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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

www.cargogunclub.org

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

The next meeting will be held at Napoli's on **Thursday, March 16th.**

We will meet at Napoli's in Wylie.

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

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

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

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

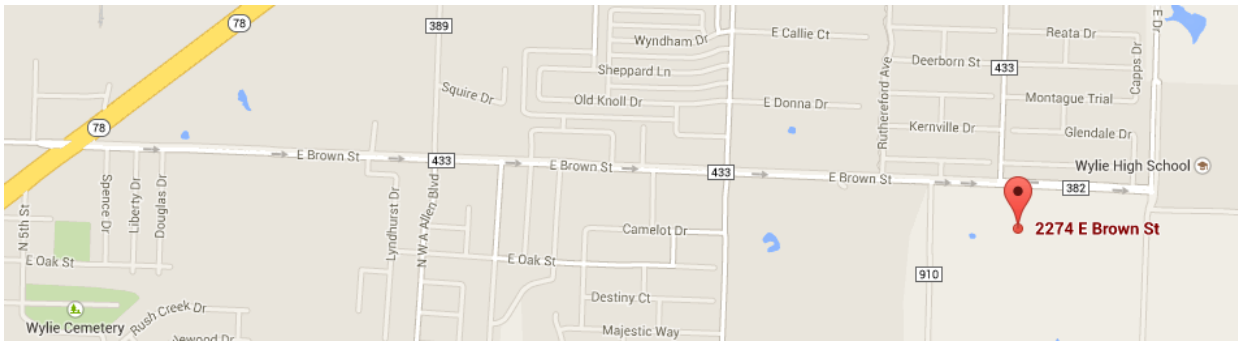
The address is:

2274 EAST Brown Street in Wylie

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

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





Meeting gun topics:

- Based on what I can find, the next oldest firearms manufactures are Smith & Wesson 1840, Walther 1886 and Fabrique Nationale d'Herstal (FN Herstal) 1889
 - Please bring anything in your collection from Smith & Wesson, Walther or FN Herstal to share with the club.
- Do you want to get some tips on how to sharpen a knife? Our very own Doc Brizendine is scheduled to bring his knife sharpening skills and tools to the meeting. This is always a very informative demonstration and knives coming out of Doc's hands are extremely sharp!
- 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.
- Member Don Bridges has been allowing the club to meet at his shop for the past year. The shop is on the market for sale and this may be the last month that we are able to meet for the firearms portion of the meeting. Please put some thought into alternative locations / options to carry on the firearms related part of the meetings.

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

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

Proposed Executive Order Designating Certain Rifles for ‘Militia Purposes’



The faulty [Fourth District decision](#) issued last week upholding Maryland’s Scary Gun Ban runs afoul of good jurisprudence. The ruling found that Second Amendment protections don’t extend to individuals who wish to own certain semi-automatic [rifles](#) like the AR-15, calling them, “weapons that are most useful in military service.” However, a document sent to me yesterday offers hope of correcting that in the form of a proposed executive order to be issued by President Trump.

Virginia attorney Lenden Eakin sent me the text of the proposed order and gave permission to share it. I’d like run it past the Armed Intelligentsia here at TTAG to get your take.

The simple mechanism of attorney Eakin’s proposal: by defining certain categories of [rifles](#) for militia use, the President could strike state and local bans on many of the most popular “assault [rifles](#)” and their magazines.

Mr. Eakin also notes: “An [Executive Order](#) like this could have a significant impact on the litigation to challenge Assault Weapons Bans currently making its way through the Courts. It would help the challengers.”

UPDATE: I neglected to note in the original story how this is meant to serve as a stop-gap measure. Ideally, only until a more permanent remedy could be achieved. Or alternatively, until the Supreme Court, with one or more President Trump appointees, could reverse that Fourth Circuit ruling and strike scary gun bans on the whole.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

DESIGNATION OF MILITIA RIFLES

By the authority vested in me as President and Commander in Chief of the Militia by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to ensure the ability of citizens of the United States to defend themselves, their communities and their States, as well as to ensure the safety and security of our Nation, I hereby order as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. Both individual and community safety are critically important to the national security of the United States. Terrorism, transnational criminal activity and potential acts of war by foreign nations present a significant threat to national security and our citizens, who have the right and the duty to defend themselves, their communities, their States and the Nation.

Section 2. Policy. It is the policy of the executive branch to:

- (a) Support and defend the Constitution, including the Second Amendment right of citizens to keep and [bear arms](#) for Militia purposes, as well as self-defense.
- (b) Encourage citizens to be prepared to act as members of the Militia to defend communities, States and the Nation, as part of the common defense contemplated by the Constitution of the United States.
- (c) Discourage restrictions by States and political subdivisions on individual possession of [firearms](#) suitable for Militia purposes by citizens of the United States.

Section 3. Definitions.

- (a) "Militia" has the meaning given the term in Title 10, Section 311 of the United States Code to include the Unorganized Militia, as well as the meaning given to the term "Militia" under equivalent State statutes.
- (b) "Self-Defense" shall mean the actions of citizens to defend themselves and their families from physical attack.
- (c) "Communities" shall mean neighborhoods, towns, cities, counties and other political subdivisions of citizens who live in distinct geographic areas within a State.
- (d) "State" shall mean one of the fifty States of the United States.
- (e) "Militia Purposes" shall mean training, practice and preparedness which could improve the ability of a citizen to act, and to be armed in case of a need to act, as a member of a local, State or National organization commanded by government officials and responsive to a physical threat. Appropriate organizations include those commanded by an elected county or city Sheriff; those commanded by the Governor of a State through officers of that State's Defense Force as authorized by Title 30, Section 109 of the United States Code, or through officers of that State's National Guard; and organizations commanded by the President through officers of the Active or Reserve components of [U.S. Armed Forces](#).
- (f) "Militia Rifles" shall mean the firearms designated in Section 4 that are made in America and suitable for use in self-defense, community defense, defense of States and defense of the Nation.

Section 4. Designation of Militia [Rifles](#). That the following [firearms](#) and accessories are authorized and appropriate for individual citizens to keep and bear for Militia purposes under the Constitution and the laws of the United States:

(a) The [AR-15](#) and similar semi-automatic [rifles](#), to include flash suppressors and bayonet lugs, magazines of up to thirty round capacities, M-7 bayonets, and ammunition in 5.56 NATO or .223 Remington, in all quantities.

(b) The M1A and similar semi-automatic rifles, to include flash suppressors and bayonet lugs, magazines of up to twenty round capacities, M-6 bayonets, and [ammunition](#) in 7.62 NATO or .308 [Winchester](#), in all quantities.

(c) The M1 Garand and similar semi-automatic rifles, to include [flash](#) suppressors and bayonet lugs, M-5 bayonets, and ammunition in .30-'06 Springfield, in all quantities.

(d) [Bolt action rifles](#) in the calibers of .30-'06 Springfield; 7.62 NATO or .308 Winchester; 5.56 NATO or .223 Remington; or any substantially equivalent caliber, and ammunition appropriate for the rifles, in any quantity.

(This list could easily be expanded.)

Section 5. Pre-emption. This [Executive Order](#) is intended to pre-empt the laws of States or political subdivisions that infringe upon the rights of citizens to keep and bear the arms designated in Section 4.

Section 6. Judicial Notice. That the judges of all State and Federal Courts are hereby given notice that possession of the designated Militia Rifles and accessories by citizens should not be restricted or infringed upon by State laws or the laws of a political subdivision of a State and any such law should be reviewed under the strict scrutiny standard to determine whether it is a violation of the Constitution of the United States after judicial consideration of this Order and the fact that it was issued by the Commander in Chief of the Militia.

Donald J. Trump

THE WHITE HOUSE

March __, 2017

PROPOSED [EXECUTIVE ORDER](#) DESIGNATES MILITIA RIFLES FOR CITIZEN OWNERSHIP

How to Help a Cop During a Life-Threatening Struggle

Posted on July 11, 2016 by [Greg Ellifritz](#) in [Reader Questions](#)

Written by: [Greg Ellifritz](#)

With the violence directed against cops in Dallas and a few other locations recently, a few people have asked me to re-post this article. If you want to help a cop in trouble, read it. And be sure to read [PART TWO](#), how you can help a cop even if you aren't carrying a weapon.

-Greg



Plain clothes officer after being beaten and pistol whipped by a criminal suspect.

I recently received a very interesting question from a friend and fellow blogger. He asked the following:

“How should an armed citizen best help a police officer if that officer is under violent attack from another individual or group of individuals?”

It's a great question. I think many folks with CCW licenses would be willing to help a cop in trouble. As a cop, I welcome all the help I can get if I'm in a bad situation. Three recent incidents ([here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#)) demonstrate examples where armed citizens saved police officers' lives.

Here are some guidelines for folks who want to help an officer in trouble....

Carry your damn gun! You can't easily help a cop in a deadly force scenario without your gun. In my experience, many CCW licensees don't regularly carry their firearm.

When I stop a person for a traffic violation, I get an automatic alert if they have a carry permit when I run their license on my in-car computer. If they haven't informed me that they are carrying a weapon, out of curiosity, I ask them if they are carrying when I re-approach the car.

The most common answer I get when I ask that question is: *"Yes, I have a permit, but I'm not carrying my gun right now."* I would estimate that 75% of the permit holders that I stop for traffic violations aren't carrying their guns at the time of the stop.

You aren't likely to help a cop in a gunfight if you aren't carrying your gun.

As you approach the officer, keep your gun concealed. You don't want to be mistaken for another criminal if you are running up on a cop involved in a gunfight or life threatening physical struggle. If the cop sees you running towards him with a gun in your hand, there's a good chance that he will assume you are a friend of the criminal he is fighting. If that happens, you are likely to get shot.

You should also recognize that the cop has likely already called for help on the radio. A whole bunch of his fellow officers are already on the way to the scene. One of them might mistake you for the bad guy if they pull up and you have a gun in your hand.

As you are approaching to help the officer, keep your gun in the holster until you've decided you need to shoot.

Identify yourself and ask the officer if he needs help. Here's the thing that most CCW licensees don't understand about police confrontations: most of the time, your gun will only complicate the problem. Let me explain...

In most of the physical confrontations police officers find themselves in, the criminal is not really trying to kill the officer. We get in a lot of wrestling matches, but very rarely do we face a criminal who is trying to seriously hurt or kill us. Most of the criminals that cops are tussling with aren't really trying to hurt the officer at all. They are just trying to escape or "save face" in front of their buddies. They don't need to be shot.

The problem that you deal with as a rescuer is that you don't know if the cop is trying to wrestle down a fleeing unarmed shoplifter or is in a life threatening struggle with a cop killer. If you see a cop struggling with someone during an arrest, the best course of action is to approach, identify yourself as a "good guy" and ask the officer if he needs help. Saying something like *"Officer, I have a concealed carry permit. Do you need help?"* is probably the best thing you can do. You may have to repeat the request several times to ensure the cop hears it in the struggle.

The most likely response you will get is something like *"Yes! Grab his arm and help me get him cuffed!"* That will be far more likely than something like *"Yes! Shoot him in the head!"*

Your exposed gun is more of a liability than an asset in a physical struggle. The cop will be worried that the unarmed shoplifter that he's wrestling with will become armed by taking your gun away from you if you try to inject yourself into the struggle with gun in hand.

If you see someone shooting at a cop, it's time to draw your gun. If you see the cop physically struggling with someone, it's best to ask if he needs help before jumping into the fight.

If you do have to shoot, holster your weapon as soon as the threat is neutralized. If you decide to help a cop involved in life threatening danger by shooting his attacker, you need to ensure that you aren't mistakenly shot yourself by the officers (or another armed citizen) coming to help. Standing over a cop who has been shot with a gun in your hand is a recipe for getting yourself shot by additional responding officers.

Recognize that more police officers are on the way. Recognize that they will likely be on scene very quickly if one of their coworkers is in trouble. Make sure you aren't standing there with gun in hand when they arrive.

If you have to shoot, holster your weapon as soon as you are able to. Seek cover, from both the bad guy and from responding officers. Get on the phone to police and ensure that you give dispatchers a good description of yourself so that they can relay that information to responding officers.

When the cops arrive, they will probably order you to the ground, put you in handcuffs, and take your weapon. Expect that. Comply with their orders and don't get indignant. I know you will be thinking something like "I just saved that officer's life and his buddies are treating me like a criminal." That's reality. The responding cops aren't sure if you are the cop's guardian angel or the man who just shot him. They will take precautions by handcuffing you until they figure out what's going on. Don't complicate matters by trying to argue with them. It will all get sorted out and the cuffs will be removed in a short time.

I stated earlier in the article that, as a cop, I would be eternally grateful for a citizen's assistance if I was in trouble. I think most of my co-workers feel the same way. We appreciate your assistance and we don't want you to get hurt in the process. Make sure you take some precautions by following these instructions if you decide to help out a cop in trouble.

Helping an Officer in Trouble- Part Two

Posted on September 23, 2015 by [Greg Ellifritz](#) in [Reader Questions](#)

Written by: [Greg Ellifritz](#)

On Monday I wrote an article about How to [Help a Cop in a Life-Threatening Struggle](#). The article was well received and generated a lot of comments and questions. One of the most common questions was:

"The article provided good options for an armed individual to assist an officer in trouble, but I don't have a CCW permit. Is there anything an UNARMED individual can do to help?"

It's an excellent question. First of all, I would commend anyone for even thinking about wading into the fray to help an officer in life threatening danger. Doing so while unarmed is even more admirable. There are a few things that an unarmed rescuer can do to help....

Don't make things worse. Heroically jumping into a gunfight when you are unarmed isn't likely to yield positive results. If you get killed, you won't be helping the officer at all. In fact, it may be detrimental to the officer because the medics might decide to transport your injured body to the hospital before the officer if only one ambulance is available.

No one wants you to execute a suicide mission. If shots are being fired, seek cover. Only consider engaging the criminal if you notice that his weapon is empty or he has experienced a malfunction and his gun won't work. Even then, it's extremely dangerous to take on the attacker while unarmed.

If you feel comfortable physically intervening, do so. If the cop is physically struggling with an attacker, feel free to help if you can do so. I've accepted help from bystander citizens in struggles with criminals several times in my career. As I stated in Monday's article, identify yourself and ask the officer for help before you engage.

One other thing... if you are unarmed, don't try to access any weapons on the officer's belt, even if you know how to use them. The officer won't know if you are trying to help him or if you are the attacker's

accomplice. Reaching for the officer's pepper spray/baton/Taser/gun will lead to a situation where the officer will escalate force and may cause you or the attacker to get unnecessarily injured.

If you don't feel comfortable assisting by yourself, get some help. Many times when an officer is attacked, a small crowd of people will gather. The bystanders may want to help, but may not know what to do or may not want to be the first person to jump into the struggle. Even if you are not physically able to take on the attacker by yourself, you may be able to recruit some help from the crowd if you take the initiative.

Tell the crowd *"That officer needs help!"* and then grab some folks and see if they will join the fray. Often times all people need is a little encouragement and they will be more than willing to offer assistance.

If you can't do anything, call the police, get a good description, and record the incident on video. If you aren't capable of physically intervening, make sure that you or someone else calls the police. When the dispatcher answers the phone, provide your location and tell them that *"an officer is in trouble."* Give details if asked. The *"officer in trouble"* call will get the officer help the quickest. Make sure you ask the dispatcher to send an ambulance as well. The officer (or the suspect) may need one by the time the fight is over. Getting one started to the scene as early as possible ensures it will be there when needed.

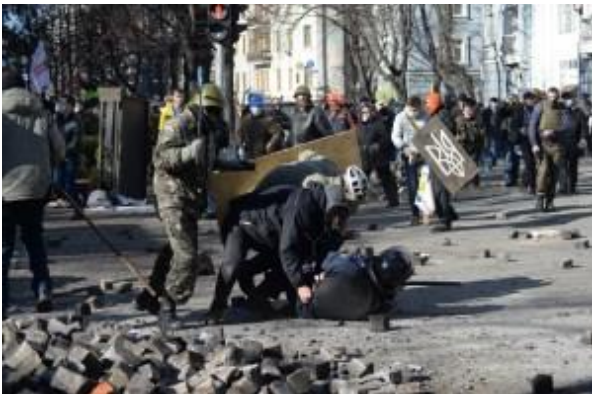
Providing police with an excellent description of the attacker will ensure that he is caught if he tries to escape. The most important elements of the description to concentrate on are the attacker's physical description (race, age, and clothing description), vehicle description (color, make, model, license plate number), and direction of travel. If the criminal flees, providing this information will be extremely useful to responding officers.

Getting video of the incident on your cell phone will also help police. It will both help to identify the assailant and provide evidence against him at his trial should he be apprehended. If you can do nothing else, get yourself to a safe location and turn on your video camera.

Provide medical attention. After the incident is over, help the officer if you can. Stop any severe bleeding. Put the officer in the [recovery position](#) if he is unconscious. Make sure no members of the gathering crowd steal any of the officer's weapons from his gunbelt or the ground. The officer's cruiser should be nearby. Almost all cruisers will have a medical kit and or AED in the trunk. Use it if the officer asks you to or if he is unconscious and needs medical assistance.

Even if you are unarmed or physically incapable of fighting, you can still take valuable actions to help an officer in trouble. You will have my eternal gratitude if you make an effort to do so.

Special thanks go out to the [Short Barrel Shepherd](#) whose question prompted this article series.



A police officer attacked by protesters during clashes in Ukraine.

Federal Appeals court upholds Maryland assault rifle ban

Baltimore Sun

Ian Duncan 2/22/2017



Brian Witte Frank Loane, owner of Pasadena Pawn and Gun, stands in front of a wall of assault rifles at his store in Pasadena, Md. A federal appeals court upheld Maryland's ban on assault rifles, concluding that the powerful military-style guns outlawed by the measure are not entitled to protection under the Second Amendment.

