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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, April 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.

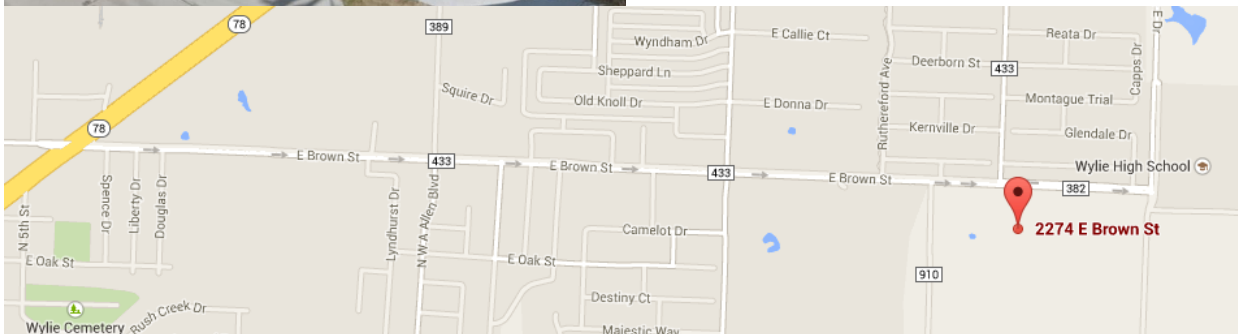
Member Don Bridges has volunteered his shop for the meeting. **There are a very limited number of chairs at the shop, so please bring a camp chair for the meeting.** We will meet there from 7:00 (ish) until 9:00 (ish)

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.



Gun topics for the spring and summer:

The next few months are going to be caliber specific.

April – all .3 caliber variants or 7.62mm to 10.13 mm

May – all .4 caliber variants or 10.14 mm to 12.69 mm

June – all .2 caliber variants or 5.06 mm to 7.61 mm

July – all .1 and .5 caliber variants 2 mm to 5.05 mm and 12.7 mm

August – all bores of shotgun

Gun topics for this month:

Please bring anything from your collection that is in the .3 caliber / 7.62 to 10.13 mm family.

As always, if you have any new or interesting knife, survival gear or firearms related item bring that as well.

This is hopefully a topic that you all can bring examples to share.

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

High-capacity gun magazines to remain legal in California, judge rules

Associated Press



FILE: A semi-automatic rifle is displayed with a 25 shot magazine, left, and a 10 shot magazine, right, at a gun store in Elk Grove, Calif. (AP)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – High-capacity [gun](#) magazines will remain legal in [California](#) under a ruling Friday by a federal judge who cited a home invasion where a woman used the extra bullets in her weapon to kill an attacker and two other cases women without additional ammunition ran out of bullets.

"Individual liberty and freedom are not outmoded concepts," [San Diego-based](#) U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez wrote. He called the law that would have banned possessing any magazines holding more than 10 [bullets](#) unconstitutional.

California law has prohibited buying or selling such magazines since 2000, but those who had them before were allowed to keep them.

In 2016, the Legislature and voters approved a law removing that provision. The California arm of the National Rifle Association sued and Benitez sided with the group's argument that banning the magazines infringes on the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

Benitez had temporarily blocked the law from taking effect with a 2017 ruling.

Chuck Michel, an attorney for the NRA and the California Rifle & Pistol Association, said the judge's latest ruling may go much farther by striking down the entire ban, allowing individuals to legally acquire high-capacity magazines for the first time in nearly two decades.

"We're still digesting the opinion but it appears to us that he struck down both the latest ban on possessing by those who are grandfathered in, but also said that everyone has a right to acquire one," Michel said.

[Attorney General Xavier Becerra](#) said in a statement that his office is "committed to defending California's common sense gun laws" and is reviewing the decision and evaluating its next steps.

The goal of the California law is to deter mass-shootings, with Becerra previously listing as an example the terrorist assault that killed 14 and injured 22 in [San Bernardino](#).

Benitez, an appointee of Republican President George W. Bush, called such shootings "exceedingly rare" while emphasizing the everyday robberies, rapes and murders he said might be countered with firearms.



Video

The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, named after a former congresswoman who survived a mass shooting, is also still evaluating whether the decision applies more broadly, said staff attorney Ari Freilich.

But Freilich predicted the "extreme outlier decision" will be overturned on appeal and criticized a judge "so deeply out of touch that he believes mass shootings are a 'very small' problem in this country."

Becerra previously said similar Second Amendment challenges have been repeatedly rejected by other courts, with at least seven other states and 11 local governments already restricting the possession or sale of large-capacity magazines. The conflicting decisions may ultimately be sorted out by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Benitez ruled that magazines holding more than 10 rounds are "arms" under the U.S. Constitution, and that the California law "burdens the core of the Second Amendment by criminalizing the acquisition and possession of these magazines that are commonly held by law-abiding citizens for defense of self, home, and state."

Benitez described three home invasions, two of which ended with the female victims running out of bullets.

In the third case, the pajama-clad woman with a high-capacity magazine took on three armed intruders, firing at them while simultaneously calling for help on her phone.

"She had no place to carry an extra magazine and no way to reload because her left hand held the phone with which she was still trying to call 911," the judge wrote, saying she killed one attacker while two escaped.

The magazine ban was included in 2016 legislation that voters strengthened with their approval of Proposition 63, which was championed by then-Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom.

In a statement, Newsom criticized the judge's ruling.

"This District Court Judge's failure to uphold a ban on high-capacity magazines is indefensible, dangerous for our communities and contradicts well-established case law," the governor said. "I strongly disagree with the court's assessment that 'the problem of mass shootings is very small.' Our commitment to public safety and defending common sense gun safety laws remains steadfast."

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/judge-blocks-california-s-ban-high-capacity-magazines-over-2nd-n989136>

Judge blocks California's ban on high-capacity magazines over 2nd Amendment concerns

The judge cited home invasions, including one where a pajama-clad woman took on three intruders: "She had no place to carry an extra magazine and no way to reload."



A 30 round magazine, from left, and a 10 round magazine, from right, rest below an AR-15 rifle at the Ammunition Storage Component company in New Britain, Conn., on April 10, 2013. Charles Krupa / AP file

March 29, 2019, 9:15 PM CDT

By Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — High-capacity gun magazines will remain legal in California under a ruling Friday by a federal judge who cited home invasions where a woman used the extra bullets in her weapon to kill an attacker while in two other cases women without additional ammunition ran out of bullets.

"Individual liberty and freedom are not outmoded concepts," San Diego-based U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez wrote as he declared unconstitutional the law that would have banned possessing any magazines holding more than 10 bullets.

California law has prohibited buying or selling such magazines since 2000, but those who had them before then were allowed to keep them.

In 2016, the Legislature and voters approved a law removing that provision. The California arm of the National Rifle Association sued and Benitez sided with the group's argument that banning the magazines infringes on the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

Benitez had temporarily blocked the law from taking effect with a 2017 ruling.

Chuck Michel, an attorney for the NRA and the California Rifle & Pistol Association, said the judge's latest ruling may go much farther by striking down the entire ban, allowing individuals to legally acquire high-capacity magazines for the first time in nearly two decades.

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Becerra previously said similar Second Amendment challenges have been repeatedly rejected by other courts, with at least seven other states and 11 local governments already restricting the possession or sale of large-capacity ammunition magazines. The conflicting decisions on extended magazines may ultimately be sorted out by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Michel said the decision "recognizes that the Second Amendment is not a second-class right and that the state has to meet a high burden before it can pass a law that infringes on the right to keep or bear arms," Michel said.

Benitez described three home invasions, two of which ended with the female victims running out of bullets.

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He ruled that magazines holding more than 10 rounds are "arms" under the U.S. Constitution, and that the California law "burdens the core of the Second Amendment by criminalizing the acquisition and possession of these magazines that are commonly held by law-abiding citizens for defense of self, home, and state."

The goal of the California law is to deter mass-shootings, with Becerra previously listing as an example the terrorist assault that killed 14 and injured 22 in San Bernardino.

Benitez, an appointee of Republican President George W. Bush, called such shootings "exceedingly rare" while emphasizing the everyday robberies, rapes and murders he said might be countered with firearms.

Both the magazine ban and new assault weapon restrictions were included in legislation, but voters strengthened penalties for the magazine ban with their approval in 2016 Proposition 63, which also included other gun control measures and was championed by then-Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Gov. Newsom did not comment Friday.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/colorado-sheriff-fighting-proposed-gun-law-it-has-so-many-constitutional-questions>

Colorado sheriff fighting proposed gun law: 'It has so many constitutional questions'

By Kelly David Burke, Alicia Acuna | Fox News



Video

Colorado governor expected to sign 'red flag' bill into law

DENVER – One Colorado sheriff says he'd rather go to jail than enforce a gun-control bill passed by the state legislature, expected to become law. Known commonly as a "Red Flag" law, the measure would allow judges to take guns away from people who are found to be a danger to themselves or others.

Weld County Sheriff Steven Reams said it would go too far. "It has so many constitutional questions I can't go forward in good faith and carry out a law that I feel puts constituents' constitutional rights at risk."

Reams, a Republican, is not alone. Half of Colorado's 64 counties have declared themselves Second Amendment sanctuaries where the measure would not be enforced.

"They could sentence me to my own jail," Reams said, "fine me, or hold a contempt hearing to further this argument along, and honestly I think any of those possibilities are out there."



Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, responded to criticism of the measure at a news conference last week, saying: "The sheriff is also not a law making position in our state, it is a law enforcement division." Polis is expected to sign the legislation, adding Colorado to the 14 other states and the District of Columbia which already have similar laws known formally as Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

The Colorado version would allow family members or others to petition a judge to remove people's guns if they are deemed an extreme risk to themselves or others. If the judge agrees, each person would lose the right to purchase or possess firearms for 364 days. They would be able to file a protest to request the order be reversed.

The bill easily passed the Colorado House but made it through the Senate by a mere one-vote margin. Senate President Leroy Garcia, a Democrat from Pueblo, broke with his party to vote against the measure.

Back in 2013, when Democrats last had control of the governorship and both houses in the legislature, they passed what were seen at the time as the strictest gun-control laws in the country. Afterward, two lawmakers were recalled, including State Senator Angela Giron from Pueblo. New efforts to recall legislators and even Polis reportedly have been launched since.

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, a Democrat, has stated publicly that sheriffs who don't want to enforce state laws should resign, but strong words may be all they face.

"We have local-control law enforcement in our state, that is a good thing," Polis pointed out, adding, "Law enforcement agencies have discretion as to prioritization of resources."

A similar bill is also working its way through the New Mexico legislature. Several sheriffs there also have vowed to refuse to enforce it if the bill passes.



<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/apr/13/colorado-gov-jared-polis-adds-fuel-recall-fire-sig/>

Colorado governor adds fuel to recall fire by signing controversial red-flag gun bill

Bill authorizing 'extreme risk protection orders' passes with no GOP support



Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, left, speaks as Rep. Tom Sullivan, D-Aurora, looks on before Polis signs a bill to allow Colorado to become the 15th state in the union to adopt a "red flag" gun law allowing firearms to be taken from people who pose a danger during a ceremony Friday, April 12, 2019, in the State Capitol in Denver. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

By [Valerie Richardson](#) - The Washington Times - Saturday, April 13, 2019

Colorado [Gov. Jared Polis](#) signed Friday a hotly debated red-flag bill allowing courts to order firearms confiscated from those deemed an extreme risk to themselves or others, stoking an already fiery campaign to recall Democratic state legislators.

“It’s a critical tool for families, for judges, for law enforcement to help reduce gun violence consistent with our Second Amendment rights,” said [Mr. Polis](#) at the signing ceremony. His assurances did little to mute opposition to the measure in Colorado, where a political structure increasingly dominated by Democrats has repeatedly clashed with the state’s entrenched hunting and gun-ownership culture.

Even before it was signed, the red-flag bill had provided fodder to the recall movement launched last month over frustration with a host of Democrat-backed bills, including the National Popular Vote and crackdown on the oil-and-gas industry.

The Rocky Mountain Gun Owners recently unveiled its #RedFlagRecall campaign aimed at ousting vulnerable Democratic state legislators based on their support for the gun-control bill.

“We’ve got to toss some Democrats out of office right now,” said RMGO president Dudley Brown on



<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/04/01/colorado-sheriff-opposes-red-flag-gun-bill/3336831002/>

Colorado sheriff would rather go to jail than enforce a proposed 'red flag' gun bill

[Nick Coltrain](#), Fort Collins Coloradoan



Margaret Francia stands on Laporte Avenue as high school students walk to Old Town Square for a rally voicing concerns about school safety on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. Francia said she was there to support students and start a conversation about sensible gun reform. (Photo: Austin Humphreys/The Coloradoan)

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – A "red flag" bill that would allow Colorado law enforcement to confiscate the firearms of those deemed a risk to themselves or others is heading to Gov. Jared Polis' desk — and Weld County's sheriff sees it as [something worth going to jail over](#).

To be clear, Sheriff Steve Reams doesn't want to go to jail. He'd much rather the issues he sees with the bill be sussed out and the attention be shifted to helping those in mental health crises.

"(Going to jail is) the absolute last thing I'd like to do," Reams said in an interview with the Coloradoan following a CNN story headlined "[This Colorado sheriff is willing to go to jail rather than enforce a proposed gun law](#)."

"I'd much rather see this get worked out in the courts and dealt with in the courts before it ever comes to that point," Reams told the Coloradoan. "But if and when the time comes, and this issue hasn't been worked out in the courts, then yeah, this is the last choice that I have."

The bill allows family, members of the household or law enforcement to petition a court to have an individual's guns seized or surrendered. A similar bill was stifled by the Republican-controlled Senate last year. The new Democratic legislature was able to move it through, and Polis, also a Democrat, has pledged to sign the measure into law.

"This bill will give law enforcement and families the tools that they need to stop tragedies from constantly happening and save lives," said first-term Rep. Tom Sullivan, who sponsored the bill with House Majority Leader Alec Garnett.

Sullivan's son, Alex, was killed on his 27th birthday in the 2012 mass shooting at an Aurora theater.

Reams could potentially face jail if a judge ordered his department to seize a person's firearms. If Reams refused, he could face contempt of court charges.

Reams outlined concerns similar to those [raised by Larimer County Sheriff Justin Smith](#) and the Larimer County Commissioners in the lead up to the bill's passage: It violates due process and other Constitutional rights, it takes away people's home defense, it's logistically difficult for sheriff's offices that aren't equipped to keep and return the guns, and it addresses a symptom of a mental health crises, instead of a person's overall mental health.

"If they're such a significant risk to themselves that they shouldn't have a gun, my feeling is the better focus is dealing with the person," Reams said. "So let's look at a mental health hold or something along those lines."

He called for instead reducing the requirements to place someone in a mental health hold, and increasing the requirements for freeing that person. State statute regarding mental health holds currently requires the person to represent an imminent danger to their self or others; Reams would like it to be closer to the lower threshold of a significant threat included in the red flag bill.

"The thought process of denying someone, or taking that object away and it being a way to make them safe, it misses the root problem," Reams said. "Mental health is where we should be focused, and we just keep passing that buck along, keep kicking that can along, and that's where I want to see that investment go."

Smith didn't endorse turning Larimer County into a so-called "Second Amendment sanctuary county" against the bill, like neighboring Weld County has declared itself, citing concerns of rule of law. He didn't want to be seen as cherry picking what laws his department enforced.

Reams said he saw the conflict in enforcing state law versus respecting people's Constitutional rights — and not just the headline-grabbing right to bear arms. He cited concerns with unlawful search and seizure, due process and equal protections clauses as well.

"It turns the Fourth, the Fifth, and the 14th amendment on their heads," he said. "It does things so backwards from what we understand about due process. Anyone who looks at this with an honest eye has to have concerns. The Second Amendment is the easy thing to say is under attack, and that's a portion of it, but that's not the main portion. But it doesn't resonate in headlines to say we're defending the 14th Amendment."

Several law enforcement officials testified for the bill, named after Zackari Parrish, a 29-year old sheriff's deputy in Douglas County. The husband and father was shot and killed in a New Year's Eve 2017 shooting by a man who had exhibited increasingly erratic behavior.

Opponents say about half of the counties in the state have passed resolutions opposing the bill, symbolically declaring their counties "Second Amendment sanctuaries."

State Attorney General Phil Weiser, a Democrat, has said sheriffs who don't want to enforce the measure should resign. Polis, however, said on March 26 that he believes sheriffs are committed to enforcing laws approved at the Capitol. Polis also said sheriffs have discretion to decide which issues to focus on.

Reams said he wouldn't resign in protest over the bill because he was elected to do the job of sheriff. Most of the constituent feedback he's heard has been positive, he said.

"If I were to walk away in protest, or resign in protest, I'd be saying I'm not in it for the fight," Reams said.

The red flag bill is the first major gun legislation to make its way through both Colorado legislative chambers since 2013, when lawmakers passed universal background checks and banned large-capacity ammunition magazines after the mass shootings in Aurora and at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

Thirteen other states have passed similar legislation. Florida passed its version after the 2018 Parkland school massacre.

Contributing: The Associated Press



<https://www.foxnews.com/us/pittsburgh-gun-laws-up-for-final-vote-lawsuits-expected>

Pittsburgh gun laws up for final vote; lawsuits expected

[Associated Press](#)

PITTSBURGH – The Pittsburgh City Council is scheduled to take a final vote on a package of gun laws introduced after last year's synagogue massacre.

