

If for some reason, you no longer wish to receive these e-mails please accept our apologies and respond to this message with REMOVE in the subject line and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

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

=====

Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

**The next meeting will be held at Napoli's on Wednesday, August 20th.**

We will meet at Napoli's in Wylie.

Napoli's

701 N Highway 78 # A

Wylie, TX 75098

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

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

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

The address is:

2274 EAST Brown Street in Wylie

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

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



## Meeting gun topics:

- For show and tell, if you have any firearms manufactured by the following:
- **EMF Company, Inc.** The cowboy was king in 1956 and Early & Modern Firearms, Inc. (EMF) was founded to supply the demand for the guns seen in the movies and on television. At the time Colt had stopped production of single action revolvers and declined to resume production. EMF became a major distributor, and then manufacturer, of the Great Western , the first reproduction of the famous Colt Model 1873 SAA.
- **Navy Arms** In 1956 when Navy Arms started, no other gun manufacturer built the classic designs of their pasts. Now, Colt makes Colt replicas. Now, Winchester makes Winchester replicas. Now, Smith & Wesson makes Smith & Wesson replicas. Now, Remington makes Remington replicas.
- **Blaser Jagdwaffen GmbH.** It was founded in 1957 by Horst Blaser, developing the drilling Blaser Diplomat.
- **1957** the US adopted a new rifle the M14. To accommodate the new 7.62 NATO round, the US developed a version of Garand's 20 year old M1, with fully automatic fire and a larger magazine.
- **Chiappa Firearms** is an Italian firearms manufacturing company based in Brescia, Italy. It was founded in 1958 by Ezechiele Chiappa.
- **A. Uberti, Srl.** Aldo Uberti (d. 1998) founded his company in the foothills of the Italian Alps in 1959 to recreate long-obsolete but iconic firearms from the days of the American West and the U.S. Civil War.
- **1959** first M16 delivered to US army.
- **1960** milestone in the history of Colt happened in 1960, when Colt introduced the AR-15 semiautomatic rifle, based on the design by Eugene Stoner. It was followed shortly thereafter by the M16 military full automatic version. The involvement of the US in Vietnam again put heavy demands on Colt to supply arms to the troops.
- **Century International Arms** an importer and manufacturer of firearms that is based in the United States. The company was founded in 1961 in St. Albans, Vermont, with offices in Montreal. In 1995 the company headquarters and sales staff moved to Boca Raton, Florida and to Delray Beach, Florida in 2004.
- **Glock** GLOCK KG is founded by engineer Gaston Glock. The company produces a variety of plastic and steel parts.
- Have anything non-firearms related to share? Got a great knife that you just picked up, an air-rifle or Pistol, a new tactical flash light or red-dot scope? The club always enjoys seeing this as well.

If you have any suggestions for future speakers or topics please send your feedback to [CARGO@att.net](mailto:CARGO@att.net).  
When was the last time you visited our web site? Please take some time to go to the CARGO website at [www.cargogunclub.org](http://www.cargogunclub.org)

Sent from one of our members:

There are 30,000 gun related deaths per year by firearms, and this number is not disputed. U.S. population 324,059,091 as of Wednesday, June 22, 2016.

Do the math: 0.000000925% of the population dies from gun related actions each year. Statistically speaking, this is insignificant. What is never told, however, is a breakdown of those 30,000 deaths, to put them in perspective as compared to other causes of death:

- 65% of those deaths are by suicide which would never be prevented by gun laws
- 15% are by law enforcement in the line of duty and justified
- 17% are through criminal activity, gang and drug related or mentally ill persons – gun violence
- 3% are accidental discharge deaths

So technically, "gun violence" is not 30,000 annually, but drops to 5,100.

Still too many? How are those deaths spanned across the nation?

- 480 homicides (9.4%) were in Chicago
- 344 homicides (6.7%) were in Baltimore
- 333 homicides (6.5%) were in Detroit
- 119 homicides (2.3%) were in Washington D.C. (a 54% increase over prior years)

So, 25% of all gun crime happens in just 4 cities. All 4 of those cities have strict gun laws, so it is not the lack of law that is the root cause.

This basically leaves 3,825 for the entire rest of the nation, or about 75 deaths per state. That is an average because some States have much higher rates than others. For example, California had 1,169 and Alabama had 1.

Now, who has the strictest gun laws by far? California, of course, but understand, so it is not guns causing this. It is a crime rate spawned by the number of criminal persons residing in those cities and states. So if all cities and states are not created equally, then there must be something other than the tool causing the gun deaths.

Are 5,100 deaths per year horrific? How about in comparison to other deaths?

All death is sad and especially so when it is in the commission of a crime but that is the nature of crime.

Robbery, death, rape, assault all is done by criminals and thinking that criminals will obey laws is ludicrous.

That's

why they are criminals.

But what about other deaths each year?

- 40,000+ die from a drug overdose—THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THAT!
- 36,000 people die per year from the flu, far exceeding the criminal gun deaths
- 34,000 people die per year in traffic fatalities (exceeding gun deaths even if you include suicide)

Now it gets good:

- 200,000+ people die each year (and growing) from preventable medical errors. You are statistically safer in Chicago than you are in a hospital.

- 710,000 people die per year from heart disease. (It's time to stop the double cheeseburgers) So what is the point? If Obama and the anti-gun movement focused their attention on heart disease, even a 10% decrease in cardiac deaths would save twice the number of lives annually of all gun-related deaths (including suicide, law enforcement, etc.). A 10% reduction in medical errors would be 66% of the total gun deaths or 4 times the number of criminal homicides... Simple, easily preventable 10% reductions!

So you have to ask yourself, in the grand scheme of things, why the focus on guns? It's pretty simple: Taking away guns gives control to governments.

The founders of this nation knew that regardless of the form of government, those in power may become corrupt and seek to rule as the British did by trying to disarm the populace of the colonies. It is not difficult to understand that a disarmed populace is a controlled populace.

Thus, the second amendment was proudly and boldly included in the U.S. Constitution. It must be preserved at all costs.

So the next time someone tries to tell you that gun control is about saving lives, look at these facts and remember these words from Noah Webster:

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed, as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword, because the whole body of the people are armed and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States. A military force at the command of Congress can execute no laws, but such as the people perceive to be just and constitutional; for they will possess the power."

Remember, when it comes to "gun control," the important word is "control," not "gun."

## Two Texas Republicans in Congress open door to "bump stock" ban

by [Matthew Choi](#) Oct. 4, 2017 Updated: Oct. 5, 2017

U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-Bryan, in his House office in Washington, D.C. *Chris Maddaloni*

Two Texas Republicans in Congress – Sen. [John Cornyn](#) and Rep. [Bill Flores](#) – expressed interest Wednesday in exploring a federal ban on a type of gun attachment used by the gunman in the Las Vegas mass shooting.

Flores, R-Bryan, said he supports a federal ban on "bump stocks," which Stephen Paddock used to make rifles shoot more like automatic firearms, [The Hill](#) reported Wednesday.

"Based on the videos I heard and saw, and now that I've studied up on what a bump stock is — I didn't know there was such a thing — there's no reason for it," Flores told [The Hill](#).

Flores, a gun owner, described himself in a Wednesday statement to [The Texas Tribune](#) as a "staunch supporter and defender of the Second Amendment." Still, he added the shooting in Las Vegas "prompts a congressional review of bump stocks and similar devices."

The Texas Tribune thanks its sponsors. [Become one.](#)

Cornyn said in a call with reporters that the devices' role in the Las Vegas attack bears looking into, but he stopped short of calling for a full ban. Cornyn said he had spoken with U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, about holding a hearing on bump stocks and "any other aspect of this terrible crime that we need to look at from a federal perspective" once the initial investigation is complete.

Still, Cornyn reaffirmed his support for gun ownership by "law abiding citizens who have no criminal record and no mental impairment." He added that he would support passing a law that would "somehow" prevent a similar attack, but "given the fact that this man had no criminal record and was unknown to law enforcement previously and was willing to commit suicide rather than be apprehended, it's hard to figure out what kind of law we could pass."

"I don't think this should be politicized and viewed as an opportunity to try to limit the second amendment rights of law-abiding citizens," Cornyn said. "And unfortunately, that seems to be the first thing that happens."

Paddock killed more than 50 people and injured more than 500 Sunday in one of the worst mass shootings in recent U.S. history.

### Read related Tribune coverage:

- The Texas Tribune asked all 38 members of the state's congressional delegation Wednesday whether they would consider a ban on "bump stocks," the type of gun attachment used by the Las Vegas mass shooter. We are updating our table as responses come in. [\[Full story\]](#)
- U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-Bryan, is running for a high-ranking position among his party's leadership for the next Congress. [\[Full story\]](#)
- Texas' campus carry law took effect on Aug. 1, the 50th anniversary of the day a gunman atop the UT Tower killed more than a dozen people and wounded 30 others. Read our series looking back at the shooting and on the new law. [\[Full story\]](#)

This is my response to the above article to Senator Ted Cruz and to Senator John Cornyn:

\*\*\*\*\*

Senator John Cornyn  
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
Main: 202-224-2934

Senator Cornyn,

I read with great distress comments attributed to you in an October 4 article in the Texas Tribune. The Tribune stated, "Cornyn said in a call with reporters that the devices' role in the Las Vegas attack bears looking into, but he stopped short of calling for a full ban. Cornyn said he had spoken with U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, about holding a hearing on bump stocks and "any other aspect of this terrible crime that we need to look at from a federal perspective" once the initial investigation is complete."

It went on to quote you as saying, "'I don't think this should be politicized and viewed as an opportunity to try to limit the second amendment rights of law-abiding citizens," Cornyn said. "And unfortunately, that seems to be the first thing that happens.'"

I agree with you that limiting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens is exactly what will happen if and when Congress and the Senate draft and pass a bill to limit the rates of fire for semi-automatic firearms. The current bills floating around are so poorly written, whether by ignorance or intent, that they will effectively make every owner of a currently legal semi-automatic firearm in the United States a Federal felon. You are in a position to calm the insanity and stop the continued erosion of the Constitutional rights of Americans.

Even the most anti-gun politicians in the United States concede that no law passed would have stopped a homicidal, multi-millionaire, with no criminal background from perpetrating this crime; however, the first thing that they want to do is make more criminals from law-abiding citizens.

Senator Cornyn, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to avoid falling into the political trap and knee jerk reaction of banning pieces of metal and plastic and creating millions of Federal criminals out of law-abiding citizens all because of the actions of one homicidal sociopath.

Thank you for your time,

Paul Curtis  
Wylie, TX

\*\*\*\*\*

Senator Ted Cruz  
Russell Senate Office Bldg. 404  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Cruz,

On October 1<sup>st</sup> the world was stunned by yet another senseless act of violence and 50 people died. Before the first responders had been able to load the injured into ambulances, the anti-Second Amendment politicians and Hollywood elites were calling for gun control and additional restrictions on Americans who had nothing to do with the vile attack.

It is no secret that the anti-Second Amendment forces' ultimate goal is to destroy the Second Amendment; and they will use every tragedy available to forward their agenda.

Limiting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens is exactly what will happen if and when Congress and the Senate draft and pass a bill to limit the rates of fire for semi-automatic firearms. The current bills floating around are so poorly written, whether by ignorance or intent, that they will effectively make every owner of a currently legal semi-automatic firearm in the United States a Federal felon. You are in a position to calm the insanity and stop the continued erosion of the Constitutional rights of Americans.

Even the most anti-gun politicians in the United States concede that no law passed would have stopped a homicidal, multi-millionaire, with no criminal background from perpetrating this crime; however, the first thing that they want to do is make more criminals from law-abiding citizens.

Senator Cruz, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to avoid falling into the political trap and knee jerk reaction of banning pieces of metal and plastic and creating millions of Federal criminals out of law-abiding citizens all because of the actions of one homicidal sociopath.

Thank you for your time,

Paul Curtis  
Wylie, TX

<https://home.nra.org/joint-statement>

## **NRA's Wayne LaPierre and Chris Cox Issue Joint Statement**

(FAIRFAX, VA) - The National Rifle Association today issued the following statement:

"In the aftermath of the evil and senseless attack in Las Vegas, the American people are looking for answers as to how future tragedies can be prevented. Unfortunately, the first response from some politicians has been to call for more gun control. Banning guns from law-abiding Americans based on the criminal act of a madman will do nothing to prevent future attacks. This is a fact that has been proven time and again in countries across the world. In Las Vegas, reports indicate that certain devices were used to modify the firearms involved. Despite the fact that the Obama administration approved the sale of bump fire stocks on at least two occasions, the National Rifle Association is calling on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) to immediately review whether these devices comply with federal law. The NRA believes that devices designed to allow semi-automatic rifles to function like fully-automatic rifles should be subject to additional regulations. In an increasingly dangerous world, the NRA remains focused on our mission: strengthening Americans' Second Amendment freedom to defend themselves, their families and their communities. To that end, on behalf of our five million members across the country, we urge Congress to pass National Right-to-Carry reciprocity, which will allow law-abiding Americans to defend themselves and their families from acts of violence."

# The NRA's Position on Bump Fire Stocks was Genius

- Johannes Paulsen October 8, 2017



- 
- The National Rifle Association's decision to stand down over the issue of bump fire stocks has generated a lot of concern, both among TTAG's readership and elsewhere in the gun owning community. From my current vantage point on a busman's holiday in a Northern Michigan lakeside hamlet, geographically and emotionally removed from the Potomac, I'm not worried.
- This is the strongest position the NRA could have taken, and it has made me roll back some of my general concerns over whether the gun rights org's leadership has the chops to fight for the Second Amendment during the Trump years and beyond.
- The NRA has said 1) they aren't going to oppose some sort of regulation on bump fire stocks (although LaPierre has insisted that they aren't calling for a ban), and 2) the BATFE should review and decide whether or not bump fire stocks fall under federal regulations.
- From the NRA's official statement:
- *In Las Vegas, reports indicate that certain devices were used to modify the firearms involved. Despite the fact that the Obama administration approved the sale of bump fire stocks on at least two occasions, the National Rifle Association is calling on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) to immediately review whether these devices comply with federal law.*
- *The NRA believes that devices designed to allow semi-automatic rifles to function like fully-automatic rifles should be subject to additional regulations.*
- This was a smart move. For the price of giving up something that couldn't be defended anyway, they've improved their strategic position in two ways:
- 1) The NRA dodged an incoming blow from the enemy aimed at poisoning the image of their organization in the minds of the people.
- 2) The NRA has taken a position that requires the enemy to attack its own allies if they want an immediate victory.

- On the first point, the gun control lobby and its collaborators were already ginning up a propaganda salvo against the nation's oldest civil rights organization. Instead of taking the blow, the NRA stepped out of the way.
- "In war," Sun Tzu tells us, "the way is to avoid what is strong and to strike at what is weak."
- Wait a minute, shouldn't the NRA fight tooth-and-nail against every regulation that remotely affects guns?
- No. As any gambler knows, you gotta know when to hold 'em and know when to fold 'em. In this case, the enemy has blind, ignorant, emotional fear in a mass audience and a clearly-defined target: bump fire stocks.
- In opposition, the pro-bump fire stock side has...well, not much. Bump fire stocks don't add anything to a citizen's ability to use a rifle in defense of herself or our nation. They appear to be fashion accessories for entertainment purposes only. In fact, the SildeFire tag line is "Prepare to change the way you play." As far as self-interest goes, we're lucky if maybe 1/10th of 1% of gun owners actually own or aspire to get one.
- We could compose a well-crafted libertarian argument for the abstract right of a man to possess anything he wants as long as he's not harming others, and the freedom to be square pegs in round holes. But in the court of fickle public opinion, an abstract argument in the clouds falls to one based on mass fear aimed a concrete target any day of the week.
- Standing against this would devalue the credibility of the NRA in the minds of people who, again, are being guided by irrational fear in the aftermath of an atrocity. People tend not to respond well to others who exacerbate their fears.
- So the NRA declined the opportunity to fight on terrain that could not be defended, and that would leave them with a stain on their record in the eyes of the many whose analysis on this issue is guided by fear in the wake of the Las Vegas attack.
- That was good by itself. But the NRA also laid a subtle trap for its opponents.
- They said regulations should be reviewed — and they encouraged the BATFE to do so. Not Congress. Now, if the gun control left wants a quick win for which they can gain political credit, they need to endorse Steve Bannon's position on the administrative state.
- Yes, that's right, the NRA just walked away from a losing hand and moved to the most favorable ground possible.
- And, if the statement from Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Bloombergia), is any guide, the gun control lobby is accepting those terms of battle. Mrs. Feinstein essentially declared that the BATFE does not possess the inherent authority to promulgate regulations on anything without a carefully-worded authorization from Congress.
- On the one hand, if we wait for the BATFE to 'examine' the regulations and decide whether or not existing laws give them the authority to regulate bump fire stocks, that will be a drawn-out process. Eventually, the BATFE will either decide that it can or cannot promulgate additional regulations on bump fire stocks under existing law.
- If they decide they can't, Congress may take up the issue at that point. But that will happen months later, in a more dispassionate manner, after the heat of the moment has passed.
- If the BATFE decides it *can* promulgate new regulations, those new regs will be subject to public comment — of the sort that derailed an Obama Administration attempt to ban certain rifle rounds in 2015. In that case, the 1/10th of 1% of people who own and care about bump fire stocks might be able to punch above their weight in the comment period.
- Of course, there are ways an administrative agency can get around public comments — like choosing to change a definition. Fine. In that case the regulation on bump fire stocks gets imposed...and no one gets any political credit for it on the left.

- In fact, if anyone gets ‘credit’ for it...it’s the branch of government the BATFE works for, which is currently headed by Donald J. Trump, Sr. Generally, the issue is politically neutralized. Again, if it’s a loss anyway, this is probably the least-damaging way to take it.
- Mrs. Feinstein and her gun control paymasters want some sort of regulation *and* they want to gain politically from doing so. They know their best chance of getting both is in the heat of the moment — given a chance for passions to cool, it falls apart for them.
- So they’ll try to get something pushed through Congress. But the NRA’s position is an excellent rationalization for inertia. “I agree, Dianne, something should be done, but let’s let the experts at BATFE do their review first.”
- To get something passed now, the gun control lobby has to argue that there’s no point in waiting, that the BATFE doesn’t have the power to regulate items absent direct Congressional authorization. This is the position Senator Feinstein has taken.
- When the gun control lobby says that regulations touching on guns have to be crafted transparently via the legislation, not crafted by unelected bureaucrats in an opaque process, well, I think that’s a step forward for everyone. They have to undermine one of the tools — the administrative state — that the state uses oppress us all.
- Given the context of the moment, I’m having a hard time seeing a real down-side here.
- Of course, my argument falls apart if you believe that bump fire stocks can and should be defended substantively, and that this position can either prevail on its own, or lead to a future win. I don’t see that, but you can try to convince me in the comments — have at it.
- *Minor edits for grammar and clarity made after publication. -JKP*

<http://thefederalist.com/2017/10/13/new-bipartisan-bump-stock-bill-would-actually-ban-all-semi-automatic-weapons/>

## **New Bipartisan Bump Stock Bill Would Actually Ban All Semi-Automatic Rifles**

A new congressional proposal to ban bump stocks in the wake of the Las Vegas mass shooting would actually ban all semi-automatic rifles and parts.

October 13, 2017 By Sean Davis

A [new gun control proposal in Congress](#) that is being pitched as a bipartisan bump stock ban would actually ban all semi-automatic rifles in the United States, according to an analysis of the proposed bill.

The [legislation](#), which was drafted by Rep. Carlos Curbelo, a Florida Republican, never bans bump stocks by name. Instead, the proposal bans any person from possessing or making any part that could be used to increase the rate of fire in any semi-automatic rifle. The lead co-sponsor on the gun control bill is Rep. Seth Moulton, a Massachusetts Democrat and U.S. Marines veteran who completed four tours of duty in Iraq.

“It shall be unlawful for any person ... to manufacture, possess, or transfer any part or combination of parts that is designed to increase the rate of fire of a semi-automatic rifle,” the bill [states](#). At no point does the proposed legislation specify a base rate of fire against which any illegal increases would be judged, a potentially fatal flaw in the bill’s drafting. As a result, the proposal arguably institutes a federal ban on any and all parts that would allow the gun to fire at all, since the mere ability to fire a semi-automatic weapon by definition increases its rate of fire from zero.

The design of semi-automatic weapons uses the recoil of the weapon generated by the gas explosion in the chamber when a round is fired to automatically chamber a new round, and prepare the weapon to be fired again. Because of this, any parts used in that process would likely be subject to the federal ban proposed in the Curbelo/Moulton bill, since they serve to increase the rate of fire of a semi-automatic weapon. Gas tubes, gas blocks, buffer springs, magazines, charging handles, ejectors and extractors, and even triggers themselves could potentially be banned under the bipartisan bump stock ban language proposed by Curbelo and Moulton.

The proposal also creates significant implementation challenges, since it contains zero grandfather provisions for existing gun owners or manufacturers. The bill also fails to provide any means by which existing gun owners and manufacturers could turn in their weapons to federal authorities to avoid running afoul of the bill’s effective ban on the possession of any semi-automatic firearms or parts. Absent a statutory federal gun buyback, which is not included in the Curbelo/Moulton bill, it does not appear that current law-abiding gun owners and manufacturers would have any way to abide by the constraints of the law in good faith absent a massive federal confiscation effort.

The National Rifle Association announced on Thursday that it [opposed the Curbelo/Moulton proposal](#). In a [separate statement](#), the organization said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms And Explosives (ATF) already had the legal authority necessary to ban bump stocks and that additional legislation was unnecessary. The group noted that bump stocks were originally [approved by the Obama administration in 2010](#).

It is unclear at this time whether Curbelo and Moulton intended to propose such an expansive ban on all semi-automatic rifles in the United States. Also unknown is why the authors of the proposal chose to target rates of fire across all weapons instead of specifically banning bump stocks themselves, which consist of a single grip

and stock assembly that is designed to rock a rifle back and forth against an individual's finger in order to increase the rate of fire of a semi-automatic rifle weapon.

Neither Curbelo's nor Moulton's office responded to repeated requests for comment and clarification on the design and intent of their gun control proposal.

