



# SMITH & WESSON NIGHT GUARD

## .357 MAG. REVOLVER

Since 1935, Smith & Wesson has made dozens of different .357 Mag. revolvers. They have been available with five-, six-, seven- and eight-round-capacity cylinders and four different frame sizes. Obviously, there has been plenty of variety, so a new version might seem redundant. The new Model 386 Night Guard in .357 Mag., however, offers a unique combination of features and is therefore a fresh choice for those in the market for a defensive revolver. In S&W's complex numbering system, the "3" indicates a lightweight gun and the "86" is the model, with the "Night Guard" indicating a feature and finish option.

This is a revolver built on a medium-large L-frame, which was developed specifically to handle the .357 Mag. cartridge. It is one of

six different variants in the Night Guard series of personal-defense revolvers. There are three large N-frames in .44 Mag., .45 ACP and .45 Colt; two L-frames in .44 Spl. and .357 Mag.; and a smaller K-frame in .38 Spl. All the Night Guards are light revolvers with 2½" barrels and a dull black finish.

The Model 386 weighs 24.5 ozs. and is more than 7½" long. It is light, but strong enough to handle seven rounds of .357 Mag., as S&W uses an alloy of scandium and aluminum to build the frame, yoke and barrel shroud. The barrel and cylinder are stainless steel. On most of S&W's lightweight revolvers, the use of a two-piece barrel—a lightweight alloy shroud and steel tube—permits an economical part with all the durability of more traditional materials. The recent interest in concealable firearms for

CCW permit holders has driven the development of compact, lightweight handguns of many types. As full-size, short-barreled magnum revolvers go, the 386 Night Guard is about as light and compact as it gets. Indeed, this was the development goal of the Night Guard line.

Model 386s have some special features that make them particularly well suited for the discreet personal-defense role. The Night Guard variation of the light L-frame has a topstrap cut to accept S&W's familiar click-adjustable rear sight, which has been used on revolvers since the immediate post-war era. As there is relatively little need for adjustable sights on a gun intended for close-range shooting, S&W uses a rear sight made by Cylinder & Slide of Fremont, Neb. It is a fixed unit with a contour that fits the standard S&W

## SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

.357 MAG. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 12' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>SPEER No. 23920</b> <b>125-GR. GD JHP</b>	1137 Avg. 44 Sd	359	2.01	2.52	2.20
<b>REMINGTON No. R355S1</b> <b>125-GR. JHP</b>	1327 Avg. 18 Sd	489	1.47	2.22	1.74
.38 SPL. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 12' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>WINCHESTER</b> <b>158-GR. JSP</b>	1057 Avg. 19 Sd	392	1.75	2.61	2.04

NOTES: ACCURACY RESULTS BASED ON FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FIRED FROM A RANSOM REST. VELOCITIES MEASURED WITH AN OEHLER MODEL 35P CHRONOGRAPH WITH SCREENS PLACED 12 FT. FROM THE MUZZLE. ALTITUDE OF TEST SITE APPROXIMATELY 5,200 FT. ABOVE SEA LEVEL. TEMPERATURE: 75° F. ABBREVIATIONS: GD (GOLD DOT), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), JSP (JACKETED SOFT POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

## S&W NIGHT GUARD

**MANUFACTURER:** SMITH & WESSON, (DEPT. AR) 2100 ROOSEVELT AVE., SPRINGFIELD MA 01104; (800) 331-0852;

WWW.SMITH-WESSON.COM

**CALIBER:** .357 MAG. (.38 SPL.)

**ACTION TYPE:** DOUBLE-ACTION/  
SINGLE-ACTION CENTER-FIRE REVOLVER

**FRAME:** SCANDIUM/ALUMINUM ALLOY

**BARREL:** 2½"

**RIFLING:** FIVE-GROOVE; 1:18¼" RH TWIST

**CYLINDER CAPACITY:** SEVEN

**SIGHTS:** XS SIGHT SYSTEMS BIG DOT FRONT, C&S FIXED U-NOTCH REAR

**TRIGGER PULL:** DOUBLE-ACTION, 10 LBS.;  
SINGLE-ACTION, 3 LBS.

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7⅞"

**WIDTH:** 1.56"

**HEIGHT:** 5½"

**WEIGHT:** 24.5 OZS.

**ACCESSORIES:** HARD CASE, MANUAL, LOCK

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,011

Features of the Night Guard include light weight and compact power. The rounded edges of the fixed rear sight (below l.) are well-suited for concealed carry, and the stainless steel cylinder (below r.) can handle seven rounds of .357 Mag.



cut on the topstrap. It is better for concealed carry by virtue of its rounded edges and corners, and its big U-notch and plain black face match up beautifully with the XS Sight Systems Big Dot tritium front sight. Sight picture is quick to acquire and is quite prominent against varied backgrounds and in different light conditions. It is not the best for precise shooting, but then this is not a bullseye gun.


