

# ON TARGET

2021 AR ISSUE

CHRISTENSEN  
ARMS

CA-10 *G2*

CARBON-FIBER  
FOR THE WIN

SIGHTRON  
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SIII

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M400

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COMBAT

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# ON TARGET™

2021 AR ISSUE



**WILSON COMBAT TACTICAL HUNTER**  
Chambered in Bill Wilson's ultra-versatile 300 HAM'R cartridge, this is a true do-most-things AR.  
**Dave Bahde**

**SIGHTRON SII PLR RIFlescope**  
In the competitive world of precision long-range riflescopes, it's all about getting more for your dollar.  
**Dave Bahde**

**SIG M400 SWITCHBLADE**  
The MCX's closest cousin is SIG's new lightweight hotrod in the gas-impingement M400 lineup.  
**Chris Mudgett**

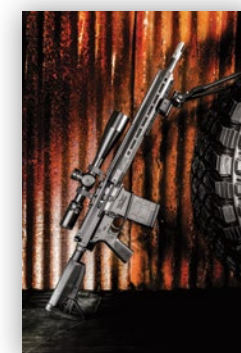
**WILSON COMBAT EXPANSION**  
Bill Wilson makes a bold investment in machinery and square footage to ensure a bright future for his company.  
**Dave Bahde**

**NEW-FOR-2021 AR GEAR**  
Our top picks for this year's new AR optics, ammunition, tools, cleaning supplies, attachments and more.  
**Chris Mudgett**

**CHRISTENSEN ARMS CA-10 G2**  
THE carbon-fiber innovators take the AR10 platform to the height of lightweight performance.  
**Dave Bahde**

**GUN & GEAR GIVEAWAY CONTEST**  
Enter to win a Springfield Armory Saint Victor 5.56mm rifle/Elite Survival Stealth Covert Operations pack combo worth over \$1,350.  
**OT Staff**

**On Our Cover:**  
Christensen Arms' CA-10 G2 rifle wearing a Sightron SIII Precision Long Range riflescope in an Aero Precision mount and MDT's new Lightweight CKYE-POD bipod.  
Photo by Ben Battles.







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# ON TARGET

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# WILSON COMBAT 300 HAM'R TACTICAL HUNTER

FROM HOMESTEAD DEFENSE TO  
MEAT IN THE FREEZER, THE VERSATILITY  
OF THIS RIFLE/CARTRIDGE COMBINATION  
IS PRETTY TOUGH TO BEAT

DAVE BAHOE

BEN BATTLES

DEVELOPED OVER A TIMESPAN OF ten years, Bill Wilson's 300 HAM'R cartridge starts with a 300 BLK case, but the similarity ends there. This round was designed to be the most-versatile AR-15 "ranch rifle" chambering in existence — one that's a capable hunter out to 300+ yards while protecting stock from four-legged predators and family from two-legged threats. Extending the 300 BLK case improved accuracy and consistency using proven .308 bullets. Increased case capacity and more effi-

cient powders bumped velocity close to 200 fps above the 300 BLK without increasing chamber pressure. Using a slower twist rate made for better long-range consistency using bullets from 95-150 grains, and keeping the .223 bolt makes it a simple barrel swap. Having been in use for several years, it has proven capable of taking medium-sized game to 500-yards and even some larger game within 300 yards. Because of its extreme versatility, it has become one of my favorite AR-15 chamberings to date.



# WILSON COMBAT 300 HAM'R TACTICAL HUNTER

## A TRUE DUAL-PURPOSE CARTRIDGE

I HUNT OCCASIONALLY, BUT DECADES USING A rifle on duty or during SWAT operations places

my expertise squarely on the tactical side. Always open to improvement over the 223 Remington, I have tested and deployed rifles in 300

BLK, 6.8 SPC, 6.5 Grendel, 7.62 x 39mm, 5.45x 39mm, and even 308 Win from CQB distances. Reaching out longer distances, you can add the 6.5mm's and the latest 6 ARC; all have their strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. Weight, reliability, and recoil are always factors with .308-based cartridges and functionality and bullet selec-

tion with the Russian calibers. The others require special bolts, magazines, or both. Accuracy in the 300 BLK is ammunition dependent, with huge swings at longer ranges — if your world never exceeds 100-yards, it's great. Wilson Combat's 300 HAM'R addresses CQB with Lehigh Defense's Controlled Chaos bullets and 300-yards with hunting bullets from 110 to 150 grains.



1

1—WILSON COMBAT CURRENTLY MANUFACTURES THE 300 HAM'R WITH BULLET WEIGHTS RANGING FROM 95 TO 150-GRAINS. THESE INCLUDE THE ALL-COPPER 110-GR. LEHIGH CONTROLLED CHAOS ROUND SHOWN ON THE LEFT — WHICH IS AN IDEAL URBAN DEFENSE LOAD — AS WELL AS THE VARIOUS 130 TO 150-GR. LOADS SHOWN ON THE RIGHT TO SUIT ANY GAME-TAKING TASK AT HAND.

2—THE TACTICAL HUNTER MODEL GETS A THREADED, MATCH-GRADE, 18-INCH, FLUTED-STAINLESS-STEEL BARREL TO WRING OUT OPTIMAL VELOCITY FROM THE 300 HAM'R CARTRIDGES. ADDITIONALLY, WILSON COMBAT OFFERS FIVE SHORT-BARRELED PISTOL MODELS AND ONE SHORT-BARRELED RIFLE FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR A MORE COMPACT PACKAGE. THE 11.3-INCH BARRELED PROTECTOR PISTOL, WEARING A WILSON COMBAT .30-CAL. QUELL QD SUPPRESSOR, IS SHOWN ATOP.

2





WILSON COMBAT  
300 HAM'R TACTICAL  
HUNTER



1

WILSON COMBAT'S TACTICAL HUNTER

WILSON'S TACTICAL HUNTER USES A MATCH-grade, 18-inch, fluted stainless-steel barrel using a 1-13 twist rate and a muzzle that's threaded to 5/8 x 24 with an included thread protector. Since the 300 HAM'R was designed around this length, this rifle takes full advantage of the improved ballistics and is perfect for hunting and more than suitable for tactical situations. Shrouding the barrel and mid-length gas system is the company's 12.6-inch M-Lok compatible forend. Receivers are Wilson Combat's own in-house-machined

SPECIFICATIONS:

CALIBER:	.300 HAM'R
BARREL:	18" TACTICAL HUNTER (FLUTED) 1-13 TWIST
OA LENGTH:	33.5 INCHES
WEIGHT:	6-POUNDS, 6-OUNCES
SIGHTS:	FLAT TOP RAIL
STOCKS/GRIPS:	ROGERS STOCK, WILSON COMBAT GRIP
ACTION:	ROTATING BOLT DIRECT IMPINGEMENT
FINISH:	ARMOR-TUFF CAMO
CAPACITY:	SAME AS 5.56MM CAPACITY
PRICE:	\$2,500.00

billet aluminum pieces. The trigger is a two-stage TTU (Tactical Trigger Unit) measuring 4 pounds of total trigger weight. The grip is a BCM Gun-fighter-based unit with a Wilson Starburst pattern, and the adjustable stock is a Rogers/Wilson Super Stock. The bolt carrier group is a Wilson Combat Premium, which is given an ultra-durable Nickel Boron coating. My test rifle was coated in the company's latest Armor-Tuff camouflage pattern called Wasteland. This pattern uses a nice blend of darker greens and browns proving versatile in most environments, but if it doesn't suit your taste, there are several other color schemes available.

The optic used for testing was Trijicon's 1-8

1—WILSON FITS THE TACTICAL HUNTER WITH THEIR PREMIUM NICKEL-BORON COATED BOLT CARRIER GROUP AND THEIR OWN TWO-STAGE TTU (TACTICAL TRIGGER UNIT) TRIGGER ASSEMBLY. A 1-8x28 TRIJICON CREDO FIRST-FOCAL-PLANE RIFlescope/LARUE TACTICAL SPR-1.5 MOUNT COMBINATION WERE USED EXCLUSIVELY DURING TESTING.



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Putting the miles in when everyone else is still in bed or running errands? No matter the task, the ultra-slick and affordable P-10 M is sized just right for easy concealability. In addition to being a smaller overall package you still get the reliability, ergonomics and great trigger that CZ-USA pistols are known for.

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## WILSON COMBAT 300 HAM'R TACTICAL HUNTER

power Credo with their dual-illuminated (red or green) segmented-circle reticle with MIL adjustments. With crystal-clear class and a versatile reticle that is at home in the field or on the street, it's built to withstand any condition. Mounted in a Larue SPR 1.5 mount, this system is rock solid and capable of CQB operations while allowing you to competently reach out to the limits of this cartridge. The rifle ships with one 20-round Lancer magazine.

### ON THE RANGE

EVERY 300 HAM'R I'VE TESTED HAS BEEN incredibly accurate. This one was no exception. My best five-shot group using the 95 Grain Controlled Chaos at 100 yards measured less than .50

inches edge to edge. Everything was under .75 inches at 100 with most closer to half an inch. Switching between bullet weights did not seem to change point-of-impact much, which is a really nice bonus. Groups at 300-yards were in the 2.78 to 3.5-inch range. Wilson Combat's 300 HAM'R has been one of the most consistently accurate AR15 rounds out to 300 yards that I've ever used.