The legislation would place restrictions on military-style assault weapons like the AR-15 rifle that authorities say was used in the Oct. 27 rampage at Tree of Life Synagogue that killed 11 and wounded seven. It would also ban most uses of armor-piercing ammunition and high-capacity magazines, and allow the temporary seizure of guns from people who are determined to be a danger to themselves or others.

The council gave tentative approve last week. A final vote is scheduled for Tuesday.

Pennsylvania state law forbids municipalities from regulating guns, and pro-gun advocates say they'll sue to block the laws from taking effect.



<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-29/dick-s-dks-ceo-ed-stack-says-gun-shift-cut-sales-by-150m>

Restricting Gun Sales Cost Dick's \$150 Million Last Year

America's biggest sports retailer lost customers, but CEO Ed Stack said it was worth it.

By
Eben Novy-Williams
March 29, 2019 9:15 AM CDT *Updated on March 29, 2019 10:59 AM CDT*
Last February, when Dick's Sporting Goods boss Ed Stack announced he was restricting gun sales at the country's largest sports retailer, he knew it'd be costly.

At the time, Dick's was a major seller of firearms. Guns also drove the sale of soft goods—boots, hats, jackets. What's more, Stack, the retailer's chief executive officer, suspected the position could drive off some of his customers on political principle.

He was right. Dick's estimates the policy change cost the company about \$150 million in lost sales, an amount equivalent to 1.7 percent of annual revenue. Stack says it was worth it.

“The system does not work,” Stack said. “It's important that when you know there's something that's not working, and it's to the detriment of the public, you have to stand up.”

The 2018 school massacre at Parkland, Florida, touched a nerve for the company. Nikolas Cruz, the shooter, had legally purchased a shotgun from Dick's a few months before the attack. A day after Cruz was arrested, police in Vermont apprehended a teenager with plans to shoot up his high school. He, too, had legally purchased a shotgun from Dick's.

The two incidents were a last straw for Stack, a one-time Republican donor who in 35

years had turned his father's bait-and-tackle shop into the country's largest sports retailer. Two weeks after those arrests, Stack announced he was pulling assault-style rifles and high-capacity magazines out of all Dick's stores. He vowed he'd never sell another firearm to anyone under 21.

The response was predictable. The National Rifle Association criticized his "strange business model." The National Shooting Sports Foundation expelled Dick's from its membership. Gun manufacturers like Mossberg refused to do business with him at all, and some shoppers followed suit.

Some people applauded the CEO's decision and promised to show their appreciation with their business—a phenomenon called "boycotting"—but those people didn't stick around. "Love is fleeting. Hate is forever," Stack said.



Ed Stack

Photographer: Michael Cohen/Getty Images

What happened at Dick's confirms new study results out of Stanford University. Respondents said they were more likely to buy a product to support a CEO's political

stance than they were to boycott in disagreement, but their actions revealed the opposite. When asked for specific examples, 69 percent could name a product they'd stopped buying, and only 21 percent could recall a product they started buying.

The stock price hasn't suffered. Dick's shares, which didn't move much following the announcement last February, have climbed 14 percent in the 13 months since, outpacing the 4 percent rise in the benchmark Russell 3000 Index. On Friday, the company's shares rose as much as 0.6 percent in New York.

The 64-year-old Stack is an unlikely champion of gun reform. Earlier this decade, he helped Dick's double-down on its outdoor roots, buying licensing rights to "Field & Stream" and launching both a private brand and a new series of stores dedicated partially to hunting. He's a gun owner himself and insists he's not anti-firearm, just in favor of what he likes to call "common-sense gun reform."

No longer a go-to store for many gun-owners and hunters, Dick's is now navigating its new reality. In August, the company announced it would remove hunting supplies and equipment entirely from 10 stores and use the space for team sports like baseball. Sales jumped in the test stores, and the company will implement the change in 125 additional stores, about 17 percent of the total fleet. After a dip in the last 12 months, the company expects same-store sales to be flat or rise a little.

Then there's Field & Stream. The outdoor label, which includes kayaks, camo jackets and sleeping bags, is the company's top-selling private brand. Stack acknowledged that the gun decision has hurt Field & Stream sales and that the company faces a potentially larger decision about its 35 Field & Stream stores, located mostly in the south and Northeast.

"Can they shift it to play more towards active outdoors versus bloodsport," said Sam Poser, an analyst at Susquehanna Financial Group. "They're big spaces, and the majority of those leases are long-term. They'll have some decisions to make, and I think they can figure it out."

To be fair, guns were a shrinking part of Dick's business before Stack changed the company policy. And annual firearm sales nationwide have dropped almost 17 percent since 2016, according to research firm Small Arms Analytics & Forecasting. Parts of Dick's policy have been matched by others, including Walmart and Kroger-owned Fred Meyer, neither of which faced similar outcry or anger.

Stack's not finished, though. For almost a year, Dick's has been working with Glover Park Group to lobby for gun reform. Last month, Stack was one of just four CEOs to sign a letter supporting a universal gun control bill that recently passed in the house, and he recently joined the [business council](#) of [Everytown for Gun Safety](#), a non-profit that advocates for gun control. (Everytown was founded by Michael Bloomberg, owner of Bloomberg News parent Bloomberg LP.)

The H&K VP70 Machine Pistol

Leroy Thompson - February 26, 2019

Leroy Thompson - February 26, 2019



Thompson leaning into the VP70 while firing bursts.

The H&K VP70 offers some interesting variations on traditional machine pistols. For one thing, a semi-auto version was marketed at the same times as the machine pistol version and preceded Glock in offering a polymer-framed, high-magazine capacity 9x19mm pistol. Reportedly to eliminate the use of the VP70 on full auto without the stock affixed, it could only be fired in burst mode with the stock attached. With the stock affixed, the VP70 may be fired in three-shot bursts. The selector switch is located on the stock rather than the pistol. H&K engineers felt that hit probability remained high with three-shot bursts but declined rapidly when fired in longer bursts.

ADVERTISING



A view of the VP70 outside of its holster stock; note that the selector switch is located on the stock rather than the pistol.

Unlike many SMGs of the same generation, the VP70 fires from a closed bolt. To fire the first round a heavy pull on the trigger cocks and releases the striker. When fired in burst mode, holding the trigger back fires three shots. The semi-auto pistol version functions as a traditional striker-fired pistol.



Right side view of a VP70 with stock affixed. (Courtesy of Rock Island Auction Service)

The VP70 stock is actually quite cleverly designed. It is much more comfortable than the skeleton stocks used on machine pistols such as the Beretta 93R and even than holster stocks such as those on the Mauser Schnellfeuer or the Stechkin. The stock is also designed to allow versatility in carry position. A plate that may be positioned across the chest with a shoulder strap allows attachment of the stock in the best tactical position. If needed, when the pistol is holstered, the stock may be detached, the pistol drawn, and affixed to the VP70 to engage. Or, if immediate engagement is necessary, the pistol may be used in semi-auto mode.



Left side view of a VP70 with stock affixed. (Courtesy of Rock Island Auction Service)

In the USA, virtually all VP70s sold were the semi-auto pistol version, which soon gained a reputation for its horrendous DA pull. As it was introduced more than a decade before the Glock, there was quite a bit of resistance to its polymer frame, though at least a few users did like the 18-round magazine capacity.

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To conform to Italy's gun laws, about 400 VP70s were produced in 9x21 IMI caliber, as civilians were not allowed to own "military caliber" handguns. These same legal gymnastics resulted in Browning High-Powers in .30 Luger caliber and Colt 1911A1s in 9x23mm Steyr being sold in Italy. However, since Italy did not have an SBR (Short-Barreled Rifle) law such as that of the USA, stocked VP70s that did not include the selector were legal.



Right-side view of the HK VP70 pistol; note features including the cross-bolt safety, takedown mechanism, and bottom magazine release.

As the VP70's designation indicates, it was introduced in 1970, though design had begun a couple of years earlier. Note, some sources state that actual sales did not begin until 1972. It appears that it was the VP70M machine pistol that was first offered in the early 1970s. The commercial VP70Z — "Z" for Zivil, semi-auto pistol version was first marketed in 1979. Although the heavy DA only/striker fired trigger pull acted as a safety, for the VP70Z version a cross bolt safety was added to the lower trigger guard. This safety also became optional on the VP70M. Because it was originally intended for military sales, the VP70 was designed for a service life of at least 30,000 rounds.



Close-up of the VP70's cross bolt safety.

In one guise or another, the VP70 was manufactured for 15–20 years, production ceasing in 1989 — once again sources vary as some state that production ceased in 1986. “VP” indicates “Volkspistole” (people’s pistol). Initially various “Volks” weapons had been created for inexpensive, fast production to arm German “Volksstrum” in the final days of World War II. The VP70 evolved from this concept. The version with the stock allowing burst fire was actually designated the VP70M “M” for “Militär.”

As previously mentioned, the VP70 semi-auto pistol is renowned for its horrible trigger pull, perhaps the worst I’ve ever encountered. Unlike current striker-fired pistols in which the striker is “pre-loaded” by allowing the spring to be partially compressed, the VP70 requires complete compression of the spring on each trigger pull. I seem to remember that there was a “Target”

version of the VP70 civilian pistol that was sold with a longer slide and target sights, but I never saw one so I don't know if it had an improved trigger pull.



Right-side view of the VP70 stripped for basic maintenance; note that the disassembly mechanism is in the pulled down position.

Another noteworthy feature of the VP70 is its very deep rifling. Theoretically, this was intended to reduce pressure by allowing gases to bleed past the bullet as it moved down the barrel. Based on reports from those who have chronographed loads fired in the VP70, the deeper rifling also lowers muzzle velocity by 100 fps or more.

This loss of velocity may have contributed to the dismal showing of the VP70 at Eglin AFB during early stages of the Joint Services Small Arms Program Trials, as the 9x19mm ammo used in the trials was not loaded as hot as that normally used in European 9x19mm pistols. Possibly, the VP70's loss of velocity magnified the problems, which resulted in a failure of 137 out of 771 rounds to load during reliability testing. Also considered disadvantages were the heavy trigger pull and the thick slide. It appears that the VP70M may have been tested as I have seen references to the

stock being “wobbly.” After the dismal showing of the VP70, H&K entered the P7 in what became the XM9 trials that resulted in adoption of the Beretta M9.



Among the other machine pistols that use a 3-shot burst mode is the Beretta 93R.

The VP70 achieved virtually no sales to foreign governments, though Morocco, Paraguay, and Portugal purchased limited numbers. Interestingly, the Paraguayans purchased the “Z” semi-auto handgun version. Numbers purchased appear to have been small and may have been for specialized police units rather than for military units.



Left-side view of the VP70 in its holster stock; note that the selector is exposed, as is the retention latch for the holster. The channels on each side of the pistol are for affixing to the harness that allows an array of carry positions.

I found it interesting in looking over articles and postings about the VP70M that many mentioned it as a pistol for VIP protection. Based on my own experience in that field, I would answer those speculations with a small “yes” and a large “NO.” Machine pistols have seen use with those on close protection details but only in limited numbers. In general, the fact that a holster stock or other type of stock has to be affixed to effectively use the machine pistol to any effect as an SMG weighs against its effectiveness. Normally, an automatic weapon is used to break an ambush or cover an evacuation under fire, both situations in which bringing the weapon into action quickly is imperative. There is not time to fumble with affixing the stock.



Thompson considers the best of the classic 20th Century machine pistols the Russian Stechkin APS.

I've tried most of the machine pistols that have been available over the last 40 years and have found that in most cases I would prefer a high capacity semi-auto pistol that allows me to draw and immediately engage. Of the machine pistols I have used, the two that I consider to have the most applicability for close protection are the Beretta M93R and the Russian Stechkin APS, especially the latter. As with the VP70M, the 93R fires in three shot bursts. Instead of a holster stock, it has a folding skeleton stock that may be attached to the base of the grip. The 93R has two features, though, that make it marginally more effective than the VP70M: its cyclic rate is "only" 1100 RPM and it has a folding vertical fore grip, both of which allow some control for close-range 3-round bursts even without the stock affixed. The Stechkin is much more usable without its holster stock. It chambers the 9x18mm Makarov round, which has less recoil than the 9x19mm, and its cyclic rate is only 750 RPM. Leaning well into the APS without stock, I have emptied the magazine firing short bursts at 10 yards and kept all 20 rounds from the magazine on a man-sized target.



The HK MP5K offers an alternative to the machine pistol that has seen use for the same mission; the rig shown with this MP5K is the one that “Night Stalkers” (160th SOAR) crews used when they carried it on missions.

Today, the FN P90 or HK MP5K offers a far more effective ambush breaker than any machine pistol, yet can be brought into action immediately. At the time it was introduced, the VP70M may have been marketed in some parts of the world, especially Latin America for use by VIP drivers, but it was never a good choice for close protection.

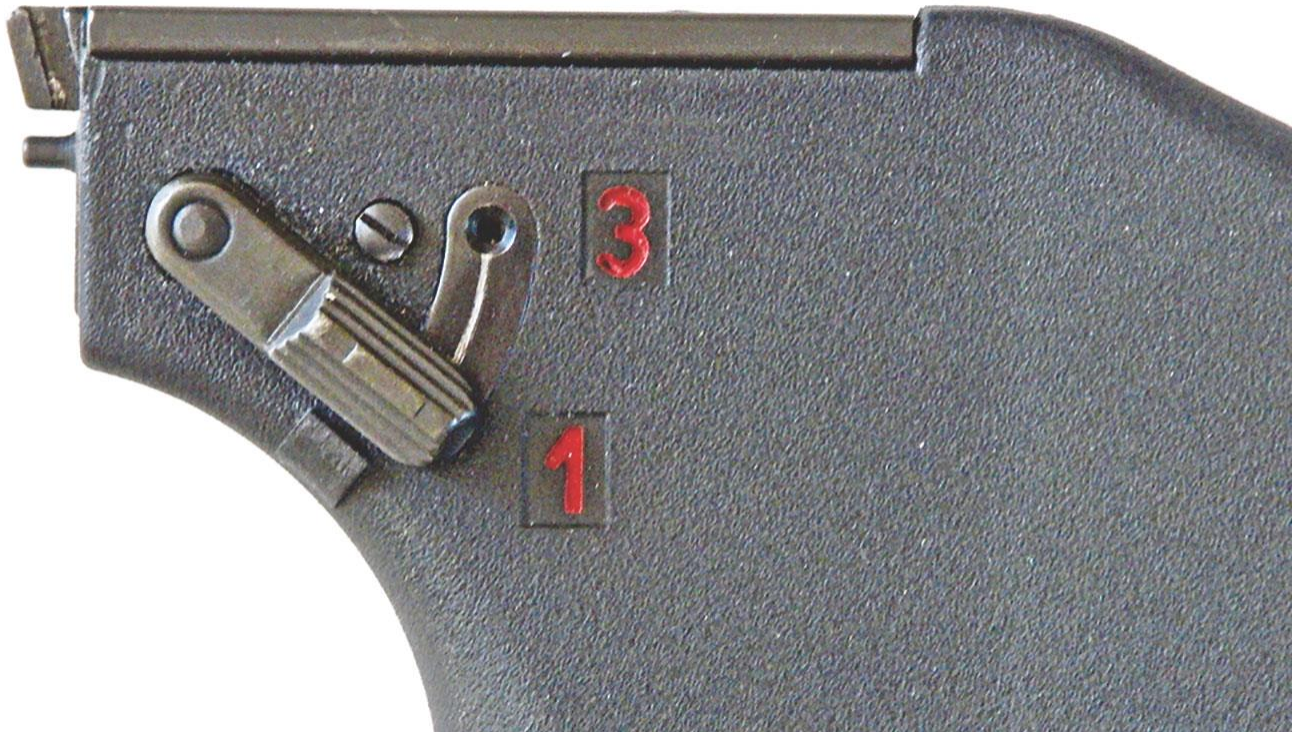
In the case of most machine pistols, they can be fired without affixing the shoulder stock, albeit not that effectively. I have found that the Stechkin APS and the Glock 18 may be used fairly effectively to 10–15 yards by leaning into them and firing short bursts. In the case of the VP70, the selector is in the shoulder stock and until it is attached the VP70 is a high capacity pistol with a very stiff trigger pull — very stiff! Not only that, but the stiff recoil spring makes it hard to pull the VP70’s slide all the way to the rear to chamber a round. When it was introduced, the VP70’s high capacity 18-round magazine and polymer frame differentiated it dramatically from other pistols available, but for most it didn’t have much appeal as a semi-auto combat pistol. Also seeming somewhat archaic today, the VP70 has a bottom magazine release and no hold open device.



View of the upper and lower attachment points of the VP70's stock.

Although the VP70's stock does incorporate a holster, carrying it on the hip is not especially practical, as the attachment points on the stock are exposed to damage; the locking button for the stock and the selector switch are also exposed and likely to catch. A keyway in the stock is designed to affix to a plate on a harness, which can be worn in various ways. A friend and I once spent an entertaining 15 or 20 minutes trying to figure out how the system works and which of the possible configurations we found most effective: NONE! In defense of the VP70's harness system,

though, I have to admit that I can only figure out how to work about half the tactical slings I try! One other point related to the stock: I've tested the VP70 during vehicle counter ambush scenarios and found that getting it attached in a hurry is problematical. The selector has to be set on "1" and lugs on the stock carefully fitted into the slots on the rear of the pistol. Even when performing the operation while at the bench on a range, care must be taken to fit the stock and pistol together.



Close-up of the VP70's selector switch; note that it must be set on "1" to install or remove the stock.

