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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

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

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

**The next meeting will be held at Napoli's on Thursday, February 15th.**

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:
- **Para USA** Para-Ordnance was founded in Canada in 1985 by two childhood friends, Ted Szabo and Thanos Polyzos. Para-Ordnance Mfg Inc. had a factory in Markham, Ontario, Canada. In January 2009, it was announced that the U.S. headquarters for Para-Ordnance's U.S. subsidiary (Para USA) would be set up in Pineville, North Carolina. Eventually, Para Ordnance moved to North Carolina and became a totally U.S. company, Para USA.
- **Cooper Firearms of Montana** was founded in 1990 by Dan Cooper and two other former Kimber of Oregon employees.
- **Kel-Tec CNC Industries Inc.** Founded by George Kellgren in 1991 and based in Cocoa, Florida, the company has manufactured firearms since 1995, starting with semi-automatic pistols and expanding to rifles and then shotguns. Kel-Tec is a privately owned Florida corporation.
- **Kahr Arms** is an American small arms manufacturer founded by Justin Moon who currently serves as CEO and President. It is currently under the Kahr Firearms Group, a USA based firearms manufacturer, which includes Kahr Arms, Thompson, Auto-Ordnance and Magnum Research.
- **CZ-USA** is the US-based subsidiary of Česká zbrojovka Uherský Brod, a Czech firearms manufacturer. Based in Kansas City, Kansas, CZ-USA is responsible for the importation and distribution of CZ products in the United States. In 1997 ČZUB recognized the need to control its own destiny in a market as big as the US. Initially based in Oakhurst, California, the CZ-USA headquarters and warehouse facility was moved to Kansas City in January 1998.
- **JLD Enterprises**, an American gun manufacturing company, was founded in Farmington Connecticut in 1997 by Jose Luis Diaz. In 2003, JLD Enterprises purchased the FMP arms plant in Portugal. FMP was an H&K licensed G3 manufacturer. JLD purchased all of the tooling, machinery, original engineering drawings, and diagrams required to manufacture the H&K 91/G3 series.
- 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.

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

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

This is information from Larry's classes:

# Tactical & Defensive of Texas

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

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

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



## Defensive Concealed Handgun

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

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

Call today to inquire about a private or group Defensive Class

**Winter Special**

**\$450** (pp)

**Call for class information**

Standard Price \$450

### Contact

**Larry @ 972.989.3278**

Texas DPS LTC/CHL Certified  
NRA Certified  
Advanced Weapon Certs

Member - NRA, TSRA, USCCA

## Tactical & Defensive Of Texas

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

*This is NOT a “Learn To Shoot” class ... it is a “Survive a Gunfight” class!*

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

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

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

Ver. 07.17.15

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

Scott published the schedule for 2018 and I wanted to share with the club:

# 2018 Class Schedule

## CHC (Combat Handgun Course)

(THIS is the class that EVERYONE who has attended, will tell you...YOU should attend, regardless of your skill level. EVERYONE.)  
Tuition: \$399 Dates: 2/10 & 5/19

## ICHC (Intermediate Combat Handgun Course)

\*\*\* Completion of TFG's CHC and recommendation by TFG's instructor staff or Completion of CHC comparable course by a reputable training provider, and recommendation by TFG's instructor staff, are PREREQUISITES for this course (ICHC)

\*\*\* The follow-on course to our CHC, this class (ICHC) will take your shooting to the next level, and again, you will not be disappointed!  
Tuition: \$499 Dates: 3/31 & 6/16

## PCC (Practical Concealed Carry)

\*\*\* CHC and ICHC are both prerequisites for the PCC. This course will cover practical deployment of a handgun, from concealed carry, in various realistic environments.  
Tuition: \$599 Dates: 4/14

**PRIVATE and discreet individual training is also available. Contact us for details.**

You have my word, you will not regret attending these classes. Private Message or email us at TacFrog@hotmail.com ASAP to secure your spot.  
\*\*\* Sign up and Spread the Word (please share this post.) Check out the testimonials in previous posts. Come see for yourself why all of our students and associates, recommend TacFrog Global's current, relevant, and highly effective training, so strongly. \*\*\*  
God bless! Scott Phillips

THE WAY OF THE GUN

<https://www.nraam.org/>

The 2018 NRA national convention will be held in DALLAS this year on May 4, 5 and 6. If you have never attended a NRA national convention, it is amazing to be with 60,000+ fellow 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment supporters. The main event, and many of the breakout sessions are FREE to any NRA member. There are several pay events like the banquets and concerts.



## JOIN US FOR THE 147<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING IN DALLAS, TEXAS!

The 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings and Exhibits will take place at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, May 3-6 in Dallas, Texas. The Exhibit Hall will be open May 4-6. Join over 80,000 patriots and 800+ exhibitors for the biggest Annual Meeting yet, featuring a jam-packed schedule of seminars, workshops, special events, and more!

The NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits is FREE to all NRA members in good standing and their families (spouse and children under 18 years old). At this time, pre-registration has not yet begun, but check back soon! Registration also takes place on-site at the event.

Since many of the CARGO members are local, the meeting needs 100s of volunteers to support the event.  
<https://www.nraam.org/attend/volunteer/>

# BECOME A VOLUNTEER



The NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits is NRA's flagship event.

Each year, tens of thousands of dedicated NRA members come together to celebrate freedom and the Second Amendment. This event would not be possible without the support and selfless service of dedicated NRA members like you. If you can spare a half-day or more to assist.

Make plans now to join us for the 2018 NRA Annual Meeting & Exhibits. Participating as an Official NRA Volunteer is one of the most satisfying and enjoyable activities you will experience as an NRA member.

## 1. What Are Your Areas Of Interest?

- Air Gun Range (MUST be a certified NRA Instructor)
- Eddie Eagle
- Facility & Logistics Support
- Firearms Examiner
- Membership Registration
- NRA Store Cashier - minimum of 5 hours standing
- NRA Store Cashier Assistant (Bagging) - minimum of 5 hours standing
- NRA Store Stock Clerk / Floor Assistant - minimum of 5 hours standing
- NRA Youth Day

Volunteers are needed from Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> until Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

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.cargoclub.org](http://www.cargoclub.org)

SHOT show 2018 was held in Las Vegas in January and a flood of new products were released... These ranged from tactical gear to new cartridges to new firearms. I wanted to share some of the things that I have been seeing from the show.



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[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/product-launch-year-ruger-pc-carbine-shot-show-2018/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20180130\\_SHOT4&utm\\_campaign=/blog/product-launch-year-ruger-pc-carbine-shot-show-2018/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/product-launch-year-ruger-pc-carbine-shot-show-2018/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20180130_SHOT4&utm_campaign=/blog/product-launch-year-ruger-pc-carbine-shot-show-2018/)

## Product Launch of the Year: Ruger PC Carbine — SHOT Show 2018

by CLAY MARTIN on JANUARY 29, 2018

The real surprise of SHOT Show 2018 came from Ruger, and I would argue this for best of the new firearms, and second place contender for the story of the year. Only 224 Valkyrie as a cartridge ranks higher in my opinion, and that is saying something. So Ruger has decided to enter the Pistol Caliber Carbine game, and I am really glad I didn't spend the last year on R&D for a competing product. Because Ruger is going to sink a lot of ships with their new [Ruger PC Carbine](#).



### SPECS:

- Capacity: 17+1 rds.
- Uses Glock & Ruger mags
- Easy takedown
- Cartridge: 9mm
- Barrel length: 16.12 in.
- Overall length: 34.37 in.
- Front sight blade; rear adj. ghost ring
- Finish: Type II hardcoat anodized
- Weight: 6.8 lbs.
- MSRP: \$649



## Impressions

The Ruger PC Carbine is basically a scaled up 10/22, which offers a number of advantages. First and foremost, 9mm carbines are all blowback models. Ruger knows a little something about this. The 10/22 is the most ubiquitous 22 LR rifle in the world — by a large margin. Walking into this, Ruger had decades of experience to fall back on, probably most of the reason they went with a 10/22 style action.

The rifle is a takedown model, which is also cool. If you already have the capability in engineering terms, why not? So while there are not as many stock options for a takedown 10/22 as a regular 10/22, there is still a lot.

The PC Carbine and 10/22 don't share a footprint, but the scale is close. It won't be long before we see aftermarket stocks piled up like cordwood, and that is a huge win. You can make a 10/22 look and feel like anything from a Tommy Gun to a HALO alien carbine, and I bet we'll see the same thing for the PC Carbine soon.

The barrel is threaded from the factory, so it ships suppressor ready. Also important, Ruger put some magic in the bolt. I haven't taken it apart yet to see exactly what, but the company man we interviewed mentioned recoil dampening.

This platform recoils less than any 9mm carbine I have shot to date.



### Pricing & Availability

In a big step for Ruger, they also acknowledged the strength of the Glock magazine in the market. The PC Carbine ships set up for an SR-9 magazine ( a nod to the Ruger loyalists), but includes an insert to adapt it to Glock magazines. Well played, Ruger, well played. At a retail price of \$649, this carbine is poised to wreck house. I wish I had purchased Ruger stock last week.

For more information about Ruger's PC Carbine, click [here](#).

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/glock-19x-best-of-both-worlds/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20180130\\_SHOT4&utm\\_campaign=/blog/glock-19x-best-of-both-worlds/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/glock-19x-best-of-both-worlds/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20180130_SHOT4&utm_campaign=/blog/glock-19x-best-of-both-worlds/)

## Shooting the Glock 19X: Best of Both Worlds — SHOT Show 2018

by CLAY MARTIN on JANUARY 24, 2018



Whether it's practical or collectible, people will line up to buy the Glock 19X.

Glock recently announced that they were going to introduce the [Model 19X](#) on the commercial market and buyers could not be happier. The Glock 19X is the pistol they designed for the U.S. military's Modular Handgun System, or MHS.

Ultimately Glock did not win the contract but [a big part of that was the price](#). Glock's MHS pistol was more expensive than the competition — the gun still performed better in some ways. Because of that, people will forever ask if the Army made the right decision.

Either way, people have been asking Glock to sell them these guns and Glock's response was positive. The company made a few tweaks to the commercial version to give it a little more market appeal so this is as close as anyone will get to owning a Glock MHS pistol.

### Overview

The Glock 19X packs many of the features of the new Gen 5 series with some features unique to this pistol. Simply, the 19X is a Glock 19 slide on a Glock 17 frame. Why would you want to do that? Because it's a fantastic way to make one gun perform a lot of roles.

With its shorter slide and barrel assembly, it's possible to carry the 19X concealed. For some people, grip length has very little to do with concealment. Shooters with bigger hands can get a better grip on full-size frames and that extra half inch matters. A better grip means more control.

The shorter slide also makes the gun faster to draw and point with less slide to clear a holster. The 19X has a capacity advantage over a Glock 19, too. Flush magazines hold 17 rounds of 9mm Luger, two more. If you need to use your concealed-carry pistol for real, you want to stack all the advantages you can.

## Specifications



In addition to combining Glock 17 and 19 features, the 19X is improved in every critical way.

- 9mm Luger
- Marksman barrel
- Glock night sights
- 18-round capacity with flush magazine (one included)
- 20-round capacity with extended magazines (two included)
- Ambidextrous slide release levers
- Reversible magazine release button
- Improved PVD finish
- Coyote frame and slide
- Lanyard loop
- No manual thumb safety

## Impressions

At range day, I finally got my hands on the long-awaited Glock 19X, and it did not disappoint. This is a gun with a frame big enough to get all your fingers on, holds 17+1 rounds of ammo and has a sight set up that is lines up quickly.

Instead of the 19X, they should have called this the Glock Commander. It is essentially a polymer copy of the famed 1911 Colt Commander, a platform that was proved worth over and over again in its day. This is the best development I have seen from Glock since the advent of the Generation 3, and I can't wait to get one of my own. This is a no question buy gun, I recommend it highly.

## Pricing

The Glock 19X is a premium service pistol and the \$749 MSRP reflects that. Considering this is an improved, special edition pistol from Glock, the price isn't bad at all. You may not want to wait for a deal. Guns like this sell for what the sticker says.

For more information about these and other Glock products visit [us.glock.com](https://www.us.glock.com).

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/armys-sig-m17-civilian-version-releases-march-shot-show-2018/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20180207\\_SHOT8&utm\\_campaign=/blog/armys-sig-m17-civilian-version-releases-march-shot-show-2018/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/armys-sig-m17-civilian-version-releases-march-shot-show-2018/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20180207_SHOT8&utm_campaign=/blog/armys-sig-m17-civilian-version-releases-march-shot-show-2018/)

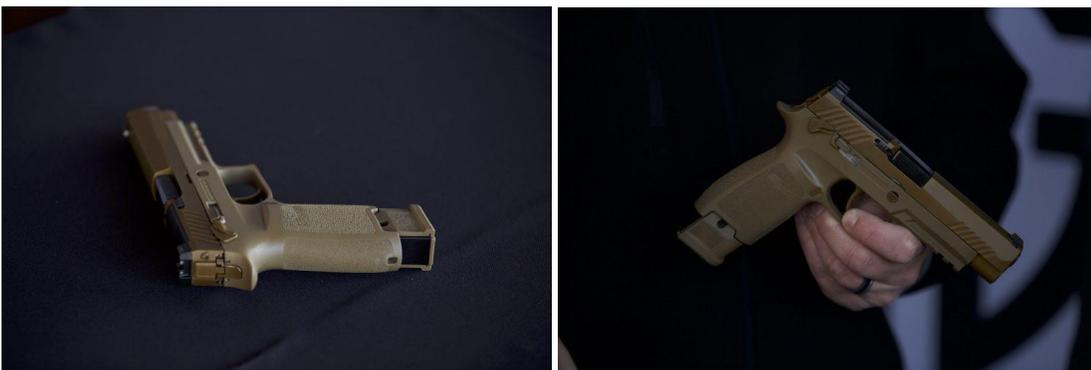
## Own The Army's SIG M17: Civilian Version Releases in March — SHOT Show 2018

by CLAY MARTIN on FEBRUARY 6, 2018

We got our hands on the SIG M17 at range day, the actual military model. If you are a P320 fan and or a collector, you are going to want one of these. You could buy a gun that was in the MHS trials right now, or you could be the winner in the spring when the M17 is released for public sale.



Own a Piece of History



The M17 features a unique coyote coloring, with the slide slightly darker than the frame. Internally, the gun features coatings not found in regular P320's, part of the magic of passing a DOD acquisition test. Most of us

don't routinely salt water submerge our pistols, but that is Tuesday in several military units. The M17 model features a slide cut for the Leupold Delta Point Pro, another requirement of the MHS contract. Like the P320X5, the M17 addresses this mounting with a removable plate, that includes the rear sight.

The MHS contract also specified an optional thumb safety. SIG, acting like grownups, has opted to keep this feature for the civilian model. The M17 has a 1911 style safety as an option.



### **Impressions & Availability**

The few changes from the actual M17 will include the removal of anti-tamper devices. If you don't know Soldiers, they are famous for touching things they shouldn't. Leave a Specialist 4 in a padded room with two ball bearings and an anvil, an hour later the anvil will be broken and the ball bearings lost. The P320 civilian is a chassis system, offering ease of parts change out. Not a good idea for the Joe's, so the M17 has special parts built in to prevent it. Your civilian model will be all P320 in this regard.

Coming to a store near you, late March early April this year.



# Franklin Armory Presents Reformation: A New Line of Firearms

by G&A Staff | February 1st, 2018

Jay Jacobson from Franklin Armory sat down with OSG's Michael Bane at SHOT Show 2018 to discuss Reformation, Franklin Armory's new line of "non-rifles." The line has been one of the most highly talked about subjects at SHOT this year. The new firearms from Franklin Armory have opened up a whole new market segment.

The firearm shown has an 11.5-inch barrel, but with a rifle stock attached. The rifle barrel also comes with straight cut lands and grooves, while retaining a standard chamber. Franklin Armory calls this barrel technology NRS, or "Not a Rifle or Shotgun." This innovative barrel technology affects the stabilization of the rifle and the spin of the bullet. Franklin Armory worked closely with the ATF to meet all standards and get this firearm approved.

The new Reformation line of firearms has a couple of other unique features, such as a binary trigger. The rifle trigger has three positions; safe, semiautomatic and binary. The binary trigger allows the rifle to fire and both the pull and release of the trigger. Jacobson showed Bane some of the firearms' unique safety features, including their patented trigger safety.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/3d-printed-suppressor-miracle-daniel-defense-wave/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20180115\\_BlogDigest\\_260&utm\\_campaign=/blog/3d-printed-suppressor-miracle-daniel-defense-wave/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/3d-printed-suppressor-miracle-daniel-defense-wave/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20180115_BlogDigest_260&utm_campaign=/blog/3d-printed-suppressor-miracle-daniel-defense-wave/)

## 3D Printed Suppressor Miracle: Daniel Defense Wave

by CLAY MARTIN on JANUARY 14, 2018

This week, with our ongoing suppressor coverage, we got to test one of unique products on the market. The Daniel Defense Wave, the first 3D printed suppressor in history. As we would expect from the name Daniel Defense, it proved to be spectacular.

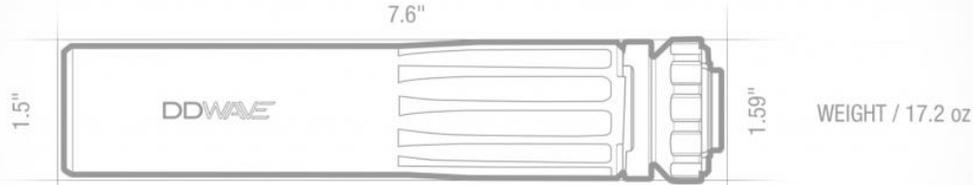


Daniel Defense Wave on a Barnes Precision Rifle in action

### DD Making Waves

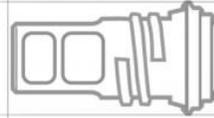
When I first heard this device was 3D printed, I was extremely skeptical. 3D printing, from what I have seen of gun parts so far has traditionally meant plastic and fragile. Not what you want in a can. So, I was happily surprised to find that Daniel Defense constructed the suppressor almost entirely of Inconel. This is a nickel-based super alloy very common in sound suppressors. Among its many benefits, it is extremely tough against abrasion, making it perfect for this application.

## SPECIFICATIONS



### SOUND REDUCTION

Typically Reduces a 5.56 round by 30dB & 300BLK by 40dB, depending on barrel length and environmental conditions



How, exactly, did DD print with this? Via a process call sintering, which is basically welding powdered metal one layer at a time. The result is seamless baffle stack and outer shell, with a pattern you could achieve in no other way. The best part here is the no seams on the shell. In the military, that was always the failure point on our cans. You could tell quickly, when carbon started leaking out of the welds. They still worked, but performance was degraded. The DD was obviously built to correct that issue.



## SPECS

- **Caliber:** 7.62
- **Weight:** 17.2 Oz.
- **Diameter:** 1.59 in.
- **Overall Length:** 7.6 in.
- **Threads:** 5/8 –24 TPI
- **Attachment Type:** Quick Detach
- **Material:** Inconel
- **MSRP:** \$1,157
- **Manufacturer:** Daniel Defense



### Durability...?

The can is overall cool, but does it work? Durability will be an ongoing test. The materials are correct, and DD says toughness was the primary concern in design. You can tell that when you pick it up, this is no runaway waif. It isn't even close to the lightest suppressor on the market, nor was that the goal. DD also built the 7.62 model, by design, to work for 5.56 through .300 Win. Mag. Unfortunately for our durability question, ours only shipped with a 5.56 flash hider.



The can is quick detach design, hence the flash hider issue. Daniel Defense built the family of flash hidere to the same outer dimension for each caliber, but obviously not the same thread dimension. I have actually seen a 5.56 flash hider rigged onto a 7.62 rifle, and the result was spectacular. If you call an .30 caliber bullet trying to exit a .22 caliber hole at high speed spectacular at least. I'm really glad I wasn't the one holding it. The point is, Daniel Defense did set you up for one can across many rifles. But they also built in a fail-safe against stupidity. Can't fault them on that one.

