased .308 Norma Magnum. It gave a significant velocity increase over the .30-’06 (just as the .300 H&H did) and works just fine on any game animal you’d use a .30 caliber bullet for. However, the 1963 release of the .300 Winchester Magnum (with a case length of 2.62” and a short neck, for more powder capacity) and the rifles and ammunition available for it ensured that the Winchester variety pushed the Norma, and subsequently the H&H, version off of the stage. Does that make the .300 Winchester the greatest incarnation of .300 Magnum available? Well, it’s certainly the most popular, and it’s served me very well all over the world, but I wouldn’t hesitate to use the Weatherby, Norma or Holland version at all. All are good cartridges, and in the opinion of this author, arguing over a few tenths of an inch of cartridge or bolt pull is a silly prospect. *If you can shoot any one of them from field positions, and put a decent bullet from any of them in the vitals of your game animal, it is a moot point.*



*(Left to Right) The .300 Winchester Magnum, the .300 Holland & Holland Magnum and the new kid on the block, the .30 Nosler*

**Is the 6.5 Creedmoor all fluff?**



The 6.5 Creedmoor (left) and the 6.5-284 Norma (right), two excellent means of launching the efficient 6.5mm bullets. Both owe a huge debt of gratitude to the 6.5×55 Swede, which is an excellent choice to this day, in spite of being released in 1894.

Sometimes a cartridge comes to the forefront, being touted as the best thing since sliced bread; the 6.5 Creedmoor coming quickly to mind. All sorts of beneficial facts are quickly spouted by those who are proponents of the cartridge, while the non-believers bring the negative points to bear with equal speed. Using the Creedmoor – which has been both praised and damned equally – let’s take a good hard look at what it is and what it isn’t. It is 6.5mm, meaning that it will have the full gamut of sleek, lean, long bullets with excellent Ballistic Coefficient and Sectional Density figures. It is a smaller cartridge, meaning that it will not punish the shoulder, and longer shooting sessions will result in less shooter fatigue. With all this in mind, it is a cartridge that will make a good choice for the shooter who enjoys long range shooting, without breaking the bank, or the shoulder. *What it isn’t, is a radical design*; if you were to compare the Creedmoor to the .260 Remington or the venerable 6.5×55 Swede. I am a huge fan of the 6.5-284 Norma, for both its accuracy and its velocity, but ironically enough the most accurate handload I’ve found runs at the same exact velocity as the Creedmoor. If you had a well-tuned rifle in any one of the four cartridges I’ve mentioned, you’d be very well suited. Does that mean the Creedmoor is a fraud, or a bad choice for the shooter? Not at all. I’ve used it at long ranges (read 1,200-1,500 yards) and it works just fine. So does my 6.5-284 and the others I’ve mentioned.

## Big Game

The debates among big game rifle cartridges can be the most heated. Truly big game, like the African elephant, Cape buffalo and hippopotamus, require a big stick and a serious confidence level. With that, usually, comes ego. Additionally, safari requires the employment of a Professional Hunter, the man responsible to not only

handle all the affairs of a journey into the wild, but save your bacon while dealing with the biggest beasts on earth. He will be carrying a big rifle, and underneath it all we all want to be him to some degree. When it comes to African cartridges, there is also the pedigree of your choice thrown into the mix; there are those who would only use a cartridge of British descent, and those who swear by the American developments. Truth is, how you shoot your chosen cartridge/rifle combination will be much more important to your Professional Hunter than the diameter of the hole in the barrel. Obviously, it must be legal – and the .375 H&H/.375 Ruger is usually the legal minimum for dangerous game – but your PH would prefer you with a smaller rifle that you can handle effectively than with a small cannon that causes you to flinch. This is one of those situations where you, as the shooter, must be totally honest with yourself regarding your acceptable recoil limit. Personally, I can handle the .375, .404 and .416s, and the .470 Nitro Express, but some of the faster safari cartridges get a bit snotty for me. I have a .378 Weatherby, and it is not a rifle I shoot much, as the recoil is substantial. Even the .458 Lott can be more than I like, depending on the fit of the rifle. I've spent some time with the .505 Gibbs Magnum, and while it's great fun to shoot, it's more gun than I am comfortable with. Can I say that the cartridges that recoil too hard for my liking are bad? Absolutely not. My pal Mike McNulty handles both the .458 Lott and .505 Gibbs just fine, and Lord knows they both kill game very well.



The .450-400 3-inch Nitro Express has been described as underpowered. Please don't tell the all the buffalo and elephant that it has accounted for.

Getting back to the popularity vs. availability issue, I believe it is a double-edged sword. It seems undeniable that the military cartridges always seem to be available – the .308, .30-'06, 7×57, .223 and .45-70 either are or were military cartridges – but the commercial developments have ebbed and flowed over the years. There was a time, during the 60s, 70s and 80s, when ammunition for the Nitro Express double rifles was simply unavailable. Today, the sheer demand for them has seen Federal, Hornady and Norma producing what may be the best ammunition ever for double rifles. Winchester developed and released not only their family of Winchester Short Magnums, but a series of Winchester Super Short Magnums. I know many shooters who bought and enjoy shooting the rifles chambered for the .25 WSSM, but simply cannot find ammunition for their rifles. Even the handloaders have no access to component brass. Perhaps Winchester will feel that demand soon enough and dedicate some time to fill the void, or perhaps those rifles are doomed. The availability of component brass for a particular cartridge, or the ability to make brass cases from an existing, more popular case, should be a factor in choosing a cartridge.



The .375 Holland & Holland Magnum is – quite possibly – the most useful cartridge ever invented, and remains a perfectly viable choice for any and all big game.



Rigby's big .416 cartridge is a wonderful choice – if you can handle it effectively – and hits harder than the .375. Does that make the .375 a poor choice? Not at all.

When discussing cartridges, I do my best to take a good, unbiased look at the performance, and then give an honest assessment. As stated, I think we've developed just about all the different .30 caliber cartridges we'll

ever need, but I'm not about to pronounce cartridges like the .300 Ruger Compact Magnum and other obscure choices as bad designs just because I happen to have rifles chambered for another design.

If your cartridge uses a bullet of sensible diameter and weight for the animal you're hunting, and generates a suitable amount of killing energy, go for it. Do your research, and make sure you can actually find the ammunition for whatever tickles your fancy, but if you've chosen an oddball, or even something a little left of center, don't worry. The following statement is what I believe to be the most important: *whichever cartridge you choose, learn its capabilities, and spend your time learning how to shoot it.* That, to me, is paramount.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/best-bargain-ccw-honor-defenses-honor-guard-9mm/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20171023\\_BlogDigest\\_248&utm\\_campaign=/blog/best-bargain-ccw-honor-defenses-honor-guard-9mm/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/best-bargain-ccw-honor-defenses-honor-guard-9mm/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20171023_BlogDigest_248&utm_campaign=/blog/best-bargain-ccw-honor-defenses-honor-guard-9mm/)

## **The Best Bargain in CCW: Honor Defense's Honor Guard 9mm**

by Clay Martin on September 15, 2017

The CCW market is one of the fastest growing segments of the firearms world and has held that position for years. It should come as no surprise then, that a good chunk of it is snake oil and hyped up nonsense. Sadly, grifters naturally gravitate to any segment of the market based loosely on fear, and that is a motivation of CCW. Between mass shootings, Antifa attacking people with the wrong haircut or bumper stickers, and good old regular crime, it makes sense. None of us carry an extra 4 pounds of steel on our hips because we think we live in rainbow fairyland. Start-ups in the industry are rare, given the dominance of major players with a vested interest in retaining the market. Hence, most of what we see that is *new* is actually hot garbage. Fortunately, this week we found an exception.

