

While U.S. Repeating Arms Co., makers of Winchester rifles and shotguns, has closed its New Haven, Conn., plant, it has introduced new guns—such as the Super-X rifle and Wildcat .22 bolt-action—and its Select over-unders, Super-X shotguns and vintage 1885 and 1895 rifles are still going strong. The Herstal Group owns Fabrique Nationale, USRAC and Browning, and we've seen several versions of the 1895 under both the Browning and now the Winchester names. One of the most interesting is the Limited Series Take-Down Model 1895 chambered in .405 Win. that was made at the request of firearm distributor Davidson's.

After leaving the Oval Office, U.S. President and NRA Life Member Theodore Roosevelt and his son Kermit made a trip to Africa in 1909. Among his rifles were four Winchester Model 1895s in .405 Win. Roosevelt ordered many of his lever-action Winchesters as take-downs, and while we've previously reviewed the 1895 (January 2002, p. 42), the latest version of the 1895 produced by Miroku is a take-down

version that breaks into a handy, two-piece package measuring a mere 25"—just as TR would have ordered.

The blued-steel receiver has the scalloped sides of the later 1895s. The two-piece lever engages a lock that extends from the bottom tang, and a rearward projecting lug holds the lever assembly closed until the fingers of the hand inside the lever press its articulated lower downward as part of the natural cycling of the lever. Unless fully

closed and locked, the trigger is disconnected from the hammer.

Taking down the 1895 is via a crosshatched tab on the fore-end's bottom rear that is 1/8" wide by 3/8" long. Pressing it forward out of its recess on the receiver's bottom front allows the barrel assembly to be rotated 90 degrees to the left and pulled forward off the receiver. The barrel has 15, 5/8"-wide interrupted threads on its top and bottom for its last 13/16" that engage corresponding recesses cut in the top and bottom of the receiver. On the left and right sides, the threads are machined off to allow the barrel to be inserted into the front of the receiver then rotated 90 degrees, so the threads reach their full engagement. There is a cut at 12 o'clock on the barrel's rear shoulder for the bolt's top-mounted extractor, and its bottom is ramped to smoothly feed the

MODEL 1895 TAKE-DOWN

MANUFACTURER: MIROKU FIREARMS MFG. CO., 537-1 SHINOHARA, NANGOKU, KOCHU PERF., JAPAN
IMPORTER: USRAC (DEPT. AR), 275 WINCHESTER AVE., MORGAN, UT 84050-9333; (801) 876-3440; WWW.WINCHESTER-GUNS.COM
DISTRIBUTOR: DAVIDSON'S (DEPT. AR), 6100 WILKINSON DRIVE, PRESCOTT, AZ 86301-6162; (928) 776-0855; WWW.GALLERYOFGUNS.COM
CALIBER: .405 WIN.
ACTION TYPE: LEVER-ACTION CENTER-FIRE RIFLE
RECEIVER: BLUED STEEL
BARREL LENGTH: 24 1/8"
RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE, 1:14" RH TWIST
MAGAZINE: INTERNAL BOX MAGAZINE; FOUR-ROUND CAPACITY
SIGHTS: SEMI-BUCKHORN REAR, DRIFT-ADJUSTABLE FOR WINDAGE, ELEVATOR-ADJUSTABLE FOR ELEVATION; BLADE-AND-POST FRONT WITH BRASS BEAD
TRIGGER PULL: SINGLE-STAGE; 6 3/4 LBS.
STOCK: WALNUT; LENGTH OF PULL, 13 3/8"; DROP AT HEEL, 3 5/8"; DROP AT COMB, 2 7/8"
OVERALL LENGTH: 42"
WEIGHT: 8 LBS., 4 OZS.
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$1,475

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YDS.)

.405 WINCHESTER CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
HORNADY 300-GR. SP #8241	2178 Avg. 17 Sd	3,149	3.11	4.25	3.75

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 24" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 80° F. HUMIDITY: 76%. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG REST. ABBREVIATIONS: SP (SPIRE-POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).