## Range Time



Anyway, using a .300 Win Mag rated suppressor on 5.56 is a long way from a toughness test. But we did make lemonade out of our shit sandwich. Or whatever analogy is appropriate here. On a 5.56 gun, the Wave was perfectly hearing safe with supersonic ammo. It ran great and had a repeatable zero shift of right at one inch low. I did have one group go haywire when taking the can on and off, but that is most likely user error. Either I shot that group like a monkey slapping the trigger, or I didn't have the can fully-seated when I started.

On my Barnes Precision 18-inch rifle, the suppressor had no negative effects on accuracy. One of my suppressed groups was under a half inch, similar to the rifle naked.

The Wave comes out of the box with everything you need to get started. The flash hider is already in the suppressor, to save packaging space. Also included is a complete shim kit for timing the brake, and a small tube of Rockset for permanent installation.



Time will tell, next up for the DD wave is a 16-inch .308 and a pile of bullets. This should answer the durability question nicely. But for now, I will say this. The decibel reduction does seem to be as advertised ( 30-40 decibels, depending on rifle platform), and the zero shift is one of the best on the market. The price is competitive, especially for a product from Black Creek's home of uber high-quality products.

# 10 Trends That Will Shape SHOT And 2018

by G&A Staff | January 19th, 2018 | By Michael Bane



With apologies to the Grinch, Christmas isn't the only thing that comes without ribbons, comes without tags, comes without packages, boxes or bags. A mere one month after Christmas, the SHOT Show pops up from the fertile ground in Las Vegas like a spanking new *Amanita Phalloides* mushroom, ready for all unwary hikers.

To be honest, all of us in the industry have a love/hate relationship with the SHOT Show. It's often our first chance to see new product, have expensive dinners with sponsors and talk to industry people we desperately need to talk to. It's also crazy big and operating at a frenetic pace — remember, SHOT is a *trade*, not a consumer, show, and everyone is there to do business, not talk.

Still, SHOT is important because it gives us a window of how the industry is responding to the present "downturn." I say "downturn" because 2017 wasn't a bad year, but it was a drop over

previous years. A lot of people in the business, especially the marketing side, have only seen the Obama “bubble” and have never had to deal with “business as usual.”

Still, in 2018 the industry is facing a couple of brutal challenges.

The first is that many people bet heavily on a Hillary Clinton Presidency. That means making as many ARs as the machinery could turn out, and a lot of those ARs are still clogging the arteries of distributor and retailer shelves. The situation has been so bad that one wag suggested giving away an AR-15 with each purchase of a Happy Meal. That’s great news for consumers as prices continue to drop, not so great news for manufacturers who have seen their margins vanish like morning mist.

The second challenge is that to make all those ARs, many companies expanded, adding equipment and in some cases factories. That means a lot of expensive additional capacity sitting around gathering dust. Not a good place to be, which is why there are rumors all over the place of dedicated AR manufacturers looking for other ways to keep the CNCs humming.

So what’s the good news? Well, people are buying guns...lots of guns. But they aren’t necessarily buying black rifles, with an interesting exception. High dollar ARs, such as those from Wilson Combat, are selling just fine. The low end of the business is, however, being driven lower and lower (\$299 is the lowest I’ve seen for a decent AR, with the average commodity price in the \$500 arena).

Here are Ten Trends that will shape SHOT and 2018:

- *A potential flood of new products.* New products are the classic Business School 101 way of working through a downturn, and the biggest players — Ruger, Sig Sauer, Glock and Smith & Wesson — know that. Ruger, for example, has products queued up like jets circling Atlanta. Just in recent weeks Ruger has rolled out the Rimfire Precision Rifle, the Hawkeye Long-Range Target Rifle in .300 Win Mag, the PC Carbine in 9mm, The hammer-fired Security 9 and the budget EC9s mini-9mm and a few more. Glock has been trickling out its Generation 5 pistols, plus the G19X, the civilian version of their entry into the Great Army Handgun Sweepstakes. S&W is touting the Shield 2.0, the M&P 2.0 line and versions of their surprise

hit, the .22 Victory pistol. And Sig Sauer shook the markets last week with their one mini-9mm, the P365, the largest capacity tiny gun on the market and a guaranteed home run.

- *No niche left unfilled.* It's said Nature abhors a vacuum, and exactly the same is true in the 2018 gun market. You'll notice the list of new products is *fine-sliced* — something for everyone. For example, a couple of years back Ruger roiled the precision rifle market — *a bright spot in growth* — with their Ruger Precision Rifle at \$1599 MSRP, a bomb in a market where most rifles were in the \$3-6K universe. This year, Savage, Remington and Mossberg are offering their versions at prices once unheard-of for tack-driving long range rifles. Last year newcomer SCCY Firearms proved that the sub-\$300 handgun market is a growing area; this year, look for everyone to offer guns in that niche (obviously, the Ruger Security 9 and EC9 are aimed squarely at SCCY's market).
- *Get aboard the new caliber express!* Sure, you have a 5.56 AR and maybe even a .308 AR-10, but do you have a .22 Nosler? 6.5 Creedmoor? .224 Valkyrie? 6mm Creedmoor? .260 Remington? 45-70 Rimless? .500 Auto Mag, .338 Federal? .458 HAM'R? And where's your .300 Blackout, 6.5 Grendel, .458 SOCOM, a nice retro .204 Ruger, 9mm, .10mm. .45, .22???? During the Obama Bubble, companies were frantically trying to keep up with 5.56 and .308 black rifles. Now, with that extra capacity we mentioned above, there's a flood of new, and some old cart ridges for the AR15/AR10 platforms. Hey...it makes sense! Think of it as a combination of points 1 and 2 — it's new and it's niche, and more are on the way!
- *What's old is new again!* Nobody wanted the 10mm cartridge until, strangely enough, everybody did. Col. Jeff Cooper's bastard child is every bit as much of a hot new cartridge now as it was when Sonny Crockett hid his Bren Ten under a pastel sport jacket. Everybody has a Big 10 semi auto or revolver; soon you will, too. Trust me on this...you can feel your Visa card twitching. And hey, don't forget bolt action hunting rifles! Sure, they've been available since the 19th Century, but now they're hotter than ever. If you don't already have one in 6.5 Creedmoor, it's unlikely you'll ever be invited to the "A" List parties. Really.
- *Wheel guns are cool again!* When Kimber launched the K6 .357 Revolver and Colt reintroduced its Cobra .38 Special, it signaled that revolvers were not only back, but bigger than ever. Ruger and Smith & Wesson are riding that wave; Kimber's expanding its line of revolvers; Magnum Research's BFR ("Biggest Finest Revolver"), Ruger's Blackhawks and Redhawks and S&W's .500 Magnums are benefiting from a rising interest in carpal tunnel syndrome-inducing big bore revolvers like the .454 Casull, .480 Ruger, .500 Linebaugh, even the venerable 45-70 and 30-30 in revolver platforms. Hint...wear a glove!

- *Concealed carry guns are at MAX!* What can I say? CCW has been the engine driving the handgun market for years. There are now so many choices, the market split in so many different directions, that everybody is feeling the pain of a slowdown. As the commercial says, you can have it your way. In fact, there's so much out there it makes my head ache, which causes me to carry a Glock. Caliberwise, .380 and 9mm are the two big winners. Nobody can remember a time when people thought .40 S&W was the bee's knees for concealed carry, and only Really Old Guys™ carry .45 ACP.
- *Glass, glass, glass...and red dots...lots of red dots!* This year is the single greatest year for optics since Hans Lippershey tried to get a patent for the first telescope in 1608 (he didn't, BTW). In the last few years we have seen quite literally a revolution in optics, both the glass and the electronic kind. Scopes have made a quantum leap over what was available as recently as five years ago, and, even better for us, prices are dropping. A couple of grand will buy you a scope that would make Bob the Nailer weep with joy. And that's not to mention electronic optics...keep your eyes on low-cost red dots and watch for the increasing convergence of traditional optics and electronics.
- *The mainstreaming of mil-tech!* You want thermal, you get thermal. You want night vision, you get night vision. You want scopes that practically aim themselves, you get scopes that practically aim themselves. You want drones, you got drones. You want a fully equipped M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank...well, maybe not this year. But the trickle down of military technology has become a flood. We are now approaching **2001: A Space Odyssey** author and futurist Sir Arthur C. Clarke's Third Law: *Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.* And now it's magic you can afford. ‘
- *Today's new hunter and shooter is a woman, and she's tired of being ignored!* And trust me, she *isn't* being ignored any longer. In fact, one of the fastest growing niches in both shooting and hunting is women. And — and is this a surprise to anyone? — there's more to accommodating the new female market than pink guns...and pink, well, everything else. Women rule 2018.
- *Expect the unexpected...again!* Short-barreled shotguns that aren't shotguns at all? Check! Short-barreled rifles that aren't rifles or pistols? Check! Pistols that look like rifles? Check! Rifles that look like pistols? Hmmmmm! A Glock that folds up like origami? Roger that! A semiauto civilian legal FN 249 SAW in FDE? Oh yeah, baby! Yet another Caracal that won't be recalled? Fingers crossed! An actual real life product from Heizer Defense? Well... Long Range Precision .22s? Coming thing! Another thousand high end 1911s? Of course...where's your

credit card? MP-5 clones? Under every table! 80% everything? Break out the Dremel! Flashlights with a lumen output that will melt steel? By the ton! The Taurus Spectrum again? Shipping, baby, shipping! Holster that won't work? For sure! Shotguns you can't afford? Take your pick! Stuff I haven't even thought about that I *must* have? Well, if past is any precedent...

- Yes, I know I said "10," but this is important: NO MORE ZOMBIE CRAP!

Have a great SHOT Show!

[https://gundigest.com/article/5-intriguing-guns-2018-shot-show?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EDT\\_GD180205&utm\\_content=EDT\\_GD180205+CID\\_1a5a90799813dc181fd4a394f2915edd&utm\\_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm\\_term=Read%20more#4](https://gundigest.com/article/5-intriguing-guns-2018-shot-show?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EDT_GD180205&utm_content=EDT_GD180205+CID_1a5a90799813dc181fd4a394f2915edd&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=Read%20more#4)

## **5 Hot New Guns From SHOT Show 2018**

By Elwood Shelton - January 30, 2018

**Some head-turning new guns released at the world's largest outdoor and firearms expo that will make waves and could be hard to get this year.**

What are the head-turners?

The 2018 SHOT Show in Las Vegas is wrapped up and the gun world is awash in new gear, ammo and guns. We at Gun Digest have given you a sneak peak at many of the new firearms coming out this year. And in the future will give you much more in-depth reviews and test fires, so you'll know where to spend your cold-hard cash.

With that said, there were a few guns that jumped out at me over the course of the event. This is not to say, these are the end-all, be-all of the show. Instead, they are new twists on proven designs or fresh concepts by established gunmakers that appear to add something to the overall market — at least from my extremely humble perspective.

Truly, only time — and the shooting masses — will tell if these guns offer what the greater public desires. So, for what it's worth, here are five guns that caught my eye from 2018 SHOT.

### **Bergara HMR Pro**



Photo: Bergara

Utilitarian design, but precision results, the B-14 HMR made a big splash when it hit the market. And Bergara is shooting to parlay that success with a top-shelf variation of the bolt-action.

The HMR Pro still boasts the fully adjustable internal chassis stock, but it's mated with the company's Premium line action and barrel. Hand assembled, the rifle is completely made in Georgia and boasts stainless steel barrel and action and a two-lug floating bolt head. Additionally, the HMR Pro comes outfitted with the externally adjustable TriggerTech trigger.

Perhaps best of all, Bergara's new rifle comes in a slew of calibers, including: .22-250 Rem., .223 Rem., .308 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor and 6mm Creedmoor. The B-14 variation was only available in .308 and 6.5. The upgraded HMR variation's MSRP isn't through the roof; at \$1,715 it's still within reach of shooters who want a precision rifle that's comfortable in the field and competition.

## **Savage Fox A Grade**



Photo: Savage Arms

Savage has breathed new life into a truly classic American double gun.

The Fox A Grade Series is the Massachusetts gunmaker's — actually produced by Connecticut Shotgun Manufacturing Company — take on Ansley Hermon Fox's impeccable boxlock side-by-side and looks to have all the trimmings.

This includes double triggers, English-style straight grip, oil-finished black walnut stock and, perhaps most eye-catching, a color-case hardened receiver that adds depth to an already attractive gun. Savage has introduced its Fox in both 12 and 20 gauge, with the option of 26- or 28-inch barrels — each with removable chokes.

At \$5,000, Savage isn't giving the Fox A Grade Series away. But given its heirloom quality, the [shotgun](#) is certainly a generational investment.

## **Mauser M18 Bolt-Action Rifle**



Photo: Mauser

Mausers, at least in their modern iterations, typically run a small fortune. But that's changing in a big way with the introduction of the M18.

At \$699, the bolt-action is by far the most affordable rifle to roll out of the German gunmaker's factory in a spell. But prepare your chagrin; it does not boast what most shooters want out of a Mauser — the classic action with oversized extractor claw. Instead, it has a three-lug, full-diameter bolt and Sako extractor. Still, it's a Mauser. And it's a fair bet the company known for exacting standards has done this more cost-effective design properly.

The M18 — what the company calls “The People's Rifle” (Volkswaffe) — comes outfitted with a cold hammer-forged barrel, detachable box magazine, adjustable trigger (2.2 to 4 pounds) and polymer stock. The M18 might not stir the imagination like an M98, but, hey, it puts a Mauser within reach of the majority of shooters.

## **Ruger Super Redhawk 10mm Revolver**



Photo: Ruger

Chambering this size revolver in 10mm Auto might seem like overkill. But, it should produce an eminently shootable gun, with little to no muzzle flip. It makes some sense to see the Super Redhawk go 10mm. The revolver is a favorite of handgun hunters, and the round is in ascendance in that circle. Ruger has the handgun ready to rock out of the box with Ruger rings for mounting a scope and three moon clips to juice this six-shooter with the utmost expediency. The scope mount might be the deal sealer for some when they balance the \$1,159 Super Redhawk against a semi-auto pistol.

## **Mossberg 590M Mag-Fed Shotgun**



Photo: Mossberg

This was inevitable as a canyon echo once Remington released the [870 DM](#). But Mossberg could steal the spotlight in the detachable box magazine pump-action show with the 590M's capacity.

Right off the bat, the company offers 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-round magazines, which definitely expands the defensive capabilities of the \$721 gun. The magazine release is convenient to boot, directly in front of the trigger guard making it highly intuitive.

Outside of the ability to accept steel feed-lipped double-stack polymer magazines, this 2¾-inch-only chambered shotgun is pretty much the 590 shooters have come to love. It still meets the MilSpec 3443 requirements for a pump-action. It still features ghost-ring sights, plain old 18.5-inch barrel and vented handguard. Only now, this beast is that much quicker to feed.

2018 SHOT SHOW

# .224 Valkyrie a Hot Item at SHOT Show 2018

by Lynn Burkhead | January 24th, 2018

After weeks of pre-SHOT Show buzz, OSG senior digital editor Lynn Burkhead received a full fledged update from Federal Premium Ammunition's JJ Reich on the company's much talked about new 224 Valkyrie cartridge.

At Industry Day at the Range, Reich noted that the new 224 Valkyrie round has just received approval by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) just prior to the start of SHOT Show 2018.

With tack-driving long range accuracy thanks to a flat trajectory and supersonic ballistics out as far as 1,300-yards, Reich noted that the 224 Valkyrie compares very favorably with popular long-range rounds like the 6.5 Creedmoor...with about half of the 6.5 Creedmoor's felt recoil!

Add in several affordable bullet options from Federal Premium Ammunition, not to mention plenty of energy delivered to the target, and the new 224 Valkyrie round works for a wide variety of shooters ranging from casual plinkers to competitive shooters to hunters of medium-sized game like varmints, wild hogs, and white-tailed deer.

What's more, when the 224 Valkyrie is coupled with firearms like Savage Arms' new MSR 15 Valkyrie modern sporting rifle, Reich notes that the result is one of the shooting world's most exciting new cartridges in years.

No wonder its one of the shooting and hunting industry's most-talked about new items here on the eve of the SHOT Show's 40th anniversary!

Information: (800) 379-1732; [www.federalpremium.com](http://www.federalpremium.com)

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/top-8-long-range-shooting-gear-shot-show-2018/>

## Top 8 Long-Range Shooting Gear — SHOT Show 2018

by TOM MCHALE on JANUARY 28, 2018

SHOT Show 2018 has just under 2,000 vendors on site this year, so there's lots of new long-range shooting gear to see. Better yet, the Range Day outing Monday before the show opens has a 1,000-yard range where some vendors provide the opportunity to try new guns, ammo, and gear. Here are some of the interesting long-range shooting products we found this year.

### 224 Valkyrie Caliber



Federal's New .224 Valkyrie Match Load

The big news for longer range shooters is a new caliber – [224 Valkyrie by Federal Premium Ammunition](#). More than a dozen companies are making compatible rifles already.

Here's the interesting thing about the 224 Valkyrie. It offers solid performance past 1,000 yards but from a short-action rifle or standard AR-15 platform. Based on the 6.8 SPC cartridge, it fits into standard 5.56mm magazine wells but launches heavier (60, 75, and 90-grain) and slippery bullets that can stay supersonic out to 1,300 yards depending on your local atmospheric conditions. Bullet drop and wind drift are far less than 77-grain .223 Remington offerings.

## Savage MSR 15 Recon LRP



Savage MSR15 224 Valkyrie

You know that as the inventor of the new 224 Valkyrie caliber Vista Outdoor, the parent company of Federal Ammunition and Savage, will have rifles to match. The [Savage MSR 15 Recon LRP](#) (Long Range Precision Rifle) is available for the Valkyrie but also 22 Nosler and 6.8 SPC.

This model features an 18-inch barrel with a mid-length gas system, and adjustable gas block, a free-float M-LOK handguard, Magpul CTR buttstock, adjustable gas block, tunable muzzle brake and a two-stage receiver.

MSRP: \$1,499

CMMG 224 Valkyrie Mk4 DTR2 Rifle



#### CMMG's new Valkyrie Offering

The folks at [CMMG](#) jumped on the 224 Valkyrie long-range flight with a new rifle optimized for that cartridge. The Mk4 DTR2 sports a 24-inch barrel to get every bit of velocity possible out of the new cartridge. Even though 224 has far less recoil than comparably-performing calibers like 6.5mm Creedmoor, the rifle has the company's SV brake to minimize muzzle rise and keep you on target. A Magpul pistol grip, Geissele SSA 2-Stage Trigger, RML14 M-LOK hand guard and all-new CMMG Ambi Charging Handle round out the package. MSRP: \$1,700

#### Christensen Arms Adds Big Iron Calibers to Modern Precision Rifle

[Christensen Arms' Modern Precision rifle](#) has some new big iron caliber options starting this year. For their long-action configurations, you can now get the rifle in .300 Winchester Magnum, .300 Norma Magnum, and .338 Lapua Magnum. Known for its lightweight thanks to aerospace materials, it features a carbon fiber barrel, free-floated handguard, a locking but adjustable folding stock and oversized fluted bolt knob. Oh, and it's guaranteed to shoot with sub-MOA accuracy.



Christensen Arms MPR

MSRP: \$2,396 (long action configuration)

Range Hound Steel Target Hanging System



## Range Hound Target System

The [Range Hound System](#) is kind of like a set of forged steel Lego blocks that allow you to create target stands and hanging systems in a variety of ways. The brackets, hangers, and components are made from the same cast steel used to make the turrets of Sherman tanks, so it's tough and still stands up to abuse. Since the system is modular, it allows you to configure target applications to your preference with rebar, 2×4 lumber, T-posts, and EMT.