Enter [Honor Defense](#).



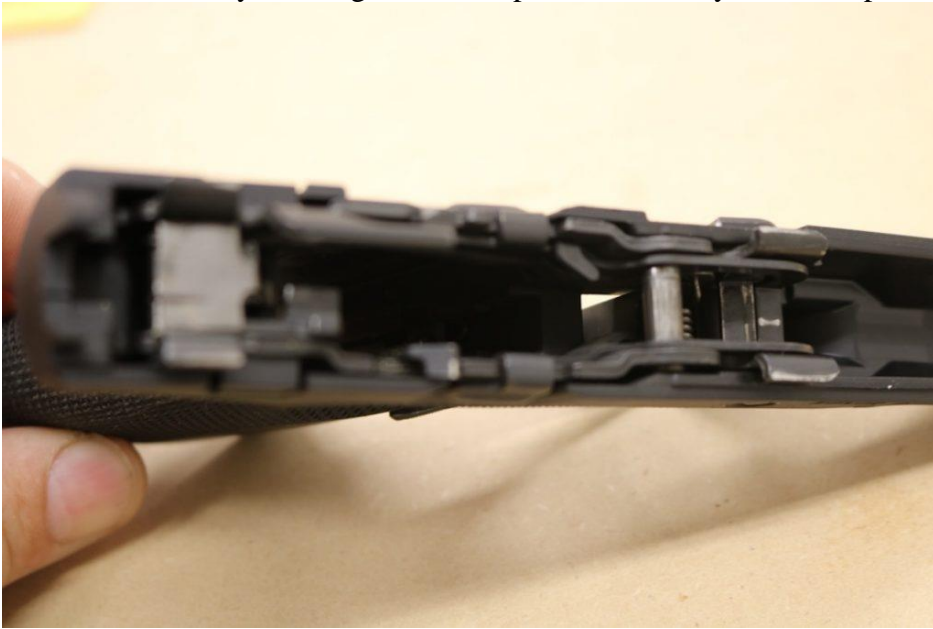
**Honor Guard Long Slide with Compact Frame**



**SPECS**

- **Type:** Striker-fired; double action only semiautomatic
- **Cartridge:** 9mm
- **Capacity:** 7+1 rds.; 8+1 rds. (extended)
- **Trigger Pull:** 7 lbs.
- **Weight:** 25 oz.
- **Barrel Length:** 3.8 in.
- **Overall Length:** 6.8 in.
- **MSRP:** \$499
- **Manufacturer:** Honor Defense

I am a bit of a gun snob, and I didn't think I would like this pistol. I don't reside in the high-dollar 1911 for CCW camp, but I take *potential combat tools* very seriously. I also have a hard time trusting new firearm manufacturers, there is too much at stake. How was a tiny company from Gainesville, Georgia, going to win me over? Turns out, by building a fantastic product at a very attractive price.



Honor Defense is a small company that focuses on producing high-quality products. They also have a policy that they only employ veterans to work on the firearms, operations and assembly lines. All parts are made and assembled in the United States. Not one piece is outsourced, sans the Clinton gun lock. The box itself is red

white and blue, while the company logo is best described in their own words.



### **“History of the Honor Defense logo**

The China-Burma-India Theater (CBI) has been referred to as “The Forgotten Theater of World War II.” Flying over the Himalayas was also known as “The Skyway to Hell” and “The Aluminum Trail.” Many pilots would also call it “Operation Vomit”.

Our logo is designed after the shoulder patch worn by American soldiers based there. This patch helped MP’s identify American personnel during the frequent ‘issues’ with British personnel. Although morale was low and the challenges were difficult, these American heroes served with bravery and honor.

Our logo pays homage to these brave Americans and all those that serve our country.

We thank them for their service, and we will never forget or take their service for granted.”

That is all well and good, but irrelevant to the discussion of how well their pistols run. If Carlos Hathcock owned Payless shoes, I still wouldn't recommend them for hiking boots.



## Range Time



Before my first trip to the range with the Honor Guard pistol, I was still skeptical. I was sent the Honor Guard Long Slide with a compact frame that features a 3.8-inch barrel. The gun feels a little bit top heavy unloaded, and I wasn't sure about the grip size. Shooting it, however, changed my opinion rapidly. The trigger is slightly heavy but very crisp. That translates to easy hits. The extra 5 ounces of weight over most in its class alleviates recoil as does its double-spring recoil system. The pistol remains flat, points naturally, and runs like a sewing machine. I hammered targets faster with this pistol than I would have believed. I came away very impressed. And at a price tag of \$499 MSRP, this is an easy win. The best way I can describe what they built here, a single stack Glock 19. Basically everything the 43 should have been, at a price anyone can afford. I can't think of higher praise than that.

**Article Continues Below**

The grip has a unique style of texture, which is a good look. Functionally, it offers better grip than most factory pistols, but it's not too aggressive for a CCW weapon. The texturing goes all the way to the front of the trigger guard. Backstraps are interchangeable with a small punch, offering two sizes. I preferred the large grip. I also liked the included 8-round extended magazines. The extension allowed me a full fingered grip on the gun.

The magazine release and slide release are fully ambidextrous, which is great in a modern pistol. Unlike a major player earlier this year, both sides work on the Honor Defense. The mag release is a teardrop shape, offering plenty of real estate for your thumb, but doesn't protrude so far as to cause accidental drops. In all my shooting, I had no problems with it. The grip offers some very subtle finger grooves, and the gun feels great. Every contour has a purpose, and not just to avoid the blocky feel of other weapons. This is a gun you have to hold to



appreciate.

The slide is rounded almost to the point of being a tri-cut. Cocking serrations are on the front of the pistol and wrap all the way around the top of the slide. This is pretty unique and prevents any sharp edges from being present. The sights are rear white dot and a front orange bead, standard post, and notch. The factory sights are fine but did show the only bit of fit and finish flaws. The black coating on mine already shows wear through to the metal below, which is rather odd. The good news, anything sight that fits a Glock 43 also fits these, so options are available.

A look inside the gun shows some unique thoughts on a firearm system. The barrel is very thick with a nicely machined angled crown. This is not something you see everyday on a pistol at the price point. The recoil system is a double spring, which helps to cut down on felt recoil tremendously. This gun shoots very flat, and this is part of the reason. Most curiously, the trigger group is modular. A \$499 chassis gun? You betcha. Other frames

and slides aren't available yet, but Honor Defense is clearly looking to the future.



## Lasting Impressions



I don't often give new gun companies an endorsement like this, but you need to shoot one. Dollar for dollar, this is probably the best deal going in CCW. We still need to field this one longer to be sure of durability, but that is coming up. Given the attention to detail and initial quality, I don't think that will be a problem. Look for a thousand round check upcoming soon.

## How To Care For And Upgrade AR Springs

By [Tiger McKee](#) - October 17, 2017

**One of the more overlooked components of the AR, properly functioning springs are vital to the platform's performance.**

- Springs in the buffer assembly, bolt group and trigger group are important to maintain.
- Proper care and ensuring functionality of those go a long way in ensuring reliability.
- The “buffer” or action spring has a large surface area which needs lubrication.
- Extractor and ejector springs in the bolt group need to be maintained.
- Three springs in the trigger group — trigger, hammer and disconnect — require care.

Springs are important, but often overlooked, parts for the AR. There are a lot of options out there, and not all springs are created equally. Choosing the right springs ensures reliability for your AR rifle or carbine. For this discussion, we're going to focus on the springs related to three important areas: the buffer assembly, the bolt and the trigger group.