To help alleviate the discomfort of firing the gun, S&W equipped it with round-butt Pachmayr grips that cover the backstrap. This provides a generous handful of slightly compressible rubber surrounding a pound and a half

of lightweight magnum revolver. With many loads the recoil is bearable. But when heavy bullet or high-velocity magnum loads are used, the recoil is severe. Combined with a rather violent muzzle flash, this makes the 386 a somewhat intimidating revolver to shoot. Fortunately, the 386 is like most .357 Magnums in that it handles .38 Spl. as well. Somewhere in the wide range of .38 Spl. and .357 Mag. ammunition available, the handgunner should be able to find practice loads he or she can live with, leaving the hard-kicking magnums for real-world use.

Our accuracy evaluation followed the *American Rifleman* protocol of five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yds. Firing with the revolver mounted in a Ransom Rest took the recoil difficulties out of

the equation and produced groups consistent with other .38s and .357s in the S&W line. Groups from the sample Night Guard revolver hovered around the 2" mark.

It is clear that this particular .357 Mag. is intended to be carried, as there is no other rationale in taking the necessary steps to lower the weight to the pound-and-a-half point. If a shooter really intends to carry the gun, the light weight is perfectly justified. But if the gun is intended for general shooting, an all-steel revolver would be a better choice.

The Night Guard revolvers are great choices for carry. The line includes a .41 Mag. version for the legions of .41 fans. As it stands, the .357 Mag. fired for this report is a fine carrying gun for personal defense and field use. 





## BARRETT REC7 6.8X43 MM SPC

**T**he M4-pattern carbine is inarguably today's standard. For some, however, its 5.56x45 mm NATO chambering and direct gas-impingement system of operation are points of contention. Barrett Firearms Mfg., a company well-known for its fresh perspective on firearm designs, is offering an M4-style variant named the REC7 that strives to address these concerns.

The semi-automatic REC7, whose designation stands for "reliability-enhanced carbine," not only chambers a larger cartridge than the M4 but also features a redesigned system of gas-piston operation. The carbine is chambered for the 6.8x43 mm SPC (Special Purpose Cartridge), a round that propels a 115-gr. projectile at roughly 2500 f.p.s. from the muzzle. The overall length of the cartridge is nearly the same as that of a 5.56x45 mm NATO, so it is compatible with a standard-size lower receiver.

Interestingly, the REC7 is Barrett's second AR-pattern rifle chambered for this cartridge, with its first being the M468.

Although the 6.8 SPC-chambered M468 was well-received, the rifle employed the same direct gas-impingement system as the M4. The result was a system that jetted hot gases directly into the rifle's receiver, leading to potential stoppages if regular maintenance and cleaning protocols were overlooked.

To enhance potential mechanical reliability, Barrett incorporated a short-stroke, piston-driven system that offers the potential for cleaner and cooler operation than one with direct gas-impingement.

The REC7 features forged 7075 aluminum upper and lower receivers that are hard-coat anodized a deep black. The upper receiver is a flat-top configuration with an integral strip of Picatinny rail. The chrome-lined barrel is 16" long and is fitted with an A2-style birdcage muzzle brake. A standard A2-style pistol grip and collapsible buttstock round out the package.

The free-floated aluminum fore-end is the excellent A.R.M.S. SIR (for Selective Integrated Rail) that

features customizable strips of rail that can be positioned at the location of the user's preference. The upper rail of the fore-end aligns with the REC7's upper receiver to form a contiguous Picatinny rail along the rifle's top. This strip of rail also aligns with a separate Picatinny rail on top of the REC7's gas block.

Although the 6.8 SPC cartridge was designed to be used in standard AR lowers, conventional AR magazines are unsuitable. As a result, Barrett developed a rugged proprietary magazine for its 6.8 SPC rifles that differs in both dimensions and materials from that of a standard AR-pattern magazine. Manufactured from steel and featuring a steel follower, the REC7's 30-round magazine is about 1" longer overall and weighs 5 ozs. more than a standard AR magazine.