I'd fired the VP70 a few times previous to doing this article, but wanted to shoot it quite a bit in preparation for writing this piece. I decided to test it as a semi-auto pistol as well as a machine pistol. I fired groups with three types of 9x19mm ammo at 25-yards from a standing rest in semi-auto. Due to the very heavy trigger pull, the groups were "disappointing." The best was still only 5" for 5-shots. The VP70 performed better when I fired it in semi-auto with the stock affixed at 50-yards. The presence of the stock mitigated the heavy trigger pull to some extent, and I actually fired a tighter 5-shot group than at 25-yards. The innovative, channeled front sight does aid in acquiring a target with the VP70.



The VP70's channeled front sight actually works well with its notch rear sight.

I knew from past experience with the VP70 that muzzle rise was such that shooting it well in 3-shot burst mode past 10–12 yards would be difficult; at least for me it would. I set up a Son of a Gun green man silhouette at 10 yards and engaged it by firing 7, 3-shots bursts. Aware that the VP70's muzzle would rise due to the high cyclic rate (reportedly 2200 RPM, though I have also seen it given as 1800 RPM), I aimed just above the crotch for the first round of each burst. Of 21 rounds fired, 19 impacted within the silhouette's torso, neck, or head. The other 2 impacted just to the side of the head of the target.



Thompson ripping off a 3-shot burst with the VP70. The VP70 fires so fast that a 3-shot burst sounds as if it is one shot.

I normally evaluate machine pistols as vehicle counter ambush weapons, as that is how I have often seen them used. As a result, I also did some firing at plates using a vehicle for cover. One real positive of the VP70 is that it is a handy weapon with stock affixed for use from behind a wheel well. During any fast moving tactical scenario with the VP70, however, great care must be taken because of the high cyclic rate and the short barrel that the support hand is kept well away from the muzzle.

One real point in the VP70's favor was its reliability. I fired at least 50 rounds in semi-auto and almost 100 rounds in full auto fire without a single malfunction, other than a couple of failures to feed the first round when I did not fully retract the slide. As I mentioned earlier, the recoil spring is very heavy.

HK VP70 SHOOTING RESULTS

25-Yards, 5-Shots, Semi-Auto without Stock	
Black Hills 115 –Grain JHP +P	5-7/8"
SIG-Sauer 124-Grain JHP	5"
Sellier & Bellot 115-Grain FMJ	6-5/8"
50-Yards, 5 Shots, Semi-Auto with Stock	
SIG-Sauer 124-Grain JHP	4-3/4"

The VP70 is an interesting weapon that is illustrative of a dead-end technology. With PDWs such as the FN P90 or compact SMGs such as the HK MP5K available, there would be little use for the VP70 today. Among the various machine pistols that I have tried, I would rate the VP70 with the Czech Skorpion as the most useless. But, the next time I get a chance to shoot one, I will.

H&K VP70 SPECIFICATIONS

Operating System: Blowback, Striker-fired, Closed Bolt, with 3-Shot Burst Mode

Caliber: 9x19mm

Overall Length: 8" (Without Stock), 21.5" (With Stock Attached)

Barrel Length: 4.6"

Weight: 29 oz. (unloaded)

Magazine Capacity: 18 rounds

Sights: Rear: Notch, Front: Ramp with Notch

Cyclic Rate: 2,200 RPM

Glock Unveils Slimline G43x and G48 Pistols

Jim Grant - January 03, 2019



Less than a month before

SHOT Show 2019, Glock unveiled a pair of new pistols: the G43 and G48.

In typical Glock fashion, the Austrian arms maker released their latest polymer-framed pistols just ahead of SHOT Show. While last year saw the addition of the FDE-colored model 19x, this year sees Glock steering their product line away from military-contract designs and towards the civilian concealed carry market. In particular, they've formally announced the addition of the model 48 and 43x.

The 43x is more than simply a revision of their wildly popular subcompact, 9mm Glock 43 handgun. Indeed, it includes a few new features that make it easier to shoot without severely impacting its concealability.

For example, the original Glock 43 was only 4.25 inches tall. The new 43x is more than a third of an inch taller, giving the shooter that much more grip real estate. This aids in the shootability, and handling characteristics of the pistol. It is an extension of the 19x design that utilized a small slide with a longer grip.



Glock's newest addition to its "x" line, is the G43. An nPVD Glock model 43 slide on an enlarged frame.

Another interesting feature of both of these guns, is the slide itself. The original 43 had a slide coated in the same durable black nitride finish as all 5th Gen models. Both the new 43x and 48, employ a nickel Physical Vapor Deposition (nPVD) coating which is incredibly durable, and resembles a satin nickel finish. It also makes the slide much more resistant to corrosion - an excellent addition to a handgun designed to be worn close to the body.

Additionally, these new nPVD slides feature forward serrations for shooters who either want another area to charge their pistol from, or those who perform press checks on their handguns.

But I've almost exclusively discussed the new 43x, and not the 48 - why?



The new Glock 48, offers shooters a mid-sized, single-stack pistol that handles like a more concealable version of the ultra-popular G19.

Simply because the two guns are mechanically identical. The only point of variance between the two, is that the 48 uses a longer slide, and longer barrel. But don't let that fool you, the 48 is the gun shooters have been demanding for nearly a decade. It is, in effect, Glock's version of the Colt Commander. Unlike the commander, this gun appears to be developed in direct response to the rising popularity of SIG's P365 unveiled last year at SHOT.

The pistol utilizes the same sized frame as the 43x, but with a longer slide and a barrel that measures 0.76in longer. This combination adds additional pointability, as well as greater muzzle velocity and mechanical accuracy.

Personally, I'm excited about the new designs, and wished they had existed more than a decade ago when I bought my first Glock pistol for concealed carry. I quickly learned that the full-sized model 17 isn't ideal for carry, but the reliability and capacity impressed me greatly. I think this will make the Glock series of semi-automatic pistols much more appealing to female shooters, and those with smaller hands like myself.

While I was capable of learning to shoot just fine on a model 17, having a grip that allowed for a more comfortable trigger pull and easier concealment would have gone a long way. Lastly, it'll be interesting to see how the market reacts to the design. If these little polymer pistols will steal from of SIG's thunder, or simply entice existing Glock owners to add to their collection.

Either way, stay tuned for additional coverage of SHOT Show 2019, and all the latest news from the gun industry.



<https://www.wsls.com/news/international/its-a-watershed-moment-for-gun-control-in-new-zealand>

It's a watershed moment for gun control in New Zealand, but there are no quick fixes

But there are no quick fixes

Posted: 10:37 PM, March 17, 2019

Updated: 10:37 PM, March 17, 2019

(CNN) - In the wake of last Friday's [attacks in Christchurch in which 50 people were killed](#), New Zealand faces a defining moment on the availability of guns in society.

Prime Minister [Jacinda Ardern](#) has pledged tough measures to limit their circulation -- but in a country with a strong hunting tradition, where there is roughly one gun for every four people, it will be no easy path.



As Ardern herself said at the weekend, there have been unsuccessful attempts to tighten gun control in the past -- in 2005, 2012 and again two years ago. For previous governments, it has not been a priority - - because while having relatively high gun ownership, New Zealand has until now had relatively few gun-related deaths.

According to figures compiled by the [University of Sydney](#), New Zealand had 0.17 gun-related homicides per 100,000 people in 2015. This is in contrast to the United States, which had 11 deaths per 100,000 people in 2015, according to a report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Those figures will look very different in 2019 -- and for Ardern's Labour-led government, gun legislation is now the highest political priority.

The government certainly has public momentum behind it. Many [New Zealanders](#) are shocked that someone could acquire so many powerful weapons legally.

The alleged perpetrator of Friday's attacks, 28-year-old Brenton Tarrant, possessed a "Category A" gun license, giving him the right to buy semi-automatic weapons.

Tarrant had two semi-automatic weapons and two shotguns among his arsenal.

"That will give you an indication of why we need to change our gun laws," Ardern said at the weekend.

Obtaining a license involves police background checks and firearms safety. But they are rarely refused, according to the latest figures. In 2017, of the 43,509 firearms license applications submitted, just 188 applications were declined. And a Category A license allows the holder to obtain any number of sporting-type rifles and shotguns. You don't need one license per weapon.

Visitors to New Zealand can apply for a firearms license that "will let you shoot for hunting or competition in New Zealand for up to a year," according to police.

Some variants of the AR-15, which has been used in several mass shootings in the US, can be legally obtained by Category A holders in New Zealand. The power of such a weapon can then be enhanced by adding a high-capacity magazine. A police report two years ago warned that such adaptations opened the way to "criminal harm" and noted that "purchase of high-capacity magazines is unregulated and does not require a firearms licence."

One such adapted weapon was used in the murder of two people in New Zealand in 2017.

New Zealand's patchwork of gun laws have also allowed the import of semi-automatic rifles, of which there are about 15,000 legally in circulation, according to police estimates. The lack of a national register of gun ownership makes such estimates more difficult.

The New Zealand Police Association has long called for reform of the Arms Act and tougher measures to close loopholes on acquiring semi-automatic weapons.

Its president, Chris Cahill, said at the weekend: "There is no place in the upcoming debate for the radical gun lobby which has made its presence felt in previous attempts to make our country safer. We have seen what happens in the United States when gun radicals are involved. Nothing. That is not good enough for New Zealand."

Cahill also makes the point that Tarrant would have found it more difficult to acquire such powerful weapons in his native Australia, which had its "Christchurch moment" back in 1996.

That was the year of the Port Arthur massacre, when a lone gunman with a semi-automatic weapon killed 35 people and wounded more than 20, using an AR-15 with a 30-round magazine. The Australian government [moved swiftly to outlaw such weapons](#) after the attack. Rapid-fire rifles and shotguns were banned, gun owner licensing was tightened and remaining firearms were registered to uniform national standards. An ambitious government-funded gun buyback program was introduced.

The Dunblane massacre -- also in 1996 -- when 16 schoolchildren and their teacher [were murdered in Scotland](#) brought about tighter gun controls in the UK. But it took several years for the number of criminal offenses involving guns to begin to fall.

New Zealand now faces a similar watershed moment.

David Small, a lawyer and professor at Canterbury University in Christchurch, says it's a question of what's reasonable in a country where guns are important for hunting and pest control. "There is nothing reasonable about owning a gun whose main purpose is self-defense," he says, "and in New Zealand there is no constitutional right to bear arms. To introduce tighter gun control is not going to infringe basic liberties."

Even with public sentiment behind her, Ardern's government still faces a daunting challenge in devising watertight legislation that begins to regulate the availability of guns in New Zealand.

Speaking to CNN on Monday, Philip Alper, editor of GunPolicy.org, a Australian website that tracks armed violence, firearm law and gun control, said that the New Zealand gun lobby will likely resist any attempt to adopt tighter controls.

According to Alper, there have been four inquiries into possible changes to New Zealand's gun laws during the past 22 years -- and the gun lobby has stymied every one of them.

"The gun lobby is already talking about consultation, no knee jerk reactions. 'Come out to the gun range and see were good people,' and that has the effect of watering down every gun law that's been tested," says Alper.

One possible new route would be the introduction of a buy-back program, as well as closing loopholes that allow the import and adaptation of powerful guns, says Small.

"The time and place will never be better," he told CNN. "No opposition party has anything to gain by opposing such legislation."

Former New Zealand premier Helen Clarke agrees.

Gun laws need improving, she said, and "I would be surprised if the New Zealand Parliament didn't accept that challenge head-on to strengthen the law."

Former Australian Prime Minister John Howard, who passed through Australia's strict gun control laws after the Port Arthur massacre, said Monday that he believes there would be "universal acceptance across the political divide" for gun control reform.

"Bear in mind getting anything accepted in New Zealand which is not a federation and only has a lower house of parliament, is a fairly simple issue if there is political will. I can't imagine after this that there won't be political will to bring their laws up to date," Howard said.

Correction: A previous version of this story incorrectly spelled New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's name. It has now been updated. This story has also been updated with the correct homicide rate for New Zealand in 2015.



<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/ben-shapiro-democrats-now-for-gun-confiscation-far-out-on-late-term-abortion>

Ben Shapiro: Democrats now for gun confiscation, 'far out of the mainstream' on late-term abortions

By Victor Garcia Fox News



Two recent stances taken by 2020 hopefuls Bernie Sanders and Beto O'Rourke reveal the "radicalism" inside the Democratic party, according to conservative commentator [Ben Shapiro](#).

Shapiro claimed [O'Rourke's](#) views on abortion and [Sen. Sanders, I-Vt.](#), pushing gun control on the heels of the [terror attack in New Zealand](#) as proof of how the party is changing. "I'm old enough to remember when [Democrats](#) tried to run away from suggesting they were pushing for a gun confiscation now apparently they're going to full-scale embrace gun confiscation," Shapiro told "[Fox & Friends](#)."

"We have something called the Second Amendment in this country and it is deeply embedded in American culture and rightly so."

New Zealand this week responded to the attacks on two mosques in the city of Christchurch killed 50 worshippers by [banning sales of "military-style" semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines](#).

Sanders reacted by saying the United States must follow New Zealand's lead.

"This is what real action to stop gun violence looks like. We must follow New Zealand's lead, take on the NRA and ban the sale and distribution of assault weapons in the United States," he tweeted.

Shapiro believes New Zealand is a bad example to pick to promote gun confiscation.

"There are 35 murders in the entire country in 2017, a country of some 4.4 million people," Shapiro said, comparing the county to the United States.



Former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke gestures during a campaign stop at Keene State College in Keene, N.H., Tuesday, March 19, 2019. O'Rourke announced last week that he'll seek the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

He then went after Democratic candidate O'Rourke's view on late-term abortions.

"It really is quite insane, the fact that Beto O'Rourke and every other major Democrat feel forced to embrace this position, that you have to be for abortion up to and sometimes beyond points of birth," Shapiro said. "It just demonstrates the radicalism of the Democratic Party."

O'Rourke was [recently asked about his stance on late-term abortions](#) and how he would have voted on the Senate bill that would have protected infants who survived a failed abortion.

"I would have voted with those women to make their own decisions about their own bodies," O'Rourke said.

Shapiro also criticized the media for their role as of late in covering the late-term abortion topic believing they are trying to portray an extreme view as mainstream.

“Even Beto’s generalized position which that third-trimester abortions should be legal, forget about the infanticide position, even the third-trimester position is a position that only 13 percent of Americans hold,” Shapiro said.

“This far out of the mainstream, far more out of the mainstream than generalized pro-life views on the Republican side of the aisle. And it is amazing to watch the media treat it as though it is mainstream to suggest that women have the right to kill fully formed babies.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/bernie-sanders-ocasio-cortez-use-new-zealand-semi-automatic-weapons-ban-to-call-for-stricter-gun-control-in-us>

Bernie Sanders, Ocasio-Cortez use New Zealand semi-automatic weapons ban to call for stricter gun control in US

By Liam Quinn | Fox News

New Zealand debates gun control measures after deadly mosque shooting

Leading Democrats have heaped praise on New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern after the Kiwi leader announced her country was immediately banning "military-style semi-automatic weapons" after last week's attack that killed 50 people at two mosques. Ardern announced Wednesday the weapons would be banned in addition to "all assault rifles," among other firearms, adding that legislation is currently being drafted and she expects the law to take effect by April 11.

"We will ban all high-capacity magazines. We will ban all parts with the ability to convert semiautomatic, or any other type of firearm, into a military-style semi-automatic weapon," the prime minister said. "In short, every semi-automatic weapon used in the terrorist attack on Friday will be banned in this country."



In this March 20, 2019, photo, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern speaks during a press conference following the March 15 mosque shooting, in Christchurch, New Zealand. Prime Minister Ardern says New Zealand is immediately banning assault rifles, high-capacity magazines and "military style semi-automatic rifles" like the weapons used in last Friday's attacks on two Christchurch mosques. (Kyodo News via AP)

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Rep. Alexandria-Ocasio Cortez, D-N.Y., were among the crowd of progressive voices who celebrated Ardern's announcement, and they also used it as an opportunity to call for stricter gun control in the U.S.

"This is what real action to stop gun violence looks like. We must follow New Zealand's lead, take on the NRA and ban the sale and distribution of assault weapons in the United States," Sanders tweeted.

Ocasio-Cortez shared a video of Ardern announcing the ban, adding: "Sandy Hook happened 6 years ago and we can't even get the Senate to hold a vote on universal background checks w/ #HR8.

"Christchurch happened, and within days New Zealand acted to get weapons of war out of the consumer market.

"This is what leadership looks like."

In response to Ocasio-Cortez, NRA spokeswoman Dana Loesch said: "That's also what an entirely different country that doesn't have the right to bear arms as a cornerstone of its constitution, in addition to numerous state laws. It's also what confiscation and banning most semi-auto looks like, too."

The ban in New Zealand comes six days after a gunman opened fire at two mosques in Christchurch. The massacre left 50 people dead and dozens of others injured.

Ardern said the man suspected of the attack bought his weapons legally with a standard gun license and modified their capacity by using 30-round magazines, "essentially turning them into military-style semi-automatic weapons."

The 28-year-old suspect bought the weapons "through a simple online purchase," she said, and "took a significant number of lives using primarily two guns."

The alleged shooter, whom Fox News is not naming, has been charged with one count of murder in the attacks, which became New Zealand's deadliest mass shooting in modern history. He is expected to face additional charges at his next court appearance April 5.

Preparations are underway for a massive prayer service to be held Friday, with nearly 4,000 people expected to attend.

Review: PTR's 9CT Pistol

David Fortier; Photography by Laura A. Fortier - September 13, 2018



An American-Made Roller-Locked 9mm

One interesting new offering on the roller-locked market is PTR's 9CT pistol. Classic-looking and true in form and function, the 9CT's introduction immediately caught my attention. Rather than being imported from a foreign manufacturer or produced from a mix of new and surplus parts, the 9CT is produced new entirely here in the United States. I've long been a fan of pistol-caliber carbines for certain rolls and own two MP5K PDW clones. So I was interested to see how PTR's American-made 9CT would perform and stack up. I wanted to find out how its build quality, accuracy and reliability were.