Sean Davis is the co-founder of The Federalist.

## NRA balks at bipartisan plans to ban 'bump stock' devices

By [Benjamin Brown, Fox News](#)



A bump stock is attached to a semi-automatic rifle at the Gun Vault store and shooting range in South Jordan, Utah. (The Associated Press)

Following the Oct. 1 massacre in Las Vegas, the National Rifle Association said it would be open to [a federal "review"](#) of so-called "bump stock" devices that convert semi-automatic rifles to automatic, to see if such devices complied with the law.

But bipartisan legislation in Congress to ban such devices does not have the NRA's support.

This week the gun lobbying organization said it opposed a proposal to ban bump stocks and similar equipment that increase the firing rate of semi-automatic weapons. A Senate bill is co-sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and a House bill is co-sponsored by Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla.

"The NRA opposes the Feinstein and Curbelo legislation," Jennifer Baker, director of public affairs for the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action, [told the Hill](#). "These bills are intentionally overreaching and would ban commonly owned firearm accessories."

Following the Las Vegas attack -- the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history -- the NRA acknowledged that "devices designed to allow semi-automatic rifles to function like fully-automatic rifles should be subject to additional regulations." But it added that pushing for gun-control laws would "[do nothing to prevent future attacks](#)."

The House bill, introduced Tuesday, received support from both sides of the aisle, with 20 co-sponsors split evenly between Republicans and Democrats. In addition to banning "bump stocks," the legislation would ban any gun accessories that increase the firing rate of semi-automatic weapons.

"It shall be unlawful for any person — in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, to manufacture, possess, or transfer any part or combination of parts that is designed and functions to increase the rate of fire of a semiautomatic rifle but does not convert the semiautomatic rifle into a machinegun," according to the [bill](#).

[In a statement](#), Curbelo called the plan an "important first step to address gun violence," by prohibiting devices that have been able to sidestep current law -- without infringing upon the Second Amendment.

"Bump stocks" were found on several guns used in the Las Vegas massacre by shooter Stephen Paddock. The attack resulted in the deaths of 58 people, with dozens more injured. Paddock took his own life.

The device attaches to a semi-automatic weapon and allows it to fire continuously, discharging 400 to 800 rounds in 1 minute.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said lawmakers want to know why sales of bump stocks were allowed in the first place, noting that a regulatory fix would be "the smartest, quickest fix."

Feinstein, who has proposed similar bills in the past, noted that the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) "lacks authority under the law to ban bump fire stocks."

"The agency made this crystal clear in a 2013 letter to Congress, writing that 'stocks of this type are not subject to the provisions of federal firearms statutes,'" Feinstein said in a statement. "Legislation is the only answer and Congress shouldn't attempt to pass the buck."

The ATF approved the devices for sale in 2010, saying they didn't violate federal law.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

## Ruger Silent-SR 10/22 Takedown ISB

by Chris Mudgett | August 24th, 2017

Photos By Mark Fingar [0](#)



Ruger is on a roll. Its products have always appealed to the masses; If they keep playing their cards right, they always will. Ruger has a diverse product line that continuously grows.

### ADVERTISING

There's something for every shooter, young and old, both techie and traditional. Historically, Ruger has steered clear of trends serving a more traditional market with wood-stocked bolt-guns, shotguns, .22LR rimfires, single-shots, as well as revolvers, semiautomatic rifles and pistols.

Then something happened. In the mid-2000s, the landscape was changing in the firearm industry, which could be partly attributed to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 or the sunset of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban (AWB) on Sept. 13, 2004. The AR-15 platform as well as polymer-framed service pistols quickly gained momentum in sales, and these both were platforms that Ruger previously resisted in making. On Sept. 25, 2006, Ruger hired a new chief executive officer: Mike Fifer. Though Ruger was lagging, Fifer led Ruger in embracing the AR's popularity and made engineering and manufacturing processes more efficient. In 2009, Ruger unveiled its first piston-driven model, the SR-556. With a shifted approach to product innovation while maintaining its well-established loyalists, Ruger looked towards adding a new generation to its existing list of customers.

When Ruger debuted its line of .22LR suppressors in 2015, they still managed to catch the industry flat footed. No one expected Ruger, with its outwardly traditional and cautious approach, to enter the sound suppressor business. But they did and, as a result, Ruger had mainstreamed suppressor acceptance with many firearm

enthusiasts in a single product announcement. Almost in tandem, Ruger has been crushing the custom-rifle segment with its Ruger Precision Rifle (RPR), leading the affordable sporting rifle market with its American Rifle series and charging toward the polymer-framed, striker-fired category with its new American Pistol lineup. Ruger even branched out into the ammunition market by partnering with PolyCase to develop its own fluted-polymer ARX ammo. Guns & Ammo is proud to offer its readers another exclusive look at a progressive product, and possibly a glimpse into Ruger's future.

Meet the 10/22 TD ISB. While G&A's editors were recently filming several upcoming episodes of "Guns & Ammo TV" in Iowa, Ruger's director of product management, Mark Gurney, was on-set to reveal the 10/22 TD Silent-SR Integrally Suppressed Barrel, or simply called "ISB."



The Silent-SR Takedown provides shooters with classic aesthetics akin to an over-under shotgun. When fired, that similarity is forgotten as the loudest noise coming from the 10/22 is the sound of its action.

The ISB is not a new *firearm* but a new firearm *accessory* for the company's wildly successful 10/22 Takedown models. If you weren't paying attention while perusing a gun counter, it's possible you'd overlook it — and that's the point of us making a big deal of it here. The ISB is worth your attention.

Ruger's 10/22 Similar to AR-15s and apple pie, Ruger's semiautomatic 10/22 has become a staple of Americana since being introduced in 1964. Ruger has sold almost 8 million of them, in fact. Many Americans can claim that their first shots were fired through one of these rifles under the watchful eye of a parent or grandparent, which hooked them into shooting for life.

During the last 50 years, Ruger has introduced numerous variants and configurations of the 10/22, yet none have attracted the attention of today's youth quite like the 10/22 Takedown (TD) models. Efficiency has been demanded across our lives, and more is expected from our ever-miniaturizing gadgets. Our firearms are not immune. Though they can be separated in two major subassemblies, the 10/22 TD models have proven that they can deliver without forsaking the 10/22's reputation for accuracy.

Inception of the ISB Ruger's wheelhouse is .22LR, so rimfire suppressors is a logical development. In fact, Ruger produces more .22LR-chambered firearms than any other brand. Based on the success of its thread-on Silent-SR .22LR suppressor, the company began looking at aftermarket barrels to suppress its 10/22s. Once a market analysis was completed, Ruger determined that the market was severely underserved. It was time to fix that.

Ruger engineers were assigned the task of creating prototype ISB assemblies for the company's popular 10/22 TD models and four options were initially developed. Two of



Ruger's ISB was engineered for 10/22 Takedown models. It is no wider than a typical bull barrel configuration.

the four were almost exact replicas of their competitors' products. During testing, Ruger found that after shooting approximately 1,000 rounds through them, the carbon and lead seized up the baffles to the point that they would not come apart without a concoction of dangerous chemicals.

The third option was to use a sealed baffle stack based on their Silent-SR .22 suppressor, so they designed a similar round baffle stack within an outer tube sleeve. This option created complications, additional components and a suppressor with a length (and cost) beyond Ruger's own specified goals.



The only tool needed to remove and disassemble the unit is a 5/32 Allen wrench. Here, the sealed baffle stack is inserted into the sleeve.

The fourth option became the ISB that's now available. The baffle and sleeve design are figure-8 shaped, which explains why the ISB's appearance is reminiscent of an over/under shotgun. Interestingly, this is one of the most recognizable shapes within the firearm market. But the aesthetics didn't start that way. Ruger settled on this shape scientifically, using computational fluid dynamics. The figure-8 design proved to be the most efficient means of meeting internal design parameters. These parameters stated that the top contour of the ISB could be no larger than a typical bull barrel. The figure-8 shape, which is essentially two stacked barrels, allowed Ruger to reclaim volume beneath the bore. Therefore, engineers were able to shrink the package, while obtaining maximum suppression simultaneously.



The ISB is quick and easy to disassemble for cleaning, which Ruger recommends every 4,000 rounds.

The number of baffles in the stack, six in the case of the ISB, was decided through experimentation. Seven baffles did not provide positive effects. The sealed baffle stack is just like the one found in the Silent-SR, so the lessons learned from that project carried over into the ISB. Unlike the Silent-SR, which utilizes removable endcaps, one of the challenges was determining how the baffle stack would be removed for cleaning. The simple solution was to use a screw to create a captive assembly, and that's what they did.

There is an extra level of maintenance with any .22LR suppressor due to the carbon and lead buildup that the round leaves behind. Thankfully, through smart engineering, Ruger made disassembly, cleaning and reassembly a simple affair.

**Disassembly** For obvious reasons, we start with an unloaded gun. Lock the bolt to the rear, remove the barrel from the receiver by pressing the locking plunger, twist the barrel assembly to the left and separate the two.

Now you have a smaller package to work with. Utilize the 5/32 Allen wrench included with the ISB and stand the suppressor on end, muzzle up. Unthread the screw until it moves a quarter-inch upward and spins in place. Now you can grasp the head of the screw with your fingers. Once loosened, the screw is captured, allowing you to remove the entire baffle stack up and out of the barrel sleeve. At this point, only the baffle stack requires cleaning, not the sleeve. Unwind the screw through the spacer and pull the screw free. Now separate all the baffles in the stack. This can be done by prying the baffles apart with your hands. If the ISB has been used heavily for several thousand rounds, the baffle stack may become slightly fused. If this is the case, use a rubber mallet to tap the baffles apart, which will help break up any carbon residue.

Once the baffles, endcap and screw are separated, Ruger recommends three methods to cleaning these parts. First, you can use a screwdriver and a little elbow grease to scrape the carbon off. Second, you could use a sonic cleaner and the appropriate solvents or, thirdly, you could scrub with carbon solvents and a wire brush.

## Ruger Silent-SR 10/22 Takedown ISB

Type: Barrel assembly, integrally suppressed

Cartridge: .22LR

Barrel: 10.62 in.

Overall Length: 16.12 in.

Weight: 2 lbs., 9 oz. (tested)

Handguard: Polymer, textured

Baffles: Stainless steel

Finish: Cerakote, black

Sights: None

MSRP: \$630

Manufacturer: Sturm, Ruger & Co.  
336-949-5200, ruger.com

As a side note, G&A spoke with product

designThe engineer Jonathan Barrett who told us that during endurance testing, the ISB fired 10,000 rounds of standard velocity (SV) ammunition through a single sample before it was cleaned. Barrett recalls easily removing the sealed baffle stack without tools. Ruger doesn't recommend users wait that long to clean it given that the suppressor will become slightly less efficient at dampening sound volume due to the carbon and lead fouling after about 4,000 rounds.

To reassemble, stack the baffles upward on a flat surface, beginning with the endcap. (The baffles in the stack can only be assembled one way and are directional, so there is no way to reassemble them incorrectly.) Stack the six baffles on the endcap and place the spacer — the cap — on top. Pick up the loose stack and insert the screw through the front, and thread it through the spacer. Grasping the screw by the head, you have a captured baffle stack that can be inserted through the front of the barrel sleeve. Once reinserted, you have to use the 5/32 Allen wrench to tighten it. It's that simple.

# SOUND PERFORMANCE

LOAD	DECIBELS (dB)		
	AVG.	HIGH	LOW
Racking the bolt, empty	109.9	112.2	108.7
Eley Subsonic Hollow 38-gr. HP	111	112.7	109.2
Win. M22 45-gr. RN (subsonic)	113.9	117.5	112.4
CCI Std. Vel. 40-gr. RN (subsonic)	114.2	116	111.8
Eley Contact 42-gr. RN (subsonic)	114.8	116.9	112.7
Eley HV Hollow 38-gr. HP	118.5	120.2	115.9
Eley Force 42-gr. RN	119.4	120.6	118.2
Fed. Champ. HV 36-gr. CPHP	120.4	122.6	118.4

Notes: Testing was conducted outside and away from all hard surfaces that reflect noise. The sound meter, capable of measuring impulses as short as 30 microseconds, was set to A-weighting and was placed 1 meter to the left of the muzzle and 1.6 meters from the ground. The muzzle of the fire-arm was rested on a tripod to maintain a constant distance from the meter.

Performance Ruger engineers, lead by Barrett, took 10 endurance samples and fired several hundred rounds through each. Immediately following, each unit was decibel (dB) tested. The average of all 10 assemblies was 113.3 dB using standard velocity ammunition. The quietest individual shot was 109 dB, while the highest was 115 dB. To put that into perspective, a 3 dB increase is barely recognizable to the most in-tune ear. A 5 dB increase is recognizable to *most* ears, however, variants in ammunition from shot to shot can also produce this increase. The takeaway is that the ISB is pellet-gun quiet.

Ruger states that ammunition traveling 1,000 feet per second (fps) or faster will cycle a 10/22. Being that's the case, it will cycle the ISB as well. G&A tested a variety of loads through the ISB and discovered it produced similar accuracy results we've experienced when shooting an off-the-shelf 10/22. The best five-shot group of the day measured .32-inch at 50 yards. The load was Eley's Contact 42-grain hollowpoints (HP).

## PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
Eley Contact 42-gr. RN (subsonic)	1,038	32	11	.32	.77
Fed. Champ. HV 36-gr. CPHP	1,202	45	17	.53	1.43
Eley Force 42-gr. RN	1,131	67	24	.65	.89
Eley HV Hollow 38-gr. HP	1,088	46	19	.87	1.17
Win. M22 45-gr. RN (subsonic)	1,000	50	20	.92	1.18
Eley Subsonic Hollow 38-gr. HP	956	68	26	1.65	1.91
CCI Std. Vel. 40-gr. RN (subsonic)	1,021	52	20	—	—

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups at 50 yards using a sandbagged rest. Velocity is the average of five shots across a Competition Electronics chronograph set to record velocity at 15 feet from the muzzle.

The Fine Print At present, Ruger's new ISB is available as a standalone suppressed barrel assembly. Just like every suppressor, it is currently subject to National Firearms Act (NFA) regulations. But don't let that slow you down or intimidate you for purchasing one for your 10/22 TD. The hardest part of the process is patiently waiting for your Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) forms to be approved, otherwise the process is simple. Here is a quick explanation: the NFA regulates the ownership and transfer of select-fire and automatic firearms, short-barreled rifles and shotguns, as well as suppressors. In order to sell or transfer NFA items, an existing Federal Firearms License (FFL) holder (i.e., your gun store) needs a Special Occupational Tax (SOT), which many have already. SOTs are required to sell or transfer NFA-listed items. If your dealer has suppressors in stock or offers to order one for you, they already have an SOT. That means that if you see they have an ISB in stock, they'll be able to sell and transfer it to you using an ATF Form 4. The Form 4 requires a \$200 tax to be paid for the transfer, made payable to the ATF. Your retailer can assist you in completing this form and the necessary support documents either electronically or by paper. Then the wait begins.

At the time of this writing, wait times are around eight to nine months for a transfer. (Wait times fluctuate.) I've seen forms approved in as little as 30 days, especially if you've gone through the process before.

Why an ISB? The beauty of Ruger's ISB is that if you already own a 10/22 TD, simply head to the range and enjoy it. When the ATF approves your form, swing by the gun store, fill out a Form 4473 and take possession of your new ISB. To install it only requires about five seconds to depress the barrel locking lever and twist with the bolt slightly back to remove your traditional barrel/forend assembly. The task can be accomplished faster depending on your level of excitement. Then insert the new ISB into the receiver. You now have an integrally suppressed 10/22.

When the ISB is attached to the receiver, the barrel has an overall length of 16.18 inches, which is almost 2½ inches shorter than the base model's barrel assembly. The ISB makes for an even handier package. The actual rifled barrel of the ISB extends only 10.6 inches in length, while the remaining 5.4 inches houses the six-piece, removable baffle stack. Because the sleeve housing the baffle stack is integral to the barrel, the unit is *not* accountable to the additional taxes that go along with owning a short-barreled rifle (SBR). Smart thinking, Ruger.

You might be thinking, if a standard 10/22 has an 18½-inch barrel, and the new ISB has a 10.6-inch barrel, there's a 7.9-inch difference in length. Is the ISB less accurate? No, not according to our tests. In fact, there is

only a 70-ish feet per second (fps) reduction in velocity when changing from a standard unsuppressed barrel to the ISB. There is almost no change in group sizes or shift in point of impact (POI).

Shhh! The ISB is as close to Hollywood-quiet as we can get and makes for a very enjoyable shooting experience. The ISB is also economical, especially when considering that the cost and availability of .22LR ammunition is normalizing. We can shoot all the .22LR ammunition through the ISB, even by the brick. And you don't have to change the way you shoot; the ISB will last as long as a traditional 10/22, which is seemingly *forever*.

We all hope that the Hearing Protection Act (HPA) passes, but you don't need to wait until it does to purchase an ISB for your 10/22 TD. This is an exciting time, and to have an industry giant like Ruger supporting suppressor use and ownership is great. The ISB is proof that a prosperous future is in store for all of us.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/glock-19-17-gen-5-unleashed-full-review/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170828\\_BlogDigest\\_239&utm\\_campaign=/blog/glock-19-17-gen-5-unleashed-full-review/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/glock-19-17-gen-5-unleashed-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170828_BlogDigest_239&utm_campaign=/blog/glock-19-17-gen-5-unleashed-full-review/)

## Glock 19 and 17 Gen 5 Unleashed — Full Review

by Clay Martin on August 27, 2017

For those of you who are fans of the combat Tupperware, the wait is over! The [Glock Gen 5](#) has arrived. GA team got their hands on the new Glock 19 and Glock 17 Gen 5. Aside from some cosmetic changes and few functional changes, they function just as we come to expect from Glock — flawlessly.



### Updated Ergonomics

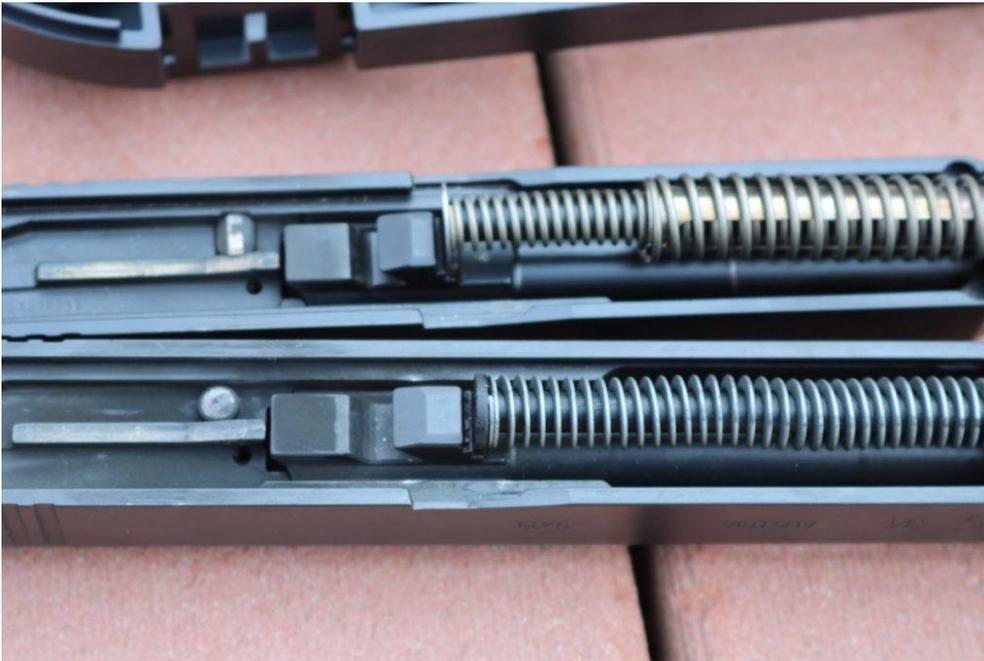
Goodbye to the finger grooves. The Gen 5 gets back to the roots of the original. Considering this is one of the first things requested when customizing, it just made sense. The Gen 5 grips look like a Gen 1 and Gen 4 hybrid. It has the texture of the Gen 4 with grip of the Gen 1. Although similar to the Gen 4 models, it comes with the modular backstraps and beavertail that allows users to swap out from two different sizes of backstraps each with or without the beavertail.



A left side slide release makes the Gen 5 models finally fully ambidextrous, as it retains the Gen 4 reversible magazine release. I have only owned one Glock from the pre-finger groove times, so this is relatively new to me. I don't feel it is a huge difference, but I like the feel of the new model. The coating is a "nDLC" finish on the barrel and slide. According to Glock, this is more durable and tougher than previous finishes. It's currently exclusive to Gen 5 models.

The magazine well has been flared, which is nice for both tactical and competitive shooters. Looks like Glock caught the fever of the SIG P320X5 on this one, but it is a nice touch. Reloads with the Gen 5's are a snap. Competitive shooters are going to love this update, and it will pretty much make the purchase of a Gen 5 mandatory. For Production class add on magwells are a no-no. But if your gun happens to come from the factory that way — it's good to go. The new Glock Gen 5 magazines feature an orange follower and floor plate that is extended in the front for faster mag changes. These mags are also interchangeable with previous models.

### Article Continues Below



The biggest upgrade is what Glock calls the new "Marksman barrel." This change supposedly halves the accuracy of the old Glock standard. Before, the barrels came from the factory with 4 inches at 25 yards as the standard. Now the bar has been raised to 4 inches at 50 yards.

Time will tell if this matters to most shooters, but it is nice to know the possibility is there. When I field tested the guns for accuracy against a Gen 4, the new model did have a slight edge. It also remains to be seen, if Glock will make the new barrels in Gen 3 for all the poor people stuck in Commie-fornia. An interesting point is the new barrel drops the polygonal rifling in favor of regular rifling.



There have been major changes to the geometry of the safety plunger. This is the part that makes the Glock drop safe. It is now angled, which makes for a better trigger pull out of the box. The entire trigger group has changed, meaning your 5-gallon bucket of disconnectors and different springs is now a boat anchor. No doubt the

aftermarket will be scrambling to catch up. The Gen 5 is still not a custom-tuned single action, but it is an



improvement.