MSRP's range from \$33-\$100.

## Nikon Monarch 3000 Stabilized Range Finder



## Nikon Monarch 3000 Range Finder

Half the battle of ranging far away targets is holding the rangefinder steady enough to get an accurate reading. Not only does the new [Nikon Monarch 3000 Range Finder](#) stabilize the image automatically, but it also reaches out to 3,000 yards. The fast calculation times helps you get an accurate reading while on your target.

MSRP: \$420

## Sniper Extreme .375 (9.5×77) Cheytac Flash Tip Ammunition



Note the tipped projectiles

These [copper-jacketed bullets](#) feature a Titanium tip that provides a visual cue of impact well down range. When it strikes a hard object like a steel plate, you'll be able to see a bright flash at distances over 2,000 yards. No chemicals or other "burning" materials are required. If you're into shooting steel plates at extreme distances, this ammo might have your name on it.

### Accuracy Solutions BipodeXT Tactical Line



The BipodeXt

Kind of like long wheelbase vehicles, the BipodeXt is intended to offer increased stability. It's a below barrel extension tube assembly that allows you to mount a rifle bipod well forward – in front of the muzzle. Kind of like a long sight radius on a pistol or rifle makes it easier to aim with precision, a longer "bipod radius" allows you to minimize rifle movement. With the fulcrum way out there, you have to move the stock more vertically or horizontally to drift off target. Carbon fiber and aluminum construction keep weight to about a pound.

MSRP: \$599

# An Economical 10mm Carbine

by David Fortier | December 19th, 2017



I have a number of colleagues who are dyed-in-the-wool “gun snobs.” They only like, and wish to write about, the most expensive and finest rifles, optics and match ammunition. I remember when one such writer was visiting and wanted to look at my collection. We were chatting, and I handed him a nice Mod 91/41 Carcano in 6.5x52mm. He reacted like I had handed him a dirty diaper. I still laugh about that. I guess I have somewhat diverse tastes. I can appreciate most things that go bang, including the Hi-Point Firearms carbine seen here.

Hi-Point Firearms is perhaps best-known for its inexpensive, and somewhat clunky, line of handguns. They are what they are, and are designed to be very inexpensive. Hi-Point’s line of pistol-caliber carbines, though, garners much more respect. While nothing to impress your friends with, they have earned a reputation for being both reliable and accurate. More importantly, they are very affordable. So the teenager, poor college kid or blue-collar worker with a family can afford one.

## SPECIFICATIONS

### HI-POINT FIREARMS 1095TS

Action:	Blow-back with telescoping bolt
Caliber:	10mm Automatic
Barrel:	17.5 inches
Rifling:	7-groove
Overall length:	32 inches
Trigger:	Single-Stage with 6-pound pull
Feed:	10-round detachable box magazine
Weight:	7 pounds
MSRP:	\$389.99
Manufacturer:	Hi-Point Firearms, 419-747-9444, www.hi-pointfirearms.com

This past August, I had the opportunity to handle and fire a new model from Hi-Point Firearms, a carbine chambered in 10mm Automatic. During a demo at the Outdoor Sportsman Group Editorial Roundtable, I had the chance to speak with the folks from Hi-Point before spending some time shooting a preproduction model on steel at various distances. The preproduction model functioned without issue and slapped the steel with authority. Being a long-time fan of the 10mm Auto cartridge, I put in a request for a review sample. Hi-Point responded by giving *Firearms News* first crack at a production model.

My interest in the 10mm Auto cartridge was sparked many moons ago, reading Jeff Cooper's thoughts in our sister title, *Guns&Ammo*. Designed when FMJ projectiles were still de rigueur for personal protection, it was intended to be the "perfect" defensive handgun cartridge. A 200-grain FMJ launched at 1,200 fps would provide an edge in terminal performance, while the .40-caliber design would provide increased capacity over the fat .45 ACP. It set the shooting community on fire when it was introduced in 1983.

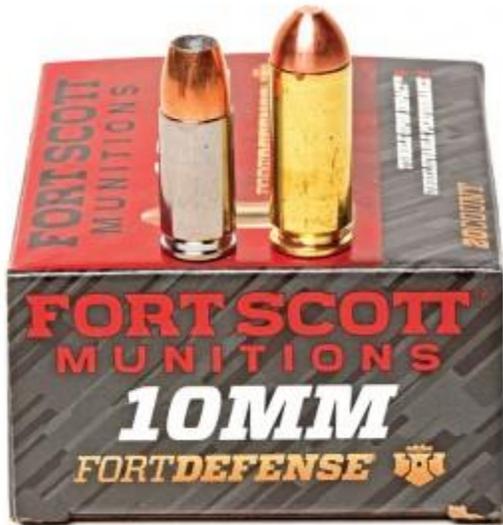
While Dornaus & Dixon's Bren Ten pistol was a business disaster, the cartridge was too good to die. Norma of Sweden had stepped up to the plate and produced ammunition, and both Colt and Smith & Wesson introduced handguns. None other than the FBI adopted the cartridge in 1989, and fielded it along with Smith & Wesson 1076 pistols. The FBI's adoption led a number of police departments around the country to follow suit. This included a small department where I had gone to high school in rural Maine. This proved a boon to me, as I policed up all their brass one day when they left it scattered on the range, after their initial qualifications.

My childhood friend and now colleague, Don Grover, and I both jumped on the bandwagon as well. He bought an early Colt Delta Elite, and I purchased a Smith & Wesson 1076. The two of us spent countless hours behind our reloading presses and testing various bullet weights and configurations. I shot a pile of lead 200-grainers and developed a heavy 135-grain load using Nosler JHPs. His Delta Elite didn't last long though, and he went back to .45 ACP. I sold the Smith and built a very pretty custom Delta Elite with a carry comp. I never could get it totally reliable though. The FBI eventually dropped the 10mm Auto in favor of .40 S&W, and I did the same.

Even though I've carried the same boring Glock 23 in .40 S&W for a couple decades now, I never lost that spark for 10mm Auto. It has many wonderful qualities. It can drive fairly heavy bullets fast

enough for hunting medium game. It penetrates well with the proper projectile and offers reliable expansion with modern designs. With lightweight bullets in the 135- and 155-grain range, it will provide Tokarev-like velocities, and it really sizzles. Accuracy is usually quite acceptable. Recoil of full-house loads tends to be a bit stiff for many interested in using it for concealed carry. One option is the 10mm Auto FBI pressure loads, which are similar in velocity to the .40 S&W. These mellow it out noticeably, but do take the magic away.

If you enjoy time spent at your press, it's an easy cartridge to hand load. Today, unlike in 1991, when I was playing with it, there is a host of modern projectiles from which to choose. A number of powders work well with it, and dies and data are all readily



available. You can load it very mild to make it pleasant to shoot on the range. Plus, you always have the option of loading it heavy for hunting, personal protection or recreational shooting.

For a time, it seemed like the 10mm Auto was headed for the history books. Companies discontinued models in this caliber due to poor sales, and the world moved on. It seemed as if its demise was near, but it was just too damn good to lie down and die. It retained a faithful following that loved its accuracy, exterior and terminal ballistics. Hunters, in particular, appreciated the cartridge and the level of performance it offered in an auto-loading handgun. Eventually, the 10mm Auto found a niche it could call its own, and both sales and interest in it have steadily increased over the years. Today, a new generation of shooters not old enough to remember its Genesis or fall from grace are embracing it. Introduced in 1983, the 10mm Auto has had its up and downs, but is today seeing a growing resurgence of interest. It is seen here compared to a 9x19mm, on the left.

This resurgence of interest in the 10mm Auto didn't go unnoticed by Hi-Point Firearms. It currently offers pistol-caliber carbines chambered for .380 ACP, 9x19mm Parabellum, .40 S&W and .45 ACP. Offering a model in 10mm Auto simply made sense. It could be utilized for not only recreational shooting and personal protection, but also hunting. So, using its 4595TS .45 ACP model as the foundation, Hi-Point set out to build a reliable 10mm Auto.

The result of its labor is Hi-Point Firearms' new model 1095TS carbine chambered in 10mm Automatic. Like all of Hi-Point's carbines, the 1095TS resembles something you would envision

an Imperial Stormtrooper to be issued. Encased in black polymer with ribs, rails, a skeletonized stock and shrouded sights, it looks like nothing else. Featuring a 17.5-inch barrel and an overall length of just 32 inches, the 1095TS is compact and handy. Weight comes in at 7 pounds, so it's not ultra-light, but it's not a porker either.



Operation is ultra-simple blow-back from a closed bolt. The 1095TS utilizes a large and heavy “telescoping” or “overhung” bolt, similar in concept to that made famous in the Israeli UZI submachine gun. What are the benefits of this type of bolt design? A telescoping bolt has much of its mass and weight forward of the breach, wrapping around the barrel. As blow-back designs have no locking system, and utilize the mass of the bolt to delay and slow the opening of the bolt, a certain amount of weight is required. In the case of the 10mm, a rather heavy bolt is needed. If all this mass were behind the breach, like a traditional first or second generation submachine gun, it would require a fairly long action and increase the length of the firearm. By using a bolt with much of its mass forward of the breach, the overall length of the firearm can be noticeably shortened.

The use of a telescoping bolt also has another positive benefit in the case of the 1095TS. It places most of the mass of the heavy reciprocating bolt between the hands of the shooter. Rather than the weight being to the rear, it is over the centerline of the carbine. This makes for a much more balanced design, and I noted the 1095TS balances right in front of the triggerguard. This aids handling. Plus, it places the axis of recoil lower, aiding shot-to-shot recovery.

Along with the telescoping bolt, the 1095TS also incorporates a magazine well in the pistol grip like an UZI. While I mention the UZI, because it is so well-known, this layout of a telescoping bolt and magazine in the pistol grip was actually introduced on the Czech samopal vzor 48 series of submachine guns in 1948. The virtue of this design is it aids reloading, especially in the dark. It is natural for one hand to quickly be able to find the other. So instead of hunting for a magazine well, reloading is very natural, as with a pistol. The 1095TS feeds from 10-round single-stack steel magazines. These feature witness holes on the right side of the magazine body and a large polymer baseplate.



The barreled receiver drops into a polymer stock housing with the recoil spring located beneath the action. A skeletonized butt reduces weight and features a soft recoil-dampening cheek-piece. The butt also features a spring-loaded textured-polymer buttpad. This has approximately half an inch of travel and reduces felt recoil. The fore-end is ribbed to provide a secure grip, and sports a polymer 1913 rail at 6 o'clock for mounting accessories. There is another polymer 1913 rail mounted beneath the barrel.

A stamped sheet-metal cover encases the top and sides of the action and features a large ejection port on the right side of the receiver. A charging handle rides in a slot on the left side of the action cover. This simply screws directly into the bolt. A polymer 1913 rail runs the length of the action cover, allowing easy mounting of a red-dot sight. A rear-sight assembly is mounted to the rear section of the rail. This features an aperture rear sight adjustable for both windage and elevation. The front sight is a metal tapered post with a circular shroud and is adjustable for elevation. The front-sight assembly is secured to the barrel using two set screws. The sight height allows a red-dot sight to be low mounted to co-witness with the iron sights.

The trigger is a bit mushy but not overly heavy, and has a fairly clean break. The controls are all located on the left side of the carbine. Below the reciprocating bolt handle is a bent sheet-metal thumb-safety, which protrudes through a slot in the action cover. A right-handed shooter can manipulate this with his thumb. A push-button magazine release is located on the left side of the pistol grip and is easy to reach. The bolt does lock back on the last shot, but there is no external bolt release. A pair of sling swivels and a carrying strap are included with the carbine.

Disassembly for cleaning is not difficult, but it does require tools. It is also not straightforward. I looked it over, scratched my head a bit, and then consulted the included operator's manual. Using a punch and hammer, I quickly had it stripped down, but I had to consult the parts diagram to figure out where some of the pieces were located to get it completely apart. Once apart, it is easy to clean and lubricate. Reassembly is straightforward and simple enough. Just consult the operator's manual the first time you do it, and you will not have any issues.



After a thorough examination, it was time for some fun. I purchased three 10mm Auto loads for testing and was able to include a fourth, which was supplied by Fort Scott Mmunition, which is located here in Kansas. Test loads consisted of Fort Scott Mmunition's 124-grain Solid Copper Spun load from its Fort Defense line. This is a solid copper flat-point projectile with a listed velocity of 1,600 fps. Next is PPU's 170-grain Flat Point Jacketed load, followed by Hornady's 180-grain XTP and Ram Precision Ammunition's 180-grain Gold Dot JHP. I was not only interested in the 1095TS's accuracy and reliability, but I was also very interested to see what kind of velocity boost the 17.5-inch barrel would provide.



Initial accuracy testing was conducted at 50 yards, using the factory iron sights. I wasn't sure what the Hi-Point was capable of, so felt this prudent. Three 5-shot groups were fired to check accuracy with velocity readings recorded using a LabRadar Doppler chronograph. Groups were fired from a rest with a rear bag. Accuracy, with one exception, proved to be quite good. My best 5-shot group was fired using Hornady's 180-grain XTP load and measured 1.5 inches. This load averaged 1.8 inches at 1,325 fps. PPU's 170-grain FPJ load averaged 2.6 inches at 1,146 fps. Fort Scott's 124-grain SCS load averaged 3.1 inches at a blistering 1,902 fps! Wowza, it's a real screamer. Expect to see more on this company and its line-up in future issues.

The only issue encountered during testing was with the Ram 180-grain Gold Dot load. I could not get it to group. I fired one 5-shot group and scratched my head and walked back and fired a 10-shot group on a full-size B-27 target at 50 yards. Impacts were erratically spaced here and there, with only eight hits on paper. About this time, my friend Neal Shera showed up. He looked at the target and grinned at me. His smile said, “Not having a good day, huh, Old Man?”

So, I stuck him behind the gun. He fired a 5-shot group from off bags and smirked at me. We walked down and only found three hits. His smirk faded. Switching back to PPU produced a nice, tight group, so I blamed the ammunition and not the carbine and dropped the Ram load from further testing. As an aside it chrono’d at 1,177 fps.

Next, I fired a five-shot group with the three remaining loads at 100 yards. The Hornady load measured 3.9 inches, the PPU came in at 5.5 inches, and the Fort Scott measured 6 inches. So, for a pistol-caliber carbine and iron sights, accuracy is quite acceptable. All four loads functioned without issue. Recoil was mild, but I did get a small whack to the cheek. The trigger gave me no problems.

I finished up testing, having some fun shooting on steel plates and silhouettes from 50 to 100 yards. During this portion of testing, the 1095TS proved quite fun. It handled well and was quick on target. Recoil is mild, but it rang steel nicely. While I found the controls easy to operate, Neal, a South Paw, did not find them nearly as friendly, so keep that in mind if you are a lefty. My only complaint is the fun ends far too quickly. With only 10 rounds on tap, the bolt locks back just as things are getting interesting.

All in all, shooting Hi-Point Firearms’ new 10mm Auto proved quite enjoyable. Better still, the MSRP on this new model is only \$389.99. Is it for everyone? No. Will some turn their noses up at it, simply due to the name on the side? Absolutely. Is it fun, accurate and reliable? Yes, indeed, it is. If you have an interest in an economical carbine chambered in 10mm Automatic, you just may want to consider Hi-Point Firearms’ new 1095TS. While it may not impress your friends, it might just put a smile on your face.

#### ACCURACY CHART HI-POINT FIREARMS 1095TS 10MM AUTO

Load	Bullet Weight (gr)	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Standard Deviation	Average Group (in.)
Fort Scott SCS	124	1902	21.3	3.1
PPU FPJ	170	1146	32.6	2.6
Hornady XTP	180	1325	17.3	1.8

Notes: Accuracy results are averages of three, five-shot groups fired from a rest at 50 yards. Velocity figures are 10-shot averages recorded with a LabRadar Doppler chronograph at an ambient temperature of 71 degrees F at 1,030 feet above sea level.

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/grandma-defends-grandchildren-attacker-shot-face/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20171222\\_FridayDigest\\_153&utm\\_campaign=blog/grandma-defends-grandchildren-attacker-shot-face/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/grandma-defends-grandchildren-attacker-shot-face/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20171222_FridayDigest_153&utm_campaign=blog/grandma-defends-grandchildren-attacker-shot-face/)

## Grandma Defends Grandchildren from Attacker: ‘I shot him in the face’

by JORDAN MICHAELS on DECEMBER 18, 2017

A Charlotte, NC, woman will not be charged after shooting and killing a man who was threatening to attack her and her grandchildren.

The Cabarrus County District Attorney’s Office determined that Sarah Shoe acted in self-defense during an incident that occurred at her business, Sarah’s Pet Spa, last month.

The DA reviewed multiple pieces of evidence to make the decision, including witness testimony, physical evidence, and a 911 call in which the dispatcher asked Shoe whether anyone needed an ambulance.

“I shot him in the face. He’s probably dead,” Shoe responded matter-of-factly.

The altercation began between Shoe and a neighboring business owner over a water bill, according to [NBC Charlotte](#).

The adjacent owner, DeShawn Tatum, visited Shoe’s business and started a fight with Shoe’s boyfriend, Christopher Gray.

Gray told police he asked Tatum to leave the store over a dozen times, but he refused until Shoe pulled out her gun.

Tatum left, but returned about a minute and a half later. Shoe called the police as Tatum stood outside the pet spa yelling and threatening.

“You said he’s back?” the dispatcher asked.

“Yeah, he’s out there screaming. If he comes in I’m shooting him,” Shoe said.

Gray went to the front door to ask Tatum to leave, but he responded by yelling, “I’m the General from Virginia, you don’t know who you just f\*\*\*\*\* with. I make one phone call and I’ll have an army down here.”

Tatum appears to be a member of a group called the “Yahshua Movement” in which he goes by the name “The General,” according to NBC.

“Is it the same guy that came in the first time?” the dispatcher asked Shoe.

“Yes, it’s the same guy that came in and attacked my boyfriend,” Shoe responded.

Police say Tatum grabbed Gray while he was at the front door and began hitting him in the head. When he began moving towards Shoe and her grandchildren, she pointed her gun at his head.

Tatum reportedly continued walking towards Shoe saying “shoot me.” Shoe complied, fatally shooting him before he could reach her.

There is no reliable data on the number of times each day a firearm is used for self-defense in the United States. Unlike this incident, many are not covered in the news, and the victim frequently never has to fire a shot. Estimates range anywhere from several hundred thousand to 2 million defensive gun uses (DGUs) a year.

But regardless of the exact number, the Second Amendment thankfully gives individuals like Shoe the power to protect themselves, their businesses, and their loved ones if the need arises.

# First Look: SIG Sauer P365

by Chris Mudgett | January 9th, 2018

## Is this the ultimate concealed carry pistol?



SIG Sauer has just introduced a game-changing, sub-compact pistol that is truly in a league of its own – the P365.

The new P365 is envisioned by SIG Sauer as the only everyday-carry (EDC) pistol you will need, one that you can carry with you seven days per week, 365 days per year. All at a very non-SIG Sauer suggested retail price of \$599, however, you should be able to find it at your local gun dealer for around \$499.

I've heard rumors of this pistol's development for the last 12 or so months and, while keeping an open mind, chalked the internal anticipation up to high hopes and brand pride. After spending a couple of days with it last month and firing 2,000-plus rounds of assorted ammunition through the platform, I'm tempted to agree this pistol might just be the Holy Grail of concealed-carry pistols.

### 9mm Pocket Pistol Silhouette Comparison (bores aligned at muzzle)



Why? Well, the new P365 has the same, or slightly smaller dimensions, than other popular single-stack 9mm pistols, such as the Glock 43, Smith & Wesson Shield, Springfield Armory XD-9 and Ruger LC9s. Except the P365 is not a single-stack pistol. SIG Sauer managed to cram 10 rounds of 9mm into a flush-fitting magazine and 12 into an extended magazine. Remember, the P365 has the same or slightly smaller dimensions than its competition. There is no trickery here, just engineering prowess.