The REC7's most significant new element, its gas system, is a short-stroke gas piston designed in-house by Barrett. It rides above the barrel and is housed inside the REC7's A.R.M.S. fore-end. The spring-loaded piston is a one-piece



## SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YDS.)

6.8x43 mm SPC CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>BARRETT 115-GR. SMK BTHP</b>	2545 Avg. 23 Sd	1,654	1.29	1.98	1.62
<b>HORNADY No. 8146 110-GR. BTHP</b>	2660 Avg. 29 Sd	1,729	1.47	1.83	1.64
<b>REMINGTON No. R68R2 115-GR. BTHP</b>	2416 Avg. 20 Sd	1,491	1.08	2.10	1.47
<b>AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD</b>					1.58

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 16" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 88° F. HUMIDITY: 67%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: BTHP (BOAT TAIL HOLLOW POINT), SMK (SIERRA MATCH-KING), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

The REC7's bolt carrier group (r.) features a reinforced piston strike face, and the chrome-plated bolt is free of gas rings.



17-4 stainless steel rod that weighs 3.5 ozs. and is 12¼" long. Total forward and rearward movement of the piston is approximately 1".

The gas system and fore-end are of mid-length dimensions, rather than the shorter standard carbine length, with the rifle's gas block located roughly 9½" forward of the front face of the upper receiver. This is 2" farther than that of a standard-length carbine gas system.

The gas block is a proprietary Barrett design that allows users to remove the gas piston easily for cleaning by simply rotating a spring-mounted plunger 180 degrees. Once rotated, the rifle's gas regulator, piston and piston return spring can be pulled forward and through the gas block.

Adapting the AR design to work with a piston also necessitated modifications to the bolt carrier assembly, specifically where it interfaces with the rear of the piston rod. Rather than having a standard gas key on its bolt carrier that cups the open rear face of a gas tube, the top of the REC7's 8620

steel bolt carrier assembly features an integral piston strike face. This reinforced part is impacted by the piston's rearward 1" of thrust during cycling, causing the action to open and the bolt carrier assembly to cycle rearward. The bolt of the REC7 is chrome-plated and free of gas rings.


The REC7 received for testing was visually impressive with evenly applied black anodizing on the upper and lower receivers and a matching manganese phosphated finish on the steel parts. All controls functioned positively and smoothly. Anyone familiar with the operation of a conventional AR would be right at home with the REC7, although its somewhat heavy weight of 7 lbs., 8 ozs., can be a bit noticeable compared to a 5.56x45 mm carbine with no piston system.

## BARRETT REC7

**MANUFACTURER:** BARRETT FIREARMS MFG. (DEPT. AR), P.O. Box 1077, MURFREESBORO, TN 37133; (615) 896-2938; WWW.BARRETRIFLES.COM  
**CALIBER:** 6.8x43 mm SPC  
**ACTION TYPE:** GAS-PISTON-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC CENTER-FIRE RIFLE  
**RECEIVER:** 7075 FORGED ALUMINUM UPPER AND LOWER  
**BARREL:** 16", CHROME-LINED  
**RIFLING:** FOUR-GROOVE; 1:10" RH TWIST  
**MAGAZINE:** DETACHABLE BOX, 30-ROUND CAPACITY  
**SIGHTS:** NONE SUPPLIED, PICATINNY-RAIL EQUIPPED  
**TRIGGER PULL:** SINGLE-STAGE, 6 LBS., 8 OZS.  
**STOCK:** M4-STYLE COLLAPSING SYNTHETIC: LENGTH OF PULL, 14¼"; DROP AT HEEL, 1½"; DROP AT COMB, 1½"  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 32¾" (COLLAPSED), 36½" (FULLY EXTENDED)  
**WEIGHT:** 7 LBS., 8 OZS.  
**ACCESSORIES:** FRONT SIGHT ASSEMBLY TOOL, OPERATOR'S MANUAL  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$2,399

For testing, we fitted the rifle with a Leupold 1-3X 14 mm Mark 4 CQ/T and fired a selection of loads from Remington, Hornady and Barrett. Through the course of a few hundred rounds, the rifle performed without a single malfunction.

The single-stage trigger of the rifle was somewhat heavy and gritty with a 6-lb., 8-oz. break. Accuracy was quite good with all three types of ammunition. After firing, a quick fieldstripping revealed an astoundingly clean rifle, with the bolt carrier assembly clear of fouling and the piston fouled only at its muzzle end.

The REC7 does an excellent job of addressing the two primary complaints aimed at the M4-style carbine, all in a well-made and highly capable package that continues Barrett's tradition of innovative firearm design. 