Sights follow the pattern of the original with the front being a gold bead on a post (top), and the rear being a semi-buckhorn with a stepped elevator (center). The rear sight is drifted in its dovetail for windage adjustments. There are no provisions for scope mounting. The Model 95's safety button is located on the tang (bottom). Pushing the button forward disengages the hammer-blocking safety and reveals a red dot that provides an additional visual cue of the safety mechanism's condition.

WINCHESTER MODEL 95 TAKE-DOWN

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 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."

WARNING: 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.

the feed lips against the follower, then pushing it down and rearward. The process is repeated with each round to ensure the top cartridge's rim is ahead of those below it. Since the cartridges are arranged vertically in the box, pointed bullets may be safely used.

The straight-grip stock is of well-figured walnut, and there are bordered-point panels of checkering on either side of the wrist. There are also panels on the left, right and bottom of the schnabel fore-end. The butt is capped by a steel, shotgun-style buttplate.

On the range, the rifle performed fairly well, considering the semi-buckhorn sights aren't well-suited for precision shooting. With Hornady ammunition, groups averaged 3 3/4" at 100 yds. Shooting conditions that day were less than optimal—a stiff breeze made trying to hold a still sight picture a real challenge—and

the rifle's 6 3/4-lb. single-stage trigger didn't help much. One group had four shots into 1 1/2"; a fifth shot opened it to 4 1/4". With the rear-sight elevator in the lowest position, groups printed some 13" high. A taller front sight or lower elevator (available from Brownells) would rectify this issue.

Overall, our impression of the 1895 Take-Down was very favorable. The deep, rich bluing was smooth and even, demonstrating some of the best polish we've seen on a factory rifle in some time. Recoil, while brisk, wasn't a problem. Simply put, this was one of the most enjoyable guns we've had at the range in some time. Add in the historical tie to Theodore Roosevelt, and you have a nostalgic, handy-to-transport, big-bore rifle ready for the game fields of Africa—or merely a trip to the nearest range. 



H&K P2000 V3

H&K P2000 V3

MANUFACTURER: HECKLER & KOCH GmbH, D-78722 OBERNDORF NECKAR, POSTFACH 1329, GERMANY; WWW.HECKER-KOCH.DE
IMPORTER: HECKLER & KOCH, INC. (DEPT. AR), 21480 PACIFIC BLVD., STERLING, VA 20166; (703) 450-1900; WWW.HK-USA.COM
CALIBER: 9x19 MM, .357 SIG, .40 S&W (TESTED)
ACTION TYPE: SHORT-RECOIL-OPERATED SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL
FRAME: FIBERGLASS-REINFORCED BLACK POLYMER
BARREL: 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ " CHROME-MOLY STEEL
RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE POLYGONAL 1:16"
MAGAZINE: 12-ROUND, DETACHABLE BOX (14-ROUND CAPACITY FOR 9x19 MM AND .357 SIG)
SIGHTS: REAR NOTCH AND FRONT POST ALIGN THREE WHITE DOTS, DRIFT-ADJUSTABLE FOR WINDAGE
TRIGGER PULL: DOUBLE-ACTION (9-LBS. PULL)/SINGLE-ACTION (4-LBS. PULL)
OVERALL LENGTH: 7"
WIDTH: 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ "
HEIGHT: 5"
WEIGHT: 23 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: FOUR REPLACEABLE BACKSTRAPS, TWO MAGAZINES, LOCKABLE CARRY CASE
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$887

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

.40 S&W CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
CORBON 165-GR. (+P) JHP	1052 22 SD	408	2.48	3.11	2.75
REMINGTON GOLDEN SABRE 165-GR. JHP	981 18 SD	354	2.02	2.60	2.86
WINCHESTER SXT 165-GR. JHP	1042 24 SD	400	2.39	2.47	2.63
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD:					2.62

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ " BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 72° F. HUMIDITY: 45%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION)



The double-action/single-action P2000 V3, unlike other H&K pistols, cannot be retrofitted with the double-action-only law-enforcement trigger. The frame is dedicated to one firing mode or the other. The polymer frame is fully adjustable for grip size through an ingenious system of replaceable backstraps. A pin and dovetail hold the backstrap in place.