The coating on the Gen 5 is a Glock proprietary finish called nDLC. This, we are told, is the toughest wearing finish every applied by Glock. I suppose it will take a few thousand draws from the holster to tell, in my experience the Glock finish was already among the best.



The internals got a bit of a facelift as well, with the return to a two pin rather than 3 pin frame. Glock says the Gen 5 will only be available in 9mm, and much of the old pin design was directly related to the 40 Cal. As a

believer in 40 S&W, this is a bit of bad news to me. The takedown lever has been fully redesigned, switching from a leaf spring to a coil spring. The striker has changed, along with the firing pin hole. It is now tear-drop shaped, to allow more tolerance for foreign objects in the firing pin channel. This is supposed to offer a substantial decrease in the odds of a light strike due to grime. We were told that the Gen 5 Glock has set a new record in testing for mean stoppages between rounds at 11,000.

## TECHNICAL DATA

	<b>G17 Gen5</b>	<b>G19 Gen5</b>
<b>Caliber</b>	9 x 19	
<b>Mag. Capacity Standard</b>	17	15
<b>Barrel Profile</b>	right hand twist, hexagonal (GMB)	
<b>Barrel Length</b>	114 mm / 4.49 in.	102 mm / 4.02 in.
<b>Length of twist</b>	250 mm / 9.84 in.	250 mm / 9.84 in.
<b>Weight without magazine</b>	631 g / 22.26 oz	610 g / 21.52 oz
<b>Weight empty magazine</b>	85 g / 3.00 oz	70 g / 2.47 oz
<b>Weight loaded magazine</b>	280 g / 9.88 oz	270 g / 9.52 oz
<b>Trigger travel</b>	12,5 mm / 0.49 in.	12,5 mm / 0.49 in.
<b>Trigger pull</b>	26N	26N
<b>Length (overall)</b>	202 mm / 7.95 in.	185 mm / 7.28 in.
<b>Slide length</b>	186 mm / 7.32 in.	174 mm / 6.85 in.
<b>Width (overall)</b>	34 mm / 1.34 in.	34 mm / 1.34 in.
<b>Slide width</b>	25,5 mm / 1.00 in.	25,5 mm / 1.00 in.
<b>Height incl. magazine</b>	156 mm / 6.14 in.	128 mm / 5.04 in.
<b>Sight radius (polymer)</b>	164 mm / 6.46 in.	153 mm / 6.02 in.
<b>Sight radius (steel)</b>	163 mm / 6.42 in.	152 mm / 5.98 in.
<b>Sight radius (GNS)</b>	162 mm / 6.83 in.	151 mm / 5.94 in.
<b>Trigger distance</b>	70 mm / 2.76 in.	70 mm / 2.76 in.
<b>Barrel distance</b>	20 mm / 0.79 in.	20 mm / 0.79 in.
<b>Medium Backstrap w/o beavertail (+2 mm / 0.08 in.)</b>		
<b>Length (overall)</b>	204 mm / 8.03 in.	187 mm / 7.36 in.
<b>Trigger Distance</b>	72 mm / 2.83 in.	72 mm / 2.83 in.
<b>Large Backstrap w/o beavertail (+2 mm / 0.08 in.)</b>		
<b>Length (overall)</b>	206 mm / 8.11 in.	189 mm / 7.44 in.
<b>Trigger Distance</b>	74 mm / 2.91 in.	74 mm / 2.91 in.
Technical data are rounded and do not reflect any tolerances – they may be altered without notice.		

The Gen 5 comes with the Glock standard plastics sights, but also now offer Ameriglo tritiums as an option. I used these sights at the Glock Operators Course earlier in the month, and they are a great set up. If you plan on using your Gen 5 as a duty or carry gun, I recommend them highly.

## Glock Operators Course



Earlier in the summer, I had the opportunity to run an abbreviated Glock Operators Course with the new Gen 5. The Glock Operators Course (GOC) teaches you to drive or “operate” a Glock. And at least the chief architect of the course can lay some claim to the word, my friend Joseph Parent. Parent is an old hand from 2<sup>nd</sup> Force Recon, a former SOTG instructor, and a 3 Division USPSA Master class shooter. Parent can sling a pistol, as can all of his assistant instructors. He has assembled an all star cast of other gunfighters. I really liked that his crew had a mix of U.S. military, police, and SWAT members. No one organization has a monopoly on the best training or ideas. Every one involved in GOC is a consummate professional, bringing years of experience to the venue. Or in the case of his instructor named “Gen1” four decades.

I hesitate to call the GOC a basic course because no one likes a basic course. The market demands a Level 54 Paladin with ninja stars and SWAT rolls course. A better description would be a course with something for shooters at all levels. It is not for new shooters that is certain. To even get in the door, you must be active Military, Police, an NRA instructor or a Glock Shooting Sports Foundation (GSSF) member.



Much like my preferred teaching style, the course begins with a rapid overview of the basics. This is very important. You can't build a foundation on sand. The overview is designed to offer tweaks to existing skills or identify missing parts. You would be amazed how many experienced shooters have chunk of knowledge missing. Every skill is both explained and demonstrated, then done at speed live fire.

The course involved lots of work from the draw, and we utilized [BladeTech](#) holsters. Every skill imaginable with a pistol is covered, from draws to one handed shooting, to shooting on the move. Our course was compressed from two days into one, so the pace was kept high.

There is enough here to challenge anyone, and if you carry a Glock, it is worth checking out.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/hk-vp9sk-9mm-long-awaited-vp9-mini-full-review/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170911\\_BlogDigest\\_242&utm\\_campaign=/blog/hk-vp9sk-9mm-long-awaited-vp9-mini-full-review/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/hk-vp9sk-9mm-long-awaited-vp9-mini-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170911_BlogDigest_242&utm_campaign=/blog/hk-vp9sk-9mm-long-awaited-vp9-mini-full-review/)

## HK VP9SK 9mm: The Long Awaited VP9 Mini-Me – Full Review

by Justin Opinion on August 16, 2017



The day that Heckler & Koch released the VP9, handgun enthusiasts nearly lost their minds with joy. The very next day, even while basking in that euphoria, everyone asked “but when is the sub-compact version going to come out?” While some people can and do carry the VP9 as a concealed weapon, most of us smaller-sized people with smaller clothing just can’t. About a year after the VP9 entered the market, HK released the P30SK and I wondered whether that might shelve any plans for an SK version of the VP9. After all, it met all the criteria – except that the P30 line is hammer fired and the VPs are striker fired. There are folks out there that just don’t cross that line, one way or the other. So, while I absolutely love the P30SK (see [review](#)), I know many who have been holding out for the [VP9SK](#). Was it worth the wait?

### THE SPECS

The VP9 is not really all that large a pistol, but it is a full duty-sized gun. And while some folks can and do carry it concealed, I prefer something much smaller for everyday carry. I don’t want my life or my wardrobe to revolve around my carry gun. So, for those of us who are average height and build, and wear normal clothing, a smaller version is much appreciated! How much smaller? Well, really not dramatically smaller, except in a couple of key dimensions: height and length. The latter of those is less important, unless you carry appendix-

style, which I don't. The single most important dimension of a handgun for concealed carry is the height from the bottom of the magazine baseplate to the top of the rear sights. Why? Because this is what will cause printing and self-consciousness if it protrudes too far. Good holsters help, and some forward cant helps, but what helps most is a short butt on the gun! HK shortened the height of the VP9SK by a full inch compared to the full-sized VP9 (4 ½" vs. 5 ½") – a significant difference. The overall length has also been rolled back from 7-3/8" (VP9) to 6-5/8" (VP9SK). The thickness of the gun remains the same. Also remaining are a number of features that helped make the Hk VP9 a runaway best seller: ambidextrous controls make the pistol universally ergonomic and intuitive. The paddle style magazine release remains, located at each side of the lower trigger guard. The slide stop/release is easily reached and operated by the thumb of either hand.



## **HK VP9 SK**

- Chambering: 9mm
- Barrel: 3.39"
- OA Length: 6.61"
- Weight: 23.07 oz.
- Grips: Polymer
- Sights: 3-dot combat
- Action: Striker fired DAO
- Finish: Black
- Capacity: 10+1
- MSRP: \$ 719.00 (\$819 for LE)

HK shortened the height of the VP9SK by a full inch compared to the full-sized VP9 (4 ½" vs. 5 ½") – a significant difference. The overall length has also been rolled back from 7-3/8" (VP9) to 6-5/8" (VP9SK). The thickness of the gun remains the same. Also remaining are a number of features that helped make the Hk VP9 a runaway best seller: ambidextrous controls make the pistol universally ergonomic and intuitive. The paddle style magazine release remains, located at each side of the lower trigger guard. The slide stop/release is easily reached and operated by the thumb of either hand.

As usual, where the biggest sacrifice occurs when cutting size and weight for a sub-compact pistol is ammunition capacity. The VP9SK holds 10+1, rather than the 15+1 of the full-sized gun. Depending upon which version of the pistol you buy, it comes with either two or three 10-round magazines. My copy was delivered with two – one flush baseplate and one with the “pinky rest” extension. I’ve really become a fan of the pinky rest, when designed well, because it gives you the feel and strength of a full grip but the angle also helps reduce visible height and potential printing. For a backup magazine, or for range days, the full sized 15-round magazines from the VP9 or the P30 fit and function perfectly in the SK. There are also aftermarket sleeves available to fill in the space created by the additional length, making it truly feel like a full-sized duty gun.



Instantly recognizable as a VP9 series pistol, the subcompact is much smaller.

## SHOOTING THE VP9SK

If you've ever shot the HK VP9, then you have essentially shot the SK version. Where you'll notice the difference is the shorter 4½" grip (with the flush magazine) of the SK. For just about everyone this will present the "what do I do with my pinkie?" feel. I usually just curl mine under the butt of the gun, but not everyone is satisfied with that feel. I have friends that won't shoot a gun unless all five fingers have a home. Okay, I exaggerated a bit – I don't really have friends... but I know other people that shoot. Take heart – unlike my HK P30SK that came with three magazines, all with a flat baseplate – the VP9SK comes with two magazines (as tested), one of which has the angled 'pinkie extension.' The extension does not change capacity, nor does it significantly alter the "printing height" of the pistol when holstered. But it provides a firm and comfortable place for that small fifth finger, and feels like a full sized duty pistol. It is also important to note that the magazines for the VP9SK are shared with the P30SK, and the full sized mags from the P30 and VP9 make perfect extended capacity magazines for the VP9SK. This makes for useful backup magazines for carry and excellent mags for range days.



Sizing the VP9SK to fit any shooter is just a matter of selecting the best combination of parts.

15 Yard Results - Rested only  
HK VP9SK 9mm

Ammunition Brand	Ammunition Type	5-Shot Group (inches)	3-Shot Group (inches)
SIG Sauer Elite Performance	124 gr. FMJ	2.792	1.030
SIG Sauer Elite Performance	124 gr. V-Crown	1.968	0.777
Averages		2.380	0.904

Shooting the snubby version of the VP9 is virtually identical to shooting its big sister, with the aforementioned caveat about grip length. There is an obviously shorter sight radius, but this is not terribly perceptible. Recoil impulse is slightly snappier, as we would expect, but by very little. The standard sights are identical, and the trigger feels the same. All-in-all, there is virtually no difference shooting the sub compact versus the full size. The ergonomics of the pistol is also identical to the larger version, with much consideration given to those whose dexterity is ambiguous. And to further clarify what the most often misused word in firearms really means – “ambidextrous” means that a control can be equally operated by either hand at any time, without modification. HK pretty much wrote the book on that subject, with every control being provided equally left and right. The “ears” at the rear of the slide – those polymer handles that help draw the slide rearward, are still present on the SK.

I tested the accuracy of the VP9SK from a rested position 15 yards from my target, using what has become my go-to ammo, SIG Sauer’s Elite Performance. I shot both the full metal jacket and jacketed hollow point (called

V-Crown), both with 124 grain bullets. The V-Crown performed best, as it generally does for me. But even my off-hand shooting at half that distance yielded very nice groups without much effort. The natural point and shoot feel of the VP9 has not been lost by reducing its size.



SIG Sauer Elite Performance performed very well in rested testing from 15 yards.



Off-hand from 8 yards, ammo such as Magtech and Herter's Select were also accurate and reliable.

## JUST MY OPINION

Any popular duty-sized gun will eventually spin off a sub-compact version of itself, either as part of a planned product line, or in response to market demand. Very few firearms manufacturers say 'no' to a crowd of shooters waving fists full of money at them (I say 'few', because amazingly some seem to). Along the way, some make the mistake of modifying the design too much to make it fit the smaller footprint, and very subtle changes can affect the way the pistol feels or the way a control is operated. There are some pistols that I love in full size, but don't like much in sub-compact for just this reason. The VP9SK is not at risk of being on that list. Heckler and

Koch nipped and tucked in just the right places to make a smaller, more concealable VP9 that feels and functions exactly the same as the duty sized gun. For me, double-stack subs are still a bit on the thick side for carry in the summer, but when the bulkier fall fashions are all the rage, I have enjoyed carrying the HK P30SK a lot. This pistol is the nearly identical striker fired version. One word of warning though, followed by one of celebration – the VP9SK will not fit into any custom holster made for the P30SK (trigger guard is the main reason); but it slips perfectly into all my Kydex VP 9 holsters, and just leaves some “room to grow” at the bottom end, like a nice pair of hand-me-down shoes.



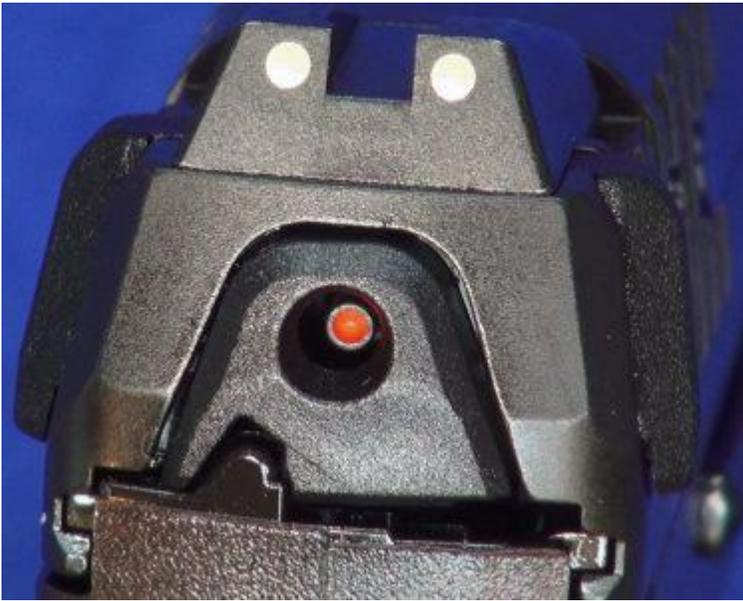
Full sized magazines, like this 15-round VP9 mag with an aftermarket sleeve, make the SK feel like a duty pistol.



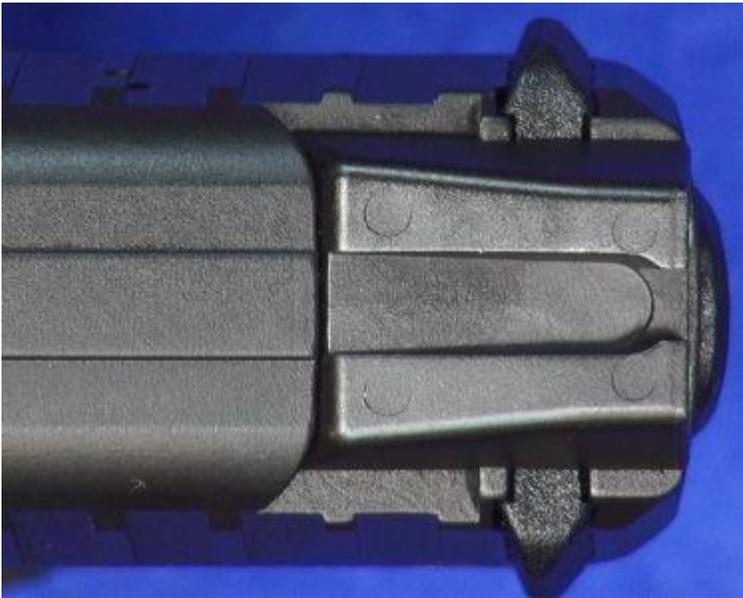
This custom Kydex holster from Multi Holsters was made for the VP40. The VP9SK fits like a glove.

The VP9SK is priced at the upper end of the market, but this should surprise no one. HK quality has always come at a slight industry premium. The LE version of the gun that offers an additional magazine and a very good set of night sights will run about \$100 more than the one tested here. If you like night sights and have ever checked the prices of HK magazines, you’ll recognize that as a good deal. I think HK delivered exactly what

people wanted with the VP9SK. Short of it being a single-stack that somehow magically holds 10 rounds, I don't know how it could be improved. Shooting this gun extensively, I had zero failures and zero jams. What I had lots of was fun.



The "striker cocked" indicator (the red dot is only visible when cocked) is also present in the SK.



The polymer "ears" to help the user retract the slide, introduced on the VP9, are also on the SK. The author is a fan.

## Is The 9mm Luger The Best All-Around Defensive Cartridge?

By [Robert Campbell](#) - August 4, 2017

**The 9mm Luger has always been a widely used cartridge ever since its introduction in 1902, and it remains highly popular among American shooters.**

### Why is the 9mm America's most popular handgun caliber?

- The 9mm's popularity has sky rocketed, offering shooters a high-powered round that is still manageable.
- Married to the most popular military sidearm in the world, the Browning Hi-Power, the acceptance of the versatile German cartridge soon spread.
- More recently, the 9mm has become a popular concealed carry caliber, due to even new shooters being able to master the most important factor to defensive shooting in pistols chambered for it — shot placement.
- Affordability, wide selection of guns and solid ballistics all continue to make the 9mm the most shot round in the country.

While there may be better cartridges for some situations, none have the winning combination of power, accuracy and economy exhibited by the 9mm Luger. When handgun and ammunition sales are rung up, shooters vote with their hard-earned dollars, and after all these years, the Nine wins the popularity contest.

It remains much more popular than the .40 and the .45. The .40 S&W is a compromise caliber but doesn't seem to have won many converts outside of police work, and that position has been seriously eroded. The .40's snappy recoil in compact handguns is one reason for its loss in popularity. Another is that the 9mm is practically as effective as the .40 given the new breed of highly developed 9mm ammunition.

The 9mm is a high-powered handgun cartridge — there is no doubt about that, but it isn't a cartridge that demands a burly he-man to control it. Slightly built shooters and female shooters have no problem with the 9mm when proper technique is applied. The caliber is so popular that it is being offered in handguns that once were bastions of the .45. [Ruger](#)'s introduction of the SR1911 9mm has been met with great applause and expectation. This handgun is easy to shoot well and accurate. An aluminum-frame 1911 is easy to carry all day and the lightweight Ruger 9mm doesn't kick much compared to the lightweight .45. Yet, with modern loads, the 9mm has real authority. Even the .38 Super has lost a portion of its limited popularity with the [improvement of the 9mm Luger](#).



The 9mm has come a long way since its introduction as a German service cartridge in 1902. The German Luger was used extensively in World War I, and the first submachine guns were chambered for the 9mm Luger cartridge.

Introduced in 1935, the [Browning](#) Hi-Power went on to become the single most popular service pistol in the world. The armed forces of over 100 nations acquired the Browning, all in 9mm Luger chambering. After World War II the allies had excellent 9mm SMGs in the form of the Sten and Sterling, and others were developed. The 9mm Luger became the 9mm NATO cartridge in due course.

Along the way there have been certain milestone handguns that made the popularity of the 9mm handgun inevitable. The ascendancy of the Browning Hi-Power handgun is one milestone. Another is the adoption of the 9mm Luger cartridge by Poland for use in their Radom pistol. This is to the best of my knowledge the first instance of the adoption of the service cartridge of an enemy nation based purely on performance. The [Walther](#) P38 was a highly influential 9mm handgun. The allies were so impressed with the P38 that eventually the United States adopted a highly modified P38 pistol in the form of the Beretta 92. Today, the Beretta A3 variant is the current service pistol, and by all indications will continue to serve well into the next decade. (*Editor's Note: Following the results of the Army's Modular Handgun System (MHS) competition this year, it looks like SIG's P320 will be the next service handgun*)

It is also a good cartridge for concealed-carry handguns. It is controllable in a handgun of 21 ounces or more. In compact pistols such as the Glock 19, the cartridge is downright docile. A steel-frame pistol such as the Browning Hi-Power or [CZ](#) 75 offers brilliantly fast recovery from recoil. The 9mm is easily controlled in the larger pistols and never becomes a bear even in subcompacts.

Even shooters who later will move on to heavier calibers should begin with the 9mm Luger cartridge. I have seen a number of students come to my shooting classes with a handgun that recoils too much. A new student will likely become discouraged or develop a flinch that is difficult to train away. The single most important component of combat marksmanship is shot placement. The typical beginning shooter is well served with the

9mm. If you insist on a larger caliber you should learn to use a full-size-frame handgun if you choose the .45, or a [Glock 22](#)-size if you choose the .40 caliber. If the pistol is too heavy, you will not carry it — and if it kicks too much you will not practice with it.

There are several more reasons why the 9mm remains so popular.

### **Economy**

It isn't unusual to see special deals on the price of 9mm Luger ammunition. Full-metal-jacket (FMJ) loads are commonly available at good prices. Just check the ammo section of [Cheaper Than Dirt!](#), [Midsouth Shooters Supply](#), [Brownells](#) or [Cabela's](#) for bargains. Sale prices for 9mm FMJ is often half the price of comparable .40- and .45-caliber loads. Even premium defensive ammo is less than the larger calibers. On average, my recent searches indicate that ammunition can be found in 500-round quantities for the average price of 350 rounds of comparable .45 ACP cartridges. This means more practice. Yet, it is the larger caliber that demands more practice ammunition to master! Use the logic ladder.