The 10-4 ruling, issued by the entire Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, reverses a decision by a smaller panel of judges from the court last year [that called the law's constitutionality into question](#).

The bill was steered through the Maryland Senate in 2013 by then-Sen. Brian E. Frosh in the wake of the deadly shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. Since elected as the state's attorney general, he has defended the law in court.

Frosh, a Democrat, called the dual role gratifying and said he was very happy with the ruling.

"It's a very strong opinion and we think absolutely correct," said Frosh, who called the violence wrought by the now-banned guns "senseless."

The law, which also outlawed magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds, was challenged by two men who said they wanted to buy the banned rifles and by a handful of gun stores and associations. They argued that the rifles were popular among gun enthusiasts, used by people to defend their homes and not inherently dangerous. A federal judge in Baltimore disagreed, upholding the law.

A lawyer for the plaintiffs could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

The plaintiffs could appeal the case to the Supreme Court. Frosh said that he's confident the law will stand should the high court weigh in.

The case is among several that have tested how courts would consider new firearm restrictions in the wake of a 2008 Supreme Court decision — *District of Columbia v. Heller* — that affirmed an individual's constitutional right to own at least some types of guns.

In the Fourth Circuit's decision, which began by recounting recent mass shootings, Judge Robert B. King concluded that the rifles banned by the Maryland law fell outside of the protections laid down by the Supreme Court.

"Both before and after Newtown, similar military-style rifles and detachable magazines have been used to perpetrate mass shootings in places whose names have become synonymous with the slaughters that occurred there," he wrote.

"We are convinced that the banned assault weapons and large-capacity magazines are among those arms that are 'like' 'M-16 rifles' — 'weapons that are most useful in military service' — which the *Heller* Court singled out as being beyond the Second Amendment's reach," King wrote.

Four other courts have upheld similar restrictions in other states, he wrote, and he said the earlier decision by the panel of judges would have made the court an outlier.

In a scathing dissent, Judge William B. Traxler said it was his colleagues who had now gone too far by denying that the guns are covered under the Second Amendment at all.

"The majority has gone to greater lengths than any other court to eviscerate the constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms," he wrote.

Even if the weapons were constitutionally protected, Traxler acknowledged it is possible that the Maryland law still might pass muster but said it should be subjected to a stricter review by the court.

"For a law-abiding citizen who, for whatever reason, chooses to protect his home with a semi-automatic rifle instead of a semi-automatic handgun, Maryland's law clearly imposes a significant burden on the exercise of the right to arm oneself at home," he wrote.

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Dissenting Judge: Assault Weapons Ruling 'Eviscerates' 2nd Amendment

Maryland's ban on 45 kinds of assault weapons and its 10-round limit on gun magazines were upheld this week by a federal appeals court in a decision that met with a strongly worded dissent.

In a 10-4 ruling, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., said Tuesday the guns banned under Maryland's 2013 law — enacted in the wake of the Newtown, Connecticut, school shooting — aren't protected by the Second Amendment.

"Put simply, we have no power to extend Second Amendment protections to weapons of war," Judge Robert King wrote for the court, adding that the Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* explicitly excluded such coverage.

Judge William Traxler issued a dissent. By concluding the Second Amendment doesn't even apply, Traxler wrote, the majority "has gone to greater lengths than any other court to eviscerate the constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms." He also wrote that the court did not apply a strict enough review on the constitutionality of the law.

"For a law-abiding citizen who, for whatever reason, chooses to protect his home with a semi-automatic rifle instead of a semi-automatic handgun, Maryland's law clearly imposes a significant burden on the exercise of the right to arm oneself at home, and it should at least be subject to strict scrutiny review before it is allowed to stand," Traxler wrote.

National Rifle Association spokeswoman Jennifer Baker said, "It is absurd to hold that the most popular rifle in America is not a protected 'arm' under the Second Amendment." She added that the majority opinion "clearly ignores the Supreme Court's guidance from *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the Second Amendment protects arms that are 'in common use at the time for lawful purposes like self-defense.'"

The NRA estimates there are 5 million to 10 million AR-15s — one of the weapons banned under Maryland's law — in circulation in the United States for lawful purposes. Asked about an appeal, Baker said the NRA is exploring all options.

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Wrecking Ball: CMMG MkW-15 ANVIL Review

By

[Dusty Gibson](#) - February 1, 2017

Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt's famous "Big Stick Diplomacy" has sculpted much of America's political and cultural ideologies over the years. The expression, "Speak softly and carry a big stick—you'll go far," may have even earned Roosevelt a Nobel Peace prize for his soft-spoken negotiation tactics to end the Russo-Japanese war in 1905. However, there are times when speaking softly isn't an option and the big stick needs to do the negotiating.

Echoing the latter part of Roosevelt's ideology is CMMG's new MkW-15 Anvil rifle, chambered for the beastly .458 SOCOM cartridge. As many know, the .458 SOCOM was designed to give U.S. military personnel greater close-range stopping power than the .223 Rem., while maintaining compatibility with most mil-spec M16 parts. Naturally, the civilian firearms market adopted the .458 SOCOM for the AR-15 rifle. The ability to fire 300- to 550-grain bullets with the simple swap of an upper receiver is an appealing feat for hunting, home defense or vaporizing watermelons.

Like anything, there's always a trade-off, and firing the .458 SOCOM from a standard AR-15 platform isn't immune to problems. The bruised shoulders of many shooters provide vivid illustrations of the increased felt recoil of the cartridge. In fact, the .458 SOCOM introduces standard AR-15 parts to physical stresses that they were not originally designed to withstand. Additional forces produced by the cartridge are known to cause mechanical and cycling problems with standard AR-15s such as unreliable feeding, over-gassing, and metallurgical stress on moving parts. Cycling issues are also known to destroy brass, which is inconvenient given the cost and availability of .458 SOCOM brass cases.

The .458 SOCOM is a potent round, and the MkW-15 ANVIL is purpose-built to handle it.

A Bigger Stick

Enter the CMMG MkW-15 Anvil rifle, which was specifically engineered to achieve optimal performance and longevity with the .458 SOCOM. From a glance, the Anvil looks like any other AR-15. Pick it up, and it even has the same ergonomics and controls as your favorite .22-caliber carbine. But pull the trigger and you'll know immediately that you just delivered a bit more lead than a 55-grain XM-193 downrange.

While it looks, wields and operates like a standard AR-15, look a bit closer and you'll find the direct impingement, gas-operated semi-automatic CMMG Anvil was designed more like a Hummer H1 than a Jeep Wrangler.

The bolt face on the standard AR-15 bolt carrier looks small in comparison to that featured on the MkW-15.

Compared to other Mil-Spec ARs, the Anvil's parts are beefed up all-around to give it greater longevity. Its receivers and bolt carrier group are significantly reinforced with extra aluminum and steel for added rigidity. In fact, many of the Anvil's major mechanical parts are not cross-compatible with standard AR-15 components—an intentional engineering decision by CMMG to give the Anvil maximum performance and reliability with the .458 SOCOM cartridge. CMMG utilized a similar beefed-up design with its Mk47 Mutant rifle introduced in 2015, which was built around the 7.62x39mm cartridge.

The introduction of the Anvil rifle marks the first semi-auto rifle (that I know of) that was designed from the ground-up for the .458 SOCOM cartridge. Diverting from other manufacturers who simply slap a bigger barrel and bolt onto existing AR-15 hardware, CMMG's Anvil is actually a bigger hammer entirely. In fact, its billet aluminum upper and lower receivers will not even attach to standard AR receivers. While shooters who desire cross-compatibility may see the proprietary design as a turn-off, the Anvil's enlarged skeleton enables the rifle to run more reliably, reduces recoil and adds longevity through high round counts. Though its major mechanical components are scaled up to handle the .458, the Anvil maintains compatibility with standard AR-15 magazines and some common parts such as the fire control group, pistol grip and buttstock.

The MkW-15's receiver is beefed up specifically for the .458 SOCOM, as can be seen here.

Given the Anvil's compatibility considerations, do the potential risks of using proprietary parts outweigh the performance benefits of its custom-tailored design? In short, absolutely. Even with standard AR-15 rifles that have been converted to fire .458 SOCOM, the parts most prone to failure—the bolt and the barrel—are still relatively expensive and hard to find. Personally, I find greater comfort in the fact that the Anvil's components were specifically engineered to maximize reliability by minimizing the known failure points of standard AR components at the mercy of the .458 SOCOM.

Like a Wrecking Ball

Quite simply, if you had to pick one semi-auto rifle equally capable of stopping a car, a hog and a home intruder on the same day, look no further than the CMMG MkW-15 Anvil.

Thumping out almost 2,400 foot-pounds of muzzle energy, the Anvil is more than capable of delivering serious stopping power in the form of .45-caliber projectiles. Not only that, but the gun is capable of handling the gamut of .458 SOCOM loads on the market. Its adjustable gas block and threaded barrel are also inviting for custom-tuning the Anvil to run smoothly with your favorite loads through a suppressor.

Range Tested, Writer Approved

During testing, we found the factory gas block setting was a bit excessive, likely tuned for maximum reliability. Dialing the gas flow down a small amount seemed to reduce felt recoil without affecting reliability.

In terms of accuracy, the Anvil produced average groups of 2.25 inches at 100 yards with a Nikon M-223 1-4×20 scope. Greater magnification would likely increase accuracy; however, the intent of the .458 SOCOM round is not necessarily to offer pinpoint precision but rather superior stopping power at close range.

Among the variety of ammo tested, the MkW-15 took no distinct favorites, making it a very versatile firearm for anything from hunting to home defense. For domestic applications, some may argue the .458 SOCOM is overkill when in fact it is very suitable for home-defense with the right ammunition choice. Projectiles such as the Lehigh Defense Controlled Fracturing copper or the Polycase ARX are likely the best candidates for home-defense applications because they offer reduced penetration and devastating terminal effects on soft targets. When bigger is better—as is often the case with .458 SOCOM—we found the CorBon 300-grain Deep Penetrating Expanding (DPX) to function reliably through the Anvil and perform exactly as advertised.

After firing 200 rounds of various .458 SOCOM rounds through the MkW-15 Anvil, not one mechanical or cycling problem was observed. Firing that many beastly rounds was surprisingly comfortable, especially compared to standard AR-15s converted to fire the mighty .458. While the Anvil certainly doesn't eliminate recoil, its beefed up design absolutely makes each trigger pull more enjoyable.

CMMG's MkW-15 ANVIL is a serious option for shooters searching for a dedicated .458 SOCOM AR platform.

Parting Shots

With the Anvil, CMMG makes it harder than ever to justify not owning a rifle in .458 SOCOM. The Anvil is clearly capable of delivering 300- to 550-grain bullets with great accuracy. Based off the AR-15 platform, the MkW-15 is ergonomic and has familiar controls that make it easy to shoot well. Its reinforced design offers peace of mind that the major components can handle the .458 SOCOM cartridge. Most of all, this gun is just flat out fun to shoot and follows Roosevelt's time-tested motto about carrying a big stick. As far as positives, it's a beast. Accurate. Versatile. Reliable. Ergonomic. Fun to shoot. If there are negatives, it's heavy (almost 10 pounds fully loaded with scope), and .458 SOCOM ammo is expensive (a great reason to reload!).

Editor's Note: This article is an excerpt from the December 2016 issue of [Gun Digest the Magazine](#).

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/bullpup-not-suck-km-arms-m17s-308-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170220_BlogDigest_212&utm_campaign=/blog/bullpup-not-suck-km-arms-m17s-308-full-review/

A Bullpup That Does Not Suck? The K&M Arms M17S .308 – Full Review.

by Jon Hodoway on February 17, 2017

For more information, visit <http://www.kmarms.com/M17S308.html>.

As humans, we tend to adjust our expectations gradually until the things we label as “good” have an asterisk by the descriptor.

Here’s an easy example: Thanksgiving dinner with the entire family. Once everyone has eaten and made their exits, there is the customary sitting around and discussing how well the day went. The conversation will eventually end with a general agreement that everything went relatively smoothly. “Memaw was on her best behavior,” your other half will say. Now, Memaw is the senior member of your family, and her world view was formed in 1956 and has not changed since. You may have Uncle Roy, who should be kept to an absolute maximum alcohol consumption of one wine, with dinner, at all costs. If this plan fails, he will be playing the violin for everyone, despite having never taken lessons.

Let’s convert all of this to a nice gun analogy:

“Have you been to the new gun shop”?

“No, what is it called”?

“‘Lowered Expectations.’ They stock a full line of Rhino revolvers, and all of their rifles are bullpups.”

“What about Glocks?” “Sure, but they are all .45 GAP models.”

I think you are getting the picture here; these guns work, but they are quirky designs with downsides to all their upsides. This condition has described bullpup rifles since their conception.



The new .308 Win. M17S from K&M Arms represents a radically new take on the classic Bushmaster design. It has enhanced features and ergonomics as well as performance and the powerful .308 chambering. It is also offered in a 5.56mm platform. Shown equipped with a Trijicon MRO.

What's Wrong With Bullpups?

Rifle	Manufacturer	Country
Steyr AUG	Steyr Mannlicher	Austria
L86A1 - L85	BAE Systems	United Kingdom
MAS FAMAS F1	Nexter	France
FN P90	FN Herstal	Belgium
Bushmaster M17S	Bushmaster Firearms International	Australia
X95	Israel Weapon Industries	Israel
IWI Tavor	Israel Military Industries	Israel
FN F2000	FN Herstal	Belgium
Kel-Tec RFB	Kel-Tec CNC Industries	United States
Kel-Tec RDB	Kel-Tec CNC Industries	United States

Listing of successful bullpup designs from around the world.

The first issue that all bullpups share is the trigger. A bullpup trigger feels like it's connected to the sear via a ribeye steak. The controls seem to be configured and placed ever so perfectly for only a contortionist to employ. Mag changes are difficult due to magazine well location clashing with the controls. Bullpups are not balanced like other guns, which tends to make recoil worse.

Before you think I am just a hater, I'll confess that I currently own a Steyr AUG and a Tavor SAR-IDF, and have owned loads of other bullpup guns over the years. But let's face facts; they are a compromise gun.

The bullpup design places the gun's action behind the trigger, usually in front of any buttstock. This configuration is used to decrease overall length, while keeping a long barrel length. The purpose of this setup is to allow better maneuverability in confined spaces while retaining maximum ballistic performance.

The earliest bullpup rifle that I could find is the Thorneycroft carbine, which was developed by an English gunsmith in 1901. When tested, the first bullpup rifle had excessive recoil and poor ergonomics- sound familiar? Since 1901, there have been around 100 bullpup rifles created, plus their variants, as far as I can research. Only a few of these rifles listed above have had success either military or commercial markets.



The M17S can employ most standard AR-pattern pistol grips (without a beavertail extension) and feeds from Magpul-pattern magazines.

The Real History of the M17S

If you do a quick search on the internet, you will find that the rifle we know as the Bushmaster M17S was a product of Australia, and known by a different name. After failing in military trials, the rifle was sold in the USA by a division of the company that developed the gun. In 1994, the rights were acquired by Bushmaster, who sold the rifle until 2005.

Following are the details that my research has turned up. Armstech, a small company organized specifically for designing and developing a new Australian military rifle, submitted a proposal in 1982 to the Australian military. When their bid was not the winner, Armstech chose to pursue the design of its 5.56mm rifle for export sales. These aspirations were cut short by a catastrophic failure during a demonstration with the press. The company went into receivership in 1990, after having transferred rights to the rifle to Keith Greenwood of Edenspine. Edenspine developed the rifle into the ART 30, with the salient features of the M17S in place. Out of a desire to enter the American market, Edenspine (USA) Inc. (the American branch of Edenspine of Australia), contracted with Bushmaster to produce the 5.56mm rifles for them. The rifle was sold as the “Edenspine M17S Bull-Pup rifle”, or the Bushmaster M17S as most of us know it. In 2012, Ken McAlister filed for the trademark on “M17S” on the out-of-production rifle, which he was granted in 2014.



The rifle employs an Elftmann Tactical Trigger that is excellent. Note the crossbolt-style safety.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** .308 Win.
- **Barrel:** 16 inches
- **OA Length:** 26.25 inches
- **Weight:** 8.2 pounds
- **Sights:** Rail
- **Action:** Semi-auto
- **Finish:** Matte black
- **Capacity:** Detachable box magazine
- **MSRP:** \$1,999

Wait. I Like This?

This leads us to the [K&M Arms M17S .308](#), which was a new offering at the 2017 SHOT Show. This is a .308 bullpup from a designer with a long history of debugging bullpup rifles. K&M Arms is a division of K&M Aerospace out of Chandler, Arizona. K&M Aerospace was founded in Southern California in 2003, and in 2006 the company was moved to Chandler. After this relocation to Arizona, the owner, Ken McAlister, traded for a Bushmaster M17S. Ken said “the gun was all wrong. The optics were too high, it got hot when you shot it and the trigger was gritty and hard.” So, he set to work with a full machine shop at his disposal.



Controls of the M17S require some training to employ, but once you have it down it can run quickly and easily. Note the ambidextrous magazine release located below the bolt release.

First, he cut slots into the gun to lighten and balance it. From there, he just could not stop modifying the gun with trigger enhancements, rails, charging handles, cheeks rests, butt pads and other custom work. This tinkering was his process for refining what could and should be done to perfect the bullpup platform. All this refinement was on the 5.56mm platform, but Ken not happy to rest on his laurels and began upsizing to the .308 Winchester size. This involved using and improving 7.62 AR parts. However, the bolt and recoil system are still in the AR-180 style as with the original design and is a short-stroke piston system with an adjustable regulator rather than the AR-style direct gas impingement system.

