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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, May 18th.**

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 offense if you remove your pistol from its holster while open carrying. While at Napoli's DO NOT remove your pistol from its holster unless it is an emergency.

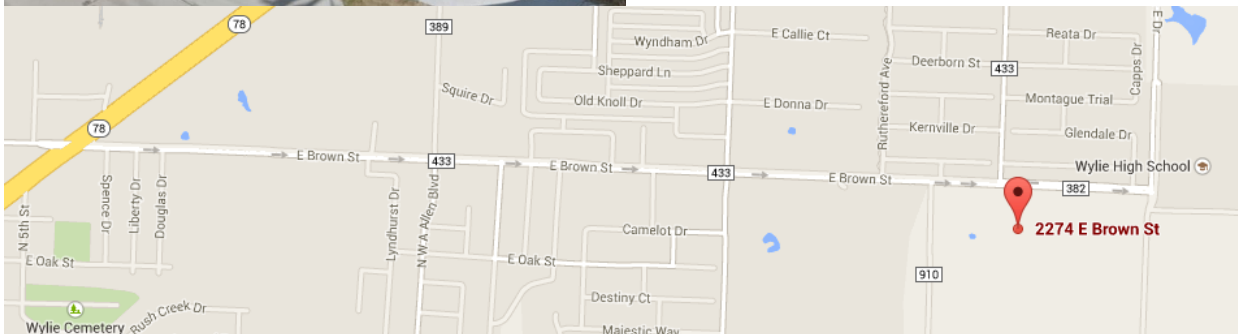
Member Don Bridges has volunteered his shop for the meeting. There are a very limited number of chairs at the shop, so please bring a camp chair for the meeting. We will meet there from 7:00 (ish) until 9:00 (ish)

The address is:

2274 EAST Brown Street in Wylie

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

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



Meeting gun topics:

- Zac Sterling CARGO VP will be hosting this month's meeting.
- For this month, I want to invite everyone to bring something that is new or new to you. This can be anything: old, new, big, little firearms related or not.
- We will continue our journey through the firearms companies later this summer.

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

Ammo sales are slumping under Trump

Posted: May 04, 2017 12:04 PM CST Updated: May 04, 2017 12:36 PM CST

By Aaron Smith



The ammo shortage that once confronted gun owners is a distant memory. Ammunition sales have slumped since the election of President Trump.

NEW YORK (CNMoney) -- The ammo shortage that once confronted gun owners is a distant memory.

Ammunition sales have slumped since the election of President Trump.

Cabela's, which sells outdoor products from tents to bear-proof food kegs, said on Thursday that quarterly same-store sales were down 9% compared with a year ago, dragged down in part by guns and ammo.

And Olin, a conglomerate that manufactures bullets and industrial chemicals, said in its quarterly earnings report on Tuesday that sales dropped 11% for its Winchester Ammunition division.

Cabela's said it was facing "several headwinds," including the election. The threat of tighter gun control drives up sales of guns and ammo, but with Trump in the White House and Republicans running Congress, that threat has vanished. Gun company stocks have fallen sharply.

At Olin, CEO John Fischer told analysts that stores "reduced their inventory that had been built ahead of the November 2016 presidential election, in anticipation of a different election outcome. We expect this impact to continue through the second quarter."

Cabela's also mentioned "tough comparisons from the San Bernardino tragedy." The December 2015 shooting rampage caused a surge in sales in the first three months in 2016, and those sales were hard to match in the first three months of this year.

Cabela's, which is being acquired by Bass Pro Shops, is working harder to push its ammo out the door. Cabela's is offering a 40% ammo discount for brands like Remington, American Eagle, PMC and Winchester, which is owned by Olin.

A discount like that would have been unthinkable in the months following the December 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. Ammo flew off the shelves, causing shortages and prompting Walmart to ration customers to three boxes a day.

After that, bullet factories ramped up production. Recognizing an unmet demand for ammo, gun companies Sig Sauer, Sturm Ruger and Vista Outdoor branched into ammo production before the slowdown.

Rommel Dionsio, a gun industry analyst for Wunderlich Securities, said that Vista is increasing its ammo manufacturing capacity this year, a decision the company announced in August, when bullets were still in short supply.

"They made their decision at a time when the industry was growing rapidly and there was a shortage of ammunition (last summer)," Dionisio told CNNMoney in an email. "The market has certainly changed since then!"

Vista did not immediately answer a request for comment.

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Setting Up a Home-Defense MSR

Words by James Tarr

At a recent media event, I was made aware of a survey done by the National Shooting Sports Foundation on ammunition purchases. More than 12 percent of the respondents said they had purchased rifle ammunition in the past year for the purpose of self-defense. Not ammunition, *rifle* ammunition.

The results shouldn't have surprised me as much as they did. I was reminded that the NSSF did a survey of over 12,000 respondents in 2010, and home defense was the No. 2 reason (behind recreational shooting and before hunting) for owning a "Modern Sporting Rifle," the NSSF's term for AR-15-style rifles.

Keep in mind, 2010 was before the post-Sandy Hook gun sales explosion and before the Paris and San Bernardino terrorist attacks.



The short 16 1/8th-inch barrel on the Savage MSR 15 Patrol makes it well suited for the task of home defense.

One sure way to liven up a day at the range is to ask a group of shooters what they think is the best weapon for home defense. For years, that argument was divided into two camps: the pistol crowd and the shotgun crowd.

What's Best

Proponents of the pistol for home defense argue its compactness and maneuverability, whereas the shotgunners argue stopping power and "fudge factor" when aiming, as it's a little harder to miss, even when stressed, when you're sending a cloud of projectiles downrange out of a long gun.

In the past few years, however, a third point of view has steadily been growing in popularity—that of the rifle as the best home defense weapon. Specifically, we’re talking about the AR-15 platform and the .223/5.56mm cartridge.

Before we talk about how to best set up a rifle for home defense, let’s talk about using a rifle indoors. Overpenetration has always been a concern when discussing the use of firearms in a dwelling, so the knee-jerk reaction has been to not even consider a rifle as being suitable.

However, in the last several decades, there have been exhaustive studies about what pistol and shotgun projectiles do when fired indoors, and those results are very interesting (and not in a good way).

Proponents of the pistol for home defense like to think that because it’s “just” a pistol round, overpenetration really won’t be an issue. That’s not the case.

First off, drywall sheets and hollow-core doors, which are what you’ll find in the majority of homes and apartments in this country, offer almost no resistance to bullets. Unless brick or cinderblock was used somewhere in your construction, any pistol cartridge powerful enough to be thought of as suitable for self-defense is likely to fly completely through every wall in your abode.



They call it “America’s Rifle” for a reason—A well built AR like the Savage MSR can perform double duty for both home defense and hunting in the field.

In fact, the hollow points of pistol bullets tend to plug up as they go through drywall, turning them in effect into round-nose bullets. Round buckshot pellets are just as bad, and shotgun slugs are worse.

These same concerns about overpenetration are what kept people away from considering the rifle for home defense. For years, many people just assumed they knew what would happen to a rifle bullet fired indoors—it would go through every wall available and then exit the building.

While armor-piercing and full metal jacket ammunition is specifically designed to do this, extensive testing has shown that light, extremely fast moving .223 projectiles (including FMJs) often fragment when they hit a barrier as soft as thin plywood. Projectiles specifically designed to expand almost always fragment even when going through just one or two layers of drywall.

This means that while you should always be aware of Firearms Safety Rule No. 4—Know Your Target and What’s Behind It—sending rifle bullets through bad guys and into your neighbor’s house is much less an issue than most people might think.

Let’s talk about the AR-15 itself. The argument could be made that the AR should stand for America’s Rifle, because they are so popular.

This is due to a number of reasons—they are short, light, handy, accurate, have very little recoil and (where legal) accept magazines that hold 30 or more rounds. They are also quick and easy to reload.



Choosing a lighting solution that’s right for you is nearly as important as your weapon selection. These handheld lights from Blackhawk are a good choice for shooters who either prefer or don’t have the capability of a weapon mounted light.

The MSR for Home Defense

While it may not be as maneuverable indoors as a pistol, the very length of the rifle will make it point much more naturally, increasing the chances of hitting the target. The main disadvantage you have with a rifle is the noise and concussion—firing a rifle indoors without hearing protection will be amazingly loud, and might permanently damage your hearing.

Of course, the same could be said for firing a pistol or shotgun indoors. Minor hearing loss might be the lesser of two evils when talking about fending off an armed intruder, though.

Another great advantage of the AR-15 design is how easy it is to personalize the rifle. By that, I mean that it is possible to completely take apart and replace any part on the rifle with simple hand tools. Many AR owners do just that, over and over and over as their tastes change. AR-15s have been described as LEGOS for men, and that's not a bad description. The trick comes in knowing what accessories you need and which you don't when setting up a rifle for home defense.



The Blackhawk grips on the MSR 15 have plenty of texturing on both the front and rear straps – providing increased grip when your hands begin to sweat or it begins to rain.

First, slings. While there are a number of fabulous slings on the market, personally I think they're a bad idea on a rifle meant for home defense. You won't be hiking up and down hills for hours, the rifle growing ever heavier in your hands. Plus, indoors there are just too many things for a sling to hook on.

In the past few years, I've come to appreciate the utility of [short forward vertical grips](#), but not as vertical grips. I think vertical grips shine when used as hand stops and portable shooting braces.



he holes in this handguard from Blackhawk are part of the MLOK attachment system, that allows shooters to securely mount accessories in nearly any location, while simultaneously cutting down on weight when compared to standard quad rails.

Press the front of the vertical grip up against a hard surface (such as a window sill) and you can virtually eliminate recoil while increasing steadiness to shoot more accurately. I don't know how often one of those might come in handy in a short-range dynamic home defense situation, but they don't take up much space or add much weight. As the man said, better to have it and not need it.

Any serious rifle meant for home defense should mount a dedicated light. Most [tactical LED flashlights](#) these days have 1-inch bodies, and most flashlight mounts are designed to clamp around the body of the flashlight and then attach to the handguard/forend of the rifle.

Quad rail handguards have fallen out of fashion for more streamlined models, but when it comes to attaching accessories, what do people attach to those handguards? Sections of rail. So a simple clamp mount for a flashlight which fits on a rail and positions the light where you can reach the controls is all you need.

I'm a big subscriber to the "anything that can go wrong will go wrong" school of thinking. So while all my ARs are topped with optics (non-magnified red dots for those rifles meant for home defense), they also all have [iron sights](#).



In the event your primary optic should ever fall victim to “Murphy’s Law,” back-up Iron Sights (BUIS) are a critical component of every home defense MSR.

[Iron sights](#) never lose their zero and never have dead batteries. Or perhaps to keep things simple on a home defense rifle that will most likely be used at pistol ranges, you might only want [iron sights](#). These days your options are vast and you have your choice between fixed and folding sights of all types.

That being said, red dots sights are so much quicker and easier to use than iron sights, especially in a close-range dynamic defensive situation, and any and every rifle meant for home defense should have one.

Unlike iron sights, non-magnified red dot sights are designed to be used with both eyes open (keeping your peripheral vision unimpaired) and can be seen even in complete darkness.

In this age of technological advancement, you don’t need to break the bank in order to get a quality optic.

