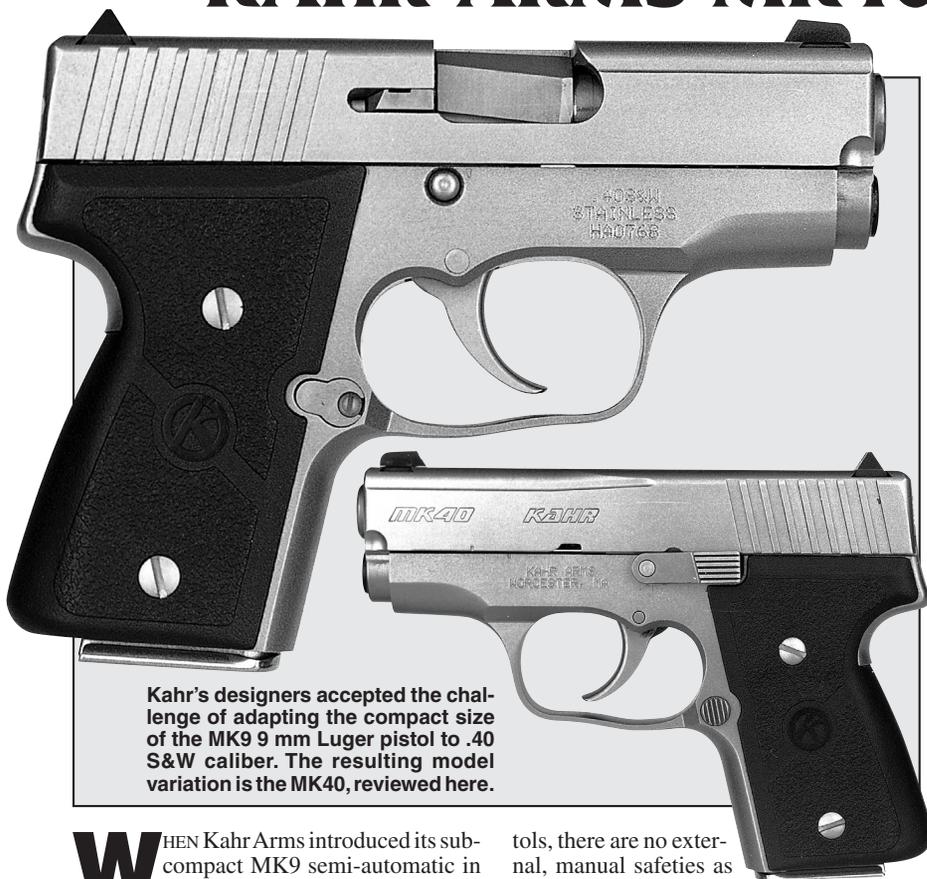


DOPE BAG

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" at least since 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

CAUTION: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.

KAHR ARMS MK40 PISTOL



Kahr's designers accepted the challenge of adapting the compact size of the MK9 9 mm Luger pistol to .40 S&W caliber. The resulting model variation is the MK40, reviewed here.

WHEN Kahr Arms introduced its sub-compact MK9 semi-automatic in 9 mm Luger (March 1998, p. 38), it was designed with a compound recoil spring strong enough to do its job, lithe enough that the slide could be retracted and compact enough to fit in the limited space provided without "going solid" during recoil. Although that's a tall enough order for a pistol chambered for the 9 mm Luger, it did not deter Kahr's designers from accepting the challenge of adapting the new model to .40 S&W caliber—the MK40.

The MK40 retains all the hallmark standard features of Kahr's other semi-automatic pistols such as stainless steel construction, blended edges and fixed steel sights dovetailed into the slide. It is a short recoil-operated, striker-fired, double-action-only (DAO) with no second-strike capability should a misfire occur. Like most DAO pis-

tols, there are no external, manual safeties as a long, deliberate pull of the trigger is necessary to fire the pistol. There is, however, an internal, passive striker block that keeps the striker from moving forward should the MK40 be dropped. After the last shot, the slide is automatically held open by the slide release. The magazine release button lies in the familiar M1911 location on