### **The Guns**

Some of the finest handguns in the world are chambered in 9mm Luger caliber. These include the [SIG P226](#), [Beretta 92](#), [HK VP9](#) and the Glock 19. They are famously reliable and accurate. Even inexpensive pistols such as the [Canik T 100](#) will get the job done, simply with a little less style. In compact carry guns, the Smith and Wesson Shield, Glock 26 and Springfield XD are excellent choices. This year has seen the introduction of the Ruger SR1911, the [Honor Defense](#) Honor Guard and the [Arex](#) Rex Zero, all of which exhibit excellent quality.



### **Ballistics**

This is the big question. Despite some pretty strange statements and non-standard science, the 9mm cannot produce a wound equal to the [.45 ACP](#), given similar bullet technology. The .40 S&W and the [.357 Magnum](#) give superior results in testing. But then the 9mm can be enough with the proper load, and that is the bottom line. A loading with good quality control and cartridge integrity is the first choice. Every maker doesn't have the same quality control, primer seal and case mouth seal, and especially bullet technology. The loading must maintain the balance of expansion and penetration. This means adequate penetration must not be compromised. This means 12 inches of water or gelatin. (Law enforcement, with the need to penetrate barriers and vehicles, needs more penetration.) It has enough energy to maintain high-velocity penetration and expansion.

No, the 9mm isn't my choice for defense against a pack of feral dogs or a bear, but for most personal defense situations, the 9mm has the necessary power with proper loads to get the job done. And the best loads mean a lot! The 9mm FMJ loads we use for practice are poor defensive loads, but then few of us deploy a FMJ load if we have a choice. Good control, accuracy and a good balance of expansion and penetration work. As an example, [Hornady](#) recently introduced a 124-grain XTP +P load in the American Gunner line. This loading is affordable and offers excellent performance from my personal testing. Also, [Winchester](#) offers the PDX in 124-grain +P that offers excellent wound ballistics.



If you prefer not to use a +P loading, there are a number of standard loads that offer good performance. [Black Hills Ammunition](#) offers the EXP (Extra Power) loading that is as fast as possible in 9mm without going into +P territory. Performance is excellent. The SIG Sauer Elite 124-grain V Crown is also a good, fast load not +P rated. The Hornady Critical Defense 115 grain is another solid choice. Winchester's Silvertip has been around for decades, although the newest version is considerably improved over the original. These loads all offer good performance, are readily available and exhibit excellent quality control. [Federal](#)'s 124-grain HST is another good choice. Federal recently introduced a low-recoil 150-grain HST specifically for use in compact 9mm handguns. Performance is interesting. While recoil is low, expansion is good.

The 9mm's future? It is more popular than ever and is an excellent choice for personal defense — given a reliable handgun and intelligent ammunition choice.

*Editor's Note: This article is from [Gun Digest 2018](#).*

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/ultimate-urban-combat-rifle-barnes-precision-machine-308-full-review/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170904\\_BlogDigest\\_240&utm\\_campaign=/blog/ultimate-urban-combat-rifle-barnes-precision-machine-308-full-review/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/ultimate-urban-combat-rifle-barnes-precision-machine-308-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170904_BlogDigest_240&utm_campaign=/blog/ultimate-urban-combat-rifle-barnes-precision-machine-308-full-review/)

## The Ultimate Urban Combat Rifle: Barnes Precision Machine .308 — Full Review

by Clay Martin on September 3, 2017

As I mentioned in the Bravo Company Manufacturing (BCM) MK12 Replica [review](#), there is serious debate about 5.56 versus .308 for urban combat roles. Just a few weeks back, some of the guys still on active duty called a few of us retired guys, and we had round table about what we liked for city fighting. In a meeting with north of 100 years of sniper experience, there was no consensus.

### A Lasting First Impression



Many men whose opinions I respect immensely fall in the 5.56 camp. There's nothing wrong with that. They had the combat experience that added validity to their argument. I, however, fall firmly in the 7.62x51mm camp. I can carry fewer bullets, the gun is heavier, the recoil is harder, and inside of 800 meters, the reach of either is a non issue. This is all true. I like 7.62 for one simple reason. The first enemy I dispatched with it fell down like they had been hit by the fist of God. At this point in my life, I am no stranger to combat and my first experience with the 7.62 left a lasting impression — that round is lethal. Prior to that incident, all the work I had done was with an M4, a machine gun or grenades. Bullets are cheap; lives are expensive. There was no chance for a follow up with the 7.62, and no need. I was so shocked at how effective the round was that I actually came out of the scope to look with my naked eye, like my green NVG (night vision goggles) sight was lying to me. (Good luck seeing in the dark with naked eyeballs, but that is beside the point.) After that night, I wanted 7.62 all the time.



The author used Federal Edge TLR for testing purpose. This bullet houses a 175-grain Edge TLR bullet.

Now I am not saying 7.62 is a magic bullet: It isn't. I would eventually see multiple bad guys walk them off as well because humans are tougher than we tend to believe. But I am a fan of the .308. It has lots of reach, and it hits like a sledgehammer even with the match style bullets, which is a poor choice if you have options. This love of .308 Winchester led me to look for an all-purpose battle rifle in the chambering. I wanted a do everything gun, with the reach of 1,000 meters, and the maneuverability for a street fight. I wanted an Apocalypse Gun, and I knew just who to talk to.

**Article Continues Below**

## **Barnes Precision Machine**

Barnes Precision Machine of Apex, North Carolina, has a long history of direct support for the boys from Ft. Bragg. More loaner upper receivers have been used in the Global War on Terror (GWOT) than you will find any official statistic on. With a need for accuracy and reliability well beyond the normal government-issue junk, Green Berets have field tested the BPM products in the least forgiving environments on earth. Barnes is also a favorite on the local competitive circuit for 3 Gun, with many of those same soldiers using a BPM for matches. I believe in the product so much, my wedding rings are cut from a BPM .308 barrel blank.



## **SPECS**

- **Type:** Semiautomatic AR-10 rifle
- **Cartridge:** .308
- **Barrel Length:** 16 in. 416 stainless steel match-grade barrel

- **Overall Length:**
- **Stock:** Magpul MOE Stock
- **Sights:** Magpul MBUS sights
- **Finish:** NiB BCG
- **Muzzle Device:** BPM Flash hider
- **Trigger:** Geissele G2s Trigger
- **MSRP:** \$2,550
- **Manufacturer:** Barnes Precision Machine



As a base gun, I selected the [BP-10](#) with a 16-inch barrel, though nothing from BPM is what you would call basic. It came out of the box with Magpul furniture, a collapsible 5-position stock and a Geissele trigger. The bolt carrier group is nickel-boron coated, which is the Barnes standard. This finish is so slick it is unreal, and it makes cleaning a cinch. Their finish is one of my favorite features of these rifles. The BP-10 runs an ambidextrous bolt release, a feature that is growing on me. The lower receiver has been shaved down for weight reduction, and is very close in size to an AR-15, except for the magwell. The barrel has received a WMD Nitromet treatment, which offers a 30-percent increase in barrel life, as well as enhanced corrosion resistance. Rounding out the package is the legendary BPM handguard, now with M-LOK slotting at the 3-, 6-, and 9 o'clock positions. This handguard is my all time favorite, and the M-LOK cuts have the added benefit of lightening the



package.

## Adapting to Your Environment



This isn't just a review gun for me, this is something I ordered and paid for. I live in the wide open spaces of Idaho, I need a truck gun that has some reach behind it. I immediately wanted to change a few things to meet my specific needs. The first order of business was optics. There are a lot of good choices here, but given my ranges, I was looking for abnormally high magnification. If you are in a city or the dense woods of the east coast, a Bushnell SMRS 1-6.5 is probably the optimal choice. I wanted something with enough power for over 1,000 meters, also factoring in the often-high winds we have here. A 10X would have been ideal, a good balance of scope weight and magnification. That seems to have fallen from popularity though, so I settled on a [Steiner M5Xi 3-15](#). The top end is plenty for observation and shooting, and the bottom end works great for mid range rapid engagement. The one thing a 3X optic doesn't do well is being practical inside of 100 meters, and I still live in the city. For any close range work, a 1x is the absolute gold standard. Fortunately for me, [Troy Industries](#) now makes a set of 45 degree offset folding iron sights. Troy has been my gold standard for folding irons for some time, from my days in the Army. They are tough as nails, but most importantly, they are dimensionally correct. I prefer the [H&K style](#) round sights, heresy for a U.S. Marine of my vintage. I have always gotten better groups with them than the U.S. standard butterfly shaped fronts and find them faster to acquire. The dimensions are very important. I have owned H&K styles before, from other manufacturers, that are not spaced for carbines. You end up not being able to see the edges of the front sight, which means they might as well not exist.



I wanted to keep the buttstock collapsible, to minimize the size for in the truck. Normally on a .308, I will go ahead and switch to a Magpul PRS, which is a factory option from Barnes Precision. Sticking to the collapsible, the obvious problem of cheek weld with a scope rears its head. I solved this with a [Larue RISR](#), or reciprocating

inline stock riser. This bolts onto a standard CTR buttstock without modification and gives per cheekweld for most scope rings. It also retains your ability to charge the rifle with the stock collapsed, something no other add on riser allows.

For a trigger, I opted to swap for an [AR Gold](#) drop in module. The Geisselle is an all right trigger, but I wasn't looking for all right. I was looking for the best option available, and that is AR Gold. I went for a new flat faced model, not because they work any better, but because it looks cool. Vanity strikes even me sometimes.

## Range Time



The author used the Steiner M5Xi 3-15X to create his ultimate urban combat rifle.

What and how to feed this beast? [Hex mag](#) is a new brand to me, so I decided now was as good a time as any to test them out. 308 magazines are not cheap, so a polymer option would be a godsend. I am happy to report, the Hex Mag's worked flawlessly. This will be an ongoing test, but I am happy so far. For ammunition, I had two fantastic options from Federal Ammunition. First up was the new .308, with a 185-grain Berger projectile, called the [Juggernaut](#). This is the Gold Medal match grade special, and it did not disappoint. It gave me a ½ inch 100m group, which is more than a battle rifle needs. I expect no less from Barnes Precision Machine, but I was still very happy. I also fed it the new [Edge-TLR](#), which gave me expansion at close to 900 meters last month in another test. I had no desire to mix up another batch of corn starch ballistics gel, to learn something I already knew. This is what I plan to carry in the gun, given its terminal ballistics.

The BP-10 lived up to all of my expectations, it was an excellent purchase. Storm clouds are gathering, and we may very well be fighting in the streets soon. If you need to start handing out justice 175 grains at a time, this is the platform I recommend.

## Concealed Carry: Is The .380 ACP Enough For Self-Defense?

By [Kat Ainsworth](#) - August 15, 2017

**Pistols chambered for .380 ACP have grown in popularity due to their compact size and concealability. But does the round bring enough to the table to be viable for self-defense?**

### Should you trust your life to the .380 ACP?

- When John Moses Browning designed the .380 ACP in the early 1900s, he built it for the era's blowback pistols.
- The different .380 ACP rounds tested had vastly different penetration capabilities, and a number of them were unable to defeat various barriers, let alone reach FBI penetration minimums.
- Wound-cavity analysis tells a similar story concerning the .380 ACP, with individuals shot by the round able to function seconds to minutes after being shot.
- As might be expected, larger-diameter bullets produce more devastating wound cavities and have a greater likelihood of striking vital organs.
- While any gun is better than no gun at all, it is the author's contention pistols chambered in .380 ACP are best served as backup guns and not primary self-defense handguns.

Nearly three-quarters of a century ago, on January 30, 1948, Hindu nationalism advocate Nathuram Godse carried out an assassination. At 5:17 p.m., he used a possibly stolen [Beretta](#) M1934 to shoot Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi three times in the chest, point-blank. In doing so, Godse sealed his own fate — he would be hanged in 1949 — and made Gandhi a martyr to his cause. The Beretta used was chambered in 9x17mm Corto, another designation for the cartridge more commonly known stateside as the .380 ACP.

Gandhi's assassination is just one of many instances — famous and otherwise — where the cartridge has been utilized with deadly results. Does this mean the [.380](#) ACP is a powerful round, or is it only fatal in rare instances?



When John Moses Browning designed the .380 ACP in the early 1900s, he built it for the era's blowback pistols, specifically the [Colt](#) Model 1908 Pocket Hammerless. Blowback-operated pistols lack a barrel-locking mechanism; the combination of the slide's mass and the recoil spring's strength bear the brunt of recoil.

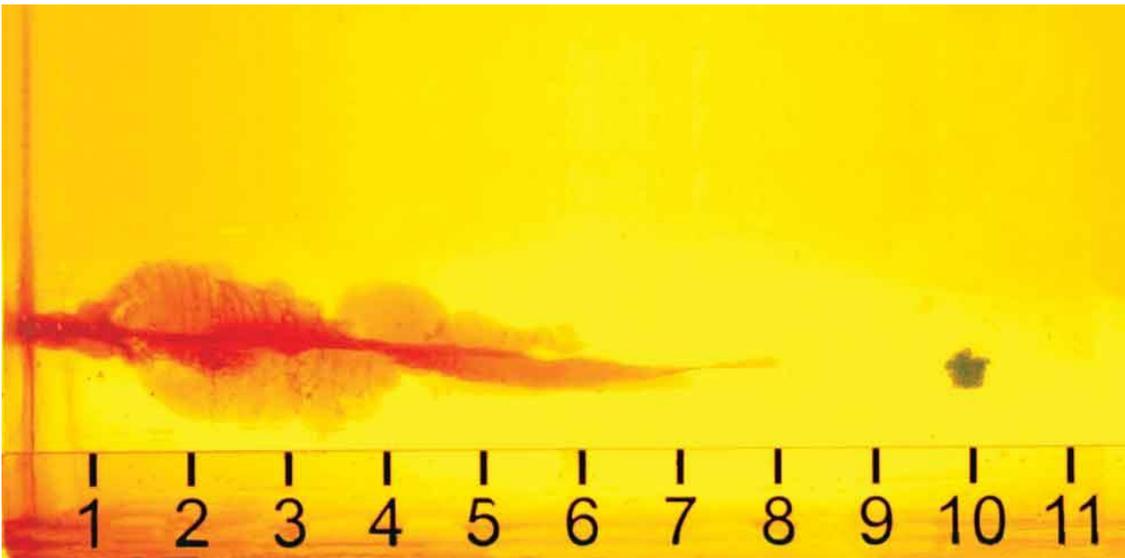
Today, many pistols chambered in the cartridge follow the original blowback design, but others use a locked-breech action in which the slide and barrel initially recoil in tandem, but then the barrel stops moving while the slide continues rearward (of course, variations abound). Browning's design might be more than one century old, but it continues to influence the firearms world to this day.

When it comes to the .380 ACP, gun owners tend to love it or hate it — middle ground is uncommon in the “great caliber debate.” Many claim it's too small, and it is, indeed, a diminutive cartridge. It has an overall length of .984 inch, a bullet diameter of .355 inch and a maximum pressure of 21,500 psi.

When compared to a cartridge such as the 10mm with its [SAAMI](#) overall length of 1.250 inches, bullet diameter of .400 inch and maximum pressure of 33,000 psi, it appears even smaller. However, if you compare it to [9x19mm Parabellum](#) with its matching bullet diameter of .355 inch, the issue becomes more complex.

So, what it comes down to is real-life performance. In the gun world, ballistic knowledge is power, so let's take a look at how the .380 ACP performs in gel tests and wound studies.

## **Ballistic Gel Testing**



Ballistic gel is the medium used by manufacturers and writers to test the terminal ballistics of various bullets. Protocols for its use are typically based on the FBI's ammunition test, which the agency undertook almost 30 years ago following the Pyrrhic victory of the 1986 FBI Miami Shootout, during which two agents were killed and five were wounded in a firefight against a pair of serial bank robbers. The shootout brought up questions regarding caliber capabilities, and the ammunition testing protocols the FBI created a few years later remain the guidelines to this day.

According to the protocol, bare gel or gel covered by heavy clothing, automotive sheet metal, wallboard, plywood or automotive glass is shot from a distance of 10 feet. Bullets must then penetrate to a minimum depth of 12 inches to be considered effective, a number based on anatomical averages and the belief that erring on the side of too much is better than too little. When the FBI performed their tests in 1989, they used 24 tons of gel, and measurements were made blind — agents didn't know what caliber they were measuring — for statistical accuracy.

As for ammunition, there are untold numbers of manufacturers in the United States, thanks to startups and relatively unknown or new companies, but there are only a few dozen that are well established and even fewer well-known manufacturers. For the purposes of this test I used defensive .380 ACP loads from [Federal Premium Ammunition](#), [Hornady](#), Barnes Bullets, [Dynamic Research Technologies](#) (DRT) and [Snake River Shooting Products](#) (SRSP) Team Never Quit. The variation of loads among these established brands made them ideal for comparison. Handguns used included the [Ruger](#) LCP II, [Kimber](#) Micro Advocate, [Remington](#) RM380, [Glock](#) 42 and [Browning](#) Black Label. Some data was [supplied by manufacturers](#).

PENETRATION				
MANUFACTURER	BARE GEL (in.)	HEAVY CLOTHING (in.)	STEEL (in.)	WALLBOARD (in.)
Federal Premium 99-grain HST	9.050	9.325	10.550	7.775
SRSP Team Never Quit 75-grain Frangible HP	10.90	11.20	--	--
DRT 85-grain Terminal Shock JHP	11.40	12.50	--	--
Hornady Critical Defense 90-grain FTX	9.90	10.25	--	--
Barnes 80-grain TAC-XPD	7.75	--	--	--

\*Shots fired at the FBI protocol distance of 10 feet.

In bare gelatin, the most impressive performance came from DRT's 85-grain Terminal Shock JHP with an average penetration depth of 11.40 inches, although the SRSP Team Never Quit 75-grain Frangible HP was right behind it at 10.90 inches. Conversely, the Barnes 80-grain TAC-XPD penetrated the shallowest, with an average penetration depth of 7.75 inches.

Of course, the average assailant will be clothed, meaning further testing was required. With heavy clothing over the gel block, Hornady's Critical Defense 90-grain FTX reported the greatest average penetration of 10.25 inches; Federal Premium's Personal Defense 99-grain HST was fairly close at 9.325 inches.

So, what do all these numbers mean? Going by the FBI's protocol requiring a minimum penetration depth of 12 inches, frangible HPs such as DRT and SRSP Team Never Quit come close — but not quite — while rounds such as Barnes' TAC-XPD fall noticeably short.

### **Analyzing Wound Cavities**

Although ballistic gel is designed to simulate the density of human tissue and potential resulting wound cavities, nothing beats going to the source. Numerous gunshot wound studies have been done by surgeons, coroners and, of course, the FBI. This means there's a decent amount of data readily available.

As reported by Dr. Andreas Grabinsky, the program director for emergency and trauma anesthesia at Harborview Medical Center, which is the only Level I trauma center in Washington State, approximately 76 percent of gunshot wounds are from handguns. Dr. Grabinsky also states relevant wounding factors include bullet diameter and penetration depth, both of which correlate to tissue damage. Tissue damage refers to the temporary and permanent wound cavities a bullet creates; the immediate, temporary cavity occurs when the bullet enters, but it quickly collapses, resulting in the permanent cavity.



Dr. Grabinsky repeatedly states the significance of penetration, saying even millimeters matter when it comes to damaging vital organs, blood vessels or arteries. He references experiences of gunshot wound victims shot by calibers 9mm and smaller — which includes the .380 ACP — having had no problem walking around and functioning anywhere from seconds to minutes after being shot.

In 2006, a coroner wrote a report titled, “Terminal Ballistics as Viewed in a Morgue.” He stated he performed an average of 8.2 autopsies a day and chose to be blunt in his findings. “I absolutely despise a 9mm for defensive situations ... and a .380 ACP as well,” he wrote, adding he will “take a slow-moving .45 ACP to a gunfight any day.” In addition, he stated that when a gunshot wound victim crossed his autopsy table with multiple rounds in their bodies, those bullets were typically .380 ACP or 9mm, while single-shot gunshot wound victims were usually shot by [.40 S&W or .45 ACP](#).

Finally, there’s the real-life experience of now-retired police Sergeant and US Army veteran Tim Crawford. Sergeant Crawford made his feelings immediately clear: “Never .380 ACP as a defensive round. I made a run one night on a guy who had been shot 7 times with a .380 ACP. It was a drug deal gone bad. [After being shot] the guy whooped the shooter’s ass and took his gun away from him. Made my mind up on it. And the guy lived.”

### **The Bottom Line**



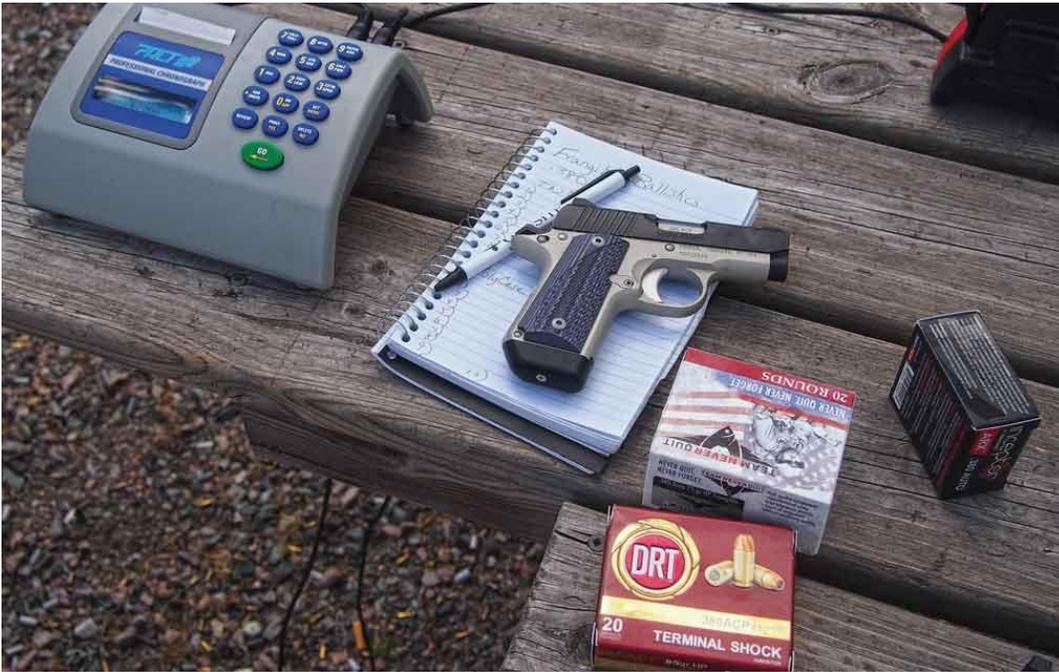
So, is the .380 ACP a viable self-defense choice?