While there are certainly other interesting and more modern designs on the market, none have the sheer panache of the classic roller-locked MP5. Perhaps it's the unmistakable stamped and welded sheet metal profile, German engineered roller-locked action or impressive performance in the hands of special operations units, like the British SAS, which elevates this design above its peers in the eyes of shooters and collectors. The MP5 certainly isn't perfect, but it has aged surprisingly well. Today, it is seeing a surprising resurgence of popularity among American shooters. Despite its age compared to many of its competitors, roller-locked MP5 clones are currently being embraced by a whole new generation of shooters and collectors who love their looks, pedigree and performance.



Looking for a compact 9x19mm carbine but desire a touch of panache? Consider PTR's new made-in-the-USA 9CT.

I always find it interesting how the firearms industry runs in cycles. At any given time period, certain types of firearms are hot, and some are not. Wait a few years, and the cycle changes. Currently, Pistol Caliber Carbines (PCCs) and their pistol siblings are in vogue. To meet the demand, there's a diverse array of models available from a wide variety of manufacturers, in many different pistol and carbine configurations. These include Ruger's recently introduced 9mm PC take-down carbine, Keltec's folding SUB2000 Gen 2, polymer guns like CZ-USA's Skorpion, Pioneer Arms' vintage 7.62x25mm PPS43C pistol, SIG Sauer's piston-operated MPX series, and an array of blowback-operated ARs, to name a few. The question is, why are PCCs and their pistol variants currently so popular?

To be frank, there are number of reasons. One of the most basic is many shooters live in a 100-yard world. A large number of shooters and collectors only have access to an indoor or 100-yard range. So, a 9x19mm Parabellum is a logical choice. Another is simple economics. Bulk 9x19mm Parabellum ball ammunition is relatively inexpensive and readily available. It's less costly to shoot than, say, 5.56x45mm NATO, yet packs a noticeably heavier punch than .22 LR. Plus, while the 9x19mm Parabellum dates back to 1902, there is a diverse array of modern loads available for it. It suppresses easily with subsonic ammunition, and the cartridge itself is capable of fine accuracy. Due to its power level, the Parabellum isn't as hard on steel as the 5.56x45mm, especially at relatively close distances. USPSA creating a PCC division also caught the attention of many. Perhaps most importantly, they are fun.



Up to your gills in ARs and looking for something a trifle different? PTR's 9CT is easy to feed and comes packed in a hard case with a few nice accessories.

So, how does PTR's 9CT stack up? The pistol arrived at my FFL, Jack & Dick's Pawn Shop in Junction City, Kansas, neatly packed in a nice foam-lined hard case. Included with the pistol were two 30-round magazines, a single-point bungee sling and sight adjustment tool. Removing it from its hard case revealed a good-looking piece. My initial cursory examination revealed a "Navy-type" polymer trigger-group housing, MLOK handguard, smooth operating bolt and attractive black finish. Impressed, I filled out my paperwork and carted it home.

Taking a closer look, I noted this model comes fitted with a nitride-treated 8.8-inch barrel with 1 turn in 10-inch twist six-groove rifling. The barrel features a three-lug mounting system for sound suppressors, as well as a 1/2x28 threaded muzzle. A threaded muzzle protector covers the threads and an O-ring keeps it from loosening. Behind the muzzle is a lightweight aluminum handguard with MLOK slots for mounting accessories, such as a white light.



The 9CT features an 8.8-inch nitride-treated barrel and an MLOK handguard for easy mounting of accessories.

Sights consist of a front post centered in a round protector and a rear diopter. Unlike some manufacturers who utilize surplus G3 rear sights with a “V” notch, PTR’s 9CT features a diopter with four different-size apertures. The rear sight is adjustable for elevation and windage when zeroing. If you’d prefer to mount some type of optic, the 9CT is ready to go out of the box. PTR welds a steel 1913 rail onto the top of the upper receiver. This measures 4.5 inches in length and facilitates easy mounting of a red dot. So, you don’t have to worry about purchasing a dedicated base or having its mounting screws loosen. I personally think a compact red-dot sight is the way to go on a piece like this.

A non-reciprocating charging handle is located on the left side directly above the handguard. The upper receiver, which is the serialized part of the firearm, is manufactured using stamped sheet metal welded together. Mated to this is a two-position Navy-type polymer trigger-group housing with S and F markings. The 9CT features a roller-tipped paddle release located behind the magazine. This is easy to manipulate and ambidextrous. A push-button magazine release is also located on the right side of the receiver. Unfortunately, this is a bit too far forward for most right-handed shooters to reach from a firing grip. No worries, the paddle release works just fine.

Keep in mind, the bolt does not lock back on the last shot. However, it can be manually locked open by rotating the charging handle into a cut-out specifically for this. The back of the pistol is capped off with a black polymer end cap. This features a swivel adapter for mounting the included single-point sling. Popping the end cap off, I found a nitride-treated and tungsten-weighted full-auto bolt-carrier assembly. If you happen to have an NFA-registered full-auto sear pack, the 9CT is sear pack ready.



At heart, the 9CT is a classic roller-locked delayed-blowback design, which fires from the closed-bolt position. It is made here in the US of A.

Operation is the traditional roller-locked delayed blowback, firing from the closed-bolt position. It feeds from readily available HK MP5 pattern detachable box magazines. The magazine is a robust dual column with dual-feed design, which is very reliable. Original HK mags are fairly pricey, but there are other options on the market. On the plus side, they load to capacity relatively easily, no special tool required.

The 9CT weighs in at five pounds and measures 17.6 inches in length. It is a visually interesting piece with all the right curves in all the right places. Magazines insert easily, the bolt flies home with a smooth ka-chunk, and the trigger is quite acceptable, if a bit heavy. It looks as serious as a heart attack and....fun.

Before going further, let's take a quick look at what sets MP5-type firearms apart from traditional open-bolt submachine guns: its roller-locked system. Conventional submachine guns, from the Maschinenpistole 18/I to the UZI, utilize a rather simple operating system called blowback, or to be technically correct, Advanced Primer Ignition (API) blowback. In this type of system, a heavy bolt is used in conjunction with a proper weight recoil spring. When the trigger is pulled, the bolt is released and driven forward by the recoil spring. On its travel, it strips a round from the magazine and loads it into the chamber. While it is still traveling forward, the firing pin ignites the primer, firing the cartridge. The bolt never locks. The propellant gases from the fired cartridge then arrest the bolt's forward momentum before driving it to the rear, extracting and ejecting the fired cartridge case on its way. At the end of its rearward travel, the recoil spring overcomes the bolt's rearward momentum and pushes it forward to either be caught by the sear or continue the cycle.



The bolt sports a beefy extractor, but consider buying an extra extractor spring or two to have on hand.

The virtues of an open-bolt API blowback system are its simplicity and its economical nature. The primary downside is the heavy bolt moving forward when the trigger is initially pressed, which can disturb the shooter's aim. This makes firing an open-bolt gun more difficult than a closed-bolt design.

The MP5 system is a horse of a different color. Its roller-locked operating system is actually based upon that of a rifle, as pioneered by the World War II German StG 45 (M). Unlike most submachine guns, the MP5 fires from the closed bolt and features a system to delay the bolt opening. Due to this, there is no initial "slap" of the bolt running forward and chambering a round when the trigger is pressed. The design incorporates two horizontally mounted roller bearings in a two-piece bolt. The bolt consists of the bolt head and a "carrier." When the recoil spring pushes the bolt/carrier assembly forward and it closes, the nose section of the carrier enters the rear of the bolt. This forces the two roller bearings out into cut-outs in the barrel extension.

When the weapon is fired, the rollers delay the bolt's opening long enough to allow pressure to drop to a safe level. Then the bolt head forces the carrier to the rear. This allows the rollers to be cammed back into the bolt, which subsequently unlocks and travels to the rear. As this system makes no provision for initial extraction, the designers needed to come up with a solution to free the fired case from the chamber without ripping the case head off. To accomplish this, they machined flutes into the chamber's length. This effectively 'floated' the case out of the chamber on a film of gas. While this is a much more complicated and expensive system compared to a simple open-bolt API blowback design, the end result is accurate, reliable and easy to control.

Well, enough boring stuff. As soon as I arrived home, I grabbed 100 rounds of Wolf 9x19mm steel case ammunition and did a quick test fire using the factory iron sights. PTR's 9CT ran without issue, slapped the steel nicely, and proved enjoyable to shoot. So, I got to work, with the first step being to check the 9CT's accuracy from a benchrest. This was done at both 50 and 100 yards with a variety of loads including copper solids, FMJ, JHP and solid copper HP loads ranging in weight from 80 to 147 grains. I included a variety of bullet shapes and weights to check the 9CT's function and reliability. I fired four five-shot groups with each load from a rest, while recording velocity using a LabRadar Doppler chronograph.

I mounted a red-dot sight and an old fixed-position SB Tactical pistol stabilizer brace before getting to work. Mounting the brace merely required pushing one pin out, removing the end cap and replacing it with the brace. The MP5 magazines loaded easily, rounds fed smoothly, and PTR's 9CT chugged away without issue. During my time on the bench, I noted the 9CT's trigger was a bit on the heavy side, but easily managed. All in all, it shot well at both 50 and 100 yards. Top accuracy was achieved using HPR's 147-grain EMCON Suppressor Specific JHP. HPR is out of business, but I still have a bit of this ammunition and like to use it, due to how well it shoots. It cycled smoothly and averaged 4.5-inch groups at 100 yards. Fort Scott Ammunition's 80-grain Copper Solid also shot very well, averaging a respectable 4.9 inches.



Thanks to its very short length and light weight, the 9CT excels at rapidly engaging targets from a variety of positions and while shooting on the move.

Bench shooting isn't what this piece is intended for, though. What make this design great are its other qualities. Things like its short overall length combined with its weight and balance give it excellent handling qualities, especially at close quarters. The controls are all well-placed, simple in form and function and easy to operate under stress. So it's a very easy piece to get into action, reload and operate, even in the stress of a rapid-paced, close-range gunfight. The factory iron sights are very well-designed for gun fighting. They are not overly elaborate like those found on an M1928 Thompson, unusably fine like a PPS-43, nor barbarically crude, as found on a Sten Gun. When properly understood, the centered post in the overly large round shroud acts as a "quick kill" sight allowing the gunner to make rapid center-of-mass hits, even in lowlight conditions.

Many submachine-gun designs were cursed with poorly designed and shoddily manufactured magazines, which hurt reliability. The Sten, M3A1 and PPSH-41 are the most obvious examples of this. In stark contrast, MP5 magazines are both well-designed and nicely made. Manufactured from stamped and welded steel, they feature robust feed-lips, good quality springs and a well-designed

follower. They load easily by hand and, due to their dual feed design, feed smoothly and reliably. Plus, the magazine is well-supported and locks into place securely.



A look at the bolt assembly stripped for cleaning.

Another nice feature is how easily the 9CT strips for routine maintenance. Push out one cross-pin, pull the end cap off and the recoil spring and bolt assembly can be pulled out and the trigger group housing removed. Do it once and it's very simple. One important thing to keep in mind, though, is this isn't a crude Soviet PPSH-41 or a utilitarian American M3A1. The bolt on the 9CT does more than simply flop back and forth. Plus, keep in mind it has a fluted chamber. What does all this mean? You actually need to maintain it properly. I highly recommend buying, and using, a proper fluted chamber bore brush. You should also check the bolt rollers regularly for wear and replace when necessary. I also recommend buying a spare extractor spring or two to have on hand.

Out of the box, the 9CT is an interesting, albeit heavy pistol, which is a bit awkward to shoot. Yes, you can employ it using a properly tensioned single-point sling, but it's not ideal. In its factory configuration, it makes a fun plinker, interesting conversation piece, and worthy Friday night movie gun. To bring its true capabilities out though, I highly recommend SB Tactical's new SBT5A side-folding pistol stabilizing brace. I used an older, and I believe discontinued, model from SB Tactical during testing, which is shown in the photography. It worked, but I really didn't like it. The SBT5A changes the 9CT's entire personality. Nicely made and easy to attach, the SBT5A mimics the profile of a B&T side-folding stock. When not needed, it folds neatly out of the way. While it's not cheap at \$249.99, my recommendation is to just buy it.



Swapping to one of SB Tactical's pistol-stabilizing braces is very simple, just push out one cross-pin, remove the end cap, and install the brace.

Running the 9CT with the SB Tactical pistol-stabilizer brace revealed just what its capable of. Fast handling and quick on target, the 9CT made short work of multiple B-27 targets placed from five to 15 yards. At 10 yards and closer, the 9CT would chew one hole in the paper. It performed very well, especially shooting on the move and snap shooting. Its light recoil made placing rapid multiple shots into the kill zone easy. The charging handle is positioned within easy reach, and both magazine releases worked cleanly. Reloads are a snap, only hindered by the lack of a bolt hold-open, which does slow things down a bit.

The 9CT made short work of my plate rack and had zero trouble scoring rapid multiple hits on steel silhouettes at 50, 75 and 100 yards. Getting a little brazen, I moved out to 200 yards. Once you get past 100 yards, bullet drop really needs to be accounted for. You also have to work a bit harder to manage the trigger properly. Even so, the 9CT consistently put rounds on steel from the prone position. This is stretching the cartridge though, and the 9CT is really at its best inside 50 yards.



The front sight is a post centered inside a large protective ring.

If you are middle-aged and your vision is going, you might notice the front sight isn't as crisp as it once was, due to how close it is to your eye. Sight radius is also fairly short at about 13 inches. If you're getting old like me, just pop a red-dot sight on it, and enjoy. Even if you are young and spry with perfect vision, I highly recommend topping it with a good red-dot sight.

So, what role does PTR's 9CT fill? Well, to start, it's a nice alternative for anyone interested in owning an MP5-type pistol. It is also a very fun plinker and recreational shooter. Fitted with an SB Tactical side-folding brace, it is a very viable tool for self-protection. It can be carried discreetly or easily stored in a motor vehicle. As it's a pistol, it's covered by your CCW permit. I highly recommend adding a good red-dot sight, white light and sling if you plan on using it for self-protection.

PTR 9CT ACCURACY AND VELOCITY CHART

Load	Velocity (fps)	50 yards (inches)	100 yards (inches)
Fort Scott 80-grain Copper Solid	1510	2.8	4.9
American Eagle 115-grain FMJ	1223	3	5.9
Black Hills 115-grain TAC-XP +P	1310	3.1	6
Wolf 115-grain FMJ	1295	4	7
Federal 124-grain Hydra-Shok	1233	5.1	7
HPR 147-grain EMCON	968	2.7	4.5

Groups are an average of four 5-shot groups fired from a rest at 50 yards. Velocity readings recorded by a LabRadar Doppler chronograph at an ambient temperature of 80 degrees F 1,030 feet above sea level.

What about drawbacks? The biggest weakness of the 9CT for personal protection is simply the cartridge it fires. Despite its size and looks, it's still a 9x19mm Parabellum at heart. Due to this, it lacks the range, penetration, terminal performance and precision of a rifle. I also don't recommend trying to hot rod it using +P or +P+ ammunition. A steady diet of these can be hard on the rollers. Instead, I recommend sticking with a good standard-pressure JHP load. The other drawback is price. With an MSRP of \$1,899.00, the 9CT is pretty darn expensive, although it does compare well to its competition.

All in all, I like PTR's 9CT. Build quality, comparing it side by side with an MKE and Atlantic Firearms built gun, is very good. Plus it's 100% American-made from new parts. Personally, I'd rather buy a 9CT built here in America. If you've got the MP5 itch, you'll want to consider PTR's new 9CT pistol.

PTR 9CT SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: 9x19mm

Operation: Roller-locked delayed blowback from closed bolt

Barrel: 8.8 inches, nitride treated with 1:10-inch twist

Overall Length: 17.6 inches

Feed: MP5 pattern detachable box

Weight: Five pounds, without magazine

Sights: Protected front post, fully adjustable rear diopter

Finish: Black paint

MSRP: \$1,899.00

Ammo Brief: The Versatile .243 Winchester

By Gun Digest Editors - December 26, 2018

Developed to handle everything from varmints to medium game, the .243 Winchester remains a flexible and accurate 6mm option.

What You Need To Know About The .243 Winchester:

- The .308 Winchester provides the parent case.
- Next to .30-06, probably chambered in more rifles than any other cartridge.
- With mono-metal bullets, appropriate for big game.



The .243 Winchester was introduced by Winchester in 1955 for its Model 70 bolt-action and Model 88 lever-action rifles. The .243 Win. was quickly adopted by Savage for its Model 99 lever- and Model 110 bolt-action rifles. All the British and European manufacturers soon began chambering bolt-action rifles for this round. In fact, even Remington, which developed its own 6mm, had to recognize the popularity of the .243 and start chambering its rifles for it.

The .243 (6mm) Winchester is nothing more than the .308 Win. case necked down. Original development and publicity was due largely to the efforts of one gun writer, the late Warren Page, who, along with other wildcatters, worked out a similar version before Winchester. The .243 Win. is probably chambered in more different rifles than any other cartridge, except possibly the .30-06 Springfield, which is no surprise. The .243 Winchester represents a successful effort to develop a light deer rifle cartridge that could hold its own with the high-velocity .22s for long-range use on small targets — and still be adequate for larger animals. The .243 Win. does this job well. It eliminates the need to own two different rifles for anything from small game and pests up to and including deer and antelope.