KAHR MK40

MANUFACTURER: Kahr Arms (Dept. AR), 184 Prescott St., Worcester, MA 01605; (914) 353-5996
CALIBER: .40 S&W
ACTION TYPE: recoil-operated, striker-fired, semi-automatic pistol
CONSTRUCTION: stainless steel
FINISH: natural stainless steel
OVERALL LENGTH: 5.35"
BARREL: 3" stainless steel
RIFLING: polygonal, right-hand twist
WIDTH: 1 1/8"
HEIGHT: 4"
WEIGHT EMPTY: 24 ozs.
MAGAZINE: stainless steel, single-column, detachable box, five-round capacity
SIGHTS: post with white-dot front, square notch rear drift adjustable for windage
TRIGGER: non-adjustable, double-action-only, 6 1/2-lb. pull
STOCKS: wrap-around, two-piece, black nylon with pebble texture
ACCESSORIES: six-round extended magazine, black plastic carrying box
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$605

the frame's left side just behind the trigger. On our sample pistol, magazines were ejected with authority when the MK40's release was depressed.

We fired the MK40 for accuracy using a variety of defensive-specific, hollow-point bullet ammunition with the results shown in the accompanying table. Kahr recommends

SHOOTING RESULTS

.40 S&W Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs)	Recoil (ft.-lbs)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
Federal P40HS4 135-gr. H-S	1056 Avg. 25 Sd	334	5.6	2.74	4.42	3.67
Hornady 9136 180-gr. XTP	836 Avg. 12 Sd	279	6.1	3.00	5.63	4.29
Win. X40SWSTHP 155-gr. STHP	1027 Avg. 15 Sd	363	6.8	2.93	4.49	3.63
Average Extreme Spread:						3.86
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 3" barrel. Range temperature: 68°F. Humidity: 72%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: H-S (Hydra-Shok), Sd (standard deviation), STHP (Silvertip hollow-point), XTP (Extreme Terminal Performance)						



Like the Kahr MK9, the biggest challenge to making the MK40 is in the recoil spring. By using a double-nested assembly, the unit is strong enough to do the job, lithe enough that the slide can be retracted easily and small enough that it doesn't "go solid" during recoil.

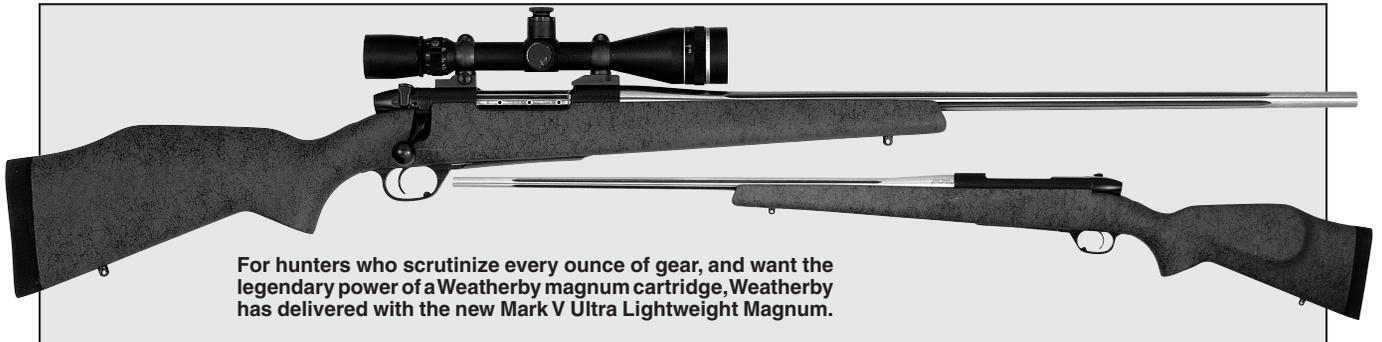
a break-in period of at least 200 rounds, so after the required break-in, function firing was performed with ammunition of various types including cartridges with flat- and round-nose profile bullets. There were no malfunctions of any kind, and accuracy was certainly good for a compact design intended for out-of-view carry. Trigger pull was exceptionally smooth with no stacking or creep. Let off was crisp at a respectable 6¼ lbs. pull.

Overall, the MK40 appears well made and dependable. It's design is simple and rugged. As the popularity of Kahr pistols continues to grow, its product line continues to expand with well-made pistols that meet customer demands.



Kahr pistols require a 200-round break-in period. During and after this period, we observed no malfunctions firing the MK 40 with any of the ammunition used in the test.

WEATHERBY ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT



For hunters who scrutinize every ounce of gear, and want the legendary power of a Weatherby magnum cartridge, Weatherby has delivered with the new Mark V Ultra Lightweight Magnum.