The one-piece piston and gas regulator (l.) are easily extracted and cleaned by virtue of Barrett's proprietary design. The stainless steel rod shifts 1" rearward and forward during operation.





## STOEGER CONDOR OUTBACK

**S**toeger has a well-deserved reputation for offering affordably priced, high-quality imported firearms to U.S. shooters. Its line of Condor over-under shotguns made in Brazil by E.R. Amantino is no exception. One of the more unique variants offered is the Condor Outback. The Outback is available in either 12 or 20 gauge in two configurations—blued steel with an American walnut stock set, or nickel-plated steel with a black-finished hardwood stock set. The former in 12 gauge is evaluated here.

Based on the tried-and-true Condor series, the Outback's most noticeable characteristic is the short 20" length of its barrels. Whereas short barrels are quite common on slide-action shotguns and even a good number of side-by-sides, short-barreled over-under shotguns are few and far between.

Even more unique than the length of the Outback's barrels is its sighting system. Rather than employing a more common bead sight, the Outback features a set of rifle-style sights. These include a fixed-blade front sight and a U-notch rear sight. A grooved sighting plane is located just behind the rear sight.

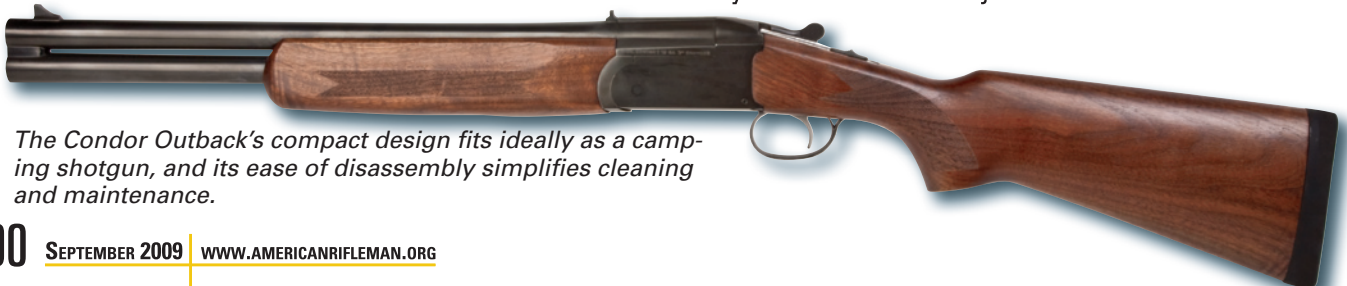
As with all Condor-series shotguns, the Outback is a simple, robust, no-frills over-under shotgun. The Outback is built on the Condor's hammerless boxlock action machined from a steel casting. Rather than an expensive automatic-ejector system, the Outback features simple extractors that push both fired and unfired shells out approximately 1/4" as the action is opened.

The controls of the Outback are simple and straightforward and should be familiar to anyone who

has used an over-under. To open the action, the blued steel top lever is moved to the right. An ambidextrous automatic safety button on the tang is engaged when the action is opened. It is important to note that the Outback does not have a barrel selector, and the bottom barrel always fires first.

As is common on over-under shotguns, the Outback sports a single trigger. Rather than a mechanical trigger, the Outback features an inertia system that requires recoil from the bottom barrel firing to reset the trigger to fire the top.

The fit and finish of the Condor Outback are quite good considering its price. The bluing on the barrels is evenly applied and deep. A matching blue finish is also on the receiver, which sports plain sides and no etched scenes. The monobloc is jeweled on its sides.



*The Condor Outback's compact design fits ideally as a camping shotgun, and its ease of disassembly simplifies cleaning and maintenance.*



## CONDOR OUTBACK

**MANUFACTURER:** ER AMANTINO, RUA FIORINDO DALLA COLETA, 140, BAIRRO CENTRO, VERANÓPOLIS, RS, BRAZIL, 95330-000; WWW.ERAMANTINO.COM.BR

**IMPORTER:** STOEGER INDUSTRIES (DEPT. AR), 17603 INDIAN HEAD HIGHWAY, ACCOKEEK, MD 20607; (800) 264-4962;

WWW.STOEGERINDUSTRIES.COM

**GAUGE:** 12, 3" (TESTED) 20, 3"

**ACTION TYPE:** BREAK-ACTION, OVER-UNDER SHOTGUN

**RECEIVER:** BLUE, BOXLOCK

**BARREL:** 20"

**CHOKES:** INTERCHANGEABLE, IMPROVED CYLINDER AND MODIFIED INCLUDED

**TRIGGER PULL:** BOTTOM BARREL, 5 LBS., 4 OZS.; TOP BARREL, 4 LBS., 8 OZS.

**STOCK:** AMERICAN WALNUT; LENGTH OF PULL, 14½"; DROP AT HEEL, 2½"; DROP AT COMB, 1½"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 36"