SIG

Sauer first created the magazine and then built a pistol around it. In fact, there are three patents attached to just the magazine. Looking at the unique magazines, one can see a tapering design that



allows the upper part of the grip to be perfectly contoured to fit the shooter's thumb when fired and a unique follower. These are just two of the secret sauce ingredients leading to the success of this design. The pistol ships with one flush magazine and one magazine with a textured pinky extension, both having a 10-round capacity. The 12's are available as an accessory.

The P365's narrow-neck, modified double-stack magazine holds nearly 50 percent more than other pistols in its class, allowing you to have more ammunition on-board, even when the others are equipped with aftermarket, plus-capacity magazine extensions.



The P365 is both smaller and lighter than most pistols in its class. Measuring 1-inch wide, 5.8-inches long, and 4.3-inches tall, the pistol with its 3.1-inch barrel weighs in at just 17.8 ounces (with an empty magazine).



Semi-aggressive grip texturing surrounds the circumference of the grip frame and provides just the right amount of texture to make it stick to your hand while not being abrasive.

The controls are simple and flat, yet offer positive manipulation due to their ledged design. Disassembly is safe and easy with a three-point takedown that does not require the trigger to be pulled.



A deeply undercut triggerguard allows for a high-grip and ensures the pistol sits as low in the hand as possible. Combined with the pistol's low bore axis this yields greater retention and control over the pistol during rapid-fire strings.



The P365 is as comfortable and easy to shoot as a mid-sized pistol. The trigger is ergonomically positioned in such a way that as you pull through its stroke, your index finger closes naturally with the upper portion of the heel of your hand, just below the thumb. Make a fist and watch how your index finger closes. This is unique with sub-compact carry pistols, and the ergonomics make this pistol easy to shoot and easy to shoot well. The length of pull also closely mimics its big brother, the P320.

Trigger pull weight is estimated to be in the low 5-pound range with a short, positive reset and a trigger shoe design similar to the P320. The chassis/fire control unit is also serialized and removable, just like the P320.

The stainless-steel slide comes standard with front and rear serrations for easier slide manipulation, as well as SIGLITE® night sights for sight acquisition under all lighting conditions.



### **How do you carry it?**

In continued partnership with Blackpoint Tactical, SIG Sauer is offering a series of concealment holsters specifically designed for the P365. Immediately available for order are the Blackpoint appendix-carry (APX) and inside-the-waist-band (IWB) variants. Other models will follow.

Typically, I am not a proponent of sub-compact concealed carry handguns. I do not primarily carry pistols smaller than a Glock 19/Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 Compact in size, or that hold less than 15 rounds. I have found that giving up shootability and magazine capacity are simply not worth any concealment advantage a sub-compact provides. The P365 has me reconsidering this stance, as it might allow me to have my cake and eat it, too.



For more photos, performance data and a full, detailed review, look for the P365 on newsstands in an upcoming issue of Guns & Ammo magazine.

### **Specifications SIG Sauer P365**

- Action: Striker-fired, recoil operated, semiautomatic
- Cartridge: 9mm
- Capacity: 10+1; optional 12+1
- Barrel: 3.1 in.
- Overall Length: 5.8 in.
- Width: 1 in.
- Height: 4.3 in.
- Weight: 1 lbs., 2 oz.
- Finish: Nitron
- Sights: Drift-adjustable dovetail (rear), pinned (front)
- Trigger: 5 lbs. (est.)
- Price: \$599

# 9 New Long-Range Hunting Rifles for 2018

by Philip Massaro | January 29th, 2018



**If you're into long-range hunting, the rifle class of 2018 has plenty of feature-packed options to fit most budgets. (Philip Massaro photo)**

The practice of placing a bullet into the vital area of an animal standing a quarter-mile away requires good gear and proper training. Even if you're a crack-shot hunter, you'll have a hard time if your rifle isn't up to snuff. A rock-solid platform, in a configuration that will maximize your own abilities is a must-have. Here's a look at some of the new long-range hunting rifles for 2018.



**Browning X-Bolt Hells Canyon Speed Long Range McMillan Rifle (Photo courtesy of Browning)**

Well, that's a mouthful. However, it's also a healthy handful of features that will help a rifleman connect from one hillside to the next. A McMillan Game Scout Stock – in A-TACS AU camo – holds an X-Bolt Cerakoted action and 26-inch barrel with muzzle brake. That stock features a palm swell on the near-vertical, textured pistol grip, and an extra sling stud for bipod attachment.

Available in 6mm Creedmoor, 6.5 Creedmoor, .26 Nosler, 7mm Remington Magnum, .28 Nosler, .300 WSM and .300 Winchester Magnum. MSRP \$2,129.99-\$2,199.99



**Savage Model 110 Long Range Hunter Rifle with AccuFit Stock (Photo courtesy of Savage Arms)**

The Savage name has long been a synonym for accuracy, and the addition of the AccuFit Stock will only make an already great rifle better. The 110 Long Range Hunter – with the famous Savage floating bolt head that will correct so many ammunition inconsistencies – can now be customized for both length of pull and comb height, allowing a shooter to take full advantage of the high-magnification scopes that seem to be growing in size. Equipped with a 26-inch barrel with muzzle brake, the 110 Long Range Hunter is available in some cool calibers, including 6mm Creedmoor, 6.5 Creedmoor, .260 Remington, 6.5-284 Norma (love it!), .280 Ackley Improved, 7mm Remington Magnum, .308 Winchester, .300 WSM and .300 Winchester Magnum. MSRP \$1,099 .338 Lapua MSRP \$1,299



**Cooper Model 52 Open Country Long Range Rifle (Photo courtesy of Cooper Firearms)**

Cooper Firearm of Montana have made some very impressive rifles over the years, but the Model 52 Open Country Long Range may be the most useful for those who hunt the wide-open places. Using a Cooper Firearms Synthetic Stock, Cooper designed muzzle brake and 26-inch fluted stainless barrel, The Open Country Long Range is available in some of the fastest cartridges, including the Remington Ultra Mag family, the Nosler quartet, the 6.5-300 Weatherby and .338 Lapua. Upgrades are available, reducing the standard weight of 9.5 pounds down to 7 pounds through a carbon fiber barrel and lightweight stock. Standard version MSRP is \$2,795



**Montana Rifle Company Extreme X3 Rifle (Philip Massaro photo)**

The Montana Rifles Company's Extreme X2 rifle was – and is – a great choice for making long shots on game; for 2018 MRC has announced their Extreme X3, a lighter, stronger design featuring aluminum bottom metal. A lighter, foam filled stock and MRC Model 1999 action are employed, with the package coming in at two pounds lighter than the X2. Available in all standard short and long-action caliber, including the Nosler family of cartridges and some more rare offerings like the .264 Win. Mag, 6.5-284, and 7x57mm Mauser. MSRP \$1,495



**Savage Model 110 Varmint Rifle with AccuStock (Photo courtesy of Savage Arms)**

Not all long-range hunting is for big game; those pesky prairie dogs and woodchucks will offer targets in the next zip code. Like the Savage Long Range Hunter, the Model 100 Varmint is now available with the new Savage AccuStock, allowing the shooter to customize their comb height to properly align the eye to even the largest scopes. Available in .204 Ruger, .223 Remington and .22-250 Remington (would someone please make a .22-250 with a 1:8 twist?), the Model 110 Varmint has the AccuTrigger for precise shot placement, a 26-inch barrel to wring out every last bit of velocity, and a four-round detachable box magazine. MSRP \$749.00



**Bergara Approach Rifle (Photo courtesy of Bergara Rifles)**

With a fantastic reputation for accurate barrels, Bergara introduces the Approach rifle for 2018. With a hand-laid fiberglass stock and five-round detachable magazine, this bolt-action rifle offers what's needed for a back-country excursion. The No. 5 taper barrel is threaded – a knurled thread protector is provided with the rifle – and the receiver is drilled and tapped to handle Model 700 bases. QD sling cups are set in the forend and buttstock, and a camo finish compliments the package. Available in .223 Remington, .22-250 Remington, 6mm Creedmoor, 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Winchester. MSRP \$1,960



**Winchester XPR Hunter Rifle – Mossy Oak Break Up Country (Photo courtesy of Winchester Repeating Arms Company)**

Winchester's XPR Hunter is now available in 6.5 Creedmoor, and in the Mossy Oak Break Up Country camo pattern. The push-feed action of the XPR is broken by the MOA trigger – of which I'm a fan – and the 22-inch button-rifled barrel culminates in a target crown. I've spent some time with this rifle in .270, and can tell you that the features packed into this rifle far exceed the MSRP of \$599.99. If you're on a budget and are looking for a rifle that will serve in many different situations, you'd be very hard-pressed to beat the XPR Hunter.



**Weatherby Mark V KCR, Kreiger Custom Rifle (Photo courtesy of Weatherby)**

The Weatherby name is synonymous with speed, and that translates to a flat trajectory. Throw a Kreiger barrel into the mix, and you've got my attention. I've used their barrels for custom builds and feel they are among the best available. The Weatherby Mark V KCR features the Mark V action – with the nine-lug lockup and 54-degree bolt throw – and a fluted No. 3 contour barrel are aluminum pillar bedded into a composite stock to combine for a sub-MOA guarantee. Available in 6.5-300 Weatherby Magnum and .30-378 Weatherby Magnum, it'll definitely reach out and touch someone. MSRP \$3,600.00



**Nosler Model 48 Long Range Carbon Rifle (Photo courtesy of Nosler)**

The wonderful Model 48 action has gotten a facelift this year, and been wrapped in a long-range package. Featuring a Manners MCS-T lightweight stock and a PROOF Research carbon fiber wrapper barrel, The Nosler Long Range Carbon is threaded for a muzzle brake (optional) and comes with a thread protector. It's a perfect choice for those back country hunts where long shots are definitely on the menu, but weight is a concern. MSRP \$2995

This is from a ammo supplier SG Ammo in Stillwater OK:

# Bulk Ammo Bargains and News From Shotshow 2018

Thank you for subscribing to the SG Ammo.com newsletter. If you have trouble viewing this email you can see the newsletter at this link : [Bulk Ammo Bargains and News From Shotshow 2018](#)

I just got back from the Shotshow in Las Vegas this past week which is the annual firearms industry convention where all the major manufacturers, distributors and retailers get together to discuss business, products and planning for the year ahead. We had a short but successful trip that should result in some new inventory options in the months ahead. One of the big things discussed by every ammunition manufacturer we talked to was the recent increased cost of raw material to make ammunition, mainly copper and in turn brass, as well as lead. Sharp increases in metal prices have all of the ammunition manufacturers wanting to raise prices, however no one wants to be the first to do it so for now nothing appears to be immediate. I believe a competitive market will help delay such increases, however rising metal prices will force prices up this spring once old stock on raw material is used up and the factories have their back to the wall on new costs. It would be a wise time to take advantage of price and availability on certain items so check out the great deals on the ammo listed below. Slow sales this past spring and summer reduced ammo prices to a 10 to 12 year low on many calibers and there are so many bargains to be had right now. We also expect lots of great deals yet to come, so stay subscribed for future SG Ammo newsletters. If you have some spare time please take a few minutes and look over the online catalog at [www.SGAmmo.com](http://www.SGAmmo.com).

- Sam Gabbert - SG Ammo Owner



## WORLD'S FIRST SUPERSONIC 1,300-YARD MSR 15 CARTRIDGE

Transform your MSR 15. Loaded with the 90-grain Gold Medal® Sierra® MatchKing®, all-new 224 Valkyrie provides less wind drift and drop than all other loads in its class and stays supersonic past 1,300 yards. The cartridge is the new choice for both long-range target shooters and hunters.

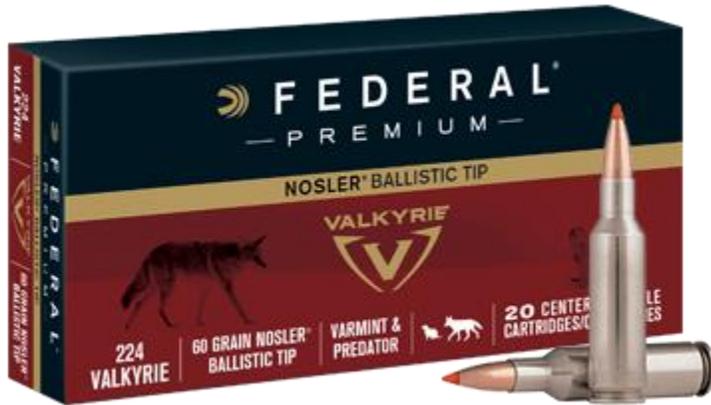
# 224 VALKYRIE PRODUCTS



GOLD MEDAL® SIERRA MATCHKING®

Extract the full long-range potential from 224 Valkyrie with the 90-grain Sierra MatchKing. The bullet design has been shot to win more matches than any other, thanks to a uniform jacket that ensures consistent, long-range accuracy, and a sleek boat-tail that maximizes ballistic coefficient.

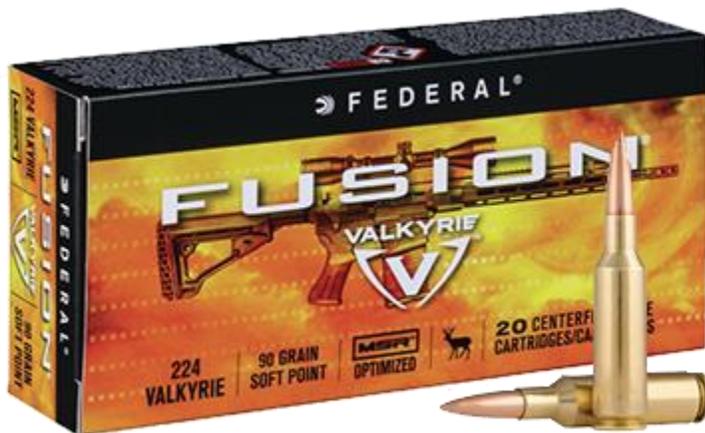
[Learn More »](#)



## NOSLER® BALLISTIC TIP® VARMINT

The 224 Valkyrie is built to defeat wind drift and drop, and the 60-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip Varmint maximizes these built-in ballistics with a sleek, thin-jacket, polymer-tipped bullet. Its explosive expansion provides a violent energy release on impact for quick kills on varmints and predators.

[Learn More »](#)



## FUSION® MSR

Virtually every component in Fusion MSR is optimized for peak ballistic performance in modern sporting rifles. New 90-grain 224 Valkyrie extends range even further, offering devastating accuracy and terminal performance on medium game—with half the recoil of cartridges with similar ballistics.

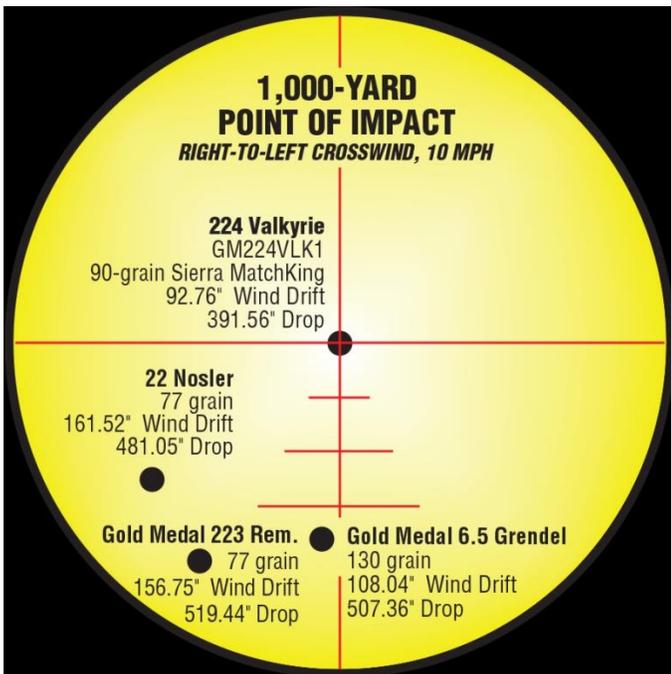
[Learn More »](#)



## AMERICAN EAGLE® TMJ®

Train like never before with 224 Valkyrie and American Eagle rifle. The loads feature Federal® brass, clean-burning powder, consistent primers and accurate 75-grain TMJ bullets. They're the ultimate range ammunition for the ultimate MSR 15 cartridge.

[Learn More »](#)

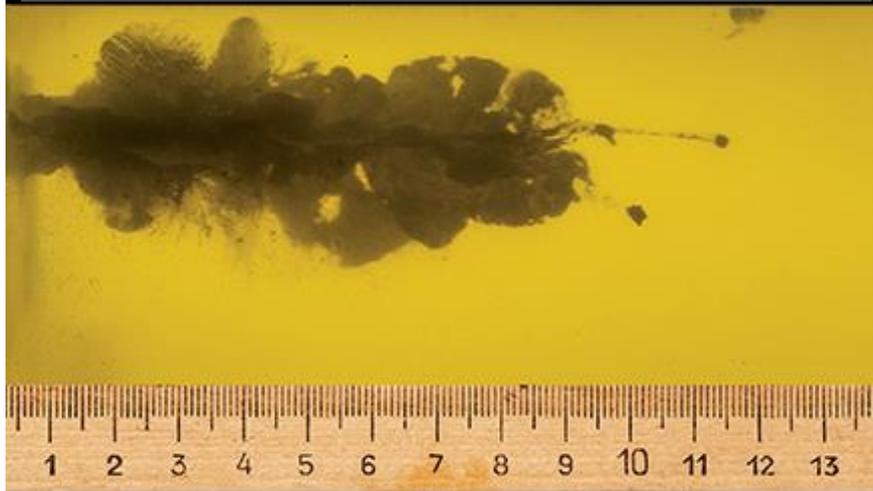
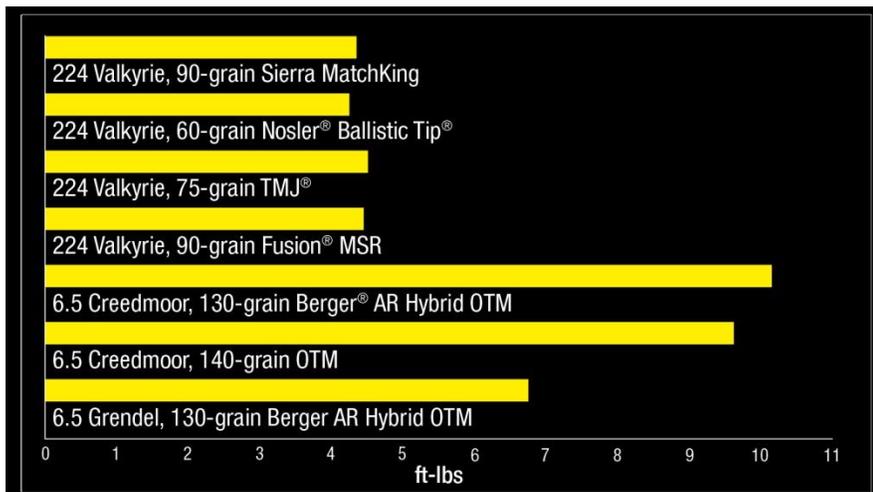


## FLATTENS THE COMPETITION AT 1,000 YARDS

The MSR 15 has never offered practical 1,000-yard performance. That's all changed thanks to the heavier bullets and extremely high ballistic coefficients of new 224 Valkyrie. Loaded with the 90-grain Gold Medal Sierra MatchKing, the cartridge offers as much as 127.88 inches less drop and 68.76 inches less wind drift at 1,000 yards when compared to existing MSR 15 cartridges.