### Buffer Springs

There are two basic “[buffer](#)” or action springs. The spring for fixed stocks is around 12½ inches in length. The carbine spring, for ARs with adjustable stocks, is shorter, at about 11 ¼ inches long. (Buffer springs can vary up to about a half-inch in length.) For a “[fighting](#)” AR — self-defense, law enforcement or field use — I prefer standard Mil-Spec springs, which are made from round wire. There are other options out there, such as “universal” springs that use one length spring for fixed and adjustable stocks. These springs often increase the spring pressure, making it difficult to cycle the action efficiently. I also don't like springs made from flat wire. They create a lot of [friction and wear](#) in the extension tube. Unless you're fine-tuning an AR for a specific application and ammo, Mil-Spec is the way to go.





## [How-To: Installing A Free-Floated Handguard On Your AR-15](#)



## [How To: Customizing The AR So It's Race Ready](#)



## [New Gun: Ruger AR-556 MPR \(Multi-Purpose Rifle\)](#)

The ejector, with its spring, kicks out empty cases. Again, this spring can be too heavy or light. An ejector spring that's too strong causes feeding problems, making it difficult for fresh rounds to slide in behind the extractor when chambering a round. If the ejector spring is weak, you'll experience failures to eject empty cases.

To test the ejector spring, use your fingernail and moderate pressure to press it into the bolt. During live fire, empty cases should eject a few feet and back at about 4 o'clock. If it's ejecting in front of you — 2 to 3 o'clock — it's time to replace the ejector spring. A spring that's too strong will kick cases 10 or 12 feet out. With both the extractor and ejector spring, you're looking for "just right." I use Colt springs from [Brownells](#). I know these are high-quality parts that are truly Mil-Spec.

One reason the extractor and ejector springs fail is due to heat. After extended firing, lock the bolt open. This prevents heat from transferring from the barrel extension, the rear of the barrel where the lugs are, to the spring of the bolt and will extend their life.

## **Trigger Springs**

The [AR trigger group](#) has three springs — trigger, hammer and disconnect. The design is simple and reliable, unless you start messing with spring weights or install them incorrectly. There is a big trend today for shooters to install lightweight springs in order to improve the trigger action. This can lead to trouble in several ways.



Remember, under stress — lives depend on your actions — your fingers lose dexterity and feeling. A 3-pound trigger will “feel” like 3 ounces. In defensive or combative applications, a match, competition or lightweight trigger will lead to negligent discharges. This is unacceptable.

Light hammer springs cause light primer strikes. This will be trouble with Mil-Spec or imported ammo, which usually have harder primers. On the range or during a match, a light primer strike is embarrassing. In a fight, it could be tragic.

I would also avoid lightweight disconnecter springs. A disconnecter spring that’s too light leads to the AR “double tapping,” firing off rounds as the bolt seats into battery and the hammer jumps forward. Sometimes it will cause your AR to go full auto. (Colt modified the AR’s bolt and hammer, creating an “interrupter” to prevent this from occurring.) When it comes to the trigger group, stick with Mil-Spec springs.

The proper positioning of the hammer spring seems simple, but I see a lot of problems with them installed improperly, especially with home-built ARs. The legs of the hammer spring provide the force necessary to ignite the primer. If the hammer spring is positioned on the hammer improperly, you’ll have light primer strikes.



The hammer spring's legs also hold the trigger pin in place. If the spring is weak, had one leg shortened/cut or it's installed improperly, it allows the trigger pin to walk out of the receiver. This can cause negligent shots and full-auto fire. If the pin walks out of the receiver, it can also allow the hammer to fall when the AR is set down, bumped or anything else that jars the internals enough for the hammer to slip. There have been people killed by ARs because of this. If you're not sure about what you're doing, get a qualified gunsmith to do your AR work. This is not something you should be experimenting with.

The AR is a great firearm. This platform has been in service with our military since the mid 1960s, with no retirement in sight. With the right parts installed correctly, it will provide you with years of reliable service and be something you can pass on to future generations.

*Editor's Note: This "AR Essentials" column is an excerpt from the Fall 2017 issue of [Gun Digest the Magazine](#).*

## Gear Review: MBX Extreme Basepad Extension And Inter-Loc System

By [Steve Gaspar](#) - October 18, 2017

### The Basepad Extension and Inter-Loc System from MBX Extreme offer speed and stability for all genres of shooting.

What advantages do the MBX Extreme Extension and Inter-Loc System offer?

- The MBX Extreme Inter-Loc System is a clever way of coupling magazines.
- It also increases their capacity.
- The attachment of wings to the Inter-Loc System doubles as a shooting rest.
- This keeps shooters from having to compete in the open class of 3-Gun.
- Best of all, it can be modified without tools, allowing for adjustment on the fly.

Extreme sports tend to lead to unique innovations that might not otherwise occur. Consider drag racing for example. Nearly 100 years ago, drivers raced each other on a straight quarter-mile raceway. The desire to win led to improvements in engines, tires and transmissions — anything that could make a car go faster. Early advances in drag racing even led to better aircraft engines that helped the United States in World War II.

Shooting sports has its share of people who invent things to help with speed and accuracy. Many shooting disciplines, such as [3-gun](#), employ what's known as "time-plus" scoring. That is, the winner is the fastest shooter after adding in any penalties for missing targets. A shooter's need for speed leads tinkerers down the innovation path. Adrian Cobb is one of these firearms innovators.



Cobb's story begins in California by way of the United Kingdom. Originally from England, he moved to the Golden State at the age of 21 after marrying an American citizen. There he got involved in racing Triumph

motorcycles and eventually car racing. A self-taught engineer, he modified engines and cars as he strived to go ever faster.

“I basically learned engineering skills from the ground up,” said Cobb. As time went on, I started to do competitive shooting. The two sports are similar in that there is a timer and you try to go faster and faster.”

Cobb started modifying magazines and guns for people, eventually starting a business called Mag Blueprinting. When he finally got his FFL, Cobb had to come up with a new company name, and he started with “MB” from Mag Blueprinting.

“I noticed every company had a three-letter acronym. I put an X on there and, well, Extreme sounded good, too,” he quipped. MBX Extreme was born.

“Originally, I started with tuning magazines,” Cobb added. “After a while, I couldn’t get magazines because they weren’t available. I could see there were some design issues with what was out there. I sat down and set out to design a magazine that people would want.”

Over a couple of years in his shop, Cobb designed, tested and failed, until one day he made a magazine that worked. [His company](#) still makes high-quality pistol magazines for the following styles: [STI](#), [Caspian/Tangfolio](#) and [Para/Arm Scor](#).

## Related GunDigest Articles



[3 AR-Style Rifles Ready for 3-Gun](#)



[New Gear: Ruger AI-Style Magazines](#)



[How To: Customizing The AR So It's Race Ready](#)

## Playing The Field

In the same way that drag racing has classes such as top-fuel dragsters, funny cars or pro stock, 3-gun and other timed shooting sports have classes based on gear. Magazine lengths are regulated as a way to level the playing field in a given class. Working within the constraint of length, Cobb designed magazines that would hold more rounds.

“I try to design things that people have overlooked,” said Cobb. “I used to tune magazines to hold 29 rounds or 21 rounds or whatever, and in the competitive shooting world, having an extra round can be a big advantage.”



A few extra rounds might not seem like much of an advantage at first. However, when a match might be decided by tenths of a second, an unnecessary magazine change can prevent a trip to the podium.