**WEIGHT:** 7 LBS.

**ACCESSORIES:** TWO CHOKE TUBES, CHOKE TUBE KEY

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$369

The Condor Outback's inertia system requires the bottom barrel to fire first, and extractors (top) pull shells approximately 1/4" from the chambers. The rifle-style fixed-blade front sight (above) is unusual for shotguns.

The buttstock and fore-end are American walnut with a satin finish. The stock set on the sample received for testing exhibited attractive grain and an evenly applied finish. The checkering on the fore-end and buttstock is laser-engraved and features a border. Although there were no overruns, many of the points of the checkering were flattened. The wood-to-metal fit of the Outback was reasonably good, and a generous 1"-thick recoil pad capped the buttstock.

To further enhance the flexibility of the Outback, both barrels employ interchangeable choke tubes. Improved-cylinder and modified chokes are installed at the factory, although a full range of both extended and flush-fitting chokes are available.

Although the Outback would be equally suited as either a defensive shotgun or a general varmint gun, its configuration makes it ideally suited as a general-purpose camping shotgun, as it is small and compact and can be taken down into its primary components—

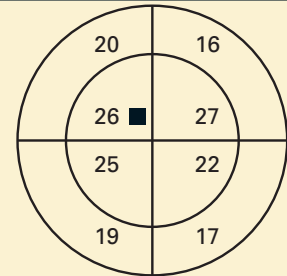
barrels and fore-end, receiver and stock—quickly and easily. We noted during disassembly that the fore-end employed a rolling cam latch release that was somewhat difficult to engage while simultaneously pulling down on the wood to release it.

Although the selection of loadings suited to this general-purpose shotgun is extremely broad, we chose to pattern both barrels with 3" Federal Mag-Shok No. 4 shot turkey loads. In the course of patterning both barrels, we discovered that the light 7-lb. weight of the shotgun, which would make it such a pleasure to carry afield, also made it a tad unpleasant to fire with the 3" loads.

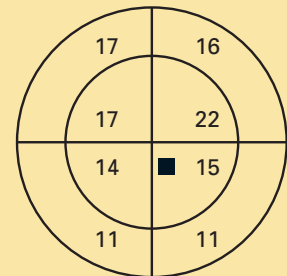
Patterning both barrels revealed a slightly low and to the right point of hold for the bottom improved cylinder barrel and a slightly high and left point of hold for the upper modified barrel relative to its rifle-style sights. Both barrels provided reasonably dense and evenly spaced patterns, although the barrel with the modified choke showed a general

## SHOOTING RESULTS

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS @ 40 YDS.



**MODIFIED CHOKE TUBE**



**IMPROVED CYLINDER CHOKE TUBE**


■ = POINT OF HOLD  
**FEDERAL PREMIUM MAG-SHOK**  
**No. PFC157 4**  
**12 GA., 3"—1¾ OZS.—No. 4 SHOT**  
 AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 259

TOTAL HITS (TOP BARREL)	172 (66%)
21" INNER CIRCLE	100 (38%)
30" OUTER RING	72 (28%)

TOTAL HITS (BOTTOM BARREL)	123 (47%)
21" INNER CIRCLE	68 (26%)
30" OUTER RING	55 (21%)

tendency toward a thickening pattern in the center.

In terms of function, the Outback performed flawlessly. All controls operated smoothly and reliably, and the extractors worked perfectly with both fired and unfired shells. The light weight and handy size of the Outback made it surprisingly adept at breaking clays—although a conscious effort had to be made to ignore the sights. There were no malfunctions during the testing.

Considering its simple operation, handy size, good quality and extremely reasonable price, the Stoeger Condor Outback offers stack-barrel enthusiasts an unconventional but highly capable over-under shotgun. 





## COLT TACTICAL .22



Capitalizing on the growing popularity for tactical-style semi-automatic rifles and the recent increase in firearm and ammunition prices, Carl Walther Germany, through a license agreement with New Colt Holding Corp., has introduced four Colt Tactical Rimfire semi-automatic rifles in .22 LR and is importing them through Umarex USA.