The 80-grain bullet is intended primarily for varmint and small game, and the 100-grain bullet is ideal for deer-size animals. The .257 Roberts and the .250-3000 Savage are supposed to cover the same range and certainly do. All major domestic and overseas manufacturers of commercial ammunition offer this caliber. Its popularity as a deer caliber has prevailed over its varmint capabilities. (Editor's note: The .243 Win. has garnered a reputation among ballisticians for erratic performance. Handloaders should keep this firmly in mind.) In a 2000 press release, Remington announced the availability of electronic ignition .243 Winchester ammunition for use in its new (and now defunct) EtronX rifle. The initial loading uses a 90-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip bullet. Owing to the unique primer, this ammunition will not work in a conventional rifle (just as conventional ammunition will not work in the EtronX rifle). Except for the primer, this ammunition uses conventional components.

Update: The recent introduction of all-copper, mono-metal bullets, such as the Barnes Triple-Shock and Tipped Triple-Shock, the Hornady GMX and the Lapua Naturalis, allow the .243 Winchester, as well as other 6mm cartridges that produce the same or higher velocities, to be very effective on big game while using a faster and lighter bullet. Additionally, Frank Barnes mentioned the erratic performance handloaders could expect when working with the .243 Winchester; while this has become an ever-persistent warning with this cartridge, many handloaders have been building the .243 Winchester for 20-plus years and find it as easy to work with as any other cartridge.

Bullet (grains/type)	Powder	Grains	Velocity (fps)	Energy (ft-lbs)	Source
55 Nos BT	H4895	44.5	4,058	2,010	Hodgdon
75 HP	IMR 4064	40	3,300	1,814	Hornady, Speer
80 SP	IMR 4320	38	3,000	1,599	Speer, Hornady
85 SP	H-380	38.5	3,100	1,814	Sierra
90 SP	IMR 4831	44	3,000	1,799	Speer, Sierra
95 SP	IMR 3031	35	2,900	1,775	Nosler
100 SP	IMR 4350	42	2,900	1,868	Sierra, Hornady
80 SP	FL	-	3,550	1,993	Factory Load
85 SP	FL	-	3,320	2,080	Factory Load
100 SP	FL	-	2,960	1,945	Factory Load
100 SP	FL	-	3,100	2,133	Factory Load

Firearms News Digital Staff - March 15, 2019



Inter-Ordnance reveals the new M10 Quadrail rifle. These rifles, which are imported directly from Romania, are manufactured from new high-quality components. All of these new rifles come supplied with a cardboard storage box, an owner's manual and one 30-round magazine.

With the I.O. INC Mil-Spec stock equipped, the M10 Quadrail rifle measures at 37". The rifle is equipped with a new chrome-lined, 16.25" barrel. The barrel boasts a 1:10 twist rate with four lands and grooves. The M10 Quadrail rifle weighs a mere seven pounds when unloaded. The semi-automatic M10 Quadrail rifle is chambered in 7.62 x 39mm.



The M10 Quadrail rifle comes with a multitude of features, including a combination gas block and front sight. Both the front and rear sights are elevation and windage adjustable. The cold-hammer forged chrome-lined barrel gives the rifle a slick look and provides consistent shots.

For more information on the M10 Quadrail rifle, head to interordnance.com

Long Range Shooting 101: Top 5 Rifles and Calibers for Survivalists

The Patriot Caller



The art of shooting long distances engages a different set of skills and techniques than tactical, cowboy-action, or skeet shooting. Some may say long distance shooting is golf, whereas tactical shooting is basketball.

Repetition, attention to detail, and the proper equipment can make an enormous difference when it comes to long distance accuracy. And, of course, these are just preparations you make to offset all the less-than-ideal conditions that you'll almost certainly be dealing with in any real-world scenario.

Back to the Fundamentals

The key to performing nearly anything requiring precision under pressure is, to oversimplify a bit, practice. To be more specific, we have to fall back on an old football coach's favorite saying. "Practice doesn't make perfect," he was fond of saying, "Perfect practice makes perfect."

The key here is to realize that target shooting is never really just shooting at a target; it's also training. The level of focus, patience, and expectations you bring to shooting at paper targets will inevitably impact how well you shoot in competition, hunting, etc.

Precision Shooting Discipline From an "Old Timer"

An old marine once explained why he was able to shoot 1-inch groups consistently at 100-yards while the rest of us were satisfied with 4-inch groups. He explained that back in the time of his basic training, Marines were made to dry fire their rifles a minimum of 1,000 times before they were allowed the privilege of live ammo.

To date, it sticks out as the most important and instructive thing we've heard regarding shooting accuracy. Consider how much time, not to mention mental energy, it would require to practice your aim, breathing, and trigger pull a thousand times with no

live ammo. It's a great exercise, when you think of it. With no anticipation or recoil, you can practice perfectly, building all the right habits, techniques, and muscle memory.

RELATED: [Watch This 86-Year-Old Sniper Drill a 1,000+ Yard Shot](#)

But for goodness sakes, how damned boring would that be?

To tell the truth, the amount of time and effort it takes to become a truly excellent marksman is daunting. This is why you can't afford to waste any time with improper training and the wrong tools.

On the other hand, we have much better tools at our disposal than the Korean War era Marine who was such a good shot. Since you probably don't have the time or patience to dry fire thousands of times before you start plinking, you're going to want to use these superior tools.

Remington 700 VTR



The “VTR” in this version of Remington’s venerable Model 700 stands for “Varmint Tactical Rifle.” Why would someone hunting varmints even need to get very tactical? It’s not like a gray fox is going to return fire or anything.

Either way, you’ll notice that there’s a strong link between rifles designed for precision shooting and those designed for varmint hunting. In the off-the-shelf market, they’re one in the same.

The 700 VTR comes chambered in both .260 Remington and .308 Winchester, both excellent rounds for shooting at long distances, as we’ve already established.

[\[COUPON: Get Your MCG Sniper Scope 50% OFF\]](#)

Other perks offered by the 700 VTR are Remington’s X-Mark externally adjustable trigger, the “Super Cell” recoil pad, a contoured 22” barrel, a picatinny rail system, and a tactical barrel with muzzle breaks.

While it’s not exactly “cheap” by most standards, it does have all of the upgrades in one nice and tidy package. Upgrading all of these pieces individually would make this a \$2,000 custom rifle, and you still wouldn’t have a scope on it.

RETAIL: \$789

Ruger Hawkeye Varmint Target Rifle



With a laminated stock, this “Varmint Target” rifle just looks like a piece of precision equipment, capable of sharpshooting excellence, which it is.

[COUPON: Get Your MCG Sniper Scope 50% OFF]

If you’re already a fan of the Strum and Ruger rifle catalog, you’ll recognize the familiar integral scope mounts, which are basically just indentions machined into the top of the receiver. There’s nothing new about the scope mounts, but this is still a feature worth pointing out.

The heavy contour barrel has ben cold hammer-forged and, most importantly, features “ultra-precise” rifling that delivers better accuracy and easier cleaning. The Hawkeye Varmint Target also features Ruger’s 2-stage trigger, consisting of a “take up” stage, followed by a crisp tension stage.

Chambered in .308 Win and 6.5 Creedmoor, this is a finely tuned piece of target drilling machinery. However, it doesn’t quite have all the bells and whistles offered by the Remington 700 VTR,

RETAIL: \$909

Savage 12-BVSS



For many years, Savage has built quite a business around rifles that cater to the target and varmint-hunting niche. Bull barrels, aggressive styling, and tactical stocks are nothing new for this manufacturer. Savage was doing this before it became cool.

One of Savage's greatest "claims to fame" when it comes to long distance shooting is its famous AccuTrigger. Developed by Savage Arms in 2002, lots of competitive shooters swear by this trigger system and its user-friendly design.

Every shooter has his preference in terms of pull weight, creep, and over-travel. The AccuTrigger's core promise is that shooters can customize their trigger to suit their shooting style.

The 12-BVSS comes outfitted with a heavy stainless steel barrel, which is fluted, no less. It's available in .22-250 Rem, .223 Rem, and .308 Win, quite the donut hole in terms of calibers, but it makes sense when you consider that varmint hunters (the official target market for this rifle) will prefer the smaller calibers, while long-range shooters will opt for the .308 Win.

RETAIL: \$1,039

Howa Classic Heavybarrel Varminter



Howa was a Japanese industrial machinery company that got involved in firearms manufacturing during WWII. Since then, they've become a mainstay for civilian shooters by specializing in heavy barreled hunting rifles that are known for quality, accuracy, and being easy on the wallet. You might think of them as the Honda of rifles.

With its heavy barrel construction, laminated stock with cooling vents and a raised cheek rest, and 2-stage match trigger, the M1500 has been recognized by many as a natural sniper rifle. In fact, the Japanese Nation Police Agency adopted the "Varminter" as its official sniper rifle. It's also reportedly used by Ukraine's Special Forces.

RELATED: [Eyeball Test: Can You Spot These Heavily Camouflaged Snipers?](#)

The rifle itself is pretty plain Jane, which is kind of the beauty of it. Its laminated stock offers some head turning flair, as well as utility. The short action, magazine conversion capabilities, and heavy barrel configurations (stainless or blue) are nice features. The rifle also comes chambered in two of our favorite calibers, .243 Win and .308 Win.

RETAIL: \$650

Tikka T3x TAC



Did we save the best for last? Lots of fanboys of this Finnish rifle manufacturer think so. Regardless, it's very hard to argue that this rifle, which being a bit more expensive than others on this list, won't at least make you feel like you're shooting a helluva lot better.

To be fair, Tikka does offer other variations on the T3x that are under \$1,000, but this one is certainly the most well-appointed version for driving tacks at 800 yards.

The tuned accuracy, heavy barrel, and smooth action are standard fare when it comes to Tikka. The adjustable check rest, fancy recoil pad, integrated picatinny rail, and 5/6 round magazine are what really set this rifle apart from the pack. The T3x is available in .223 Rem, .300 Win Mag, and .308 Win.

RETAIL: \$1,550

Bang for Your Buck: Top 5 Long Range Calibers



For such a high-end and specialized hobby, you'd be surprised by how much agreement there is about the "best" rounds for long-distance shooting. That is, if money is no object. And of course it is.

That's why we've configured our list around calibers that are excellent for distance shooting but also useful for hunting and/or widely available. This is why you won't see the .338 Lapua, .50 BMG, or the .416 Barret on this list.

There are lots of excellent choices that are nearly always available at your local sporting goods store. And for our money, at least, we feel confident that our shooting skills will be the greatest limiting factor, not the size or diameter of our ammunition.

.308 Winchester



First things first, the .308 is by far the most popular sniper round. Despite the constant emergence of “new and improved” 30-caliber rounds, they will always be measured against the .308 Winchester.

The fact is, it’s very hard to improve on this cartridge. The ballistics profile of this round hits the sweet spot, traveling long distances with accuracy and consistency, and it even behaves predictably in the wind.

There are hotter and heavier rounds out there. Certainly, there are trendier ones. The generations of military field-testing behind the .308 makes it unique. The US Army caps the recommended range of the .308 at 1,000 meters.

You could certainly hit a target at over that maximum reliably with the .308, however, if you were so inclined.

.300 Winchester Magnum



When it comes to long-range calibers, the keys are speed and mass. The 300 Win Mag has plenty of both, one of the primary reasons that the US Army has made a push to adopt it in recent years.

This popular hunting cartridge can fling a 150-grain bullet at 3,200 fps, which, as you can imagine, creates quite a bit of momentum and a predictable flight path. Given its raw power, it creates significant recoil, which can be managed by a muzzle break and proper technique.

This round is also widely available at sporting goods stores, with lots of selection to choose from. Reloading is certainly not necessary with the .300 Win Mag. If you do decide you want a very specific set of specs, you can most likely find what you're looking for from one of the trusted ammo brands.

7mm Remington Magnum



Although this cartridge recently celebrated its 50th birthday, it's only gotten better with age (and technological improvements). Because of its excellent reputation, the selection of .284 bullets out there is massive.

The amount of power behind the .284 projectile is impressive as well, pushing the 160-grain version at over 3,000 fps. According to Sniper Central, the 7mm is recommended for military applications out to 1,000 yards. However, its history as a sniper round is primarily within the US Secret Service, not the military.

The combination of velocity and knockdown power has made the 7mm Rem-Mag one of the most popular rounds for big game hunters. The "7 Mag" offers advantages over the .308 at distances, but it is often overshadowed by the bigger .300 Win Mag (including in the recoil department).

Just like with the .300 Win Mag, the popularity of the 7mm Mag is its own benefit. It's widely available in a wide range of configurations.

.30-06 Springfield



If you're looking for bang for your buck, look no further than the .30-06 Springfield. This round served as the primary sniper round for the US from WWI through the first half of Vietnam, when the Army and USMC decided to jointly adopt the .308 as their standard.

Don't let that be the reason you overlook this round because many shooters do. It's inexpensive and available virtually everywhere ammo is sold. Not to mention, many factory made long-range rifles are chambered in .30-06.

The .30-06 can launch a 175-grain bullet at over 2600fps, and many shooters would argue that it has better long-range ballistics than the .308. To top it all off, the recoil from this round isn't nearly as punishing as the .300 Win Mag.

.243 Winchester



For shooters who want long distance capability without the notorious recoil of the 30-calibers (which really should be most of us), there are plenty of smaller calibers that are capable of hitting at 1,000 yards. Plus, it wouldn't be right to overlook all the great 6mm and 6.5mm cartridges out there.

The trouble is, of course, deciding which one to include. Should we go with the .260 Remington or the 6.5 Creedmoor? Both are excellent rounds, and both are considered to have stellar long-range ballistics.

A simple search on the Cabela's website for ammo was the tie-breaker we needed: Both failed.

As we've already discussed, the affordability and availability of ammunition are two of our most important qualifications. While there are literally dozens of manufacturers producing the .243 Win, only a couple were supplying the .260 Remington or 6.5 Creedmoor at scale.

Then we read an interview with champion tactical shooter George Gardner. When asked why he selected the 243 Win for his competition rifle, Gardner answered, "Why would I run anything else? Think about it. I'm sending a .585 BC 115 at 3150 fps—that'll shoot inside the 6XC and .260 Rem with ease. I'm pretty sure I have found the Holy Grail of Comp Rifles."

The .243 uses the same brass as the trusty .308 Winchester, necked down to a 6mm bullet. That gives you the advantage of being able to use .308 magazines interchangeably. There are also a multitude of match grade bullets available, similar to the 30-cals we've listed. The .243 Winchester fires a very fast bullet with a very flat trajectory. The bullet is smaller and lighter, but so is the recoil. If you are into reloading, many shooters prefer the Ackley Improved shell, which can launch a bullet at an impressive 3300fps.

Conclusions

If it seems like we're trying hard to sell the merits of the 6mm category, it's because we really are. Despite the popular notion that heavier bullets make better long-distance cartridges, that really depends on your definition of "long-distance."

If your definition ranges from 400-800 yards, then any of the calibers we've listed are more than capable. If you just can't stand the thought of being limited to 1,000-yard shots, then the .300 Win Mag is probably your best bet.

Does This Gun Suck? Custom Sig P229 Legion RX



By [Chris Baker](#)

1. Introduction: Does This Gun Suck?
2. [Update #1](#)
3. [Update #2](#)

It's a new series! We're going to subject various firearms to a long-term 10,000-round test to answer the question, "does this gun suck?" First up is a custom Sig Sauer P229 Legion RX equipped with a Sig ROMEO1 red dot sight and some custom parts from Grayguns. Find out more about our test in the video below or just scroll down to read the transcript. We'll be posting regular updates here on the blog until the test wraps up in a couple of months, so stay tuned!



CHRIS: There are some guns that people seem to just love to hate. Just their very existence tends to rile up various corners of the Internet. We're going to take some of those guns and actually put them through their paces in a new series we're going to call "Does This Gun Suck?" With us to help us out is our friend John Johnston. John, why don't you tell us — what is the first gun we're going to test?

JOHN: We have a Sig Legion RX P229. "But John, why didn't you do a 226?" Well, for those of you who have been following me for a little while, I shot 226s for quite some time. I already know about those. The 229, however, is not something I have had as much personal experience with. Also, if you're paying attention, this will seem eerily familiar to something that someone else used to do in the past: Todd Louis Green, who was a major influence on me. One of

the last things that he was getting ready to do that he never got a chance to finish was a 229 project. So just all around, it seemed like the right thing to do.



CHRIS: Right, so the late Todd Green, if you're not familiar with his work, it's still live on [Pistol-Training.com](https://www.pistol-training.com). He did a series of blog posts over the years where he would take a gun and just really run it through its paces — thousands and thousands of rounds through it — just to see what happens with a very high round count on some of these guns. We're not trying to duplicate what Todd was doing, but this is kind of inspired by that project. So, we're going to put 10,000 rounds through this gun over the next few months. John is going to do most of that shooting. John, what are we looking for? What are some of the things about this gun that some people might find questionable?

JOHN: Well, there are multiple things that, when you're in the comments section on the Internet (it's a dangerous place), people talk about double action/single action being — you're not able to shoot those to a high degree of performance. Then there are all these questions of, well, "Sig's current quality control is really horrible." Okay, let's find out. And then the optic that we've got on the gun is actually going to be one of the Sig optics, the Romeo 1, which I'm very curious to see—

CHRIS: Sig, their new optic line — well, I guess it's not that new anymore, it's a few years old now, but they're still kind of unproven in the optics category.