As a result, McAlister was developing a new line of M17S bullpups, with all his requisite enhancements and refinements, in .223 and .308 platforms.



The action of the M17S is located in the rear buttstock portion of the carbine, allowing a very short length. Note the ejection port location.

Hands On

All of his efforts showed in the sample .308 gun I received. The very first thing I checked after opening the gun was the trigger. I simply could not believe how good the trigger was, and I don't mean "good for a bullpup"—I mean "good." This is the best trigger I have ever felt in a bullpup.

The trigger is skeletonized billet with a patented linkage design utilizing an AR trigger. This trigger is designed to pull the sear rather than push it. Ken is currently using the [Elftmann Tactical trigger](#) exclusively in his rifles. The M17S308 utilize an AR-180-style carrier with both action rods and springs. They are strong springs, which ensure that a round is chambered every time. The bolt is a massive three-lug triangular bolt that uses DPMS ejector, extractor, springs, pins and firing pin. It also has a 30° locking rotation, unlike the standard 7.62 AR which uses a 22.5° one. This all adds up to a greater locking strength than the 7.62 AR platform provides. The M17S308 has a solid cam pin and goes all the way through the bolt, correcting a traditionally weak point in the 7.62 AR platform. To harden against failure, the bolt and guide rods are NP3 plated. As noted above, as with the AR-180, the M17S from K&M features a short-stroke piston system with an adjustable regulator.



The rifle features a non-reciprocating charging handle as well as a top rail for optics.

The lower receiver is made from billet aluminum and features a straightforward cross bolt-design safety. The magazine catch, grip, springs and pins come straight from 7.62 AR designs. Magpul is the source for the enhanced butt pad, and the rifle feeds from Magpul-pattern 7.62mm magazines.

The non-reciprocating charging handle can be changed to either side of the receiver. The rifle has an ambidextrous magazine release mated with the 7.62 AR-style bolt catch that holds the bolt open when the last round has been fired.



The bolt employs three massive lugs for solid lock-up.

The M17S308 breaks down like a standard AR, with two captive takedown pins, and will pivot on the front pin if desired.

Two QD sling adapters are located on either side of the rifle. You can mount modular side rails in any of the side slots. A rail on top can take sights and optics (none are included). The pistol grip can be changed out with any AR grip that does not have a beaver tail. Finally, the bottom rail can take lights or handles of your choice. Arguably the best part: this gun is made 100% in the USA.

On the Range

While preparing to take the M17S308 to the range, I mounted up a Trijicon MRO, which was a simple fit thanks to the upper rail. Next up, I grabbed all the .308 Winchester ammo I could find; this was mostly from three manufacturers: Sig Arms, Aguila and Hornady.



The rifle showed a preference for the Sig ammo, with a tightest group of .75 inches at 100 yards.

When I got to the range, I set up my Lead Sled to sight in the optic. This was short work, and the rifle was dead-on after six rounds. As usual, I had some friends of mine at the range. These two friends happen to be on the SWAT team, and they were more than happy to burn through my ammo for me. The range was set up for a VCQB (Vehicle Close Quarters Battle) class. This allowed them to work the bullpup in and around cars. This scenario really let the gun shine. When asked for their thoughts on the rifle, they both concurred the rifle was soft-shooting, fast and accurate, and that they liked it.

I then asked what issues they felt the gun could have. The response was that charging this weapon would require a shooter with strength. The reload controls are farther back on the gun, and you had to be conscious of where the magazine well was. They were quick to say that this issue lessened as they gained more practice operating the gun. The controls for the magazine and bolt release were placed correctly once you found the magazine well. Their final comment was that the butt pad could be sharp while shooting if it was not pressed firmly against the shoulder.

I took my turn at working the course around a minivan. I was shocked by how quickly the muzzle returned on target. I did not get any poking from the butt pad, but I had the advantage of being warned prior to shooting. I checked the targets and found my hits to all be present and accounted for. I was pleasantly surprised, as I had run the course with the speed of a .223, not a .308.

Round	Bullet	3 Round Group
Sig Sauer	168 gr. OTM Match Grade	.75"
Aguila	150 gr. FMJ Boat Tail	1.51"

After my friends left it was time to do the accuracy testing. I normally prefer to test with a least three different rounds to determine what works best. Unfortunately, once the gun was set up I found that we had burned through most of the ammunition I had brought with me in our fervor. So, I had only two different rounds to test with: Sig Sauer 168 grain and Aguila 150 grain. It became apparent that the gun preferred the heavier 168-grain round.

The gun ran flawlessly, regardless of the ammunition or shooter. The highlight of this rifle was the trigger; everyone raved about it. I would say that the balance point was right behind the pistol grip, and to prove this, the SWAT guys were able to shoot the gun one-handed.



The upper receiver section can be removed from the lower by pulling two pins.

What It Is Not

Ken is a man who I find to be refreshingly clear when he speaks. He has no plans for a select-fire version. He left no doubt in my mind when he said, “My market is the civilian market, not government or military contracts. Those do not interest me.” It must also be noted that this is a right-handed gun; Ken strongly advises, for safety reasons, that the rifle only be shot right-handed. There is not a left-handed version, and none is in the works.



The M17S has pins that allow the rifle to pivot open like an AR-style rifle.



The Elftmann Tactical Trigger is the key to the bullpup's great trigger pull.

The Bottom Line

I like this gun! It works, for right-handed shooter, with no problems. It has advantages over the standard 7.62 AR platform. It is robust and functional while still offering the modularity I have come to expect in AR platforms. The price (\$1999.00) is not low, but this is a small batch gun, and the price-tag is not out of line with other bullpups in the market. If you are left-handed, have low upper body strength, or are unwilling to spend a modest amount of time training in the platform, this gun is NOT for you. Sorry.

The M17S is currently in production by K&M Arms and they are taking pre-orders for fulfillment. If you are interested in a bullpup that toes back to an older classic but fixes many of the issues found with this type of design, the K&M M17S is just about a perfect choice for you.

For more information, visit <http://www.kmarms.com/M17S308.html>.

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

<https://www.smith-wesson.com/company/history>

History of Smith & Wesson

Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson came from old New England families. Horace learned the firearms trade while working at the National Armory in Springfield, Massachusetts. Daniel's experience came from apprenticing with his brother Edwin Wesson, the leading maker of target rifles and pistols in the 1840s.

The two men formed their first partnership in 1852 in Norwich, Connecticut, with the aim of marketing a lever action repeating pistol that could use a fully self-contained cartridge. This first pistol venture was not a financial success, and by 1854 the company was having financial difficulties.

Faced with their financial difficulties, they were forced to sell their company to a shirt manufacturer by the name of Oliver Winchester. In 1866, using the original lever action design created by Smith & Wesson, Winchester's company emerged as the famous Winchester Repeating Arms Co.

In 1856 Smith & Wesson formed their second partnership to produce a small revolver designed to fire the Rimfire cartridge they patented in August of 1854. This revolver was the first successful fully self-contained cartridge revolver available in the world. Smith & Wesson secured patents for the revolver to prevent other manufacturers from producing a cartridge revolver - giving the young company a very lucrative business.





The partners realized that when their patents expired they would need a new design to maintain their market superiority. The new design was completed in 1869 and the company began marketing it in 1870. The Model 3 American, as it became known in the United States, was the first large caliber cartridge revolver and established Smith & Wesson as a world leader in handgun manufacturing. The two most important customers for the new revolver were the United States Cavalry, which purchased 1,000 units for use on the Western Frontier, and the Russian Imperial Government.

Below is the Smith & Wesson manufacturing plant in Springfield, Massachusetts, Circa 1920.



At the age of 65, Horace Smith retired from the company and sold his share of the business to D. B. Wesson, making him the sole owner of the firm. In the late 1800's the company introduced its line of hammerless revolvers. These are still represented in today's handgun line.

Smith & Wesson next introduced what is probably the most famous revolver in the world, the .38 Military & Police or, as it is called today, the Model 10. This revolver has been in continual production since that year and has been used by virtually every police agency and military force around the world.



Smith & Wesson's contribution to the history of handgun and cartridge development continued through the 20th Century. The first Magnum revolver, the .357 Magnum, was introduced by the company in 1935. In 1955 the first American made double action auto-loading pistol, the Model 39, was introduced.

The Model 29 chambered in .44 magnum - the handgun made famous by Clint Eastwood in the movie "Dirty Harry" - was unveiled in 1956. In 1965 S&W began producing the Model 60 - the world's first stainless steel revolver - launching the era of stainless steel firearms.



The accomplishments of Smith & Wesson are so numerous that it is impossible to understand the history of modern handguns without first understanding the history of Smith & Wesson. Smith & Wesson was an industry leader in 1852 when it was first founded and continues to lead the world today with innovations into the 21st century.

UPDATE: One of These 7 Guns is the Next “Official Sidearm of the US Military”



As you may know, the US Armed Forces is on the hunt for the next official Joint Combat Pistol for the entire US Military. Yes, it's kind of a big deal...

In the 1980s, the Beretta M9A1 was chosen to replace the iconic M1911A1.

Many veterans and 1911 fans never forgave the Department of Defense for what they considered a huge blunder. Not to mention, they gave an Italian firearms company the most coveted sidearms contract on the planet...

Fast forward to 2017, where a fresh clash of the titans is underway to decide which semi-automatic pistol will follow the M9 in the history of US military firearms. The new contract competition, called the MHS (Modular Handgun System), calls for a few specifics in terms of accuracy and accessories, though there are plenty of popular models that fill these criteria.

*****UPDATE*****

On Friday January 19th, the US Armed Forces declared an official winner for the MHS contract.

Once again, the list of manufacturers that participated in the competition reads like a wish list for semi-auto handgun enthusiasts. While this is not an exhaustive list, these are 7 of the finest tactical handguns available.

Is your favorite pistol on the list? Take a tour through the 7 Finalists to find out...



GLOCK 19, 22 or 23?

It's been said many times but bears repeating, the Austrian-made Glock revolutionized the handgun forever with its polymer design.

Early detractors made fun of it for looking like a “block” of plastic, but most have since been won over by the Glock's simple, light-weight, and nearly indestructible design. And judging by how many look-alikes have flooded onto the market, many shooters have come around how the Glock's appearance too.

Thus far, all reports regarding the Modular Handgun System contract report Glock being solidly in the running, but there's wide disagreement on which particular model is being considered. Perhaps Glock's strategy is to let the USAF dictate the caliber.

The Glock 19, is a compact model that is easy to carry, fun to shoot, and yet versatile enough to serve pretty much any pistol shooting application out there. The Glock 22 is available in a .40 caliber, which may suit those in the DoD who prefer a heavier round. Many federal organizations, such as the FBI, carry the mid-sized versions of this platform.

Expert after expert will tell you that, if you're only going to own one pistol, this is the one to get.

Smith and Wesson M&P



Smith & Wesson is a legendary name in firearms history, and the M&P lineup does the name proud at a price point that most shooters can afford.

With a state of the art polymer frame, slim profile, and an empty weight of just 24oz., there's a lot more to like about the M&P than just the price. In fact, lots of experienced shooters say this model belongs right along side Glock, and Sig Sauer when it comes to performance, reliability, and design.

Certainly, the 17-round magazine gives you plenty of firepower. The M&P is heavier than the Glock 17 by about 3 ounces, which is not significant enough to make a difference with most shooters.

This gun is possibly the best balance of value and performance you'll find in a new, straight out of the box handgun. Plus, S&W handguns are still American made, which is somewhat of a rarity.



SPRINGFIELD XD

The Springfield XD series has quickly become a fan favorite among pistol enthusiasts, approaching even the Glock in popularity.

The XD is another polymer frame gun, much like the Glock, with ambidextrous magazine releases, a grip safety, and a trigger action safety. The sharp 3 dot sights are easy to get comfortable with and even the shorter models are highly accurate.

When you put the XD and a Glock side by side, the comparisons just can't be avoided. The XD is a bit narrower than the Glock, and the controls and safety are slightly larger than those on the Glock. The .40 XD model comes equipped with two 13 round magazines, so you've got plenty of firepower for the range.

For any of you who might be rooting for team USA here, the truth is that the XD series is 100% a Croation import from stem to stern, manufactured by HS2000. It is never less a great weapon.



Beretta APX

If you haven't noticed, basically every gun on this list is strikingly similar. The Beretta APX clearly follows suit. In fact, the APX has been designed from the ground up to win Beretta's US-based manufacturing the coveted MHS contract.

After years of its status as stalwart, driving firearm trends, Beretta seems to be diving straight into a very hot (and crowded) me-too territory.

On the flip side, the APX is a very top notch polymer handgun, with engineering and reliability that sure to be best-in-class. Plus, you get the comfort and status of seeing the word Beretta on the side of it.

The APX is a striker fired handgun, with a loaded chamber indicator. It has a built-in rail system for mounting lights and other accessories. There are also a number of handy safety mechanisms to prevent the gun from discharging when dropped, or during hasty cleanings where a shooter has neglected to empty the chamber.



CZ P-09

This is a fairly new offering from Czech arms maker CZ, and stands out on this as one of the only hammer fire gun thus far. Thus it can be fired single to double with the hammer cocked. It also has a smooth double action pull on the first shot.

The P-09 also has a de-cocking mechanism that allows you to toggle back to double action with a round in the chamber.

Perhaps the standout feature of this gun is the ammo capacity, an impressive 19+1 rounds. Sheesh, you'd better be able to hit you target with that many shots.



FN Five-Seven

This gun is a real outlier, not only in the MHS contract bake-off, but for modern handguns in general.

If you haven't noticed yet from the image above, it shoots some really funky looking handgun ammo. In fact, you might think it's NOT handgun ammo at all... Wrong.

The 5.7x28mm round was designed by FN Herstal to replace the ubiquitous 9mm, to be used in a should fired weapon and a handheld. Thus this 20 caliber round was born. After testing, the results were clear: The 5.7 was a vastly more efficient cartridge.

Yet, due to a convergence of factors (controversy, bureaucracy, etc.) the round has been slow to overtake the 9mm. This innovative firearm is used by the US Secret Service, as well as 40 other nations around the world.

But what are the chances of it being adopted by the Department of Defense? It's hard to say, but it certainly feels like a long shot.

Still, the FN Five-seven (that's how it is trademarked) is a very interesting gun, and battle-tested. The military and police versions fire ammo that can penetrate body armor including kevlar. Plus, the magazine capacity is 20 rounds.



WINNER: Sig Sauer P320

For the SIG fans out there, you can do a little victory dance. This super accurate, polymer handgun was chosen over the best of the best to become the next-gen “official” Military handgun.

So let’s take a quick look at it. Like all the other guns on this list except the CZ, and unlike most everything else in the SIG lineup, the P320 is striker fired.

Aside from this being a super accurate and well-made polymer semi-auto, the fact that it’s a striker fired Sig Sauer might just be P320 most noteworthy feature.

If you like other Sigs AND you like Glock-style handguns, you’ll probably love the P320.

This striker fired Sig has a very similar feel to the Glock. The traditional higher bore axis that Sig shooters are used to isn’t as much a factor with the P320. Still, the slide grip is a bit narrower than its competitors.

What the P320 brings to the table is Sig Sauer’s exceptional quality and reliability. It’s also a modular system, allowing you to move the trigger assembly from frame to frame, allowing you to test out the compact, full size, etc.

This Chart Will Immediately Improve Your Pistol Shooting [STEP-BY-STEP]

1. PROPER SIGHT ALIGNMENT

Using proper sight alignment is critical to hitting what you're actually aiming at. Your firearm's sights are properly aligned when the front sight (red) is directly centered with the rear sight (green). The very tip of your front sight should also be parallel with the tops of the "leaves" of the rear sight. Without proper alignment your shots will be off-target!



CORRECT

INCORRECT

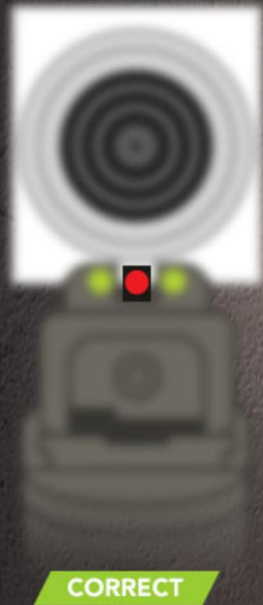
INCORRECT

INCORRECT

INCORRECT

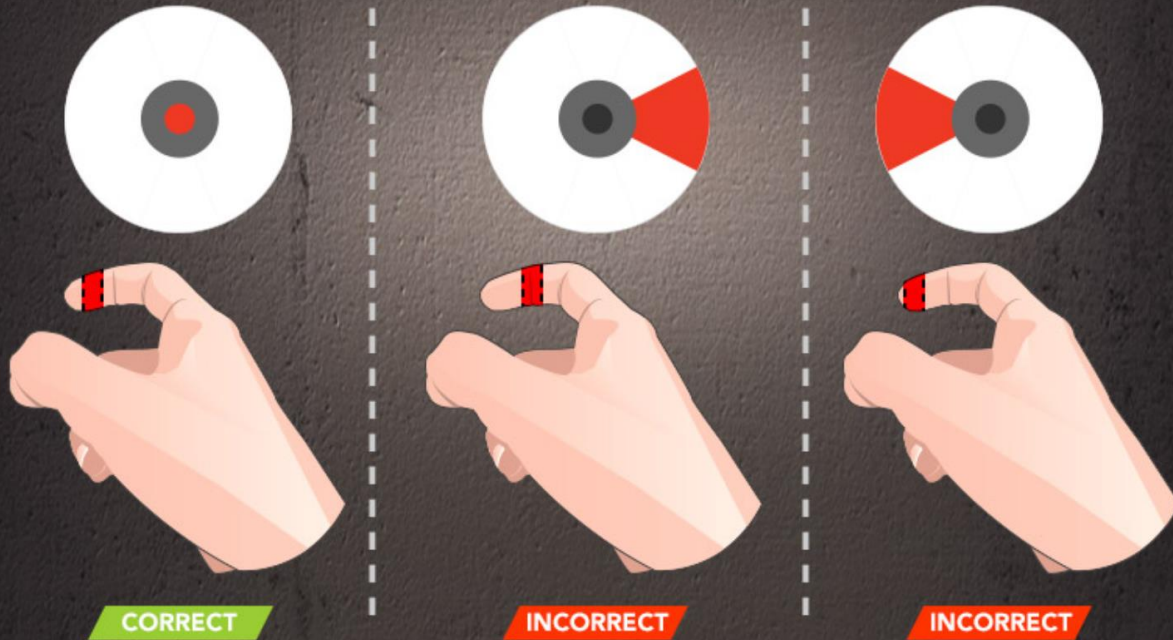
2. FOCUS

Focusing on the front sight provides you with the most precise indication of where exactly the gun is pointing. You can also more readily discern whether your sights are improperly aligned. If you focus on the rear sight or the target, it's much harder to figure out when you're "lined up" incorrectly!