From a medical perspective — and here I delve into my own relevant experiences in my past life in emergency veterinary medicine — there’s no denying that a bigger hole drops an assailant faster, as they lose vital fluids. Hydrostatic shock is an oft-argued reality influenced by factors such as velocity, proximity, placement and bullet diameter. Larger diameter bullets also mean a better likelihood of striking vital organs and breaking through bone, rather than potentially ricocheting harmlessly away. Other factors also come into play, such as psychological state and the ingestion of drugs capable of spiking adrenaline and strength.

Ballistics has come a long way in recent years, with vast improvements in propellants and bullet designs. But even with those improvements, some things haven’t changed. For example, bullet diameter for a given round hasn’t suddenly increased. From a self-defense perspective, the .380 ACP performs to its greatest ability at close ranges, and by close I mean less than 3 yards — closer is even better.

And, as always, shot placement is king.

Trauma center studies report cranial shots to be the deadliest, with multiple close-range center mass shots — those striking vital organs or arteries — being second deadliest. In short, a .380 ACP is best served as your BUG (backup gun), the pistol you pocket or ankle carry as insurance.



This is not to disparage the .380 ACP, but it's simply to state the facts medically, in terms of ballistics and based on the personal experiences of law enforcement officers and doctors. It's enjoyed popularity for some time now based largely on affordability and concealability — which are undeniably fantastic — but where gun owners tend to go wrong is in utilizing it as their EDC (every day carry). There are situations where a pocket pistol is the only option due to legalities or other matters, but throughout our 50 states, those scenarios are the exception to the rule.

The late Col. Jeff Cooper once said, “The first rule of gunfighting is to have a gun.” It's a good rule to follow, meaning any gun — even one of a smaller caliber — is better than no gun at all. A gun collecting dust in your safe does you no good, so get the gun you'll actually train with and carry. Of course, Cooper also said, “Perhaps the first thing you should demand of your gun is that it be unfair.” Do you think a .380 ACP gives you an “unfair” (read: good) advantage over an attacker? Based on the aforementioned facts, I don't think it does. Not at all.

And I, for one, want that unfair advantage.

## BALLISTICS PERFORMANCE

MANUFACTURER	AVERAGE VELOCITY (fps)	STANDARD DEVIATION (fps)	BEST GROUP (in.)	AVERAGE GROUP (in.)
--------------	------------------------	--------------------------	------------------	---------------------

### RUGER LCP II, 2.75-IN. BARREL

SRSP Team Never Quit 75-grain Frangible HP	1,012	22	.506	.93
DRT 85-grain Terminal Shock JHP	887	18	.79	1.32
Barnes 80-grain TAC-XPD	849	19	.75	1.12
Federal Premium 99-grain HST	880	13	1.07	1.52
PolyCase Inceptor 56-grain ARX	1,268	24	.60	.87
Hornady Critical Defense 90-grain FTX	875	16	.80	1.01

### KIMBER MICRO ADVANTAGE, 2.75-IN. BARREL

SRSP Team Never Quit 75-grain Frangible HP	1,122	17	.67	.99
DRT 85-grain Terminal Shock JHP	855	13	1.01	1.31
Barnes 80-grain TAC-XPD	861	9	1.21	1.60
Federal Premium 99-grain HST	867	17	1.11	1.46
PolyCase Inceptor 56-grain ARX	1,162	14	1.13	1.51
Hornady Critical Defense 90-grain FTX	892	11	.91	1.41

### BROWNING BLACK LABEL, 4.25-IN. BARREL

SRSP Team Never Quit 75-grain Frangible HP	1,233	10	.86	1.52
DRT 85-grain Terminal Shock JHP	921	16	1.01	1.55
Barnes 80-grain TAC-XPD	1,011	12	1.11	1.72
Federal Premium 99-grain HST	1,062	21	1.20	1.42
PolyCase Inceptor 56-grain ARX	1,201	13	.99	1.40
Hornady Critical Defense 90-grain FTX	987	11	1.35	1.66

\*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per second 10 feet from the muzzle by chronograph for the average of 10 shots, and accuracy in inches for five, five-shot groups fired at a distance of 10 yards for the 2.75-inch barrel Kimber Micro Carry Advantage and Ruger LCP II and a distance of 15 yards for the Browning Black Label.

*Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the Concealed Carry 2017 issue of [Gun Digest the Magazine](#).*



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-08/more-than-26,000-guns-surrendered-in-national-firearms-amnesty/8883822>

## Nearly 26,000 guns handed in since July in first national firearms amnesty since Port Arthur

By political reporter [Richard Baines](#)

Updated 7 Sep 2017, 3:52pm

## Nearly 26,000 guns handed in since July in first national firearms amnesty since Port Arthur

By political reporter [Richard Baines](#)

Updated 7 Sep 2017, 3:52pm



[Photo: This 1915 WWI German Luger pistol was among the firearms handed in during the amnesty. \(ABC Radio Adelaide: Brett Williamson\)](#)

[Related Story: Could Australia learn something about gun control from the US?](#)

[Related Story: Rare WWI Luger pistol surrendered in SA gun amnesty](#)

[Map: Australia](#)

Australians have surrendered on average more than 400 firearms a day since July, as part of the first national gun amnesty since the Port Arthur massacre.

## Guns surrendered by state

- NSW: 13,468
- QLD: 7,000
- VIC: 2,150

- SA: 1,338
- TAS: 1,136
- WA: 521
- ACT: 264
- NT: 122

[The amnesty was announced earlier this year](#) against the backdrop of an increased terror threat and more illegal guns in the community.

Figures released today show between July and September, 25,999 firearms have been handed in around the country, an average of more than 400 each day.

Justice Minister Michael Keenan said he was surprised by how high the number was.

"The expectation was that we would get a large number, but 26,000 has really exceeded our expectations," he said.

More than 13,000 guns were surrendered New South Wales, 7,000 in Queensland and 2,150 in Victoria.

The amnesty, which allows Australians to hand in firearms without facing legal consequences, finishes at the end of this month.

"If you hold that gun after the end of the amnesty period then you are running a very significant risk," Mr Keenan said.

## **Rare and vintage firearms among those surrendered**

Authorities are reporting vintage and rare guns being handed in as part of the amnesty.

One man in Queensland surrendered guns he had collected over 30 years.

They included a shotgun from the Vietnam War, a luger pistol from World War I and a Smith and Wesson .455 revolver from World War II.

"There's guns that've been handed in that would've been used during World War II, guns from the 1850s," Mr Keenan said.

Outside of the amnesty period, having an unregistered firearm is punishable with up to 14 years prison on a fine of up to \$280,000.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/perfect-training-rifle-howa-mini-action-7-62x39-full-review/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170828\\_BlogDigest\\_239&utm\\_campaign=/blog/perfect-training-rifle-howa-mini-action-7-62x39-full-review/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/perfect-training-rifle-howa-mini-action-7-62x39-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170828_BlogDigest_239&utm_campaign=/blog/perfect-training-rifle-howa-mini-action-7-62x39-full-review/)

## The Perfect Training Rifle: Howa Mini Action in 7.62×39 — Full Review

by Thomas Gomez on August 23, 2017

Long range shooting is an expensive endeavor. A good rifle, nice scope and ancillary gear can easily set a marksman back several thousand dollars. Shooters on a budget, or those who want to get in a lot of training repetitions, may pick up a rifle that mimics their main long-range rifle relative to weight and feel, but that uses a less expensive round.



The Howa Mini Action next to a Howa short action. Note the difference in the action sizes.

I am currently gearing up for a National Rifle League competition in the Fall. For that competition, I will use a Howa chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor, mated to a Kinetic Research Group stock. I want to train, but at this stage in my training, there is no need to tap into my expensive 6.5 Creedmoor ammunition. To save my ammunition and extend the barrel life of my 6.5 Creedmoor, I assembled two training rifles.

The first training rifle is a Remington 700 that features an old-school 1/12-inch twist barrel. 1/12 twists stabilize 147- to 168-grain ammunition well, and the best bang for your buck, relative to .308/7.62 training ammunition, is Austrian 147-grain ammunition. My Remington 700 holds MOA at 100 yards and, at the altitudes I shoot, is

perfectly capable of hitting an 18-inch target at 1,000 yards. Like the Howa, the Remington 700 is mated to a Kinetic Research Group stock. These rifles feel identical and have the same manual of arms.



The Howa Mini Action features Howa's two stage HACT trigger. The trigger breaks at 2 pounds and is clean and crisp. Pictured is the Nikko Stirling First Focal Plane 4-16X. It's a high-quality piece of glass.

The second training rifle is a [Howa Mini Action](#) chambered in 7.62×39. The Howa Mini Action Rifle debuted several years ago at SHOT Show and features an action that is 12 percent shorter than the Howa short-action rifles.

## SPECS

- **Cartridges:** .204 Ruger, .222 Rem., .223 Rem., 6.5 Grendel & 7.62×39
- **Barrel Length:** 20-in. lightweight, 22 in. standard & 20 in. heavy barrel options
- **HTI@synthetic, pillar-bedded stock & recoil pad**
- **Capacity:** 5 or 10-round detachable magazine (depending on caliber)
- **Bolt:** Forged, lightened, one-piece bolt w/ two locking lugs
- **Safety:** Three-position
- **MSRP:** \$608



Don't have a spotter for the day? Use a PhoneSkope to record your shots through a spotting scope. Pictured is a Bushnell Legend T-Series spotting scope, red dot for acquiring the target faster and an old cell phone attached to the spotting scope via a PhoneSkope.

I am indifferent about the size of the action. My main draw to this rifle was the 7.62×39 chambering. I always considered 7.62×39 to be nothing more than a machine gun round, great for low-cost plinking and basic target shooting. Aside from some hunting applications, I never considered 7.62×39 suitable for long range training application. Until, one day shooting at the ranch, some friends and I were shooting steel out to 1,000 yards and, in between strings, I decided to send a 7.62×39 round out to 1,000 yards. Since I didn't have any data about the rifle or round, I "walked" my rounds on target. Four rounds later, I made contact with the steel plate. Cycling the bolt, I sent another round and observed an impact. I sent several more rounds down range, and had more hits than misses. Frankly, I was stunned.

The 7.62×39 is certainly not the best round for long-range shooting. It is slow and has a low ballistic coefficient. Unless you are handloading, or shooting expensive hunting ammunition, you are mostly left with imported bulk ammunition. With that said, 7.62×39 is perfect either for training new shooters or reinforcing one's own skill set. Let's look at what makes the Howa Mini Action, chambered in 7.62×39 the perfect training tool.



For testing, the author set up a 10- and 18-inch gong. The Last Stand from Action Target is an excellent choice for those looking to add to their collection. These target systems set up in minutes.

## It is inexpensive to shoot

A quick online search reveals that bulk 7.62×39 retails for around .20 to .23 cents a round. This equates to \$230 dollars for 1,000 rounds. You can do a lot of training with 1,000 rounds. In comparison, 1,000 rounds of .308/7.62×51 M80 would cost roughly \$670. I primarily shoot Wolf WPA Military Classic ammunition through my Howa Mini. It typically holds between 1.5 to 1.75 MOA at 100 yards, which is not bad. One thing I particularly like about Wolf WPA Military Classic is its even velocities. The most extreme spread I have witnessed was 35 feet per second. This spread is amazing, considering that I have seen Hornady Match grade ammunition with extreme spreads of 70 feet per second. The average 10-shot velocity of Wolf WPA Military Classic ammunition through my Howa Mini is 2,488 fps. I tend to buy ammo in lots of 1,000 rounds. Even with a heavy shooting schedule, this will last a good portion of the year.

**Article Continues Below**

## 7.62×39 Recoils ... Just Enough!

So why do I *not* feel like a Howa Mini Action chambered in 5.56/.223 Remington is the perfect training rifle? The 7.62×39 has an edge over 5.56/.223 Remington because 7.62×39 has a little bit more recoil. The first position that long range shooters master is the prone position. Learning correct body position, how to load a bipod, and how to use a rear bag are all essential skills for a long-range marksman. Correct body position manages recoil, which then allows a shooter to both observe their shot and get back on target faster. The 7.62×39 can be shot all day with little to no discomfort, though a shooter will not be able to observe hits or misses without good body position



Howa Mini Action rifle with a MagnetoSpeed chronograph. When the author shoots out to subsonic range with the Howa Mini Action, he always uses a chronograph. Tracking velocities provide insight to the behavior of the bullet down range. A LabRadar doppler chronograph would work well.

## 7.62×39 and Its Use for Seasoned Long-Range Shooters

One of the most dynamic variables in long-range shooting is wind. To be a good long-range shooter you must learn how to read and shoot in wind. Standing on a range with a Kestrel can be fun, but you don't know what is happening down range until you cook off a round. One drill that I like is to set up a 10- and 18-inch gong on the range and work back in 100-yard increments. I intentionally set up targets, so that I must contend with ½ value or full value winds. To account for variations in velocity, I usually zero my Howa Mini with a MagnetoSpeed chronograph and leave it on the barrel for the duration of the day. After each shot, I note the impact and take a quick peek at the velocity.



The Howa Mini Action feeds from a five-round box magazine. The author has not encountered feeding issues with this rifle.

Things get interesting when you start shooting at the transonic range, which for a 7.62×39 is between 500 and 600 yards. I personally think good shooters are made practicing in the transonic range. At this range, shooters can practice truing a ballistic solver. One thing that I have noticed with a 7.62×39, is that the smallest mistakes are amplified. Bad parallax? Round is in the dirt. Rifle is not level? Round is in the dirt. Round flew over the target? Check the MagnetoSpeed for a hot round. Round landed below the target? Check the MagnetoSpeed for a low velocity. Are holds not lining up with your ballistic data? Check your Kestrel for Density Altitude and temperature. Shooters can get away with a lot of when using a super caliber like the 6.5 Creedmoor or .300 Norma Magnum, but the 7.62×39 will hold a shooter accountable for every variable, and that accountability will only make you better.

## Quick Tips for training new shooters and children



For beginners, a red dot is the only way to go. When teaching fundamentals, parallax issues, scope shadow, can be a big distraction. Obviously proper scope setup and parallax are eventually taught, but initially can be a hindrance. The author likes to start with a red dot until the fundamentals are sound, then move to a low powered second focal plane rifle scope, with a simple mil dot reticle.

- When starting out a new shooter in the prone, skip the magnified optic and attach a red dot, and a bubble level. Stress perfect body position and proper use of the rear bag, bubble level, and bipod.
- A 10-inch gong at 50 yards is the perfect target for new shooters.
- For children, the red dot sight is important, especially when it comes to eye dominance. If a child is right handed but left eye dominant, or vice versa, that will quickly become apparent. It is easier to troubleshoot eye dominance without having to contend with variables such as eye relief or scope shadow.
- Most red dots do not have scope shadow, and you can get a new shooter accustomed to what a perfect sight picture should look like. This will carry over when you are adjusting comb height and eye relief for a magnified optic.
- Take some foam and tape to the range to build up comb height. You cannot teach a new shooter how to check parallax without a solid cheek weld. “Chin welds” and bad parallax go hand in hand.
- For children who have a deer hunt in several months, and who have never shot a rifle, I will start them on a heavy barrel .17 HMR rifle with a red dot. When the fundamentals are sound, the shooter will then progress to a Howa Mini Action rifle with a red dot, then eventually a second focal plane, low powered magnified optic.

## **Lasting Impressions**



The Howa Mini Action rifle and the author's competition rifle. The competition rifle is a Howa 6.5 Creedmoor that is attached to Kinetic Research Group stock. Legacy Sports International is currently working on a Howa Mini Action that sits in a chassis.

The Howa Mini Action is a neat rifle, and I think the market has been asking for a bolt action rifle chambered in 7.62×39. The Howa Mini Action rifle is good for hunting, training, or general target shooting. My personal Howa Mini has around 2,000 rounds through it and has been an invaluable training tool for my upcoming competition. When my god daughters get old enough to hunt deer, they will be trained using my Howa Mini Action and, depending on the terrain we hunt, may very well harvest their first deer with the rifle as well.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/75-round-yugoslavian-ak-47-century-arms-n-pap-df/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170828\\_BlogDigest\\_239&utm\\_campaign=/blog/75-round-yugoslavian-ak-47-century-arms-n-pap-df/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/75-round-yugoslavian-ak-47-century-arms-n-pap-df/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170828_BlogDigest_239&utm_campaign=/blog/75-round-yugoslavian-ak-47-century-arms-n-pap-df/)

## **A 75-Round Yugoslavian AK-47? Century Arms N-PAP DF**

by Jon Hodoway on August 25, 2017

### **A Walk Through History**

Following World War II, a group of nations were consolidated into what we referred to as Yugoslavia, ruled by a man named Tito. Not owing his ascension to power to the Soviet Union, but still being a communist, he proclaimed that Yugoslavia would go a third way, part of neither the East nor the West. Being in the precarious position of being fully aligned with neither World Power, Tito structured his military to simultaneously repel both the East and the West. This setup resulted in some unique and highly specialized small arms.



The Yugoslavian military adopted the basic pattern of the Soviet AKM rifle and made some alterations to adapt it to their doctrine. Rifle grenades were thought of as a huge force multiplier by the Yugoslavians, which resulted in several of those modifications. The rifle was equipped with a gas shut off, its trunnion was made wider, and its receiver was fashioned from 1.5 mm. sheet metal rather than 1 mm. This configuration allowed the Yugoslavian AK to fire a steady diet of rifle grenades without coming apart. The Soviets had experimented with under-folding stocks but had quickly abandoned them for a variety of side-folding stocks. The Yugoslavian military,

however, adopted the under-folding stocks and issued many them.



## Century Arms N-PAP DF

Century Arms has struck a deal with Zastava in Croatia (formerly Yugoslavia) to produce the [N-PAP DF](#) rifle for them. This is a traditionally-styled Yugoslavian AK variant featuring the under-folding stock, blonde wood and excellent quality. I was thoroughly impressed with the fit and finish of my example rifle. The blued finish on all the metal parts was very nicely done, the gun did not rattle, and every single part was fit tightly, to the point of needing to be loosened up by working them back and forth prior to my first range trip.

The ATF has kindly set up a list of parts that must be American-made for a firearm to be imported. The net output of these restrictions is often just a plethora of sub-standard rifles since many parts are imported and assembled in the United States, rather than the parts being produced and assembled by a single entity. To avoid this quality pitfall, the major components of this rifle are all produced in Croatia, assembled, and then shipped to the United States with the rifle in a non-functioning state. Century then installs the internal fire control systems, slant-cut muzzle brake, and plastic pistol grip, and then adds a Magpul magazine. This process to allows the gun to be completely legal while benefiting from excellent manufacturing processes in Croatia, and



an outstanding fire control system not found easily on other rifles.

Century has developed their own fire control system, and I found it to be simply outstanding. When I measured the trigger pull with my Wheeler Engineering digital gauge, it delivered 2.2 pounds on the foot of the trigger

and 5 pounds at the top. It broke cleanly and consistently with a short reset.



The under-folder was of a traditional Yugoslavian design, constructed of riveted, folded steel that came to a horseshoe-shaped with a push button on the left side of the receiver that allowed it to be under-folded, swiveling around the Magpul magazine. The butt plate on the end pivoted without any buttons to push. I will note that this mechanism required a lot of work to be loosened up before it was serviceable in the field; I'm not complaining, as I've seen many of them that will simply flop back and forth.

Another uniquely Yugoslavian feature is the button to remove the top dustcover that is found on the left upper-rear of the receiver. To remove the cover, you simply push the button and then push the guide rod forward. From what I can tell, this is a feature left over from grenade-firing that prevented the dust cover from coming loose during grenade launching.

The front hand guards are both made of wood. As to what type of wood, there's plenty of speculation on the internet, but nothing definitive. I will note that they were very tight and functional, and presented no issues. However, I believe that I would replace these with a polymer set that would offer some modularity to the front



of the gun.

Another feature on this gun is a bolt hold open that has been integrated into the safety selector, allowing for the bolt to be locked to the rear. To engage this, you pull the bolt to the rear while applying upward pressure on the selector lever. The bolt then slips into a notch cut on the selector, locking it open. This can be particularly helpful, as some ranges require locking the bolt back on your gun to transport it or to show clear when going downrange to change targets. There are Yugoslavian magazines available that have a special follower that will hold the bolt open rather than allowing the bolt to close after the last round has been fired. I ran my example gun with a few such magazines and it worked flawlessly.

## What's Relevant?

I find myself scratching my head when I hear a gun person say, "I would never buy that gun because it doesn't have..." A common one I hear the desire for a chrome-lined barrel. "Why?" instead. The answer is usually something like "Well, that's what the government guns have!"

I will then offer up that most people agree that chrome-lined barrels sacrifice accuracy and that nitride-treated barrels offered today are considered more accurate and reliable. Sometimes, I will follow that up by suggesting that the practice of chrome-lining the barrel is obsolete anyway, as we have better viable coatings. Chroming the barrel and bolt also allows corrosive ammunition to be used until it was exhausted, so why sacrifice accuracy now in the name of tradition? This usually results in a lot of scuffing of feet in the gravel, and then the subject gets changed.



I have brought this up because there are a few such features "missing" from this rifle, that for 99.9 percent of the users would never be of any value anyway. The gas shut off, widened trunnion and thicker sheet-metal on the receiver have not been added to this rifle. The only function that they served was to launch rifle grenades; why would I need that? I've never launched a rifle grenade with an AK. However, if you regularly find yourself in situations where you are launching rifle grenades with an AK 47, you probably shouldn't buy this gun. As a matter of fact, the addition of these features would only serve to add unnecessary weight to the gun, without providing any necessary or improved functionality.