Produced as a duty gun for a German police agency, the Heckler & Koch P2000 is a light, slim and fully ambidextrous polymer-frame pistol. The only catch is that its long and heavy double-action-only trigger pull—a system H&K calls the Law Enforcement Modification or LEM—is not conducive to practical accuracy.

In response to consumer desire for a more precise trigger, H&K introduced a double-action/single-action P2000 variant at the 2005



SHOT Show. Sharing the same nomenclature as the USP family of pistols, the gun was called the P2000 Variant 3. But unlike the rest of the USP family, the V3 is a dedicated double-action/single-action pistol that cannot be retrofitted with the LEM trigger system.

A quick look at the V3 reveals that H&K dropped the familiar side-mounted USP decocker/safety lever in favor of a decocker mounted on the left rear of the frame next to the hammer. More a button than a lever, this decocker precludes any levers that could hang up on clothing and increase the thickness of the gun. More importantly, the gun still remains totally ambidextrous. You simply reach back with the weak hand and decock the gun with a press of the button. As unwieldy and unusual as the decocker looks, it's simple to master.

The gun is built around a polymer frame and weighs a scant

H&K mounted the P2000 V3s decocker on the left rear of its frame (arrow) to minimize the number of controls mounted to the side of the gun that could hang up on clothing or add unnecessary width.

23 ozs. In lieu of the proprietary H&K rail found on USP pistols, the dustcover has a more sensible Picatinny rail for illumination accessories. The stippling is molded into panels on the P2000's front and backstraps, but it is not nearly as aggressive as the USP's diamond-point checkering. A matte-black nitro-carburized finish H&K calls Hostile Environment is applied to the slide and other metal parts.

Disassembly is simple. Just drop the magazine and align a square notch on the left side of the all-steel, machined slide with the slide-release lever, and pry the lever away from the frame. The slide, barrel and guide rod/recoil spring assembly come off, and the left-hand slide-release lever comes out of the frame. The right-hand lever stays attached to the frame. The pistol utilizes the Browning linkless design found on so many semi-autos these days, with one

additional feature. A polymer, recoil-absorbing bushing rides up and down the steel guide rod. This bushing is found in both the P2000 and USP compact pistols.

The barrel is 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ " long and features polygonal rifling. The pistol is a trim 7" long and stands just over 5" tall. Dovetailed into place, the sights are the traditional three-dot pattern and have a low profile. Tritium night sights are optional.

Total thickness of the gun in the three calibers offered—9x19 mm .357 SIG and .40 S&W—is 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ ". The magazine-release extends out of both the left and right sides of the oversized trigger guard and drops the magazine when swept downward.

The P2000 comes with four backstraps (small, medium, large and extra large) to reduce the need for slip-on grips or expensive fill-and-grind jobs. Simply punch out a roll pin and replace the backstrap with one that best fits your hand. The backstraps slide in the frame via a full-length vertical dovetail that eliminates any play or wiggle.

Where this pistol shines is on the range. Our sample pistol was chambered for .40 S&W, and function firing yielded brisk recoil with heavy 180-gr. loads but manageable recoil with 165- and 155-gr. loads. Five, five-shot groups fired for accuracy at 25 yds. averaged 2.47" with Remington's 165-gr. Golden Saber jacketed hollow points. The pistol is quick to the target and points well for those who prefer the more aggressive grip angles of modern designs.

The first shot heads downrange after a 10-lb. trigger pull, and subsequent rounds are released after a sweet single-action pull of just 4 lbs. It was a delight to cock the hammer and hit falling plates at extended distances instead of fighting through a long double-action trigger pull.

So what's the big deal about the single-action option in a carry gun? Many would argue that consistency is the key, but a dire situation could demand pinpoint accuracy. The P2000 V3 has a desirable blend of accuracy and controllability that make it ideal for service, sport or licensed carry. 



The P2000 quickly field strips into six basic sub-assemblies for cleaning and maintenance. Note the polymer recoil bushing on the front of the steel guide rod for the recoil spring.