3. TRIGGER CONTROL

Center the first pad of your index finger on the trigger and pull straight back. Using the very tip of your finger, the second pad, or the “crease” between pads can cause you to pull shots left or right. Note that some instructors suggest using the second pad for guns with particularly heavy trigger pulls—only you can determine what works best for you!



4. BREATH CONTROL

Hold your breath while pulling the trigger. As you are exhaling, let about half of the air out of your lungs, aim and pull the trigger. Holding your breath is known as a respiratory pause and it will help you with your hold control.



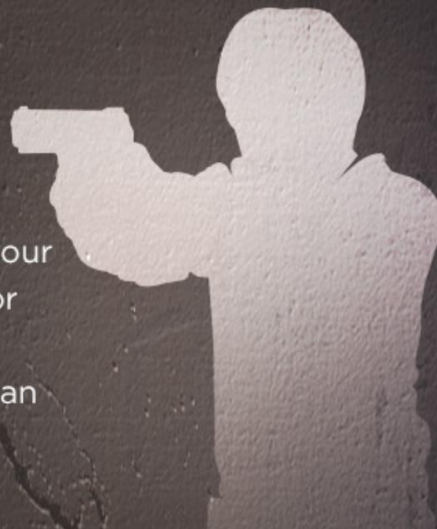
AIMING DURING RESPIRATORY PAUSE



SIGHT PICTURE WHILE INHALING

5. HOLD CONTROL

If you're exercising proper breath control, this should be easy! As you pull the trigger, hold your entire body as still as possible. The most minor physical adjustment can affect the point of impact of your shots. Keeping as still as you can will help prevent that from occurring!



6. FOLLOW THROUGH



After you've fired a shot, keep your finger on the trigger while it's pulled to the rear.



While maintaining a good sight picture, slowly let off pressure on the trigger while keeping your finger on it. Allow the trigger to reset (you will feel a "click" when the trigger resets) and start pulling the trigger again if you need to fire additional shots.



Don't immediately release your finger and jerk the gun!

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/m9-dead-first-look-berettas-new-striker-fired-apx-9mm/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170306_BlogDigest_214&utm_campaign=/blog/m9-dead-first-look-berettas-new-striker-fired-apx-9mm/

Is The M9 Dead? First Look at Beretta's New Striker-Fired APX 9mm

by Clay Martin on February 28, 2017



The author had the chance to go hands on with the new Beretta APX 9mm pistol at a recent writer event and put 1,000 rounds through the pistol in two days.

For more information, visit winthefight.com.

Two weeks ago, GunsAmerica got the invite to attend the Beretta Tactical Summit hosted at The [O'Gara Group](#) training facility in Virginia. The choice of venue was a deliberate step by Beretta as they aggressively step back into the tactical market, and featured toys from across the Beretta line. It was a really nice change from usual product releases, and the facility offered a chance to really wring out the new products. We had to hold off publishing due to an embargo on one of Beretta's new offerings, but finally, its day has come.



The new Beretta APX pistol is a striker-fired, ultra-modern modular pistol that has a 17+1 capacity. Image courtesy of manufacturer.

Star of the Show

The star of the show was clearly the new [APX pistol](#). This pistol has a bit of a history already, so some readers may already be hitting us in the comments that it isn't new. It is true that there has been a lot of buzz about this particular pistol for a while now, but we appear to be at the point where the rubber hits the road on the product here in the United States.

It is thought that the APX was most likely Beretta's entry into the XM17 Modular Handgun System Competition, first solicited in 2011, and finally realized in 2015. Beretta has been talking about a U.S. consumer release since at least 2015 if you check the interwebs, and apparently, this pistol actually has been available outside the U.S. in the last few years.



The grip frame of the APX has integral finger grooves as well as interchangeable back straps. Image courtesy of manufacturer.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** 9mm (.40 S&W available soon)
- **Barrel:** 4.25 inches
- **OA Length:** 7.5 inches
- **Weight:** 26.8 ounces
- **Grips:** Polymer, integral
- **Sights:** Three-dot, white
- **Action:** Striker fired
- **Finish:** Matte-black
- **Capacity:** 17+1 (9mm)
- **MSRP:** \$575

The APX is a striker-fired, polymer-framed, modular handgun. It features a serious engineering change (*and similar to that of the earlier Pico and Nano pistols—see our full review of the Nano pistol here: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/beretta-nano-micro-9mm-pocket-pistol-new-gun-review/> and the Pico pistol here: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/beretta-pico-finally-new-gun-review/>*) that is becoming more popular these days; only the trigger group/sub-chassis is serialized. With add-on components, your one serialized part can be a full-sized, a compact—whatever you like. It comes in four colors at release time: Black, green, tan, and of course, gray. Beretta doesn't plan on robbing you if you want a new color of frame; they are planned to retail at around \$50. This is a godsend to any of us that have ever possibly gotten carried away on a soldering iron stipple job, to find we had destroyed our \$500 gun.

The gun features interchangeable back straps to fit a variety of hands, available in three included sizes—small, medium and large. Changing out the back strap is a bit more involved than other pistols, as it requires tools. I

don't see this as a negative, however. Once you figure out the back strap you like, how often (if ever) are you going to remove it again? The back strap also features a fairly aggressive texture, which I liked.



The pistol features a polymer frame and a double-action-only-style, striker-fired system of operation. Image courtesy of manufacturer.



The event allowed the shooters to put the pistols through their paces with some rigorous training.

The overall grip of the gun is quite small. I went up to the large insert and wish it had an XL. Most shooters, however, will probably find the gun fits well. More so than most pistols I have shot, the grip insert has a huge impact on how well you can run the gun. I need more testing time, but I assume this has a lot to do with the geometry of the grip. It has been streamlined to a point that with the smaller inserts, my support hand gets almost zero purchase on the frame. Adding the "large" insert was like having an entirely different gun, and it shot quite well. The magazine release is teardrop shaped, which adds some real estate to what you can press under stress to drop the mag, but not so obtrusive as to cause accidental releases. It worked flawlessly and is

reversible with simple needle nosed pliers. The slide release catch is ambidextrous, rounding out the controls of the pistol.



Like the earlier Beretta Nano and Pico pistols, the APX features a serial numbered sub-chassis that is the “firearm,” which allows you to swap out the grip frame for ones in different sizes and colors. Image courtesy of manufacturer.

The big question for anyone trying to break into the striker-fired market has to be the trigger. If you come to the party with a bad trigger these days, you might as well not come at all. I am happy to report that the new APX has a good trigger. I am looking forward to shooting it next to other plastic pistols for an apples-to-apples comparison, but it seems to be a winner. It will at least hold its own, if not outshine some of the competition. There is a small amount of take-up, followed by a crisp break, which is how I prefer a pistol trigger. I didn’t have a trigger gauge with me, but Beretta is advertising a 6.5-lb. pull weight. Thanks to some creative engineering, though, it feels a lot closer to 4.

The first thing you will notice when you touch the trigger is how wide it is. This isn’t exactly rocket science, it goes all the way back to the Colt Gold Cup trigger. All other things being equal, a wider trigger will feel lighter to pull. On the American version, you will also notice it is a flat -faced race gun style trigger. I am not as convinced this decreases “felt” trigger pull, but I don’t see it as a negative either. The trigger has an audible and tactile reset point, if that matters to your style of shooting.

The slide incorporated the single best cocking serrations I have ever seen, including custom guns. Big, aggressive, and hard to miss, this is a wonder of CNC machining. They aren’t so sharp as to be painful, but they have some bite. This is so well done it is hard to screw up on purpose. It doesn’t matter if your hands are coated in deer guts and Astroglide. If you touch that slide, you’re racking it, end of story. As my old friend Justin Dial (EAG contracted instructor for the summit) says, “If this slide was available aftermarket for your favorite gun, you would want to buy it.” Absolutely true, this was my favorite part of the gun.



The author really liked the cocking serrations on the slide, as well as the trigger pull on the pistol. Image courtesy of manufacturer.

The sights are dovetailed in, front and rear, which makes aftermarket support easy. Unlike some guns though, you won't need to immediately change these. Beretta put some thought into the sights, and a tritium night option should be available soon. They are a three-dot affair, and steel instead of plastic. The front sight is narrower than you might be accustomed to, but it does make the front fast to acquire. The rear features a shelf in the front, which makes one-hand manipulations much easier and more reliable.

One of the first questions that many people will have about this pistol concerns the magazine. Is it backwards compatible with other Beretta platforms, or is it entirely new? We have all been rather spoiled in the rifle arena by the fairly new phenomenon that every new rifle accepts AR pattern magazines. Beretta chose to make this APX platform magazine entirely new, which has a small trade off. No, any other magazines in your inventory will not work. The good news is, now we have a magazine designed around a gun, not a gun designed around a magazine. The new mags are steel with a polymer basepad, built for durability. You will also notice a triangle-shaped cut out on either side of the magazine well, with matching polymer triangles on the magazine. This is to ensure that in the event of a hung magazine, you have plenty of real estate to rip it out. All in all, I liked the new magazines, and spares are reasonably priced at \$35.

During the summit, we actually shot this pistol quite a bit and ran it through drills under EAG's guidance. This gave quite a bit more appreciation for the pistol than the usual writer's get-together. I ran close to 1,000 rounds over two days and had no malfunctions. The pistol has a low bore axis and is a joy to shoot. We have seen some failures recently in the polymer pistol market, but I think this will be a winner.



The pistol comes packed in a foam-lined plastic case and three back strap inserts.

So with all that good, what is the bad? One thing I need to do before I give this pistol my full blessing, is run it next to my other polymer pistols. Things can feel one way, and reflect differently on the clock. The size of the grip is an issue if you are over 6 feet tallish, and I wonder if a few layers of bicycle inner tube can fix that. As much as I liked the sights, I need some more time with them to address an issue. I and several others shot habitually low, about 3 inches at 25 yards. This could partially be learning curve with this pistol, or it could actually be sights that are dimensionally incorrect. It's always best to assume the shooter is the weakest link, but this is something that needs more time to address.

I also noticed one other thing about the APX regarding the sight situation. With practically all new polymer-framed pistols being adapted to run optical sights, I took a close look at the APX in this context. I noted that the firing pin block protrudes through the top of the slide when the trigger is pressed; classic Beretta. The 92F features the same, and as an instructor I like it. You can see if your students are taking the slack out of the trigger before they press the shot from 5 yards away. In the APX, however, it presents a dilemma. I am not sure how they will be able to mill the slide down to mount a red dot, and a dovetail mount would prevent the firing pin block from moving out of the way. Beretta might have to get creative on this one. I will be curious to see what the solution will be. I have been promised my own test gun to try out at home, so keep an eye out for an even deeper hands-on review here in the near future.

Other Fun Stuff

On the sheer joy front, the Tac Summit also included an afternoon on ninja driving. This has nothing to do with firearms, but it is one of the most fun things you can do. When I left the Army, I assumed I would never get to go to another driving course, so this was a fantastic surprise. O'Gara employs some outstanding driving instructors, as good as I have ever seen. This was a writer's event, so we didn't get the full Department of State intercept and crash experience, but it was a blast. It is amazing how fast and agile the old-school Crown Vic with the police package performs. I teamed up with *Guns & Ammo* editor Eric Poole, who has played this game before as well, for my driving partner. Somehow we managed not to total our car, though one of us did skid off the track in a 720-degree turn.



The Steiner DBAL-PL is a dual purpose flashlight/ visible laser, and IR aiming laser/IR illuminator. Image courtesy of manufacturer.

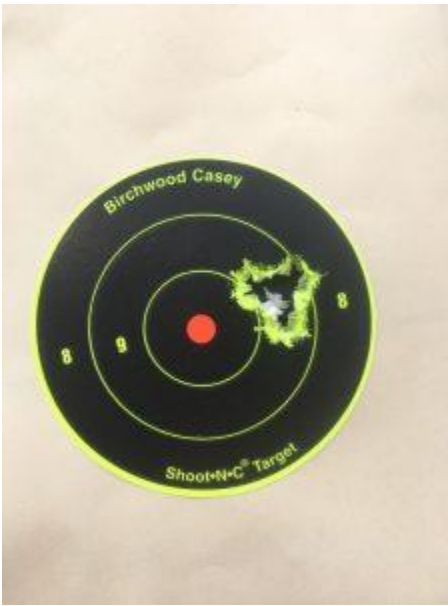
Next on the list of cool stuff to play with was [Steiner E-Optics](#). This division of Steiner has mostly played ball in the defense arena, and the price tag of what we used reflects that. I am assured however, that they are looking at similar technology in the near future that is palatable to the civilian market. Our night vision devices for the night shoot were AN/PVS-21 models, which have a staggering price point north of \$20,000. They were certainly cool, though. Much more affordable was our pistol laser module, the Steiner [DBAL-PL](#). It's still not cheap, with a retail of \$1,146.00, but you get a lot for that price. The unit is a dual purpose flashlight/ visible laser, and IR aiming laser/IR illuminator. For a tactical pistol module, this is pretty much perfect. The button on the right side activates the flashlight/aim laser, the button on the left does the IR. With a tiny bit of training, you are unlikely to have a white light accidental discharge, and you don't have to worry about flipping switches in the heat of a gunfight to get the mode you want. If you are using your pistol in your green goggle fight, things have gone very badly. There is not a pressure pad activation option, but I liked how this worked out. The button on the module is perfectly placed to act like a gas pedal for your support hand thumb if you are right handed, and the module is small enough to not be a pain in the rear to carry around. Hog hunting with pistols is a blast, and this would be a great addition to your 10mm pig slayer. I have a hog hunt lined up later in the year, hopefully Steiner will support a field test of that theory.

Last but certainly not least, I finally got to shoot the [Tikka T3x TAC A1](#). It was tragic, as I felt the amazing Tikka did not get nearly the respect it deserved. This is pretty normal for product releases like this; the precision rifles got shoehorned in at the end. And, we only had a 300-meter range, which is arguably a waste of 6.5 Creedmoor ammo. Still, the Tikka T3x was most of my motivation for trekking all the way across the country, as I have been foaming at the mouth to shoot this since SHOT Show (see our SHOT Show review of it here: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/tikka-goes-full-tactical-t3x-tac-a1>).



The author also had a chance to try out the Tikka T3x TAC A1 rifle in 6.5 Creedmoor and came away very impressed.

Our guns were set up with Steiner 20 power scopes, and I was also happy to learn Steiner has a Horus Reticle option. Super positive points to Steiner on this one, I wouldn't dream of buying a scope without that option in the modern world. The Tikka shot fantastically. The trigger is user adjustable with 2-4 lbs. of pull, and I speculate ours were all set at the heavy end of that. The bolt is smooth as glass, even better than the model I handled at SHOT.



The author was able to wring out this ultra-tight group on the range with the Tikka.

Even with less than what I consider top-end precision ammo, my first three-shot, 100-meter group was ½ inch. My next three shots landed two on top of those, and one I shanked out for a total of a one-inch group of six shots. I don't think we were anywhere near the full accuracy potential of that gun, both in terms of ammo choice and familiarity with the weapon. I am very excited to get one of these in for a full review, but I think my SHOT Show prediction will be true. The Tikka T3x TAC A1 is going to be one of the stories of the year, along with this new APX.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/everymans-ar-ruger-ar-556-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170306_BlogDigest_214&utm_campaign=/blog/everymans-ar-ruger-ar-556-full-review/

An Everyman's AR? The Ruger AR-556 – Full Review.

by Justin Opinion on March 3, 2017

When it comes to rifles in the U.S., none has ever been more popular than the AR-15. I personally think that one of the reasons for the mind-numbing popularity of the AR-15 is because the platform has a military-proven pedigree, can be had at a reasonable price, and is ear-to-ear-smile fun all day long. It makes perfect sense then, that Ruger would make it a point to market an AR rifle for everyday Americans – because providing quality affordable guns to mainstream America is what Ruger does. And it did it with the [AR-556](#).



The Ruger AR-556 brings a quality black rifle to the “every home” market at a sweet price. Photo: Ruger.