Recoil with a bare muzzle is similar to 6.8 SPC and very close to the 6.5 Grendel or 6mm ARC — that is to say more than a typical .223/5.56mm and nothing like a .308 Winchester. Suppressors soften things a bit and have never added much in the way of excess gas or altered the ejection pattern much of this cartridge fired out of a Wilson Combat rifle. Having run half a dozen suppressors with the 300 HAM'R, there has never been a need for an adjustable gas block or fine-tuning — a product of designing

**1**—THE TACTICAL HUNTER MODEL IS BUILT ON LIGHTWEIGHT BILLET-ALUMINUM RECEIVERS, MACHINED IN-HOUSE FROM A SOLID BLOCK OF BILLET ALUMINUM. THE LARGE, GROOVED PAD OF THE OVERSIZED WILSON COMBAT BULLETPROOF BOLT RELEASE IS A DEFINITE UPGRADE FROM MIL-SPEC. AN IMPRESSIVE AMOUNT OF IN-HOUSE-APPLIED ARMOR-TUFF FINISH OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE UPON ORDER — THIS RIFLE WAS SPEC'D OUT IN "OD GREEN WASTELAND CAMO".



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OUR OPTICS ARE READY FOR ANYTHING.



2 MOA GREEN DOT



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1

## WILSON COMBAT 300 HAM'R TACTICAL HUNTER

the rifle and caliber at the same time.

I suggest running the Controlled Chaos round for urban defense in general. Its all-copper design makes it perfect for this role, in either the 95 or 100-grain variants — soft shooting, very accurate, and impressive wound channels in gelatin. In my experience, the 125-grain bullets are the real sweet spot for hunting, although Bill Wilson and others have had excellent success with the 130 and even 150-grain projectiles, with similar downrange precision for all. Across the board, 300 HAM'R is accurate, reliable, stable, and very consistent no matter the bullet weight. You will need to use 300 BLK magazines, and the brand

of magazine does not seem to be an issue. A 5.56 magazine will work in a pinch, but only for a few rounds, so stick with 300 BLK magazines.

### BOTTOM LINE

WILSON COMBAT'S 300 HAM'R DELIVERS vastly improved terminal ballistics over 300 BLK without increasing size, weight, or requiring a bolt swap. Function of this test rifle — just like previous *On Target* test rifles in 300 HAM'R — was flawless. Wilson Combat can supply barrels, ammunition, uppers, and complete rifles. Ammunition selection improves every year with nearly a dozen different bullets currently available, ranging from 95 to 150-grains, many designed expressly for the 300 HAM'R. Stock can be spotty given our current situations, but it seems to always be there and without any price gouging.

1—FURNITURE CONSISTS OF A BCM HANDGRIP WITH THE WILSON COMBAT STARBURST TEXTURE PATTERN, AND AN ADJUSTABLE ROGERS/WILSON SUPER-STOC, FEATURING A UNIQUE AND REVERSIBLE CAM-LOCK LEVER TO LOCK IN YOUR LENGTH-OF-PULL POSITION, LONG AND EASY-TO-DEPRESS QUICK-RELEASE LEVER, DUAL QD SLING-SWIVEL CUPS, AND UNIVERSAL BUFFER-TUBE FITMENT.



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WILSON COMBAT 125 TNT	2500	.61 INCHES
WILSON COMBAT 135 GRAIN SPEER	2400	.65 INCHES

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FEET PER SECOND (FPS) MEASURED USING A MAGNETO SPEED V3. ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR THREE FIVE-ROUND GROUPS FIRED FROM 100 YARDS USING A BIPOD AS A REST FROM BEHIND A BENCH.

**1**— EVERY 300 HAM'R THE AUTHOR HAS TESTED HAS BEEN EXCEEDINGLY ACCURATE, AND THE TACTICAL HUNTER CERTAINLY DIDN'T PUT A STAIN ON THIS REPUTATION. THE BEST 100-YARD FIVE-SHOT GROUP FROM THE BENCH MEASURED 0.40-INCHES USING THE 95 GRAIN CONTROLLED CHAOS LOAD, WITH ALL OTHER LOADS — IN GRAIN WEIGHTS RANGING FROM 110 TO 135 — GIVING SUB-3/4-MOA PERFORMANCE. BULLET WEIGHT DID NOT CHANGE POINT-OF-IMPACT CONSIDERABLY, WHICH CAN BE VERY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR A MULTI-USE RIFLE.

Current 5.56mm rifles get the job done but remain anything but perfect, especially if your area of operation includes big critters or open spaces. The 300 HAM'R will do anything a .223 or 300 BLK, even a 6.8 SPC will do and a ton of stuff they won't. It's the closest so far to meeting what

**2**— FELT RECOIL OF THE 300 HAM'R IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF A 6.8 SPC OR 6.5 GRENDL — MORE THAN A TYPICAL .223/5.56MM BUT NOTHING RESEMBLING THE HIT FROM A .308 WINCHESTER. ADDING A SUPPRESSOR WILL SOFTEN THINGS A BIT, AND IN OUR EXPERIENCE, WILL DO NOTHING TO HINDER THE OUTSTANDING RELIABILITY OF THIS VERY WELL-ENGINEERED CARTRIDGE/RIFLE PLATFORM.

I wanted over two decades ago — an all-purpose carbine suitable for work, play, protection, or hunting, all in a lightweight and accurate package. See the complete line of Wilson Combat rifles, pistols, shotguns, ammunition, and accessories at your nearest dealer, or contact them directly at; Tel.: (800) 955-4856; Web: [WWW.WILSONCOMBAT.COM](http://WWW.WILSONCOMBAT.COM)



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HUNTER



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# SIGHTRON SIII

## PRECISION LONG RANGE SCOPE

IN THE OPTICS WORLD, IT'S ALL ABOUT GETTING MORE FOR YOUR MONEY

**S**IGHTRON'S NEWEST SCOPE LINE was designed for today's long-range precision shooter. The short story is that these SIII PLR (Precision Long Range) optics provide high quality and performance at a reasonable price. The 6-24x50mm version tested here uses a single piece 30mm aluminum tube and 50mm objective and has an overall length of 15.4 inches. There are three lighted reticles available to choose from in either MIL or MOA measurements. Markings on the tactical knobs are clear, easy to read, and bright. Tactical turrets utilize Sightron's ExacTrack windage and elevation adjustments for precise movement with 20-MOA per revolution. An internal zero stop that is tactile and audible ensures you never lose your starting point under pressure or stress. The 11-position side turret provides the proper brightness for any situation. Nitrogen charged, these are water-proof, fog-proof and Sightron's Zact-7 Revcoat Plus coating resists glare. Side focus goes down to 20 yards allowing for use on several calibers. Each scope ships with a 3-inch sunshade, lens covers, CR2032 battery, and tools for adjusting the turrets.

### MOA-H IR RETICLE

MY TEST SCOPE WAS EQUIPPED WITH the MOA-H IR reticle. Utilizing .25 MOA turret adjustments for elevation and windage, the MOA-H reticle provides ample measurements for elevation and windage, with 20 MOA total elevation and 10 MOA for wind. Dots are at 2 MOA increments and extend below the horizontal centerline providing wind holds at extended range in a tree-like shape. Lines above the centerline allow for fast transitions at various distances, and the side markings provide holds for movement. Mounted in the second focal plane, the measurements are calibrated at 24-power.

### TEST RIFLE

THE SCOPE WAS TESTED ON A Christensen Arms CA-10 G2 AR chambered in .308 WIN. Zeroed at 100 yards, it was tested on 12-inch round steel out to 600 yards. Conditions provided for a solid test for wind holds. Sightron's website offers a chart for the measurement changes on 6-power and proved dead on out to 300 yards and very close on 8-power out to 600 yards. Anything in between, and you need to

 DAVE BAHDE

 BEN BATTLES





**SIGHTRON SIII**  
PRECISION LONG RANGE SCOPE

**1**— SCOPES THESE DAYS ARE MUCH BETTER FOR THE MONEY THAN IN YEARS PAST, AND SIGHTRON’S NEWEST SCOPE LINE, THE SIII PLR (PRECISION LONG RANGE), IS DESIGNED FOR TODAY’S LONG-RANGE PRECISION SHOOTER AND TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE AT A REASONABLE PRICE. THE 6-24X50MM VERSION TESTED HERE USES A SINGLE PIECE 30MM ALUMINUM TUBE AND 50MM.

shoot at various powers and determine the holds given the magnification change.

Large extended lines were excellent for bracketing at various ranges. It was very easy to center the round target in the “box,” allowing for some surprising accuracy and pretty quick transitions. During testing, the farthest target was an IPSC silhouette at 1000 yards, and it held steady using the turrets. Out to 600 yards, it was possible to use the lines. If the plan is to reach out past 600 yards using the reticle, a 20 or 25 MOA rail would be a must, along with a longer zero range. The Mil version would probably be a better choice for longer distances. Out to 600 yards, the practical range of the test rifle’s caliber in an 18-inch AR was just fine.

Glass remained clear and easy to see at dawn and dusk and was very bright during daylight hours. There was no fogging — even on crisp Utah mornings. Turrets are very tactile, easy

SPECIFICATIONS:	
MAGNIFICATION:	6-24x
OBJECTIVE LENSE:	50MM
EYE RELIEF:	3.6 - 3.8 INCHES
FIELD OF VIEW:	16.1 - 3.9FT @ 100 YARDS
TUBE SIZE:	30MM
TURRET STYLE:	TACTICAL (RESETTABLE)
ZERO STOP:	YES
CLICK VALUE:	1.4 MOA @ 100 YARDS
MINUTES PER REVOLUTION:	20 MOA
MAX ELEVATION ADJUSTMENT:	100 MOA @ 100 YARDS
MAX WINDAGE ADJUSTMENT:	100 MOA @ 100 YARDS
PARALLAX SETTINGS:	20 YARDS TO INFINITY
FOCUS TYPE:	SIDE FOCUS
RETICLE TYPE:	MOA - HIR
FOCAL PLANE:	SECOND
ILLUMINATION:	YES
FINISH:	SATIN BLACK
WATERPROOF:	YES - IPX 7 RATED
ANTI-REFLECTION TECH:	ZACT-7 REVCOT PLUS MULTI-COATING
FOG PROOF:	YES
LENGTH:	15.4 INCHES
WEIGHT:	28.2 OZ

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1

## SIGHTRON SIII PRECISION LONG RANGE SCOPE

to see, and I could read them without my glasses. Illumination runs from very bright to almost dim.