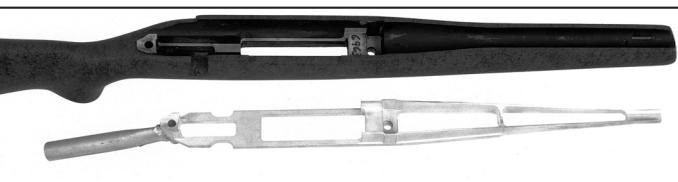
In response to the increasing demand for lightweight hunting rifles, Weatherby introduced a Mark V rifle in 1996 that weighed a scant 6¼ lbs. (May 1998, p. 48). The following year, Weatherby's weight-reduction plan went even farther with the announcement of a 5¼-lb. Accumark Ultra Lightweight, followed in 1998 by the new Mark V Ultra Lightweight of the same heft. Although Weatherby's guns were getting ever lighter, except for the .240 Wby. Mag. chambering, a hunter couldn't get an ultra light Weatherby chambered for a magnum caliber. But, who would want such a light rifle chambered for a hard-kicking magnum cartridge, especially a truly powerful Weatherby caliber? Further, beefing up an ultra light-

weight to handle a Weatherby cartridge would make the gun heavier, which defeats the purpose.

Apparently enough hunters wanted the combination of lowest possible weight and Weatherby magnum cartridge performance to get the company's designers to give it a shot. The result is Weatherby's new Mark V Ultra Lightweight Magnum (ULM) rifle in .257, .270, 7 mm and .300 Wby. Mag. chamberings, as well as 7 mm Rem. Mag. and .300 Win. Mag. calibers. Yes, it weighs more than a non-magnum Ultra Lightweight, but at 6¼ lbs., it weighs more than a pound less than any other Weatherby rifle chambered for a Weatherby magnum cartridge.



Where Weatherby's non-magnum Ultra Lightweight rifle saved a few ounces by going with six bolt-locking lugs, the Ultra Lightweight Magnum retains the familiar nine-lug array of the firm's standard Mark V action. Bolt lift remains 54 degrees.



Ultra Lightweight Magnum stocks are made around a one-piece, CNC-machined, aluminum bedding plate, which provides metal-on-metal contact between action and stock and stiffens the receiver area of the rifle when the barrelled action is mounted.

Considerable thought has been put into reducing weight without compromising strength or durability. The stock is a lightweight composite of Kevlar and fiberglass with an integral aluminum bedding plate. This one-piece, CNC-machined bedding plate engages the

recoil lug like a good glass bedding job and continues back toward the butt. Two arms extend along each side of the magazine well and form a web section between the trigger housing and magazine well. The arms continue along both sides of the trigger housing, merge at the rear tang to form a pillar and continue through the wrist of the stock. Seen as a whole, the bedding platform provides metal-on-metal contact between action and stock that reportedly stiffens the receiver area of the rifle when the barrelled action is mounted. A Monte Carlo cheekpiece is hand-laminated to raise the shooter's eye in line with a scope while a Pachmayr

DOPE BAG

Decelerator recoil pad helps tame felt recoil. Stock finish is matte grey with contrasting black spider webbing and, steel QD sling swivel studs are standard.

Minor points of weight reduction that add up include a semicircular relief cut at the forward edge of the ejection port in the blued, chrome-moly receiver. The ULM's bolt body flutes are deeper and wider than on standard-weight Mark V rifles, the bolt handle knob is hollow, and the bolt shroud has a large relief cut on its top. Non-stressed parts like the magazine follower, hinged floorplate and trigger-guard assembly are of lightweight alloy. Even the area of the trigger blade contained within the trigger group is relieved on its sides to save a few fractions of an ounce. Where the non-magnum Weatherby Ultra Lightweight rifle

saved a few ounces by using six bolt-locking lugs, the ULM retains the traditional nine-lug array of the standard Mark V action. Bolt lift remains 54 degrees.

Arguably, lopping off several inches of barrel would be a cheap and easy way to reduce weight, but a short barrel doesn't let a Weatherby magnum attain its full level of ballistic performance. Perhaps for this reason, Weatherby ULMs have 26" stainless steel barrels in Weatherby chamberings, and 24" tubes in 7 mm Rem. Mag. and .300 Win. Mag.



Minor points of weight reduction that add up include a semicircular relief at the front of the action's ejection port, deeper and wider bolt body flutes, hollow bolt knob and relieved bolt shroud.