RUGER AR-556

- Chambering: 5.56 NATO / .223 Remington
- Barrel: 16.1" 1:8 RH twist
- OA Length: 32 ¼ - 35 ½"
- Weight: 6.5 lbs.
- Grips: Glass-filled Nylon
- Sights: Folding rear / front post
- Action: Direct impingement
- Finish: Type III Hard Coat Anodized
- Capacity: 1 - 30 round magazine
- MSRP: \$799

That said; one concern I had when I heard that Ruger was going to produce an AR-15 was that they might Ruger-ize it mechanically, by adding extra safeties or creating some sort of proprietary aspect. They have been known to be a bit overzealous in those areas in the past. Either of those would have rendered the rifle good for propping open doors, but little else in my opinion. Thankfully, the engineers at Ruger seem to have agreed. This rifle is essentially a mil-spec basic kit in a box. Don't worry, if you are a Ruger fanatic there is nothing to fear – Ruger stamped their name and logo in just about every spot they could think of on the AR-556, but tastefully. What Ruger has given us is as close to a generic direct gas impingement black rifle as anyone, but with just the right amount of Ruger “flavor.” And, when I say ‘generic’ I mean it in a positive way. There is literally no shortage of AR builders in the marketplace that each try to separate from the pack by customizing the rifle, or adding more bling, or both. What they do, in

reality is the opposite, especially when it comes to the new buyer. Buying a firearm can be intimidating for the unseasoned, and the AR platform is likely the most so. Ruger did what very few others have done by making the purchase of an AR-15 easy and comforting. They make it easy by building a “just what you need” rifle that doesn’t intimidate your skillset or wallet (with an MSRP of \$799), and they make it comforting because – well, simply because the box says “Ruger”.



The gas block, milled from billet, has a serrated ramp leading up to the front sight post, and below includes a bayonet lug and QD socket.

WHAT MATTERS MOST

I said before that Ruger didn’t “Ruger-ize” this rifle. What they didn’t do was negatively change the specifications of the rifle in such a way that would either detract from its usefulness, or create a proprietary parts list. One thing Ruger did do that impressed this writer, was created a Delta ring that one person who has only two hands can remove – without tools or a vise. The Delta ring was designed so that one person could easily remove the handguard. Traditional AR Delta ring removal requires pulling rearward against some significant resistance, while simultaneously turning the ring, which can be tight. Unless you have a vise handy this can sometimes require the help of another person. With the Ruger AR-556, all you need to do is simply twist to loosen, and twist to tighten. It works wonderfully, and unless Ruger has a patent on it, we might start seeing this copied a lot.



The barrel of the AR-556 is topped with a Ruger-style flash suppressor and has a 1:8-inch rate of twist. Photo: Ruger.

A cold hammer-forged 4140 chrome-moly steel barrel with 1:8" twist rate should handle bullets from 35 to 77 grains nicely, and the chamber is 5.56 NATO. The barrel is finished off with matte black oxide which reduces glare and provides corrosion resistance. The barrel is not lined, nor is it coated. No chrome, no Melonite. In part, this keeps costs down. You can't build a frills gun and sell it at a no-frills price. It is very likely too that the people at Ruger understand the reality that very few rifle owners are going to shoot out the barrel. It's fun to put on tactical pants and skip a shave and talk about whether chrome lining or Melonite coating is better for accuracy and long barrel life – but in the real world, very few people will use their sporting rifle to the extent that it matters. And frankly, those who will are not looking at this rifle – except as a gift idea for a family member.



The pistol grip and other furniture bear the Ruger logo and are good quality.

Ruger did put money into the rifle in several places – just the right places, I think. The gas block that is milled from billet was one of the first things that caught my eye. The ramp up to the front sight post (which is

adjustable for elevation) is nicely serrated to eliminate glare. It also has a quick-disconnect (QD) socket and the always necessary bayonet lug. Just rear of that is the most lackluster piece of furniture on the rifle in my opinion, the plastic handguard. It is the epitome of “no frills”, but it serves its purpose. Again, money saved here lets you take the rifle home cheap and upgrade later. The gas tube runs inside that, taking us back to the upper receiver. This is where Ruger cut no corners. The fit and finish is nice, and the parts are high quality materials and well made. The bolt carrier’s inside diameter and the gas key’s inside diameter are both chrome-plated, which should provide very good resistance to hot gases. The gas key is staked so that it will not loosen after extensive firing. Once again, a matte black oxide finish on the exterior of the bolt carrier provides corrosion resistance. The bolt itself is machined from 9310 alloy steel and is shot peened and pressure tested to ensure strength, structural integrity and durability.



The six-position telescoping stock includes a sling mounting ring, and of course – the Ruger logo.

The upper receiver is a flattop, made from aerospace-grade 7075-T6 aluminum forging, and includes a forward assist, dust cover and brass deflector, and is Type III hard coat anodized for maximum durability. The flattop includes an adequate portion of 1913 Picatinny rail, some of which is occupied by the flip-up rear sight. Mounting a short electronic optic can be done without removing the rear sight, but if you want a full-length scope on it, that rear sight has to come off. It’s easy if you have the right sized hex wrench, but the nut is not captured and easy to lose if you’re not careful. A scope mounted with just medium height rings easily clears the front post for a clear look down range.

Moving back along the mil-spec buffer tube, Ruger has equipped the AR-556 with a six-position adjustable stock. It proudly bears the Ruger logo, so the question of who supplies it remains a mystery for the moment. It is the essential stock we’ve come to expect on our sporting rifle, and though the cheek weld is a wee bit sparse, it’s a nice stock and it locks firmly into each position. It also includes a sling mount ring, an appreciated touch.

The lower receiver is also well built from top material and the fit between upper and lower on our test rifle was nice and snug. The pistol grip is a polymer material with some stippling for grip. I found it comfortable and practical, and as it does not have that annoying A2 protrusion for giant-sized fingers, I was pleased! The trigger is a single stage mil-spec type, and nothing to write home about. It is heavy and gritty, just like single-stage-mil-spec triggers are – but I found it to be consistent and it did not really prevent me from shooting respectable groups. If the buyer wants to sink \$100+ into a new trigger, I have no doubt it will improve the rifle – but the average new buyer doesn’t need to pay for a trigger they can’t appreciate right off the bat. Once again, Ruger made smart choices with respect to which elements to spend the money on.



Ruger didn't skimp on the important parts. The AR-556 has quality components throughout. And yes, the gas key is staked... do we really have to say so?

SHOOTING THE RUGER AR-556

The AR-556 is a shooter. During extensive evaluation and testing with this rifle, I put somewhere around five-hundred rounds through it. And the ammo ran the whole spectrum – from bargain bulk buy stuff, to the “*holy crap, they want how much... for how many!?*” exotic brands. I shot everything from 40 grains to 77 grains, and at varying distances and with different sighting systems. The rifle performed well through all of it, proving beyond any doubt that it can perform better than I can.

100 Yard Results - Rested
Ruger AR-556 w/Burris AR-5.56 scope

Ammunition Brand	Ammunition Type	Conditions	5-Shot Group (inches)	3-Shot Group (inches)
Winchester Silvertip .223	55 gr. Poly Tip	Windy	2.794	1.242
Colt .223	62 gr. FMJ	Windy	3.763	2.599
American Eagle 5.56	55 gr. FMJ	Windy	2.340	1.519
PMC Bronze .223	55 gr. FMJ	Windy	3.321	1.739
Herter's Select .223	62 gr. JHP	Windy	3.518	1.534
Norma TAC-223	55 gr. FMJ	Light Breeze	1.954	1.368
IMI 5.56	69 gr. FMJ	Light Breeze	1.955	0.856
Tula .223	55 gr. FMJ	Light Breeze	3.154	0.993
Norma USA Match-223	77 gr. FMJ	Light Breeze	1.280	0.983
Australian Outback .223	69 gr. Sierra JHP	Light Breeze	1.579	0.659
Averages			2.566	1.349

Starting with the open sights, it's an easy rifle to get acquainted with. The front post is adjustable for elevation, and the rear flip-up sight is adjustable for windage. I didn't make any adjustments to them because they were “close enough” out of the box for the ranges I'd be using them. Putting on a quality electronic optic like the Aimpoint PRO, allowed me to stretch the distance a little and increase the precision of my aim. But where I really started to learn that this Ruger rifle is serious was when I mounted a good quality scope. I was fortunate to have Burris provide their excellent [AR-5.56 4.5-14x 42mm scope](#), which paired beautifully with the rifle.

With the adjustable telescoping stock set to the ‘just right’ position for my hold, the cheek weld and eye relief of the Burris was perfect. Now, with a tack sharp view of my target, I could do some 100 yard tests and see how she groups. Of course, whenever I make such elaborate plans, the forces of the Universe get together in a huddle, point at me and giggle, and then unite against me. The first time I did my 100 yard tests, the wind was gusting and swirling at speeds up to 35 mph. That’s part of it – as they say, but I’m not skilled enough to do the hardware justice in those conditions. Those groups were understandably larger, but surprisingly impressive.



The AR-556 showed a preference for heavier bullets, like this Norma Match 77-grain ammo.



The rifle really liked the 69-grain Australian Outback load.

The next outing provided only ‘breezy’ conditions and yielded more consistent results. What I learned during both sessions was that I could trust the AR-556 to perform consistently. It likes the heavier bullets a little better, but across the range of ammo the results were good. The trigger is fairly pedestrian – basic mil spec single stage. I measured the break at about 8 ½ lbs. and it does have some grit. But it remained consistent, which was the important thing.



Testing the accuracy of the AR-556 was made much easier with the Burris AR-5.56 scope, which fits nicely on the Picatinny rail provided.



Ruger didn't eliminate expected components like a forward assist, included sights or dust cover in order to keep the price down.

JUST MY OPINION

Trying to sift through the AR-15 marketplace is like trying to find a blind date in Times Square on New Year's Eve. That confusion is only amplified for new gun buyers, who often fall victim to the sales pitch at the counter and wind up either over spending for gear they don't need or being fed some bargain junk the store owner stocked up on during the pre-election panic. For decades, Americans have come to rely on the name Ruger for good quality firearms that won't break the budget. Not having America's favorite modern sporting rifle in their catalog was curiously conspicuous. Perhaps realizing that the next logical step from the iconic Ruger 10/22 is the AR-15, there was a lot of money being left on the table. If Johnny or Susie cut their teeth on the 10/22, why not let their next Ruger rifle be the most popular style – the AR? Whatever their motives, I think it was a good move to put the AR-556 SKU into the catalog. I also think the team at Ruger did a fine job of outfitting this rifle to be just what the entry-level user truly needs. I think if there was a Norman Rockwell painting that showed a black sporting rifle leaning in the corner, a closer look with a magnifying glass would probably reveal the Ruger

logo. I can count on one hand the number of ARs I would recommend to a new shooter. Rugged and affordable; accurate and reliable – the Ruger AR-556 is one of them.

For more information, visit <http://ruger.com/products/ar556/models.html>.

To purchase on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.htm?T=AR-556&tid-all=1&as=730&cid=4&ns=0&numberperpage=50&>.



The AR-556 comes standard with a flip-up rear sight mated up to a fixed front sight assembly. Photo: Ruger.

http://patriotcaller.com/10-ways-to-hide-weapons-and-more/?utm_source=PatriotCaller&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=TPCdigest-Mail&ContactOLeadSourceId=TPCdigest

10 Ways to Hide Weapons and More!

[Hannah Blake](#) [Leave a Comment](#)



You have a nice cache of weapons and you have gathered some other essential prepper supplies. Now how can you protect them and safely store them at the same time?

It is a good idea to invest in some secret stash options that will enable you to keep your weapons and other essentials close by without having them out in the open.

Not only will this make them less likely to be stolen, accidentally fired or used against you during a break-in but it will also give you the important element of surprise if a burglar enters your home.

10 Ways to Hide Weapons and More!

[Hannah Blake](#) [Leave a Comment](#)



1. Gun Slider Cabinet

Gun cabinets are a great way to display your firearms...

The downside to this storage option is that, of course, it advertises your collection with nothing but a piece of glass separating your babies from a thief. This model is designed to display, sure, but it's most important feature is its ability to deceive!

Hide your shotguns in this locking slider case that is virtually certain to escape the notice of criminals.

This technique may not give you the easiest way to access your guns when you need them, but it should minimize your risk of ending up on the news after a child finds one of your weapons and pulls the trigger.

In other words, stashing your shotguns in this way quite simply makes good sense.

10 Ways to Hide Weapons and More!

[Hannah Blake](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

2. Wall Plate Safe



You're not going to be able to fit a gun in here, but you can hide a switchblade, money and other valuables by installing a fake wall plate or fake electrical outlet.

These are incredibly easy and cheap to install. Plus, we've got easy-to-follow instructions available for you [right here](#).

RELATED: [How to Build a Top Secret \\$3 Wall Safe \[STEP-BY-STEP\]](#)

The best part about this option is that pretty much no one is going to take the time to check your wall plates while they are attempting to rob you. It would be wise to put one of these in your bedroom so that you can get into it if someone breaks in at night.

10 Ways to Hide Weapons and More!

[Hannah Blake](#) [Leave a Comment](#)



3. Punching Bag

Do you have an old, taped up punching bag that you've literally beat the stuffing out of?

Let's face it, the dirty truth of punching bags is that nearly 99 out of 100 get punched for a month after they're hung in the basement. After the initial enthusiasm wears off... they just hang there.

If so, you can fill the inside of the bag with a wide variety of things, including weapons, money or even a small spare bug out bag!

Simply put your items inside from the middle of the bag and then tape it up so that it looks like it is merely an old, worn out exercise tool.

The odds of anyone thinking to check a punching bag are so remote that this could be the last item of value left if your home is burglarized when you are not around to protect your property.



4. Fake Air Vent

If you like the idea of a fake electrical outlet but want something large enough to hold a gun, you can purchase a fake air vent instead.

Of course you can easily build your own version of one of these secret safes. If you're fairly handy and have the patience to finish the project out completely, go for it.

Otherwise, why not buy a readymade version, designed for super easy installation?

These vent safes are deep enough to hold a handgun, along with money and other valuables.

The best part is that they open up with an access card, so you do not need to take the time to unscrew them when you need quick access to your stash!

5. Make a Secret Room

Create your own secret room to store your prepper supplies, extra weapons, money stash and much more!

Depending on how large and accessible you make the room, it could even hide you and your family during a break-in or an emergency. This is the ultimate storage space, and as long as you hide it properly, no one is going to be able to find it.

Make sure that you install a lock on the inside so that you can lock yourself in if necessary. The video will give you some great ideas. Obviously, this tactic is a fairly involved and doesn't work if you're renting.



6. Old Vacuum Cleaner

An old vacuum cleaner that does not have a see-through collection compartment is the perfect way to hide valuables in plain sight.

No one is going to unzip your vacuum to see what is inside it, so go ahead and remove the interior bag and place guns, money and other items inside of it. Just make sure that you do not overfill it to the point where it looks odd.

As with any other secret hiding spot, the idea is to make everything look as normal as possible.



7. Wall Shelf Gun Cabinet

The gun wall shelf cabinet serves two practical purposes: it gives you a place to display decorative items and it allows you to hide a gun in any room of your house.

Some people opt to place multiple wall shelf gun cabinets around their home to increase their odds of quickly reaching a weapon during an emergency.

It is wise to have real shelves in place too, though, especially the first ones that a criminal might encounter.

That way, if they take a second to check a couple of shelves, they'll most likely decide that none of them are hiding anything.



8. Paint Cans

Do you have several old paint cans in your garage?

Clean up the inside of one or two of them, while leaving the outside looking dirty and used. You can then place a handgun, money or any other small valuables inside the can.

Be sure to leave the storage can stacked with all of the others to prevent anyone from finding your hidden stash.

As long as you know which one is the secret can without having to open anything, you could even grab it on the run if an emergency arises.



9. Globe Safe

A globe looks right at home in any office or study area, and it is highly unlikely that a burglar or looter would think to look inside of it.

Plus, globes are just cool. Who doesn't like to have a spherical map to give your imagination a visual aide when you're thinking about geopolitics, etc.?

This gives you the ability to take advantage of a globe safe to stash a gun, some ammo and other small valuables that you do not want to risk losing during a break-in or after the SHTF.



10. Jacket Pocket

Do you have an old jacket hanging inside your closet that happens to have an inside pocket?

As long as there are not any children in the house who could accidentally find this secret spot, then it becomes a great place to stash a handgun.

No criminal is going to take the time to search through all of the pockets of every single jacket in all of your closets, especially if you choose a jacket that looks old and is positioned in the back.

This gives you the opportunity to surprise someone who is trying to break-in. As an added bonus, you could always put the jacket on to remain armed if you have to leave your house in a hurry.

Now that you know some of the best ways to hide your weapons, money and even your stash of food and water, it is time to put some of these tips to good use!

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/bergara-premier-lrp-308-chassis-rifle-custom-features-production-value/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170220_BlogDigest_212&utm_campaign=/blog/bergara-premier-lrp-308-chassis-rifle-custom-features-production-value/

Bergara Premier LRP .308 Chassis Rifle: Custom Features, Production Value – Full Review

by Ian Kenney on February 17, 2017

For more information, visit http://bergarausa.com/bergara_premier_series_lrp_rifle.php.

In the United States, [Bergara](#) isn't exactly a household name, but the fact of the matter is that this Spanish-based company is a large OEM provider of barrels to some of the best-known brands in the business. Bergara started out in Spain making barrels for muzzle loaders where they became a fixture in that market and still are to this day. However, they realized that the processes that make really good muzzle loader barrels can be adapted to make excellent rifle barrels. Fast forward a couple of years and Bergara hit the US market with a line of high-end precision and hunting rifles with customized features. Bergara sensed a shift in the market though and started to offer a line of rifles that had more standardized features than their custom rifles. Those rifles can be found under their Bergara Premier line, and for review I have their LRP rifle chambered in .308 Winchester in hand for testing.