The barrel on the N-PAP is hammer-forged but unlined. This could be an issue if you're planning on shooting corrosive ammunition. A quick note on corrosive ammunition: The corrosive part of the round is not the powder or projectile, but rather the primer. Cleaning a gun fired with corrosive ammunition is as simple as washing it with hot soapy water and then rinsing it off. Failure to do this can result in corrosion of the barrel, bolt, and chamber. Most ammunition available to us in the United States today is non-corrosive, so this shouldn't be a deal-breaker. The bolt and bolt carrier are nickel-plated rather than the traditional chrome-plating. This should not present an issue, as the nickel is easy to clean and will resist carbon well.



My final admonition here is that the Yugoslavian rifles use some non-standard parts from traditional AKM rifles. The handguards, buttstock, dustcover and gas tube are all unique, so they will not be a simple swap with AKM variance. That being said, aftermarket parts are not difficult to find, as there are plenty of companies manufacturing parts for these Serbian rifles.

In summation: don't buy corrosive ammunition, clean the dang rifle every once in a while, and try to avoid active military conflict zones because you don't have a grenade launcher on your AK.

**Article Continues Below**

## **SPECS**

<b>Type:</b>	Semiautomatic AK-47
<b>Cartridge:</b>	7.62x39mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	Cold hammer forged unlined
<b>Barrel Length:</b>	16.25 in.
<b>Barrel Twist:</b>	1:10 in. twist 14x1 LH thread
<b>Length Folded</b>	24 in.
<b>Length Extended</b>	34.25 in.
<b>Weight:</b>	7 lbs., 8 oz.
<b>Receiver:</b>	Stamped 1mm
<b>Trigger Pull:</b>	2.2 lbs. (tested)
<b>Stock:</b>	Under folding
<b>Magazine:</b>	30+1 rds.
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$856

## Test Firing



I loaded up three different types of magazines. In addition to the included Magpul magazine, I ran some Yugoslavian steel and a Romanian 75-round drum. To fill these magazines, I had a quantity of Red Army steel case, American Eagle brass case, and Hornaday steel case ammunition.

I ran into my first learning curve while loading the 75-round drum; this thing has a manual of arms that, if taken lightly, could probably remove a fingertip. Once I nearly discovered this the “cutty amputate-y” way, I busted

out the instruction manual. After about 20 minutes of reading and working, I had 75 rounds of Red Army ammunition locked and loaded. The other two varieties of magazines were straightforward and easy to load.

As I was shooting the gun, I was immediately impressed by how easy it was to control with the Century Arms trigger. I must confess that the under-folding stock was a bit irritating. I traditionally will shoot with electronic earmuffs, and I quickly discovered that the metal arm of the under-folder likes to work itself under the earmuffs and then proceed to push them off my ear. This necessitated swapping out the earmuffs for earplugs. Also, the stock required me to lean more into the gun than normal to see the sights correctly.

While reloading after the third magazine, I noticed that the cleaning rod tended to walk itself loose and begin to charge the target on its own. I solved this problem by simply removing the cleaning rod and putting it in my



range bag.

After a few hundred rounds, I was sure that the gun was running consistently, so I decided to heat it up a bit by running the 75-round drum. Two things became evident. First, about half way through the drum, the gun began to smoke from the barrel and gas tube. The wood forearm did an excellent job of keeping the heat from becoming uncomfortable on my hands. The only real issue was that the smoke sometimes made it a little difficult to acquire the front sight. At about 50 rounds, my finger had decided that this was above its pay grade and began to grow fatigued. When the drum was finally exhausted, there was a small cloud of smoke around the

front of the gun, which was admittedly pretty cool.



To perform the accuracy testing, I used the Caldwell lead sled and a steel 8-inch target at 100 yards. I put a fresh coat of white paint on the target and settled in behind the gun. No matter which ammunition that was run, and with a variety of shooters behind the trigger, this gun delivered 3 ½ inch groups with decided consistency. I found these results to be quite acceptable for a gun of this class.

There was the obligatory shooting of the gun with the stock folded. The resulting demonstration was one of what I refer to as “turning money into noise,” or maybe just a waste of ammunition. The gun is not actually

designed to be fired with the stock folded. This was not a productive activity. Nevertheless, it was fun and



necessary.

## The Bottom Line

If you're going to be launching rifle grenades and shooting corrosive ammunition, don't buy this gun. However, if you're looking for a Yugoslavian under-folder that is well-made, with a great trigger for a reasonable price this should be on your shopping list.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/100-american-made-aks-century-arms-ras47-c39v2/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20171016\\_BlogDigest\\_247&utm\\_campaign=/blog/100-american-made-aks-century-arms-ras47-c39v2/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/100-american-made-aks-century-arms-ras47-c39v2/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20171016_BlogDigest_247&utm_campaign=/blog/100-american-made-aks-century-arms-ras47-c39v2/)

## 100% American Made AKs: Century Arms RAS47 & C39V2

by Clay Martin on October 12, 2017

I am not generally a fan of the AK-47 family of weapons; I have spent too much time on the receiving end of them. But I am a fan of all things American made, so I was more than happy to review a couple of offerings from Century Arms. Anything Commies can do, we can do better. And the boys from Vermont have set out to



do just that.

### A Little Background

For testing, I received the [RAS47](#), Century's most popular rifle, as well as the flagship [C39V2](#). Both weapons are completely American made, so at least we can be sure the parts aren't heat treated in Vodka. I had to look twice at the receivers, they do say made in Georgia. But they mean Georgia, Vermont, a small town upstate. Despite my initial skepticism, both weapons are beautiful. The fit of the parts doesn't resemble a smooshed turnip, which is also a novel concept in Kalishnokavs. These carbines are not AK-47s because they lack the selector switch and true AK-47 rifles differ from these replicas because their receivers are milled from solid blocks of steel and their furniture is substantially different; they also feature a different pistol grip and gas block.

The RAS in RAS47 stands for Red Army Standard. It is designed to be a copy of the '50s era AKM at least on the surface; it's a tip of the hat to Cold-War era Soviet Union. The furniture is a beautiful blonde wood, unlike any other, I have seen. Fingers crossed it is a Vermont native tree and that maple syrup was used to finish it. No one from the factory would confirm that for me though. It's a gas-operated semiautomatic chambered in

7.62x39mm and the rifle's receiver is stamped from a 16-gauge 4140 sheet steel treated with a black nitride finish. The fit of the parts is extraordinary by AK standards. Most of the specimens I have seen were extremely used battlefield examples, but I would still bet money that they didn't look like this the day they left the factory. The grip is black plastic, with nice diamond texturing and finger grooves. Improvements have been made to the magazine release, it is significantly wider than the original. In place of a bullet tube of questionable origin and rifling, the RAS47 sports a 16.5-inch, 1:10-inch twist Green Mountain Nitride barrel. Also outside of Commie spec, the safety lever features a cut out that acts as a bolt hold open. To help keep costs down, Century opted to make the RAS47 without the traditional bayonet lug, cleaning rod or storage compartment in the stock. History would show this to be inaccurate, however, it does make it a more affordable option for history enthusiasts who want to save a dollar.



*Photo Courtesy: Century Arms RAS47*



The RAS47 comes standard with a side rail, so optics mounts aren't out of the question if that is your flavor. Personally, I have about as many spare AK parts laying around the house as I do hubcaps for a '72 Pinto. So I opted to test my rifles with iron sights. More on that later. Taking a look inside, we find something else curiously not Mil-Spec. The bolt has what appear to be large lightning cuts. I wasn't aware this was a modification for AK-47s, but whatever floats your boat. The trigger is a vast improvement over normal AK's, featuring the RAK 1 trigger. The take up is smooth, and the break crisp. It's not a 1911, but a night and day difference from the Soviet standard.



## SPECS — RAS47

- **Type:** Gas-operated, semiautomatic AKMs
- **Cartridge:** 7.62x39mm
- **Capacity:** 30+1 rds.
- **Weight:** 7.55 lbs.
- **Barrel Length:** 16.5 in.; 1:10 in. twist;
- **Overall Length:** 37.25 in.
- **Trigger:** RAK-1 Enhanced Trigger Group
- **Sights:** Standard AKMs adj.
- **MSRP:** \$700

The C39V2 is the flagship model, and features all of the same goodies as the RAS47, and then some. The most obvious change is that it features a milled receiver, as opposed to the stamped and riveted receiver on the RAS47. It is noticeably heavier, but that actually helps tame recoil a bit. The furniture on my test gun was a darker wood, resembled of a traditional AK. One note to put in your pocket, MAGPUL furniture will fit on this milled receiver. The trigger is supposed to be the same RAK-1 as the RAS47, but I had to look that up to be sure. Granted, my test models are demo guns. It is entirely possible the C39V2 has been used a lot more, and therefore more broken in. The trigger in the RAS47 was great. The one in the C39V2 was unreal. The gauge said there was a 1 pound difference, but it felt like a lot more on the range.



**SPECS—C39V2**



- **Type:** Gas-operated, semiautomatic AKMs
- **Cartridge:** 7.62x39mm
- **Capacity:** 30+1 rds.
- **Weight:** 8.05 lbs.
- **Barrel Length:** 16.5 in.; 1:10 in. twist;
- **Overall Length:** 37.25 in.
- **Trigger:** RAK-1 Enhanced Trigger Group
- **Sights:** Standard AKM adj.
- **MSRP:** \$800

## Range Time

For testing, I used [Hornady Black 123-grain SST](#) was used. I, for one, am glad to see some high-quality brass cased ammunition hit the market. There will always be a place for spam-can imported junk, but it's no way to try and accuracy test a rifle. It should also be noted the projectile improvements with the Hornady. Instead of some bimetal or steel-core mil surplus, Hornady offers the proven [Super Shock Tip](#). This polymer tip drives into the lead core like a wedge on impact, forcing rapid expansion. The boat tail profile decreases drag, and improves the aerodynamic profile. And it says Hornady, so you know it is going to be consistent.



*Photo Courtesy: Century Arms C39V2*



**Article Continues Below**

For accuracy testing, I didn't have an optical option, which left us with iron sights. Irons are great, and it's not my first rodeo. But I am loath to publish accuracy results from just irons. I haven't won any High Power matches recently, so it may in fact be the shooter, not the gun. I shot my groups at 50 meters for this test, not 100.



The RAS47 turned in a 3.5 inch group as its best, not that far off most AK-47s I have shot. I have seen some better, but a whole lot worse. The C39V2 was significantly better. Its best of the day was 1.5 inches, with a flyer that was most likely shooter. Without the flyer, the group was a 1 inch four-round group, which is probably closer to the capability of the gun.

Both of these guns are fantastic buys, depending on your needs. If you love traditional AKs and are willing to accept the accuracy standard they are famous for, the RAS47 is for you. If you want to spend a little more coin and shrink that down some, the C39V2 is for you.

## Last Marine Unit on Horseback Celebrates 50th Anniversary

08/29/2017 12:15 PM CDT



*From left, Marine Corps Sgts. Fernando Blancas, Jedidiah Birnie, Terry Barker, Jacob Cummins, Cpls. Nicholas Davis, Alicia Frost and Javier Castellon post with Staff Sgt. Nicholas Beberniss for a mounted color guard portrait with Elephant Mountain in the background at the stables at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Aug. 10, 2017. The unit is celebrating its 50th year of service in 2017. Marine Corps photo by Laurie Pearson (Click photo for screen-resolution image);[high-resolution image](#) available.*

### **Last Marine Unit on Horseback Celebrates 50th Anniversary**

By Laurie Pearson

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

BARSTOW, Calif., Aug. 29, 2017 — The United States Marine Corps' last remaining [mounted color guard](#) celebrates their 50th year in service this year -- attending rodeos,

parades and other events across the country, but it's the day-to-day life that keeps these horse-borne Marines grounded.

Members of the mounted color guard proudly represent the Marine Corps and serve their community and country with honor. They travel extensively to participate in as many events as possible, and the invitations keep rolling in with event organizers requesting their presence. As the only remaining mounted color guard, they are spread thin, their schedules packed with events from shore to shore, to include retirement ceremonies and high-profile events such as the Tournament of Roses Parade.

"I feel a great sense of pride every time I put on that uniform and get on a horse," said Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Nicholas Beberniss, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the mounted color guard.

For events on the other side of the country, such as the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., it can take up to five days to get to the site, explained Marine Corps Cpl. Alicia Frost, a stableman. The horses are transported via truck and trailer along with the stablemen.

"For me, the best aspect is all the traveling we get to do, and being in the rodeos and parades," Frost said.

“I love meeting all the new people everywhere we go. It’s awesome! The crowds are always cheering for us and thanking us for our service.”

### **Representing All Marines**

Children and adults alike see the mounted color guard riders, in their perfectly pressed and polished uniforms sitting tall in their saddles and request to have photos taken with them. As a recruiting tool, the goal is to inspire others to join the Corps.

“It’s a very serious responsibility,” said Marine Corps Sgt. Jedidiah Birnie, a stableman. “People don’t look at you as just a person; they see you as representing the whole Marine Corps. So, you have to be on your toes at all times and make sure you’re presenting a good face for the people.”

As the only woman on the team of riders, Frost embraces the heavy responsibility of being a role model for young women.

“I’m the face for all female Marines,” Frost said. “So, when other girls and women see me doing it, I hope it gives them the courage to think that they can do it, as well. They can be a Marine and make it onto a competitive team full of male[s].”

When the A-Team -- the first line of riders -- is on the road, some of the other attend the events to assist with transportation and care of the horses. At least one remains at the stables to care for the remaining horses, the and the administrative work.

While at home, the Marines all participate in the daily maintenance of the facilities, horses, administrative and self-care. As a team, they muck out and clean the stalls. They groom and clean the horses and engage in training. They share the administrative load and help one another with tasks such as fence maintenance or repairs.

### **Long Days**

The horses are fed by the twice a day, morning and night, with each person taking flakes of hay and ensuring each horse has adequate food. They clean out the water devices and refill them often because desert conditions can cause the water to evaporate quickly.

At the end of each day at the stables, the team is often covered in dust and dirt as they take pride in a job well done.

“It’s great getting to see the reward of your hard work with the horses,” Birnie said, “and having a sense of pride knowing that the work you do here will be seen by thousands of people all across the country.”

Beberniss, who was seriously injured in combat, takes pride in representing wounded warriors as part of the mounted color guard. He leads by example, ensuring that the team represents the Marine Corps with honor and integrity.

“I like being with the Marines and mentoring them,” Beberniss said. “It’s great watching those who don’t have horse experience grow and progress with the horses. It’s really beneficial to everyone. Working with the is rewarding and the riders learn to control them in rodeos, parades, as well as noisy and busy city environments.”

The horses, which come from the Bureau of Land Management, are “green broke” before coming to the mounted color guard. Green broke means that the horses are not yet fully trained and only recently learned to be under a saddle.

“Once we get them, we start ground working them and putting a saddle on them and getting them show-ready,” Beberniss explained.

The training routine includes bonding with the so that the riders earn their trust and cooperation. They work in as well as open areas, with unexpected noises and movements around them, so that the horses learn to relax and trust their riders to have their best interests in mind at all times.

“It can be a very tedious job at times,” Frost said. “We work very long hours, most weekends and we usually don’t get holidays off. It’s a big responsibility and we devote our lives to the Marine Corps and the horses.”

“We always want the public to have a good impression of us, the horses, the facilities we use and the Marine Corps as a whole,” Beberniss said.

“We currently have nine riders: Lance Cpl. Jeremy

Gauna, from Monroe, Louisiana; Cpl. Javier Castellon, from Norwalk, California; Cpl. Alicia Frost, of Warner Robins, Georgia; Sgt. Jedidiah Birnie, from Minden, Nebraska; Cpl. Nicholas Davis, from Lynchburg, Virginia; Sgt. Fernando Blancas, of Apple Valley, California; Sgt. Jacob Cummins, from Phoenix, Arizona; Sgt. Terry Barker, from Sunbury, Ohio; and me, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Beberniss of Westminster, Colorado. Things constantly change, though. People get stationed at other or get out of the Marine Corps, or what have you. So we are always looking for good Marines to fill more slots,” he said.

## Related Images



Marine Corps Cpl. Alicia Frost, a stableman with the Corps' last mounted color guard unit, bathes a horse at the stables at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Aug. 8. The Marines undergo extensive training in horse care when they join the mounted color guard, to include how to ride properly, how to groom the horses and how to clean and care for the facilities. Marine Corps photo by Laurie Pearson

[Download screen-resolution](#)

[Download high-resolution](#)



Marine Corps Sgt. Fernando Blanca, a stableman with the Corps' last remaining mounted color guard, mucks out a horse stall at the stables on the Yermo Annex of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Aug. 8, 2017. Cleaning stalls, grooming the horses and maintaining the facilities is all in a day's work for the stablemen. Marine Corps photo by Laurie Pearson

[Download screen-resolution](#)

[Download high-resolution](#)

---

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [User Profile Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please email [subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com](mailto:subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com). Have another inquiry? [Contact the U.S. Department of Defense](#).

This service is provided to you at no charge by U.S. Department of Defense. Visit us on the web at <http://www.defense.gov/>.

Updates from the U.S. Department of Defense

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/german-mp40-versus-american-m3a1-grease-gun/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170911\\_BlogDigest\\_242&utm\\_campaign=/blog/german-mp40-versus-american-m3a1-grease-gun/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/german-mp40-versus-american-m3a1-grease-gun/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170911_BlogDigest_242&utm_campaign=/blog/german-mp40-versus-american-m3a1-grease-gun/)

## The German MP40 Versus the American M3A1 Grease Gun

by Will Dabbs on September 7, 2017

### Teutonic Refinement Meet Yankee Brown

World War II changed most everything about planet earth. Society, culture, industry, and politics all underwent a seismic shift during this worldwide conflict that ultimately claimed 50 million souls. This most horrible of wars spilt rivers of blood.

Previously gunmaking retained some modicum of art. Military weapons combined the machinist's touch with the woodworker's skill to produce weapons that were elegant, graceful, and expensive. Receivers typically began life as huge chunks of forged steel before being cut or turned into something mechanically complex, sometimes on machines still driven by steam. In the desperate fight for national survival that defined World War II, however, man perfected the mass production of his implements of destruction.



#### MP40

- **Weight.** 8.75 lbs
- **Length—Stock Extended** 32.8 in
- **Length—Stock Retracted** 24.8
- **Barrel Length** 9.9 in
- **Cartridge** 9mm
- **Muzzle velocity** 1,300 feet/second
- **Rate of Fire** 500 rounds/minute
- **Sights** Fixed
- **Total wartime Production** 1.1 million

#### M3A1 Grease Gun

- **Weight** 7.95 lbs
- **Length** 29.8 in
- **Length—Stock Retracted** 22.8 in
- **Barrel Length** 8 in
- **Cartridge** .45 ACP
- **Muzzle velocity** 920 feet/second
- **Rate of Fire** 450 rounds/minute
- **Sights** Fixed
- **Total wartime Production** 700,000

## German Origins



The MP38 was cut from a heavy steel tube and can be readily identified by the longitudinal grooves cut in the receiver. The MP38 also has a dime-sized lightening hole stamped into both sides of the magazine well. Otherwise, the MP38 incorporated stamped steel fire controls, sights, and ancillary widgets. The gun also eschewed the use of wood anywhere in its production.

The MP38 was initially intended for use within and around armored vehicles. As a result, a synthetic polymer barrel rest was included underneath the barrel. The hook on the end of the rest was designed to rest outside the armor of a halftrack such that the muzzle didn't inadvertently wander into the crew compartment under recoil.



The German MP40 submachine gun ushered in an entirely new era in military gun building. Sporting stamped steel components and a collapsible stock, the MP40 was the world's first martial weapon truly optimized for mass production.

The MP38 rendered superb service in the hands of German Fallschirmjagers during their parachute assaults into Norway, Poland and Belgium. This tidy little submachine gun also armed German Panzer troops on their Blitzkrieg across Europe early in the war. Despite its incorporation of advanced production techniques, the

Germans still saw room for improvement.



## The MP40

The primary difference between the MP38 and the subsequent MP40 rested in the production of the receiver. The receiver of the MP40 was pressed out of thin gauge sheet steel on industrial presses. As a result, the gun could be produced en masse by semi-skilled labor. Production of the MP40 continued until the MP44 assault rifle supplanted it. Around 1.1 million of these guns were ultimately produced.





The folding steel stock on the MP40 was a bit flimsy yet remained effective under hard use. The pivoting buttplate must be folded flat when stowed.

The MP40 fed from a double column 32-round box magazine that tapered to a single feed for presentation. While offering reliable feed geometry, this design was prone to stoppage when dirty and required a magazine loading tool to load. The gun also incorporated a unique recoil assembly wherein nested steel cups telescoped into themselves around the recoil spring. This gave the MP40 an unusually smooth firing cycle. When combined with the weapon's sedate rate of fire and front-heavy design this made the gun imminently controllable. The weapon was fully automatic only.

The original MP38 and early MP40s lacked a manual safety beyond a cutout to lock the bolt to the rear. However, the gun could be dropped onto its butt with a loaded magazine in place and suffer an accidental discharge. In this circumstance, the bolt might drop back far enough to pick up a round but not far enough to engage the sear. The fix for this problem involved cutting a locking slot in the front of the receiver and replacing the bolt with an improved version. The new charging handle could be snapped in place to secure the bolt in the forward position. Until the fix could be updated the Germans issued a special leather strap that would lock the bolt in place externally.



The Nazis serialized everything on their weapons to include the firing pin and these early Bakelite grip plates.

Despite the streamlined nature of the MP40 the Germans just couldn't bring themselves to let go of their compulsive gunmaking proclivities. As a result, the MP40 is simply festooned with waffenamt acceptance stamps and every part big enough to accept one sports a serial number, to include the firing pin. This does indeed make for an elegant firearm that likely inspired confidence in its users, but did not lend itself to mass production by an industry threatened both day and night by Allied bombing. The MP40 has been encountered in action as recently as the Syrian Civil War.