### BOTTOM LINE

SCOPES THESE DAYS ARE MUCH better for the money than in years past. At \$1,325.00, this series is about in the middle of the price spectrum — not high cost by any means, but not inexpensive either. It is more about getting more for your money in optics, and this is an excellent example of just that. If you need tons of elevation adjustment, something with a 34mm tube will probably be required, but the SIII provides 100 MOA at 100 yards for both wind and elevation, which will get the job done for most

**1**— THE OVERSIZED TACTICAL TURRETS UTILIZE SIGHTRON'S EXACTRACK WINDAGE AND ELEVATION ADJUSTMENTS FOR PRECISE MOVEMENT, WITH 20-MOA PER REVOLUTION. AN INTERNAL ZERO STOP ENSURES YOU NEVER LOSE YOUR STARTING POINT UNDER PRESSURE AND ADJUSTMENT CLICKS ARE BOTH TACTILE AND AUDIBLE. HIGH-VISIBILITY MARKINGS ALLOW FOR QUICK AND POSITIVE SETTING IDENTIFICATION.

**2**— THE LEFT-SIDE TURRET PROVIDES FOCUS ADJUSTMENT (DOWN TO 20-YARDS) AS WELL AS AN 11-POSITION ILLUMINATION DIAL TO FINE-TUNE THE RETICLE BRIGHTNESS FOR ANY LIGHT CONDITION. AN AERO PRECISION ULTRALIGHT 30MM MOUNT WAS PUT TO WORK FOR TESTING.



2



# GALIL ACE GEN II PISTOL

The Galil ACE GEN II Pistol in either 5.56 NATO or 7.62x39 caliber is a continuation of the fan-favorite Galil ACE, created using real feedback from real customers using our gun in the field. Modeled after the legendary AK-47 and Valmet RK 62, the Galil family never stops improving. The new Galil ACE GEN II Pistol is 7lbs 5oz, with a shorter safety profile and throw, Free Float MLOK rail forearm, 30 round capacity, and an updated trigger profile. The GEN II also has a barrel length of 8.3" and an overall length of 27 5/8 with the brace collapsed.



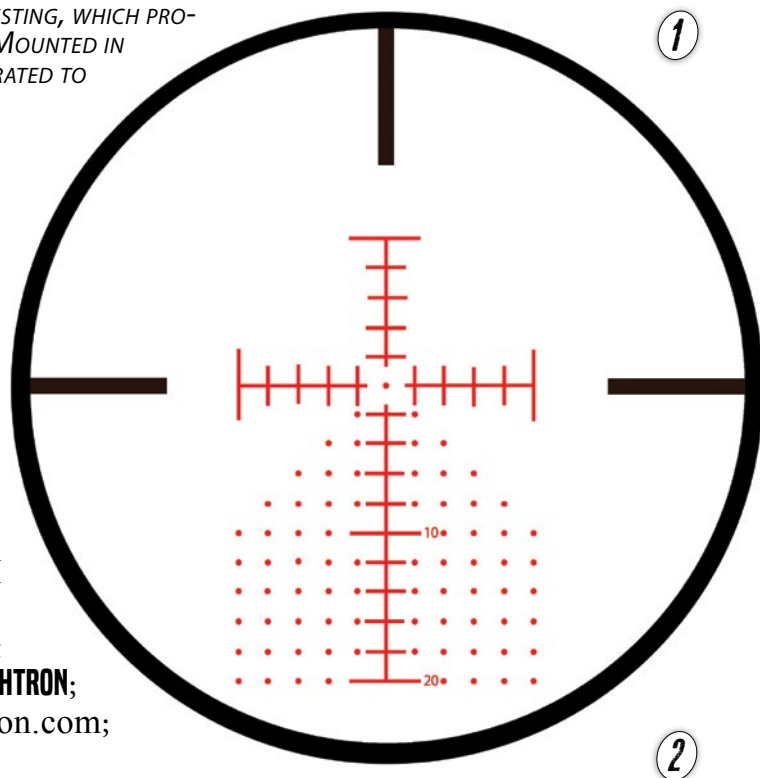
IWI.US  
\*OPTIC NOT INCLUDED



1—WE CHOSE THE VERSATILE MOA-H IR RETICLE FOR TESTING, WHICH PROVIDES AMPLE HASH MARKS FOR ELEVATION AND WINDAGE. MOUNTED IN THE SECOND FOCAL PLANE, THE MEASUREMENTS ARE CALIBRATED TO BE ACCURATE AT 24-POWER.

2—THE SCOPE BODY OF THE PLR SIII IS SHOCKPROOF, WATERPROOF, AND NITROGEN CHARGED. SIGHTRON'S ZACT-7 REVCOAT PLUS LENS COATING CLAIMS IMPROVED LIGHT TRANSMISSION AND OVERALL CLARITY, AND GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE GLASS IN ON TARGET'S TEST SCOPE WAS CRYSTAL CLEAR, WE'D SAY IT'S DOING SOMETHING INDEED.

people. Add a 20 MOA rail, and you are good to 1000 yards with most ammunition. The glass is clear, the reticle is versatile, and if you are in the market for a quality scope at a reasonable price, you will need to add this new Sightron SIII PLR to the high-probability list. See Sightron's complete line of optics at your nearest dealer, or for more information, contact **SIGHTRON**; Tel.: (919) 562-3000; E-mail: [info@sightron.com](mailto:info@sightron.com); Web: [WWW.SIGHTRON.COM](http://WWW.SIGHTRON.COM)



## SIGHTRON SIII

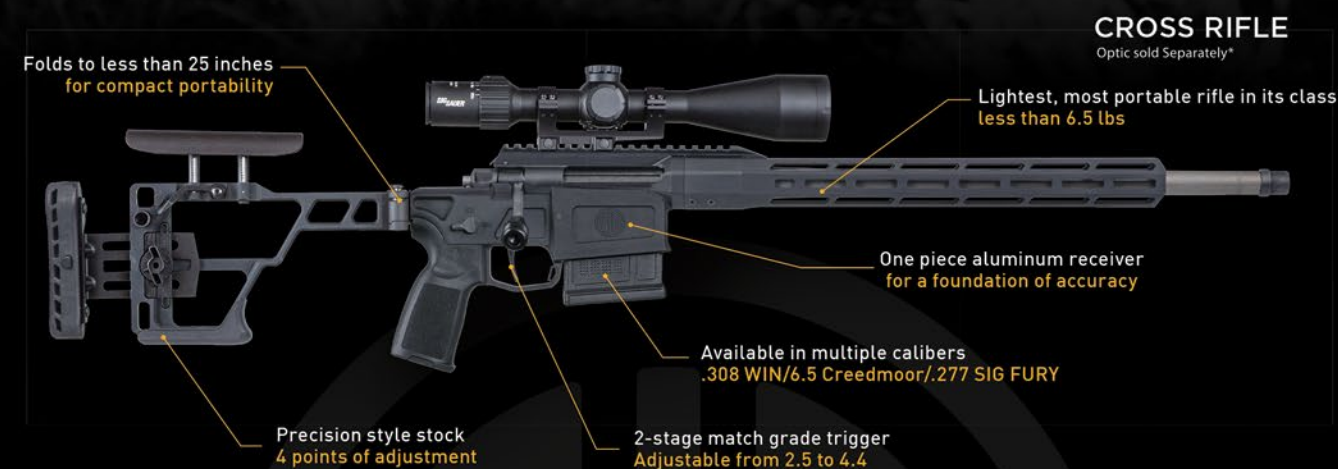
PRECISION LONG RANGE SCOPE



# HUNT LIKE A WARRIOR

## PRS PERFORMANCE BUILT FOR THE BACKCOUNTRY

Developed by hunters and elite long range shooters, the CROSS rifle is the first true crossover rifle designed to meet the demands of both long range competitive shooting and extreme backcountry hunters.



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**SIGSAUER**  
NEVER SETTLE





# SIG SAUER M400 SWITCHBLADE

THE MCX'S CLOSEST COUSIN IS SIG'S NEW LIGHTWEIGHT HOTROD IN THE M400 LINEUP

**S**IG SAUER SEEMINGLY STRUCK GOLD with the creation of its MCX series — nearly every first-world special operations element has taken an extreme interest, with the majority adopting it in some form or fashion. While most of those rifles see service chambered in the .300BLK caliber, many are also configured as 11.5-inch barreled 5.56 variants.

If you're looking for the most modular rifle in the world, get yourself an MCX — that is, if you can afford one and if you can find one for sale. If you are willing to settle for MCX-ish, the M400 Switchblade offers an unbeatable combination of MCX derived parts and desirable feature sets that equate to a lighter weight, close cousin, with a more simplistic direct-impingement operating system.