JOHN: Yeah, there have been a couple of tests done on them, but — another data point is another data point. And then we've got some aftermarket stuff. Our gun has the [Grayguns](https://www.grayguns.com) Straight Optimized Trigger in it, which is essentially a flat trigger for a double action/single action gun. There's also a Grayguns grip on it. I thought it would be interesting, to me at least, to see what we could do with a gun that, at this point, is 40 years old — the basic design is 30, 40 years old — and how modernized could it be?

CHRIS: So, this is not a purely scientific test, it's kind of a mixture. We're looking at some objective things and we're also going on what your impressions of the gun are after shooting it that much. We're looking at a few things — we're going to track the round count. You're going to meticulously document how much of each type of ammo

you're going to shoot through it. Your maintenance schedule, which, you're not really planning to do much of that, right?

JOHN: No, I'm pretty famous for selling guns before I'll clean them, so the idea of having to clean this on a set schedule is not something that appeals to me. The current plan is that we're going to lube it every 1000 rounds and clean it if I make the determination that it absolutely needs it.

CHRIS: Right, because most modern semi-autos, especially the polymer striker-fired guns that we're all familiar with, they should run and run as long as you keep them lubed. That's typically how it works out. So, if this gun can do the same thing, then it's not the dinosaur a lot of people think it is.



JOHN: Yeah, exactly. And then we're also going to look at performance at the beginning of the test on some standards that I shoot pretty regularly anyway. Compare them to my preferred firearm setup and see — can I equal the same performance with a gun that I selected. And also see what kind of improvement there is after 10,000 rounds. And, hopefully, there should be *some*.

CHRIS: We hope! You'll also be tracking malfunctions — any kind of stoppage or parts breakage or anything like that. We'll try to figure out why it happened, but if the gun runs like it should, there shouldn't be many of those.

JOHN: Right. The industry standard is one malfunction for every 2500 rounds. So, 2500 rounds between failures. So, if this firearm, over the course of 10,000 rounds, experiences four malfunctions or less, that is stellar. Less than that, even better. More than that, ehrrrr — starting to see...

CHRIS: So, we're going to track malfunctions — that includes malfunctions of the optic, if that starts to choke or if the battery fails before it's supposed to or something like that. And we're going to look at the accuracy. We did some group shooting yesterday and we'll shoot some more groups at the very end to see if that 10,000 rounds has had any effect. Has it loosened things up? Has it done something to the barrel? It *shouldn't*, but we'll test it to see.

JOHN: Something that I think it's very safe to say: for an off-the-shelf production non-custom firearm, it's *really* accurate.

CHRIS: Yeah, we were shooting some pretty good groups. We shot five-round groups with several different brands of ammo off a bench rest at 25 yards. It performed best with standard pressure [124-grain Federal HST](#). We were hitting just over an inch with our groups there.

JOHN: I think the other thing is, when you consider it was 36 degrees and blowing rain and lighting conditions were only what I would consider sub-optimal—

CHRIS: Yeah, it was not great environmental conditions for shooting groups, so, all things considered, I think we did pretty good. I don't think we were shooting as well as the gun *can* shoot, but we were getting stuff, like — I was putting four rounds in one hole and then maybe pulling the fifth one off a bit. I think those four rounds are what this gun is capable of.

JOHN: There was a lot of best-of-three or best-of-four that were sub-one-inch. So, I think that if we had a Ransom Rest — a correctly built Ransom Rest — and set it up the right way that the gun is a one-inch gun at 25 yards. I feel safe in saying that. What that means for you guys is that the gun shoots better than you do. That's simply it.

CHRIS: Yeah, so we'll stretch it out to 50 and 100 yards at some point and we'll do the 25-yard groups again at the very end and see what's changed. Other impressions so far, we've got, what, 475 rounds through it?

JOHN: Right.

CHRIS: We have had one malfunction so far. Do you want to talk about that?

JOHN: Yeah, so we had a failure to extract around round number 251, 252. I have some suspicions that, possibly, it could have been ammo-related. But I don't know that for certain. So right now we've got one malfunction out of 475 rounds. Still on track — it happened a little earlier than I would have liked to have seen, but sometimes these things happen.



CHRIS: Yeah, and it's not terribly uncommon to see some of these teething issues at the very beginning and then things kind of smooth out.

JOHN: Yeah, and, so frankly, I don't have an emotional investment one way or another. If the gun does well, that's awesome. If the gun doesn't do well, that's — well... it's an example of one, either way. I'm just very curious to see what happens. Now, I would *like* for the gun to run at least *reasonably* well because I have to live with it for the next 10,000 rounds. Which, I guess, brings up another point. I did modify the gun. The decocker, I trimmed it. The reason for that is that I've run Sigs in the past and it's a modification I've made to every Sig I've ever run just because of how my grip is and I wasn't going to fight through that.

CHRIS: So, it's just an issue where you know that, the way your support hand hits, it can kind of activate the decocker enough to —

JOHN: Cause a malfunction, yeah. And if we end up doing more of these, just so you guys know and it's front-loaded, if I know something coming into it is just something I don't want to deal with for 10,000 rounds, we're going to change it.

CHRIS: Gotta fix it, yeah. So, what we're going to do is post regular updates on our blog. John's going to write up any impressions he has as we go along throughout the test, so check that out. Then at the end, the gun is going to be auctioned off for a charitable cause, right?

JOHN: Well, I think they're going to do a raffle, but yeah, Sig and Grayguns and a bunch of other vendors. It's going to be part of a larger prize package. There are going to be two firearms and bunch of other things as well. There's going to be a raffle sometime around the NRA Show. We don't have all the details yet, you can't buy tickets yet, but you'll have the opportunity to own this exact gun and that's going to benefit Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA). They're doing some great stuff for veterans.

CHRIS: Yeah, so if you like this gun, you'll have a chance to win it and it'll be nice and broken in and it'll have plenty of miles left on it and you'll be helping a charitable cause at the same time.

JOHN: And you'll get another gun and a bunch of other stuff. Maybe I'll, I don't know, I'll throw in my lucky hat... I'm not going to do that. This is my lucky hat. You can't have it. But I'll do something nice.

CHRIS: If you'd like to see us do anything else with this gun over the course of our testing, let us know in the comments and check back for updates later on.

JOHN: Now, when you say "something else with the gun," what — what are some ideas here, because I'm the one who's going to have to do this, Chris.

CHRIS: Maybe... they want you do shoot it in a USPSA match?

JOHN: I might do that.

CHRIS: Shoot it under water?

JOHN: No. No, it's cold.

CHRIS: Go hog hunting with it?

JOHN: Ummmm, that'd be cool.

CHRIS: Jump out of a helicopter with it?

JOHN: Do we have any hogs?

CHRIS: There *are* hogs that need shooting, so I'm sure something could be arranged. If you have a hog and you want John to shoot it with his Sig, let us know.

JOHN: Is this a good time to tell the story about the neighbor's chicken they had me shoot with a 10mm. I think this would make an incredible —

CHRIS: Until next time!

Sig Sauer P229 Legion RX Update #1

Update #1

1,445 Rounds Fired

0 Stoppages

1 Malfunction

0 Parts Breakages

If I had to pick one word to describe what living with the Sig P229 Legion RX for the last 1,500 rounds or so has been like, it would be “**frustrating.**”

To be clear, very little of this is the fault of the gun itself (probably). Mostly, the Legion feels great in the hand. The Grayguns laser-stippled E2 grip and straight optimized trigger only add to the experience. For those that don't know, the Legion is a series of models that add some cosmetic and functional features to the classic P-series guns. The features of particular interest to us (and that still remain on the gun) are an undercut and checkered trigger guard, front cocking serrations, low profile controls, X-ray sights and a beavertail. The RX moniker adds a slide mounted ROMEO1 micro red dot sight.

The first 475 rounds fired through the gun were entirely consumed by zeroing and reliability testing. Somewhat early on, round number 252 failed to extract from the gun. As best I can tell, for some unknown reason, the extractor slipped off the cartridge during the ejection cycle. Either way, it counts as a malfunction against the gun. A failure to extract that early on in the test had me incredibly nervous that we were about to experience a long string of issues. That particular concern has so far proven unfounded, as the gun has fired another 1,100+ rounds without further issue.



LUCKY  GUNNER

The first known standard that I shot with the Legion was The Advanced Super Test. This is something that I shoot very often, and have a lot of stored data on. Generally, I am able to shoot this in the high 280's to low 290's (out of a possible 300) on demand. My personal record on this test is a 297. If you keep in mind that I hadn't shot this particular pistol on any known standards before these rounds, and keeping in mind it is an entirely different trigger system than what I've used recently, the scores are actually not too bad.

First 6 Advanced Super Test Scores:

1. 281
2. 287
3. 279
4. 294
5. 288
6. 286

Average Score: 286

After shooting some more A.S.T.'s I decided to run some [F.A.S.T.'s](#). This is where I encountered my first major complaint about the gun in its current configuration. First, the scores.

First 6 F.A.S.T. Scores:

1. 7.56

2. 5.50
3. 5.45, -1H
4. 5.83, -1H, -1B
5. 5.31, -1H
6. 5.83

Generally, during my own practice sessions, I am able to run this in the mid 4's to low 5's with little trouble. This will occasionally creep into the mid 5's if I'm having an off day. In its current configuration, the Legion P229 is nigh-impossible for me to reload efficiently. Most of this is due to the low-profile slide release that ships standard on the gun. I simply cannot hit it with my strong hand thumb with any reliability.

This leaves two options: using my support side thumb (which I also couldn't do reliably), or running the slide itself with my support hand. Both are slower and it showed. So, my first major complaint about the gun is that for my hands, the slide stop is barely useable. At some point after the 2,000 round mark I'm going to probably end up putting a standard slide release on it.



John shooting a demo with the P229 Legion RX during a class in Glendale, AZ.

My next huge complaint (that I didn't discover until recently teaching a class in Arizona) is that the ROMEO1 is not bright enough for me in direct sunlight. There were multiple times while running demos during my Technical Handgun: Tests and Standards class, (which often has more demanding shooting requirements) that I simply wasn't picking the dot up as quickly as I would with my preferred Trijicon RMR Type 2, because the ROMEO1 could not get any brighter. How big of an issue is this actually? I think this, once again, goes back to personal preference and what level of shooting performance you're looking for.

While talking through a demo and shooting with compromised concentration, I shot what would have been a 100% on the [current FBI qualification](#) (had I not been using a 3"x5" head box as my scoring area). I mention that because I honestly can't tell whether or not my complaints are founded, or if they are nitpicking on my part. More experimentation is required.

So, after almost 1,500 rounds, I'm not quite prepared to say whether or not this gun sucks. As I said at the beginning though, it is frustrating me in several areas. Currently, I absolutely hate the low profile slide release with a burning passion that is hard to describe. I'm going to give it another 500-600 rounds just to see if it grows on me, but I don't think it will. Additionally, I don't like the ROMEO1. Aside from the brightness issue I can't really put my finger on why, but I think it stems from a lack of confidence in the optic itself, which is probably not fair. I'm very curious to find out how I will feel in another few thousand rounds.

The Verdict So Far: Does this gun suck? Maybe.

Sig Sauer P229 Legion RX Update #2

Update #2

2,045 Rounds Fired

0 Stoppages

1 Malfunction

0 Parts Breakages

It's been almost two months since we posted the last update on the Legion 229 RX and I'm sure all of you are wondering what the gun has been up to. The answer to that is, "not very much."

Between SHOT Show and what can only be described as miserable weather, I've not shot the gun much up until yesterday. I had originally intended on using the pistol to teach with, a plan that would have resulted in more rounds having been fired through it at this point, but somewhere between PHX and CVG, I lost all of my magazine pouches for the gun. My continued forgetfulness at sourcing new magazine pouches led an interesting, but very realistic, impromptu test condition. What happens when the gun sits untouched in my safe for a couple of months?



What happened in this instance is the Sig Sauer Romeo1 battery died, sitting still, turned off, in a safe. It was not hard for me to imagine that, instead of stored in my office safe, perhaps this pistol might have been staged in a bedside safe as insurance against a future Very Bad Day. Let's just say picking the gun up and having the dot not work did not inspire much confidence in the optic.

I am John's continued complete and utter disappointment.

Luckily, the local Walgreens carries the CR1632 battery that the optic takes. After a battery swap, the optic was back in working order. In the Romeo1's favor is the ability to change the battery without needing to dismount or re-zero the optic. So, there's that, at least?

After finally getting everything sorted with the dot, I ended up getting 600 rounds of Federal 124-grain American Eagle through the gun in about a two hour period. My primary interest was seeing what on-demand performance I could muster in less than ideal shooting conditions. The air temperature was in the mid 20's, with about a 10 MPH wind. For the on-demand performance tracking portion of this range visit I decided to focus on the [Advanced Super Test](#). I ran six of them back to back, and recorded the results.

Advanced Super Test Scores:

1. 285
2. 275 (295 -20 for 2 rounds over time at the 5-yard string)
3. 293
4. 287
5. 291
6. 286 (296 -10 for 1 round over time at the 5-yard string)

Average Score: 286



Sharp-eyed readers will note that the average score of 286 happens to be the exact same average score I achieved the last time I ran Advanced Super Tests with this gun. For those that are curious about such things, if I had not dropped 30 points over time on the 5-yard strings, the average score would have jumped to a 291. Of course, if I had had the winning lottery numbers last week, I wouldn't be writing this update right now, so at the end of the day it doesn't *actually* matter too much what the average score would have been if the score had been higher.

“But John, didn't the weather suck the last time you were shooting Advanced Super Tests with this gun?” Yes. Yes, it did. I don't *think* this had much impact on the final score, as at this point I'm pretty used to shooting in inclement weather but it is probably worth noting that conditions have been less than ideal for the majority of this test where I was tracking performance.

For rest of the session, I concentrated on skill building, mainly focusing on [Bill Drills](#), Keepers' Tests, and Failure Drills. Presentations, first round accuracy, and follow up shots continue to be incredibly inconsistent for me with the 229. I believe some of the issues stem from the fact that the dot on the Romeo1 is just not very easy to see in brighter conditions. This was an issue when I was shooting in Phoenix and proved to be an issue with snow on the ground. I know that some people are going to claim this has something to do with the size of the dot. It doesn't. The Romeo1 simply does not adjust bright enough for *my* eyes in sunlight to acquire the dot the way I'm used to.

As for the pistol itself? The [Grayguns](#) upgraded parts add immense functionality to the gun. If you dig the classic P-series pistols, and you're not “Upgrayding” them, you should probably fix yourself. The 229 continues to be more accurate than I am by a wide margin and I have certainly owned pistols in the past I was able to outshoot. Additionally, and this may not be readily obvious to some, it's no small thing for the 229 to have been able to sit for months, get pulled out of the safe, and then function perfectly over the course of 600 rounds in a few hours.

Now that the weather is *somewhat* nicer and since the gun is still going to be given away at the NRA show in April, expect more frequent updates moving forward. For now, the jury is still out on the Legion 229. As far as the Romeo1 optic, though, I think we've reached a decision regarding it...

The Verdict So Far:

Does this gun suck? Maybe.

Does this optic suck? All signs point to “yes.”

<https://www.firearmsnews.com/editorial/b-t-unveils-usw-g17-glock-chassis/357848>

B&T Unveils USW-G17 Glock Chassis

Jim Grant - March 04, 2019



The author enjoys the idea of increasing the effective range, and controllability of handguns by adding both a stock and optic sight.

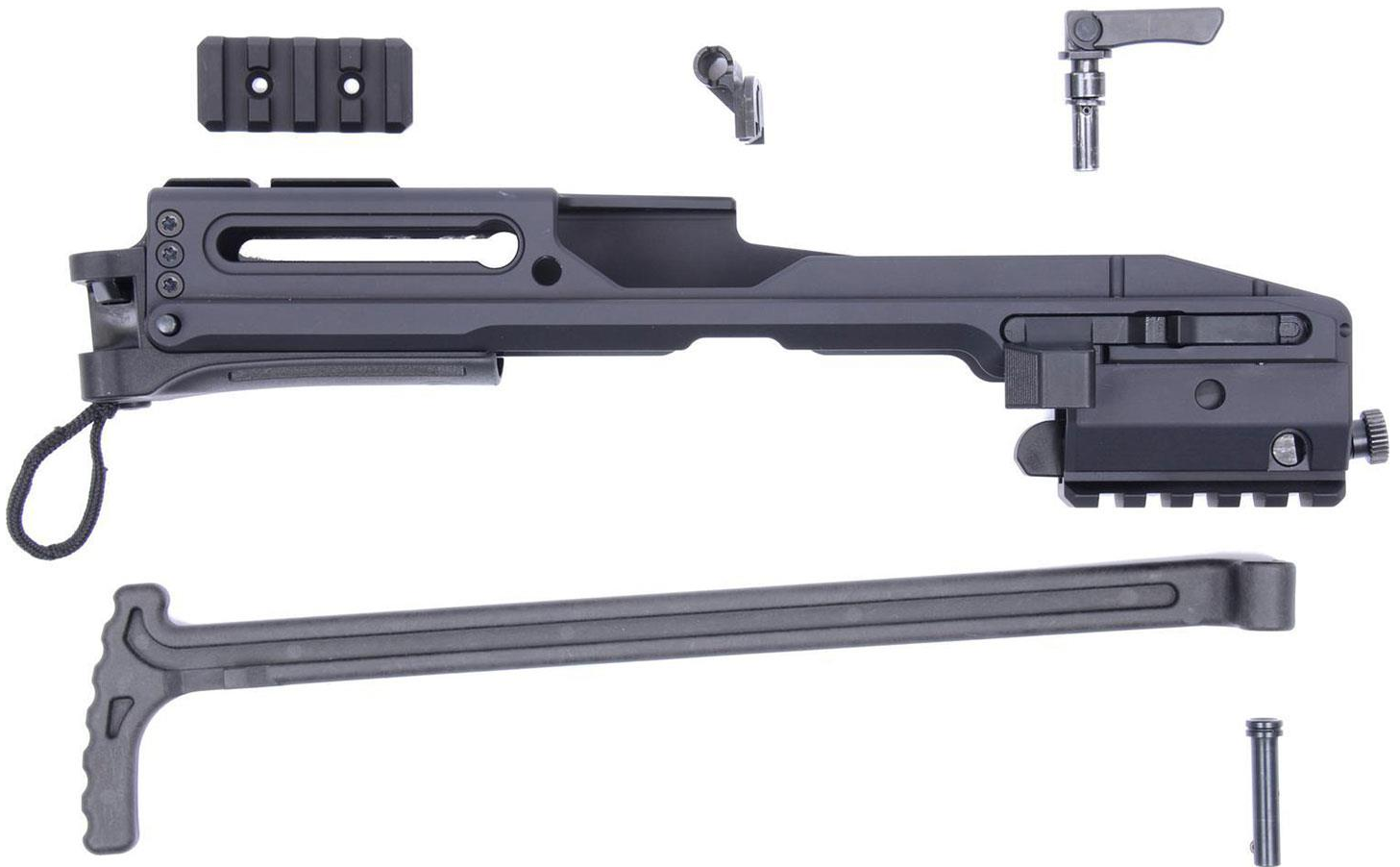
In 2016, B&T created a ton of hype when it showcased its PDW-esque Universal Service Weapon at SHOT Show. The firearm was a purpose-built handgun with a stock based heavily on the CZ-75 series of semi-automatic pistols.