MARK V ULM

MANUFACTURER: Weatherby (Dept. AR), 3100 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422; (805) 466-1767

CALIBER: .257 Wby. Mag., .270 Wby. Mag., 7 mm Wby. Mag., .300 Wby. Mag. (tested), 7 mm Rem. Mag., .300 Win. Mag.

ACTION TYPE: bolt-action repeating rifle

RECEIVER: forged, chrome-moly steel

FINISH: medium blue receiver, natural stainless barrel

OVERALL LENGTH: 46½" (44½" for 7 mm Rem. Mag. and .300 Win. Mag.)

BARREL: 26" (24" in 7 mm Rem. Mag. and .300 Win. Mag.), fluted, No. 2 Mod. contour, stainless steel

RIFLING: 1:10" RH twist

WEIGHT: 6½ lbs

MAGAZINE: three-round capacity, hinged floorplate, double-column, steel box-type

SIGHTS: none, receiver drilled and tapped for scope bases

TRIGGER: single-stage, non-adjustable, 5¼-lb.-pull

STOCK: Kevlar/fiberglass composite with CNC-machined, aluminum bedding plate; Monte Carlo cheekpiece; Pachmayr Decelerator recoil pad; blued, steel, QD sling swivel studs length of pull, 13½"; drop at heel, 1½"; drop at comb, 1"

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$1,299



Needless to say, a .300 Wby. Mag. rifle weighing little more than 7 lbs. scoped and loaded kicks hard. Even so, the Pachmayr Decelerator recoil pad makes the punishment meted out by the Ultra Lightweight Magnum less severe.

calibers. Regardless of length, ULM barrels taper drastically, and the already-thin barrel is further lightened by weight-reducing flutes. Flutes not only reduce weight, but provide more surface area to help dissipate heat quickly. They also tend to stiffen the barrel for less vibration. To help aid accuracy, the muzzle crown is a stepped, target type.

We received a Weatherby Ultra Lightweight Magnum in .300 Wby. Mag.

caliber for testing. We fired the rifle for accuracy at 100 yds. with Weatherby and Speer ammunition. True to the Weatherby accuracy guarantee, the ULM consistently kept three shots from a cold barrel within 1½" with Weatherby factory ammunition. After those three shots, the barrel got quite hot, and groups opened slightly. Function firing was with several brands of ammunition with bullets weighing from 110 grs. to 220 grs. with no malfunctions of any kind. As would be expected from a .300 Wby. Mag.-cal. rifle weighing little more than seven pounds scoped and loaded, felt recoil is quite noticeable. While the Decelerator pad does an admirable job of reducing the kick, it can only do so much, thus, firing this gun is not for the recoil-shy. However, if you're a hunter who scrutinizes every ounce of gear and wants the legendary power of a Weatherby magnum cartridge, Weatherby has delivered.

NRD

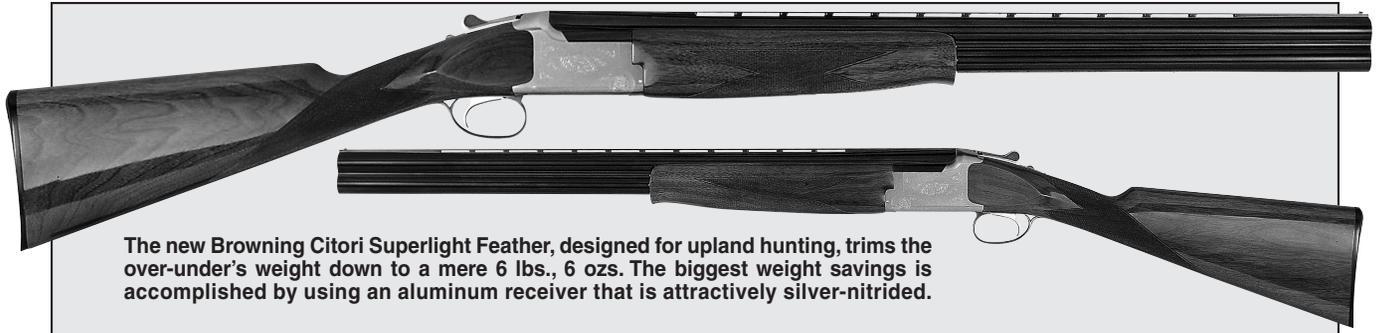


To shave off even more weight without compromising quality, non-stressed parts on the Ultra Lightweight Magnum, like the magazine follower, hinged floorplate and trigger guard, are made of lightweight alloy.