CHRIS MUDGETT



BEN BATTLES



SIG SAUER M400  
**SWITCHBLADE**



**BARREL**

STARTING WITH THE 11.5-INCH carbon steel barrel, you'll quickly notice a deep-black melonite finish (SIG calls it Nitron) that offers excellent corrosion resistance and a medium contour that is very similar to their Virtus model complete with said model's three-prong flash hider and tapered muzzle. The barrel features a 1:8 twist rate and will stabilize the

Please meet the M400 Switchblade. SIG dug deep into the MCX parts bin to assemble this little gem you see before you today. I'll cut right to the chase and say that if you're looking for a lightweight, direct impinge-

ment MCX with an 11.5-inch barrel chambered in 5.56 and don't think you'd ever use a folding stock or quick-change barrel system, this package is most certainly for you.

SPECIFICATIONS:	
TYPE:	GAS-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC
CALIBER:	5.56 NATO
BARREL:	11.5 IN., 1:8 IN. TWIST
OVERALL LENGTH:	30 IN.
WEIGHT:	6 LBS. 3 OUNCES
BRACE:	MAGPUL BSL
GRIP:	SIG SAUER
FINISH:	CERAKOTE ELITE, TITANIUM
CAPACITY:	20, 30 RDS.
MUZZLE DEVICE:	FLASH HIDER
TRIGGER:	SIG MATCHLITE DUO
SIGHTS:	NONE
MSRP:	\$1,399

**1**— SIG EQUIPS THE SWITCHBLADE WITH THEIR EXCELLENT TWO-STAGE MATCHLITE DUO TRIGGER, WHICH — EXCEPT FOR ITS NARROWER PROFILE — IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE ONE FOUND IN THE MCX CANEBRAKE MODEL. THE HUGE MAGWELL OPENING IS ALSO A TIP OF THE HAT TO THE MCX LINE. NOTE THE AMBI BOLT CATCH, WHICH IS EASILY MANIPULATED BY THE TRIGGER FINGER. WHILE THE TITANIUM CERAKOTE FINISH IS SIMILAR TO THE MATTE-CONCRETE COLORED FINISH OF THE MCX, IT DOES PRESENT A BIT BRIGHTER.

**2**—MCX INFLUENCES ON THE M400 SWITCHBLADE'S LOWER RECEIVER ARE GLARINGLY APPARENT AND QUITE BENEFICIAL AND INCLUDE THE LEFT-SIDE BOLT RELEASE PADDLE, THE AMBIDEXTROUS MAGAZINE RELEASE CONTROLS, AND AMBI SAFETY SELECTORS. SIG EVEN EQUIPS THE SWITCHBLADE WITH THE RATTLER PISTOL GRIP, WHICH MIGHT INDUCE SOME DEBATE DEPENDING ON HAND SIZE.







## SIG SAUER M400 SWITCHBLADE

THE SQUARED-OFF PROFILE OF THE SWITCHBLADE'S M-LOK FOREND IS REMINISCENT OF WHAT YOU'D FIND ON AN MCX AND DOES A GREAT JOB OF LOCKING IN YOUR SUPPORT HAND. THE THREE-PRONG FLASH HIDER IS DIRECTLY OUT OF THE MCX VIRTUS PARTS BIN AND IS ATTACHED TO AN 11.5-INCH, NITRON COATED BARREL WITH A 1:8 TWIST.

broadest projectile grain weight from 55- to 77-ish grains.

### HANDGUARD

THE FREE-FLOATING HANDGUARD offers more of a squared-off profile with flat sides and bottom that lock into the hand. Again, similar to its MCX cousin, yet far more ergonomic with a much slimmer, skinny feel, allowing for tremendous grip on the forend. As expected, it is fully M-LOK compatible, with slots at the traditional three, six, and nine, while also offering a pair of handy slots at 2:30 and 10:30 to help tuck a white light high and close to the top rail.

A twin locking clamp coupled with a very ridged rail ensures the latter won't flex, meaning a laser aiming device will remain zeroed, and field positional

shooting or sling supported shooting will have zero effect on your point of impact. It's a great system that locks up solid.

### UPPER

THE REST OF THE UPPER RECEIVER is pretty standard fare, with the exception of the ambidextrous charging handle that is very similar to the one found on legacy model MCX's, which is definitely a plus.

### LOWER

THE LOWER RECEIVER IS WHERE most of the special sauce was slathered on, and it's pure awesome. First, the lower is completely ambidextrous. The most notable improvement is the unique ambidextrous bolt catch. With the flick of your trigger finger, the bolt is re-

leased, while upward pressure will lock it rearward. Undoubtedly, most can quickly and easily manipulate a standard AR bolt catch with some instruction and practice, but the ambi bolt catch allows the firing hand to remain where it should always be — firmly in place around the pistol grip. This speeds up reloads and makes malfunction clearance far more efficient than a traditional AR, and for those reasons, make the upgrade a no-brainer.

The MCX influence on the lower receiver can't be ignored. From the left-side bolt release paddle to the ambidextrous magazine release controls, ambi safety selectors, and huge flared magwell — all are reminiscent of or pulled directly from the MCX. The Switchblade even

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY.  
**XD<sup>M</sup> ELITE**

I N T R O D U C I N G



**MM**  
**3.8" COMPACT**







**SIG SAUER M400  
SWITCHBLADE**

WE FOUND THAT THE MCX RATTLER PISTOL GRIP AND MAGPUL BSL ADJUSTABLE ARM BRACE THAT SIG OUTFITS THE SWITCHBLADE WITH WERE EITHER LIKED OR HATED. IF YOU FALL IN THE LATTER CAMP, LUCKILY, BOTH ARE EASY AND RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE TO REPLACE — ONE OF THE SHINING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AR PLATFORM ITSELF.

has a Rattler pistol grip.

SIG even included their excellent two-stage Matchlite Duo trigger, almost exactly like the one used in the MCX Canebrake model, albeit the former features a more slimline trigger shoe. Trigger pull is right around 4.5 lbs. While the titanium Cerakote finish isn't quite the concrete-colored finish of the MCX, it's quite close.

**PULLING  
THE TRIGGER**

THE AESTHETICS, QUALITY OF parts, and their functionality have been — without question

— nailed. So how does the pistol shoot? Just as you'd expect. Today, SIG's M400 platforms are among the best values in AR rifles and pistols and are proven performers. The Switchblade is no exception. The best groups came from the Black Hills Ammunition 69-grain MatchKing load, with a best five-shot group measuring 0.70-inches at 50-yards using Sig's own ROMEO4T solar-powered red-dot sight. Functionality was 100-percent.

**VERDICT**

NOW AS MUCH AS WE LOVE THIS

new M400 variant, the Switchblade isn't perfect. There are a handful of small items we'd like to see changed. The first we have no control over — the name. Switchblade is just kind of stupid — especially for a platform that we can see no possible relation to the original meaning, outside of possibly the color (and that's a stretch.) The second is the Rattler grip, which has already been tossed over the parts bin and directly into the trash can. Nothing but net. The third is the awful Magpul BSL brace, which totally sucks



**SIGHTRON**

PRECISION OPTICS

DON'T MISS ANYTHING

DUPLEX



MOA-3



MOA-2



Introducing the Sightron S-TAC Series 4-20x50mm and 3-16x42 30mm riflescopes, both 2nd image focal plane riflescopes with 1/4 MOA adjustments are ideal for varmint and predator hunting. The S-TAC series is built to last with a durable one-piece main-tube and all-weather construction. They feature SIGHTRON's proprietary Zact-7 multi-coating with precision ground lenses for a crisp clear picture, no matter what the magnification or conditions. S-TAC precision turrets are resettable to zero.

VARMINT + PREDATOR

**S-TAC**

**30mm TUBE**

4-20x50mm

3-16x42mm

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in every possible way. Its only redeeming quality is the fact that it's adjustable. An SB Tactical SBA3 will replace it shortly. Lastly, although we love the trigger break, we'd much prefer the wider shoe that comes with the MCX Canebrake, which is nearly identical-looking, minus the color. Many of these changes are obviously subjective; however, this is one of the many benefits of the AR-patterned platform — it's very much customizable to

PERFORMANCE:	BEST GROUP	AVERAGE GROUP
SIG SAUER 55-GRAIN FMJ .223 REM	0.80 INCHES	1.30 INCHES
WINCHESTER 55-GRAIN .223 REM	1.10 INCHES	1.50 INCHES
BLACK HILLS 69-GRAIN MATCHKING .223 REM	0.70 INCHES	0.80 INCHES

your particular tastes.

Outside of these minor complaints, SIG has a real winner on its hands with the Switchblade. It's a pistol that offers users everything they

could possibly want in a compact AR that is truly at the top of its class. If you're after a lightweight, direct-impingement MCX, this is the closest to it you can possibly get. See the new M400 Switchblade at your dealer, or contact **SIG SAUER**; Tel.: (603) 610-3000; Web: **SIGSAUER.COM**



**1**—SHOOTING THE SWITCHBLADE PRESENTED ZERO SURPRISES, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH EVERY M400 MODEL WE'VE EVER TESTED. IT HANDLED WELL, SHOT WELL, AND WAS 100-PERCENT RELIABLE. BEING LIGHTWEIGHT, HAVING A SMALL FOOTPRINT, AND BEING HIGHLY-STOWABLE, THE SWITCHBLADE WOULD MAKE FOR AN OUTSTANDING "TRUCK GUN" OPTION.

**2**—AT 50-YARDS, USING THE NON-MAGNIFIED SIG ROMEO4T SOLAR-POWERED RED-DOT SIGHT AND FIRING BLACK HILLS' 69-GR. MATCHKING LOAD, THE SWITCHBLADE TURNED IN A RESPECTABLE BEST-OF-TEST FIVE-SHOT GROUP MEASURING 0.70-INCHES.