# MORE PUNCH. LESS KICK.

New 224 Valkyrie provides comparable ballistics as larger counterparts like 6.5 Creedmoor but with as little as half the felt recoil.



## FROM TARGETS TO TROPHIES

The 90-grain Gold Medal Sierra MatchKing 224 Valkyrie can tackle the most elite competition. However, loaded with other available bullets, the cartridge is also lethal on varmints and medium game. Gel shot at 100 yards with 60-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip (P224VLKBT1).



<http://www.fox5vegas.com/story/37343196/a-single-protester-in-las-vegas-pickets-outside-the-worlds-largest-gun-trade-show>

## A single protester in Las Vegas pickets outside the world's largest gun trade show

Posted: Jan 24, 2018 4:58 PM CST Updated: Jan 24, 2018 10:12 PM CST

LAS VEGAS (AP) -

A Chicago man's protest of U.S. gun policy failed to draw supporters outside the firearms industry's biggest annual trade show in Las Vegas.

Lee Goodman held a sign listing 11 deadly mass shootings which read, "If not now, when?" as conventioners streamed into the National Shooting Sports Foundation's SHOT Show at the Sands Expo Center.

He then walked, by himself, approximately four miles to the site of the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting.

"I'm happy to do this no matter how many people are with me, because I know the vast majority of Americans do agree with what we're saying here," Goodman said. "It is very easy to be discouraged working against gun violence because we've made virtually no progress over the last several decades."

Goodman wants a rewrite of the constitutional Second Amendment right to own guns, and says the firearms industry should stop opposing laws to curb gun violence.

SHOT Show is closed to the public and the media. It features products from more than 1,700 companies and is expected to draw more than 60,000 visitors this week. Most attendees were unaware someone was protesting.

"I didn't see any protesters or wasn't aware of any," said Scott Jarvis, a sergeant with the Indiana State Police. "Just from my experience, without getting political, I think there's other issues involved (with the 1 October shooting) other than gun control."

"I did not (see anyone). I did not," said Mark Fiedler, another SHOT Show attendee. "I mean, I know they're out, but I don't think they're out in force."

Fiedler is an executive who works for the aerospace and defense company USCQR in Henderson. He said he welcomes discussions on both sides regarding gun control, but he does not believe 1 October should necessarily be used as an opportunity to connect the two issues.

"I think dialogue brings better legislation and better safety," he said.

Fiedler agrees with Goodman, stating that "bump stock" devices used during the 1 October should be banned.

"A bump stock is a toy, turns the gun into an uncontrollable automatic weapon," he said, adding that responsible gun owners should be treating each bullet with care.

"(The NRA) said initially we'd be willing to look at the issue, and they've since retreated from that," Goodman said. "The NRA is not supporting a ban on bump stocks." Bump stocks effectively allow semiautomatic weapons to shoot automatically.

Goodman said he is deeply troubled that the 1 October shooter purchased all of his guns legally.

"The gun industry made money off of every gun and every bullet that was used to massacre all those people, and that's why we're calling on the industry to be more responsible," Goodman said. "If this doesn't wake us up to do something about the problem, what will do it?"

Fiedler said he would not be willing to support legislation that prevents people from owning "too many" guns, but he believes someone should be taking a closer look at those individuals.

"I think if someone had looked at (the 1 October shooter), they'd find out there was something not right long before the incident," he said.

Goodman said he does not agree with the popular argument that Chicago has the strictest gun laws and the worst gun violence. He admits the problem is dire in his hometown but says it would be worse if not for the current laws.

"No, Chicago doesn't have the strictest gun laws in the country any more. Some of those laws were thrown out by the courts, and Chicago doesn't have the worst gun violence problem," he said. "Unfortunately we're situated right across the line from Indiana, which has some of the weakest gun laws in the country."

*Copyright 2018 [KVVU](#) (KVVU Broadcasting Corporation). All rights reserved. The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

[https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/legally-build-short-barrel-rifle/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=20180115\\_BlogDigest\\_260&utm\\_campaign=/blog/legally-build-short-barrel-rifle/](https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/legally-build-short-barrel-rifle/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20180115_BlogDigest_260&utm_campaign=/blog/legally-build-short-barrel-rifle/)

## How to (Legally) Build A Short Barrel Rifle

by TOM MCHALE on JANUARY 14, 2018



This Aero Precision upper receiver and barrel are going to make a really nifty short barrel rifle one day.

As defensive weapons, rifles rock. They're easy to shoot accurately unless you're into torching off .577 Nitro Express cigar cartridges. With box magazine designs like the those of the AR-whatever families, capacity is great, and reloading is easy. In fact, the only real downside of a rifle as compared to a pistol is maneuverability and portability.

### The Skinny on the SBR

Enter the short barrel rifle, or SBR as we'll say from here on out because we care about saving the electrons. With its compact size, an SBR can be plenty handy for a car or home use. An SBR has most of the benefits of its larger counterpart, minus a bit of velocity, but with half the calories.



The MCX Rattler SBR.

The problem is that SBRs are a royal pain in the butt to understand from a legal perspective. With the passage of the 1934 National Firearms Act (NFA), they are restricted items. To make, buy, and own one, you'll need special permission from Uncle Sam by completing and [submitting a Form 1](#), and you'll need to purchase a colorful and ornamentally pleasing tax stamp that will cost you \$200.

Want an SBR of your very own? Never fear, we're here to make the process easy for you.

## Disclaimer

I'm not a lawyer, and I don't play one on TV. Besides, if I were going to play something on TV, I would be a skydiving Kingsman in a Zombie movie, not some guy who sucks the fun out of everything wholesome and good.

Anyway, the law that governs the short barrel rifle market was written in 1934, before the invention of electric guitars, ballpoint pens, and Tupperware parties (yes, look it up.) As a result, the ATF has to do all sorts of weird legal interpretation as the law didn't account for the myriad of firearms options we have today. Simply put, the law has no provision for modular systems like the AR-15 that can be built into rifles or pistols and have practical attachments like chainsaws.



**DDM4300\_s**

Navigating this process, we're faced with the original NFA law and subsequent laws, which are comprised of billions of pages of pages of gibberish dictated by inebriated politicians. Then there are policies issued by organizations like the BATFE that are charged with enforcing the law. Finally, there are opinion letters which are issued by said agencies to try to help us mere mortals understand how they interpret the law according to... their opinion.

While we're going to try our very best to point you in the right direction, it's up to you to understand and obey the law. Just be aware that if you get in trouble, waving an opinion letter on the Supreme Court steps may not help you much if you get charged with a crime by someone with a different opinion. That's my opinion, and I'm sticking to it.

## What's an SBR?

Before we get into this, it's important to understand what an SBR is according to the definitions that the ATF uses, so let's make a quick diversion on that topic. In the [Code of Federal Regulations, Title 27: Alcohol, Tobacco Products and Firearms, Part 479—Machine Guns, Destructive Devices, and Certain Other Firearms, Subpart B—Definitions, §479.11 Meaning of terms](#), we find the following:

Firearm... (c) a rifle having a barrel or barrels of less than 16 inches in length; (d) a weapon made from a rifle if such weapon as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches or a barrel or barrels of less than 16 inches in length;

## More Definitions

Given that, you need to know what the law considers to be a rifle and pistol. From the same code, here ya go:

**Rifle.** A weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger, and shall include any such weapon which may be readily restored to fire a fixed cartridge.

**Pistol.** A weapon originally designed, made, and intended to fire a projectile (bullet) from one or more barrels when held in one hand, and having (a) a chamber(s) as an integral part(s) of, or permanently aligned with, the bore(s); and (b) a short stock designed to be gripped by one hand and at an angle to and extending below the line of the bore(s).

Boiling down all the legalese, the big deal between rifles and pistols is the stock. A stock on a pistol is “at an angle... below the line of the bore” and designed to be fired with one hand. A rifle is designed to be fired from the shoulder. This becomes important, so stay with me for a bit.



The SIG MCX Virtus SBR

What are your options to “create” an SBR?

So how can you get from zero to having an SBR? There are plenty of ways. I count three. Now that we’re all NFA law experts let’s take a look at each scenario.

Start with a rifle

If you buy a rifle and later want to convert it to an SBR, you can do that. If you refer back to the definition text, you'll see that the law was written with this in mind. Originally it was created to discourage people from chopping stocks and barrels off rifles to make little baby rifles. You've always been able to do this legally; you just had to file the Form 1, pay \$200, and not start any of the building processes until you get your tax stamp returned from the ATF. So, modifying a rifle into a short-barreled rifle has never been illegal, it's just been regulated.

If you [buy a rifle and want to convert it to a pistol](#), that's also something that would require a tax stamp. Since pistols aren't required to have tax stamps under the National Firearms Act, that doesn't make much sense. It can become a modified rifle, or SBR, with a tax stamp. If you want to make a pistol per the legal definition, you're better off just starting with a pistol rather than trying to convert a rifle into one.

## Start with a pistol

You can convert a pistol to a short barrel rifle. Unless you live in one of the Republikks, pistols are not regulated. If you meet the legal qualifications for handgun ownership and can pass a NICS background check, you can get one. However, the minute you start the process of converting a pistol to a short barrel rifle, you wade right smack into the National Firearms Act and need to file paperwork and write checks. The process requires the ATF Form 1 submission, approval, and a \$200 tax.

## Perks of Starting with a Pistol

Starting with a pistol can be a great idea because the government is slow. Right now, it's taking somewhere over 250 days for someone to process your Form 1 and cash your check. Maybe those artsy tax stamps are individually hand painted by Keebler elves? Whatever the reason, you're going to have to wait a long time before you can convert your pistol into an SBR so you might as well get some use from it.

If you have a functional pistol, you can start acquiring the parts for your rifle, just don't install any of them until you get your tax stamp. To be clear, there's a potential gotcha here. It's important to have the functioning pistol if you intend to start acquiring the parts for an SBR. If you have all the parts required for an SBR but don't have parts to make a pistol, some ornery fed might assume that you have an unregistered SBR and that you just keep it disassembled. You won't be able to prove that you're using it as a pistol in the meantime if you don't have any of the pistol parts on hand.

One more thing. If you start with a pistol, [you can legally convert it to a rifle](#) at any time you like with no paperwork or tax stamps. Pistols are legal, and rifles with 16-inch barrels and overall length of 26 inches are legal, so there's no problem converting your pistol to a rifle.

## Start with a receiver and parts

You can buy a lower receiver and [make it into anything you want](#), provided you get the tax stamp first if you intend to build an SBR from the ground up. Don't go off and buy all the SBR parts and stick them in a drawer until your tax stamp comes in. Just having all the gear to make an SBR before your application is approved can run you afoul of the law as we just discussed.

There's one more thing to know regardless of which method you choose. You'll need to have your receiver engraved with your name or the name of your trust and your city and state. Since you are "manufacturing" a firearm, you need to do like the big boys and stamp your identification.

## Bag all the confusion and use a "fake" SBR

If you want something that has some rifle attributes but is smaller, and you don't want to mess with any of the three scenarios we just discussed, you can just build or buy a rifle-caliber pistol. Unless you've been in a 24-hour news cycle induced coma the past couple of years, you've probably heard about pistol braces.

These devices were originally invented to help people shoot an AR-15 safely and effectively using one hand. Whether from amputation or injury, there are lots of folks who would want to do this, and the solution is pretty nifty. A pistol buffer tube has a rubber or plastic attachment that either wraps around the firing hand forearm or at a minimum, braces it, to help stabilize what is otherwise a heavy and unwieldy pistol.

## Brace Yourself

Since you can rest just about anything against your shoulder, people quickly figured out that these braces make a reasonable substitute for a very short stock. Since the whole thing is a pistol, there's no NFA process required. People who collect paychecks from the Treasury Department also figured this out and started to issue opinions on the matter.

First, they said, "No problem. As long as you don't modify the pistol support from its original factory configuration, it's not an SBR." Later they said, "Hey wait a tic. If you hold this to your shoulder, you've modified the gun, and it's now an SBR." As of this writing, we're in somewhat of a holding pattern. The ATF hasn't sent anyone to jail for holding one of these to their shoulder, but it also seems like they've reserved the right to do so if they feel so inclined.

Whether you choose to use one of these pistol brace systems in a non-conventional way is up to you. There's nothing with the word "law" behind it that's clear on the matter, just a bunch of opinion letters, so you're operating entirely at your own risk. User beware.

## Here's what I'm doing

I've got a C.O.P. integrated upper receiver and handguard from Aero Precision with a 7.5-inch barrel sitting on a shelf. While I might prefer a 10.5-inch barrel for 300 Blackout, it would be a shame not to give this one some tender loving care, right? So, the goal is to make this into a super-handly SBR, maybe even with a compact suppressor at some point.



I'm kinda eyeballing this Aero Precision M4E1 pistol lower. When I get my stamp, I'll just engrave the receiver, swap out the receiver extension tube, and add a real stock.

## Tips for Building

Given all the legal mumbo-jumbo we've just been through, what's the best way to approach this build project? My patience isn't nearly as boundless as the ATF's turnaround time to issue tax stamps. Can I wait over 6,000 hours before even starting to gather and assemble parts for a nifty 300 Blackout SBR? That's an easy answer. No.

So, here's what I am doing. I'm going to make a legal AR-15 pistol, chambered in 300 Blackout using the 7.5-inch Aero upper assembly. That step requires no federal permission slips other than passing the standard NICS background check when I buy the lower receiver.

Once I have the lower receiver and know the serial number, I'm going to file a Form 1 application to build an official SBR using that receiver. I can get it engraved with my information in any of the 6,000+ hours that I'll be waiting on my shiny new tax stamp. By starting with a fully functional pistol, I'll avoid any risk of having only parts on hand that can be used to build an SBR. Better yet, I'll have a fully functional pistol to use while I wait for my permission slip.

On the downside, I'll ultimately need to buy two receiver extension buffer tubes. The pistol tubes are different, and for legal reasons, I wouldn't want a rifle tube on there anyway until the tax stamp comes back. When I have my stamp, I'll be able to install a rifle tube at which point I'll have an extra pistol tube. They're not that expensive, so it's no big loss. Maybe I'll use it for a future project.

Now I wait. And wait. And wait.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/business/article196450909.html>

## After 30 years in SLO County, rifle manufacturer Weatherby is leaving for Wyoming

BY ANDREW SHEELER AND LINDSEY HOLDEN JANUARY 24, 2018 01:44 PM

Specialty rifle manufacturer Weatherby Inc. — a Paso Robles mainstay for decades — has announced it is relocating to Sheridan, Wyoming.

The company, which also manufactures ammunition and shooting accessories, announced its departure to the Cowboy State on Tuesday at a gun industry trade show in Las Vegas, according to [the Associated Press](#).

The company, located at 1605 Commerce Way, was founded in 1945 by Roy Weatherby, grandfather of current CEO Adam Weatherby. The company was founded in South Gate and moved to Atascadero in 1986 before settling into Paso Robles.

### ADVERTISING

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“We helped them do their project on Commerce Way in 1989,” North Coast Engineering’s Larry Werner said Wednesday.

Werner serves as chairman of the economic development committee for the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.

“It’s very unfortunate to lose a long-established, highly respected business in Paso Robles,” he said.

Weatherby’s LinkedIn page lists the company as having between 51 and 200 employees, and the Associated Press reports that the company is expected to create 70 to 90 jobs in Sheridan, with more than \$5 million in annual payroll over the next five years.



Adam Weatherby  
**Wyoming Business Council**

“We wanted a place where we could retain a great workforce, and where our employees could live an outdoor lifestyle,” Adam Weatherby said in a statement. “We wanted to move to a state where we can grow into our brand. Wyoming means new opportunities. We are not interested in maintaining; we are growing.”

The move came as the company was aggressively courted by the state of Wyoming, including a phone call from Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead.

[Mead told the Casper, Wyoming, Star-Tribune](#) that stricter gun laws in other states like California and Colorado have allowed Wyoming to “recruit some of these companies that may be not satisfied where they are.”

The newspaper also reported that the Wyoming State Loan and Investment Board has approved a \$12.5 million grant to a Sheridan economic development organization to construct a building for Weatherby.



Ed Weatherby, shown in a 2005 photo, turned over the job of CEO to his son, Adam Weatherby, last year. Here, he holds one of the company's rifles, a Vanguard Sub M.O.A., at his Atascadero showroom.

**Joe Johnston** The Tribune

Mead told [buckrail.com](http://buckrail.com), a news website for Teton County, Wyoming, that [Weatherby was a great fit for state](#): "As I said in my state of the state address last year: In Wyoming we don't just want to be known as *a* firearm state, we want to be known as *the* firearm state."

Adam Weatherby told [buckrail.com](http://buckrail.com) that the company had been looking to relocate for the last three years and met with Mead a year ago at the same gun show.

"It was obvious from that meeting the state of Wyoming wanted us there. The governor gave me his cell phone number. He said, 'We're going to make you an offer you can't refuse,'" Weatherby said. Weatherby took over from his father, Ed Weatherby, as CEO and president of the company last January, according to [buckrail.com](http://buckrail.com).

Paso Robles Mayor Steve Martin said he understands Weatherby was given financial incentives to move, and the decision is not a reflection on the city. He said Paso Robles leaders will now "redouble our efforts at business development."

"Obviously, the city of Paso Robles is sorry to see Weatherby go," Martin said. "They're a great business."

Michael Manchak, president of the Economic Vitality Corp. of San Luis Obispo County, said it's not the first time Wyoming has poached a company from California, and it won't be the last.

"It's a challenge to combat the attraction practices of other states when they have financial incentives in their arsenal that this state does not," Manchak said.

Those incentives include a significantly smaller tax burden; Wyoming is one of nine states "that has little to no taxes," he said.

Manchak said Sheridan also has a lower cost of living, with housing being significantly more affordable.

According to the EVC's "[Economic Dashboard](#)," specialized manufacturing such as Weatherby accounts for more than 3,600 jobs in the county, with an average annual wage of \$57,246.

While the financial toll of losing a company like Weatherby likely won't be known for some time, Manchak said the impact will be felt throughout San Luis Obispo County.

In addition to the loss of jobs, companies like Weatherby often make significant local charitable contributions and have employees involved in civic engagement.

"That's really where people are going to see a loss," Manchak said.

The loss also will affect "ancillary businesses," he said, businesses that provide services to or benefit from Weatherby's presence.

Manchak said that while it's still possible for San Luis Obispo County to compete for businesses, it'll require that the county and state become more competitive.

"I think the state will likely see more of this, unfortunately," he said.

Werner said the city of Paso Robles is taking active steps to be more competitive, such as reducing water and sewer connection fees to encourage additional home-building.

"I have never seen Paso be so progressive in trying to promote business in the city. Business and housing," Werner said.

## Top 7 Budget Friendly AR-15s [PICS]

The Patriot Caller

If you're like us, you've rarely met a gun you *didn't* like. Still, there are some



firearms that, for whatever reason, tend to leave an exceptionally good impression with shooters: Browning shotguns, Winchester lever-action rifles, Colt 1911s... and of course the AR-15. The AR-15 is accurate, easy to operate, lightweight, and of course it can hold plenty of ammo. If you're truly going to be ready for anything, and that "*anything*" might include holding off a gang of zombie hogs pillaging your farm, a bolt-action deer rifle simply isn't going to cut it. Those are a few of the reasons that the AR-15 has become the hands-down favorite among the self-reliance movement. It brings the reliability and functionality of a military small arms rifle together with the affordability of a civilian model in a nice compact package.

But unlike some of the other "classics" in the firearm hall of fame, the AR-15 doesn't enjoy the same level of quality across all models. That's because the AR -15 (which stands for "Armalite Rifle 15," named after the original design firm) is actually a design pattern, reproduced by literally dozens of different manufacturers.

Purchasing an AR clone (No, the true Colt AR-15 is not on the budget-friendly list, in case you're wondering) is a very pragmatic way for many self-reliance minded people to cover all the bases with a single weapon, which makes it even more cost-effective.