The tear drop shape of the bolt isn't huge but large enough to allow for rapid bolt manipulations.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** .308
- **Barrel:** 20 inches, threaded
- **OA Length:** 42.5 inches
- **Weight:** 10 pounds
- **Stock:** XLR Element Chassis
- **Sights:** None
- **Action:** Bolt
- **Finish:** Matte black
- **Capacity:** 10
- **MSRP:** \$2190

Right off the bat I noticed that Bergara included some quality features that I think ups the ante over some other options in the same market category. First off, the action is Bergara's Premium custom action, which has a Remington 700 footprint and can use the same triggers but that's right about where the similarities stop. It has a nice solid bolt handle reminiscent of a Surgeon or Big Horn action with an understated but totally functional teardrop bolt knob. Like many rifles today it also features a fluted bolt that gives dirt and grime a place to go to keep action cycling smooth and reliably. It has a floating bolt head design that puts one in the mind of a Savage rifle, which is perfectly fine because this design means that the locking lugs always maintain perfect contact with the action. When you close the bolt there is no grittiness or looseness, just the smooth throw of the bolt with a solid lock up at the end. Like some rifles with European origins, the Bergara bolt does not require any tools to be used for its disassembly. Like a Tikka, you simply turn the bolt shroud while holding the bolt body and the entire firing pin assembly can be removed from the back. While technically you don't need any special tools to remove the firing pin assembly from a Remington 700, they sure do help. Without any special tools required for maintenance this reduces the overall cost of ownership to the end user.



Inside this discreet -type case there's more than enough room for the rifle and accessories in the front pocket.

Since the action uses a Remington 700 footprint it in turn uses Remington 700 triggers and ships out with Timney's excellent 517 trigger. This trigger is mechanically the same as their popular 510 trigger, except it has a flat trigger shoe so the pad of your trigger finger can always be pressing straight back. Overall I love Timney triggers and I was happy to see that Bergara went with this brand over some others on the market. Timney triggers are reliable, easy to adjust triggers that provide consistent performance time and time again, that's why I have them on my personal bolt guns. When I received the rifle the trigger pull a little too heavy for my liking but with a little turn of the adjustment screw I had the trigger pull down to 2 ½ pounds in no time. The rifle also ships with a 20 MOA base, although I'm not sure which manufacturer is used, although I've heard that it is a Talley product, so it's good quality for sure. It appeared to be properly mounted and bedded and all of the mounting screws had the proper amount of torque to secure them to the action.



From an improvised rest simulated match conditions the rifle was very stable.

The whole barreled action is dropped into a Bergara-branded XLR Element chassis, outfitted with the XLR lite tactical butt stock assembly and Ergo Deluxe Grip. The Element chassis is made from 6061 aluminum and hard anodized so you can count on it being able to take a licking and keep on ticking. The Element chassis has an open forend, meaning the barrel is fully free floated and the top is exposed so that it gets plenty of air flow around the barrel, similar to a traditional rifle stock. Probably the major departure from a traditional stock is that there are large ventilation cuts and predrilled holes at the 3, 6, and 9 o'clock for mounting accessory rails. The advantages to using this type of stock are that it's insanely tough, the barrel has plenty air to cool down, and it's modular so you can add or remove what you don't need. There are no integral sling mounts at the front of the stock but XLR does sell a nice low profile flush cup mounting point on their website. The buttstock assembly does have sling attachments for use with the aforementioned QD flush cup swivels though. The stock accepts AICS compatible magazines and this rifle shipped with a Magpul PMAG 5 AICS magazine, which by all appearances seems to be an excellent, cost-effective option.



A detail shot of Bergara's short action used on the LRP. It is patterned after the Remington 700 action. Note the Burris XTRII mounted on the rifle.

Of course, a person can't hit what they can't see so Burris graciously provided one of their [4-20X50 XTRII](#) tactical rifle scopes with their very nice SCR mil-based reticle. The scope features a 34mm main tube, illumination, parallax adjustment, zero stop, along with beefy elevation and windage turrets. It checks all of the boxes for a scope one would use for long range shooting or hunting, except it provides all of those features for right around \$1,000. The SCR by all accounts looks to be a great reticle with additional hold points along the horizontal axis for those that like to dial their elevation but hold for wind. I've been very happy with the Burris scopes that I've used in the past and use a Burris optic on one of my competition rifles so I doubt this scope will disappoint me.



Every Bergara rifle ships with a test target to prove it's capable of meeting the company's 1 MOA guarantee.

Range Time

Once the scope was mounted and everything torqued to the proper specifications with Wheeler Engineering's FAT wrench I was off to the range. Hornady provided a hundred rounds of their Precision Hunter ammunition loaded with a 178 gr ELD-X bullet that is a recent addition to their line-up. Although this is a hunting bullet, the "X" stands for expanding, the construction of the bullet gives it the performance of a match grade bullet. What this means is that you could essentially have a dual purpose round that is supremely accurate and at the same time very effective on game. Sig also donated a hundred rounds of their new .308 match ammunition loaded with a tried and true 168 gr boat tail hollow point bullet.

That being said, it's been my experience that every rifle is a rule unto itself and as many a long range shooter has learned sometimes what you think is going to work simply doesn't. As many shooters can probably attest to sometimes you have to try several types of ammunition to find the one the rifle really likes. The Bergara LRP rifle shipped with a test target shot that had a three shot group of Norma 168 gr Match ammunition that measured right at $\frac{3}{4}$ ". This shows that the rifle is capable of meeting the sub-MOA accuracy guarantee from Bergara using that particular ammunition. However, the rifle did not seem to like either type of ammunition that I had available for testing. The Hornady Precision Hunter ammunition performed the best and I was able to get a couple of groups that were very promising, a flier would invariably open it up to over 1 inch, which was disappointing.

I had significant issues with the Sig Elite ammunition in the form of failures to fire when the trigger was pulled and stopped using it about halfway through the testing and informed Sig about the issue. Problems such as these are not uncommon though as I have experienced the same issues with other brands of ammunition in different rifles. I suspect with more time and more types of ammo, you can find a load that works better with this rifle and more in line with its test target.



The lip around the mag well creates a perfect spot to jam the rifle into a barricade for extra stability without affecting function.

Despite the problems that I had with the ammunition I did very much enjoy shooting the rifle and gained a deeper appreciation for its features. The Dead Air muzzle brake soaked up recoil and also did a good job at mitigating any muzzle blast back to the shooter. The adjustability of the chassis and the Ergo grip made the rifle very comfortable to shoot and it took little effort on my part in getting the length of pull and cheek rest set up just right for the optic. On bolt action rifle chassis systems I don't often prefer AR-15 grips but the Ergo grip may be a lone exception because of its design and comfort. The more vertical rake compared to a standard A2 grip puts the hand at a more natural angle when shooting, which in turn allows you to better place your finger on the trigger and be more consistent. The palm swells and texturized rubber grip also fit the hand extremely well, making it very comfortable to shoot for extended periods of time. As I may have mentioned before the action locks up like a bank vault and it was as smooth as butter using the Magpul AICS magazines to cycle the action to load another round. There wasn't a lot that I didn't like about the rifle overall, it had everything you needed and nothing that you didn't.



The Dead Air Keymount Muzzle Brake. This muzzle brake did an excellent job at mitigating recoil and not being concussive to the shooter.

The design of the rifle and the chassis work together well when working around barricades or other obstacles that you might have to shoot from. The flat bottom of the chassis rides a bag or the top of a barricade well so that recoil is generally straight back allowing the shooter to stay on target better. There is also a small lip at the front of the magazine well that works perfectly for jamming it into a barricade to help steady the rifle without affecting the feeding or cycling of the rifle. The short, light barrel aids in being able to maneuver the rifle quickly around an obstacle without dealing with the momentum of a front heavy rifle. If I have to move from one side of a barricade to the other in order to take the next shot, the less distance I have to step back so that my barrel clears the barricade is all the better. I can then get in position faster and have more time to steady myself to make sure my shot is good compared to if I was wrestling a rifle with a longer, heavier barrel.

By that same token, the cost, features, and adjustability can also make the rifle a worthy candidate for a law enforcement agency that is looking to purchase rifles for their marksman/observer teams. The modular design of the rifle allows it to be configured for different roles such as the addition of a front rail for clip-on night vision or a folding stock for compactness. A Bergara LRP with a folding stock, clip-on night sight, and Dead Air suppressor would be a force to be reckoned with in the hands of a law enforcement sniper in position during a stand-off.

The LRP by all appearances is a quality rifle and understand that this review is simply a sample of one and I believe hardly indicative of what the rifle is capable of. The ammunition that was graciously provided for testing was also by all appearances quality ammunition, the two just did not seem to like each other in this particular instance. The Bergara LRP is available for \$2,190, which is steep but when you compare it to many other long range rifles, especially custom rifles with custom actions, the LRP is a real bargain. LRP rifles are chambered in .308 Winchester as tested here but also in 6.5 Creedmoor with a 1:8 twist, perfect for slinging those 140+ grain bullets out to beyond 1,000 yards if necessary.

For more information, visit http://bergarausa.com/bergara_premier_series_lrp_rifle.php.

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



The XLR Lite Tactical Stock is adjustable for length of pull and cheek height to let you get positioned correctly behind the riflescope.



The Ergo Deluxe pistol grip is my favorite for rifle chassis systems that utilize AR-15 grips. It's very comfortable and positions your trigger finger perfectly on the Timney trigger.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/cheap-capable-mid-range-ar-scope-alpens-apex-xp-ar-1-6x24-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170220_BlogDigest_212&utm_campaign=/blog/cheap-capable-mid-range-ar-scope-alpens-apex-xp-ar-1-6x24-full-review/

A Cheap & Capable Mid-Range AR Scope? Alpen's Apex XP AR 1-6X24 – Full Review.

by Dick Jones on February 16, 2017



The Alpen's Apex XP AR 1-6X24 scope complements an accurate carbine by providing both fast close quarter sighting at 1X with medium range magnification of 6X.

To learn more, visit <http://www.alpenoptics.com/RScope-apex.html>.

Sometimes I think there are as many opinions about the right choice of optic for AR platform rifles as there are AR platform rifles. Today, we have a remarkable number of viable optic choices for medium-range ARs. Traditional scopes are an easy choice for rifles that are built for extended ranges beyond a couple of hundred yards. It's when we begin to think of short range, defensive use of the AR that the choices get tougher.

For extreme close range in good light, the standard M4 iron sights are pretty good. With the larger, ghost ring aperture flipped up, almost anyone can rapidly acquire a target fast and get good hits. In defense of those standard iron sights, a little training can provide real accuracy along with remarkable speed out to 200 yards and even beyond.

Reflex and holographic tube sights work well at close range but almost all require batteries or they're dead. Most also reduce visibility in low light conditions, and they have no provision for allowing the shooter to keep the rifle level, a requirement when shooting at ranges long enough that holdover or additional elevation is required. Any time there's substantial drop in trajectory, keeping the line of sight consistent with the bore is required because if the rifle is canted holdover will also affect windage.



The Alpen scope offer shooters a great mid- to short-range AR scope for not a lot of money. Image courtesy of the manufacturer.

The Answer?

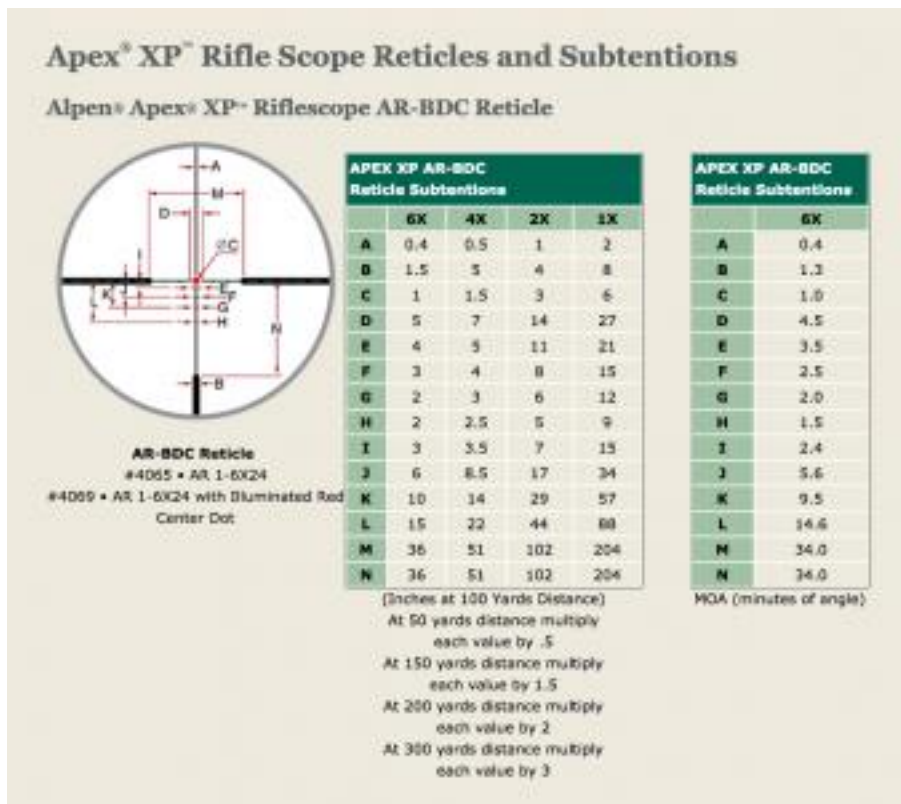
To fully utilize the capabilities of a good AR-15 at both close and longer ranges, there's no better optic than a low magnification variable. A 1-4X variable will provide enough magnification for reasonable shooting as far out as about 400 yards, and farther if the target is clearly defined by color or background. For standard AR-15 rifles this is a suitable arrangement, but for rifles that have good triggers, free-floating front tubes and match barrels, there's enough accuracy to extend the effective range out to as much as 600 yards which is considered to be a medium range target in NRA High Power.



While the speed handle for most scopes is an expensive option, the XP AR comes with the speed handle already installed. It allows fast changeovers from close range shots to medium range capability out to as much as 600 yards.

There are some detractors of low-magnification variable scopes on close quarter carbines saying the size of the turrets and mount obscure the vision of the operator, but this simply isn't true. Looking through a 1X scope, much less of your vision is obscured because you're looking from a position halfway down the barrel. Through a 1X scope, most of the gun in front of you disappears and of course, you can shoot with both eyes open.

Of course, the best test of almost anything is competition, and the most demanding test of carbine and optic anywhere is in the form of 3-Gun competition. 3-Gun matches require blazing speed at close ranges and precise accuracy at medium ranges out beyond 400 yards. Almost all 3-Gun competitors use a low-magnification variable scope. In open class, some competitors use both a reflex and variable scope, but everyone using an optic chooses a low-magnification variable when competing on courses with shots longer than 100 yards.



The AR-BDC reticle is a variation of the old standard duplex that's graced hunting scopes for years. It has a small dot in the center and four hash-marks for elevation. Image courtesy of the manufacturer.

Alpen Optics

Recently, I've been testing a 1-6X variable that's certainly up to the task and it provides everything needed to exploit the long-range accuracy and high-speed, close-range capability of my CRP 18 Colt Competition Rifle. The CRP 18 is a Bold Ideas modified Colt AR-15 designed for 3-Gun competition, but it's capable of so much more. As an experiment, I entered the NRA High Power Rifle Championship with it and shot a mid-level Master classification score of just under 96% for the 240 shot championship. I shot it in a Designated Marksman match, killed hogs in Texas, won a local High Power club match, and have used it on prairie dogs and coyotes. It's a wonderful and versatile instrument capable of performing in a variety of roles. Such an instrument deserves the best possible sighting system to exploit its capabilities.

This rifle has carried several different optics for the various tasks but it made perfect sense to use it to evaluate Alpen's [Apex XP](#) AR 1-6X24 scope. The Apex AR uses Alpen's new AR-BDC reticle, designed around a .223 55-70 grain load, but any bullet combination can be used. While the subtensions in this reticle might not be right on the money, practical experience has shown me that even the best ballistic calculations are no substitute for actually shooting and recording data and conditions. For controlled conditions where you know the exact range and have prep time, use the elevation turret and dial in the correct dope. For fast shooting at long ranges, find out by testing where the hash marks put you and use them as a reference. In a Designated Marksman match, you don't care if the hash mark is for 550 or 600 yards, you just need to know which distance gives a center hit.

The AR-BDC reticle is a variation of the old standard duplex that's graced hunting scopes for years. It has a small dot in the center and four hash-marks for elevation. The dot is illuminated at six different levels with an off position between each level. It's water and fog proof and fully multicoated. The ¼ MOA turrets are resettable to zero for the ability to make windage and elevation adjustments without fear of getting lost. They have a sharp tactile feel, allowing for adjustments with heavy hearing protection on or background noise. There's a fast focus eyepiece and a folding speed handle for fast magnification changeovers. As it should be, it's a second focal plane scope, which allows for an easy-to-see reticle at close-range, low-magnification and a fine and accurate one at maximum power. With a six power scope, there's no need to use hash marks at any magnification other than maximum.

It'll do anything a reflex or holographic sight will do at close range at 1X magnification and still give me the capability to utilize the excellent accuracy of the CRP 18 out to 600 yards with a fine crosshair at 6X magnification. It gathers light better than a reflex sight, but still has an illuminated dot when needed for fast target transition or low light conditions.



The large and easy to read turrets can be set to zero and the illumination knob has six levels with an off position between each.

I'd have liked to see the windage graduations count up in both directions from the zero position. This would make it easier to click on a preset windage setting and return to zero. Another nice feature would be turret caps or locking turrets to prevent accidental movement of the dials during travel and active situations. Since the turrets are capable of setting them at zero, they can be easily checked, but caps or locks would be an added bonus.

Alpen's Apex XP AR 1-6X24 scope is a moderately priced 1-6 scope with all the features that make sense. It has a reticle that works without being overly cluttered and reliable and tactile turrets that can be set at zero. It has enough magnification at maximum and is fast enough at minimum. It'll work in very low light conditions and it's rugged and weather proof. It's the kind of sighting system that will allow full utility of the capabilities of a high-quality AR platform rifle. MSRP on the Apex XP AR 1-6X24 4065 is \$1,073.00 with a current special web price of [\\$300](#).