ADVERTISING

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While ingenious, the firearm required the shooter to purchase a proprietary gun that while high quality, didn't enjoy the prolificacy of other military and law-enforcement handguns. So despite critical acclaim, the USW hasn't seen the success B&T likely hoped for.

In response, the engineers at B&T apparently decided to release a conversion kit for an existing handgun design, rather than develop one from scratch - the USW-G17.



Based on this stripped down photo of the new USW-G17, the author believes the new chassis will offer ambidextrous controls, but be limited to Glocks with full-sized slides.

The USW-G17 is a carbine chassis for the Glock 17, which permits use of a reflex sight, shoulder stock and forward Picatinny rail. - Of course converting a Glock with this kit requires first registering it as an SBR, since it will be legally considered a super short rifle.

That said, it's an interesting take on a 100+ year old concept: extend the effective range of soldiers and officers armed solely with a handgun. Whether that was Imperial German infantry armed with C96 Mauser pistols equipped with wooden shoulder stocks, or B&T's aluminum and polymer chassis - the idea remains unchanged.



The USW-G17 doesn't have a formal release date or price point for North America yet, but shooters can expect a formal announcement of these relatively soon.

As far as pricing and availability, nothing has been formally announced as of yet, but if it follows the same distribution model as other B&T products, it will be available soon in Europe, and a few months later in America. Hopefully more information will become available soon, and maybe Americans will get a brace model offered as well.

For more information, visit [//www.bt-ag.ch/](http://www.bt-ag.ch/).

Medium-Bore Match-Up: .38 Special vs 9mm

By Elwood Shelton - December 31, 2018



That said, if you sit down and rattle off the .38 Special and 9mm's virtues, you'll end up with nearly identical lists. To start, both are relatively versatile for medium-bore handgun cartridges. Shot out of the right gun, they're accurate and mild recoiling. Both have more than proven their worth as self-defense options. And each is economical, plentiful and just plain fun to shoot.

From that perspective, they almost seem echoes of each other, maybe even a bit redundant. Heck, only two-thousandths of an inch separate their diameters — .357 in .38 Special and .355 for 9mm. So, everything laid bare, does it really matter who comes out on top in .38 Special vs 9mm?

Like so many aspects of the gun world, the answer isn't as clear-cut as picking one or the other. Both are proven and excel at similar applications. But as is so often the case, each shines a bit more than the other for certain shooters.

.38 Special: The Persistent Revolver Cartridge

For a rather notorious cartridge, the .38 Long Colt had a particularly large influence on firearms and ammunition development. Its poor showing against Moro Rebels in the 1900s not only led to the eventual adoption of the .45 ACP and Colt 1911 by the U.S. Military, but also spurred the development of what would become one of the most prolific cartridges of the 20th Century — the .38 Special.



Starting life in 1899 as a black powder cartridge, the .38 Special was essentially an elongated .38 Long Colt that offered greater case capacity. In turn, the .38 Special generated greater velocities as well as shot heavier bullets, which added up to greater penetration potential — an asset sorely lacking in the .38 Long Colt. Proving extremely popular shot from the Smith & Wesson K-frame Military & Police revolver, the cartridge was soon switched over to the modern marvel of the day — smokeless powder.

Given the respectable velocities for its time and the fact it was a kitten to shoot, the .38 Special became the primary service revolver caliber of most American law-enforcement agencies over the decades. Early on, the typical defensive load was a 158-grain lead semi-wadcutter hollowpoint, though later a 200-grain soft-cast lead round nose “Super Police” load became common, offering officers a bullet that yawed upon impact and created a larger wound canal.

Generally pushing bullets around 700 to 1,000 fps, the cartridge was quickly overshadowed by magnum and high-pressure semi-automatic pistol cartridges as years wore on. Furthermore, almost exclusively a revolver round (yes, there are a few exceptions), the 5- and 6-round guns chambered for it paled in capacity to the double-stack pistols that started to dominate in the last quarter of the century.

.38 Smith & Wesson Special Loading Data and Factory Ballistics

Bullet (grains/type)	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Energy	Source/Comments
110 JHP	Bullseye	4.7	1,000	244	Hornady, Speer, Sierra
125 JHP	231	5.5	1,000	278	Sierra, Speer, Nosler
140 JHP	2400	10.4	950	281	Speer, Sierra
158 JHP	Herco	5.0	900	284	Speer, Nosler, Sierra
148 WC	Bullseye	3.1	800	210	Speer, Hornady
95 JHP	FL	FL	1,175	291	Factory load
110 JHP	FL	FL	995	242	Factory load
125 JHP	FL	FL	945	248	Factory load
130 FMS	ML	ML	950	260	Military load
148 WC	FL	FL	710	132	Factory load
150 LRN	FL	FL	890	270	Factory load
158 Hard Core Cast +P	FL	FL	1,250	548	Buffalo Bore Factory Load
200 LRN	FL	FL	730	236	Factory load

From *Cartridges of the World, 15th Edition*.

The cartridge’s saving grace was the concealed carry movement of the past few decades. Double-action revolvers are among the easiest and most reliable handguns around — simply aim, pull the trigger and they go bang. This sort of dependability appealed to some armed citizen, particularly those who didn’t wish to master a semi-auto’s more complex manual of arms. Furthermore, material advancements shrunk down .38 revolvers to the point they became some of the easiest handguns to carry. Think the polymer-framed Ruger LCR or aluminum-framed Smith & Wesson Model 642. Next to

nothing weight-wise, the revolvers not only became a staple for those seeking the utmost convenience, but were light enough they gained popularity as insurance-policy backup guns.

There's little arguing, the .38 Special is a bit of a throwback to a different era of handgun cartridges, but its usefulness has far from run its course.

9mm: Perhaps The Perfect Pistol Cartridge

In 1901, you would have gotten some funny looks had you claimed this little German cartridge would become among the most consequential ammo advancements of the last 100 years. Going further and maintaining it would be among the most utilized centerfire cartridges of all time, heck they might have shipped you off to a nice comfortable rubber room.



Georg Luger's upstart flew in the face of most conventional wisdom of the time — the 9mm wasn't a revolver cartridge and it wasn't big bore. Yet, it succeed and for an important reason — it was designed for semi-automatic pistols and came at a watershed moment when the advancement in handguns got its footing. Not to mention, the 9mm offered plenty of advantages in the breakthrough system.

Going down the list, the 9mm ticks off almost every box for desirable pistol cartridge traits. It was accurate and easy to shoot. It was possible to chamber small pistols for the

cartridge. And, perhaps most importantly, it offered the potential firepower once only dreamed about when it came to handguns. There's plenty of peace of mind in 15-plus rounds, standard capacity of most double-stack 9mms today.

Given it was designed to use smokeless powder, from the start the 9mm operated under much higher pressures than the .38 Special and generated greater velocities. The maximum pressure for standard loads today is 35,000 psi. And, depending on the bullet weight (it shoots between 115 and 147 grain), generally the cartridge generated somewhere around 1,000 to 1,300 fps of velocity at the muzzle. Lively, the cartridge, in most loads, not only meets FBI penetration standards, but it also works well with most jacketed hollow point bullets, ensuring the projectiles reached their maximum expansion diameter. This is particularly true with the new generation of bullets engineered for controlled expansion.

9mm Luger (9x19mm Parabellum, 9mm Luger +P) Loading Data and Factory Ballistics

Bullet (grains/type)	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Energy	Source/Comments
100	Unique	5.1	1,150	294	Hornady
115	Herco	6.0	1,200	368	Speer
115	Bullseye	4.8	1,250	399	Speer, Hornady, Sierra
115	231	5.2	1,150	338	Speer, Hornady, Sierra
124/125	Unique	5.5	1,150	364	Speer, Sierra
124/125	700X	4.3	1,150	364	Speer, Sierra
80 TAC-XP JHP	FL	FL	1,560	433	DoubleTap Factory Load
115 FMJ	FL	FL	1,160	345	Factory load
124 JHP	FL	FL	1,300	465	Buffalo Bore Factory Load
124 FMJ	ML	ML	1,299	465	Military load, U.S.
124 FMJ	FL	FL	1,120	345	Factory load
147 JHP	FL	FL	975	310	Factory load

From *Cartridges of the World, 15th Edition*.

Over the years, militaries and law enforcement recognized these advantages and have flocked to the 9mm. Accordingly, the “Nine” has also become a favorite of armed citizens, who seek not only the assets of the cartridge, but also the guns chambered for it. Perhaps no other cartridge has more options to send it flying. In turn, especially from a defensive standpoint, you're likely to find exactly the gun to meet your needs — be it a pistol to maximize your capacity or on one to cut down your carry profile.

.38 Special vs 9mm: Guns

There's an old misconception the .38 Special is ideal for novices. That is, given the simplicity with which a double-action revolver operates, the tame cartridge makes it perfect for new shooters learning the ropes. In a sense, this is true, if you're talking about a 4-inch barreled revolver and up. Not so much when discussing many of the popular carry models.



Take the Ruger LCR, for instance. At 13.5 ounces, the ultra-light revolver's recoil can prove quite stout. For instance, shooting Hornady's 125-grain American Gunner ammo it generates a bit more than 7 ft/lbs of recoil energy. This is nearly twice the amount you'll get from the same load in a 4.2-inch barreled Ruger SP101. With the latter, of course, you have a much larger gun you have to contend with, a drawback for concealment. If it's a plinker or competition gun, this might not matter a lick.

To be fair, you have to deal with the same physics with micro 9mm pistols. The Ruger LC9s generates around 8 ft/lbs of recoil energy spitting out Hornady's 124-grain Custom ammo. Yet, this can become considerably more bearable given the pistol's assets. It offers the 9mm's superior ballistics (210 fps more muzzle velocity than the aforementioned

.38 load), more capacity (three more rounds) and greater concealment potential. Admittedly, there are hairs to split on the last point, but generally, semi-autos offer a much slimmer profile than revolvers, making them easier to keep under wraps.



OK, so what? You'll get used to the recoil, what you care about reliability. Good point, on average a .38 Special revolver will experience fewer malfunctions than a 9mm pistol. Yet, the good ol' revolver isn't immune to failures and the argument exists that when a wheelgun fails it's much more catastrophic than a pistol. There's no simple "tap and rack" to solve something like a pulled bullet or a stuck case in a revolver; in many circumstances getting it in working order involves tools — not ideal if your life depends on getting the gun back into the fight.

.38 Special vs 9mm: Concealed Carry

Overall, it's difficult to argue that when it comes to concealed carry, for most modern shooters the 9mm edges out the .38 Special. As mentioned before, the semi-auto pistol cartridge offers better ballistics, is chambered in larger-capacity guns, of which there is a

greater selection and, for the most part, are easier to conceal. Certainly, semi-auto pistols do require more practice to become competent, given the greater odds of having to solve a malfunction. Though, to many, this is a small trade-off.



It takes a five-shot and a six-shot .38 snub to equal the 11 rounds of 9mm held in the Glock 26, shown at right with Tactical Advantage sights.

With that said, the .38 Special is no slouch. Over the years, it has more than proven itself a capable self-defense cartridge and in recent times has benefited from the advancements in ammunition. In the right hands and with the proper round, there's no reason to believe the tried-and-true revolver cartridge won't perform admirably in a self-defense situation. Additionally, a streamlined manual of arms, mastering most of the guns chambered for it is generally a simpler task. While it may not be most people's first choice any longer, it is no less a valid choice overall.

.38 Special vs 9mm: Versatility

Stepping away from defensive applications, the one area the .38 Special perhaps has an edge on the 9mm is versatility, particularly on two fronts: guns and reloading. To the former, since it is the parent of the .357 Magnum, it is possible to shoot the .38 in nearly any gun chambered for the larger cartridge. This is a benefit from the standpoint that it is normally less expensive per round than the magnum and a magnitude less punishing to shoot. To the latter, given it has more case to work with the .38 also has more potential

on the reloading bench. With experience and understanding about its capabilities, a handloader can get a lot out of the cartridge.

.38 Special vs 9mm: Ammunition



The .38 Special won't break the bank by any stretch of the imagination. At the same tick, it still won't outdo the 9mm for economy. Outside of the .22 LR, there is perhaps no more cost-effective option out there — especially when talking centerfire cartridges. A quick survey of LuckyGunner.com gives a good example. At their cheapest, the .38 Special comes in at around .25 cents per round, the 9mm .14 cents — roughly a whole three more rounds per dollar spent. Over a long afternoon shooting that adds up.

Parting Shot

There is no doubt modern shooters have embraced the 9mm and for good reason. Of nearly all handgun cartridges on the market today, it is among the most well-rounded and allows even new shooters the ability to become proficient. Furthermore, dominating the gun world as it has, the 9mm just plain has more options when it comes to firearms. You're more likely to find a gun to fit exactly what you need, be it a service-pistol for

your nightstand or a single stack for your belt holster. Finally, as a result of ammunition advancements, it will perform in the direst circumstances.

Nevertheless, the .38 Special is still around for more than just the sake of nostalgia. While overall it doesn't offer all the advantages of the 9mm, it remains a very competent cartridge, one of which many still trust their lives. Arguably, the cartridge takes a bit more research to find the optimal defensive round, but for those who desire the reliability of a revolver that's a small hurdle.

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/digest/mossberg-mc1sc/>

Mossberg Unveils New Striker-Fired Subcompact 9mm, the MC1sc

by JORDAN MICHAELS on JANUARY 3, 2019



O.F. Mossberg & Sons announced today the launch of the [MC1sc](#), the company's first foray into the already-crowded subcompact 9mm handgun marketplace.

The rifle and shotgun manufacturer hopes their 100 years of gunsmithing expertise have prepared them to enter one of the most popular handgun categories, and the MC1sc's spec sheet indicates that they've developed a competitive offering.

The striker-fired, polymer-framed handgun comes with a 6-round flush-fit magazine and a 7-round extended magazine. It measures 6.25 inches long, 1.03 inches wide, and 4.3 inches high. It weighs 19 ounces (with empty magazine) and uses a 3.4-inch barrel.

For comparison, the Glock 43 features almost the exact same specifications, but Mossberg's handgun beats the Austrians' on price: at \$421 MSRP, the MC1sc will likely run \$50-60 less than the 43 [on the street](#). The MC1sc also includes two components that distinguish it from its competitors. The handgun comes standard with what Mossberg calls Clear-Count™ single-stack magazines. These mags are constructed from a "transparent, lubricious polymer compound" that allows the user to see the type and number of rounds in each magazine. Mossberg has confirmed to GunsAmerica that the MC1sc will accept Glock magazines as well.

The MC1sc also uses a takedown mechanism that requires the user to remove the striker assembly before disassembling the handgun for cleaning. While this sounds more like an impediment than a feature, it ensures safe takedown and doesn't require users to pull the trigger before disassembly. Also, based on the company's description, the process looks like a simple matter of removing the rear slide plate and racking the slide.

Other features include a flat-faced, 5-6-pound trigger, aggressive grip texturing, and a serrated slide.

The MC1sc is available in four varieties, depending on the desired sighting system and safety mechanism. The standard model is available with or without a cross-bolt safety and comes with white, three-dot sights. Mossberg also offers the MC1sc with TRUGLO Tritium Pro sights or a Viridian laser.

To celebrate its 100-year anniversary, the company is manufacturing a 1000-unit run of the MC1sc Centennial Limited Edition, which features 24 karat gold accents engraved on the slide, Titanium Nitride-finished barrel and metal small parts, and special serial number. The MSRP for the Centennial model is \$686.

For more information visit Mossberg.com.

Top 6 “Tactical Revolvers” You Didn’t Know Had Accessory Rails



Photo:

Calguns

We’re big fans of wheel guns here at Patriot Caller. It’s hard to say exactly why revolver junkies have this particular affliction, when there are so many amazing semi-automatic pistols out there.

For some, it’s just a simplicity thing. For others, it’s an issue of familiarity.

Plus, there’s just the cool factor...