Take the [Bushnell TRS-25](#) for example—it is small and light, has a 3 MOA red dot, is powered by the common CR2032 battery and a 3000-hour battery life, has 100 percent waterproof/fogproof/shockproof construction, and yet can be found online for about \$100.

How ever you have your rifle set up, make sure you’ve taken it to the range and zeroed it, and proved to your own satisfaction that it is reliable before you consider it “ready” for defensive use.

Understanding Blunt Force Trauma Lethality



An Interview with Dr. Robert Margulies

by Gila Hayes

The long-time standard for self defense allows use of force proportional to that used by the attacker. A common misunderstanding arising from this general guideline is the very real danger of crippling or even lethal outcomes from blunt force injury inflicted during a purely physical attack. Can the armed citizen justify defensive display of a firearm or shooting to stop a physical beating?

It is not hard to find reports of deaths from blunt force trauma. In 2011, a 25-year old man took a \$5 bet to be punched in the face by a woman. The autopsy showed that an artery burst in his neck and that he died from brain hemorrhage caused by blunt force trauma. At 5'5", 142 pounds, the woman was reportedly not a bodybuilder nor was she trained in martial arts nor did she possess any extraordinary fighting skills.

Another well-publicized case from 2011 tells of a tourist in Las Vegas who was punched, fell to a tile floor and hit the back of his head. At trial, a Clark County, NV forensic pathologist identified the cause of death as blunt-force trauma from hitting his head on the floor.

In 2013, a large, 17-year old player punched a soccer referee in Utah in the face. A week later the ref was dead, having gone into a coma with swelling in his brain.

North of Seattle, WA in 2014, two teens agreed to resolve a fight by allowing one to punch the other in the face; he died from blunt force trauma to his head, after being hit in the face with a closed fist.

These are only a fraction of the many anecdotal reports of death from an empty hand attack. Still, society and the criminal justice system are eager to prosecute those who use guns to defend against ostensibly unarmed assailants. To offer just two examples, in Wyoming, a murder conviction was overturned in late 2013. The Wyoming Supreme Court found that a Fremont County prosecutor's closing statements to the jury were inaccurate, asserting in part, "In the state of Wyoming, there is a law against shooting an unarmed man." (<http://www.courts.state.wy.us/Documents/Opinions/2013WY118.pdf>) Oregon courts also have sometimes failed to acknowledge fists as dangerous weapons. (<http://law.justia.com/cases/oregon/court-of-appeals/1975/540-p-2d-394-2.html>).

All across the country, armed citizens face punishment for justifiable use of countervailing deadly force, and they are jailed, often prosecuted, and face a very difficult, uphill fight to prove the necessity of their use of force

against an assailant's fists, feet, knees and elbows. A big part of defending use of force is being able to document knowledge of the danger prior to facing the threat.

With that in mind, we called on long-time emergency medicine physician and Network member Robert A. Margulies, MD, MPH, FACEP to explain blunt force trauma injuries in this first segment of a two-part study of defending against physical attack. In addition to a long career in emergency medicine, Dr. Margulies is a skilled lecturer whom I was privileged to question at length on this topic recently. We switch now to an interview format to share his words with readers.

eJournal: Cases in which people died after a single punch bring us to a surprising conclusion about the human body's fragility! To get us started, could you identify areas of greatest vulnerability to blunt force trauma of the sort an empty-handed aggressor could inflict with such immediacy as to result in death or such disability that we would be unable to seek out and benefit from medical intervention?

Dr. Margulies: The real answer is, "It is anywhere." The fact that a blow to the nose can produce tearing, as it almost always does, means that you can't see what is coming and that puts you at a tremendous disadvantage for the rest of the attack. Once you are tearing, you don't know whether the aggressor is reaching for a weapon of any kind, so a blow to the nose, certainly a blow to the eyes, would render one at a great disadvantage.

There are places that are more likely to produce devastation from the initial blow, and those would include again, that blow to the nose. If it is properly delivered, an aggressor can break the nose bone and drive it up into the brain.

A blow to the temple area where the skull is relatively thin can actually cause a fracture in that area and tear the underlying artery. This can produce permanent disability, and can cause death.

A blow to the back of the neck can dislocate the spine and cause paralysis or death. These are things that one does not really have to be a trained martial artist to do. Blows to the nose, to the back of the neck, to the throat are examples of "empty hands" that can produce disability or death.

Head and face trauma has an interesting aspect to it. It is not just that somebody has been hit in the face, but bleeding and swelling of tissues can also lead to airway blockages. Bleeding in the mouth can lead to swallowed blood, which is very irritating and can cause vomiting which puts somebody at a disadvantage, but also leads to the risk of aspiration. That is, the vomit is trying to come up and out, and you're trying to breath in, and you suck some of this stuff down into your lungs. All of these things can become fatal, even though this was just a broken jaw and a little bleeding.

A blow to the ribs can cause injury to the liver or the spleen, both of which, in the vernacular, bleed like stink. Surgery is extremely difficult because the liver and the spleen are not like muscle where you can isolate a blood vessel and get control, they're spongy and trying to suture is like trying to sew gelatin—it is difficult! It requires a highly trained team to be able to salvage somebody who has a shattered liver or spleen. Spleens can be removed and the patient can survive. Humans do not do well without a liver.

eJournal: Do we no longer have the luxury of using the word, "just" when discussing physical attack? We want to deny our vulnerabilities, so we use words like "only" when the domino effect you just described can kill. The direct damage, plus the potential for additional effects, is profound.

Dr. Margulies: Most people are mis-educated by what we see in the movies and on television. Just as a bullet from a handgun does not pick people up and throw them against the wall, in the real world, one does not sustain a blow to the head, the kick to the chest, and then stand up and produce his magic fight-ender. That's fantasy! That's not the real world. It doesn't happen that way. You get hit in the head, you go to the ground, and you are badly hurt.

eJournal: Returning to something you said earlier, are these injuries that do not require training or any particular expertise to inflict?

Dr. Margulies: Unequivocally not. I consider hands and feet, knees, elbows and shoulders, to be deadly weapons. Once that first blow is delivered and once you go to the ground, the kick to the head, the knees in the chest, may produce permanent injuries and fatalities. I'm going to give you a reference to an article in the Journal of Head and Face Medicine, published in October 2005 (see <http://www.head-face-med.com/content/1/1/7> - B10). One of the comments in it is that as of 2005, we in developed countries have a level of facial injuries caused by interpersonal violence exceeding those from motor vehicle crashes. This is not a new concept or a new problem.

eJournal: Some of the deaths I've read about appear to be caused by what you might call the secondary injury resulting from a blunt force attack, the head injury suffered when the victim falls down. What is the physical cause?

Dr. Margulies: The brain is gelatinous and is not a very strong structure, not like a muscle. This gelatinous structure rests inside the bony vault and it is bathed in fluid. Around the age of 40, the brain actually begins to shrink. The skull does not. We now have this gelatinous structure in more fluid. That means it can move and it displaces the fluid as it moves.

A blow produces an acceleration force and so if you're struck—let's just pick a spot—in the forehead, the skull begins to move backwards while the brain lags. It sits there and first, the forehead bone actually strikes the brain, then, in many cases, there is the secondary acceleration and the brain moves away and now strikes the back of the skull and there's additional injury at the other end. The technical term is contra-coup. It is the secondary injury due to the brain's movement within the skull.

If that initial blow to the forehead drives the head back into a wall or the head restraint of the car seat, the skull stops and the brain continues now to bang into the back of the skull, we have two points of injury.

If you fall and you have the gravity effect in addition to the impact effect, and the head now hits a hard surface—and by the way, that could be a grassy field—that secondary impact brings the skull to a sudden stop. There's been the additional time and energy developed by the movement of the skull and brain between the initial impact and now when it hits the ground, the concrete, the post or the fence, that exacerbates the secondary injury.

The injury may not be something that we see with the naked eye. We know that a concussion, for example, which renders a football player, a boxer or any martial artist dizzy, light headed, having difficulty focusing—both with the eyes and the brain—frequently does not produce an injury that is seen on a CAT scan. The injury is within the blood supply and neurons themselves and they lose the ability to transfer information. That is what the nerve cells do: they move information from one place to another. So the concussion without a visible, anatomic injury is a disabling injury.

eJournal: What losses should we expect from injury to different parts of the brain?

Dr. Margulies: The lower portion of the back of the brain is where we see. The information is transmitted through what appears to be a fairly long channel from the eyes to the occipital lobe at the back of the brain where we have our visual cortex, the part that interprets the electrical and chemical impulses that are generated. It is not the eye that sees, it is the impulses from the eye that are interpreted in the visual cortex, so striking the back of the head can render someone temporarily unable to see clearly. That is a disabling injury.

As I mentioned earlier, other areas that are more easily damaged are the temporal areas just above and slightly forward of the ears. An injury there can produce an electrical storm in the sense that bony fragments penetrate

the brain. Though there is no pain involved—the brain itself does not have sensory nerves—the impact and the fragmentation produce an electrical shock wave through the brain. That’s in addition to the bleeding if the temporal artery is torn. Again, that renders the individual disabled in terms of mounting a reasonable defense.

eJournal: Would a victim injured in that way by an attacker who didn’t stick around, be unable to seek medical assistance or provide self-care to mitigate the damage?

Dr. Margulies: The point that has been all too long ignored in the justice and legal system is the unprovoked attack puts one in a very dangerous situation. In a dark alleyway, or a subway station after the train has pulled out and very few people are there, that initial impact can produce injuries that without immediate care can be fatal.

eJournal: If victims realize they’ve suffered a head injury, what should they do?

Dr. Margulies: If the individual is awake, breathing and talking, there needs to be an evaluation. It is not the same urgency as a cardiac arrest or someone who is not breathing, but I go back to the concussion: we have raised a generation of athletes who have long term permanent disabilities as a result of repeated concussions. In the State of Washington, several neurosurgeons and others involved in this kind of thing were responsible for the passage of the Lystedt law. Zackery Lystedt was a young football player who was badly concussed, went back into the game and received a second injury, and now has permanent disability. Anybody who receives a head injury that, in the vernacular, “rings the bell” or “sees stars,” should be evaluated.

eJournal: Is there a “golden hour?” What’s the timeline?

Dr. Margulies: The brain itself does not have any ability to store oxygen or glucose, the energy fuel. The muscles, the liver and some other organs have the ability to store glucose at least as glycogen, and they can then maintain themselves even in the absence of blood flow for a certain amount of time. A little bit of a digression: we know that we can put a tourniquet on in the operating room for surgery and we have five to six hours before there’s permanent damage in skeletal muscle. That is not true in the brain! In the brain, 20 seconds without oxygen is about all we can get.

If there is bleeding into the brain, the bleeding—aside from the injury that resulted in the bleeding—produces pressure. That increased pressure causes a loss of circulation in the surrounding tissues and widens the injury. If a victim can be brought to a place where the diagnosis and then the surgery can be performed promptly by removing that blood or stopping the bleeding and reducing the internal pressure, the brain function can be preserved. So, yes, if there is an injury where there is bleeding, time is of the essence.

eJournal: And there are diagnostic tools to show the bleeding?