With a quality AR clone, you can have the range of a long gun, the capacity of a semi-auto pistol, and the maneuverability to operate in tight spaces.

Before we get to the Top 7, let me start by saying that just because your favorite AR is not on this list, that doesn't mean it's not a great firearm or a great value.

We limited this list to 7 rifles to make the buying decision easier for folks who *don't* already own an AR, and not to boost the egos of those who already do (us included).

For consistency and because it's what most AR shooters expect, all the rifles below are chambered for 5.56NATO/.223 Remington.



## Smith & Wesson M&P15 Sport II

We're big fans of the M&P lineup as a whole (even if the Department of Defense is not), so it comes as no surprise that the M&P 15 Sport made our list.

One of the most outstanding aspects of the M&P line is affordability. The Sport II is available well below the \$700 price point through most dealers, a great price for a well-outfitted rifle from a highly reputable manufacturer.

As for specifics, the Sport II is designed for the whole range of uses, from target shooting to home defense, and is marketed toward all levels of shooters including professionals. The Sport II is very well-made, especially given its price range. It's also got some nice features, including a picatinny rail, a protective amornite barrel finish, and Magpul MBUS sights.

Just as you'd expect, these guns are highly accurate and dependable. The name recognition that comes standard with a S&W provides a lot of comfort in a market with lots of lesser-known names (many of which are excellent).

**Retail: \$649**

## DPMS Panther Sportical 5.56 NATO

If you're looking for a perfectly capable AR with absolutely no frills at all and a very nice price tag to boot, this might just be your rifle. The Panther Sportical has a Picatinny rail and, *well*, not much else.

In fact, the description on the DMPS website reads, "This carbine might just be the most simplistic, straight forward AR on the market." Which is actually a good thing if your desire is to customize every bit of your AR.

The Panther Sportical has all the functions you'd expect from an entry-level carbine, including a lightweight 16" chromoly barrel, adjustable stock, A2 birdcage flash hider, and a 30-round magazine. The total weight of the Sportical is 6.3lbs (unloaded) and the overall length is a handy 36.125 inches.

Aficionados might say the Panther Sportical is lacking about \$150 in mandatory upgrades, but Sportical fans say they've got a solid weapon that shoots the same ammo just as flawlessly. In addition, the bonus of choosing a "bare bones" AR like the Sportical is that all your money is going toward the rifle itself, and not a bunch of chincy add-ons that you'll want to replace later, if you want to think of it that way.

**Lowest Retail: \$607**

## Ruger AR-556



The AR-556 is another great entry-level AR clone from a highly trusted name in firearms. This offering from Ruger is akin to the M&P15 in the fact that it is a basic, mil-spec AR that gets the job done very nicely while staying on budget.

Many of the major manufacturers are now making their own no-frills AR with little to set it apart besides the name on the side. That's just fine, because you wouldn't necessarily want a no-name semi-automatic rifle at this price range.

Ruger's foray into this market has been very well received. Many fans of the brand and its Mini-14 rifle long wished that Ruger would produce a true "black rifle." Now they have it.

Ruger outfitted this rifle with some nice touches, including a flash hider, milled gas block, 30-round Magpul magazine, and 1:8 twist chrome-lined barrel. The AR 556 isn't lacking on any of the basics, including the dust cover, brass deflector, and top-notch accuracy.

If you're looking for a tack-driver at the lower end of the price spectrum, this may be your best bet.

**Retail: \$699**

## **Mossberg MMR Tactical 65014**

If you've ever shopped for a value shotgun or rifle, you're probably familiar with the name Mossberg. The Connecticut-based firearms company has been manufacturing hunting rifles and shotguns for nearly 100 years. Only recently, however, have they released a tactical carbine based on the AR-15 pattern.

The MMR may be Mossberg's first offering in the AR field, but based on their reputation alone I'd be willing to bet that they've got all the kinks worked out. All the reviews I've read about the MMR seem to uphold Mossberg's tradition of making high quality firearms at a price all shooters can afford.

Starting at 7lbs and going up from there, the MMR Tactical isn't the lightest, but many shooters prefer a heavier weapon because it takes the edge off the recoil. The MMR Tactical comes with standard front and rear adjustable sights, a 30-round magazine, quad rails for easily attachable accessories, and an upgraded Stark SE-1 pistol grip with battery storage.

If you want to save a little money, you can go with the 65011 model that's "optics ready," which is a fancy way of saying that it has no sights.

In short, you may feel more confident getting a gun from an established manufacturer that has been around and will be around for a long time. Mossberg is certainly one of these manufacturers, as is the maker of the next rifle on our list.

**Lowest Retail: \$738**

## **Smith & Wesson M&P15**

With the M&P, the bottom line is that it's a Smith & Wesson. It looks good, shoots good, and comes with the base AR package you'll find with many of the other entries at this price level. The main difference is that it's a Smith & Wesson, which is nice.

The budget-friendly M&P lineup has always been popular with shooters who prefer reliability and function over frills and polish. The M&P15 comes standard with an adjustable post front sight and an adjustable dual aperture rear sight, which may be all you ever need if you don't want magnification.

At 6.5lbs, the M&P15 is right smack in the normal range for AR clones. While it doesn't have many standout features, you get the quality you'd expect from a Smith & Wesson product at a price that unknown makers would be hard pressed to beat.

Frankly, there's really no reason not to go with the M&P15, especially if you plan to use open sights. Several veterans we've talked to say the M&P reminds them of their military issue M16 in terms of balance and accuracy.

**Lowest Retail: \$629**

## **Del-Ton Sport "DT Sport"**

Yet another well-respected AR with no frills is the DT Sport, a great option at this price range. Many shoppers who are looking closely at the Bushmaster Carbon-15 may prefer the look and feel of this less common Del-Ton model.

With hard coat anodized aluminum upper and lower receivers, the DT Sport is the lightest carbine on our list, weighing in at only 5.8lbs empty. That's nice for carrying, but slightly less comfortable for shooting. However, once you get accustomed to your rifle's recoil, it's really no big deal.

Like a few other entries on this list, the DT Sport has an A2 flash hider, 6-position M4 stock, and is mostly mil-spec all around. It does come with built-in front and rear sling swivels, which is a nice little feature. The biggest downside is that, with a flattop receiver that has no sights, it doesn't come "ready to shoot" straight out of the box like a few of the others on this list.

**Lowest Retail: \$625**

# Bushmaster QRC Combo



Bushmaster puts a lot of technical advances in your hands for under \$700, and that includes red dot optics, which saves you even more money. Chambered for a .223 Remington/5.56 NATO, this model comes standard with a 16" chrome-lined barrel, birdcage flash hider, a Picatinny rail, and a 30-round flag magazine.

Specs on this Bushmaster have it at a cool 6 lbs, very nice for a weapon this inexpensive and decked out. As you may have already noticed, this is the only carbine on this list that includes optics.

Bushmaster is a very popular manufacturer for these AR clones, and thus a lot of purists tend to dismiss them. No matter how many times some people hear the words, "there's nothing wrong with a Bushmaster," they still want something else.

For those who can take those words to heart, you're getting a very solid, "ready-to-shoot" AR for an unbelievably low price. From our experience, we've shot a lot of custom builds that cost five times what this rifle costs and have 500% more jamming problems.

**Lowest Retail: \$699**

## Conclusion

If we had to pick a winner in this list of 5, we'd have to pick the Smith & Wesson M&P, simply because of the name on the side, the super low price, and the fact that it comes fully ready to fire, straight out of the box. If you haven't picked up on it by now, "ready to shoot" is a thing I like to stress with ARs in particular.

If you're a novice, the last thing you want to do is spend your hard-earned money on a rifle only to get it home and realize that you immediately need to spend another \$150 on sights and other necessary accessories... that you may not know how to install properly.

The Bushmaster Carbon-15, Mossberg MMR Tactical, and the Smith & Wesson M&P are all ready to shoot from the factory. Whether or not you prefer the sights or red dot scope the manufacturer has installed, that's another matter. They do have sights mounted.

If you like to personally customize and fine-tune your weapons, then you may gravitate toward the DT Sport or DMPS Sportical. The important thing is that you have a high quality, reliable firearm that will offer you superior firepower when you need it most. Any of the weapons on this list will fill that role.

# The Story of Civil War Sniper Jack Hinson and His Rifle

by Kyle Lamb | January 12th, 2018

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Throughout history, man has had the responsibility to do two things: protect his family and provide for that family. In this day and age, some have steered away from their manly roots, but many of us still want to do right by our loved ones. Anyone who considers himself a red-blooded protector of his family will feel his blood boil when he hears the saga of Captain John “Jack” Hinson.

I was running a shotgun class in New York for a group of LE officers, one of whom was also a Civil War reenactor named Dan Phelps. It turns out that he portrays a Southern artilleryman when reenacting battles and has a keen understanding of what the South endured during the U.S. Civil War.

Dan was excited to tell me a few stories about the area in Tennessee to which I recently moved. A few weeks after class, he sent me a book by Lt. Col. Tom McKenney, USMC, Ret., titled “Jack Hinson’s One Man War, A Civil War Sniper.” From the moment I read the dustcover, I couldn’t put down the book. I was intrigued that the story had taken place within an hour of where I live, but

more than that, the story McKenney weaves is really well written and puts you right in the boots of Hinson as he settles the score.



## How it Started

Jack Hinson lived in a region rife with Civil War battles, the area we now call Land Between the Lakes. In his day, it was simply known as 'Tween the Rivers. It was the section of high ground separating the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. This area was especially inviting to the Federal Army, for a variety of reasons. Foremost, Johnsonville was a great place to store supplies that could be quickly shuttled upriver to Union forces fighting in southern Tennessee, as well as Georgia. Another interesting fact is that the river flowed north. This had tactical importance with regard to disabled boats of the gun, troop or supply type, which would float north, back into friendly Union territory.

After several semi-decisive battles in this area, the Union Army set up shop and began patrolling the area to help convince the locals that they might want to stand with the Union rather than fall with the Confederates. Many residents felt the devastation of Union forces on their crops, supplies, servants and homesteads. With supplies running short, Union soldiers and their leaders took what they needed in the name of their cause. This not only included supplies, but labor as well. Many black freedmen, as well as those slaves who had not been granted their freedom, were enslaved by Union forces in this area for cheap labor.

Enter Jack Hinson. Two of his sons joined the Confederate Army, yet he tried to stay cordial to both sides. Understanding his decision is difficult for us looking through the lense of history, but he was a tobacco farmer who had freed his slaves, all of whom stayed on to work with him on his farm, and he obviously felt that he had a need to stay neutral. Perhaps he truly had not picked the Confederate cause to support.

This all changed one day when two of his other sons headed to the woods to hunt near the Hinson family farm, Bubbling Springs. The Hinson property lay near Dover, Tennessee. The sons were arrested by a Union patrol, accused of being bushwhackers and executed on the spot. Their bodies were taken into Dover. Their remains were dragged around the courthouse square, and then, as a further insult, their heads were cut off and placed in a burlap sack. The patrol then rode to Jack's farm and placed the heads of his executed sons on the gateposts of his fence. The soldiers searched Jack's home and surrounding barns from top to bottom looking for contraband, which in this case would be guns. Luckily, they were well hidden.

Jack Hinson picked a side. He swore to himself that he would invoke the law of vengeance for the death and mutilation of his two boys.



## Arming

Captain Jack's first order of business was to acquire a .50-caliber, heavy-barreled rifle. The gun would be of the percussion-cap variety and completely subdued except for the German silver bead on the front sight that would be overlaid on many a Union target. This Kentucky rifle sported a 41-inch rifled barrel that would help him reach out to nearly a half-mile for his debt settlement with the unsuspecting Union enemy. Jack would be able to load Minie balls for added accuracy, as well as enhanced terminal performance. The Minie ball trumped the round lead ball for performance all the way around. These conical lead bullets became extremely popular during the Civil War, and they continue to dominate today with regard to the blackpowder rifle.

Captain Jack's revenge began as it should, with the elimination of the Lieutenant and Sergeant who were responsible for his sons' beheadings. He knew where their patrols would ride and planned the ambush for weeks. The shots were up close and personal, dropping the Lieutenant from his saddle as he rode past Jack's well-concealed position. Before the smell and smoke from his shot could dissipate into the woods, Jack disappeared like a ghost into his familiar surroundings. Although the Union patrol had the numbers and horses, Jack had surveyed the target area and had a well-planned escape route. On top of this, he was moving in his own backyard. He knew every stone and tree in the woods near his farm. He was able to operate as a true guerilla fighter should. He could hit the enemy at the time and place of his choosing. He took plenty of time to plan his next move.

Shortly after his crusade had started, Old Man Jack became a target himself. It seems he had made the Union Army's wanted list; they needed to prove a point. The Union hierarchy wanted to show the community what happens when you go against the occupying forces of central Tennessee. In this time and location, many executions took place. Deserters, guerillas, unsupportive locals — no one was immune to the reach of the Union Army. The citizen spies of Dover, Tennessee, launched riders on a wintry night to notify Jack that he would be targeted the next morning by the Union forces. Jack made a decisive move. Disregarding the blizzard that was upon him, he sent his wife and seven of his children west to Sulfur Wells. His two youngest daughters were fighting measles during this chilling trip west to seek safety with relatives. Jack packed up his sniper rifle and

headed to the high ground of 'Tween the Rivers. Little did he know that this would be the last time he would see his two little girls, who would succumb to their sickness.

Jack headed to a ridge-top cave that would be his hiding place while he eventually settled the score. From that hiding place, it was an easy climb to a high, angled shooting position that would allow him to prey on Union officers. The Southern Sniper had found the Achilles heel of this Tennessee waterway: Union boats struggling against the rapids, almost coming to a standstill. As though the boats were frozen in place, Jack had plenty of time to steady his rifle and squeeze the trigger after selecting the ranking officer on the Union boat deck.



In the deadly game of sniping, Jack was a master. He not only settled the score, he also continued to cause fear among the Union Army as they braved the woods and waterways of Tennessee. Legend says that the 36 eighth-inch punch marks on his sniper rifle indicate the number of victims who fell to his deadly skill. Others say this was a primitive way of decorating a firearm by local craftsmen. Regardless of which is true, there is no second-guessing his sniping abilities.

Jack was even called to aid Confederate Cavalry leader Nathan Bedford Forrest as a guide for operations in the Land Between the Lakes vicinity.

When all was said and done, this Southern gentleman faded into obscurity. With more than 100 of the enemy eliminated by his sniper expertise, the war had taken a toll on his family as well. Captain Jack Hinson had lost seven children. Two had enlisted as Confederate soldiers, one of whom was wounded, then recovered, only to be killed later in the war, at Petersburg. The other Confederate soldier son made it through the war, surviving Appomattox, then he walked home, was paroled at Fort Donelson, then died soon after, apparently from malnutrition and exhaustion. Remember that Hinson lost two other sons, beheaded in Dover. Another son had fought as a guerilla in the mid-Tennessee area and was later killed in battle. Last, his two young daughters had succumbed to measles.

Captain Hinson's exploits are the fodder for many fireside sniper stories, but the truth is that he simply did what many of us would do if our family were attacked in such a manner.

# Data Storage: How to Keep Your Digital Documents Safe

by Timothy Yan | June 3rd, 2014



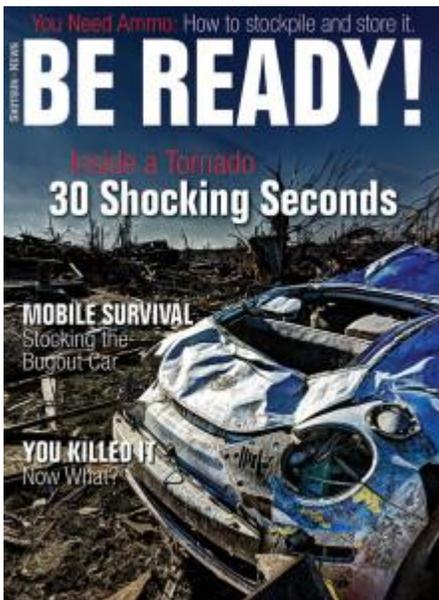
**Digital document storage is convenient, but how do you protect those important files, both from physical damage and from deterioration over time?**

Nowadays most of us keep at least some of our essential documents, pictures and other important information in digital format. It's a good idea to have items too important to lose (important documents, paperwork and family photos) copied and safely stored in a digital format. I personally

no longer have a traditional file cabinet or photo album, and I only keep a piece of paperwork if it's absolutely necessary.

Keeping everything as digital files has many advantages such as being much easier to make copies and the reproduction is always 100% of the original. Perhaps the biggest benefit is digital files take up practically no physical space. Everything is also searchable and accessible without much effort.

However, the digital format also has some drawbacks. Anything that's digital is subject to accidental deletion, data corruption and the failure of the storage media. There's also the very valid concern in regards to data security, privacy and accessibility. In this article, I will be using my 15 years of experience as an information technology consultant and a digital media specialist to offer insight and recommendations for keeping your digital documents, images and other important data safe and secure.



This article about digital data storage appears in [Be Ready!](#) magazine, available on newsstands from May 27 to August 25, 2014.

[Buy a copy today](#) to prepare yourself for the worst.

## Flash Media

The most popular form of flash storage is the ubiquitous USB flash drive. These are widely available and can be very inexpensive. You need to be cautious, though, as the quality of USB flash drives vary widely. It's very common for memory manufacturers to grade their chips and sell them at different price levels. The cheaper USB flash drives are usually made with lower grade memory chips with more errors and defects.

All flash memory has a set number of write-cycles and once that limit is reached, the flash memory media will be read-only or even unreadable in the worst case. My advice is to not go cheap when purchasing a USB flash drive for safe data storage.

USB flash drives are also subject to physical damage. Experience on my IT job revealed the typical plastic case USB drive would fall apart in a relatively short time just from all the daily plugging-in and un-plugging.

My go-to USB flash drive for years has been the Corsair Flash Savior. This is a USB flash drive housed inside a tubular container made from aircraft-grade aluminum alloy. When it's closed and sealed, it's water submersible to 200 meters and shock resistant up to 40g. Its tough metal housing can withstand any physical mishandling and I have one that has been run over by a truck without sustaining any damage to the USB flash drive inside. Corsair Flash Savior, 16 Gb: \$35, 32 Gb: \$45, 64 Gb: \$75.

For high security storage, I'm using the specialized IronKey Secure USB flash drive. It has a rugged metal case with certified DoD Mil-Standard level of waterproofing and dustproofing. What sets the IronKey apart from other flash drives is its built-in 256-bit hardware encryption chip. Once set up, the IronKey requires a login password to allow access.

If an IronKey falls into the wrong hands, it's self-protected by a security feature which will lock down the drive and permanently wipe everything on it after 10 consecutive incorrect password attempts. The IronKey is made from the best memory available, a single-level cell type chip that has 10-15 times the write-cycle life as the cheaper memory used in all other flash drives. The downside of IronKey is that it's very expensive. IronKey Personal S250 2 Gb retails around \$109.

Another type of flash media suitable for safe digital data storage is the SD (Secure Digital) card. It's commonly used in many digital cameras and mobile devices. Most full size SD cards, not the reduced size miniSD and microSD variants, have a physical write-protection slider on this side that will make the card read-only. This helps to prevent accidental data deletion.

All three sizes of SD card can also be set up by software with an access password and to enable/disable the write-protection. I suggest only choosing reputable brands like Samsung, SanDisk, Lexar, Toshiba and Panasonic.

### **In the Cloud**

Cloud Storage is basically storing your data online on someone's server. The advantage is it's accessible anywhere and with any Internet connected mobile device like a smartphone or tablet. However, there may be concerns about privacy, security and reliable access using "The Cloud." I only trust two of them: Google's Drive, free with 25 Gb of storage and Apple's iCloud, 5 Gb free and pay for more space.