**SIG SAUER M400**  
**SWITCHBLADE**





# The Wilson Combat Expansion

Bill Wilson Makes A Bold Investment  
In His Company's Future

✍ Dave Bahde

📷 Dave Bahde



# The Wilson Combat Expansion



**1**—RECENTLY ADDING 16,000 SQUARE FEET OF PRODUCTION SPACE, WITH ANOTHER 3,500 CURRENTLY IN THE WORKS, THE WILSON COMBAT COMPOUND HAS NOW GROWN TO AN IMPRESSIVE 97,700 SQUARE FEET.

GIVEN THE CURRENT DEMAND IN THE firearms industry, you would think most manufacturers would consider expansion a no-brainer, but unfortunately, the decision-making process is not that simple, as at least some of the increased demand has been politically generated, meaning it likely has a time-stamp. Our current president — who ran on an anti-gun platform — has

repeatedly stated that “no one needs an AR-15”, and recently attempted to appoint a gun control lobbyist to head the ATF (thankfully, without success); I’m not sure there’s ever been a better climate for driving gun sales. But, expanding based on politics can net some serious trouble, as evidenced by the last time companies expanded based on politics. On the other hand, demand

has also increased by a combination of more violence and the realization the police can’t help. Deciding to expand is a balancing act, and one of the companies with a proven record of this is Wilson Combat, led by its owner Bill Wilson. No one in the industry is less prone to building based on fads, and more grounded when it comes to investing in infrastructure. Given what

Wilson Combat has done with their current expansion, combined with their exemplary track record, my guess is demand for firearms will remain steady for some time to come.

## WILSON COMBAT

I HAVE BEEN FAMILIAR WITH WILSON Combat since the late 1990s when I used my first 1911 customized by



**2**—IF YOU DON’T HAVE THE SUPPLY TO MEET THE DEMAND, WHAT’S THE POINT? WITH ALL OF THE NEW INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE AND RUNNING AT FULL CAPACITY, BILL WILSON HOPES TO DO AWAY WITH BACKORDERS ALTOGETHER.

**3 AND 4**—AR RECEIVERS — STARTING FROM A SOLID BLOCK OF ALUMINUM TO A FINISHED PRODUCT UNDER ONE ROOF — ARE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WILSON COMBAT’S GOAL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND NOT RELYING ON OUTSIDE VENDORS FOR PRODUCT (OUTSIDE OF RAW MATERIALS.) **5**—A COMPLETED ROW OF AR9 PISTOL’S READY TO SHIP. THE SUPPLY-CHAIN ISSUES BROUGHT ON BY THE COVID APOCALYPSE — ESPECIALLY REVOLVING AROUND ANYTHING “BLACK GUN” — ARE SOMETHING WILSON COMBAT IS LOOKING TO CIRCUMVENT ALTOGETHER MOVING FORWARD.



**3**



**4**



**5**





along with housing the ammunition factory, and pales in comparison to the newer facility. Adding 16,000 square feet and more than doubling your staff to 242 is substantial and costly, to the tune of roughly ten million dollars. Another 3500 square feet of building is in the process right now, which, when finished, will result in 96,700 square feet of space and a facility encompassing 300 acres. Not bad for a guy that started a little gunsmithing business in the back of his dad's jewelry shop.

### IT'S ALL ABOUT SUPPLY

HAVING WORKED IN THIS INDUSTRY UNDER several positions, one common thread is the ability to meet demand. Supply involves two factors: the ability to supply your customers with finished product, and — more importantly — secure the parts necessary to complete the product. In many cases, it's that latter that gums up the works — not just in our Pandemic starved world, but a constant issue in this business. Wilson Combat has a wall full of rifles waiting to be completed that are just minus a few parts that have yet

to be supplied. And the more you depend on others to meet those needs, the greater the issue. Solution: build everything in-house.

A costly up-front measure for sure, but in the long run, it increases the likelihood that you can deliver a finished product in a timely manner and ensures the level of quality that customers demand. Wilson Combat has reached the point where everything but a very small amount of parts (mostly pins and springs) are made right there on the property. At full capacity, Bill Wilson commented that he hopes to have stock on the shelves and nothing on the website back-ordered. A tall order, but one I expect will be accomplished within a few months.

### WHAT'S NEW

THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE IS THE ADDITION of the state of the art machines in rather large numbers. Having had a hand in putting together a facility like this, it is no easy task and a far cry from the benches and couple machines observed in 2010.

The barrel facility alone is capable of manufacturing finished barrels from bar stock, not

**1**—A LARGE PORTION OF BILL WILSON'S INVESTMENT IN THE COMPANY'S FUTURE WAS IN HIGH-TECH/HIGH-END (READ EXPENSIVE) MACHINERY TO ADD NOT ONLY PRODUCTION OUTPUT BUT A HIGH LEVEL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

AUDIO PROCESSING SO COMFORTABLE AND CLEAR, YOU'LL FORGET TO TAKE IT OFF.

It's the first hearing protection in the shooting sports with active noise cancellation, featuring sound compression technology and less than one millisecond reaction time. The Bluetooth-enabled, omnidirectional microphones and HD speakers deliver crystal-clear, natural sound. Acoustic foam keeps you comfortable through extended shooting sessions. Plus, rechargeable lithium-ion batteries deliver 12 hours of run time.

See all Vanquish models and colors at [CHAMPIONTARGET.COM](http://CHAMPIONTARGET.COM)

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OWN THE RANGE™

## SHORT AND SWEET WITH FLAIR TO SPARE

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**2" Barrel**  
Black Oxide Finish  
Gray Pearl Grips  
3" Model Available

**3" Barrel**  
Case Hardened Finish  
Wood Scrolls Grips  
2" Model Available

### NEW BARKEEP™

The single-action Barkeep™ comes chambered with the 22 LR cylinder and is also compatible with an interchangeable 22 WMR cylinder. Built for optimal concealability in a light and portable package, the Barkeep™ boasts fixed open sights for fast action and a clean sight picture.

Check with your local dealer or visit [HERITAGEMFG.COM](http://HERITAGEMFG.COM)

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The  
Wilson Combat  
Expansion

blanks. Everything from drilling, rifling, profiling, and finishing is completed by Wilson, virtually eliminating dependence on outside suppliers. Small parts like triggers and internals are handled by several EDM machines that can cut with incredible precision, and receivers are precision machined using the latest in multi-axis CNC.

Coating is done in-house, and the new building will add automation to much of the coating process. All are

run by professionals, programmed by engineering staff and quality checked for precision, accuracy, and consistency using the latest laser measuring devices. Wilson Combat has moved into the 21st Century, while all the while, preparing for the next one.

#### HAND BUILT AND TEST-FIRED FIREARMS

FOR ALL THE STATE-OF-THE-ART facilities, each firearm is assembled one at a time by true craftsman. Order a

pistol and the parts are placed in a bin that holds the components from start to finish.

Moving between stations, each process is completed by hand by a trained gunsmith, largely with hand tools. Super Grade pistols remain the product of a single highly experienced craftsman using the best-made components.

Every pistol is fired by hand at paper targets for accuracy without the aid of fixtures. Wilson Combat rifles have

**1, 2 AND 3**—FROM DRILLING AND RIFLING BLANK STOCK TO PROFILING AND EVEN THE LASER ENGRAVING, WILSON COMBAT HAS THE CAPABILITY TO MANUFACTURE BARRELS FROM START TO FINISH, WHICH NOT ONLY ENSURES SUPPLY BUT THE QUALITY OF THE END PRODUCT.

3



# STAND OUT FROM THE REST



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**1**—FIREARM COATING? YOU GOT IT — ALSO DONE IN-HOUSE. **2**—A BATCH OF WILSON COMBAT'S OUTSTANDING EDCX9 DOUBLE-STACK PISTOL FRAMES BEING INSPECTED PARTWAY THROUGH THE MACHINING PROCESS. **3**—TEST FIRING FOR FUNCTION AND ACCURACY IS DONE BY HAND — A PROCESS EVERY FIREARM GOES THROUGH BEFORE IT LEAVES THE WILSON COMBAT FACTORY.

been the single most consistently accurate brand I've tested in the last 13 years, and in fact, I have never owned, tested, or reviewed a Wilson Combat product that was not accurate, reliable, and dependable out of the box and thousands of rounds later. A big part of that is an insistence on fine-tuning, attention to detail, and hands-on testing.

#### AMMUNITION

WILSON COMBAT REMAINS A PREMIUM ammunition manufacturer, producing most all of the popular calibers. Ammunition for practice, defense, duty, and hunting are all loaded to extremely consistent levels. Even during the shortage, Wilson has been able to maintain a steady supply to their customers of most calibers. During the last four pistol reviews I have completed, Wilson Combat ammunition using Barnes bullets has proven to be the most accurate for groups. Rifle ammunition is always consistent and as accurate as the platform (including the shooter) will allow, and Wilson Combat's own in-house-designed .300 HAMR ammunition is some of the most consistently accurate I've ever used. Much of their hunting- and defense ammunition is favored by professionals. With ammunition production, Bill Wilson brings decades of hunting, shooting, competition,



# SAR9C JOINS THE FAMILY



**SAR9C**  
THE PERFECT BLEND OF CONCEALABILITY  
AND SHOOTABILITY

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Imported by SAR USA  
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**1**—ALONG WITH TOP-SHELF FIREARMS, WILSON COMBAT ALSO MANUFACTURES ITS OWN LINE OF PRECISION AMMUNITION. EVEN DURING THE COVID SHORTAGE, WILSON WAS ABLE TO KEEP MOST OF THE POPULAR CALIBERS IN STOCK AND READY TO SHIP TO THEIR CUSTOMERS.  
**2**—A COORDINATE MEASURING MACHINE CONDUCTING A DIMENSIONAL QUALITY CONTROL CHECK ON AN AR BOLT CARRIER. WILSON'S COMMITMENT TO QUALITY, RELIABILITY, AND PERFORMANCE REMAINS AT THE TOP OF THE PRIORITY LIST.

and gunsmithing experience to the table, insisting it works as intended, often proven in the field before it ever sees the shelves.