## The Birth Of The Inter-Loc System

One of Cobb’s latest developments is the Inter-Loc System for magazines. This patent-pending gear is a magazine extension system for black rifles that allows the shooter to couple and decouple two magazines without the use of tools. The base pads are machined from aluminum and come in a variety of colors, and they attach to [Magpul](#) Gen 3 magazines. The system also has “wings” that may be attached to the sides of the base plates to provide a stable rest for the shooter, and this too may be done without tools.

In most competitions, shooters who use a bipod on their rifle are pushed into the “open” or unlimited class where there are few, if any, gear restrictions — resting one’s rifle on coupled magazines is usually permitted without having to go to the open class, however. This is one place where the Inter-Loc System shines. The platform the system creates is extremely solid and not much different than shooting from a bipod.

In addition to providing a stable shooting platform, the advantages of the Inter-Loc System include capacity (adding 4-5 rounds on a 40-round magazine), weight (helps with dropping an empty magazine clear of the rifle) and versatility. The latter is due to the ability to change configurations without tools. Magazines may be coupled, decoupled, have wings added or removed with no tools. This is a great advantage for competition shooters who often optimize their gear from stage to stage.

Suppose for example a shooter used coupled mags with wings on a 3-gun stage that required precision prone shooting. The next stage might not have that requirement, so the shooter may quickly decouple the mags, remove the wings, and simply use the higher capacity magazines. These adjustments can be done in seconds. Versatility is also provided in the form of different colors. Colored pads may seem like a fashion statement or

novelty at first, but shooters often use different (expensive) ammunition for long-range steel rifle targets as compared to close-range paper targets. Color-coded magazine bases help keep things organized, and they are easy to identify under pressure.



Cobb has been surprised at how people have used the MBX Extreme Inter-Loc System more than anything else.

“It was originally designed to have the wings at the back and to be used as a platform,” said Cobb. “People have used them to stage a gun or use the wing to keep the grip up off the deck so they can grab the gun more easily. Some people have liked putting one wing one way and one wing the other way because they like the support it gives.”

In spite of his success with a variety of MBX Extreme products, Adrian Cobb is probably just getting started. When he first arrived in the United States, he found the opportunities here captivating and unlimited.

“I was like a kid in a candy store,” remarked Cobb. “I think you tend to appreciate the opportunities if you come from a different country where there aren’t as many. Many people I’ve met don’t really recognize how lucky they are with all you can do here and the freedom you have. I think this gives me a certain drive because I didn’t have these opportunities [in England] and, suddenly, I did.”

It was clear from the conversation that Cobb not only saw the opportunities here in the United States, he pursued them aggressively. True to his racing roots, he gave no indication of slowing down anytime soon.

*Editor’s Note: This “Modern Gunnery” column is an excerpt from the September 2017 issue of [Gun Digest the Magazine](#).*

## Review: FN 509 Pistol

by Robert W. Hunnicutt | October 24th, 2017



The first thing everyone I know asked when FN's new 509 pistol was introduced was "why a number?" FN's pistols have previously traveled under letter codes like FNS and FNX; why the switch to something more along the lines of "Porsche 911" or "Boeing 787"?

Obviously, there have been plenty of three-digit numbers applied to guns in the past: think H&R 999 or Remington 788 or Savage 340.

So where did the 509 come from? FN rep Kristina DeMilt says it was all marketing. Three digits sell well, numbers starting with 5 sell well and odd numbers sell well. So, 509.

Remembering was easier when it was just "Winchester Model 94," but now we see evolutions like Beretta's, where you start out with Silver Snipe and go to 686 and then to Xtrema and then A350 Xtrema. The importance of a name, I suppose, is not how convenient it is for those of us who already own guns, but how much it attracts those who don't.

Numbers are great when it's something like "1903 Springfield," less so when they get complicated, as with Smith & Wesson's second generation autoloaders. Numbers proliferated with those to the point S&W issued a circular slide rule to help dealers ID them.

So, for better or worse, it's 509, which coincidentally is the area code for Walla Walla, Wash. What makes a 509?

The short answer is that it is essentially an FNS, modified for competition in the Army's Modular Handgun Program. That effort produced a winner that was not the 509, but rather the SIG P320. FN has, quite understandably, decided to make a version of its contender available to the shooting public, and it is a worthy addition to the very crowded market of plastic-framed, striker-fired pistols.

The new M17 service pistol will have what many regard as an unnecessary thumb safety lever, but FN has clearly decided there's no reason for that in the commercial market. It's been more than 30 years since the Glock 17 arrived without a thumb safety, and a market that was once quite skeptical has accepted the slick-sided pistol.

The usual trigger safety is in this case a pivoting lower half of the trigger blade. This replaces the Glock-style central lever, and I regard it as a big improvement. More manufacturers would use it if police solicitations didn't often contain specific language mandating a central lever.

If you were to put your finger on the very top of the trigger and attempt to pull it, its movement would be blocked by the upper end of the lower half butting up against the frame. This helps prevent the pistol firing if dropped on its back.

There's a striker block on the right underside of the slide that keeps the striker from moving forward unless the trigger is pulled. This helps prevent firing if the pistol is dropped on its muzzle.

A drop safety prevents the sear from moving down out of engagement with the striker unless the trigger is pulled. A disconnect is actuated when the disconnect cam is pushed out of alignment with the sear. This prevents the pistol from firing out of battery.

Finally, there's a loaded chamber indicator, as required by several state laws. This is a red line exposed under the rear of the pivoting extractor when a cartridge is chambered. The protruding front of the extractor lets you feel that the pistol is loaded in darkness.

The instruction manual illustrates a bilateral thumb safety that FN plans to offer at some future date for those who still cling to that idea. What FN apparently has no plans to do is to offer the 509 with a magazine disconnect safety, providing California citizens yet another reason to leave.

The pistol's proportions immediately reminded me of the long-defunct Astra A-100, which was a Spanish version of the SIG P229. That pistol of course, was a lot heavier and bulkier, but the ratio between length and height is similar.

The grip is relatively slim and 1911-like, and is textured within an inch of its life, with molded-in knurling front and back, truncated pyramids on the sides and a surface Guns & Ammo writer Pat Sweeney calls "skate tape" on the thumbrest areas.

Unless you are playing at the very bottom of the market, you can't fail to offer some mechanism for accommodating different hand sizes, and FN does that with interchangeable backstraps that it calls small, medium and large, but that the rest of us will characterize as flat, arched and beavertail.

Civilian versions will come with the arched and flat backstraps, while pistols sold to law enforcement will come with all three. If you have huge paws, but don't carry a badge, the beavertail style is available at extra cost.



The 509 is readily field-stripped using a takedown lever located above the trigger. It's a bit tricky the first time, but the process quickly becomes instinctive.

The backstraps are affixed to the frame with a very small roll pin that is driven out to switch them. Some manufacturers have made this process easier, but in reality, how often do you really change backstraps?

The lower end of the backstrap has a hole for installing a lanyard if you want to go high-speed, low-drag.

Both slide stop and magazine catch are bilateral. The slide stop seemed to work as easily from either side; this in contrast to competitor pistols where the right side requires much more pressure.

The magazine catch has an operational button on either side, a big improvement over pistols that have a reversible catch. Often, the "easily" in "easily reversible" is open to debate. Here you can use thumb or index finger interchangeably, and the buttons are right where you'd expect them.

The stop is a punched-out, semi-cylinder on the front face of the magazine, and there's a similar stop on the top right that prevents you from jamming the mag in too far.

There's a fairly substantial polymer basepad, which slides off easily for cleaning or spring replacement. Half-moon shaped cutouts in the grip checkering let you get a grip on it in the unlikely event you need to.