There are a lot of things I don't particularly like about "The Cloud." If you can access your important info anywhere, it's also possible for cyber criminals across the globe to do the same. You are relying on "The Cloud" service provider as your only gatekeeper.

In addition to common cyber criminals, the NSA could easily suck up your data transmissions between "The Cloud" and your computer or mobile devices into its massive data warehouses. Although they can't see what's inside of it, they can obtain a search warrant without many questions from the courts.

Most state and federal courts don't respect your online property as much as they do the property in your home, and they have been rubber-stamping online search warrants on causes as minor as parking violations. Anyhow, many of those same judges probably couldn't differentiate the Internet from a rotary phone. Just remember that the NSA and other agencies can't examine your digital

documents and image files if they can't access them. Furthermore, nothing online is ever truly deleted. Any data put on the net is always being backed-up or archived somewhere.

Smaller "Cloud" services providers generally don't have a good reputation in terms of customer service, security or service reliability. A friend had 10 Gb of his data in "Cloud" storage. It suddenly became inaccessible. The provider can't fix the technical issue, and it pointed out the fine print in the customer agreement; it's not responsible for lost data.

The big companies are better, except that they all have ulterior motives. Amazon and Apple are both using their "Cloud" service to sell you stuff. Google, Microsoft and Yahoo all want to mine your "Cloud" information to improve their search engines. Adobe really thinks it owns the copyright of your images uploaded to its "Cloud."

### **Hard Drives and Solid-State Drives**

In theory, hard drives should last forever, since they have no specified write-cycle life, but in reality, hard drives fail much more often than flash media under constant use. They are mechanical devices that spin thousands of times per minute: something inside wears out sooner or later. Hard drives can't withstand much shock when running, thanks to their moving reading/writing heads. These hover just a few thousandths of an inch above the rapidly spinning disks. Fortunately, for our purposes, the hard drive is acceptable since it doesn't need to be constantly running.

I would recommend a 2.5-inch size laptop hard drive over the 3.5-inch size desktop size one, as the 2.5-inch hard drive has higher shock rating and most of them can be powered from only one USB port.

A better type of hard drive is the solid-state drive (SSD). It's essentially a hard drive made using memory chips with nothing mechanical. It differs from flash media by using faster memory chips that also have a longer write-cycle life.

SSD has all the benefits of the shockproof and instant access flash media with the transfer speed and long life of the mechanical hard drive. The tradeoff is a much higher cost than either. A critical point-of-failure in the SSD is its memory controller.

My advice is to only use SSDs featuring controllers by Samsung, Marvell, Toshiba, LAMD, Intel and avoid anything using the unreliable Sandforce controller. I have good luck with Samsung SSDs.

Neither the standard SSD nor the typical hard drive has any built-in security features. To get that, I use the specialized IronKey H200 high security external hard drive. Like the IronKey USB flash drive, the H200 also has an integral 256-bit hardware encryption and it's validated for level 3 of FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standard), the U.S. government's computer encryption standard.

There's also a secondary authentication mechanism in the form of an integrated biometric fingerprint reader. Also like the IronKey USB flash drive, the H200 has a built-in data self-destruction function to prevent unauthorized access and a new feature that allows remote erasure of a lost or stolen H200. While the IronKey H200 is not water- or dust-proof, it does have a heavy-

duty metal alloy housing with rubber bumpers to withstand rough handling. Made in the USA, the IronKey H200 320 GB retails around \$300.

### **Good Housekeeping Software Utilities**

A large percentile of security compromises resulted from a virus or malware problem. Microsoft Security Essential and Malwarebytes are the two free Windows anti-virus/anti-malware utilities that I'm using. Don't be fooled by the notion that Apple's Mac can't get a virus. It's just that not much effort has been put into developing virus/malware that only attacks 3% of the computers worldwide. At least install the free ClamXav on your Mac.

Stay away from and uninstall anything that comes from Norton, McAfee and Symantec. I found their cure is just as bad as the disease. In addition, always keep the operating system updated; whether that be Windows, Mac OSX, Linux, Android or iOS.

*Sources:* <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security-essentials-download/>  
<http://www.malwarebytes.org/> <http://www.clamxav.com/>

**Recordable Optical Media** Since its invention, recordable optical discs have been used for the safe storing of important digital files. Instead of relying on magnetic coated disks or memory chips, optical disc store data by using a laser to burn millions of microscopic pits on a thin layer of colored organic dye. Optical media is very expensive, with a starting price as low as 15-20 cents per disc. It's fairly resilient, thanks to its built-in data error-correction and once it's written, the data on the disc can't be deleted.

However, optical discs are the slowest in term of data access and transfer speed, and they require an optical disc drive to work. There are also various formats with limited compatibility between them, and many computer makers like Apple, are moving away from including an optical drive.

The most widely used type of recordable optical media is the CD-R and the two competing DVD recordable formats: DVD-R by Sony and DVD+R by Philips. All use the similar red laser recording technology with the DVD formats offering 6-12 times higher density than the CD-R.

There's also the recordable Blu-ray disc format developed by Sony with the finer blue laser offering storage of 25 Gb (single layer) and 50 Gb (double-layer). The recordable Blu-ray suffers from far less adoption because it's a proprietary format. It's not readable in anything except a Blu-ray drive for computer. Blu-ray also has a less robust data error-correction capability than CD and DVD, which means a scratched Blu-ray disc could more easily become unreadable.

Recordable optical media typically have a useful life of 5-10 years. Discs usually become unreadable after the organic dye breaks down or when the aluminum reflector layer loses its shininess. There are specially developed archival grade CD-R and DVD-R/+R discs that are made using a more durable type of non-organic dye, better plastic and use pure gold or platinum alloy, which doesn't corrode or oxidize, as the reflector layer. The archival grade optical media are generally rated for 100 to 200 years of storage life but cost \$3-\$5 per disc.

Another shortcoming of the recordable optical media is they can only be written on once and for any update or changes, a new disc must be burned. Since the data on the old disc cannot be deleted,

it is now a security risk. Therefore, the old disc should be destroyed physically with something like a shredder.

### **Encrypt your Data**

TrueCrypt is a free disk encryption utility. Its claim to fame was in a Federal District Court case, in which the FBI computer forensic team wasn't able to crack hard disks that were encrypted by TrueCrypt. The recent versions of Windows and Mac OSX also come with a built-in disk encryption utility. It's called Bitlocker in Windows and Filevault in Mac OSX. All have some form of backup plan in case of a lost encryption passkey.

Bitlocker and TrueCrypt can be set up with a passkey stored in a USB flash drive. I use my IronKey USB flash drive for this. Filevault could let you store the passkey with Apple's ID account management.

Have too many passwords to remember them all? Try the free KeePass password manager. Also note that the longer your password is, the harder it is to crack with brute-force methods. Each additional digit will increase the amount of work by 4 to 10 fold.

Sources: <http://www.truecrypt.org/> <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/products/features/bitlocker/> <http://support.apple.com/kb/ht4790> <http://keepass.info/>

### **Rewritable Optical Media**

What I think is the best optical media for keeping digital documents and files safe is the newer Rewritable (-RW/+RW) types and the lesser known DVD-RAM. It took an additional 20 years of development for rewritable optical media to mature.

Instead of the organic dye and reflector layers of the recordable optical media, the rewritable optical media uses a phase-change metal alloy layer. The laser in the rewritable media drive controls the reflectivity of the disc's metallic layer by changing it from solid to crystalline or vice-versa.

All CD-RW and DVD-RW/+RW can be written, erased and rewritten up to 1,000 times. Another benefit is the metallic layer material doesn't degrade over time and the rewritable disc should be still readable after 20-30 years. The -RW optical media typically costs only 50¢ to \$1 per disc.

Developed originally for enterprise and broadcasting applications, DVD-RAM stands for DVD-Random Access Memory. It's different from all other optical media, which write their data in a single track. The DVD-RAM, on the other hand, is preformatted like a hard drive and flash media with pre-indexed fixed data storage cells.

This allows DVD-RAM to have the convenience of working like a hard drive and flash media without needing disc recording/burning software. Of course this ability also incurs the chance of accidental data deletion.

The DVD-RAM uses a similar reflective metallic layer material to the rewritable -RW optical media. The difference is the DVD-RAM works from a phase-transition process where the laser

melts the solid metal briefly into liquid metal and reshapes it before it is condensed back to the solid form.

Because of that, the DVD-RAM is even longer lasting than the -RW optical media, with up to 100,000 rewrites and 30-50 years of storage life. The majority of DVD and Blu-ray drives made over the past five years could read Type 3 case-less DVD-RAM discs, but only some can write DVD-RAM. Avoid the older obsolescent Type 1 and Type 2 cartridge contained DVD-RAM since those require a dedicated DVD-RAM drive. Type 3 case-less DVD-RAM costs \$2-\$4 per disc.

What's the best way to safely store your digital document, images and important information? I would probably not say in "The Cloud" or on a Blu-ray disc. Flash media, hard drives and optic discs all have their pros and cons. My picks would be the solid-state drive and the rewritable discs, especially the DVD-RAM. IronKey's high security flash drive and hard drive are costly but they are worth it for maximum security. I highly recommend making it a practice to always make multiple copies of your data for redundancy.

## **GALLERY: How to Keep Your Digital Documents Safe**

1 of 12



• USB flash drives are handy and cheap. But keep in mind that they come in many grades, and that souvenir drive you got at a trade show may not last long.

[https://www.luckygunner.com/lounge/diagnostic-pistol-target-waste-time/?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=26bed07c8e-Newsletter\\_%2A%7CDATE%7C%2A&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_80d206af41-26bed07c8e-290265281](https://www.luckygunner.com/lounge/diagnostic-pistol-target-waste-time/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=26bed07c8e-Newsletter_%2A%7CDATE%7C%2A&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_80d206af41-26bed07c8e-290265281)

# Why the Diagnostic Pistol Target is a Waste of Time

By [Chris Baker](#)

Whether it's called the "Diagnostic Pistol Target," the "Pistol Correction Chart," or the "Troubleshooter Target," there are dozens of places online where you can find slightly different versions of the same printable target. The resource is supposed to help shooters self-diagnose their bad pistol shooting habits, but I think your practice time is better spent elsewhere. I explain why in the video below, or you can scroll down for the full transcript.

A few days ago, I was talking to somebody about some of the different drills and tests that I use to practice at the range and he asked me what I thought about those diagnostic pistol targets or correction charts you can print out. You've probably seen one of these before. They're all over the internet and there are even some commercially printed ones you can buy. The idea is that you shoot at this target and based on where your misses are, the chart will tell you what you are doing wrong.

Plenty of other people have done a good job of critiquing these targets, but this isn't the first time I've been asked about them, so I'll throw in my two cents. For the kind of handgun shooting most people seem to be interested in, I think these targets are a waste of time. It's my understanding that the most popular form of the diagnostic chart we see today was originally developed many years ago for one-handed slow-fire bullseye shooting at 25 yards. If you want to get better at two-handed rapid fire defensive or practical style shooting, you're not going to get much relevant advice from a bullseye correction chart.

So I guess that raises the question of why we don't just create a new version of the target that is intended for modern practical shooting. I'm sure someone will attempt to make something like that if it hasn't been done already, but I doubt that target would be very helpful, either. I don't know much about traditional bullseye shooting so I can't say whether the diagnostic chart is actually helpful in that context, but I do know that for practical shooting, it is almost impossible to determine what somebody is doing wrong solely by looking at their target.

There is maybe one exception to that rule. For a right-handed shooter, if shots are consistently going low and to the left, that is typically an indication of some form of recoil anticipation. That's a very common problem. But even knowing that, the target doesn't tell us the whole story. Recoil anticipation can mean a lot of different things. If you've got hits low and left, you might be dipping the muzzle as you pull the trigger, or you might be jerking the trigger at the last instant before the shot breaks, or you might even be closing your eyes. All of that is going to be masked by the recoil and you aren't going to know exactly what you did wrong by looking at the target. And that's a best-case scenario for target reading — that's assuming your misses are all grouped in one area. What if your target looks more like a shotgun pattern and you've got holes all over the place? That's usually the result of several overlapping problems. If you're anticipating recoil and you've got issues with your grip and bad trigger control, a chart is not going to help you figure out why one shot went high and the next one went to the left.



So what's the alternative? Well, I know it's not the answer a lot of people want to hear, but the absolute best way to improve is to get help from a qualified shooting instructor who can actually watch you shoot and give you feedback. Looking at the target doesn't always tell us what we need to know, but a good shooting coach can watch the shooter — usually just their hands — and determine a lot about what they need to work on. I know it's not as easy as printing out a target, but there's really no substitute for a good shooting instructor.

The good news is that eventually, you can develop the skill of coaching yourself a little bit, and, in my experience, that can sometimes involve finding clues based on where your misses are on the target. But instead of consulting some universal chart, you have to refer to your own previous experience and coaching feedback you may have received in the past. So for example, I shoot a 6-round Bill Drill and afterwards, I think maybe I didn't have such a great sight picture on some of those shots. Then I look at my target to confirm that suspicion and I see that a few of my hits are high. So that would tell me I'm probably letting my trigger finger get ahead of my sights. I need to be more patient and let my sights dictate when I fire. That could still be a misdiagnosis of the issue, but over time, I've learned that is an error I'm prone to making during a string of rapid fire at close range.

But if I back up and shoot a drill at 20 yards and I've got hits that are high, it probably means something different. If I'm pretty confident I had good trigger control, high misses are evidence that I may be letting my focus drift onto the target and away from the front sight. The location of the misses can tell me something, but it's really dependent on the context and on the individual shooter. Someone else could shoot the same drills and have a target that looks exactly like mine, but they could be struggling with totally different issues.

So before you can expect a specific pattern of missed shots on your target to be a useful part of your troubleshooting process, you just have to do the time and put in some hours on the range. And for less skilled shooters in particular, you need an actual qualified teacher. There is no magic target that's going to make you a better shooter.

# Is This Major Gun Maker About to Go Bankrupt?

Saddled with debt, this historic gun manufacturer is short on avenues for escape.

Rich Duprey

[\(TMFCop\)](#)

Nov 30, 2017 at 9:35PM

What was once an upbeat mood in the gun industry, fostered by a multi-year rally in weapon sales, has now become a major hangover. The most obvious indicator of that change: Privately-held Remington Outdoor is now at risk of declaring bankruptcy after a collapse in sales and profits.

The rifle and shotgun manufacturer's third-quarter sales plunged 41% as demand for firearms dried up. That led Remington to report adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization that were 78% lower year over year. Over the first nine months of 2017, the company has produced a \$60.5 million net loss, compared to a \$19.1 million gain in the prior-year period.

And with its credit rating in the trash bin, the future is bleak for "America's oldest gunmaker".



IMAGE SOURCE: REMINGTON OUTDOOR.

## A side effect of the "Trump slump"

The boom years have given way to bust -- other leading firearms manufacturers like **American Outdoor Brands** ([NASDAQ:AOBC](#)), **S&W** ([NYSE:SW](#)), **Ruger** ([NYSE:RGR](#)), and **Vista Outdoor** ([NYSE:VSTO](#)) similarly saw sales decline.

Yet unlike those companies, Remington carries the extra burden of a large debt balance thanks to its private equity owners.

Remington is the [largest manufacturer](#) of rifles and the second largest manufacturer of shotguns. Its storied history stretches all the way back to 1816, nearly 40 years before Smith & Wesson or Colt Manufacturing. However, its current difficulties have a more recent origin: Its sale to Cerberus Capital Management, which took the company private in 2007 for \$118 million with the assumption of \$252 million worth of debt.

Today, debt on the company's books has ballooned to almost \$1 billion, the result of a failed IPO bid in 2011 and outrage over the Sandy Hook shootings a year later. That tragedy caused some of Cerberus' biggest investors to demand it sell the firearms company or cash them out, but it was unable to find a buyer. Remington ended up taking on debt to buy shares from Cerberus.

After this latest earnings disaster, the Standard & Poor's ratings agency cut Remington's corporate credit rating two full notches, from the already junk bond status of CCC+ to CCC-, a move that will force it to pay even more to borrow money, even as its high-yield debt becomes less attractive to investors.

With the firearms and ammunition manufacturer burning through cash as a result of falling sales, S&P expects it will undertake a restructuring within the next year. Although the ratings agency says it's not a certainty, it forecasts Remington's sales and profits will be under extreme pressure "at least through early 2018, resulting in insufficient cash flow for debt service and fixed charges."



IMAGE SOURCE: REMINGTON OUTDOOR.

### **History repeating**

This story is reminiscent of the recent history of Colt, which went bankrupt two years ago during the so-called "Obama boom years", because its private owners weighed it down with debt as well. The [difference between the two](#) companies was that Colt had relied too heavily on the government for contracts. When it lost its decades-old deal to produce the U.S. military's M4 carbines and M16 rifles, it had few civilian customers to fall back on.

Yet all gunmakers are feeling the effects of the slide in consumer gun sales following the election of Donald Trump as president. Many manufacturers are now looking to the holiday shopping season to get their weapons moving again, but despite a huge Black Friday surge, such sales are a double-edged sword for Remington.

While retailers may sell down their excess inventory with a holiday rush, it's likely buyers were treated to significant discounts. Those will take a bite out of profits that Remington cannot afford.

### **Few options open**

*Forbes* says Remington's leverage at the end of the third quarter was "an eye-watering 18 times multiple of its \$53 million in LTM EBITDA." By comparison, rival Sturm, Ruger's multiple stood at 5.8 times and American Outdoor Brands at 4.8 times.

Vista Outdoor's situation is also under review by **Moody's** after it turned in second-quarter losses of \$2 per share, a dramatic reversal from the \$1.23 per share profit it posted in the year-ago period. Both American Outdoor and Ruger have clean balance sheets, so while sales and profits are down, they're able to withstand the current storm.

But Remington may end up another cautionary tale of what happens when private equity buys into a firearms manufacturer as a strategic opportunity without the fortitude to withstand the political winds or changing fortunes of this industry.

# US gunmaker Remington seeks financing to file for bankruptcy protection: Sources

- Remington Outdoor Co. is in search of financing that will allow it to file for bankruptcy protection.
- The move comes as Remington reached a forbearance agreement with its creditors this week.
- Remington is seeking debtor-in-possession financing that will allow it to fund its operations once it files for bankruptcy.

Published 6:11 AM ET Fri, 9 Feb 2018 Reuters



CNBC

In a national settlement involving one of America's most popular guns, Remington will replace millions of triggers on its popular Model 700 rifle. Remington Outdoor Co., one of the largest U.S. makers of firearms, has reached out to banks and credit investment funds in search of financing that will allow it to file for bankruptcy, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

The move comes as Remington reached a forbearance agreement with its creditors this week following a missed coupon payment on its debt, the sources said. The company has been working with investment bank [Lazard](#) on options to restructure its \$950 million debt pile, Reuters reported last month.

Remington is seeking debtor-in-possession financing that will allow it to fund its operations once it files for bankruptcy, the sources said. The size of the financing and timing of Remington's bankruptcy plans could not be learned.

Some potential financing sources, including credit funds and banks, have balked at coming to Remington's aid because of the reputation risk associated with such a move, according to the sources.

Remington, which is controlled by buyout firm Cerberus Capital Management, was abandoned by some of Cerberus' private equity fund investors after one of its Bushmaster rifles was used in the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting in Connecticut in 2012 that killed 20 children and six adults.

The sources asked not to be identified because the deliberations are confidential. Remington did not respond to several requests for comment. Cerberus declined to comment.

Credit rating agencies have warned that Remington's capital structure is unsustainable given its weak operating performance and significant volatility in the demand for firearms and ammunition.

Remington's sales have declined in part because of receding fears that guns will become more heavily regulated by the U.S. government, according to credit ratings agencies. President [Donald Trump](#) has said he will "never, ever infringe on the right of the people to keep and bear arms."