Dr. Margulies: Oh, yes! The CAT scan is remarkably sensitive for that, so we can see bleeding promptly, but you have to be someplace where a CAT scan is available, and then you have to have the surgeon and anesthesia and team to proceed to do what needs to be done. Receiving such an injury, and being left to lay in that subway station or a dark alley for an hour or two hours, may produce irreparable damage or death.

eJournal: That explains many of the anecdotal reports we study in an attempt to define the seriousness of a physical attack.

Dr. Margulies: The body is really quite fragile. Someone who has any training in the martial arts can break bones or dislocate joints rapidly. There are lots of places where the injury renders you unable to defend yourself. There are lots of places on the body where a blow produces that level of disability. If one is, in the vernacular, kicked in the nuts, that in and of itself produces a fair amount of pain and results in what most

people would refer to as going into a defenseless posture. If the blow is delivered properly, and the testicle itself is actually shattered, not just bumped, the body's response is a collapse to the knees and vomiting.

A blow to the mid back that strikes the kidney produces the same kind of response, perhaps not the vomiting, but a collapse to the knees and a defenseless position. The bare hand or the foot or a knee or an elbow, can produce that disability that leads to an inability to defend yourself. And it only takes one blow!

eJournal: Are these results physiological, or is the victim too weak to work through the pain or failing to "man up?"

Dr. Margulies: These are physiological responses. They are not a result of intellectual, emotional, psychological or physiological weakness. These are blows that produce an inability to defend oneself. You're on your knees, you are trying to grasp the area that's been hit, and your head and face and neck are defenseless.

eJournal: You mentioned blows to the chest in some of our initial discussions. You cited one case in which a young female athlete was struck in the chest. What happened?

Dr. Margulies: She had an enzyme and electro-cardiogram proven heart attack. We call that a cardiac contusion. Actually, it is more common in the elderly because we do not have the flexibility in our chest walls. The cartilage becomes calcified, the ribs become more rigid, things break more easily, and the sternum itself loses some of its flexibility at its joints. The sternum is not a single bone: it has three separate sections. A properly delivered blow to the sternum can shatter it and lacerate the heart.

eJournal: That echoes concerns over disparity of force for the elderly.

Dr. Margulies: As we get older, we lose our flexibility. Our joints aren't as limber. There are very few 70 year olds who can do what a 30 year old can do. We lose muscle mass as we age; we have decreased responsiveness in our hearts and our lungs. Even our adrenaline reaction goes down as we grow older. There is a significant disparity of force between your 60 year old and your 30 year old, even if the 60 year old does not have a heart condition or lung condition or preexisting medical problems: a healthy 60 year old is at a disadvantage physiologically against a healthy 30 year old.

I think that from our mid-sixties, the average individual really has to appreciate that it is the rare individual who gets past their mid-sixties and does not have some physiological changes. All of those physiological changes in aggregate produce a greater risk of injury. There is also the psychological component: people don't want to appreciate this!

eJournal: After a long career in emergency medicine, do you view the threat of empty handed assault differently than most citizens? How does that factor in to your decision making as an armed citizen?

Dr. Margulies: I think I do look at it differently than the average person. I am a little stranger than the average bear. I never go through a door without looking up and in all directions, including up. I don't think about it anymore, but I know I do it.

I pay very, very close attention to people's faces and hands. I think that people need to learn to read that clenching fist, that lifting eyebrow, that cold stare. I learned that lesson very, very young. I was a senior medical student doing a psych rotation at a VA hospital and I approached a drunk carelessly and he managed to clip me. Fortunately, there was an aide in the room who saw it coming, blocked some of it and was able to take care of the problem very effectively. I can honestly say I have been studying this since 1968.

I think people really do need to pay attention to what is going on, on the other side of the street as you are walking. I think you need to pay attention to the rear view mirror when you are driving. What is going on back

there? Is traffic parting and cars speeding? I want to get out of there. Is it a couple of drunks racing or are the police chasing an armed perp? I do not want to be sitting in the middle lane at the speed limit when there's high-speed stuff going on around me. I want out of there. You have got to watch your rear view mirror: look at it, pay attention!

The world is a beautiful place, but a cobra is beautiful, too! I think we need to be careful. I think we need to understand that if somebody is approaching you and they've got clenched fists, you need to be prepared. I think that Marc MacYoung is a wonderful resource. At my age, I need to be prepared to give them a "Don't move!" I need to be prepared to present my firearm because if their fists are clenched, the question is "why" and I can't wait until I get hit. I'm not prepared to let somebody use me as a punching bag.

My explanation? If I ever have to, I can and I will describe what I saw, what it was that triggered my response, and I have the benefit of being able to explain that I know how dangerous a fist or a foot is. It doesn't even have to be a fist. There are open hand blows that are very dangerous. There is a whole vocabulary of strikes from fingertips to open hand to edged hand to forearm, to elbow, to shoulder, to knees to feet...and I know how dangerous they all are. My hope is that other people are motivated on the basis of what you're going to write to do some study about this, so they are prepared to say they understood what this was. If you can't explain it, you are going to get hung.

eJournal: You have given us an excellent foundation from which to pursue further study, and I promise we will do exactly that. Thank you so much for sharing your expertise and knowledge with us.

Dr. Robert Margulies and his wife Sara Baron, RN, MS teach firearms safety and use, personal safety in both armed and unarmed environments, as well as wilderness survival and other safety topics through International Emergency Consultants in Richland, WA. To learn more about their work see <http://i-e-c.org/instructors/> or get to know them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalEmergencyConsultants/>.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/reverse-pump-takedown-krieghoff-semprio-rifle-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170320_BlogDigest_216&utm_campaign=/blog/reverse-pump-takedown-krieghoff-semprio-rifle-full-review/

A Reverse Pump-Action, Takedown Rifle? The Radically Unique Krieghoff Semprio – Full Review

by Phil Massaro on March 14, 2017



The Krieghoff Semprio is an in-line repeater that features a reverse pump-action system of operation and swappable barrels and chamberings. Image courtesy of manufacturer.

For more information, visit: <https://www.krieghoff.com/hunting-guns/krieghoff-semprio-in-line-repeater/>.

To purchase a Krieghoff firearm on GunsAmerica.com, click this link:

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=Krieghoff>.

“What in the hell is that thing?!?” So exclaimed my father, upon his first sight of the [Krieghoff Semprio](#). “Is that for real?”

Yes, it is real, and it works just fine.

The Krieghoff Semprio is not your ordinary rifle. The Krieghoff Semprio is not comparable to any rifle you’ve ever shot. The Semprio is – in a world of cookie cutter, wanna-be rifles – a different, undeniable breath of fresh air. Like it or hate it, the Semprio is irrefutably unique. Please, allow me to explain.



As should be no surprise, the Semprio from Krieghoff is available in a wide range of finish and stock options with ornate engraving available. Image courtesy of manufacturer.

My editor here at GunsAmerica asked me to review the new Krieghoff rifle, and at the mere mention of the manufacturer, I jumped at the opportunity. “Phil, it’s a sweet .30-’06 Springfield in-line repeater. You’re going to like it,” he said to me.

Repeater? As in, bolt? Auto? Pump? What does that mean? I needed clarification on this whole “in-line” deal, but I was intrigued.



The bolt and guide rod of the Semprio are housed in the rear half of the takedown rifle. Note the multi-lug bolt head and fluted bolt body.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** .30-06 (as tested)
- **Barrel:** 21.5 inches (25 inches for magnum chamberings)
- **Weight:** 7.5 pounds
- **Stock:** Turkish walnut with optional synthetic coating
- **Sights:** Fluorescent open sights
- **Action:** In-line repeater
- **Finish:** Blued
- **Capacity:** 4+1 (as tested)
- **MSRP:** \$4,695.00 (without scope or mount)

Hands On

Well, the gorgeous Kreighoff hardshell travel case arrived at Cocksackie Gun & Bow – and upon opening the locks to reveal the Crown Royal purple velvet interior, I was, well, befuddled. What I had in my hands was neither fish nor fowl; it was a sort of a pump gun, but it worked in the opposite manner of every pump rifle or shotgun I'd ever handled before. It was obviously well-made, in a takedown case that would make any traveling hunter happy, fashioned in a walnut with synthetic coating camouflage stock that would serve any environment. But, upon reading the instructions – to assemble the rifle – it dawned upon me how revolutionary this rifle actually is. The rifle is available in a range of configurations and finishes, including walnut stocks and engraved metal. The sky is the limit on this one.



The Semprio is a takedown design, with it breaking into two primary parts. The author received a camouflaged stock variant for testing.

“In-line repeater” was not incorrect, but requires a bit of expounding. The Semprio, once fired, requires the shooter to work the action not rearward, toward the receiver, but forward, toward the muzzle. The natural recoil motion actually assists the cycling of the action. The entire rifle actually separates at the center. Like a trombone, it gets longer, and then returns to center. Scope, sights, barrel, and all separate from the receiver, and quickly returns to center for another shot.



The fore end of the rifle with the scope mount and barrel moves forward when the action is cycled. The detachable magazine is accessible when it is in this position.

The Semprio is, as stated, is unorthodox, but is well-planned. I can see its European influence; in a hunting environment where our American semi-autos are not legally able to be owned or implemented, the quick-repeating capability is gold. And quick it is. We put it to the test, in many different ways.

Functionality

Shipped and stored in two pieces, the Semprio assembled easily; with the bolt system and guide rod properly aligned, the two pieces connect by pushing the rifle shut. Once assembled, Kreighoff's unique and very useable Combi Cocking device (read safety, but different) comes into play. In lieu of a safety, Kreighoff employs a thumb-operated, spring loaded shaft to either cock, or fully de-cock the Semprio, which makes a whole lot of sense. It allows the rifle to be carried with a cartridge in the chamber, with the firing pin spring tension fully disengaged, when the cocking device is rearward. When you're ready to fire, simply push the cocking device forward, and you're ready to fire. The cocking device has a small lever, which may be pushed downward to release the spring tension, de-cocking the firearm. When in the rearward (de-cocked) position, the action may not be worked, but giving the cocking device a clockwise turn to the two o'clock position will allow the shooter to open the action for unloading or for disassembly. It took a bit of getting used to, and perhaps I might suggest a bit of labeling on the receiver, but once I got the swing of things it makes a lot of sense. Within minutes, I had the Semprio figured out and running like a fine instrument.



The rear sight of the Semprio rifle. Note the high-visibility dots.

The Semprio uses a detachable box magazine, located at the rear of the barrel section of the forward half of the rifle, underneath the rotating bolt. The rotating bolt locks directly into the steel barrel, allowing for the use of a lightweight alloy receiver. The result is a light overall weight of 7.5 pounds. When the action is closed, the magazine is completely encased by the “receiver”, so there’s no risk of dropping the magazine while carrying the rifle in the closed position. Once the action is opened forward, the magazine is accessible, and a small, spring-loaded lever – located at the forward end of steel magazine – easily releases it. The Kreighoff magazine on the rifle tested held four rounds of .30-’06 Springfield, and it is possible to load another in the chamber safely.

The trigger of the Semprio comes set from the factory at about three pounds; there is almost no creep and very little over-travel. It is, however, a single-set trigger, and pushing it forward, in either cocked or de-cocked position, will make it one of the finest hair-triggers I’ve ever used. Simply touch it, and you’re sending a bullet downrange, making it perfect for the longer and more precisely aimed shots.