## **The American Buzzgun**



The American M3A1 Grease Gun was as utilitarian as we could make it. Sporting stamped steel for most of its components, the Grease Gun was ultimately a remarkably effective service weapon.

World War II was a come-as-you-are affair for the United States, and we found ourselves woefully unprepared when Pearl Harbor finally dragged us kicking and screaming into war. Our issue submachine gun of the day was the 1928A1 Thompson, but it was obsolete before the first bomb fell on that fateful Sunday morning. However, we Americans are a hearty lot and we responded by doing what we do best. We banded together, rolled up our sleeves, and built stuff.



The Grease Gun's rear sight included a riveted insert to cut down on glare.

The M1928 morphed into the somewhat simplified M1A1 Thompson that was a bit easier and cheaper to build. Around 1.5 million Tommy guns rolled off the lines during the war to equip Allied forces of all nationalities.

Even while we were ramping up to build Thompsons by the hundreds of thousands the War Department was rushing to secure a low-cost replacement.

The Thompson was sinfully heavy. With a loaded 50-round drum in place it weighed nearly what a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) might. It was also mechanically complicated and suffered simply dreadful ergonomics. Despite its shortcomings, however, American GIs loved the gun. Many to most of them had cut their teeth on Saturday afternoon crime serials and going to war with a gangster chopper held an allure. The replacement for the Thompson was as unlike this big pre-war gun as might possibly be imagined.

## The Grease Gun



The front sight on the Grease Gun was nothing more than a folded bit of steel.

The M3 Grease Gun was first adopted for service just over a year after the Pearl Harbor attack. In stark contrast to the Thompson, the M3 was simple, ugly, and utilitarian. The receiver was comprised of two halves of sheet steel welded together to form a shell. The bolt rode loosely within this assembly on a pair of guide rods. This allowed the gun to function in the face of modest damage. The sliding stock was formed from heavy gauge steel wire. In the original M3 version a ratcheting lever on the right side of the gun actuated the bolt. Everything that could be produced via industrial stampings was produced via industrial stampings. When compared to the elegant and meticulously built Thompson the M3 was positively homely.

The charging handle of the M3 was found to be unduly flimsy and the unfenced magazine release allowed the magazine to be dropped inadvertently. As a result, the improved M3A1 added a raised steel fence around the magazine release and dispensed with the ratcheting charging handle entirely. In its place was a simple divot in

the bolt that allowed the operator to retract the bolt with a standard finger.



The Grease Gun weighed around 8 pounds and fed from the same sort of double column, single feed magazine that drove the MP40. In the M3A1 version the wire stock incorporated a useful and effective magazine loading tool. A large stamped steel dust cover folded in place to occlude battlefield grunge. A steel tab on this appendage locked the bolt and served as the gun's sole safety. The gun's heavy bolt and long travel conspired to yield a rate of fire of around 450 rounds per minute.





The trigger and receiver-cum-pistol grip were all formed from stamped steel. The trigger guard was a simple length of spring steel.

The Grease Gun cost \$15 to make in 1943 (around \$215 today) and was quite literally disposable. The Army supply system did not stock spare parts. When a Grease Gun went down it was discarded. There was a field modification of early M3 models that involved milling a slot in the receiver for a steel charging handle that reciprocated with the bolt for use when the ratchet system failed.



Both the MP40 and the M3A1 Grease Gun were quite controllable in trained hands.

The first recorded combat use of the Grease Gun was on the Airborne drop in support of D-Day. While GIs distrusted the Greaser early on for its crude appearance, most ultimately expressed grudging admiration for the design. The gun was profoundly robust and thoroughly reliable. The improved M3A1 version briefly saw action in the closing weeks of the war. The Grease Gun was used through the Korean War and Vietnam War all the way up to the Gulf War. I encountered high mileage World War II-vintage M3A1 Grease Guns in the hands of U.S. Army tankers while I was on active duty in the 1990s.

## Face Off

Both these guns are bulky. The left-sided nature of the charging handle on the MP40 means the sling must be arranged on the right. This makes the gun a bit more awkward to tote. The Grease Gun uses a standard canvas M1 Carbine sling, while the MP40 employs an adjustable leather version. The MP40 sights are flip adjustable for 100 and 200 meters while the Grease Gun's are simply fixed, but they are comparably effective.

The two guns sport very different personalities, but I found that I could keep my rounds on target with a comparable facility with both guns. The big .45ACP bullets are fully twice as heavy as the 9mm rounds the MP40 fires, so they bring markedly more horsepower. Both weapons enjoy a sedate rate of fire so singles and doubles are easy with a disciplined trigger finger.

The MP40 and the M3A1 Grease Gun were birthed under utterly different circumstances. One nation wanted to enslave the world. The other wanted to free it. That these guns share so many similar morphological characteristics is intriguing. These days rifle-caliber carbines have displaced the submachine gun in the arsenals of most developed countries. However, for a time, these two stamped steel submachine guns slugged it out to determine the mastery of the world.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/cartridge-showdown-30-06-awesome-awful/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170904\\_BlogDigest\\_240&utm\\_campaign=/blog/cartridge-showdown-30-06-awesome-awful/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/cartridge-showdown-30-06-awesome-awful/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170904_BlogDigest_240&utm_campaign=/blog/cartridge-showdown-30-06-awesome-awful/)

## Cartridge Showdown: The 30-'06 — Awesome or Awful?

by Aram Von Benedikt on September 1, 2017

Dust rose in thin clouds from the arena where I worked, the horses I was training weaving an age-old dance around me. My 80-something boss shuffled up to the rails and motioned me over through the haze. After shaking my hand he said, “When I die, I want you to come get my guns”. My 18-year old heart made a bound bigger than a colt under his first saddle, and swallowing subdued excitement I replied, “Yes Sir.” Who was I to argue with an order like that?



A good gemsbok bull, taken cleanly with one shot from the author's 30-'06.

One of those guns was an old semi-sporterized Springfield 30-'06. My brother reshaped and streamlined the stock, I installed a Timney trigger and a modified bolt with a scope-clearing handle, and had the action drilled and tapped for scope mounts. One 3-9×42 Leupold later, and the rifle printed little groups with almost anything I stuffed into the magazine. I had my first real hunting rifle.



A 180-grain Nosler Accubond after passing through the shoulders of a Namibian Gemsbok.

A couple years later I shot my first big bull elk, deep in a backcountry wilderness, with that old 30-'06 rifle. Several more years later I killed my best-ever mule deer buck – a 215-inch 8×9 behemoth – at 324 yards. The only shot I had was at the base of the buck's ear, and I made one of the best shots of my life, shattering the atlas joint with one prone shot from that Springfield. My best-ever whitetail also fell to the old rifle, along with too many other elk and deer to count. The barrel is shot out now and the groups it prints are a bit bigger, but just last year I carried my old favorite into Africa on the tracks of Theodore Roosevelt. With it, I harvested gemsbok, warthog, and Zebra, and with a 30-'06 Winchester lever-action model '95 (another rifle carried by Teddy on his legendary 1909 – 1910 African safari), I shot a grand old Kudu bull, fulfilling a lifelong dream.

## History

The 30-'06 Springfield was originally introduced as a military round, adopted in 1906 – hence the name. The .30 designates projectile diameter, and '06 referring to 1906, the year the military started using it. The cartridge was used in a vast array of firearms, including the legendary 1903 Springfield, the M1 Garand, the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) and many machine guns. Soldiers returning home from war brought stories of the efficient new round, in some cases bringing rifles home as well. Popularity spread like wildfire and a legendary cartridge was born.



The .308 Win. (center) simply doesn't possess the sexiness of the 6.5 Creedmoor (left) or the panache of the 30-'06 Springfield (right).

## Modern Day Cartridge

Now, there are multitudes of wonderful cartridges out there, and I'll confess to having a love affair with many of them. But for sheer versatility mixed with get-'er-done authority, my vote still goes to the venerable 30-'06. It doesn't possess the smashing capabilities of the magnums, but neither does it pack the kick. It can't keep up with the 7mm Rem. Mag. or the .280 Ackley Improved, but ammunition is more available and in much better variety. The 6.5 Creedmoor and other 6.5s maintain energy better, but don't possess the inside-300-yards authority of the 30-'06. It recoils a bit more than the .308 Win., and necessitates a full-length action as opposed to the short action of a .308, but it also strikes with more authority. (If you want a short-action cartridge that doesn't kick but still eats dragons for supper, the 6.5 Creedmoor walks all over the .308.) Consider the following statistics, arrived at via my "Ballistic" App. Let's compare apples to apples, each cartridge using Hornady Precision Hunter ammo featuring ELD-X bullets.



The 30-'06 is available in an astonishing assortment of bullet weights and designs.

## 6.5 CREEDMOOR.

**Elevation:** 6,200 ft. **Muzzle Velocity:** 2,700 feet per second (fps) **Bullet:** 143-grain ELD-X. **Zero:** 200 yards.

Range (yards)	Drop (inches)	Velocity (fps)	Energy (ft-lbs)
100	+1.72	2,589	2,128
200	0.00	2,477	1,949
300	-7.38	2,368	1,781
400	-20.96	2,262	1,625
500	-41.34	2,158	1,479
600	-69.19	2,058	1,344
700	105.25	1,959	1,219
800	150.37	1,864	1,104

## 30-'06 SPRINGFIELD

**Elevation:** 6,200 ft. **Muzzle Velocity:** 2,750 fps **Bullet:** 178-grain ELD-X.  
**Zero:** 200 yards

Range (yards)	Drop (inches)	Velocity (fps)	Energy (ft-lbs)
100	+1.65	2,623	2,720
200	0.00	2,496	2,462
300	-7.23	2,372	2,224
400	-20.64	2,252	2,004
500	-40.92	2,135	1,802
600	-68.82	2,022	1,615
700	-105.24	1,912	1,445
800	-151.17	1,806	1,290

.308 WIN.

**Elevation:** 6,200 ft. **Muzzle Velocity:** 2,600 fps **Bullet:** 178-grain ELD-X.  
**Zero:** 200 yards

Range (yards)	Drop (inches)	Velocity (fps)	Energy (ft-lbs)
100	+1.96	2,477	2,426
200	0.00	2,354	2,190
300	-8.23	2,234	1,973
400	-23.43	2,118	1,773
500	-46.38	2,005	1,589
600	-77.99	1896	1421
700	-119.27	1791	1268
800	-171.40	1690	1129

As you can see, the .308 offers a couple hundred foot-pounds in energy over the 6.5 Creedmoor at the beginning, but at 800 yards has lost pretty much all of its margins. The Creedmoor starts out faster (with far less recoil, I might add) and stays that way, in fact gaining about 12 fps per hundred yards on the .308.



The author's first big wilderness bull elk, taken with his "one rifle man" Springfield.

The 30-'06 versus the Creedmoor is a much closer race. The 6.5 maintains speed and energy better, but the '06 starts out with a speed and energy advantage. At 800 yards the two cartridges sport almost exactly the same drop (fully 20 inches less than the .308), the 30-'06 carries an energy advantage of 186 ft.-lbs. of energy, while the Creedmoor now has a 58 fps speed advantage.

The upshot of this is that were I offered three identical rifles in these three different calibers – 6.5 Creedmoor, .308 Win., and 30-'06 Springfield, I would choose either the Creedmoor for its low recoil, short action, and aerodynamic projectile, or, if I wanted more authority, the 30-'06 for its higher energy and speed inside 300 yards, which is where 98 percent of game is harvested. The .308 Win., while being a great cartridge and thoroughly capable in its own right, gets left in the proverbial dust. If I had to choose one of the three to use for the rest of my life it would be the 30-06 every time. Here are some (more) reasons why:

## Why the .30-'06?

### Versatility.

Thirty-caliber projectiles are readily available in weights ranging from 110 up to 225 grains, and in a myriad of profiles from flat-based round-nosed bullets to super streamlined high BC (ballistic coefficient) pointed boat-tailed bullets. Factory ammo is available in almost as many iterations. The handloader can have a field day with his 30-06, loading 110 gr. Varmint bullets for coyotes, 150-grain projectiles for deer, 180-grain partitions for elk, 225-grain match bullets with a G1 BC of 777 (that's *high*) for long range shooting, and stuff all of them in the same rifle.

### Availability.

Walk into a sporting goods store anywhere from Alaska to Africa, and the most common ammo on the shelves will likely be good ol' 30-'06. Should you find yourself abroad on the adventure of a lifetime while your ammo takes a flight to parts unknown courtesy of baggage handlers at the last airport, you can always find something to turn your rifle from a fancy club into a lethal tool.



From Western mule deer and elk to plains game in Africa, the author has never felt under-gunned while packing a 30-'06. Two of the author's favorite things: his old Springfield rifle and a big warthog.

So, is the 30-'06 Springfield the best cartridge out there? The simple answer is no. There are cartridges better at almost any one thing. The magnums are better when something is trying to eat you. The super-aerodynamic calibers are better at long range. Lighter recoiling cartridges are better for sensitive shooters. But the '06 is, to my way of thinking, perhaps the best all-around cartridge out there – that's where it shines. It does everything well.

The 30-'06 Springfield has fought for our freedom through two world wars and several smaller ones. It's been a favorite of hunters for the past century, and used wisely it is adequate for any game on the North American continent. It possesses a noble history, commands widespread respect, and is a favorite of America sportsmen and shooters. Just like my favorite old rifle, the 30-06 is here to stay.

## Hypervelocity ammunition? When is enough, enough?

by Patrick Sweeney | September 8th, 2017

What seems like a lifetime ago, I was working in radio broadcasting when I first heard the unofficial motto of rock 'n' roll: "Some is good, more is better, too much is not enough." Back then, handgun bullets were simply made of lead and copper. Bullets were full weight, and they didn't move all that fast, at least by today's standards. Now we ask: When is there enough bullet velocity? When is there too much? For some, that is not a question but a challenge.

### ADVERTISING

Currently, there are three high-speed factory loads that can be found in volume on store shelves that stay within SAAMI pressure specs. They are from Liberty Ammunition, PolyCase and Super Vel. Why should we bring SAAMI into this conversation?



Simple: You can do all sorts of detrimental things to yourself and your equipment by exceeding standard pressures — if you're not careful. Some of these loads are approved by SAAMI, while others are restricted but available. The first are known as +P loads, and most service pistols of quality can handle them. But then there are the +P+ loads, and those, well ... SAAMI provides pressure specifications so that we know our ammo is safe, and pistol manufacturers know what they have to do to deal with the increase in pressure. Ammunition that is +P rated is loaded to a higher, albeit still safe and known level. In the 9mm, the standard maximum is 35,000 pounds per square inch (psi), and +P is 38,500 psi. What is +P+ loaded to? It does not have a defined industry standard. When it comes to ammunition with this rating, a law enforcement agency typically solicits an ammo manufacturer to engineer a load that propels a selected projectile to a specific velocity range. The manufacturer then decides if they can do it and performs testing to determine what the pressure might be. Once the negotiating is over and the check clears the bank, the ammo maker ships the ammunition to the agency with one clear understanding: The agency is on its own. They asked for ammo that meets their specifications (or as close as the ammo maker could comfortably come), they got it, and any gun breakages, malfunctions or shortened life of service pistols is a problem that falls solely on the agency's shoulders. What is the pressure of +P+ ammo? Only the ammo maker knows, and they aren't talking.

How light and how fast are we talking about with more-or-less regular bullets? Liberty Ammunition's 9mm Civil Defense bullet weighs only 50 grains. The PolyCase ARX weighs 65 grains (80 grains for its Ruger--labeled ARX load), and the heavyweight of the high-speed crowd is the Super Vel, tipping the scales at 90 - grains and is listed as a +P load. You can have Super Vel in a 115-grain bullet if 90 is too light for your tastes, but we're interested in the speed demons, so we'll stick with the 90-grain load.

The chronograph results for these loads are eye-opening. I mean, 1,400 to 1,500 feet per second (fps) from a 9mm pistol is really moving. And the Liberty Civil Defense load out of a full-size 9mm pistol rips along at what a small-case .22 centerfire rifle does. Well, the rifle beats the heck out of the Liberty, but only by going from 35,000 psi to the 50,000-psi region. Throttle a .221 Fireball back to 35,000 psi, and it will be neck-and-neck with the Liberty's Civil Defense 9mm.



#### PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VEL. (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVG. GROUP (IN.)
Super Vel 90-gr. +P JHP	1,511	79	32	.95	1.76
PolyCase/Ruger 80-gr. ARX *	1,455	34	14	1.8	2
Liberty Civil Defense 50-gr. +P HP	2,128	—	15	2.1	3
Winchester 115-gr. +P+ JHP	1,305	—	13	—	2.5

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups at 25 yards using a sand-bagged rest. Velocity is the average of 10 shots using a LabRadar chronograph set to record velocity at 15 feet from the muzzle. \*The PolyCase load was tested in a 4-inch barrel; the other loads were tested in 5-inch barrels.

Recoil is not as bad as you may think. The muzzle blast can be a bit much, but the recoil certainly isn't. Power Factor (PF) is a good thumbnail approach to recoil. A traditional 9mm, with a 115-grain bullet at 1,100 fps posts a PF of 126.5. The Super Vel has a PF of 135.9, the PolyCase ARX a PF of 116, while the Liberty is a mere 106. Even at 135, the Super Vel load won't be pushing you around, and the others offer a very mild recoil impulse.

“But the FBI ...” Ah, yes. The FBI requires that a bullet penetrate at least 12 inches of gelatin or it is an utter, miserable failure (in their opinion). The ARX does the FBI's 12 inches in the drywall test. It does *more* in bare gelatin. The Super Vel load has done 10 to 11 inches in my gel testing and expands to the point that it could not expand any more without turning inside-out. Liberty Ammunition's Civil Defense load exceeds the 12-inch minimum but does not exit the back of a 16-inch block. The Civil Defense load is non-lead with a deep hollowpoint and, in testing, I found that the cup broke into two, three or sometimes four pieces while the base continued on, coming to rest a foot or more deep in 10 percent ballistic gelatin.

Here's the catch: The FBI insists on the 12-inch minimum and 18-inch maximum because they are trying to avoid a failure in the extreme conditions that they might experience. That is, they want (if we can be realistic

here) to have an agent shoot a bad guy who is behind some sort of barrier and have the bullet pass not just through the barrier but also through the bad guy's arm and heavy clothing, penetrating deeply enough to reach vital organs.

Against that, consider this: The average person is maybe 8 inches thick. Yep, 8 inches from sternum to spine, with all the important stuff in-between. So, the FBI would view a bullet that penetrated 11½ inches and expanded to the size of a manhole cover as a failure. Would you?

None of these loads exhibited any lack of accuracy. The Civil Defense bullet fragments consistently, and the heaviest part, the base, penetrates well. The Super Vel bullet is the very definition of expansion. And the ARX works its magic and stops at or just past the 1-foot mark, having delivered all of its energy into the target.

The FBI would argue that they need the extra performance in their duty load and are willing to pay for it. How much are they willing to pay? A typical FBI-performer would be a 147-grain jacketed hollowpoint (JHP) at 950 fps. That has a PF of 139.6, and it laughs at barriers. That last part raises a question in my mind. In a home-defense situation, where I might have to be concerned with roommates or family members, I might not be all that keen on a barrier-blind bullet. Even if I'm working retail making the company's nightshift bank deposit, the bad guy is going to be standing there, facing me, if things go ballistic. In that case, barrier penetration will be down on my list, and mild recoil will be an asset.

There are more loads on the horizon. While talking with Jeff Hoffman, owner of Black Hills Ammunition, he said they are working on a load known as the Honey Badger. It features a solid copper bullet with flutes and an X-shaped meplat. I've tested the .45 ACP load, and it uses a 135-grain bullet. The 9mm? Hoffman is still working on it, but I'll be surprised if it weighs over 90 grains.

If you're not a 9mm fan, there are options in other calibers as well. The .38 Special and .380 ACP are also available in lightweight, supercharged loadings. For all-out speed, the .38 Super and .357 SIG are difficult to beat but bring increased recoil along with velocity. Judging by the volume of empties left on ranges, most of us shoot 9mm these days.

That brings us to that law-enforcement-only +P+ ammunition that the ammo makers produce. I have samples of various loads in my stash, and I've experimented with them from time to time. The latest was a batch of 115--grain JHPs that posted a speed of just over 1,300 fps out of one of my 5-inch 9mm pistols, producing a PF of 150. That load emanated a recoil snap like a .40 S&W.

Is it worth it? That depends. Should you consider a hypervelocity load? Again, that depends on your needs, your desires and the situation.

Read more: <http://www.gunsandammo.com/ammo/hypervelocity-ammunition-when-is-enough-enough/#ixzz4vPouoj2m>

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/iconic-fn-usas-fns-9-longslide-full-review/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170904\\_BlogDigest\\_240&utm\\_campaign=/blog/iconic-fn-usas-fns-9-longslide-full-review/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/iconic-fn-usas-fns-9-longslide-full-review/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170904_BlogDigest_240&utm_campaign=/blog/iconic-fn-usas-fns-9-longslide-full-review/)

## Iconic: FN-USA's FNS-9 Longslide — Full Review

by Jon Hodoway on September 2, 2017

When you bring up FN in conversation, people will nod their heads. If you ask them to say something about FN, a few of the folks nodding their heads will say “Well, they make guns for the military.” The old guy will clear his gullet and say, “John Browning’s Hi-Power.” Well, both of these are accurate, but FN’s history spans far more than just these two great guns. The BAR, The FN FAL and the M2 Ma Deuce would all be quickly added to the discussion as the group thinks began to kick in. Even these additions only scratch the surface, so let me take you through the high points of FN before we discuss my time on the range with the FNS-9 Longslide.



[Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre \(FN\)](#) was created in 1889 to build Mauser Model 89 rifles for the Belgian government. Hart O. Berg, the FN sale manager, was touring the United States in 1897 to learn about bicycle manufacturing. It was during this tour that he was introduced to John Moses Browning. In 1902, FN began making the Browning Auto-5. This was the first mass-produced semi-auto shotgun.