The standard magazine holds 17 rounds, while the brethren who suffer under Pharaoh and can buy the 509 at all can get it with a 10-round magazine.

For whatever reason, the magazine catch has more travel left to right than right to left, though that interesting tidbit seems to have no effect whatever on function. Magazines are ejected forcefully.

Precocking, or lack thereof, is a big topic these days when it's important for manufacturers to draw distinctions among the horde of striker-fired pistols on the market. The 509 is precocked, and trigger travel is about  $3/8$ ". Reset comes in about  $5/8$ " of slide travel.

The Melonite-treated slide has grasping grooves front and rear, and is lightly beveled on either side at the front. This is common among manufacturers who tout it as helping you reholster, but mainly it keeps the slide from

looking like a blocky old Glock. There's a decorative ridge running along the top of the slide that also helps give it a lighter look.

One place Glock was not copied, thank heaven, was the trigger guard, which does nicely without the recurved front surface. There's plenty of room for a gloved trigger finger.

The trigger guard is slightly upswept at the rear to let you take a higher grip on the pistol.

There's a four-slotted accessory rail on the dust cover that lets you mount lights, lasers or other accessories. The serial number plate is found in a window inside it.



The sights are dovetailed at the extreme ends of the slide for maximum sight radius. A rib machined between them gives the slide a distinctive appearance.

The sights are dovetailed into the extreme ends of the slide, yielding a  $5\frac{3}{4}$ -inch sight radius. The rear sight has a slight forward angle that allows you to catch it on a firm surface like a boot heel if you need to do a one-handed emergency recock. The number of us who will ever have to perform that maneuver is, I suspect, vanishingly small, but if it doesn't cost anything, why not?

The sights supplied with civilian 509s are luminescent. You activate them by shining a flashlight on them, and they then glow softly for an indeterminate interval.

Law enforcement agencies can order the 509 with actual night sights, a fact that will greatly annoy some consumers. If you can't scare up a set of aftermarket tritium sights, you're just not looking hard enough.

Disassembly is easy, but requires pulling the trigger, a procedure that has caused some exciting moments in police locker rooms. Many manufacturers proudly note that their pistols don't require it.

Start by removing the magazine and retracting the slide to clear the chamber. Use the slide stop to lock the slide rearward. The front grasping grooves come in handy here.

Rotate the takedown lever about 100 degrees downward until it stops against the frame. Then, while retaining control, depress the slide stop and allow the slide to move forward to its rest position. Grasp the front of the pistol to keep slide and frame in alignment.

Point the muzzle in a safe direction and pull the trigger. Then pull the slide forward and off the frame. The first time you do it, it seems to require three hands, but with practice, it's a snap.

Slide disassembly is easy, since the dual springs are captive, with a round-section spring riding inside a larger square-section spring.

The blackened stainless steel barrel has conventional rifling and a recessed crown. The locking block (rendered Unlock Block in the manual) is also stainless steel and is secured in the frame by a crosspin above the front of the trigger guard.

A U-shaped steel piece is molded into the frame in front of the block, presumably to prevent battering by the slide.

Reassembly is in reverse order.

I fired the 509 between segments of the Gallery of Guns TV show with Remington and SIG ammo, mainly shooting on steel. There were no failures of any kind, though I will note that the magazine spring was very stiff. A mag loader will be a welcome accessory for long range sessions.

SPECIFICATIONS	
FN 509	
Manufacturer:	FN America, LLC, Box 9424, Dept. FAN, McLean, VA 22102
Type:	Semi-automatic pistol
Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Weight:	26½ ounces
Overall Length:	7.4 inches
Barrel Length:	4 inches
Height:	5.56 inches
Width:	1.35 inches
Magazine Capacity:	17
Trigger Pull:	Striker-fired, 6½ pounds
Accessories:	Spare magazine, soft case, cable lock, extra backstrap
Price:	\$649

My first shot was an X, and the 509 was pretty well sighted in, not always a common thing these days. A couple taps of right windage would have had it centered up perfectly. I didn't attempt to bench test it, but groups in the 3- to 4-inch range at 25 yards were attainable.

Everyone who handled the 509 liked its 1911ish grip feel and most thought the trigger one of the better striker-fired units seen here lately, though some didn't care for the long first stage takeup.

The sight dots are quite large and really stand out. The front blade is a tight fit in the rear notch, letting you draw a fine bead on bullseye targets.

The market is stuffed to overflowing with striker-fired autoloaders these days. They all work pretty much the same, so determining which one to buy really comes down to some pretty fine ergonomic factors and price.

The 509 is priced right about in the middle of the pack; some might quibble that it comes in a soft nylon case in a cardboard box when competitors are shipping in molded plastic cases, but it does come with two magazines and a spare backstrap.

As for the ergonomics, only you can judge that. My advice is if you're looking in this category, find ways actually to shoot all the contenders: a commercial range where you can rent pistols is a great place to try several.

The FN 509 should, I would say, definitely be part of your survey.

## History of Bullpup Rifles

by Eric R. Poole | October 26th, 2017

It's difficult to identify the first use of the term "bullpup" as it applies to firearm configurations, but the concept was first seen in the bolt-action Thorneycroft carbine of 1901. Since the current British L85 service rifle is one of the world's most recognizable small arms of this style, it seems only appropriate that an English gunsmith earned a patent for the Thorneycroft on July 18, 1901.



1901 Thorneycroft

The Thorneycroft held five rounds of .303 British within its internal magazine. Measuring 7½ inches shorter and weighing less than the Lee-Enfield rifle in British service at that time, its reduced overall length was achieved by placing the action so that the retracted bolt would slide back through the stock. And although the rifle gained some interest, testing at Hythe demonstrated excessive recoil and poor handling qualities. It was never adopted for military service.

### FRENCH FIRSTS

Appearing in 1918, the 6.5x61mm Faucon-Meunier of France was the first semi-automatic bullpup rifle. Frenchman Henri Delacre developed and patented the first bullpup pistol by 1936. And, like the history of so many bullpup-configured firearms that followed, neither gained enough popularity for mass production.

### ADVERTISING

[inRead invented by Teads](#)



A FAMAS F1 drapes the chest of a French soldier during the opening of the Memorial Day ceremony at the LaFayette Escadrille Monument in Paris, France.

The first mass-produced French bullpups were developed immediately following World War II at Saint-Étienne (MAS) and Mulhouse (AME). Like the British, the French couldn't develop a bullpup to reliably utilize the NATO-standard 7.62 cartridge. When the 5.56 achieved NATO approval, the French revisited the bullpup concept.

The FAMAS (Fusil d'Assaut de la Manufacture d'Armes de Saint-Étienne, or "Assault rifle of the Saint-Étienne weapon factory") project began in 1967 under Paul Tellie. With an action based on the proven Model 52 GPMG, the first prototype was completed in 1971, and French military evaluations began the following year. Production issues delayed FAMAS' entry into service until 1978 as the country's standard-issue battle rifle. Nearly 400,000 FAMAS F1s replaced the MAS 49/56. The FAMAS G2 was developed in 1994 and included an improved barrel, the ability to accept NATO magazines and upgrades intended for a never-produced G1 model that included an enlarged triggerguard and handguards made of fiberglass. The G2 still has yet to completely replace the F1.

Century Arms imported a small number of semiautomatic FAMAS rifles to the U.S. during the late 1980s. These rifles are extremely rare and can demand as much as \$8,000 even though no spare parts are available.