The Kreighoff detachable scope mounting system, which returned to zero every time for the author.



The Semprio's Combi-Cocking device, in the de-cocked position. You push it forward to cock the gun and ready it for firing. The action can be uncocked for safe carrying.

While the Semprio comes with red fiber optic sights that show up well on just about any target color, the sighting radius is on the short side; it measured 11½ inches from the rear sight to the back of the front sight. This worked fine for closer targets, and I can see where a woods hunter would be just fine with this sighting system. However, I really liked Krieghoff's spring-loaded, quick-release scope base and rings, which are nicely engineered to mate with the milled receiver top. The test rifle was shipped with a [Swarovski Z6 1.7-10x42mm](#) scope, with 30mm tube, giving a nice fine crosshair and plenty of light. Being removable, I was determined to establish the repeatability of the mounts, wanting to see if there was any zero shift when the Swarovski was taken off.

Also on note regarding the design of the Semprio is the fact that the take-down design allows the owner to purchase additional barrels and bolt-heads, to easily and quickly change calibers if so desired. This adds a lot of versatility to the Semprio.



The author tested the rifle with a range of bullet types and weights and got results in the 1.25- to 2-inch range.

At the Bench

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

<u>LOAD</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>ACCURACY</u>
Federal Premium Nosler	180 grain	1.50 inches
Federal Premium Trophy	200 grain	2.00 inches
Norma American PH	165 grain	1.25 inches
Winchester Accubond	180 grain	2.00 inches

I grabbed several different brands and weights of factory ammunition for testing – Kreighoff specifies that only factory ammunition shall be used in the Semprio – and headed to the range to see how this rifle would shoot. Firstly, feeding and extraction were no issue whatsoever, irrespective of bullet weight or manufacturer. Secondly, as this was a pump rifle – excuse me, in-line repeater – I wasn’t exactly expecting the hair-splitting accuracy that a bolt-action would provide, as there was a lot more room for play in the locking mechanism than there is in a bolt gun. But as you’ll see, I did achieve perfectly good hunting accuracy, and that’s what the Semprio is built for.



Closing the action of the Kreighoff Semprio.

The best groups I got came from Norma's American PH line, using their 165-grain Oryx bullet. The average three-shot group size at 100 yards was 1¼", with the best at just over ¾ inch. Federal Premium's 180-grain load, with the Nosler Partition, ran a close second, with group size hanging around 1½ inch. The Winchester ammo, using the 180-grain Combined Technology AccuBonds hung right around an even 2 inches, as did the Federal Premium Trophy Bonded Bear Claw 200-grain bullets. While this accuracy may seem mediocre in comparison to what we've come to expect from the uber-rigid bolt actions, it most definitely will suffice for almost all hunting with 300 yards.

Recoil was definitely manageable, even from the bench, as the stock design of the Semprio drove the energy straight back into the shoulder and not up into your cheek. A black recoil pad – pliable and textured to keep it where you put it – absorbed much of the energy. The Semprio's barrel took the heat well, even for a sporter weight tube.

Kreighoff has designed their scope mounting system very well; I experienced no zero shift whatsoever when removing and reinstalling the scope. The rifle returned to point of aim within ½" of the previous group. Yes, I know Swarovski scopes are rock solid and rarely lose their point of aim, but any flaw in a mounting system will rear its ugly head when moving parts are involved. Kreighoff has a winner in their system.



Note the exposed magazine with the action locked forward.

Off the Bench

Since the Semprio is obviously built for speed, I thought it a good idea to see how quickly it could be fired accurately. We set up a target board and multiple targets at 50 yards, to emulate a situation where deer or hogs may be taken in rapid succession, as on a driven hunt in Europe or a hog culling exercise in the South. With five shots in the rifle, and the Swarovski turned down to 1.7x magnification, I grabbed my pals Marty Groppi and Manny Vermilyea, and the three of us took turns trying to put a bullet in the paper vitals as quickly as possible.



The Semprio in action, in the hands of ManDrake Vermilyea.

We were all amazed at the fact, in spite of the initial foreign feel of the rifle, we could indeed place accurate shots very quickly. Yes, the scope moves forward with the barrel when the action is worked, and that took some getting used to, but the Swarovski scope has a wide field of view, and came back into focus quickly. The rubberized feel of the synthetic stock and the checkering of both forend and pistol grip gave a good hold on the rifle, and it came to the shoulder nicely. I liked it even better with the scope removed, as it allowed for quicker target acquisition with fewer moving parts. I could easily see where using a red dot type of optic would be a very wise move with this style rifle.

We performed an interesting test with the Semprio – to see if holding the trigger back while you work the action would get the rifle to fire – and I’m happy to report it didn’t fire in that manner. No worries of an accidental discharge with this gun; the shooter must consciously pull the trigger.

In Conclusion

With the ability to take the rifle apart for both travel and storage, the Semprio makes a good choice for the hunter who wants speed and firepower. I think its appeal will be much stronger among the European hunters than it is with the American hunters, as we have the opportunity to use an autoloading rifle for the same sort of hunting situation where the Semprio will shine. While our test rifle was in the classic .30-'06 Springfield – a cartridge that is well suited to almost all the world’s game animals – I think the Semprio might be even faster in a short action cartridge like the .308 Winchester.



The Semprio's classy traveling case; the breakdown capability makes for a trim, compact package.

The 21½-inch barrel is long enough to give good velocities, yet not so long as to become a hindrance as the trombone gets longer when the action is worked (when purchased in magnum chamberings, the barrel is 25 inches). I truly like the safety factor that Krieghoff has worked into their Combi-cocking device, and I also like the little “safe to carry” lever that holds the action open. When the action is opened, there is a small lever on the right side of the rifle that can prevent the action from being closed, so you may easily verify the rifle is not in battery. When hunting with a large party – as they tend to do on driven hunts in Europe – it's very nice to know at a glance that the rifle is open and safe, with no chance of going into battery until the hunt begins.

Krieghoff's reputation for quality firearms is definitely present in the construction of the Semprio; the stock-to-metal finish is tight, and tolerances among the metal parts throughout the rifle are certainly tight. In the end, it's going to boil down to this question: are you married to the traditional rifle forms, or are you willing to step out of the comfort zone for a new experience? If you are, the Semprio might just be for you.

For more information, visit: <https://www.krieghoff.com/hunting-guns/krieghoff-semprio-in-line-repeater/>.

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

http://www.gunsandammo.com/shoot101/the-best-way-to-clean-your-gun/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=shoot101&utm_term=gunsandammo&utm_content=shoot101

The Best Way to Clean Your Gun

Words by David Faubion

Professional shooter Jessie Duff excels at two things: destroying the competition and making guns dirty — very dirty.

“I have tons of horror stories where my guns just stopped working,” said Duff, who fires upward of 50,000 rounds per year. “These high-end firearms are finely-tuned machines that must be kept clean. In practice, I get lazy and think, ‘Oh, I can get in another 500 rounds before cleaning.’ Sometimes that works, and sometimes it doesn’t. There are plenty of times where the gun just quits because there’s so much gunk from not being cleaned.”



[Gun Medic Cleaner & Lube](#)

That’s when Duff calls in a medic — Gun Medic, to be exact. This all-in-one cleaner and lube from Hoppe’s is her go-to solution for reviving dirty firearms.

“Typically, I clean my pistol after each practice session, every 500 or so rounds,” said Duff. “However, to see if Gun Medic really works, I got my pistol extra dirty. I didn’t clean it for three practice sessions — 1,500 rounds — and then sprayed it down with Gun Medic and shot. I was skeptical, but it went another 500 rounds without issue, and the gun performed as if I had cleaned it.”

All-in-One Solution

To learn how Gun Medic differs from the competition, I spoke with Sherryl Nens, marketing manager for [Hoppe's](#). Nens said that Gun Medic merges the best attributes of cleaners and lubricants.



Gun Medic is an ideal solution for when you don't have time for a thorough cleaning.

“This product was made with the repetitive shooter in mind, the competitor or high-volume range shooter,” said Nens. “Unlike lubricants that leave gunk behind or cleaning agents that lack lubrication, Gun Medic is the first to have a cleaning agent and lube agent backed with an aerosol spray.”

Those three components — aerosol, cleaner and lube — are what make Gun Medic so effective. Debris and sludge are removed from the firearm's action by the aerosol and cleaning agents, which then evaporates completely within 60 seconds. All that's left behind is a thin layer of lubrication. It's enough to keep things running smoothly, but not enough to attract dust.

Call a Medic

If this sounds cutting edge, that's because it is. In fact, Nens explained how the lubrication technology was borrowed from the aviation industry, where it's used in jet propulsion engines (this likely explains Gun Medic's operating temperature range of -65 to 500 degrees).

That said, cutting edge doesn't mean total cleaning solution. According to Nens, Gun Medic “won't replace a deep clean. It won't clean out copper fouling. Gun Medic is simply designed to get your action back into action quickly. Think of it as a 911 for guns.”

Duff also cautions against complacency. “Gun Medic is by no means a solution to not cleaning your gun,” she said. “But if you're in a jam, your day is not lost. Spraying Gun Medic throughout your firearm's action will give you another day's session. That's why I keep Gun Medic in my range bag for emergencies.”

Gun Medic is easy to apply and fast in action. This revolutionary new line from Hoppe's will bring your firearm back to life. The range hero we've needed has arrived. And this one has an M.D.

This Happened to Me!

Three horror stories from the pros.

1. Northern Exposure

Mike Stroff isn't a competition shooter, but that doesn't mean his firearm maintenance is lax. Quite the

opposite, says the lifelong hunter. “Guns are essential for hunting,” he said. “In order for them to be reliable and accurate, they must be kept clean.”

Stroff found this out the hard way a few years back on an Alaskan float trip. “I was out there with my dad, and it rained nonstop. We got so much grit in the safeties of the rifles that they stopped working. This wasn’t a malfunction — it was purely our fault — but the guns just got so dirty. Having some lubrication and spray would’ve helped immensely.”

Sand and grit don’t stand a chance against Gun Medic. Its pressurized solution drives deep into the inner crevices of firearms to flush out debris. It then evaporates in less than a minute, leaving behind an extremely thin layer of lube. There’s little doubt that Stroff’s next hunting trip will have a medic on staff.

2. Push it to the Limits

As a shooter who has blown up a half-dozen firearms, Todd Jarrett knows that proper lubrication of a firearm is critical to a safe and enjoyable time on the range. But that wasn’t always the case.

“Way back in the ’80s, I was shooting a stainless steel 1911 and did not lube my gun properly. The results were that I essentially galled the pistol so badly that it would not operate. I literally sheered off metal because the gun didn’t have enough lubrication. A well-oiled firearm is far more important than most shooters realize.”

A spray of Gun Medic would have saved Jarrett’s high-dollar 1911. This “all-in-one” formula cleans and lubricates the action of firearms in one fell swoop.

3. Crack Under Pressure

As one of the top shooters in the world, Julie Golob competes in extremely stressful events. But nothing ups the stress like a broken firearm.