### BOTTOM LINE

OVER THE LAST DECADE, I HAVE had the privilege of touring many firearms manufacturing facilities both in the United States and abroad. Some are larger, but none are more modern or focused on the task at hand than Wilson Combat's current plant. Many companies jump into a new facility like this with machines they "know" or are known by the engineer. Unfortunately, they are often better suited to the operator than the task at hand. Everything in Wilson's new facility was chosen to be the best at its job, whatever that job may be. Bill Wilson has always been focused on what works



and what will succeed, and if this facility is any indication, Wilson Combat is going to be at the top of its game for a long time! See the current crop of Wil-

son Combat firearms and accessories at your dealer, or for more information, contact **WILSON COMBAT**; Tel.: (800) 955-4856; Web: [WWW.WILSONCOMBAT.COM](http://WWW.WILSONCOMBAT.COM)

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## A graphic with a dark, textured background. The letters 'AR' are large and stylized in a light grey, blocky font. To the right of 'AR', the text 'New-For-2021' is written in a white, cursive script. Below that, 'Gear &amp; Accessories' is written in a larger, white, cursive script. At the bottom right, 'By Chris Mudgett' is written in a smaller, white, cursive script.

*By Chris Mudgett*





Birchwood Casey AR-15 Cleaning Kit • New For '21 AR Gear & Accessories • SIG Sauer SLX & SLH Suppressors



## SIG SAUER *SLX & SLH Suppressors*

(From \$700)

WHEN SIG SAUER ENTERED THE suppressor market about eight years ago, it sent ripples across the market. The industry, at the time, was in a race to the top to see which manufacturer could out price the next, raising their prices to ludicrous levels in an attempt to appear more competitive. SIG was having none of that and priced their suppressors in the mid-range price tier, all while providing tubeless construction, state-of-the-art baffles, and technologically advanced materials. SIG further rubbed its competitor's noses in the dirt by scooping up some very prestigious do-

mestic and export military contracts along the way, leaving these same competitors scratching their heads, wondering what just happened. The talent working in SIG's suppressor division was the who's who from engineer to product manager.

Much of that same talent remains, and they are firmly committed to SIG's dominance in the suppressor market. Two new lines have been introduced, known as the SLX (SIG Low-toX) and SLH (SIG Low-toX Hybrid) line. The SLX series of rifle suppressors feature a new Clutch-LOK QD mounting system that is easy to use, repeatable, and highly durable. It also won't carbon lock in place.

The internal multi-flow path within the SLX suppressors allows gasses to exhaust at a faster rate than traditional baffle-style suppressors. This means a 70-80% reduction in toxic fumes flowing back into the shooter's face through the ejection port. The SLX series is a performance-based suppressor designed for use with supersonic ammunition and is ideal for those putting a premium on flash reduction and reduction of toxic fumes.

The SLH series of rifle suppressors also features the new Clutch-LOK QD mounting system and an internal multi-flow path with a focus on sound reduction while also reducing up to 50% of the toxic fumes venting through the ejection port and charging handle area. The SLH is ideal for users who use both supersonic and subsonic ammunition and are optimized for sound reduction. Much more on the SLX and SLH to come. Contact **SIG SAUER**; Tel.: 603-610-3000; Web: [SIGSAUER.COM](http://SIGSAUER.COM)

## BIRCHWOOD CASEY

*AR-15 Cleaning Kit* (\$29.99)

NOBODY LIKES CLEANING THEIR AR-pattern rifles, including us. When we do, however, Birchwood Casey has become a solid tool option. What we like most about the 22-piece kit is the form factor. Everything in the kit has a place, and each piece is visible through a transparent plastic lid. At a quick glance, you'll know whether or not the kit has what you're looking for — far better than a snap-close nylon bag most of us have relied upon that rarely has precisely what we're

looking for, even after spreading its contents across your shooting bench.

The 22-piece kit includes a variety of brushes, rod sections, picks, scrapers, chamber swabs, and an ergonomic handle. All the kit requires is some carbon cleaner and lube, which your range bag should already contain.

See it at your dealer or contact **BIRCHWOOD CASEY**; Telephone: 877-269-8490; Web: [BIRCHWOODCASEY.COM](http://BIRCHWOODCASEY.COM)



# RELENTLESS

PERFORMANCE EYEWEAR  
RUGGED PERFORMANCE.  
RELENTLESS CLARITY.





# SEEKING PRECISION

**MRAS MLOK Rails** (From \$60)

WE'VE QUICKLY BECOME HUGE FANS OF SEEKINS Precision rifles and accessories, and we are far from the only ones. Seekins has a diverse customer base extending from high-level competitors to the who's who in US Special Operations. A team of sought-after industry vets and former special operators are led by Glen Seekins in a mission never to stop innovating and to continue to push the envelope of what's possible in the precision game.

Seekins MRAS rails recently caught our eyes due to the quality of construction, skeletonized surface, and sheer rigidity in such a lightweight rail section.

The MRAS provides shooters with a strong, durable, and lightweight rail that is easily attached to any MLOK handguard. The MRAS' unique scalloped design reduces overall weight and features integrated MLOK slots for easy attachment of other shooting aids. The MRAS makes the ideal shooting accessory attachment,

whether using its flat surface to stabilize off an object located in the field or quickly attaching a tripod/bipod for precision in any environment. The MRAS rail sections are designed to work in conjunction with Seekins' excellent MRAC. More on the features and benefits of this combo in a future issue. See them at your nearest dealer or contact **SEEKINS PRECISION**; Tel.: 208-743-3400; Web: [SEEKINSPRECISION.COM](http://SEEKINSPRECISION.COM)



## BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION

**300 Whisper Loads** (From \$35)

**BLACK HILLS IS CONSTANTLY AT THE FOREFRONT OF** legitimate ammunition development. While everyone else is struggling to obtain components to load legacy ammunition, Black Hills continues to innovate. New for 2021 BHA is releasing, among other loads, a pair of new 300 Blackout loads under its Dual Performance line; the 115-grain supersonic and a trick, expanding 198-grain subsonic load that we are very excited about. Traditionally, subsonic 300BLK loads impacted targets like spicy .45 ACP FMJ loads. This new 198-grain load not only expands to provide solid terminal performance after expansion, but three expanded petals separate from the shank of the projectile to cut three separate wound tracks — further increasing terminal effectiveness. This is achieved thanks to CNC machined solid copper projectiles designed and produced by Lehigh Defense for Black Hills. See it at your local dealer, or for more information contact **BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION**; Tel.: (605)348-5150; web: [BLACK-HILLS.COM](http://BLACK-HILLS.COM)



# RIDGELINE SCOUT

THE RIDGELINE SCOUT COMBINES ALL THE BEST FEATURES OF THE RIDGELINE INTO A NEW, COMPACT SCOUT RIFLE.

Additional features include a Black-Nitride® coated action, 0-MOA optic rail, barricade stop, 10-rd AICS drop-box magazine, and a flat-shoe Trigger Tech® trigger all in a tan and black carbon fiber composite Sporter stock. The 16" barrel with a removable 3-prong flash hider make the Ridgeline Scout an ideal suppressor host.



[CHRISTENSENARMS.COM/RIDGELINE-SCOUT](http://CHRISTENSENARMS.COM/RIDGELINE-SCOUT)





# REAL AVID Master Gun Vise

(From \$299.99)

EVERY HOUSEHOLD CAN FIND MORE THAN a few uses for a good table vise, however, your hardware store special is not exactly what we'd consider ideally suited for gun plumbing — but a fix is in. The innovator of gun tools, Real Avid, knows this all too well and has created a multi-axis bench mount vise. Just as the name implies, this multi-axis vise

allows you to quickly reposition your gun to any orientation without ever removing it from the vise — a very handy feature. The vise operates on an articulating ball and socket joint that is quickly tensioned with a speed-cam compression lever. When applying heavy force, simply insert the Torq-Lok pin to fully lock the vise in place. The removable and reversible Gun-Fit jaw sleeves offer padded sides to protect wood stocks and forends and can be used for a specific gun grip or turn the leveling knob for simple scope mounting, leveling, and much more. Contact REAL AVID; Tel.: (800) 286-0567; Web: [REALAVID.COM](http://REALAVID.COM)



# SWAGGER Shooter Series Bipods

(\$200-\$250)

WITHOUT QUESTION, AN ADJUSTABLE BIPOD MAKES precision shooting quite a bit easier. New for 2021, Swagger Bipods launched two new bipods to make you more stable, whether on the bench or afield. First up (and pictured) is the SFR10 (Flex to Rigid) quick-detach bipod that is adjustable from 6-inches to 10.5-inches. Weighing in at just 15.2 ounces, this quick detach bipod offers adjustable flexible tension, allowing the shooter to fine-tune leg flexibility to better conform to those uneven surfaces found in the field. If you're shooting off a more stable platform such as a bench, the bipod legs can be adjusted to a rigid setting. The SFR10 attaches to your rifle via Picatinny rail mount, and the legs can be adjusted to a 45-degree angle for a lower shooting position.