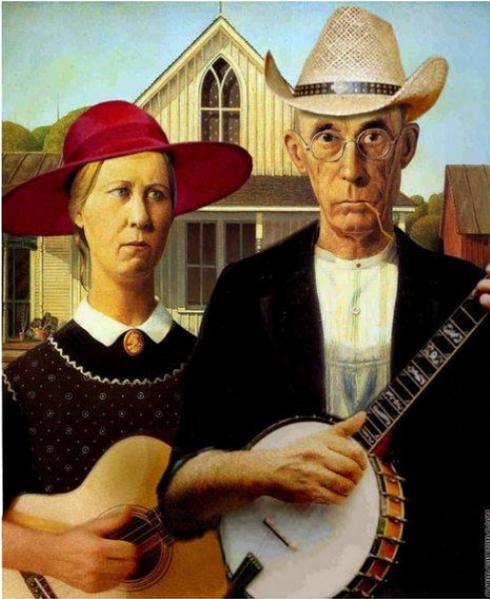
The Madison, North Carolina-based gun manufacturer faces a maturity of an approximately \$550 million term loan in 2019. Remington also has \$250 million of bonds that come due in 2020 and are trading at a significant discount to their face value at around 16 cents on the dollar, according to Thomson Reuters data, indicating investor concerns about repayment.

The term loan maturing next year is also trading at a significant discount to full value, at around 50 cents on the dollar, the sources said.

Remington's sales plunged 27 percent in the first nine months of 2017, resulting in a \$28 million operating loss.

# 5 Keys Decisions to Make Before Buying a Homestead Property

The Patriot Caller [DIY Projects](#)



The old American dream was a nice single family home with a fence and a yard. Recently, however, we've noticed a shift in the American dream that's coming on strong.

The new American dream includes a larger, more rural property where folks can spread out, raise chickens in the yard, pick banjos on the porch, and shoot their guns.

No, it's not for everybody. But more and more Americans are seeing the value in the front porch lifestyles their great grandparent enjoyed. There's a certain level of independence and pride that can only be enjoyed on your very own spread.

With the booming popularity of self-reliance, shooting sports, gardening, small livestock, and hunting, there simply isn't enough capacity to meet these needs in the city, or even in the suburbs.

And while "Meanwhile, back at the ranch," evokes the romantic Hollywood notion of rural living, Green Acres style. The truth is there are plenty of pitfalls that can make your homesteader's dream a bumpy ride. That's why we came up with this list of key factors you must consider before you buy the farm (literally, not figuratively).

## 1. Tax Status

Buying properties, whether a single family home or a heavily romanticized self-sustaining farm, is an emotional decision for the vast majority of shoppers. The crushing reality of monthly payments, unexpected setbacks, and unforeseen costs can shipwreck your homesteading dream before it even gets out of the harbor, even before setting sail.

It's for this precisely this reason that we've placed real estate taxes at the #1 spot. Most states offer some fairly nice tax advantages, often called an "agricultural evaluation" or "ag exemption," for properties that meet a certain criteria.

The tax bill on properties with an Ag exemption are often less than 1/10th of what it would be if evaluated as raw land. These tax breaks are, of course, designed to help farmers and ranchers afloat and they do help many folks.

However, many legislatures have setup a pretty rigorous set of rules in order to qualify for this status. In Texas, for example, the minimum timeline for qualifying a piece of property as agricultural is 5 years. That's from the date of applying for a property that meets the requirements.

If you were to purchase a property that doesn't qualify, then you're in for the expenses that come with meeting the requirements, applying, and then proving that you are really using your property for an agricultural endeavor for at least 5 years.

In the meantime, you're paying the higher tax rate. Gulp.

If you purchase a property that's already qualified, however, you can simply re-up the agricultural evaluation. That's just one example in one state. Similar conditions exist in many other states, which is why the research is so crucial.

Unless you've got some exceptionally deep pockets, the tax status of a property could be make or break. Don't let yourself be surprised. Do the research beforehand.

Even if you love the acreage, setting, and location, a property that's not qualified may send you to the poor house.

## **2. What's My Goal?**

Carefully selecting and defining your goal is fundamental to your homesteading success. Most people give themselves way too much wiggle room in this regard and it costs them big time later down the road.

The question you must ask yourself is: What would make this property a success?

Is it affordability the key to you keeping this property long term? Agricultural income potential? Is this really just a bug-out cabin that you'll use as a vacation property?

With stars in your eyes and visions of your children riding horses in your mind, it's much harder that you think to understand your most honest needs and wants.

For a homesteader/bug-out cabin property like we're referring to, we'd measure the success of your purchase by the length of time you own the property. In fact, we'd go as far to say that, for all intents and purposes, homesteader/survivalists are not remarkably different from any other rural property buyer.

Many people believe they'd love to own a ranch, or a farm, or a hunting property. The best indicator of how well the reality fit with their imagination is how long they continued to own the property. The better a property fits your criteria and provides you the benefits you hope to gain, the longer you'll probably own it.

## **3. Accessibility**

You might be thinking: *I don't plan to visit more than once a month, so remoteness isn't a big issue for me.*

Or, you might plan to move to your homestead and think: *I'm going to live on this property and work the land full-time, so there no commute to worry about.*

Both of these notions are dangerously high risk. Why, because the ease of access is going to directly impact your ability to enjoy the property. Thus, if you have to drive 500 miles to get there, it's just a matter of time before you get fed up with the mortgage, taxes, and other expenses.

On the flip side, don't underestimate how much local amenities will impact your ability to enjoy your property. If your rural retreat is 90 minutes from the nearest hardware store or feed store, you could be setting yourself up for some unpleasant realizations.

That's how important accessibility is to your decision. Many people set a certain maximum radius or drive time to help narrow down options. Even when you do this, it's easy to talk yourself to tack on another 30 minutes to get a larger or less expensive property.

Typically, the further you get from a population center, the cheaper the prices get per acre. Just be sure you don't talk yourself into a drive that you're not willing to live with. Additionally, keep in mind that being within close reach of an Ace Hardware or Feed Barn can be pretty nice for lots of reasons.

## **4. Acreage**

This is another tricky variable for most rural property buyers. If you plan to hunt or raise cattle, 30 acres won't go very far.

On the other hand, every acre equals more to mow, more roads and fence line to maintain, as well as more property taxes to pay.

The sweet spot falls somewhere between the minimum acreage that meets your needs and the maximum you can comfortably afford. Now that we see it in print, that sounds deceptively easy.

Once again, the depth of your pockets will determine the breadth of your spread. We default to the financially conservative side regarding the size of your acreage. The last thing you need is to bite off more than you can chew and then be forced to spit it back out, so to speak.

You want to get a place where you can establish your own traditions and build it for the long haul. Even if its 10 acres, you can still be very productive with a property that size, provided that its the right 10 acres.

## **5. Climate/Soil**

Many people tend to start with this as a primary consideration. If you're planning to run a thriving cattle ranch or vineyard, this is crucial. But acquiring a property that fits perfectly into a commercial enterprise will cost you extra, much extra.

On the other hand, from the desert to the pine forest, most regions have their own agricultural or geological advantages which you can learn to use.

Goats can survive on almost any soil. Does the property have rock quarry potential? Lots of timber? Is it possible that you could use the resources on your property to build something valuable to your neighbors?

You can tailor your homesteading enterprise to suit the strengths of your individual property. In fact, that's what the smart landowner would do.

Just because the ranch a mile over has great soil for sauvignon grapes doesn't mean that your property will. Likewise, water resources are crucial to any farming activity you may have on your mind. Proven ranches and farms demand a premium that most buyers simply can't afford to pay.

This is exactly why we placed fifth on the list. It's very important, and it relates directly to your goal (item #2). Still, learning to exploit the indigenous resources on a property is typically going to be easier and more cost effective than trying to purchase a turnkey farm or ranch.

## Top 5 Survival Food Brands You Should Try

Tara Dodrill

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**M**ore than 53% of Americans do not have a minimum three-day supply of non-perishable food and water stored in their home at all times. After watching news footage of countless communities being left cut off from the outside world due to [hurricanes](#), floods, and [wild fires](#) in 2017 alone, it is simply shocking that EVERY single American hasn't devoted at least an entire closet for the storage of long-term survival food, water, and emergency first aid supplies.

As the social unrest in the United States prepares to hit a fevered pitch not seen since the Civil War, there is more reason than ever to [stockpile long term storage food](#). Getting caught outside rushing to the grocery store in the midst of a violent riot complete with burning buildings and other acts of lawlessness and looting.

It will truly be a survival of the fittest ( and best armed) during a SHTF scenario. A trip to the grocery store in that type of environment could turn deadly very quickly – and the shelves would likely be bare if you were lucky enough to even reach the corner market.

Stocking up now shelf stable survival food kits is the only sensible and intelligent decision you could make in an effort to keep both yourself and your family safe when disaster strikes.

People are going to panic the second SHTF, and will do anything to gather food for their family. If you have stockpiled survival food kits, you can immediately [begin bugging in](#) with your family or rapidly move to your [bugout location](#).

## Top five survival food Brands

- [Mountain House](#)
- [Wise Foods](#)
- [Legacy](#)
- Food 4 Patriots
- [Augason Farms](#)



## Mountain House

Mountain House has the longest proven shelf life of 30 years, taste guaranteed. They provide emergency meal kits, pouches, #10 cans, and pro-paks.

They have emergency meal kits starting at a 2-day food supply to 14-day food supply. To give you an insight on examples of what the emergency kits have to offer:

The 3-day emergency food supply consists of 20 servings for around \$60.

The 4-day emergency food supply is around \$80 and has 28 servings.

The 5-day emergency food supply has a total of 37 servings for around \$100.

Every emergency meal kit consists of breakfast, lunch, and dinner entrees. They also offer a Classic Assortment Bucket and an Essential Assortment Bucket.

The Classic Assortment Bucket is the perfect solution for those who want an emergency food supply but lack enough space. This bucket would fit perfectly in your car and provide you with the calories you need to either shelter in place or make a long trek home on foot.

These meals listed below have two pouches each in the Classic Assortment Bucket:

- Beef Stroganoff with Noodles
- Chicken Teriyaki with Rice
- Beef Stew
- Lasagna with Meat Sauce
- Noodles & Chicken
- Granola with Milk & Blueberries

You can also fit The Essential Assortment Bucket just about anywhere thanks to it's compact and stackable size. This bucket contains four pouches each of Rice & Chicken, Chili Mac with Beef, and Spaghetti with Meat Sauce.

Mountain House's pouches range anywhere from \$2.99 to \$10.99. There are pouches of beef, chicken, pork, breakfast, vegetarian, and sweets! You just add water, wait several minutes, and be ready to devour your bowl of deliciousness in a flash. Speaking of bowl, no dish is required – you can eat straight out of your pouch which makes this a lot more convenient, especially during an emergency.

My favorite Mountain House Pouches

- [Beef Stroganoff with Noodles](#)
- [Chicken Breast and Mashed Potatoes](#)
- [Scrambled Eggs with Bacon](#)
- [Biscuits and Gravy](#)
- [Ice cream Sandwich](#)
- [Macaroni and Cheese](#)

The Pro-Paks are light-weight and compact design which makes it convenient to pack in your “get home bag.” They also won't expand at high altitude. Each Pro-Pak contains two 1-cup servings of food. The prices range from \$5.99 to \$7.99. My top favorites are Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, and Chicken Teriyaki with Rice.

#10 Can meals include 10 servings. You just add hot water and food will be ready! [Lasagna with Meat Sauce](#), [Rice & Chicken](#), and [Chili Mac with Beef](#) are my top three favorites!



## Wise Foods

Wise Foods is very easy to prepare with the only thing you having to do is add water. Shelf life is up to 25 years and they have the highest customer ratings for quality.

This brand has a variety of different options for your emergency food supply.

My favorite Wise Foods Freeze Dried Foods Options

- [Freeze Dried Meats](#)
- [Freeze Dried Vegetables](#)
- [Freeze Dried Fruits](#)
- Dairy
- [Powdered Eggs](#)

The food supply kits come as Long-Term Food Supply, Grab and Go Food Kits, and Outdoor Food Kits.

The smallest Emergency Freeze Dried Meat bucket contains 60 servings with an additional 20 servings of rice. Each pouch contains 4 servings to avoid waste. The bucket is designed for you to be able to stack multiple buckets on top of one another and not worry about shelving.

This bucket typically costs about \$150 and includes the following long term storage food items:

- 3 pouches of Roasted Chicken – 12 total servings
- 3 pouches of Southwest style Chicken – 12 total servings
- 2 pouches of Teriyaki Chicken – 8 total servings
- 2 pouches of Stroganoff Beef – 8 total servings
- 2 pouches of Cheesy Beef – 8 total servings
- 3 pouches of Roasted Beef – 12 total servings
- 2 pouches of Rice – 20 total servings

There is also a gluten-free version of Emergency Freeze Dried Meat with Rice for about \$110 for a total of 104 servings.

[The largest Freeze Dried Meat bucket](#) is filled with 720 servings with a hefty price of tag.

The 120 servings of Freeze Dried Fruit bucket is \$159 and includes the following 8 ounce serving pouches:

- 2 pouches of Bananas
- 2 pouches of Peaches
- 2 pouches of Strawberries
- 3 pouches of Apples
- 2 pouches of Creamy Yogurt
- 2 pouches of Caramel Sauce
- 2 pouches of Vanilla Pudding

To increase the calorie and nutritional content and enhance flavor, mix the fruit pouches with the pudding, yogurt, or sauce packets.

The Emergency Freeze Dried Vegetable bucket has 120 servings for the price of about \$150. You can always mix these vegetables with long-term gourmet butter, cream, cheese, and mushroom sauces.

Mountain House foods sometimes offers a free sample packet of their long term storage food to new customers.

Emergency Freeze Dried Vegetable Bucket Contents – all pouches offer 8 ounce servings

- 3 pouches of Corn
- 2 pouches of Peas
- 3 pouches of Broccoli
- 3 pouches of Green Beans
- 1 pouches of Mushroom Sauce
- 1 pouch of Cheese Sauce
- 1 pouch of Butter Sauce
- 1 pouch of Cream Sauce

Wise Foods also produces an Emergency Freeze Dried Powdered Whey Milk survival food it. It consists of of 120 servings for about \$90. Each pouch can be re-hydrated in minutes just by adding water!. You can enjoy drinking the milk while eating one of your delicious long term survival entrees or use it in cooking and baking recipes.

You can get 144 servings of Emergency Freeze Dried Powdered Eggs for \$150. No refrigeration required and this would taste outstanding with your powdered milk. The last time I ordered this, I wanted to eat breakfast for every meal that day because it was just that good.

For a 7-day supply of 52 servings of four entrees, two breakfasts, and two beverages, it is \$89.99.

Wise Emergency Freeze Dried Food and Drink Storage Survival Kit Contents

- Creamy Pasta and Vegetable Rotini – 4 Servings
- Savory Stroganoff – 4 Servings
- Tomato Basil Soup with Pasta – 4 Servings
- Southwest Beans and Rice – 4 Servings
- Brown Sugar and Maple Multi-Grain – 4 Servings
- Apple Cinnamon Cereal – 4 Servings
- Orange Delight Drink Mix – 16 servings
- Whey Milk Alternative – 12 Servings

Freeze Dried Camping & Backpacking Food Favorites from Wise Company is \$59.99 for 12 servings of entrees and 6 servings of breakfasts.

Freeze Dried Camping & Backpacking Food Favorites Kit Contents

- 1 pouch of Creamy Pasta with Chicken and Vegetables – 2 total servings
- 2 pouches of Apple Cinnamon Cereal – 4 total servings
- 1 pouch of Strawberry Granola Crunch – 2 servings
- 1 pouch of Pasta Alfredo with Chicken – 2 servings
- 1 pouch of Teriyaki Chicken and Rice – 2 servings
- 1 pouch of Cheesy Lasagna – 2 servings

- 1 pouch of Chili Mac can Beef – 2 servings
- 1 pouch of Noodles & Beef in Mushroom Sauce – 2 servings

Wise Foods also offers “camping food” in cases of six. My absolute favorite has always been Alfredo with Chicken. This is the first packet of survival food I ever tried. I made it in the pouch as directed, then poured it into a cook pot to fool my picky eater teenager daughter into trying it – fettucine chicken alfredo is one of her favorite dishes. My finicky girl wanted seconds and then asked for a third helping, before I told her she had just eaten long term survival food.

The long term survival food company’s 3-month kits designed to feed a family of four at 3 servings per day for about \$2,212.99.

The survival food kit consists of nine buckets and contains:

- 12 pouches of Cheesy Lasagna – 48 total servings
- 18 pouches of Creamy Pasta -72 total servings
- 12 pouches of Pasta Alfredo – 48 total servings
- 12 pouches of Chili Mac – 48 total servings
- 18 pouches of Chicken Noodle Soup – 72 total servings
- 18 pouches of Savory Stroganoff – 72 total servings
- 12 pouches of Hearty Tortilla Soup – 48 total servings
- 12 pouches of Potato Pot Pie – 48 total servings
- 6 pouch of Teriyaki and Rice – 24 total servings
- 12 pouches of Baked Potato Casserole – 48 total servings
- 18 pouches of Tomato Basil Soup – 72 total servings
- 18 pouches of Southwest Beans and Rice – 72 total servings
- 12 pouches of Cheesy Macaroni – 48 total servings
- 15 pouches of Strawberry Granola Crunch – 60 Servings
- 30 pouches of Brown Sugar and Maple Multi-Grain Cereal – 120 Servings
- 15 pouches of Crunchy Granola – 60 Servings
- 30 pouches of Apple Cinnamon Cereal – 120 Servings

Wise Foods sometimes offers a free sample of their long term storage packets, as well.

## Legacy

Legacy Premium meal packages are designed to provide a 2-to-1 ratio of lunch/dinner to breakfast. There are more than 19 entree options and 4 delicious breakfast items to choose from.

Legacy offers a 16 serving family entree sample pack (about \$40 each) and 16 serving breakfast sample pack – also about \$40 each..

For about \$175.00, Legacy offers a 60 serving bucket of breakfast, lunch, and dinner. You will receive 4 different breakfast meals and 10 different dehydrated lunch/dinner entrees – that is nearly three weeks’ worth of dehydrated breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

My three favorite meals from this combo bucket are the pancakes pouches, Italian pasta with marinara, and stroganoff.

A free shipping offer is usually offered by Legacy Survival Foods on domestic orders.

# Food 4 Patriots®

## Food 4 Patriots

Not only does [Food 4 Patriots](#) offer 25 year life, NON-GMO, and delicious “disaster-free” food, but they also donate a portion of the proceeds to charities who support our veterans and their families.

Food 4 Patriots sell 1-Week Food Supply, 4-Week Food Supply, and 3-Month Food Supply.

The 1-Week Food Supply is about \$70 for 40 servings. The 4-Week Food Supply is approximately \$200 for 140 servings and free shipping. For only about \$500, you can get the 3-Month Supply which contains 450 servings, free survival tool, free seed vault, and free shipping!



## Augason Farms

Augason Farms has food storage [kits](#), [soups](#), entrees, fruits, [vegetables](#), dairy, meat, protein, grains, and beans.

The 30 day food storage emergency food supply is about \$140 for 307 servings of food and has a shelf life of 30 years. This supply consists of nutritionally balanced entrees, soups, dry powdered milk, breakfast, and fruit snacks.

My all-time favorite survival product that Augason Farms provides is their [cheesy pizza](#) kit. It may not be the most healthiest choice, but it surely is one of the most scrumptious! Last year during a power outage over the winter, I decided to make this for supper and my husband could not get over how good it was or that it was considered prepper food.

Augason Farm's Pizza Bucket comes complete with pizza crust mix, sauce mix and freeze dried mozzarella cheese – and makes 12, 10 inch pizzas.

Whichever survival food brand or kit you go with, you will not be disappointed.

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

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

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