“The NRA Bianchi Cup is the most intense and nerve-wracking competition I shoot,” Golob said. “We use very specialized guns in the Open Division that have compensators, optics, shrouds and wings! Yes, I said wings. The slides are even skeletonized to maximize efficient slide movement with light loads.

“Practice days leading up to Bianchi are very intense. We often shoot over a thousand rounds a day. You clean your gun every day, sometimes more than once. During one of those sessions, I discovered my slide had cracked. At first I was devastated. You get attached to your main gun because you like the way it shoots. Catching the crack early though allowed me enough time to switch to a backup gun. Who knows what would have happened had I kept shooting the gun with the cracked slide.”

Gun Medic won’t fix a cracked slide — that requires welding. However, taking a minute to inspect your firearm is time well spent, and there’s no better time to do this than during the 60 seconds it takes the Gun Medic to dry. As they say, “An ounce of prevention beats a pound of cure.”

Read more: <http://www.gunsandammo.com/shoot101/the-best-way-to-clean-your-gun/#ixzz4g2Lbz8W4>

Huge arsenal seized from high-ranking Pasadena police officer's home, new records show



The Pasadena police officer whose home was searched for weapons recently served as an adjutant to Police Chief Phillip L. Sanchez, above. (Ricardo DeAratanha / Los Angeles Times)

[Richard Winton](#) and [Matt Hamilton](#) [Contact Reporters](#)

Federal agents seized about five dozen firearms worth tens of thousands of dollars from a high-ranking Pasadena police officer during a raid this year, according to newly released government records.

The Feb. 16 search of the officer's Sierra Madre home by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was widely publicized, but authorities did not identify the officer or detail what was recovered.

The cache of weapons was an enormous haul that took two trucks to cart away.

On Sunday, a [federal registry](#) of potential forfeited assets listed 57 firearms that were seized from the home of Lt. Vasken Gourdikian, who most recently served as the Pasadena Police Department's spokesman and an adjutant to Chief Phillip L. Sanchez.

After the ATF raid, Gourdikian was placed on paid administrative leave, the Police Department launched an internal investigation and his biography was removed from the city's website.

At Gourdikian's four-bedroom home in the San Gabriel Valley, agents reported hauling off more than 30 pistols, three shotguns and 20 rifles, among other weapons. The arsenal included small handguns as well as such tactical weapons as a \$1,700 Bushmaster combat rifle, the records show. The estimated value of each seized gun ranged from \$100 to \$3,800.

Gourdikian, who has worked for the Pasadena Police Department since 1994, has not been charged with a crime, and city officials said the ATF search was unrelated to his work with the department. He remains on leave, city spokesman William Boyer said this week.

Ginger Colbrun, an ATF spokeswoman, said there was an ongoing federal investigation into the officer, but she declined to comment on it. She also did not identify the officer.

The federal search warrant for Gourdikian's home remains under seal.

About six weeks after the search, the top ATF agent in Los Angeles, Eric Harden, sent a letter to area police chiefs and sheriffs, notifying them that investigators had found more than 100 “off-roster” guns purchased by police.

Such guns are not on a California list of approved handguns for purchase by the public, but the law gives a special exception for police officers to buy these weapons.

Colbrun said the agency found law enforcement officers who were acting as firearms dealers and that the officers appeared to be buying and reselling weapons without a federal firearms license, a violation of federal law.

The investigation into off-roster firearms began with reports on firearms sales and weapons found at crime scenes.

Firearms generally average about 10 years between the time of purchase and when they show up at a crime scene. If the window is shorter — for instance, three years — it triggers a red flag, Colbrun said.

Further digging revealed some law enforcement officers who made “significant purchases and resales of firearms,” Colbrun said.

ATF officials generally aim to educate law enforcement about off-roster guns so they are aware of the restrictions, Colbrun said.

Prosecutions of sworn law enforcement officers are rare.

A former Sacramento County sheriff’s deputy, Ryan McGowan, was sentenced last year to 18 months in federal prison after a jury convicted him of dealing firearms without a license and falsifying records.

McGowan used his role as a deputy to buy off-roster guns, then resold them at a higher price on the private market. He also worked with a licensed gun dealer to evade federal law, prosecutors said.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/ton-rifle-money-thompson-center-308-compass-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170313_BlogDigest_215&utm_campaign=/blog/ton-rifle-money-thompson-center-308-compass-full-review/

A Ton Of Rifle For Your Money: Thompson/Center .308 Compass – Full Review

by Tom McHale on March 6, 2017



Thompson Center's new Compass rifle is a bargain considering its performance.

To learn more, visit <https://www.tcarms.com/firearms/bolt-action-rifles/t-c-compass-rifles/t-c-compass>.

To purchase a Thompson/Center Compass on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=Thompson%20Compass>.

I first fired one of the new [Thompson/Center Compass](#) rifles at a pre-release event and was immediately hooked. Why? It's a very affordable rifle that shoots and handles like a very unaffordable rifle. What's not to love about that?



Towards the end of my 780-round shooting binge, I might have slipped off the rifle rest...

My first impression of the Compass was very favorable. It's not like I fired a few shots and made some snap judgment. Rather, I came to that conclusion after firing over 780 rounds from the same rifle in just two days. For a bolt-action rifle, that might qualify as cruel and inhumane punishment, especially considering that the barrel got so hot, I completely melted a rifle rest. Still no word on whether the gunsmiths back at Smith & Wesson have removed all the melted goo from that barrel... Anyway, I shot the heck out of one of these rifles, chambered in .204 Ruger, and it performed. As a result, I wanted to get my hands on a more versatile caliber model and give it a more in-depth trial.

Specs

- **Chambering:** .308 Winchester
- **Barrel:** 22 inches
- **OA Length:** 41 inches
- **Weight:** 7.25 pounds
- **Stock:** Synthetic
- **Sights:** None
- **Action:** Bolt-action
- **Finish:** Blued
- **Capacity:** 5+1
- **MSRP:** \$399

The sample for this review was a Compass chambered in .308 Winchester. As of this writing, Thompson/Center also offers the Compass in the following calibers: .204 Ruger, .223 Remington, .22-250, .243 Winchester, .270 Winchester, .300 Winchester Magnum, .308 Winchester, .30-06 Springfield, 7mm Remington Magnum, and 7mm-08. During SHOT Show 2017, the company announced yet another caliber option – 6.5 Creedmoor.



The Compass barrel is comfortably free-floated. You can easily slide a business card all the way to the receiver.

The Quick Tour

Let's start with the barrel as that's the really important part, at least for accuracy and longevity. This model features a 1:12 twist rate, but that's caliber specific, so yours may vary depending on which model you choose. The unique thing is the 5R rifling pattern. The pattern sports more rounded lands and grooves so there's no "cutting" into the bullet jacket as it's forced down the barrel. The idea is that less bullet deformation leads to better accuracy. The other benefit of the 5R rifling is that fewer hard edges in the bore result in less fouling and therefore easier cleaning. One day, I'll work up the nerve to ask the person who had to clean my very abused Prairie Dog Compass how the fouling was after 780 rounds of .204 Ruger.



The Compass comes with scope ring bases installed, so adding an optic requires only the right size rings.



The three-position safety is easy to reach from a normal firing grip.

So the marketing benefits claim accuracy, but so does everyone. What makes this \$399 MSRP rifle stand out is that it comes with something far more rare in its price range, a minute of angle accuracy guarantee. Simply put, Thompson Center puts in writing that your rifle will shoot three shots into a one-inch group at 100 yards. Of course, you have to use quality ammunition that's capable of the same accuracy, not junk. I put that to the test, and we'll cover the results later in this article. Or you can ask relatives (if there are any left) of the disintegrated Prairie Dogs if this rifle is capable of hitting them from 300 to 600 yards away. The answer is a resounding yes.

There's one more big thing to mention about the barrel. It comes factory threaded. I love this feature because once you shoot suppressed, you'll never go back. It's so easy for a manufacturer to add this at the factory and such a pain to do on your own. The threading pattern varies by caliber. For example, .204 Ruger, .223 Remington, and .22-250 feature a 1/2x28 TPI pattern while .243 and larger caliber rifles have a 5/8x24 TPI pattern. The Compass comes with a thread protector cap with a knurled surface so you can easily remove it by hand.



For a while, I mounted a Burris Eliminator III laser range finding scope. That made prairie dog hits at 500 – 600 yards with the .204 Ruger-chambered rifle somewhat easy.

The timing on an affordable factory rifle with a threaded barrel couldn't be better. I'm very encouraged by the possibility of the Hearing Protection Act passing and being signed into law something this year. That means that buying a suppressor will be no harder than buying the rifle itself. No special paperwork, no \$200 check to Uncle Spenny, and no waiting period of six to 12 months to get your suppressor. Pester your Congress Critters on this issue now, we've never had a better opportunity to get this done.

Moving on, the Thompson/Center Compass employs a detachable magazine. The magazines in all calibers are flush fit with the bottom of the stock, so you don't have to worry about the rifle getting hung on on gear, rests, or your support hand. Capacity depends on caliber. Most calibers have a five-round magazine capacity, and Magnum calibers have a four-round capacity. The .308 Winchester model shown here holds five rounds in the magazine plus an extra in the chamber if you like. The magazine drops out the bottom of the stock with the press of an inset lever. It's an easy system, and I found the magazine simple to load. Of course, you can leave an empty magazine in place and single feed into the chamber as well. The magazine itself is mostly polymer, so it's almost entirely rust-proof.



The detachable box magazine holds five rounds of most calibers, four for magnum sizes.



The polymer magazine is ready for field conditions and designed to resist rust and gunk.

The bolt operation is smooth and positive. it uses a three-lug design that offers plenty of strength and a solid lockup. The bolt lift angle is 60 degrees. In plain English, that means that the bolt operates without the operator having to live the handle too high. If you have a scope mounted, that leaves clearance for your hand with less chance of interference from the scope body.

One of the hidden gems in this rifle is an adjustable trigger. Using a series of three nuts, you can make easy adjustments to both pull weight and over-travel. Just remove the action from the stock, and you'll see those three nuts behind the trigger assembly. The two on the top adjust the pull weight while the single one on the bottom sets the over travel distance. It goes without saying to exercise extreme care while tinkering with the trigger. Too light a weight can be dangerous, and the wrong over travel setting can prevent your rifle from firing at all. When finished, apply a couple of drops of nail polish to keep everything locked in place.

From the factory, the trigger weight on this particular rifle measured a consistent five pounds. A little on the heavy side for my preference, but since it's fully adjustable, I see why the Thompson/Center folks send it out on the weightier side. The single-stage trigger is grit-free and has a nice crisp break. If I keep this rifle, I might consider adjusting the trigger down to 3 1/2 pounds, but other than that, it's good to go.

The safety is mounted on the rear right side of the bolt and easily accessible by the firing hand thumb. It's a three position safety that performs the following functions:

- Locks the trigger and bolt operation. If you're trekking through the woods, you might use this safety position to ensure no accidental discharges or unplanned bolt openings.
- Load and unload. The center safety position allows the bolt to operate so you can load a shell into the chamber or remove one. This position prevents trigger operation.
- Fire. As the name implies, this one unlocks everything so you can operate the bolt and fire a shot.



One of my favorite features is the factory threaded barrel.