The second bipod for 2021 is the SEA12 (Extreme Angle 12-inch), which as the name partially implies, features legs that are adjustable up to 12-inches in length. 9- to 12-inches, to be exact. The SEA12 is more of a traditional bipod that isn't as full-featured as its SFR10 brethren but is no slouch either. The overmolded flex-ready joint offers a stable shooting platform and can be effectively loaded without fear of snapping a leg. The SEA12 is ideally suited to hunters and competitors who anticipate more extreme shooting angles and are looking for a bit of weight savings. The suggested retail price is \$200. Contact SWAGGER; Tel.: 308-675-3017; Web: [SWAGGERBIPODS.COM](http://SWAGGERBIPODS.COM)



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# MTM CASE-GARD

30-cal. Ammo Can Tray (\$12)

MOST OF US USE AMMO CANS FOR MORE THAN JUST STORING ammunition — and why not — they're durable, moisture-resistant, virtually crush-proof, and most importantly, cheap. They also happen to stack extremely well. Knowing these benefits all-to-well, MTM has created an ammo can tray specifically for use with the popular .30 cal. metal cans.

The Ammo Can Tray will securely hold four cans, and thanks to ergonomic handles, carrying a loaded down package around the garage or to and from the truck couldn't get any easier. The large flat tray bottom makes stacking ammo cans even secure, nesting onto the top of each ammo can, giving you the ability to stack them tall without fear of toppling. Best of all is they're made here in the USA, which means no shipping delays, and MTM continues to put talented American's to work here at home. See it at your dealer or contact **MTM CASE-GARD**; Tel.: 937-890-7461; web: [MTMCASE-GARD.COM](http://MTMCASE-GARD.COM)

# LEUPOLD

Mark 3HD 1.5-4x20

(\$From \$499.99)

THE MARK 3HD IS BUILT FOR TACTICAL shooters looking for a rugged, precise, and repeatable MIL-based scope for their AR-style rifle. The 1.5-4x20mm model provides a wide field of view while also allowing for precise, close- to mid-range shots. Like everything Leupold makes, the Mark 3HD offers precise turrets and boasts incredibly clear glass. For an additional \$200, the Mark 3HD 1.5-4x can be had with the company's excellent Firedot illuminated reticle, which is scorching bright, just as the name implies. We love the fact that it offers red dot-like illumination levels, while the etched reticle itself lends well to ranging, and the BDC provides effective holds for elevation changes. Plug your data into your ballistic app like iStrellok, and you'll have accurate holds for your rifle in no time.

The Mark 3HD is a 1.5x scope on the low end; however, when eye relief is properly set when mounting the optic, the extra half power of magnification didn't slow us down. The 30mm tube sits well in popular one-piece mounts, and its integrated throw-lever makes magnification changes a snap. We wish more companies offered this feature. Lastly, the Mark 3HD is built around Leupold's Elite Optical System, offering fantastic light transmission, glare reduction, and resolution that diehard hunters and shooters demand for all-day performance. We've mounted ours on 10/22's to big bore hunting ARs and everything in-between — it's earned its place as a staple among our preferred general-purpose optic choices. See it at your nearest dealer or for more information contact **LEUPOLD**; Tel.: (800) LEUPOLD; Web: [LEUPOLD.COM](http://LEUPOLD.COM)



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# SAFARILAND *Liberator HP 2.0 Earpro* (\$299.99-\$454.99)

JUST LIKE HOLSTERS, FINDING THE RIGHT ELECTRONIC hearing protection can be a chore, with a lot of trial and error before you get it right. You can skip the experimentation and snag a set of Safariland Liberator HP 2.0 earpro (\$299.99 to \$454.99), some of the most comfortable ear protection we've used. Aside from excellent sound quality and a super comfortable headband, the Liberators can be powered by either a single CR123 or a pair of common AAA batteries, up to 300 hours. Proprietary high-def speakers and dual ambient microphones allow 360-degree situational awareness, while integrated active noise cancelation, or ANC, has been integrated into the Liberator. Three different modes can be selected (Enhanced Mode, Move Mode and Clarity Mode) to block or enhance different sound frequencies and impulses. Smart earpro, and we like 'em. Contact **SAFARILAND**; Tel.: (800) 347-1200; Web: [WWW.SAFARILAND.COM](http://WWW.SAFARILAND.COM)



# AERO PRECISION

*EPC Components* (\$Varies)

AERO PRECISION IS JUMPING INTO THE EXPANDING world of pistol caliber carbines (PCC) and making an instant splash with its all-new EPC, or Enhanced Pistol Caliber build components. EPC receiver sets share a number of features with Aero's flagship M4E1 line, which is a good thing. The EPC lower receiver will use indus-

try standard Glock-pattern magazines and is compatible with most AR15 barrel nut/handguard combinations, including Aero's own Atlas line. EPC barrels will be available in 9mm and .40 S&W to start, with four different barrel lengths ranging from 5.5-inches out to 16-inches in both pistol and rifle variants. Finally, bolt carrier group's, lower parts kits, furniture and more are all available on the Aero site to complete your custom build. For more information contact **AERO PRECISION**; Tel.: (253)272-8188; web: [WWW.AEROPRECISION.COM](http://WWW.AEROPRECISION.COM)



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Waterproof, dustproof and just about bombproof, it's engineered to get on target in any situation. The aircraft-grade aluminum housing is torture tested and proven to hold zero through extreme abuse, like a drop onto concrete mounted to a standard-sized, fully loaded pistol. The night-vision-compatible and daylight bright 4-MOA dot cuts through every lighting condition, with a true-tone multi-coated lens that boasts over 90% light transmission without blue and purple hues that can hinder low light target acquisition. Compatible with DeltaPoint slide-cuts, optics-ready plates, and the included Weaver-style rail mount to fit nearly any small-arms platform. The RXS-250 is ready for anything.



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SPEER'S GOLD DOT LINE IS THE DUTY LOAD OF CHOICE BY LAW enforcement agencies throughout the world. While best known for its service pistol loads, the Gold Dot line expands to include .223 Rem, 300BLK & .308 Win options in common grain weights. The .223 Rem will be available in 55-, 62-, and 75-grain variants, while 300 BLK and .308 Win share a 150-grain projectile, only the latter is pushed about 1,000 feet per second faster than the other.

These premium loads are optimized for barrel lengths shorter than

**Gold Dot .223 Rem. 300BLK & .308 Win**  
(\$31.99-\$38.99)

16-inches and use exclusive Uni-Core projectiles designed to eliminate core-jacket separation, allowing the bullet jacket and core to stay together to provide nearly 100 percent weight retention, even when shot through most intermediate barriers. Gold Dot has a proven track record for incredible accuracy and produces the desired penetration level for personal defense situations without over penetrating. The bullet nose profile, nickel-plated case, and high-performance primer provide the ultimate in function and reliability in semiautomatic rifles and should be atop your list of defensive loads. Grab some at your nearest dealer or for more info. contact **SPEER AMMUNITION**; Tel.: (877) 426-7849; Web: [SPEER.COM](http://SPEER.COM)

the buttstock straight down against the ground) while simultaneously pulling rearward on the charging handle, using gravity and momentum to force the stuck case from the chamber.

As mentioned, this is the traditional method. Springfield Armory engineers thought about this and decided to develop a safer, more effective means of clearing a stuck case, and the LevAR was born.

The LevAR functions as a standard charging handle with a larger gripping surface — and with the push of a button — allows a lever arm to swing outward. The longer

the lever, the greater the leverage. With the extended lever deployed, you receive an approximately 3:1 mechanical advantage over a traditional T-handle, allowing you to skip the mortaring while also pointing your gun in a safer direction than the sky. With COVID ammo hitting the shelves, we predict the LevAR to be a hot seller and used regularly. See it at your nearest dealer or contact **SPRINGFIELD ARMORY**; Tel.: (800) 680-6866; Web: [SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM](http://SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM)

## SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

**LevAR Charging Handle** (\$99)

IF YOU'VE EVER HAD A CASE STUCK IN THE CHAMBER OF YOUR AR-15, you are no doubt familiar with the traditional method of clearing said malfunction. If you're not, here's a quick lesson: first and foremost, don't forget to collapse your buttstock fully. Next, with the barrel pointing skyward, grasp the forend with one hand and the charging handle with the other. Lift the platform about six inches off the ground before mortaring it (slamming

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## CHRISTENSEN ARMS CA-10 G2

THE CARBON-FIBER INNOVATORS TAKE THE AR10 PLATFORM  
TO THE LIMIT OF LIGHTWEIGHT PERFORMANCE

**M**Y FIRST TEST OF A CHRISTENSEN ARMS CA-10 WAS IN 2014. VERY few carbon-fiber barreled ARs existed, even fewer in .308 Win. Testing yielded none of the “issues” the critics were throwing out at the time; it was accurate, reliable, and very lightweight. They also built a 6.5 Creedmoor upper for me that still sits on a CA-10 lower I built at the time. A very capable hunter, it still reigns as one of the most accurate AR10’s in my inventory. During testing the CA-10 G2 model seen here, the latest crop of Christensen Arms rifles proved to be just as accurate, and they remain one of the lightest AR10-style rifles you can get your hands on. One of the first companies to wrap an inner stainless-steel bar-

 **DAVE BAHDE**

 **BEN BATTLES**



# CHRISTENSEN ARMS CA-10 G2



rel in carbon fiber, they also remain one of the few to use carbon fiber handguards.