## **FIRST ADOPTION INTO SERVICE**

Stanley Thorpe led a Polish design team at Enfield's Lock's Royal Small Arms Factory after World War II that included a special engineer named Kazimierz Januszewski (aka Stefan Janson). Inspired by the German Sturmgewehr 44 (StG 44), Januszewski worked to develop a firearm that filled the role between a bolt action and submachine gun. At the same time, a panel was considering a replacement for the .303 British cartridge and settled on the 7mm. Of the four teams working on independent solutions at Enfield, one came up with a gas-powered rifle built around the locking system of the StG 44. When the team was presented with manufacturing difficulties, this design (EM-1, or Enfield Model 1) was shelved and the Polish team's rifle was designated the EM-2 on January 6, 1948. It wouldn't be officially adopted until April 25, 1951.

Both the EM-1 and EM-2 were select fire (semi- and automatic fire) and utilized 20-round magazines reloaded with stripper clips instead of the detachable box magazine seen on most rifles today. These bullpups used conical optics for quick sight picture and a built-in carrying handle feature.

The EM-2 was adopted and type classified as the Rifle No. 9 Mk1 (also referred to as the Janson rifle). It briefly served British forces in 1951 with a unique cartridge that was said to provide accuracy out to 730 meters, the .280 British. When the U.S. adopted the M16, the British felt vindicated in their support of intermediate cartridges.

Knowing the current controversy surrounding the 5.56 NATO, it's rather ironic that the U.S. protested the .280 British during these first measures of NATO standardizing. During NATO testing at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, the American protest suggested that the .280 British was too weak for use in infantry rifles and machine guns. Because the EM-2 could not be readily adapted to function with the longer 7.62x51mm selected by NATO, the EM-2 was quickly shelved and the British chose to adopt a licensed version of Fabrique Nationale's FAL. The British bullpup reemerged years later in the SA80.

## SECOND UK ADOPTION...

Prior to following the lead of American forces and committing to a standard infantry rifle chambered in 5.56x45mm, the British army conducted additional intermediate cartridge research. Around 1970, two original EM-2s were rebarreled for an experimental 6.25x43mm cartridge. Even this concept was dropped for a smaller 4.85mm load in a new rifle that would go through trials in 1976. This rifle became the SA80 chambered for the 5.56 NATO, and even though they are both bullpups, the SA80 is not mechanically derived from the EM-2.

## ...AND THIRD



A cutaway diagram shows the major subassemblies and the relationship of components necessary for the L85's cycle of operation.

The L85 is a variant of the SA80 that continues to be the standard-issue service rifle of the British armed forces. It was chosen to replace the L1A1 in 1987, but was heavily criticized by British troops. Such criticism eventually led to an upgrade by HK in 2000. The HK-improved L85 was redesignated the L85A2. The "L"

designation stands for “Land Service.” The L85 has also been adapted into the L86 Light Support Weapon, the L98 Cadet rifle and L22 carbines.

A 2007 provision called for the purchase of Trijicon’s ACOG and a specially designed Daniel Defense fore-end rail system to upgrade more than 30,000 L85 rifles.

## **TOO RADICAL FOR COMMIES**

The Soviet Union experimented with bullpup rifles as early as 1945. Developed by small arms designer German Korobov, the 7.62x39mm TKB-408 entered trials by the Soviet army in 1946. It was eventually defeated by the AK47 a year later.

The Soviet bullpups were gas piston operated and featured a vertically moving bolt that helped reduce the overall length of the receiver group. A second Korobov bullpup, the improved TKB-022PM5 No. 1, reappeared in the late 1960s and exceeded the accuracy potential of the AKM at 100 meters during trials. But even though it performed reliably, the TKB was once again turned down for being too radical at that time.

## **U.S. MODEL 45A**

The reason you may not have heard about the Model 45A bullpup is because it was never developed beyond a prototype. This experiment convened in the Philippines in 1945 and was directed by the U.S. Army. Like many bullpups that followed it, the Model 45A was to feature an integral scope. Documentation is scarce, but Tom Laemlein discovered a number of photographs in the U.S. Army Signal Corps’ archives.

## **THE FUTURE, YESTERDAY**



An Australian infantryman serving in Afghanistan stands with the F88S Austeyr licensed copy of the Steyr AUG.

When the term “bullpup” is used to describe a rifle, the Steyr AUG (Armee Universal Gewehr, or “universal army rifle”) is the first thing that often comes to mind. Even though the Austrian army adopted it as the StG 77 (Sturmgewehr 77) in 1977, it’s still considered state-of-the-art and the world’s first successful bullpup rifle. With its incredibly sleek design, use of modern polymers and ambidextrous configuration, Steyr’s AUG (spoken alphabetically “A-U-G” instead of the phonetic “ogg”) is still considered to be a peek into the future of combat rifles.

Even though it has been selected by more armed forces than any other bullpup, it struggled in the U.S. due to legislation that hindered importation and maintenance support. The bulk of original AUGs that initially made it into the U.S. were ordered to serve with the FBI and U.S. Customs (now part of ICE).

Though it eluded the commercial market for nearly two decades, Americans once again have the opportunity to acquire a Steyr AUG or another similar version in Microtech's MSAR STG-556 series. Both makes of this rifle reflect a bullpup that now benefits from the current manufacturing processes and standards for quality. The latest modular AUG A3 from Steyr and Microtech's STG-556 have more potential for success in America than they ever had before.

## **MORE TO COME**



The F2000 is in limited service with seven foreign countries including Belgium, Croatia, India, Libya, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Slovenia. It has also been chosen to serve tactical SWAT officers here in the U.S.

If you consider the reality of tactical operations in an asymmetric environment, shooters will always want a more dependable, more accurate, modular and compact platform to deploy with.

Once never imagined, long-range standoff capability can be achieved with a bullpup without damage to the rifle or injury to the shooter. A short list of sniper rifles is taking advantage of the concept. Take Desert Tactical Arms' Stealth Recon Scout. It's a modular rifle that's truly caliber-convertible in the field, offering half-MOA effectiveness beyond 1,000 yards with the .338 LM barrel option. The best part is that it's similar in size to the M16.

With large thanks going out to FNH USA, the American market is acquiring an awareness of the utility, availability and affordability of production bullpups such as the FS2000 (5.56 NATO) and PS90 (5.7x28mm). Recently, a Pennsylvania LE tactical team chose the F2000 and is employing it with great success.

Looking back on history, the bullpup concept suffered a slow rise to success. It was too far ahead of its time, people would say. And in examples such as the Steyr AUG, that may be true. You can certainly make a case to blame the American campaign to see the 7.62x51mm round achieve NATO standardization 50 years ago. But it was probably for the best. Now that the concept has been fully vetted in a number of platforms around the world, the revolutionary advancements in manufacturing can create the ultimate battle rifle for tomorrow's warfighter.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/standard-manufacturings-sko-12-american-made-ar-15-style-12-gauge/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20171030\\_BlogDigest\\_249&utm\\_campaign=blog/standard-manufacturings-sko-12-american-made-ar-15-style-12-gauge/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/standard-manufacturings-sko-12-american-made-ar-15-style-12-gauge/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20171030_BlogDigest_249&utm_campaign=blog/standard-manufacturings-sko-12-american-made-ar-15-style-12-gauge/)

## Standard Manufacturing's SKO-12 — An American-Made AR-15 Style 12 Gauge

by Clay Martin on October 27, 2017

The Holy Grail of tactical shotguns has always been a detachable magazine feeding system. Several have come to market, but none of them worked well. Even those based on the ultra-reliable AK-47 fell short. For some reason, scaling up to 12 gauge just doesn't feed the way it should. This week, we got our hands on the latest attempt to reach this bar. We have good news. For once, someone may have solved it.