Shooting the Compass

I mounted a [Burris Fullfield E1 3-9x40mm](#) scope to the compass as it seemed an appropriate price point match. The compass includes Weaver-style sight bases, so all I needed was a set of one-inch rings to finish the process.

I fired some shots "as is" to feel the relative recoil of the Compass .308 with nothing done to the muzzle. Recoil was mellow, and the substantial recoil pad was easy on the shoulder.



The bolt throw is 60 degrees so optics won't get in the way.



The bolt locks with three large lugs.

With that out of the way, I decided to put the threaded muzzle to good use. I mounted a SilencerCo ASR muzzle brake so I could attach a SilencerCo Specwar 762. That made shooting the Compass a whole new bundle of fun, so I kept it on for the rest of the shooting. While physics is still physics, the addition of the big heavy silencer mellowed out perceived recoil even more and brought the noise down to a much more neighbor-friendly level.

For ammo, I used four different factory loads:

[Sig Sauer Elite Performance .308 Winchester Match 168-grain](#). These cartridges are loaded to exacting tolerances and use the world-class Sierra Matchking projectile.

[Federal Premium Gold Medal 168-grain](#). Also using the Sierra Matchking projectile, this one is an accuracy demon.

[Federal Premium Gold Medal 175-grain](#). For longer range applications, this load uses a slightly heavier Sierra Matchking bullet.

[Federal Premium Fusion 165-grain](#). This load is, for lack of a better word, a bonded type of expanding hunting round where the jacket is fused to the lead core inside. It's designed for expansion and consistent penetration, not match grade accuracy.

First up I shot for velocity, using a Shooting Chrony Beta Master Chronograph placed 15 feet down range from the now relatively quiet muzzle. I didn't record velocities without the suppressor attached, but you might assume that the numbers below have a slight velocity boost from the suppressor, perhaps 20-30 feet per second.

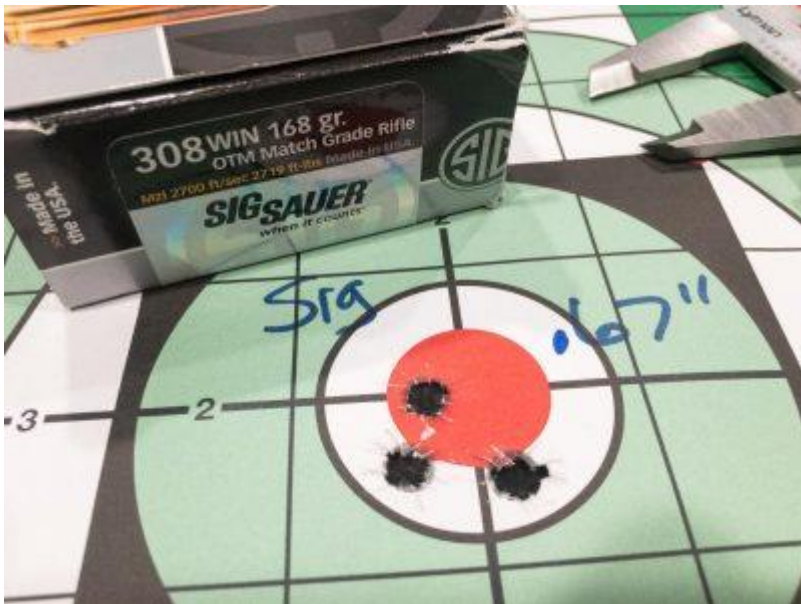
	Velocity (feet per second)
Federal Gold Medal Match .308 Winchester 168 grain	2,621.7
Federal Gold Medal Match .308 Winchester 175 grain	2,620.3
Sig Sauer Match Grade OTM .308 Winchester 168 grain	2,638.0
Federal Fusion .308 Winchester 165 grain	2,643.7

For accuracy, I set up targets and 100 yards and fired three shot groups. With a "hunting" rifle like this, I prefer not to heat up the barrel with higher shot volume, and the three-shot approach is more of a realistic indicator of what it needs to do in the field. I fired from a concrete bench using a Blackhawk! Titan III adjustable rest with rear bag. I weighed down the Titan with a 25-pound bag of lead shot to firm things up. I also kept the suppressor attached for all the accuracy shooting. Because fun. Also, while suppressors usually cause a constant shift in point of impact, I've not yet seen one that had a negative impact on accuracy, so I didn't feel like keeping quiet would skew the accuracy measurements of the Compass rifle.

Here's what I measured.

	Distance	Group Size (3 shots)
Federal Gold Medal Match .308 Winchester 168 grain	100	.58"
Federal Gold Medal Match .308 Winchester 175 grain	100	.92"
Sig Sauer Match Grade OTM .308 Winchester 168 grain	100	.67"
Sig Sauer Match Grade OTM .308 Winchester 168 grain	200	2.16"
Federal Fusion .308 Winchester 165 grain	100	2.01"

So, using match grade ammo, the Compass absolutely lived up to its one minute of angle factory guarantee. As for the Fusion results, that's consistent with most every other Fusion caliber and load combination I've tried from different rifles. It's designed for penetration and expansion performance, not match accuracy, so the larger group didn't surprise me.



The Compass had no trouble living up to its one minute of angle accuracy guarantee.



The Federal Premium 168-grain match grade load turned in the best 100-yard groups.

Closing Arguments

There's a lot to like about this rifle. With an MSRP of \$399, you're going to find it for somewhat less than that if you shop for it here on GunsAmerica.com. The accuracy and associated minute of angle guarantee is a rare thing for a rifle at this price point. Then you factor in things like the threaded barrel and adjustable trigger, and you're quickly getting a lot of value for that four hundred bucks. I'm getting one. Perhaps a 6.5 Creedmoor

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/non-nfa-14-shotgun-mossberg-shockwave-12-ga-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170313_BlogDigest_215&utm_campaign=/blog/non-nfa-14-shotgun-mossberg-shockwave-12-ga-full-review/

A Non-NFA 14” Shotgun? The Mossberg Shockwave 12 Ga. – Full Review.

by Jon Hodoway on March 10, 2017

For more information, visit: <https://www.mossberg.com/product/590-shockwave-6-shot-50659/>.

To purchase a Mossberg 590 variant on GunsAmerica.com, click this link: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=Mossberg%20590>.

Mossberg has managed to disrupt the shotgun market with the introduction of a gun that isn't even a shotgun! The Shockwave is a 14-inch pump 12-gauge gun, measuring in at just under 26½ inches long. Get this: You can pick it up today, from your local dealer, without any extra government paperwork or waiting on the BATFE to approve the transfer. How can this be?



The new Mossberg Shockwave gives you a street-legal 14-inch barreled 590 for only \$455 MSRP. Image courtesy of Mossberg.

When Dumb Rules Give You a Great Gun!

Disclaimer: I am not an attorney, and you should not rely on my advice to make legal decisions. In fact, recommend that you don't even read this!

Here are the rules in question:

1. All shotguns are intended to be fired from the shoulder.
2. All shotguns must have an 18-inch barrel. If the gun has a stock and a barrel shorter than 18 inches, it is classified as a "Short Barreled Shotgun" (SBS), requiring a \$200.00 transfer tax.
3. If the shotgun has a pistol grip and is less than 26 inches in overall length, it is considered an "Any Other Weapon" (AOW). Good news: AOWs only require a \$5 transfer tax.
4. The Shockwave is created as follows. Start with a shotgun that has NEVER had a stock attached. Add a pistol grip, and the gun is now considered a PGO (Pistol Grip Only). It is NOT a shotgun, as it is not intended to be fired from the shoulder. Next, add a 14-inch barrel so the overall length is just under 26½ inches. The length being greater than 26 inches disqualifies the gun from being an AOW. So, the BATFE declares that you now have a "Non-NFA Firearm."

5. The Shockwave is not a shotgun, nor a handgun, but a firearm. It requires no special paperwork other than the 4473, and the buyer must be 21 years old. Some states may have restrictions on the Shockwave, so check your state and local laws!



The Shockwave is equipped with a Raptor curved pistol grip as well as having a hand-retention strap on the fore end, which is a good idea on a firearm this short.

Unboxing

The Shockwave is certainly a new piece of hardware that is very rewarding to inspect. The gun uses twin action bars, positive steel-to-steel lock-up, anti-jam elevator, dual extractors, and Mossberg's top-mounted safety. The 590 Shockwave employs a lightweight, anodized aluminum receiver, and features a convenient clean-out tube magazine cap. The barrel sports a bead front sight.

The Shockwave gets its name from [Shockwave Technologies](#), who created the Raptor bird's head-style polymer pistol grip, which is uniquely shaped and provides a firm grip that minimizes felt recoil. Shockwave Technologies also supplies the Raptor Strap for the fore end of the gun. This keeps your hand on the fore end and away from the muzzle.



The Mossberg Shockwave (right) is shown here next to the author's Ithaca 37 AOW.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** 12 Ga., 3-inch chamber
- **Barrel:** 14 inches
- **OA Length:** 26.37 inches
- **Weight:** 5.25 pounds
- **Grip:** Shockwave Raptor grip
- **Sights:** Bead front
- **Action:** Pump action
- **Finish:** Matte blued
- **Capacity:** 5+1
- **MSRP:** \$455

On the Range

While making plans for the range, I had one question at the forefront of my mind: Is the Shockwave a toy, or does it have a true purpose other than generating smiles? In the interest of exploring this question, I selected several different kinds of ammunition. I searched every store in the area for The Aguila mini shells, as those little 1.75-inch shells would double the weapon's capacity. Unfortunately, testing the Aguilas was not in the cards for me, as every retailer was out of stock. You can get an [OpSol Mini-Clip](#) for \$15 that fits in the gun and ensures rock-solid function with those little shorty shells.



The Mossberg Shockwave (center) is shown below an 18-inch baredelled Remington 870 and above the AOW Ithaca 37 for size comparison.

Upon arriving at the range, I was excited to get the party started with the Shockwave. I loaded five light field loads into the tube magazine and held the little 590 as recommended. One hand went in the Raptor Strap on the fore end, and the other hand on the Raptor bird's head grip, with the Shockwave held at waist level and the grip

pressed to my side. After settling into the grip, I racked the first round into the chamber, pushed the safety off with my thumb, and let loose the first round. Wow! No pain, and the recoil was easy to control. I have an Ithaca Model 37 12 ga. AOW with a 10" barrel and pistol grip, and that sucker can be painful to shoot. The 590 is a sweetheart when compared to my Ithaca 37, even when working with slugs and buckshot. I will confess that I did not shoot any 3" magnum rounds out of the Shockwave, but only because I am not a glutton for punishment. Hey, call me a quitter or something less PC, but I don't like them out of any shotgun.



The Raptor grip is curved and proved to help dampen the recoil of the 12 ga.



The tubular magazine is capped off with a threaded and removable end cap.



The author was able to get his shots from the Shockwave easily centered on the target while testing at the range.

One clear advantage of the Mossberg pump-action that should be noted is that the ambidextrous top-mounted safety is easily reached and operated by left or right-handed shooters.

Time for Round Two. I reloaded with six rounds this time, and decided to see what kind of speed the demure gun could produce. I compared it to my Vang Comp 870, and found that the winner was always determined by who was running each gun. There was no clear platform-based winner; this was a dead heat.