SHOOTING RESULTS

.300 Wby. Mag. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs)	Recoil (ft.-lbs)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
Speer 24516 180-gr. GS	3194 Avg. 12 Sd	4078	40.0	1.54	2.79	1.95
Weatherby THA1729 165-gr. PT-EX	3336 Avg. 13 Sd	4078	38.6	2.06	2.77	2.08
Weatherby THA1727 180-gr. PT-EX	3198 Avg. 18 Sd	4089	40.1	1.68	2.67	2.25
Average Extreme Spread:						2.09
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 26" barrel. Range temperature: 68° F. Humidity: 72%. Accuracy for five consecutive five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: GS (Grand Slam), PT-EX (pointed expanding), Sd (standard deviation)						

BROWNING CITORI FEATHER



The new Browning Citori Superlight Feather, designed for upland hunting, trims the over-under's weight down to a mere 6 lbs., 6 ozs. The biggest weight savings is accomplished by using an aluminum receiver that is attractively silver-nitrided.

WHEN the first Browning Citori was first featured in these pages (Oct. 1973, p. 66), it was a no-frills, no-nonsense hunting gun overshadowed by the more expensive Superposed. From that unpresumptuous beginning, the basic Citori box-lock has become a platform for various versions, gauges and grades numbering around 100. The latest addition to the already well-rounded Citori line is the new Feather series: the Superlight Feather and the Lightning Feather. We received the former for test and evaluation.

Mechanically, the Superlight Feather is typical Citori. A transverse-mounted, full-width, tapered locking block engages a

full-width, tapered lump at the bottom rear of the monobloc. By using a tapered bolt, the bolt seats gradually deeper with use. Being full-width, this system enhances barrel alignment and resists barrel torque during firing.

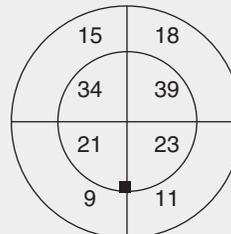
To help achieve the Feather's light, 6 lb., 6 oz. weight, the gun's one-piece action body is milled from a solid block of 7075-T7 aircraft-grade aluminum. It has a silver nitride finish as do all other exterior metal surfaces save the blued steel barrels and gold-plated trigger. Our sample had Grade I ornamentation with a tastefully conservative amount of scroll engraving. A gold-filled Buck mark on the trigger guard and a gold feather on the bottom of the receiver complete the decoration.

There are no surprises inside the receiver, either. Coil springs power hammers retained by sears that are pinned in the top tang. Cocking the hammers is by a linkage that connects the fore-end iron to the L-shaped cocking lifter that rotates up and pushes the hammers back.

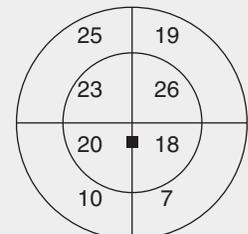
Ejection of the Superlight Feather is selective, and determined by the forward movement of the hammers. Studs on the hammers engage trip rods that pass through the action body to activate the ejector sears located in the fore-end. When a barrel is fired, the trip rod enters a cut out in the fore-end iron, and releases the ejector hammers when the action is opened to kick out the fired shell.

CITORI FEATHER

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.



Full Tube



Modified Tube

■=Point of Hold

Federal P128-6 Premium Magnum 12-ga.

2 1/4" — 1 1/2 oz. — No. 6 lead

Average Pellet count—253

Measured Velocity @3-ft.—1352 f.p.s.

Remaining Energy Per Pellet @40 yds.: 2 ft.-lbs

Recoil: 31.5 ft.-lbs

Total Hits	170 (67%)	Total Hits	148 (58%)
21" Inner Circle	117 (46%)	21" Inner Circle	87 (34%)
30" Outer Ring	53 (21%)	30" Outer Ring	61 (24%)

A tang-mounted, manual safety also serves as the barrel selector. The single trigger resets to the other barrel by an inertial block.



Ejection of fired shells on the Superlight Feather is selective via studs on the hammers that engage trip rods in the action body to activate the ejector sears in the gun's fore-end.

CITORI SUPERLIGHT FEATHER

MANUFACTURER: Miroku Firearms Mfg. Co., 537-1 Shinohara, Nangoku, Kochu Pref., Japan

IMPORTER: Browning Arms Co. (Dept. AR), One Browning Place, Morgan, UT 84050; (800) 333-3504

GAUGE: 12, 2 1/4"

ACTION TYPE: break-action, over-under shotgun

RECEIVER: 7075T aluminum

FINISH: silver nitride receiver, blued steel barrels

OVERALL LENGTH: 42 1/2"

BARREL: 26"

WEIGHT: 6 lbs., 6 ozs.