John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, Charles Bronson, etc... When you see these guys, what type of gun is in their hands? It’s almost always a revolver.

One question we get over and over here is, are there any revolvers that have accessory rails? You know, to attach tactical lights, laser sights, etc.

It’s not something we’d looked into much, since we assumed most revolver types wouldn’t want any furniture on their sleek and functional wheel guns. But based on how often this topic comes up, we were just dead wrong.

Turns out, several household names in the world of revolvers already knew this. And revolver fanatics don’t have to miss out on the fun of lasers, LED torches, etc. Now, without further ado, here are the 5 revolvers that come with a factory equipped accessory rails...

S&W Thunder Ranch 325



This revolver, designed by the S&W Performance Center in collaboration with Thunder Ranch President Clint Smith, is just a damn cool .45ACP revolver from start to finish.

For starters, yes, it does come equipped with a factory accessory rail. Clint teaches techniques utilizing a white light that can be easily attached or removed from the rail. There are several light/laser sights combinations that would work with this system as well.

As a S&W Performance Center firearm, the designers have added a few super nice upgrades that aren't as easy to spot as the rail. The hammer is forged as well as the trigger, with a built-in trigger stop.

This is a scandium framed revolver, making it a little lighter than most. The front sight is interchangeable, the locking bolt has been removed allowing the cylinder to spin more freely, and the action has been hand tuned (as it is with all Performance Center firearms).

Rhino 40DS – .40S&W



If you want something that turns heads at the range, but not necessarily because it's graceful and elegant (it ain't), the Chiappa (pronounced "Key-ahh-puh") Rhino 40DS may just be for you.

It's blocky and esoteric-looking, and it's actually kind of hard to figure out where the barrel is from the side (it actually where the push rod would typically be).

But we supposed beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And if you're holding the Rhino 40DS, you most certainly have a 6-shot revolver with an accessory rail in your hands.

In fact, this unusual looking revolver is just begging for a laser sight, in our opinion — to buck tradition if for no other reason...

It seems fitting for a revolver that fires from the bottom of the cylinder. Probably the most unusual characteristic of the Rhino is, apart from its looks, is the fact that the recoil goes straight into your palm, reducing that old "muzzle flip."

Taurus Judge with Rail



Like many judges out there in our court system, this revolver is no lightweight (1.76 pounds). The Judge also packs an interesting versatility, firing both .45 LC and .410 cartridges (5 of them).

Also versatile is the number of configurations and barrel lengths offered by Taurus. If you're searching for the Judge with a factory rail, it will be outfitted with a 3" barrel.

Since this gun is bulky, it's a good choice for a home defense weapon. As such, we believe a tactical rail system is almost mandatory for lights and/or accessories. It's late, you can't find your readers, and you need your vision more than ever... think about it.

As of this writing, there were 13 different configurations of the Judge listed for sale on the Taurus website, some with very long barrels, some with large comfy grips. Customizations will probably inflate the price tag a bit, but some upgrades may be worth the money.

With a 3-inch barrel, the Judge isn't going to replace your shotgun. It will turn some heads at the range, however.

Dan Wesson 715



This might just be the coolest revolver on the whole list... for a real deal wheel gun junkie.

The Dan Wesson 715 is the latest in the esteemed DW revolver lineage, which includes the classic Model 15. For shooters who favor a simple yet elegant (and extra large) piece of stainless steel sculpture, the 715 is hard to beat.

With a noticeably short double action pull, this gun barely blinks when you put .38 Specials through it. Of course, the .357 Mag is a little more lively, but this 47oz weapon mutes the recoil with ease.

While it doesn't have a Picatinny style rail under the barrel, it does have a large raised rail on top. Perfect for a scope or... a red dot (one of our favorite toys).

S&W Model 327 TRR8/M&P R8



Photo: Calguns

These two eccentric wheel guns are examples of the love it or leave class of revolvers, especially when you consider it's from the Smith & Wesson lineage.

If you're a tactical or combat shooting gear head, this revolver is probably right up your alley. If you're more a traditionalist, it's not real clear why S&W would build a big N-Frame revolver like this with a clunky tactical rail that will probably dramatically alter its holster compatibility (particularly with a laser or light attached).

The answer is simple, these two guns were designed with a specific law enforcement user in mind: SWAT shield carriers.

As the story goes, many of the most heralded semi-autos (Glock, H&K, Colt 1911s) were standard issue for the shield carrier for many years based on their rock solid reliability and stout firepowers. There was just one problem; these weapons proved pretty unreliable in this one application.

Why? The slide action would get interrupted by slapping into the shield. Thus, misfires and other malfunctions were common. SWAT folks asked S&W if they could come up with a revolver that could build a gun specifically for the point man on the



entry teams.



Now, back to these two revolvers themselves. For starters, they're more or less interchangeable. Both have the same Performance Center pedigree, both share a scandium alloy N-Frame, and both support accessory rails. The both have 8-round cylinders to house .357 Mag or .38 Special rounds.

Korth Super Sport .357



This big honkin' German made wheel gun is nothing short of a conversation starter... or finisher, depending on the situation.

One thing is for sure, it's a very unique, almost to the point of novelty, weapon. But if you're wondering, does it have a tactical rail from the factory, the answer is well... *yep*.

Actually, the Super Sport has 3 fairly long rails, one on each side and along the top. What's the actual benefit of all these rails? We suppose they help to justify the \$2500 price tag.

Don't get us wrong, we'd love to shoot this piece. It's a bit pricey for the collection though.

First Look: Walther Q5 Match SF

James Tarr - January 01, 2019



Just being announced today is the new Q5 Match SF (Steel Frame) competition pistol from Walther, but Guns & Ammo was present at the super-secret media rollout of this pistol last month at the U.S. Shooting Academy in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We came away highly impressed with this pistol, and here's what you need to know about this new (and arguably improved) version of Walther's very successful Q5 Match:

1. The new Walther Q5 Match SF will be available in two models, the Standard and the Pro. The Pro model comes complete with a large extended aluminum magazine well and three 17-round magazines. These magazines are the standard Walther PPQ 15-round magazines wearing +2 extended basepads so they can be easily seated into the large magazine well. This model weighs 42 ounces. The Standard model does away with the magazine well and is supplied with three flush PPQ 15-round magazines and weighs 41 ounces. The MSRP of the Standard model is \$1400, and the Pro model is an additional \$100.

2. Steel isn't the whole story. Some people might say that the only difference between the Q5 SF and the original version is what material makes up the frame. That's not the case. Yes, the SF model replaces the polymer of the original Q5 frame with steel, but there's more. The new tweaked-for-competition SF features an extended full-length frame rail which adds weight just where it will do the most good, a beavertail at the back of the frame to eliminate the chances of

getting bit by the slide, checkering on the front strap and the front of the trigger guard, wrap-around textured polymer grips, and (on the Pro model) a sizable magazine well.

3. The Walther Q5 Match SF offers all the same competition features of the original Q5 Match, which is designed to be ready for any kind of action pistol competition out of the box. The front sight has a red fiber optic insert. The rear sight is fully adjustable, and mounted on a removable plate. Walther provides just about every mounting plate you might need to attach your choice of mini red dot to the slide if you desire. Each pistol is supplied with three magazines. And, of course, the Q5 SF features the same excellent Quick Defense Trigger pull found on all Walther PPQs, which they advertise at 5.6 pounds but is usually lighter.

4. Guns & Ammo got some serious hands-on time with the Q5 Match SF this past December at the U.S. Shooting Academy, where the challenging range conditions resembled the frozen tundra. We shot at distance as well as running a short USPSA-style high-speed course, and burned through magazine after magazine making steel targets ring. It is obvious that this is a serious pistol designed by people who know their stuff. The new grips are nicely textured and combined with the frontstrap checkering the pistol just doesn't move in the hand while shooting. That extra weight in the frame definitely keeps muzzle rise down, and keeps the pistol steadier when transitioning between targets. Trigger pull was (as expected) excellent. The sights are everything you might want or need. And the big magazine well on the Pro model makes speed reloads stupid simple.

5. Get ready for new accessories. The standard polymer-framed PPQ and Q5 Match feature interchangeable backstraps. The Q5 Match SF instead has wraparound polymer grips, but Walther will soon be offering replacement grips of various sizes and materials, such as G10 laminate. If you buy a Standard model and decide you want to upgrade, Walther will be selling the magazine well, both in black and Walther blue to match the Q5's blue trigger. And, finally, Walther will be selling a competition spring kit, with heavier, standard, and a reduced weight spring that will bring the trigger pull down to roughly 3.5 pounds while keeping the gun drop safe.

6. This is just the start. The folks at Walther told us that the Q5 SF wasn't just a one and done. They plan to introduce a whole line of PPQ-derived pistols with steel frames aimed at duty and concealed carriers. While the Q5 SF is aimed at the competition market it would make an excellent tactical pistol with or without a weaponlight clamped on the longer frame rail. G&A can't wait to see what Walther does with compact/carry versions of this new frame.

There's a lot more to say about this new and exciting pistol. For a full review, look for it in an upcoming issue of Guns & Ammo!

For more information, visit www.waltherarms.com.

Hellfire Unleashed: XL-18 Flamethrower Full Review

by GERHARD MAALE on JANUARY 6, 2019



Lighting up the night with the XL-18

Packing a 3-gallon capacity gas tank, the Throwflame XL-18 is capable of spewing flames at over 100 feet! This is definitely not a toy. It is the most powerful and expensive flamethrower available. The XL-18 retails right around \$3,199 but if you want the best, this is it. It's also the only one with a few practical applications.

Background



WWII M2-2 Flamethrower

A flamethrower is a device that shoots pressurized fuel ignited by a pilot flame. They were first used in WWI to flush people out of trenches. During WWII the United States Army used the M-1 and M-2 flamethrowers for clearing bunkers and machine gun nests. Flamethrowers in the United States are completely unregulated and legal to own in every state, except California and Maryland (I'm not an attorney so don't quote me on that. But that's my understanding of the law).

Obviously with something as powerful as the XL-18 you can get into serious legal trouble discharging in a populated area. Throwflame has been in business since 2014 and they are based out of Cleveland, OH. Before the XL-18 they had the X-15 which retails for \$1,600 and has a maximum range of 50 ft.



Is it practical?

There are a few practical uses for it other than being the Rockstar at the family BBQ on the Fourth of July. Law enforcement and military units in South American and Asian countries use them for burning drug production sites. Farmers use them regularly for starting controlled burns and land management in agricultural areas. Some New Englanders claim to use them for ice and snow removal from driveways and sidewalks.

Science

Lots of you may be wondering how safe it is to strap a pressurized fuel system to your back, but the XL-18 has proven to be safe during our testing. The system is designed using CO₂, which acts as a fire suppression system and keeps the flame from moving back into the gun. As the fuel is used up, the CO₂ occupies the empty space in the gas tank making it impossible for a lit flame to enter the tank. It is also a closed loop system meaning atmospheric air cannot get into the system. Old WWII flamethrowers used nitrogen to pressurize the tanks, but CO₂ works better since it liquefies at a lower pressure giving you more output with consistent pressure. There are two regulators in the system, preventing liquid fuel from entering the CO₂ tank.

First Impressions

The XL-18 arrived carefully packed with everything we needed. Our XL-18 came with two jugs of napalm and a regulator. They also included 5 CO₂ canisters. They usually only come with one canister and no napalm, but I

would recommend buying extras and a few gallons of the napalm. They offer different packages that contain different add-ons.



XL-18 all put together.

My first thoughts when I picked up the XL-18 is this is absolutely the real deal. Everything is industrial grade and well made. The tank is made from steel and the backpack frame is aluminum tubing. The hand grip, trigger, and fore grip are powder coated 6061-T6 aluminum. The shoulder padding is thick and comfortable to wear for prolonged periods of time. Adjustable waist straps function as they should to secure the unit in place. It distributes the 45 lbs. surprisingly well. The fuel hose going to the spray gun is an industrial strength high-pressure 3/4" hose. Each fitting is wrapped in blue Teflon creating a completely sealed, leak-free system. The only thing that I did not like initially was the pilot flame ignition. It is a piezo (BBQ) lighter and for the price of the XL-18 I thought it should have been more robust. The ignition spark it created was a bit weak for the application.

Specs

Weight	45 lbs
Dimensions	36 x 16 x 16 in
Fuel	The XL18 can use any commonly available liquid fuel. For best results without napalm, diesel produces maximum range and the longest burn times. With napalm, 70% diesel and 30% gasoline mixture works well.
Fuel Capacity	3.3 gallons (12.5 litres)
Operating pressure	<1,000 PSI
Max Range	110ft (33.5m) achieved with standard tip and 80% diesel and 20% gasoline mix at 500psi
Hose	4ft high-pressure hose with swivel mount
Seals	Each flamethrower is equipped with specialized high-pressure O-Rings tailored exclusively for flame throwing fuel. Eliminates the chance of seal degradation and leaks.
Torch	Windproof – push button start for ease of lighting. Pressure regulated to burn in all directions.

Setup

The manual recommends testing it with water first to make sure nothing was damaged in shipping. When I tested with water, I was blown away by how powerful and far the water went. It also has a surprising amount of recoil. I shot it off the canal dock and it sent a stream clear across the canal into the neighbor's yard on the other side approximately 65 ft. away. Based on this observation, this could also be used as a riot dispersal tool filled with a water-pepper spray mix.

Napalm

A note on napalm. It is a thickened version of fuel that is more of a gel than a liquid, so when put into a flamethrower the fuel is expelled more like a liquid than an aerosolized gas. This makes the stream hold together tighter and travel further. It also allows a longer burn time.

Mixture



Napalm powder mix acts as a fuel thickener. It's basically powdered soap.



Adding the Napalm solution to the Diesel/Gas mixture.

The directions are vague on what happens when you use different fuel mixtures, but what I found is that most everything worked. Different fuel mixtures change the distance shot, the rate it fired, and how combustible it was. The manual says you should use 80% diesel mixed with 20% gasoline to get the best results with the napalm fuel thickener. The instructions say to mix 1 oz of napalm with every gallon but this did not work. When combined, the napalm powder stuck together into clusters that could not be broken. The instructions also said it could be mixed with alcohol first. Combining alcohol first with the napalm powder was the key. We dissolved one 1 oz of the napalm mixture into 91% isopropyl alcohol. This was then mixed slowly with the diesel/gas mixture. I did three gallons at a time and that would fill the whole tank. We also experimented with 50% diesel and 50% gas and it caused the napalm to burn faster, brighter, and created a wider fire stream. Using pure diesel got the most consistent results but did have the same range as the napalm mixture. The more napalm added to the mixture made the fire stream smaller, but it would go farther.

Tank Setup

After you mix the fuel and fill the tank you install the regulator. Make sure the regulator is closed and set to the off position before installing the CO2 canister. Then screw on the CO2 canister to pressurize the tank. Finally, connect the butane for the pilot light, set your pressure on the regulator and you are ready to fire.



Filling the XL-18. Almost ready.



Finally screwing on the regulators so we can pressurize the tank.

Performance

Firing it for the first time was an unforgettable experience. It creates flames at a magnitude YouTube videos do not prepare you for. I have never been exposed to anything that hot before. It was blistering and blinding at the same time. You can easily feel the heat 50' behind the operator. Depending on the fuel mixture and the pressure you could get between 5-15 seconds of shooting per tank. While the excitement doesn't last long, it is long enough to destroy anything in its path. Note: sandals are not recommended, and double check wind direction before firing.

Throwflame claims the XL-18 shoots 110 feet, which is accurate, but I found that the distance and duration are both dependent on the fuel mixture ratio and pressure settings. Using the 80/20 preferred diesel gasoline napalm mixture I was able to easily set a pallet on fire at 90 feet. The longest duration burns were at a pressure of 250 psi using the 80/20 diesel gasoline napalm mixture. These burns lasted around 10 seconds. I found the optimal pressure setting to be between 250-300 psi. This is also what Throwflame had advised.



The neighborhood was just as impressed as we were.

Problems

The first time we tested it, we were not using the regulator because it did not come attached to the unit and there were no instructions on how to install it. This caused a lot of headaches. Without the CO2 properly regulated the pressure in the whole system was between 800-1000 psi. The high-pressure fuel mixture would extinguish the pilot flame. The shortest duration burns were at a pressure of 800 psi, and this would create a giant monster fireball/mushroom cloud and then extinguish the pilot light. After talking with Throwflame we fixed the problem by installing the regulator and not using it above a pressure of 500 psi. Another problem we experienced when using the XL-18 was the piezo lighter for the pilot torch. If the pressure setting on the butane tank was not turned all the way down, it would not light.

Conclusions

Once we figured out the best setting for the pilot torch it performed consistently. The stream of fire was tight and easy to control versus the fireball originally achieved. This is a one-of-a-kind piece to add to your collection, and a blast to shoot. There are no other commercially available flamethrowers that have even half the power. It is a great tool for land management burns, making your friends jealous, and gaining followers on Instagram.

While you can't help but smile using the XL-18, the setup requires a lot of planning and logistics. The pilot light butane canisters had to be bought and the CO2 tanks had to be filled in advance. This was a problem for us since we would have to drive into Houston an hour away to get them filled. Mixing the fuel requires consideration and so does transporting it. Not having a truck and putting that many gas cans in your SUV, is a recipe for a bad time. To shoot it 5 times you need 15 gallons of mixed fuel, totaling less than 4 minutes of actual shooting time and at least 3 hours of prep time. It also requires the highest concentration of isopropyl alcohol to mix into the napalm powder. The whole process can quickly turn into an all-day project. But if you are looking for a truly unique piece for your collection and you want something military grade the XL-18 delivers.

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

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

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