- 1927 FN began producing the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR).
- 1932 FN began making the “Baby Browning”
- 1934 FN kicked off production of the High-Power pistol.
- 1947 The first prototype of the FN FAL was created.
- 1953 The Canadian army adopted the FN FAL, with over 100 countries to follow.
- 1981 FN opened FN Manufacturing in Columbia, SC, to produce the FN MAG (M240) for the U.S. Army.
- 1988 the U.S. Army selected the M249 as the Squad Automatic Weapon.
- 1990 the unique FN P90 was put into production (this would later enable creation of the Stargate series).
- 2003/2004 the U.S. Navy selected the FN M3M and designated it the GAU-21
- 2004 the FN Five Seven pistol was developed to fire the 5.7X28mm., matching the P90
- 2007 FN created the FNP -45 to compete in the Joint Combat Pistol Program

- 2010 the SCAR was deployed with U.S. Special Operators at the MK 16 & MK 17, along with the MK 13 Grenade Launcher.
- 2009 FN introduced the FNX Line, with offerings in 9mm., .40 S&W and 45ACP.
- 2011 FN introduced its FNS line of pistols.
- 2017 FN revealed its 509 as a one-off, for entry for the XM17 handgun trials.



Mind you; this list contains just the high points. There are way too many FN guns to cover in totality. By the way, did I mention that Browning is a subsidiary of FN?

## FNS-9 Longslide

### Specifications

CALIBER:	9mm.
OPERATION:	Double-action
MAG CAPACITY:	10-rds. or 17-rds.
WEIGHT:	26.5 oz.
BARREL LENGTH:	5 in.
OVERALL LENGTH:	8.25 in.
HEIGHT:	5.5 in.
WIDTH:	1.35 in.
TRIGGER PULL:	5.5 - 7.7 lbs.
MSRP:	\$649

Let's focus on what I think is a real sleeper in the FN line up: the [FNS-9 Longslide](#). Urban dictionary defines sleeper as follows:

“Often referring to what appears to be an ordinary looking stock commuter car that is anything but stock under the hood. Pretty much the exact opposite of your every day riced up Civic.”



The FNS Longslide looks plain, but delivers performance that is on par with all of the polymer competition guns. It carries out this task with its 5-inch barrel and slide, without any special cuts or milling to give away the performance that lies within. This gun has been tested in every type of major shooting event, from high-speed

IPSC/USPSA to grueling 3-gun matches to precision Bullseye and actions events, like the NRA Bianchi Cup.



This striker-fired autoloader comes standard with drift windage-adjustable fixed 3-dot sights, external extractor, loaded chamber indicator and front and rear cocking serrations. The slide is finished in a matte black over the stainless-steel construction. The barrel is cold hammer-forged stainless steel with a polished chamber and feed ramp to assure reliable function with all ammunition. The recoil spring is something special; it has a 1-inch-long stainless-steel extension screwed to the carbon steel guide rod, holding the flat wire spring captive. I can discern two purposes for this setup: it adds the necessary length to accommodate the longer barrel and slide, and it adds

weight to offset the reciprocating mass, allowing for a softer recoil impulse.



The frame is made of polymer, as you would expect, with two interchangeable backstraps with lanyard eyelets. The Longslide has a steel frame/locking block, in conjunction with rear slide rails for the slide to run on. There is a true MIL-STD-1913 accessory mounting rail on the dustcover. Both the slide stop and magazine release are fully ambidextrous without the need to make a switch over to accommodate left hand use. The trigger guard has a generous opening to accommodate gloved hands, with eight lines of serrations on the front.



My sample arrived with three 17-round magazines. The magazines had polished bodies, low-friction followers and polymer base pads.

## On the range

I've shot this pistol for almost 10 months, and over that time it has made numerous trips to the range. I have put this gun in lots of peoples' hands, and their results have all been comparable. This is a point I would not glaze over, as what works for one shooter may not be consistent with others based on several factors, such as hand size, shooting style (or lack thereof) and the type of shooting the gun demands.



The first thing I would point out is that the gun seems to shoot low. This can be observed on the accuracy target. The self-defense ammunition tended to exhibit the least of this effect. A cursory inspection of the sights appeared to indicate that the front sight was taller than the rear. However, a thorough examination with calipers revealed that they were the exact same height. This would be easy to solve with a lower front blade. As this was a sample gun, I simply employed Kentucky windage and held it a little high.



The trigger is a 2-piece polymer design with a swivel at the midpoint that must be fully depressed before the trigger can

be pulled. The trigger was quite serviceable and broke cleanly at just under 5 pounds on my Wheeler digital trigger pull gauge.

The FNS-9 was easy to reload, with a generous magazine well that was flared on 3 sides. The grip had 3 different checkering designs to allow you to keep a firm firing grip. On the rear and sides, it had small pyramids that were quite sticky. On the front of the grip were 22 horizontal lines to help with muzzle flip, and at each transition point, there were vertical lines.

The recoil was noticeably light, even with self-defense loads, and follow-up shots were fast and accurate. The reliability was as you would expect from FN. During testing, this gun ate several thousand rounds, and I never once serviced it with even a drop of oil.

Accuracy testing was done at 15 yards, shot with a 2-hand hold slow fire.

Brand	Bullet Weight	Bullet Type	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Group Size (in.)
SIG Sauer	115-gr.	FMJ	1,185	1.06
SIG Sauer	124-gr.	FMJ	1,165	1.36
SIG Sauer	115-gr.	V-Crown JHP	1,185	1.33
Hornaday	115-gr.	FTX	1,140	.685
SIG Sauer	124-gr.	V-Crown JHP	1,165	.875

## The Bottom Line

This gun is a sleeper because it keeps an easy pace with the flashier offerings in its category, but it has a plain vanilla wrapper. You get a lot of gun for your money, and it's a gun that is made in America by Americans. I am not quite sure why the FN line of striker-fired pistols is not better known, but they should be. You owe it to yourself to give this gun a try!

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/behind-scenes-sig-sauer-ammo-plant/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170904\\_BlogDigest\\_240&utm\\_campaign=/blog/behind-scenes-sig-sauer-ammo-plant/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/behind-scenes-sig-sauer-ammo-plant/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170904_BlogDigest_240&utm_campaign=/blog/behind-scenes-sig-sauer-ammo-plant/)

## Behind the Scenes: SIG Sauer Ammo Plant

by Laura Kovarik on September 2, 2017

Few companies can claim they have a hand in every avenue of the market. Nowadays, the strategy of the outdoor tycoons is to buy up the corner of the market they're pursuing. This often isn't always the best option for the little guy as it creates monopolies. We've seen this with some of the more iconic firearm companies. However, SIG Sauer has set themselves apart. Roughly three years ago they stepped into the ammunition arena to become the all-around systems provider, and the rest is history.



Initially opening a facility in Kentucky, SIG just launched their brand new 75,000-foot facility in Jacksonville, Arkansas. We headed to Arkansas to check out SIG's new digs. Although they've only been in the ammo arena for three years, SIG has a combined experience of Bud Fini, executive vice president ammunition, Dan Powers, president ammunition, former CEO of RUAG who is the man behind the patent for the V-Crown, BJ Rogers, plant manager ammunition, who spent the last eight years with Remington ammunition are just the tip of the iceberg of the talent behind SIG Sauer ammunition. To say that SIG has assembled the A-Team of the ballistics world is an understatement.

**Article Continues Below:**

## The Land of Opportunity



The production of the 6.5 Creedmoor brass.

Interested in giving back to the community and helping the economy of Jacksonville grow, SIG has given ammunition to the Jacksonville police department, which is right down the road from the property the factory is nestled on. When deliberations began to move the factory from Kentucky to a new location, the governor of Arkansas called Ron Cohen and expressed interest in bringing more jobs into the Arkansas, which is also known as the “Land of Opportunity.” Situated right outside Little Rock, SIG has brought roughly 70 new jobs to the community and plans to continue expanding. They currently produce all their brass in house. Their five-year plan encompasses expanding into producing the other parts in house.

From speaking with the people working in the factory and spending time with the ballistic engineers in the gel lab, it’s apparent that everyone has a common goal — striving for the highest quality. SIG Sauer’s FMJ target ammunition is designed to have the same velocity, recoil and point of impact as its corresponding V-Crown jacketed hollow points (JHPs). Why is this relevant? Shooters can train with a nearly identical load to their carry ammo. Their V-Crown line is known for its accuracy and consistent expansion.



SIG Sauer uses the most ballistic gelatin in the nation.

SIG Sauer's current line includes:

## **Pistol:**

**V-Crown (JHP)** in .380 Auto, .38 Spl, 9mm, .357 SIG, .357 Mag., .38 Super +P, .40 S&W, 10mm, .44 Rem Mag, .44 S&W Spl, .45 Auto and .45 Colt

**SIG FMJ** in .380 Auto, .38 Spl, 9mm, .357 SIG, .357 Mag, .38 Super +P, .40 S&W, 10mm, and .45 Auto

## **Rifle:**

**Match Grade Open Tip Match (OTM)** in .223 Rem., .308 Win., .300 Win. Mag., .300 BLK Subsonic, .300 BLK Supersonic, 6.5 Creedmoor **Hunting — SIG HT** – in .223 Rem., .308 Win., .300 Win. Mag. and .300 BLK Supersonic

**SIG Varmint & Predator (V&P)** in .223 Rem., 22-250 Rem and .243 Win.

**SIG Subsonic .300 BLK V-Crown**

“We want to do it right, if it’s not ready yet, then we won’t launch it,” Fini said. “Ron Cohen made it very apparent that we were not to do anything that would jeopardize the SIG Sauer brand and that quality was of

utmost importance.”



## **A Little Piece of History**



We've all heard it. "The exit wounds on that animal were impressive! You should've seen the group it produced." We witnessed the shiny, jeweled rounds moving down the conveyor belt as a factory worker removed a round from each package and put it in a bucket labeled for testing. SIG's stringent protocol includes sending projectiles down range at 100 yards, shooting through ballistic gelatin and other barriers to make sure quality remains consistent between batches.

With SIG's brand new facility, you'd assume the machines would be shiny and new to match the exterior. Think again. There are some new machines, however, some of the heavy lifters on the line that resize the brass, check case necks etc. are from World War II.

"If we could get brand new machines to make brass, we would but the lead time tends to be so long," Rogers said. These machines are the workhorses of our factory. We spend a few weeks a year traveling around the country tracking these down. We typically find them in old barns or someone knows a guy who knows a guy that owns one."



SIG Sauer plant manager, BJ Rogers, walks media members through the factory.

SIG could be referred to as the American Pickers of the ammo world. We witnessed several engineers working on a machine that was off to the side making notes and measurements to begin fitting new parts to bring it back to life and integrate into the ammo production.

## **Lasting Impressions**

There's a pride and high morale throughout the factory. From the worker scooping up bullets to seat the cases to the person loading the boxes on the machine to package the product, everyone is part of a long process to produce top-notch ammunition.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/polymer80-spectre-ghost-pistol-build/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20170911\\_BlogDigest\\_242&utm\\_campaign=/blog/polymer80-spectre-ghost-pistol-build/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/polymer80-spectre-ghost-pistol-build/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20170911_BlogDigest_242&utm_campaign=/blog/polymer80-spectre-ghost-pistol-build/)

## Polymer80 Spectre Ghost Pistol Build

by Robert Sadowski on September 8, 2017

When is a gun defined as a firearm? Even better when is a gun a ghost? If you are a staunch 2nd Amendment advocate as I am plus like to build stuff — especially stuff that goes bang — then 80 percent lowers no doubt tickle your fancy. According to the Federal Government, the Polymer80 Spectre 80 percent pistol kit is nothing more than a piece of polymer, but apply some calculated cuts with drill bits and cutting tools, shape the polymer with a file and sand paper, and add parts and that inert piece of plastic becomes a functioning semi-automatic pistol. There is a certain satisfaction on a number of different levels — yes, I can hear you checking them off in your head — when you create something from nothing especially a firearm or rather a ghost gun.



## Background

Polymer80's idea is simple: Provide 2nd Amendment enthusiasts with the ability to build a semi-automatic pistol in the comfort and privacy of their basement, garage or kitchen table. There's no serial number or 4473 form to fill out. It's just a kit that turns into a pistol receiver ready to be built. The Spectre 80 Percent Pistol Kit comes with a piece of polymer that looks like a pistol receiver. Upon inspecting the piece of polymer, it is apparent that it is close to being a receiver but it is only 80 percent there.



The Specter was run with factory and hand loaded ammo including Hornady American Gunner 115-grain XTP, Aguila 115-grain FMJ, Winchester Train 147-grain FMJ and a hot handload with a 115-grain JHP.

The magazine well, magazine release button cut outs, trigger guard and a slew of other features are molded into the piece. There is even a Picatinny style rail molded in for accessories. You just need to perform 10 percent more work to it until it becomes a receiver. Along with the plastic piece — you can be ill reverent to it until it becomes a full-fledged receiver — I call it a “pre-receiver” or “80-percenter.” The black piece comes with a plastic jig. Think of the two halves of the red jig as slices of bread and the black pre-receiver as the meat. The 80-percenter is sandwiched between the jig. The jig is clearly marked so you will only make a mistake in cutting — really just relieving some material — if you can’t read. Polymer80 makes sure the process is very simple. Also included in the box are two drill bits and two end mill bits. No need to go to the local hardware store to get the right cutting tools. Polymer80 provides them for you.

**Article Continues Below**

## **Tools of the Trade**



The Polymer 80 Spectre was fired using 3 different slides, 2 different recoil guide rod assemblies and 2 different magazines.

The tools you need are a drill press, hand drill, bench vise, files, sand paper, punches, bench block, hex wrench and hammer. If you have a Dremel tool that can be helpful as well. The other piece in the kit is a steel locking blocking block. This piece is press fitted into the pre-receiver and screwed into the frame. This is the Jesus nut of the entire receiver keeping the barrel, slide and receiver all working in harmony. The clearly written instruction manual should be read at least once. I read it twice. Required safety equipment includes safety glasses. I wore WileyX Rouge, which has interchangeable lens so you can go from workshop (clear lens) to range (smoke lens) with minimal fuss. Before starting, remember that you will most likely not have a working pistol in one day not unless you are a gunsmith savant. Make sure you have an uncluttered work area and plenty of lighting. Take your time and have a patience. I was actually surprised no explicatives were uttered on my part during this build.

Think of the build as having four steps:

- 1.) Machining
- 2.) Fitting

3.) Assembly

4.) Test Fire. Total time for me was about 8 to 10 hours.



Step 1: drill 3 holes on each side using a hand drill. Don't drill all the way through.



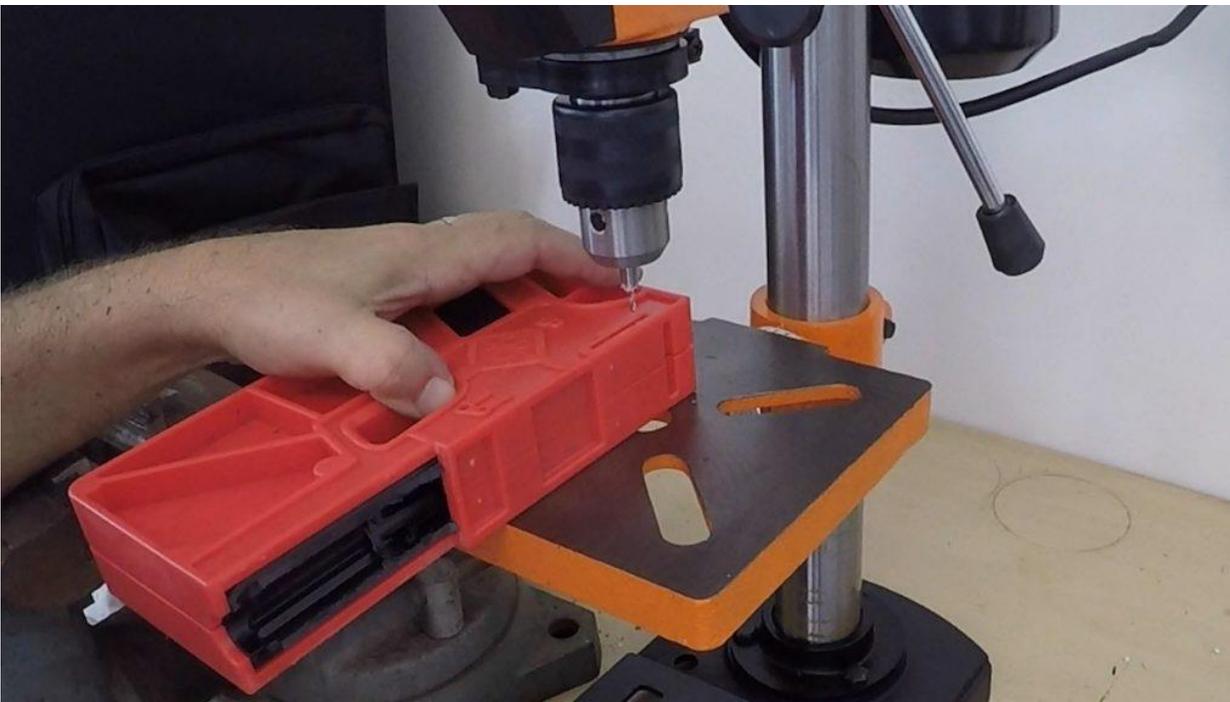
Step 2: Use the provide end mill to remove material from the top rails.



Step 3: Use a file to make the top rails flush with the jig..



Step 4: The author used a Dremel tool to make a semi-circular cut for the recoil spring assembly.



Step 5: The smaller end mill is used to cut out the rear slide rails.



Step 6: Use a small tiny file to finish off the rear slide rails.



Step 7: Place the slide onto the rails so you can fit it so the slide moves freely and easily.



Step 8: Place the receiver and the locking block into the bench block and press fit them together.



Step 9: Place the receiver and the locking block into the bench block and press fit them together.

Placing the pre-receiver between the jig halves and tighten it in the bench vise. Drill one 5/32<sup>nd</sup> hole on the left side reposition the jig and drill the right side. Swap drill bits and drill two 7/64<sup>th</sup> holes on the left side and right side. Don't try to drill completely through since the holes the holes on either side will not completely align.

Next, chuck up the end mill bit in the drill press and relieve material off the top rails. A cross vise is handy during this step.

Then file down the side rails until flush with the jig. The next cut is for the recoil spring and guide assembly. I used a Dremel tool to cut out the semi-circular slot.



The top side of Polymer 80 slide shows the cut out for an RMR. For actual carry and use I'd add a cover plate to support the Mepron sight.

Lastly, use the small 5/64<sup>th</sup> end mill to cut the slide rail slots on the left and right sides. Just follow the guide molded into the jig. I used a small flat file to file the rear slide rails and used three different slides while fitting. You need the slide to ride on the rails easily and smoothly. At this point your pre-receiver is almost a full-blown receiver. Use the bench vise to press fit the locking block into the pre-receiver and fix it down with a screw on the left and right side. This is where the hex wrench is needed. Loctite on the screws is recommended. Now the piece of plastic has crossed the threshold and is now a receiver. It still needs fitting — especially the rear slide rails — but you have a receiver.

## **A Receiver is Born**



Note the final slide rails and the semi-circular cut out inside the receiver.

Polymer80 designed the pistol to be compatible with Glock parts — trigger, ejector, slide, magazine — the whole nine yards. I sourced all the parts through Lone Wolf which offers OEM parts and aftermarket parts. I opted for the latter since Lone Wolf custom parts can enhance the Glock experience.

I won't go into detail assembling the parts, suffice to say that Lone Wolf will supply all the parts to completely assemble a receiver in one kit so you don't have to order each individual part. Suffice to say if you have assembled the Polymer80 receiver and have parts left over you probably missed something. Tear it down again and start over.

With three slides on hand, a stock Glock G17, PWS EDS (Enhanced Duty Slide) and a Polymer80 P80 DLC slide cut for an RMR, I used all three to fit the receiver. File a bit then check for fit. You don't want to file too much material away. All said and done, the Spectre pistol was a mash up of Polymer80, Lone Wolf, and Glock parts. I also wanted to try out the Magpul PMAG 21 GL9 magazine which hold 21 rounds of 9mm ammo. I also used Sprinco recoil guide and spring. The barrel was stock Glock G17.



The muzzle is blunt and blocky; a Picatinny style rail allows the user to add accessories.

The PWS EDS features night sights and a crisp 4-pound trigger pull. It is blocky and offers plenty of serrations for a good grip. The Polymer80 slide needed parts so I utilized Lone Wolf products. The rear of the P80 slide is cut out for an RMR and iron sights. I opted for the Meprolight FT Bullseye sight, which uses fiber optics and tritium to create an illuminated dot and circle. Center the dot in the circle on your target and fire. For the test firing position of the build, I used the FT Bullseye on the P80 slide. If I keep the Meprolight on the slide, I'll also need to invest in a cover plate so the sight can lay flush with the slide. With the slide working smoothly and the trigger feeling a lot like a Glock trigger, I lubed the Spectre and took the pistol to the range with an assortment of 9mm ammunition factory and hand loads.

## Lasting Impressions

I can't say that building the Polymer80 kit is as easy as buying a factory produced pistol. I had to make some tweaks and a couple of trips to the pistol range before I got the Polymer80 to run reliably. My first mistake was tightening the two locking block hex screws too much. They interfered with the recoil spring functioning. I also needed to use an OEM slide lock spring and OEM slide lock. The first few factory rounds I had issues with the slide going back into battery. I fired about 25 rounds of a hot handloads and the Spectre began working as it should. I also found that I was shooting a large ragged hole at 10 yards as I was working out the kinks. The grip feels thin in hand. There is plenty of texture on the grip to keep the pistol secure. The magazine well has a molded in funnel so the pistol sucks up magazine and spits them out just as fast. There is also plenty of beavertail to protect the meaty part of your hand from a slide cut.





Yes, building a pistol from a kit can be complicated but if you hate paperwork as much as I do then the Polymer80 should be on your to-do list. I've always hated paperwork. Remember, ghost is a relative term. Buy one the old fashion way. Pay cash.



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

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

If for some reason, you no longer wish to receive these e-mails please accept our apologies and respond to this message with REMOVE in the subject line and we will remove your name from the mailing list.