Standard Manufacturing made waves at SHOT SHOW last year, with a prototype [SKO 12](#). The [SKO-12](#) features AR-15 style controls, is magazine fed, and a very attractive price at \$1,100. We have all been anxiously waiting, and this week my test sample showed up. To be 100 % honest, I have a pre-production model, but they should be on store shelves at any minute.



### SPECS

- **Type:** Gas-operated semiauto magazine-fed shotgun
- **Gauge:** 12

- **Capacity:** 2+1 rds.; 5+1 rds.; 10+1 rds.
- **Weight:** 7 lbs., 10 oz.
- **Overall Length:** 38 in.
- **Barrel Length:** 18.875 in.
- **Stock:** 7075 aircraft grade aluminum
- **ButtStock:** 6-position collapsible AR-style
- **MSRP:** \$1,100
- **Manufacturer:** Standard Manufacturing Mfg. Co.

## Initial Impressions



Standard Manufacturing is based in Connecticut and their products are American-made. Famous for their double-barreled DP-12, Standard has delivered on another semiautomatic 12 gauge. Normally, I am skeptical of any magazine-fed shotgun, I have seen too many fail. How do you spot the mag fed shotgun guys at a 3-Gun match? They are the ones performing a full tier down and clean between every stage.

That being said, I looked forward to testing this scattergun, but also dreaded it. What if it failed too? Is a mag-fed shotgun too much to ask, in an age when we put a rover on Mars? I would go so far as to say a functional detachable magazine is enough to change a lot of my opinion about a shotgun being a horrible tactical choice. And I am extremely happy to report, the SKO-12 ran like a champ. I even violated the hell out of the manufacturers recommended break-in period. Standard Manufacturing is man enough to tell you it takes recoil to make this shotgun work, and low recoil/ light rounds might require a break in of 100 rounds first. I shot 5 slugs, then a magazine of buckshot, both of which performed flawlessly. Skipping right past the guidelines, I tossed in a magazine of light birdshot and ran the magazine no issue. I even got bolt lock.

In the course of shooting, I quickly ran through the provided Federal ammunition and switched to what I call my trash bucket. Over many years of shooting, I have managed to fill up a 5-gallon bucket with random loads. This includes stuff left in my truck by other shooters, off-brand cheap stuff only useful in training, test rounds — you name it and I probably have it. The only hang-ups I had during testing came from military surplus buckshot, probably left over from Vietnam, which is notoriously junk. I can't fault the shotgun on that one. In just a few days, I have shot over 500 rounds of sub-par ammunition and miscellaneous loads, and I have come away impressed. The SKO-12 is a shooter.



## Handling

The SKO-12 features similar controls of an AR-15. The trigger is amazing for a shotgun, and better than most factory AR rifles. If you've run AR-style rifles, then you will appreciate the familiarity of the selector (which is ambidextrous) and bolt latch. The learning curve is nonexistent. The magazine release is in the same spot, but a bit larger than an AR, which I liked. Even the 6-position collapsible buttstock is AR standard. The one that came on the shotgun works fine, but you can swap to any Mil-Spec version you desire. This shotgun is a bit on the heavy side, but that comes with the territory in a semi-auto shotgun. The weight does help dampen recoil, which you will appreciate when you see how fast you can shoot this monster.

### Article Continues Below

The upper and lower receiver is machined from 7075 aircraft grade aluminum. The barrel is 18.875 inches long, made of 4140 steel and comes threaded to accept a wide variety of choke tubes, including door breacher, stiletto and tactical chokes. It features a 22-inch Picatinny rail that proves ideal for mounting lights or a red dot. It's a gas-operated semiauto and the internal parts are salt-nitride coated to increase lubricity. I put this shotgun

through its paces without cleaning or oil and it continued to eat almost every load I shoved in the magazine. Shooters will be pleased to know that it comes in 2, 5 and 10 round capacities and a 15-round drum and 25-round drum are currently in development. This is one of those guns, you can feel the quality when you pick it up. The machining is second to none, with attention to fit and finish you would expect from a more expensive gun. This is a great option for iron sights if you choose that route. I opted to pair mine with a [Vortex Sparc AR](#). A red dot felt like the way to go, and I recommend this one if you end up with an SKO-12.



## Overall Performance

I haven't had this much fun with a gun in a long time. The SKO ran like a sewing machine, which left me to focus on important things. Like pumpkin skeet. It was the only flying object I had handy, but it did prove the point you could use this gun on birds if necessary. On stationary targets, I was amazed at how fast the SKO will

shoot. I recommend you purchase the 10-round magazines, you'll empty the five-rounders in the blink of an eye. Also available are two-round mags, making this gun legal for hunting.

I walked away from this test very impressed. Out of the box, this was a performer, and in a difficult arena. If you have an interest in tactical shotguns, this is the one you want.



[http://patriotcaller.com/top-8-bug-out-vehicles-right-off-the-lot-no-modifications-required/?utm\\_source=MailingList&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=-OContent&ContactOLEadSourceId=-OContent](http://patriotcaller.com/top-8-bug-out-vehicles-right-off-the-lot-no-modifications-required/?utm_source=MailingList&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=-OContent&ContactOLEadSourceId=-OContent)

## Top 9 Bug-Out Vehicles Right Off the Lot (No Modifications Required)



We all know that a Humvee, Land Rover Defender or a Sherman tank and simply drive right over barricades and gridlock with ease...

Unfortunately, these vehicles exist in a twilight zone where mind-numbing purchase prices overlap with insanely high maintenance costs and ridiculously low MPGs. Plus, imagine trying to find a place to parallel park your Sherman tank downtown. It just ain't gonna happen.

And if there's one thing we caution against again and again, it's investing in wildly impractical equipment in the name of preparedness. In the event of a true emergency, you're most likely not going to have time to run home, air up your 35-inch mud tires on your Bug-Out Vehicle, and swing by the wife's office like a knight in shining armor.

You're probably going to be staring down the apocalypse through the windshield of your daily driver. Despite what you may be thinking, that doesn't mean you can't be prepared for just about anything.

Lots of reliable, late model 4x4 vehicles can double as capable apocalyptic escape vehicles when the need arises. The important thing is to select a daily driver that's up to the task. Contrary to popular belief, there's no need to spring for a camouflaged paint job, armor plating, or even a snorkel.

Even better, you can pick up most of these vehicles on any used car lot and find replacement parts at any auto parts store.

The best bug-out equipped vehicles hit a sweet spot between on people/gear-hauling utility, off road capability, and rugged reliability. So which stock vehicles are up to the task?

To help unpack that question, we've put together a list of the most capable "off the lot" BOVs.

## How We Made Our Selections



As we compiled this list, it quickly became obvious that the criteria for "Ultimate BOV" is subjective to the point of being worthless. Several prominent lists included "bug-out" conversion trucks by Earth Roamer that have a starting price of **\$282,000!**

We can speak for everyone, but that's a bit rich for our blood. That's exactly why we decided to come up with a list of our own, using criteria that's not completely asinine.

So, our criteria is made up of the following:

- First and foremost, it must be a practical daily Driver. As stated earlier, you're probably going to be staring down the apocalypse through the windshield of your daily driver.
- Must be equipped with 4WD.
- Readily available in most used car markets.
- Reasonably priced (NOT a 2016 Land Cruiser or Range Rover).
- High marks for durability and reliability
- Fully "bug-out ready" from the factory, not modifications required (doesn't mean you won't make this vehicle your own).
- Excellent on and off road capabilities.

Without further ado, let's get to the fun part...