To learn more, visit <http://www.alpenoptics.com/RScope-apex.html>.

Crimson Trace Rail Laser

I also equipped my CRP 18 with the Crimson Trace [CMR 206](#) Rail Laser to further enhance its low-light versatility. After competing in a Crimson Trace Midnight 3-Gun event, the value of lasers on defensive carbines was reinforced in my mind. A hog hunt under green lights at my friend James Keeton's Rust Ranch demonstrated the value of a quality laser in predator and hog hunts.



The Crimson Trace CMR 206 Rail Laser adds more low-light capability and is easy to co-witness with the reticle on the scope.

The CMR 206 Rail Laser is a tiny unit designed to fit under the dust cover of defensive handguns and on the rail of carbines. I found it nestled perfectly under the Alpen Apex 1-6 and further improved its low-light shooting capabilities. In fact, with the Rail Laser turned on, the shooter can make accurate shots out past a hundred yards without even looking through the scope. Mounting the CMR 206 is easy, it'll fit under almost any low power variable, and it's zeroed by co-witnessing the beam with the crosshairs on the scope. It's activated by right- and left-side tabs and has an auto-off feature to conserve the batteries. The green laser spectrum is fully visible in broad daylight and there's the redundancy of the illuminated reticle on the scope as a backup system. While I haven't tried it yet in a tactical match, I'm betting it'll be a real asset on close range targets, allowing the shooter to hold the gun heads up and hose the close targets, allowing for super-fast transitions.

MSRP is \$229.00 on the Crimson Trace website. To purchase a Crimson Trace laser unit on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.htm?T=crimson%20trace%20laser&tid-all=1&as=730&cid=2&ns=0&numberperpage=50&>.

Year of the Creedmoor (Mostly)

by Tom Beckstrand | January 31st, 2017

This year's SHOT Show made it blatantly obvious that long-range precision shooters are receiving plenty of attention from the industry. Here's a roundup of some of the love precision shooters can expect to see in 2017.

[Tikka T3x TAC A1](#)—I couldn't help but squeal when I came across this little number. Many don't realize that Tikka rifles have the same barrels as their more expensive SAKO cousins. One member of the manufacturing team once told me that "the barrel doesn't know what rifle it's on!" SAKO barrels are some of the most prized in the rifle-shooter world, which means that Tikka barrels are, too.

The TAC A1 comes chambered in .308 Win, .260 Rem. and 6.5 Creedmoor with a 20- or 24-inch barrel. The .308 has a 1:11-inch twist, while the .260 and Creedmoor have a 1:8-inch twist. The stock folds for easy portability and has an adjustable length of pull and comb. It even comes with three, 10-round detachable magazines to keep the most vociferous shooter in hot brass, \$1,900.



[REMINGTON MODEL 700 MAGPUL](#)—New from Big Green is the 700 Magpul rifle that teams the classic Model 700 barreled action with Magpul's synthetic stock and detachable box magazine bottom metal. The barrel is 22 inches long and threaded for any type of muzzlebrake or flash hider. With the relatively low MSRP, this is the fastest way to get into the precision rifle game.

The rifle comes chambered in .308 Win. and .260 Rem. with 1:10-inch and 1:8-inch twist rates, respectively. The Magpul stock places the Remington barreled action in an aluminum bedding block surrounded by Magpul's legendary polymer. The stock comes with bottom metal that accepts AICS-pattern magazines, the most common and time-tested magazines for any bolt-action rifle. It's a lot of performance for a very reasonable price, \$1,175.



[SAVAGE MODEL 10 ASHBURY](#)—Savage fans will be thrilled to know that they have dropped their blueprinted Model 10 barreled action into an Ashbury Ordinance Sabre modular rifle chassis. The combination brings Savage’s legendary accuracy to the contemporary chassis scene.

The side-folding chassis has a forend that uses the M-LOK attachment method and is compatible with AICS-pattern detachable box magazines, solving the long-standing proprietary magazine dilemma for Savage shooters. While the chassis comes with a Magpul CTR stock and MOE grip, both can be swapped for any AR-15 compatible variant.

The action comes blueprinted from the factory, so no aftermarket work is necessary for even the most accuracy-aggressive shooter. The rifle will initially be available in two chamberings: .308 Winchester and 6.5 Creedmoor, \$1,800.



[HOWA 1500 HCR](#)—Howa is one of those rifle companies that only the most devoted shooters know and appreciate. Their 1500 action should be on your “best-buy” list if you love performance and bargains. The action is silky-smooth, and the barrels are notoriously accurate. While Howa might not have the market share that some of the more popular companies have, they certainly have an excellent performance history, and I highly recommend them.

Howa refers to their new rifle as the HCR for Howa Chassis Rifle. The chassis is made by Accurate Mag and features a Magpul grip and Luth-AR stock. Both follow the AR-15 pattern and can be interchanged with whatever stock or pistol grip the owner desires. The forend uses the M-LOK attachment system, and barrels can be had in 20, 24 or 26 inches for either the .308 Win. or 6.5 Creedmoor, \$1,240.



Q's THE FIX—Easily the most unique rifle at the SHOT Show was Q's new The Fix. This five-lug (all in a single row) action has a 45-degree bolt throw, 16-inch barrel and tips the scales at 5 pounds, 9 ounces, unloaded with no scope.

The light weight comes from the unique construction that pairs a steel barrel extension with the bolt to contain all pressure from firing. The sides of the receiver, magazine well and forend are made from aluminum. The bolt shroud rides rails at the rear of the aluminum receiver, and the bolt body has the same diameter as the lugs to keep everything straight inside the receiver. Once locked into the barrel extension, the rifle is as safe to fire and just as rugged as any large-frame AR-pattern rifle.

The barrels are all from Bartlein, one of the most popular custom barrel-makers in the country. The rifle will initially be available in .308 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor, .338 Federal and 300 WSM, but additional chamberings are in the works. This promises to be a rifle light enough to take hunting but comfortable and modular enough for precision rifle and competitive shooting tasks. It's spendy, but oh so nice, \$2,800.



RUGER PRECISION RIFLE—Ruger’s Precision Rifle has been dominating the fast-growing precision-rifle scene for about a year and a half. New for this year is the chambering in 6mm Creedmoor. Hornady loads their exceptional 108-grain ELD-M for this cartridge.

The 6mm Creedmoor should be at least as popular as its bigger brother, the 6.5mm Creedmoor. Both were designed around VLD bullets and feed beautifully from detachable box magazines. The 6mm will have less recoil and more muzzle velocity than the 6.5mm but also shorter barrel life. Personal use indicates a good stainless steel barrel lasts for approximately 3,000 rounds in the 6.5mm Creedmoor, so I’d guess the 6mm Creedmoor will last around 1,800 rounds. These figures are from competition use where barrels get shot even when they’re hot. Gentle and loving use will coax more rounds out of both.

The 6mm promises to be a soft-shooting pussycat from the Ruger Precision Rifle and will help even more shooters experiment with long-range shooting. With a booming aftermarket, excellent quality and low retail pricing, the Ruger Precision Rifle will continue to sell well in 2017, \$1,600.



FEDERAL GOLD MEDAL BERGER—Federal surprised a lot of folks by teaming up with Berger Bullets to bring an exciting new load to 6.5 Creedmoor lovers everywhere. Federal took their Gold Medal Match line and stuffed Berger’s 130-grain Hybrid bullet in it. This load will be a terrific choice for accuracy-minded shooters wielding bolt-action and gas guns alike.

Federal’s Gold Medal Match line of ammunition set the standard for consistent performance across a wide variety of rifle chambers a long time ago. It continues to be one of the loads that should always be tested for optimal accuracy from any rifle.

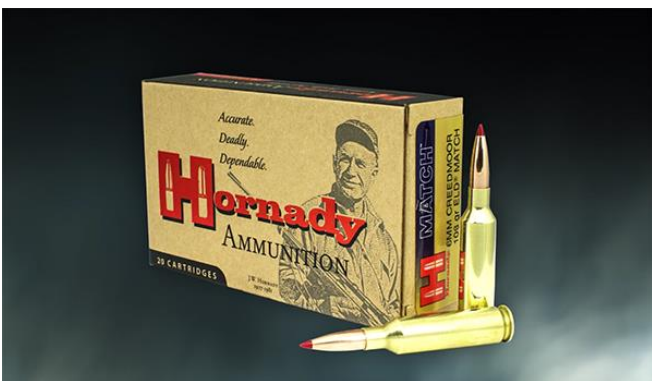
Berger’s Hybrid bullet combines the best characteristics of their high ballistic coefficient (BC) VLD bullets with the forgiveness of a tangent ogive in the Hybrid line. These bullets have excellent BCs yet don’t suffer from seating depth sensitivity like most VLDs do. All that fanciness means this load will shoot very accurately from a wide variety of rifle chambers (like the Gold Medal Match line) but have the superior BCs of Berger’s excellent VLD. It’s like winning twice every time you pull the trigger, \$33/box (20 rds.)



[HORNADY 108-GRAIN ELD MATCH 6MM CREEDMOOR](#)—Hornady continues to bring the heat in the precision rifle and long-range shooting demographic. They even SAAMI-ed a new cartridge this year, the 6mm Creedmoor. It wouldn't make much sense to create a new cartridge without having loaded ammunition available, so Hornady chose their 108-grain ELD Match for the 6mm Creed's maiden voyage.

I must confess, I absolutely love the ELD Match bullet line and have had great success finding accurate loads for my pet rifles. They are my preferred bullet for Precision Rifle Series (PRS) matches. Having the 108-grain available from the factory in 6mm Creedmoor will certainly create many new fans of this bullet.

The 6mms became more popular in 2016 and, thanks to this factory offering from Hornady, more shooters will be able to share the experience with inexpensive match ammunition featuring my favorite bullet. Ruger was the first to get an extremely popular rifle chambered for this cartridge, but they certainly won't be the last.



First Look: Colt Combat Commander

By [Drew Warden](#) - February 10, 2017



In the years following World War Two, there was a desire to move away from the classic M1911 pistol. The standard 1911 was heavy and slightly unwieldy to some, and the government was looking for something lighter, smaller and, perhaps most importantly, something chambered in the NATO standard 9mm. The Commander was Colt's answer for a more compact, lightweight 1911 when it introduced the original model back in the '50s. In the many years since, the company has only continued to improve upon and upgrade that initial concept.

The American manufacturer introduced several different variants of the Commander model, including the Combat Commander in 1970. This was an all-steel version of the typical aluminum-framed Commander, which was re-named the Lightweight Commander.

This past year, Colt brought out a new, modernized version of the Lightweight Commander, incorporating the company's excellent Dual Spring Recoil system, genuine Novak sights and other upgraded features. This year, Colt is giving its Combat Commander a similar treatment to bring it up to date.



Officially announced just ahead of the 2017 SHOT Show, the new Colt Combat Commander made its big debut at Industry Day at the Range and on the floor of the show itself. However, I was lucky enough to be among the media who got to see the gun early at Colt's Media Day event at Gunsite back in November of last year.

The newly redesigned Combat Commander features a blued carbon steel frame and slide, as well as a 4.25-inch polished, stainless steel barrel. The shorter barrel contributes to an overall length of 7.75 inches, or .75 inches less than a full-size 1911, which makes it a decent option for those who carry.

As with Colt's Competition pistol and Lightweight Commander introduced in 2016, this new Combat Commander utilizes the manufacturer's impressive Dual Spring Recoil system, which helps reduce felt recoil, improve control and increase recoil spring life. Having shot most of the pistols in Colt's recent lineup – which incorporate the Dual Spring system – I can say it does feel like there's a noticeable difference in recoil when compared to other 1911s I've shot. This seems particularly true with new Colt pistols chambered in 9mm, which would kick politely anyway, but seem even more tamed with the Dual Spring Recoil system.



Other ergonomic improvements to the redesigned Combat Commander include an upswept beavertail grip safety, undercut trigger guard and custom Colt G10 checkered black cherry grips. The upswept beavertail and undercut trigger guard help ensure a solid purchase on the gun, further improving control and accuracy. Although my time with the Combat Commander was fairly limited at the range, I felt that the gun was very comfortable in the hands, and my hold on the pistol never felt unsteady in any form.

The sights on the new Colt Combat Commander, like the rest of Colt's new pistols, are genuine Novak sights, and are quite good. Up front is a Novak white dot, while the rear is the company's excellent Low Mount Carry. These sights, paired with a pretty solid 4.5- to 6-pound three-hole aluminum trigger make for a pistol capable of fairly good accuracy if the shooter does his part.



The newly redesigned Combat Commander is available in 9mm or .45 ACP, with the 9mm model carrying 9+1 rounds and the .45 packing 8+1. Unloaded weight on both models is 33 ounces, and each gun ships with two magazines.

A quality option for those who carry concealed, the Combat Commander is available for \$949 in both models, placing it about 50 bucks less than Colt's Lightweight Commander.

For more information, check out the specifications below, or [visit the Colt website](#).

Specifications:

Colt Combat Commander

Type: Semi-auto, single action

Caliber: 9mm, .45 ACP

Barrel: 4.25 in., polished stainless steel

Overall Length: 7.75 in.

Height: 5.5 in.

Width: 1.25 in.

Weight: 33 oz. (unloaded)

Frame: Blued carbon steel

Slide: Blued carbon steel

Trigger: 4.5-6 lbs., three-hole aluminum

Sights: Novak white dot front, Novak Low Mount Carry rear

Grips: G10 checkered black cherry

Capacity: 9+1 (9mm), 8+1 (.45 ACP)

Price: \$949

Manufacturer: Colt

Proper and Effective AK Use

By [Jorge Amselle](#) - February 3, 2017



All AK-pattern rifles use a long-stroke gas-piston system of operation. The gas bled from the barrel directly impacts a long, chrome-plated steel piston that is permanently affixed to the bolt carrier and charging handle. This carries the rotating bolt, which features two locking lugs on its face. When fired, the operating rod, handle and unlocked bolt move back as one unit, improving the rifle's reliability in field conditions.

This is nevertheless a lot of mass slamming back and forth, which can increase perceived recoil and shift point of aim, affecting accuracy. Indeed, AKs are not generally admired for their accuracy, although they are capable of achieving very good results. The effect of this system on reliability is undeniable however, and is one of the AK's key strengths. The rifle's inherent reliability is attributed to its design and basic method of operation. No need to look for lots of extraneous controls or ambidextrous add-ons — there aren't any, really.



Loading and Firing

The standard AK magazine uses a staggered column design in which the cartridges sit diagonally one above the other. This maximizes the magazine capacity. The feed lip at the top of the magazine uses this staggered column system to keep the rounds in place until they are pushed forward from the rear. As a result, the opening at the top of the mag is wide enough so that rounds can be inserted straight down and will stay in place.

Unlike a pistol or single-column magazine where the rounds have to be inserted at the front and then pushed down and back under the feed lip, AK magazines load like an AR: just push the rounds straight down. This makes loading easy and allows for the use of various speedloaders — you can load the magazines from a pre-loaded 10-round stripper clip using an adaptor.



To place the magazine into the rifle, the system is very different than what American shooters are accustomed. The AK mag must be inserted by first placing the front lip inside the receiver and rocking it back so that it locks into place. This can provide a loose or tight fit, depending on the make of the rifle and magazines.

To remove the magazine, simply press forward on the paddle release behind the magazine and rock it forward and out. The mag will not simply drop free when you press the release, as it is still hooked at the front.



To load a round, make sure that the safety is in the down/off position. When the safety is in the up/on position, it blocks both the trigger and bolt handle. The right-side charging handle protrudes for easy manipulation. Pull it all the way back and release it to load the rifle. As the charging handle is attached to the bolt, it can be used as a

forward assist as well. Since it is attached to the gas tube, it will reciprocate when the rifle is fired, so left-handed shooters should beware.



If you are not immediately going to fire the rifle, the safety should be engaged. The right-side safety is a simple latch that you push up to engage, down to fire. There is no bolt hold open device, and the bolt will not remain open on an empty magazine (unless you are using one of those Yugoslavian mags).



The rear sight can be adjusted for elevation using a slide mechanism. The front sight can be adjusted for elevation as well. Actually, the front sight can be adjusted for windage, too, but this requires a special tool, and it should have been at least bore-sighted at the factory, so adjustment should not be needed.



The trigger fires the gun. You squeeze it.

These are all the basic controls on a standard AK. However, some customized AKs and newer variants may include thumb-operated safeties, improved magazine releases and ambidextrous charging handles which may or may not reciprocate. Make sure to become familiar with the operation of your specific rifle.

How To: Outfitting the Ultimate Reloading Bench

By

[Philip Massaro](#) - February 3, 2017



The way you outfit your reloading bench is as personal as the way you reload your ammunition; there's no true right or wrong answer, so long as it works for you. Invariably, you're going to need the basic tools to get the ammunition made properly, but there are some newer tools that will definitely make the reloader's life easier. We'll take a look at some great options so you can make a better, more informed decision when investing your hard-earned money.

You'll need a reloading press, a means of trimming your brass cases to length, some reloading dies, a scale to weigh powder charges, and a means of measuring both cartridge cases and the overall length of assembled ammunition. It'd also be nice to have some form of eraser, to disassemble cartridges that may have some sort of flaw, whether it is a powder charge that is over or under the desired weight, or a bullet that is seated too deep. Let's start with the press, as it is the heart of the operation.



Redding Reloading T7 Turret Press.

Reloading Presses

There are two types of presses available to the reloader: the single-stage press and the progressive press. The progressive performs multiple operations at once, and is usually reserved for the advanced reloader, but you may want to end up owning one if you're a high-volume pistol shooter; they can save an awful lot of time. Let me offer this piece of advice regarding a progressive press: Be prepared to spend a considerable amount of time setting up and maintaining your progressive; it isn't difficult at all to throw a progressive into a tailspin and have you dismantling the press in order to realign or clean the machine. If you're okay with that, don't shy away from the progressive, but be aware of the level of dedication needed to keep it running smoothly. Among the progressives, I've liked the RCBS ProChucker 7 and the Dillon 650; both have given repeatable and accurate results.