The Shockwave is a close-range weapon without a doubt, so I wanted to test for a reasonable amount of control. This test was conducted with a standard IPSC target, while firing rifled slugs. I started out at 3 yards and fired one round, then moved back one full step. I ended the 6-round test at 7 yards, and all of the rounds had struck within the A-Zone.

At the end of the day, I was left with the conclusion that the Shockwave is a real gun, and not just a grin machine, although it does bring the smiles uninterrupted. So, where does this gun shine? I would point out that the inspiration for this gun comes from the U.S Marshals service, who developed a very similar gun to be easy to carry while delivering a volume of fire disproportionate to its size. I have used my Model 37 to breach doors, but it's primarily a snake-killing machine. My little Ithaca has been a great comfort to have within reach when I'm unsure of others' intentions. The Shockwave can perform these roles quite well, but without a Federal tax stamp, and for less money!

Final Thoughts

I really thought that the Shockwave was just a pleasant range distraction, but I was wrong. This is a gun for serious purposes. I have tried guns that fit through the same aspect of firearms law as this gun, and found them lacking. They were finicky, heavy and hard to use, if you could get them to work at all, with a price well over twice that of the Mossberg.



If you are looking for a lot of power in a small package without all the legal complexities of an AOW or SBS, the Mossberg Shockwave definitely deserves a close look.

Mossberg has several advantages over all others that I have seen thus far. They are factory-built on virgin receivers, so there is no ambiguity as to their status. They are on a proven platform that doesn't suffer from reliability issues. They are not ammunition sensitive with anything that I tested. Finally, their price is more than fair, and will come well under the MSRP of \$455.00, as supply should be abundant with Mossberg's production capabilities. If you are in the market for a gun of this kind, the Mossberg Shockwave is certainly worthy of your consideration.

For more information, visit: <https://www.mossberg.com/product/590-shockwave-6-shot-50659/>.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/tampa-company-pushes-sales-of-its-controversial-florida-made-ak-47/2316710>

Florida firm pushing sales of its American-made AK-47



- [Howard Altman, Times Staff Writer](#)

Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:00am

3K



If there is ever a zombie apocalypse in Florida, you might want to head to the Palm Bay headquarters of Inter Ordnance Inc.

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4 Days Ago

Just down the road from a Krispy Krunchy fried chicken store, in a nondescript east coast business park, the 60,000-square-foot factory produces about 2,500 AK-47 rifles a month.

Ulrich "Uli" Wiegand, a German immigrant who started the company, sees a bright future for the American-made version of the Kalashnikov, the classic Soviet-bloc weapon with the iconic banana-shaped ammo magazine. It is the world's most popular weapon. There were as many as 150 million Kalashnikovs as of 2012, according to Aaron Karp, senior consultant to the Small Arms Survey, a Geneva-based research institute.

But Wiegand wants to put Florida on the map as the place where the best AKs are made, combining modern American manufacturing prowess with the original design by Russian Lt. Gen. Mikhail Kalashnikov. With the help of a Tampa-registered company called Purple Shovel, he wants to double his capacity and his workforce, and switch the bulk of his business from consumers to governments.

"We are taking the best features of American manufacturing and infusing them into an AK-47, with 100 percent American-made parts," said Wiegand, who moved the company to Florida from North Carolina in 2013.

Purple Shovel is the exclusive government distributor of the company's AK-47s.

To reach his goal, Wiegand has invested about \$5 million in the plant and estimates he needs to invest another \$3 million to \$5 million for new equipment and work stations.

The investments have garnered the attention of the Florida Space Coast Economic Development Commission.

"Their investment further enhances our manufacturing base and provides a positive impact for the region," said Lynda Weatherman, the commission's president and CEO.

•••

It's a move that has some local gun manufacturers scratching their heads.

"I don't see that as a wise investment," said Greg Frazee, owner of the Tampa-based Trident Arms.

Frazee said he prefers to stick with the American-designed civilian line of rifles known as the AR-15 platform, arguing that the AK-47 "is too much of a niche product."

Wiegand and Benjamin Worrell, owner of Purple Shovel, see things differently.

Purple Shovel, named for a child's beach toy, already has more than \$110 million dollars worth of contracts with U.S. Special Operations Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, for "small arms, ordnance and ordnance accessories manufacturing," according to federal procurement documents.

Worrell and Wiegand are prohibited by law from talking about those contracts. SOCom, citing "operational sensitivities," declined to comment on what types of weapons Purple Shovel is providing.

But SOCom has a strong interest in American-made Soviet-bloc weapons.

A year ago, the command sent out a market research request regarding what it calls "non-standard weapons." This includes Russian-designed guns like the AK-47 and other similar assault rifles, as well as sniper rifles like the Dragunov, light machine guns like the PKM, and heavy machine guns like the DShK and the KPV. They are weapons preferred by U.S. allies and foes alike for their relatively low cost and simplicity of operation.

SOCom, tasked with training and equipping commandos and synchronizing the war on terror, provides weapons to allies at the behest of commands like U.S. Central Command. CentCom, also based at MacDill, has overall control of U.S. military operations in the Middle East.

As with the existing contracts, Worrell and Wiegand can't talk about whether they submitted proposals to SOCom to sell it American-made AK-47s.

"It is still an ongoing effort," said SOCom spokesman Ken McGraw. "No manufacturers have been identified."

Regardless of what SOCom decides, foreign government sales remain a key option, Wiegand said.

Wiegand recently attended the IDEX global defense industry conference in the United Arab Emirates, one of the most important events on the defense contracting calendar. The conference proved to be a great showcase for the Inter Ordnance AK-47s, he said.

"They looked at our guns and really loved them," Wiegand said. "We saw a huge need for American products in the Arabian world. They looked at the quality of what we make and were kind of blown away that we make the AK in the U.S."

Wiegand said the Saudis, Jordanians, Egyptians, Kuwaitis and Emirates were among those showing keen interest in his weapon.

U.S. weapons are more expensive to produce, Worrell acknowledged, but the logistics, administrative costs and related activities decrease with U.S.-made production, resulting in a comparable price.

•••

The unmistakably tangy sweet scent of metalwork wafts out of the production rooms of the Inter Ordnance plant, where about 50 employees in eight rooms, working in two shifts, go through the many stages of turning some 100 parts into a Kalashnikov.

The guns are made from the original data package, Wiegand said, plopping a 5-inch thick binder on a conference room table containing drawings and specifications for each part that goes into the gun.

In addition to the jobs created in Florida, Wiegand said the company is contributing to the national economy by buying parts — once purchased overseas — from U.S. companies.

Inter Ordnance is not the only Florida company in the market. About 140 miles to the south, in Pompano Beach, Kalashnikov USA has plans to make the AK-47s as well. The company, not connected to the Russian firm prohibited from U.S. sales by sanctions, is making Kalashnikov shotguns but plans to roll out AK-47s later this year, said Laura Burgess, a company spokeswoman.

Like Wiegand, she said there is a strong market for the weapons.

As for adding to the global proliferation of the AK-47, Karp, the Small Arms Survey analyst, said Florida-based production is not a major concern.

"Given the scale of the market, it doesn't add up to very much if you look at it," he said.

Contact Howard Altman at haltman@tampabay.com or (813) 225-3112. Follow @haltman.

Florida firm pushing sales of its American-made AK-47 03/16/17 [Last modified: Saturday, March 18, 2017 9:28pm]

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https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/american-ak-7-62x39mm-century-c39v2-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170320_BlogDigest_216&utm_campaign=/blog/american-ak-7-62x39mm-century-c39v2-full-review/

An All-American AK? The 7.62x39mm Century C39V2 – Full Review.

by Jon Hodoway on March 16, 2017



The C39V2 from Century Arms is a U.S.-made milled receiver AK in 7.62x39mm. The variant tested featured Magpul furniture.

For more information, visit <http://centuryarms.biz/proddetail.asp?prod=RI2400-N&cat=134>.

To purchase a C39V2 on GunsAmerica.com, click this link:

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=C39V2>.

Back in the good ol' day, if you were in the market for an SKS or AK rifle, your market choices were from places like China, Egypt or Yugoslavia. In the post-Cold War days, it could be from the former USSR (or a satellite state). And prices were not high. You could buy an SKS for just over \$100.00, and a semi-auto AK could be yours for around \$300.00 or so.



The C39V2 employs a heavy-duty milled-steel receiver. Image courtesy of manufacturer.



The C39V2 is a solid, American-made AK available right now. Image courtesy of manufacturer.

As it tends to do in the gun world, the U.S. government set out to fix a problem that did not exist, starting with the 1989 importation ban. This ban named some guns that were “bad,” and made them illegal to import. This was the source of the ubiquitous (and hated) “thumbhole” stocks for AKs and similar rifles. In addition, in the 1990s, most Chinese-made Norinco firearms and ammunition were banned under a trade relations status. That dried up a major source of affordable ComBloc gear.

As a result of the 1989 importation ban, there is the whole issue of 922(r) compliance, which specifies that you cannot build a semi-automatic gun with more than 10 imported parts from a designated list. These 20 parts are as follows:

922 (r) Parts list	
Receiver	Trigger
Barrel	Hammer
Barrel extensions	Sear
Mounting block (front trunnion)	Disconnecter
Muzzle attachment	Buttstock
Bolt	Pistol grip
Bolt carrier	Forearm, handguard
Operating rods (cocking handle)	Magazine body
Gas piston	Follower
Trigger housing	Floorplate

These

regulations all added up to produce a few unintended consequences. First and foremost, a plethora of U.S. companies sprang up to make parts on the “bad list.” The result was guns being made from a combination of imported and domestically made parts. However, the supply of imported parts has been drying up in recent years, with the effect of raising prices and limiting supply. To answer demand for AK-style rifles here in the United States, some manufacturers set about the difficult task of developing full domestic production of AK rifles. One of these companies is Century Arms, and they are offering their own line of Red Army stamped receiver [RAS47](#) rifles (see our full review here: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/the-new-american-made-ak-the-ras47/>) and milled receiver Red Army [C39V2](#) rifles in 7.62x39mm. I recently had an opportunity to try out one of the latter for myself.



Anyone familiar with a standard AK will be right at home with the C39V2.

SPECS

- **Chambering:** 7.62x39mm
- **Barrel:** 16.5 inches
- **OA Length:** 34.75-37.25 inches
- **Weight:** 8.15 pounds
- **Stock:** Magpul Zhukov-S
- **Sights:** Notch rear, post front
- **Action:** Long-stroke piston, semi-auto
- **Finish:** Matte black
- **Capacity:** 30+1
- **MSRP:** \$1,119.99

The Good News

The C39V2 is a 100% American-made gun with no foreign parts according to Century Arms. It comes in a range of configurations, from a basic wood-stocked model with an MSRP of \$909.99 up to Magpul equipped models that go up to \$1,149.99 (however, they are priced much lower than that here on [GunsAmerica](#)). The sample I received came equipped with a Magpul Zhukov-S side-folding stock, MOE AK pistol grip and Zhukov handguard. The core of the rifle is all AK, and everything that comes with it. Simple and robust. A long-stroke piston system (meaning a piston is attached directly to the bolt carrier and reciprocates with it through its full cycle) drives the system.