## Jeep Wrangler Unlimited



First things first, there's just no denying that the Jeep has a special place in the mind of the American off-road enthusiast. This iconic 4wd vehicle was developed for the Army in WWII and eventually morphed into what we now know as the Jeep Wrangler.

If you've owned a Jeep in the past, be it a CJ-7 or a TJ Wrangler, you can attest to the fact that these Jeeps are easy to maintain and can climb over most anything. You also know that these things are loud, cramped, and decidedly not family-friendly.

Thankfully for those of us who enjoy creature comforts, the latest version of the Wrangler is much more practical than its forbearers. The Unlimited Wrangler JK even seats 5 passengers somewhat comfortably.

Whether you opt for the manual 6-speed or the 5-speed automatic, you'll have the power of the Wrangler's short wheelbase and legendary 4x4 system to your advantage. Be advised as you shop, Jeep did produce 2wd Wranglers briefly (2007-2009) which you'll want to make sure and avoid. What the hell were they thinking?

## **Toyota 4Runner 4WD**

If the Wrangler lacks the ride quality, comfort, or cargo space you need, the 4Runner might just hit the spot. Posing as an everyday commuter, turn the 4x4 dial on one of these Toyotas and your kid-hauler transforms immediately into an off-roading beast.

The 4Runner comes standard with roof racks, which may come in handy in a bug-out situation. It's also got a surprising amount of cargo space, especially when you fold the back seats down. Some 4Runners are even outfitted with 3rd row seating, which we'd avoid unless you absolutely need it, because they 3rd row really eats up a lot of cargo space.

In addition to the creature comforts and off roading capabilities of the 4Runner, this vehicle also has the reputation for being bomb-proof in the reliability department. A quick look at your local used 4Runner listings will typically yield several vehicles with over 200K miles that are described as "low mileage" or "drives like new."

## Half-ton Crew Cab 4×4 ( Z71, FX4, TRD)



There's really no all-round do everything vehicle that can top what the half-ton pickup truck has achieved in the last decade. With the introduction of the crew cab, luxury trim options, and advanced off-roading technology, the Silverado, Sierra, F150, Ram, Titan and Tundra are all excellent bug-out vehicles straight off of the car lot, provided they're properly equipped.

“Properly equipped” is code for four wheel drive, in case you were wondering. Upgraded packages, such as GM's “z71 Off Road,” Ford's FX4, or Toyota's TRD package, come with higher ground clearances, skid plates, locking differentials, and additional traction control systems.

To be what we'd call a “full service BOV,” we highly recommend opting for the 4 door crew cab package. These trucks seat 5 adults comfortably in the cab, while leaving the entire bed to haul guns, food, generators, barrels of water or whatever else you could imagine.

And unlike the SUVs on this list, passengers don't have to ride in the same space as the cargo. This is a big plus if you have to haul stinky cargo like gasoline, fertilizer, garbage, etc.

The one major downside when it comes to pickups, particularly 4 door trucks, is their semi-impractical size. If you live in an urban setting, say a downtown with lots of parking garages, then driving a full-sized pickup can be a white-knuckle experience.

## Nissan Xterra 4X4



While it's true that Nissan has ridden Toyota's coattails for many years when it comes to imported off-road prowess, there is one thing Nissan offers that Toyota just can't touch in the used car market: Affordability.

The Nissan Xterra is one of the most overlooked 4x4s, and as such you can pick one up far cheaper than a 4Runner or Wrangler. No, the Xterra isn't considered as reliable or durable as the 4Runner, nor is it as capable off-road as the Wrangler.

The real question is: Are you going rock crawling on the weekends or are you driving a tolerably practical BOV?

If you answered the latter, then the Xterra is a shoe-in (not that the Xterra can't handle rugged off-road trails). There are plenty of Xterras in the used car market and there are relatively inexpensive to maintain. If you're on a budget, the Xterra will be your trusty steed. Just make sure your steed is 4wd.

## **Tahoe Z71 4X4**



Depending on the size of your SHTF unit (family or friends), seating for 5 just might not cut it. If that's the case, don't worry. There are a few solid options out there, each with its own set of drawbacks. The black Tahoe is often associated with the FBI, CIA, and Secret Service, precisely because these vehicles do accommodate full-grown adults well.

Many of the same reasons the Silverado Z71 is on this list apply to the Tahoe as well, particularly if you can find a Tahoe with the Z71 Off Road package. The Tahoe is known for striking a balance between bulk and brawn, making it a practical commuter vehicle while still delivering in the off-roading and hauling department.

It's got plenty of interior space, plenty of horsepower, and because it share GM's truck drivetrain and 4X4 components, it's both rugged and reliable.

## **Toyota Tacoma Double Cab 4X4**



This has been the mid-sized truck of choice for rock crawlers, off-roaders, and outdoorsman alike for many years. The reason is well... *Toyota*.

Toyota's reputation for incredible durability, excellent off-road components, and nearly non-existent maintenance costs keep this mid-sized truck popular year after year. So popular, in fact, that you'll have to pay a pretty penny to get your hands on a well equipped late model Tacoma.

If that doesn't dissuade you or cause you to look at full-sized pickups, then you've got a fairly disaster proof truck that's still small enough to fit in an undersized parking space. The downside is that you have a fairly cramped interior with an undersized truck bed.

Even if you're only accommodating 2 passengers, we still recommend the Double Cab for the interior storage room. Your weather sensitive cargo will thank you.

## **Hummer H3**



This vehicle is a bit of a lightning rod for both smiling nods of approval and vicious insults. To be frank, it's not particularly deserving of either of these.

Despite its resemblance to the hulking H2, the H3 has much more in common with a typical family SUV than an Abrams Tank. It is, however, highly off-road capable.

The H3 has got plenty of wheel travel, impressive approach and departure angles, and skid plates to keep the boulders out of the engine compartment. Even with the inline 5-cylinder engine, it can power through off road obstacles with ease. On the road, however, you may wish you had another cylinder (or 3).

Exterior styling is either up your alley or its not. It does have a roof rack, relatively decent fuel economy, and styling that screams “apocalypse ready.”

The downsides to the H3 are the considerable curb weight and surprisingly little cargo space. If you have a family of 4 and a Labrador Retriever, it may be a little cramped in a bug-out situation.

## **Toyota FJ Cruiser 4X4**



This list wouldn't be complete without at least mentioning this extremely capable off-roader. When you need to cross a rocky mountain pass in to escape a fiery Armageddon, you'd be lucky to find yourself at the wheel of a well-equipped FJ.

FJ's look the part, have excellent on and off-road reputations, and they even have better than average gas mileage for the 99.999% of the time you are driving under normal circumstances.

Cool as it looks, the FJ does have a few asterisks in the fine print.

For starters, it's got two full doors and two suicide doors (gulp). If you have small children or regularly carry passengers, these doors may occasionally inspire thoughts of ending it all.

In addition, for its bulky appearance the FJ has surprisingly limited cargo space, less than the 4Runner, Xterra, or Tahoe.

It does have more space than the Wrangler Unlimited, which is 3-feet shorter from bumper to bumper. Like most of the SUVs on this list, the FJ has a roof rack. If you use this vehicle a lot, you'll probably use it.

**RELATED:** [How to Build An Emergency "Car Kit" \[STEP-BY-STEP\]](#)

**NEXT: Drumroll please.... #1 SHTF Vehicle Ever (and Most Affordable!)**

**Clear Winner: The Pack Mule**



Yes folks, it's hard to beat a pack mule when it comes to any kind of Armageddon scenario. Compared to a motor vehicle, these are about a lo

Thank you,  
Paul Curtis  
President - CARGO  
[www.cargogunclub.org](http://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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