The single-stage is a different story altogether, in that once you get it mounted to the bench, it really doesn't require much maintenance other than a gentle cleaning and lubrication. The beauty of the single-stage press is its simplicity, and there are a number of good models available. Undoubtedly, the RCBS RockChucker was, is, and always shall be a great value, as it offers both affordability and reliability. Holding one reloading die at a time, it is a solid piece of gear that I still have on my bench. However, Redding's T7 turret press can be a God-send to the reloader, especially if reloading for any straight-walled cartridge in a single-stage manner. Capable of holding seven dies simultaneously, you can easily rotate the turret head to get to your flaring die or crimping die while leaving the resizing die or seating die in place, saving the time spent screwing and unscrewing dies. This press is one very solid piece of gear, and well worth the investment.



Redding Reloading dies.

Reloading Dies

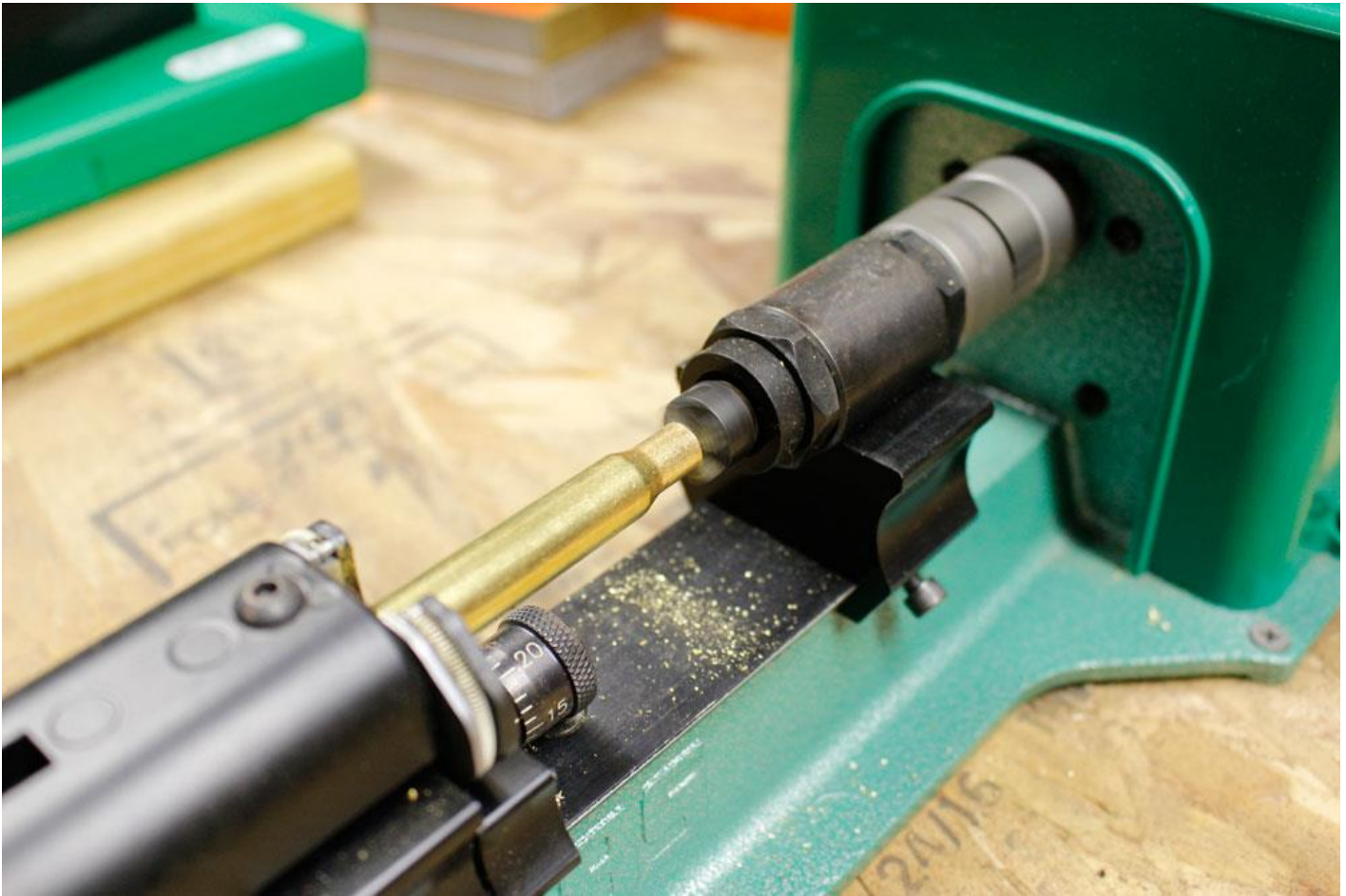
These are a necessity, and you definitely get what you pay for. I like the best dies money can buy, and I've come to rely on both RCBS and Redding dies, as they've given me the best results over the years. I've used other brands with varying degrees of success, but these two are what I use most. Redding is more expensive, but they have the tightest tolerances I've seen, and the RCBS dies offer a great value to the reloader. Both offer the really nice micrometer adjustable seating dies, allowing me to provide slight, yet precise adjustments to my ammunition.



RCBS ChargeMaster 1500.

Powder Scales

A balance beam scale is an absolute necessity on any reloader's bench no matter how much faith you place in a digital scale. I like the industry-standard RCBS 505, and the Redding Model 2; both are reliable and sturdy. However, the digital scales are wonderful, and I like both the Lyman Pro-Touch 1500 and the RCBS ChargeMaster 1500. Neither has ever let me down. I have also come to rely heavily on the RCBS 1500 ChargeMaster combination dispenser/scale, as it throws accurate powder charges time and time again, and it saves a heck of a lot of time.



RCBS Case Prep Trimmer

Trimmers

Keeping brass cases trimmed and prepped is a must, and you'll need a dependable means of doing so. I like the RCBS CasePrep Station, as it allows me to dial in a precise case length, and it has a set of universal jaws that holds almost any cartridge. In one unit, I can trim, chamfer, deburr and clean the primer pocket. If you prefer to do the trimming and prep work by hand, the Lee Case Trimmer uses a steel length gauge and cutter in conjunction with a shellholder for an inexpensive, yet accurate means of trimming brass. Combine this with a Wilson dual-sided chamfer/deburring tool, and you're set. Or, if you'd like a bit more control, pick up a Redding piloted chamfer/deburring tool for a more controlled experience.



Lyman E-ZEE Prime Universal Hand Priming tool.

Priming Tools

You'll definitely need to install new primers, and while most reloading presses offer a means of priming, I prefer to use a hand primer. The Lyman E-ZEE Prime universal priming tool is a great choice, as is the RCBS Hand Priming tool; both will give that positive feel that allows for a uniform seating depth for your primers. Both models will install large and small primers. The RCBS model uses universal, spring-loaded jaws, while the Lyman model relies on the cartridge's shell holder for priming.

Measuring Tools

A set of calipers is a definite must for any reloading bench, in order to assure your cases and assembled cartridges are of proper length. I like the RCBS electronic calipers, as they are affordable, yet give reliable measurements. This tool is easy to zero, and even easier to read, which is a nice feature for older eyes. While a micrometer would be a nice feature on the bench, a good set of dial calipers should suffice for almost all of our needs.

Erasers

Your bench needs to be equipped with a means of pulling a bullet from a cartridge case. Inertia hammers, like the one I use from Frankford Arsenal work well, but often damage the meplat of the bullet. I prefer the press-mounted RCBS Bullet Pullet, as it uses the power of your press and a caliber-specific collet to safely and neatly pull the cartridge apart without spilling powder all over. You'll also need a method of removing a stuck cartridge case from a resizing die, and I like the RCBS Stuck Case Remover for just such an emergency; it requires only a drill and an adjustable wrench, and will save your session.

Your reloading bench can be as simple or complex as you'd like it to be, but remember this: If you buy the best gear you can afford, you'll have a much more rewarding reloading session.

Editor's Note: This article is an excerpt from the December 2016 issue of [Gun Digest the Magazine](#).

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/cooking-with-gasoline-prepping-101-coleman-424-533-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170306_BlogDigest_214&utm_campaign=/blog/cooking-with-gasoline-prepping-101-coleman-424-533-review/

Cooking With Gasoline – Prepping 101 – Season 3! – Coleman 533, 424 Dual Fuel Reviews

by Paul Helinski on March 1, 2017

[BRS Multi-Fuel Backpacking Stove](#) – \$54 Ebay

[Grey Chinese Single Burner](#) – \$47 Ebay

[Coleman Dual Fuel Stoves](#) – On Ebay

[On Amazon](#)

Welcome back to Season 3 of Prepping 101 here on GunsAmerica. If you are new to this series, most likely your whole concept of preparedness will change should you choose to review the back catalog. Because unlike the survival blogs, print pubs and cable shows, my focus here has been to open your eyes to what off grid survival living really will look like after the collapse. Once in a while I will devolve into the reasons why things are ultimately going to collapse, and they probably aren't what you think. But mostly I test stuff. Once you look around a bit here, you'll find that there is no other off grid, survival or prepping resource in the world with as much useful information in one place.

This week I finally dragged out my gasoline stoves. And the reason I waited so long is because I just assumed that they worked (they did), and I assumed that most survival minded folks have seen a dual fuel Coleman stove (not so much). If you watch the video, I brought in a couple other Chinese stoves that may be a better buy than the Coleman stoves, and they are certainly more portable. But first I want to back up a bit and address the point that I made in the video about cooking in general, and cooking specifically with gasoline.

To start, if you haven't been with me over the last two years, but you feel that you have been prepping, most likely you have been led down the rabbit hole of expensive freeze dried food. Don't feel too badly about it, because ultimately, even if most of what you bought is powdered drink mix and very little protein, you can still live off of it, and that puts you way ahead of most folks. Please search here under "[calories per dollar](#)," and you'll see that there are some much better options out there, right at your local Walmart. I've also covered food storage with bags and buckets, buying online food from Walmart in bulk, and I've even showed you how to get cheap food in #10 cans from the Mormons.

Most survival food in calories per dollar terms needs to be cooked, not just re-hydrated. The cheapest food, flour, at over 4,000 calories per dollar, has to be baked or at least fried into pancakes or waffles. Beans, rice, and pasta all are more palatable when you cook them rather than just soak them, and of course if you happen upon a source of fresh game meat, you will want to cook it.

I don't like to beleaguer the point of cooking, but you would be amazed at how many people just don't get it. In order to cook, you need a plan for fuel, long term. In the video I discuss wood, diesel fuel, and this week we are on gasoline. As I explained, I think gasoline will be readily available after the big reveal. You just need a hose of fuel transfer pump to get it out of all the abandoned cars.

You'll notice that I don't allow comments on these articles for the most part. I do that because my purpose here is to give you the courage to take real steps toward giving yourself a shot once this whole card house tumbles down. Again, I am not a prophet and I have no idea when that will be, but 2+2 almost always equals 4, and this ship is going to sink. A bunch of useless comments where 90% of the people explain why their idea is better serves no purpose at all. I used to think that we'd pick up some good tips, but that has almost never happened. I have said a few times on here that the most useful comment ever on these articles was that canned Beefaroni

tastes like metal after two years in storage. Meanwhile we had to wade through tons of bad advice, and several outright lies about incorrect personal experiences.

When it comes to cooking, the bad advice is nearly always about propane. About 30 years ago the camping industry realized that they could get a ridiculous margin on small propane cylinders, far more than gallons of Coleman fuel, which is what we all used to camp with. They all but eliminated liquid fuel stoves, in favor of propane. One gallon of Coleman fuel has about as much BTUs as 4.5 cylinders of propane, so at current prices, that equals almost \$20 per gallon. If you go into Walmart today and buy Coleman fuel, it is like \$15 per gallon, because there is very little demand for it.

What they didn't tell you is that you don't have to use Coleman fuel, otherwise known as "white gas," in Coleman stoves. Unleaded gasoline works fine, but you may have to clean the nozzle more frequently, or replace the generator tube here and there over the years.

Realizing that Joe Sixpack figured this out, Coleman came out with stoves called "Dual Fuel," which claim to have been built differently, and specifically to handle gasoline. I have never compared them side by side, so for this article I stuck to the Dual Fuel.

Considering that you can buy a propane stove at Walmart for \$15-\$20 these days, the liquid fuel Colemans are very expensive. I bought my single burner 533 that you see here for \$55, but I just went looking and could not find one under \$75. Likewise the dual burner. Right now there are some deals out there for \$75-\$90, but there are also plenty well over \$100.

For camping, it will be a long time before you realize any real fuel savings on a deal like that, which is why if I did open up comments, you'd see a bunch of wingnuts claim that they don't need gasoline because they have years of propane stored up.

So my question is, but what if you have to leave?

The backpacking gasoline stove that you see here in the video is probably the most practical urban road stove I have ever seen. Especially on the road where you may find questionable water sources, being able to drain a couple cups of gas out of a car is really valuable. For a mere few extra ounces you can even carry an extra aluminum bottle. It seems to be a robust and durable design. It comes with an extra gasket and nozzle, and the online reviews seem to be very good for long term backpacking use. Obviously if you plan to stay put the Coleman stoves are a US made better value. Just don't leave fuel in any of these stoves for any length of time, and assume you'll forget. The nice thing about gasoline is that you can use the tank cap off for a day and it will evaporate.

If you live where there are trees and other organic burnable material, check out the Biolite small rocket stove that I reviewed in my first thermoelectric article. I wouldn't say don't get a gasoline stove as well, but on a limited budget, the Biolite is a better option. Likewise for family cooking, the Biolite Camp Stove is better. I've used the Biolite stoves now for a few different articles here, [so check them out](#).

For those of you who are regular readers and watchers, I hope to get back to more detailed pieces on SDR radios, setting up solar, perhaps even wind turbines, which I have and didn't get to use yet. Canning in bags, dry pack in barrels, groundwater wells, and milking cows are all also in the works. Hopefully the Trump euphoria will allow them to cover it all up for a while yet and we'll get another year here to prepare. I shot and edited waaay too much video for SHOT and I really just needed a break. But we're back! I hope some more of you will plug in and get going. Prepping is expensive and time consuming, but ten years early is better than one minute too late.

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From: Gun Owners of California Campaign Committee [<mailto:laurie@gunownersca.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:30 PM

Subject: DOJ Withdraws Regulations on Bullet Button Assault Weapons Ban



ARMED AND INFORMED

from GUN OWNERS of CALIFORNIA



California Department of Justice: Withdraws Regulations on "Bullet Button Assault Weapons" Ban

On Friday, February 10, the "Bullet Button Assault Weapons" regulations which were submitted by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) for approval to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) were *withdrawn*.

As GOC reported last month, the new regulations (required to implement the bills signed by Governor Brown last summer) DOJ tried to *expand* an Assault Weapon definition by stating if an individual registered a "Bullet Button" gun as a California Assault Weapon, they would *not* be allowed to replace the bullet button with a standard magazine release button. This action - which was made in the waning hours of 2016 - fell far outside the Department's legal authority in GOC's opinion.

These regulations, however, were "withdrawn" last week. What does this mean?

Although we wish it meant that the ill-conceived bills (Assembly Bill 1135 and Senate Bill 880) have been **repealed**, this is not the case. It simply means that the underlying regulations (the *details* of how the statute will actually be implemented) on the ban/sale or transfer of "Bullet Button Assault Weapons" have been *pulled back*, and that new regulations will likely be forthcoming. At this point, however, there are no specifics available regarding the **timing or content**. That said, the requirement for all legally possessed "Bullet Button Assault Weapons" to be registered before January 1, 2018 stands - regardless of how uncertain the process will be. We are confident there will be no changes made in the **deadline** established by the legislation.

Given the utter contempt that the DOJ has for the law-abiding gun owners in the state, it wouldn't surprise us in the least if they decided to go down the "**emergency**" path, rather than follow the "**regular**" process for issuance of new rules. Any regulations by a state agency must be submitted to and approved by the Office of Administrative Law.

According to the OAL, the “regular” process requires very specific public hearing and notice requirements to be met, but the “emergency” process is different, in that it provides for a much shorter period of public notice and comment. This process is only to be used when a situation comes up that calls for “*immediate action to avoid serious harm to the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare.*” (Government Code section 11342.545.) **For an emergency regulation to be approved, an emergency must be shown to exist.**

Of course, the Department of Justice’s definition of an “emergency” is far different than ours. The DOJ is no stranger to issuing “emergency regulations” because they were hard at it in December. It was the Friday night before Christmas when they laid down brand new “emergency” rules on magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. They very effectively muzzled public comment because on December 23, most of us were enjoying friends, family and some eggnog. Maybe the Department thought a holiday directive would somehow assist with “public peace” but all it did was swiftly ignite a fire under pro-gun Californians and on December 30, the regulations were withdrawn.

Now, given Friday night’s withdrawal of “bullet button assault weapon” regulations, we could very well face the following scenarios in the coming weeks and months:

1. The Department will issue “emergency” regulations.
2. The Department will issue full regulations under the routine “regular” process.
3. Attorney General Xavier Becerra will forgo development of regulations and sponsor legislation to legally ban semi-automatic weapons (reintroduction of AB 1664 - 2016/Levine).
4. The Department will delay regulations to evaluate and undermine (AKA *prohibit*) new technologies currently under development in order to comply with the law.

The only scenario that is appropriate is #2, but we must be prepared for any of the above - **[stay armed and informed with Gun Owners of California.](#)**

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This message was sent to stephens@verizon.net from:

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

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

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

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