DOPE BAG

ZEISS VICTORY 8X32mm T* FL BINOCULAR

Since Carl Zeiss handcrafted his first simple microscope in a small German workshop in 1847, the company that bears his name has grown into a world leader in the manufacture of optics for medical, industrial and sporting use. In the latter category, Zeiss riflescopes and binoculars enjoy a reputation as top-tier glass.

Recent years have seen the company employ computer-aided design and advanced materials to realize often mutually exclusive attributes: light weight and optical flawlessness. That accomplishment is soundly demonstrated in the Victory binocular line. Originally offered in 7x42 mm, 8x42 mm, 10x42 mm, 8x56 mm and 10x56 mm sizes, it now includes the smallest and lightest Victories yet: the 8x32 mm and 10x32 mm T* FLs.

We had the opportunity to field test the 8x32 mm Victory FLs during a whitetail deer cull on Texas' sprawling King Ranch, where their under-20-oz. weight went nearly unnoticed while worn around the neck during several long, hot days of glassing and shooting.

The Victory FL benefits from a number of ergonomic and mechanical features. Inside, a polycarbonate chassis promotes precise optical alignment and low

overall weight. Outside, trim rubber armoring protects the binocular and, with the addition of raised ridges on each barrel, enhances the user's grip. Finer ridges around the central focusing knob facilitate fast, precise adjustments, advancing the full range—from 6½ ft. to infinity—in one-and-one-fifth revolutions. The knob rotates easily and smoothly, but it offers enough resistance to retain its setting.

Finally, counterclockwise rotation of the eyecups extends them to one of three tactilely distinct settings.

Of course, at the top levels of price, attendant levels of optical quality are expected, and the FL does not disappoint. Compact Abbe-Koenig prisms, proprietary high-transmission coatings and extra-low-dispersion Schott fluoride glass—hence the FL designation—produce a crisp image.

Resolution, as judged on improvised test targets, was excellent and proved a boon in making field evaluations of deer. Contrast, too, appeared excellent, rendering considerable detail in the shadows and allowing noticeable differentiation between various natural objects. No distortion or collimation imperfections were detected. In short, the FL exhibited outstanding optical performance.

While it does not gather as much light as other models in the Victory line, the Zeiss Victory 8x32 mm T* FL, nonetheless, offers a bit more capability in that area than the 10x32 mm model and is more than adequate for general use during normal hunting hours. It is pricey, but it offers optical performance equaling or exceeding anything in its category.

For our money, when the use demands the best compact, light-weight binocular available, the Victory 8x32 is an assuring choice. 

ZEISS VICTORY 8X32mm T* FL

MANUFACTURER: CARL ZEISS SPORTS OPTICS, GLOELSTRASSE 3-5, D-35576, WETZLAR, GERMANY

IMPORTER: CARL ZEISS OPTICAL, INC. (DEPT. AR), 13005 N. KINGSTON AVE., CHESTER, VA 23836; (800) 441-3005; WWW.ZEISS.COM

MAGNIFICATION: 8X

OBJECTIVE DIAMETER: 32 MM

TWILIGHT FACTOR: 16

EXIT PUPIL: 4 MM

INTERPUPILARY DISTANCE: 52-74 MM

FIELD OF VIEW: 420 FT. @ 1,000 YDS.

EYE RELIEF: 16 MM

CLOSE FOCUS: 6½ FT.

DIOPTRIC ADJUSTMENT: +/-4

DIMENSIONS: 4⁹/₁₆" H, 3⁷/₈" W, 2³/₄"

WEIGHT: 19³/₄ OZS.

ACCESSORIES: NYLON SOFT CASE, ONE-PIECE OCULAR/TWO-PIECE OBJECTIVE RUBBER LENS CAPS, NECKSTRAP AND LENS-CLEANING CLOTH

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$1,647

The smallest and lightest binocular in Zeiss' top-of-the-line Victory series is the 8x32 mm T FL. Diopter adjustments are set simply by raising the focusing knob, to reveal a +/- scale, and then rotating it to index with a triangular indicator on the bridge (r.). The eyecups (far r.) feature tactilely distinct settings.*