## CARBON FIBER INNOVATORS

CHRISTENSEN ARMS EXEMPLIFIES what hard work, innovation, and determination can get you in America. Dr. Roland Christensen began making carbon-fiber parts for the aerospace industry in his garage. As that progressed, he also began making carbon-fiber medical devices. As an avid hunter and target shooter, Dr. Christensen decided to apply his technology to rifles by manufacturing one of the first carbon-fiber-wrapped barrels for bolt action rifles. Along with precision rifle barrels for bolt actions, the company now makes complete, lightweight precision-AR rifles — all of which are built in-house at their state-of-the-art facility

in Gunnison, Utah. With decades of experience — making everything from prosthesis to aircraft cockpits out of carbon fiber — they are true innovators in this industry.

## CHRISTENSEN ARMS CA-10 G2

THE CA-10 G2 UTILIZES AN 18-INCH barrel and weighs 7.2 pounds overall, which is just slightly heavier than a standard M4 carbine chambered in 5.56mm. Considering the rifle's upper and lower receivers are made from a single billet of aluminum, this weight reduction remains impressive, even today. Most of the CA-10's weight savings are found in the carbon-fiber-wrapped barrel. The barrel starts from a solid piece of 416R stainless

steel. It is then bored, rifled, contoured, and given a match chamber in-house. Both the contour and carbon-fiber wrapping process are well-guarded secrets. The barrel's 1-in-10-

inch twist rate is designed for stabilizing the most popular .308 bullets, and the muzzle features 5/8 x 24 threading for adding a brake, sound suppressor, or other muzzle devices. My test rifle came with a three-pronged flash hider installed. Available with either KeyMod or M-Lok attachment points at 3, 6, and 9 o'clock, the carbon-fiber handguard is 15-inches long with a full-length Picatinny top rail. A short bottom-mounted Picatinny rail at the very front accommodates bipods and other devices.

The billet upper receiver houses a nitride-coated bolt carrier, an A2 style charging handle and is minus the forward assist. The billet lower receiver features an extended trigger guard housing for gloved hands, flared mag-well, and a high-cut grip. Christensen Arms uses a match-grade trigger with a crisp 3.5 to 4-pound pull weight. The stock is a BCM Gunfighter.

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## SPECIFICATIONS:

CALIBER/GAUGE:	.308 WIN.
BARREL:	18-INCH CARBON WRAPPED STAINLESS STEEL, 1-10 TWIST
OA LENGTH:	33.5 INCHES
WEIGHT:	7 POUNDS 2 OUNCES
SIGHTS:	FLAT TOP RAIL
STOCKS/GRIPS:	BCM STOCK AND GRIP
ACTION:	ROTATING BOLT DIRECT IMPINGEMENT
FINISH:	CERAKOTE
CAPACITY:	STANDARD AR 10 MAGAZINE CAPACITIES.
PRICE:	\$3,199



BUILT IN-HOUSE IN GUNNISON, UTAH — AND WITH DECADES OF EXPERIENCE MAKING EVERYTHING FROM PROSTHESIS TO AIRCRAFT COCKPITS OUT OF CARBON FIBER — THE CA-10 G2'S 18-INCH CARBON-FIBER-WRAPPED STAINLESS-STEEL BARREL CUTS WEIGHT CONSIDERABLY WITHOUT CUTTING PERFORMANCE. THE BARREL IS TOPPED WITH A STAINLESS 3-PRONG FLASH HIDER AND SHROUDED BY A LIGHTWEIGHT, 15-INCH CARBON-FIBER HANDGUARD. MDT'S NEW LIGHTWEIGHT CKYE-POD BIPOD IS ATTACHED USING THE NEW SEEKINS PRECISION MRAS M-LOK MOUNT.



# CHRISTENSEN ARMS CA-10 G2

BOTH UPPER AND LOWER RECEIVERS ARE MACHINED FROM 7075 BILLET ALUMINUM AND ARE TREATED TO A BLACK NITRIDE FINISH AS STANDARD. THE LOWER IS GIVEN AN INTEGRAL, UNDERCUT TRIGGER GUARD, FLARED MAGAZINE WELL, A SINGLE-STAGE MATCH-GRADE TRIGGER WITH A CRISP 3.5 TO 4-POUND PULL WEIGHT, AND A 15-DEGREE HOGUE VERTICAL POLYMER GRIP.



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CHRISTENSEN ARMS  
CA-10 G2

RIDING IN THE UPPER IS A PREMIUM-GRADE NITRIDE-COATED BOLT CARRIER GROUP. TAKING UP THE REAR OF THE RIFLE IS AN ADJUSTABLE BCM GUNFIGHTER BUTT-STOCK. SIGHTRON'S NEW SIII PRECISION LONG RANGE 6-24X SCOPE, WHICH YOU CAN READ ABOUT ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE, WAS MOUNTED USING AN AERO PRECISION ULTRALIGHT 30MM MOUNT.



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**1**—BEING A CUSTOM-BUILT RIFLE PRODUCED IN-HOUSE ON STATE-OF-THE-ART MACHINERY USING STATE-OF-THE-ART PROCEDURES, CA-10 G2'S SHOOTABILITY, RELIABILITY, AND PERFORMANCE REFLECT THIS. THERE WERE ZERO MALFUNCTIONS DURING TESTING. THIS PARTICULAR CHRISTENSEN OFFERING IS AVAILABLE IN EITHER .308 WIN. OR 6.5 CREEDMOOR — THE LATTER IS FITTED WITH A 20-INCH BARREL IN PLACE OF OUR TEST RIFLE'S 18-INCHER.

**2**—CHRISTENSEN ARMS BACKS THE CA-10 G2 WITH A SUB-MOA (APPROXIMATELY ONE-INCH AT 100-YARDS) PRECISION GUARANTEE, BUT AS YOU CAN SEE HERE WITH THIS NEARLY HALF-INCH FIVE-SHOT GROUP AT 100-YARDS, OUR TEST RIFLE DIDN'T BREAK A SWEAT MEETING THAT BENCHMARK.

PERFORMANCE:	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
FEDERAL 168 GR GOLD MEDAL MATCH	2725	0.59-INCHES
BLACK HILLS 175 GRAIN MATCH	2640	0.65-INCHES
NOSLER CUSTOM 168 MATCH	2650	0.60-INCHES
HORNADY 155 GRAIN AG	2700	0.55-INCHES

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FEET PER SECOND (FPS) MEASURED USING A MAGNETO SPEED V3. ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR THREE FIVE-ROUND GROUPS FIRED AT 100 YARDS USING A BIPOD AS A REST FROM BEHIND A BENCH.

can read about in detail elsewhere in this issue) uses an illuminated MOA-H 5 reticle mounted in the second focal plane. This reticle features a tree-type pattern below the horizontal stadia line, with MOA measurements for elevation and wind adjustments. Measurements are at 2 MOA increments, making it easier to range for distance and hold for wind and elevation. Designed for long-range target shooting or competition, it is equally at home on a tactical rifle. The scope's tube is 30mm and equipped with tactical turrets, with the elevation turret having a zero-stop function.

Also available with a Mil reticle, at a \$1,325.00 retail cost, it offers a lot of scope for the money.

### ON THE RANGE

CHRISTENSEN ARMS PROVIDES A 1-MOA guarantee with match ammunition and, as I knew would be the case, that performance promise was not a problem to keep. The CA-10 G2's best five-shot group at 100-yards was with Hornady's 155-grain American Gunner ammunition, coming in at 0.55 inches — not an unusual event for this company's ARs. While American Gunner is not considered "match,"

Hornady loads it to match standards, and it has performed incredibly in everything I've tested it in; it often outperforms true match ammunition. At 300-yards, it was still the most accurate at just under three inches, although the Federal Gold Medal 168 grain was very close. Accuracy was maintained during rapid-fire ten shot strings with no vertical stringing, although given current ammunition availability, that test was more limited than usual. The CA-10 G2 easily held up its 1-MOA guarantee at 100 yards and remained very close at 300-yards.

Recoil with a flash hider was not bad and about what you expect with a .308 Winchester in a 7-pound rifle. The gas block is not adjustable, so suppressors will require some testing. While I did not suppress this rifle, previous testing yielded typical results for .308 AR10's. Reliability was excellent, with consistent brass ejection with everything from 155-grain to 178-grain ammunition.

### BOTTOM LINE

CHRISTENSEN ARMS HAS BEEN building these rifles for years. The G2 is just the latest version, and it

is pretty refined. Fit and finish are very nice — one of the advantages of building everything in-house. The carbon-fiber handguard is incredibly strong yet remains very lightweight; there was no deflection under hard use against barricades or obstacles. Setting the rifle down on the bi-pod with authority did not seem to affect accuracy or reliability. My 6.5 Creedmoor uses the same handguard, and it has suffered many years of abuse without failure.

These are essentially custom-built rifles and are priced accordingly at \$3,199.00. They are assembled in-house one at a time in a state-of-

the-art facility with strong attention to detail, using state-of-the-art materials. Making an AR10 completely reliable remains a challenge for many, let alone one that weighs in at around 7 pounds. Having carried mine for miles in the backcountry of Utah, I can attest to the advantages of the lower weight. If you are looking for high-quality and space-age materials in a reliable and accurate rifle, you need to give this CA-10 G2 a *very* close look. See the complete line of Christensen Arms rifles and rifle-style pistols at your nearest dealer, or for more information, visit [WWW.CHRISTENSENARMS.COM](http://WWW.CHRISTENSENARMS.COM)



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