The heart of the C39V2 is the milled 4140 steel receiver. Note the notch cut out of the safety lever for locking back the bolt.

The V2 at the end of the name of this gun stands for “Version 2”. When I asked about this and how it differed from the original C39 (see our full review of it here: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/century-international->

[arms-c39-sporter-rifle-ammo-shortage-low-ammo-prices-low-gun-prices-100-american-made/](#)), I found out that they changed the stock from a double tang to a single tang design to accept AKM-pattern aftermarket furniture. Then, the geometry of the bolt carrier was improved to increase reliability and durability. Also, the barrel was upgraded to 440 ordnance steel. Finally, the finish went from phosphate to nitride.

The heart of the rifle is the milled receiver, CNC machined from a block of 4140 steel. The rifle is chambered in the tried-and-true 7.62x39mm round and features a 1:10-inch rate of twist. The barrel is topped off with an LH 14×1 metric thread and has a slant brake installed. Inside the receiver is Century's own RAK-1 fire control group (trigger, hammer and disconnect). The smooth-faced, steel trigger is encircled with a sheet metal trigger guard that sports a large, T-shaped magazine catch. The Red Army C39V2 will accept all standard AK mags, and mine came equipped with PMAG AK MOE magazines.



The left side of the milled steel receiver sports a side-mount for optics. Note the Magpul MOE AK pistol grip.

As one would expect, the safety selector is on the right-hand side, but this rifle features a bolt safety cut-out to hold the bolt open. This is a nice upgrade over the original design that allows you to lock the action open on the rifle.

The sights are of the AKM variety, with a post up front that is both shielded and adjustable. The notched rear tangent can be adjusted between 100 and 800 meters. My sample came with Century's own Red Army AK side scope rail mount that offers return-to-zero capability, and I set it up for the Aimpoint T1/H1 series. This mates up with the included side mount scope interface mount on the rifle.

The Red Army scope mount resembles the side mount scope of the commie block original design. However, placement on the side of the receiver is where it stops. This two-piece mount is machined from 6061-T6 aluminum then anodized for protection and to match the C39V2. The upper (horizontal piece) is attached to the lower (vertical piece) with two Torx threaded fasteners. The assembled unit is attached to the milled receiver with two additional Torx threaded fasteners that tension the locking bar. This provides a rock solid fit to the 6061-T6 anodized mount that is attached to the milled receiver with three rivets. This feels like one solid part of the receiver as opposed to the friction lock of the original design. An added benefit you can completely field-strip the rifle without removing the scope rail mount.



The rifle for testing was sent with one of Century's own Red Army scope mounts that attaches to the side rail on the receiver. Note the notch rear and winged post front sight.

The mount itself has a strip of Picatinny rail on the top that "doglegs" over the top of the receiver for proper optic alignment. For those that are not aware, the AK has a removable top cover design that makes takedown very easy, but does not make for a solid scope mount area. The Magpul side folder on my test rifle swings to the right, so folding is not hampered by this optic mount.

The side-folding, collapsible Zhokov-S stock has four QD sling mounts, modular cheek risers, and a rubber butt-pad. This is a rock-solid stock, with four positive length adjustments. The MOE AK pistol grip has an aggressive texture and storage core, along with a unique backstrap design for proper trigger finger placement. The Zhukov forearm has an aluminum chassis for strength and heat dispersion, with an injection-molded exterior sporting eight M-LOK slots for accessory attachment.

Ammunition	100-yard group
American Eagle 124 Gr. FMJ	2.22"
Hornaday 123 Gr. SST	1.95"
Steel Case Ball Military	4.04"

On the Range

I took the C39V2 out to the range during a three-day class that was open to several agencies. I used my standard survey method of passing the gun around and maintaining a stock of loaded magazines for folks to shoot. The gun ate up all the abuse the guys could throw at it; magazine dumps were commonplace and did not present a single problem. The drills required a fair amount of accuracy, which was easily achieved. The sights needed to be adjusted, as the rifle shot a bit to the right and I did not have a tool to push the front sight.

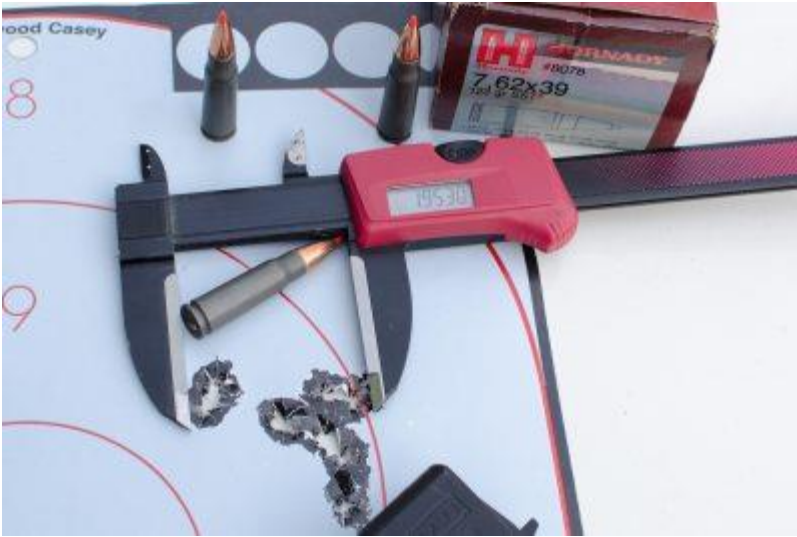


The author ran the gun on the range, and it functioned without a hiccup.

The trigger was one of the most commented-on features of the gun. The RAK-1 Enhanced AK-47 Trigger Group is a single-stage trigger with the release surfaces machined, a “rounded” face hammer for smoother cycling, and a specially designed spring. The hammer and disconnect are designed to eliminate bolt carrier hang-up and trigger slap. There is minimal take-up as you begin the press, with a clean release of the hammer. The parts are made from high-quality steel and heat-treated, and Century claims they have passed a 15,000-round endurance test.



One of the author’s students brought a Chinese MAK90 (bottom) to run against the C39V2.



The author was able to wring out some sub-2-inch groups at 100 yards with the rifle—quite impressive for an AK.

After the first day, one of the students asked if he could bring his AK the next day. I told him not only was that OK, but it was encouraged! He brought in a vintage Norinco stamped-receiver MAK90 Chinese AK with a thumb-hole stock, and just like that we had something to compare the C39V2 to. The shoot-off ensued with great alacrity. Once the dust had settled, there was not even one student who chose the MAK90; the consensus was that the C39V2 won hands down. The MAK90 soldiered on, as AKs do, but its accuracy, ergonomics and versatility were just not up to the C39V2's standards. This was not a fair comparison at all: A modern rifle vs. a 30-year-old gun. But that was the whole point; the C39V2 is not just an American-made 30-year-old gun, but rather a truly modern rifle.

After the festivities were through, the class and I spent some time evaluating the rifle. The first thing I tested was the trigger pull; it broke at just under 5 pounds, at 4 pounds 14 ounces with almost a two-stage feel due to the take-up. We next set out to evaluate the accuracy of the rifle. I had several flavors of ammunition to test, so I set up my lead sled and got at it. From 100 yards with the ammunition of choice, I shot a group of just under 2 inches using iron sights.

The Bottom Line

I often find that I am forced to confess something by the end of these reviews, and now is one of those times. These confessions are not given to clear my conscience, but rather to let you know how different a particular gun is from what my typical judgment tells me it should be. The AK platform seems to be thought of as either the greatest rifle platform of all time, or a junk gun, with little in-between. I have always held the view that the gun had merit, but it never tripped my trigger. I never questioned its famed durability, but versatility has always been lacking, and the aesthetics akin to a Soviet-era ZAZ-966 car do it no favors.



the C39V2 proved to be a real champ on the range for the author.

The Red Army C39V2 has changed all that; this is a modern gun that offers options for lights, optics, and a pain-free shooting experience for the human holding it. Accuracy has been improved, and reliability has been maintained. To top it all off, this package can be purchased without funding a system that does not have our best interests at heart. This is truly an American gun, for Americans.

For more information, visit <http://centuryarms.biz/proddetail.asp?prod=RI2400-N&cat=134>.

To purchase a C39V2 on GunsAmerica.com, click this link:

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=C39V2>.



The Zhukov-S stock folds along the right side of the receiver and does not interfere with the scope mount.

Mossberg Gunning for Gold with MMR Pro Rifle

By [Elwood Shelton](#)-February 22, 2017



There are few things that hold a candle to the non-stop action of 3-Gun. The multi-platform competition demands the most out of shooters, requiring a deft mixture of speed, precision and awareness.

[Mossberg & Sons](#) has long been a part of this fast-and-furious run and gun, producing the preferred shotguns of many competitors. And the Connecticut-based gunmaker is shooting to stake another claim in the popular and still fast-growing shooting sport with the newest release in its MMR (Mossberg Modern Rifle) line.

The MMR Pro Rifle appears to have all the bells and whistles the competitive minded look for in a rifle that will gun for the gold. Which should come as a little surprise, given five-time 3-Gun Champion Jerry Miculeck had input in the AR-style rifle's design.

Miculeck's heaviest influence came in the trigger that bears his name. The JM Pro Drop-In Match Trigger offers shooters a smooth pull that breaks crisp and clean at 4 pounds. It has been designed to eliminate all creep and offers a desirable extra in its user-adjustable overtravel. In short, the trigger should do everything to keep a shooter on target during the shot and get them reset to take the next in a blink of an eye.

The 35.75-inch rifle, chambered in the standard .223 Rem./5.56x45mm NATO, is deck out with Mossberg's revamped AR furniture. What this mainly pertains to is the company utilizing the M-LOK modular mounting system on its handguard. The cutouts on the slim 15-inch handguard should be a nice addition, given the system tends to hold accessories more firmly, while allowing quick switchouts.



Outfitted with the JM Pro Drop-In Match Trigger,

the new MMR Pro Rifle looks to be a sweet shooter.

The buttstock of the direct-impingement gas system rifle is adjustable to six positions, providing an ample 3.25 inches of adjustment to length of pull. The LOP can be fine tuned with Mossberg's FLEX recoil pad system with three different pad thicknesses.

The MMR Pro Rifle is outfitted with an 18-inch stainless steel barrel, bored with an 1:8-in. twist rate, which should stabilize a wide variety of bullet weights. The free-floating barrel is topped off with SilencerCo's ARS 3-port muzzle break, eliminating muzzle rise and making the rifle more controllable shot to shot. The break can be removed and switched out for suppressors with a 1/2×28 thread.

Mossberg has rounded out the 7-pound rifle with an ambidextrous charging handle, making it righty and lefty compatible. And it has outfitted it with a forward assist, a feature not found on the MMR Carbine (base model).

In the scheme of rifles designed for 3-Gun, Mossberg has made it easy to get behind the trigger of the MMR Pro Rifle, price wise. The gun is a value in terms of competitive rifles, with an MSRP is \$1,393.

MMR Pro Rifle Specs

Caliber: 5.56mm (.223 Rem)

Capacity: 31

Barrel Length: 18 in.

Twist: 1:8-in.

LOP: 11 – 14.25 in.

Barrel Finish: Stainless Steel

Weight: 7 lbs.

Length: 35.75 in.

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

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