TRIGGER: single-selective, 5-lb. pull upper barrel, 5 1/4-lb.-pull lower barrel

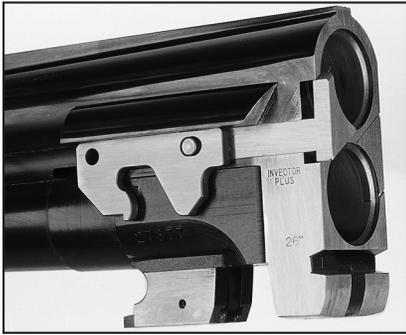
STOCK: American walnut, straight grip stock, schnabel fore-end (pistol grip and semi-beavertail available); length of pull, 14 1/4"; drop at heel, 2 1/4"; drop at comb, 1 1/4"

CHOKE SYSTEM: Browning Invector Plus choke tubes

ACCESSORIES: full, modified, improved cylinder choke tubes, choke tube wrench (other tubes available at additional cost)

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$1,592

DOPE BAG



A transverse-mounted, full-width, tapered locking block engages a full-width, tapered lump of the monobloc. By using a tapered bolt, the bolt seats gradually deeper with use.

Like all current-production 12-ga. Citori, the Superlight Feather has back-bored barrels. Solid side ribs separate the 26" barrels, which are threaded to accept Browning's Invector Plus choke tubes. The rib is low, untapered, .24" wide and has a .150" white metal bead at the muzzle. Chambers are 2¾".

Our sample's stock is well-figured walnut with a gloss finish and features a straight wrist and schnabel fore-end. The buttplate is hard, black plastic with a smooth border surrounding a finely checkered center surface. In addition to the straight-grip configuration we received for testing, Browning

also offers the Super Lightweight Feather with a pistol grip buttstock and a semi-beavertail fore-end.

The Citori Super Lightweight Feather was function fired with PMC, Remington, Rottweil and Winchester target loads at sporting clays and patterned at 40-yds. with Federal field loads as shown in the accompanying table. There were no failures of any kind. The Superlight Feather handled extremely well, and the balance point was just forward of the breech's pivot pins. The handling dynamics were different due to the weight savings being in the receiver, but the



The Lightweight Feather handled and swung well on sporting clays targets. The gun's minimal 6-lb., 6-oz. weight carried well, but recoil was stout with field loads.



The Super Lightweight Feather's one-piece action body is milled from a solid block of silver-nitrided aluminum. A feather is inlaid in gold on the receiver's bottom.

gun swung as well as its short 26" barrels would allow. The gun came to the shoulder well, and the barrels were light and easy to swing without being "whippy." Recoil with field loads was stout—the price to be paid for the gun's 6 lb., 6 oz. weight.

For the upland hunter who covers many miles in pursuit of birds, the Citori Lightweight Feather will be a welcome, unburdensome addition.



MIDWAY PISTOLERO REST

MIDWAY'S PISTOLERO portable handgun shooting rest is an affordable piece of range equipment for shooters who want to informally test handgun accuracy. The Pistolero's wide range of adjustment allows the unit to be used for shooting everything from a snub-nose revolver to the largest single-shot or bolt-action pistol.

Construction of the Pistolero is almost entirely of heavy, durable ABS plastic. Both the barrel cradle and butt platform are covered with 1/2"-thick rubberized nylon to protect the firearm's finish from damage during recoil. Further, these surfaces are slightly compressible, so the gun can recoil naturally and not throw off the shot as can happen when the butt bounces off a hard surface. Four rubber feet on the base ensure the rest will not slide around on the shooting bench.

The distance between the cradle and platform can be adjusted over a range of 4" by the user, and the Pistolero's cradle has 3½" of possible vertical adjustment. To make horizontal adjustments with the unit, simply lift the rear of the platform by its handle, slide the platform forward or back-

ward until the gun's muzzle overhangs the cradle, then snap the catch into the nearest of the five half-moon locking slots provided in the base.

Vertical adjustments are made by loosening the metal ram lock screw on the left side of the Midway Pistolero, then rotating

the ram adjustment spanner to the left or right to lower or raise the cradle for the pistol's barrel.

The Pistolero is available for \$29.99 from Midway USA (Dept. AR), 5875 W. Van Horn Tavern Road, Colombia, MO 65203; (800) 243-3220.