At first glance, the four rifles look like standard .223 Rem./5.56x45 mm NATO AR-15s. Walther took great care in creating accurate replicas for aesthetic appeal. The rifles are available in 16" and 21" barrel lengths with or without full-length Picatinny quad-railing.

Umarex USA shipped the Colt .22 Tactical M4, which features a 16.2" barrel and flat-top receiver with removable carry handle, for review. Both the upper and lower aluminum receivers are die cast and later CNC-machined, and the die cast zinc alloy slide housing and trigger housing hold all internal moving parts. The barrel sleeve is CNC-machined from high-strength aluminum, and is later anodized.

The main spring is positioned in the upper part of the slide housing just behind the slide. The rear of the spring is held in place by an adjustable screw, which can be turned with the provided Allen wrench to increase or decrease bolt speed for a particular ammunition. It is accessible by disengaging the takedown pin and pivoting the upper receiver forward, presenting itself just below the rear of the non-reciprocating charging handle. Walther recommends that the user refrain from disassembling the firearm beyond this point, as the slide is not readily extractable like the AR-15 bolt carrier group. Cleaning requirements can be met at this stage of disassembly.

The .22 Tactical Colt M4 uses straight blowback operation rather than direct gas-impingement found in most standard AR-15s.

The spring-loaded internal extractor is on the right side of the breechblock face, and the external ejector is a pin fixed to the slide housing. The internal slide catch is a 1½" lever hinged to the left of the front underside of the slide housing.

Spring tension holds it down until the magazine follower extension pushes it upward after the last shot is fired, thereby holding the slide rearward.

The controls are similar to those of the AR in appearance, but less so in function. The plastic safety selector lever rotates an unusual 180 degrees to engage the internal safety. The lever is on the left side of the lower receiver just above the pistol grip and extends to the right side as a safety indicator. The magazine release is on the right side of the lower receiver above the trigger guard by the magazine well. Although the bolt stop paddle is on the top left side of the lower receiver by the magazine well and the forward assist plunger is located under the charging handle, neither serves any purpose beyond aesthetic appeal.

The carrying handle features a rear sight identical to that of typical AR-15s: two-position short- and normal-range rear aperture; right-side windage knob; and an elevation knob. Because this is a replica, the markings on the knobs are

## SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YDS.)

.22 LR CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>CCI No. 0050 STINGER 32-GR. GLHP</b>	1527 Avg. 24 SD	166	1.06	2.03	1.58
<b>Win. No. X22LR SUPERX HV 40-GR. LRN</b>	1110 Avg. 23 SD	110	1.62	2.25	1.93
<b>FEDERAL No. AM22 AUTO-MATCH 40-GR. LRN</b>	1144 Avg. 30 SD	116	1.56	2.45	1.89

### AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD

1.80

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 16" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 70° F. HUMIDITY: 57%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, 10-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YDS. FROM A SHOOTING REST. ABBREVIATIONS: GLHP (GILDED LEAD HOLLOW POINT), HV (HIGH VELOCITY), LRN (LEAD ROUND-NOSE), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).



The Colt .22's profile (r.) is similar to that of the AR-15. The magazine follower can be pulled down by its extension for loading (l.), and the adjustable bolt screw lies just below the charging handle (far r.).

not set for .22 LR ammunition; one may, however, still use the knobs to adjust the sights and zero the rifle. The front sight post is also adjustable for elevation.

We had concerns with the trigger pull. Take up equaled about 1/8", and creep and overtravel together also occurred within about 1/8", despite its single-stage design. A good sight picture, however, can be maintained during rapid fire.

Given the questionable performance of the variety of .22 magazines for semi-automatics introduced through the years, we wanted to make sure that we thoroughly examined the .22 Tactical's feeding efficiency. We fired a variety of loads for function and accuracy tests.

Initial function tests results

proved favorable with Federal AutoMatch. We made adjustments to the bolt screw after a single stoppage with Remington HV, and subsequent adjustments were made after more stoppages with Winchester HV Super-X. We contacted engineers at Walther to discuss the problem.

Walther engineers informed us that certain ammunition brands might cause problems, but also that the rifle should not have had the number of stoppages we encountered. Although there was significant residue buildup, it appears that adjusting the screw is generally unnecessary. It should only be adjusted if constant and continual stoppages occur with higher-velocity ammunition.

After cleaning the rifle and returning the screw to its original

## COLT .22 TACTICAL RIMFIRE

**MANUFACTURER:** CARL WALTHER GERMANY, POSTFACH 2740, D-59717 ARNSBERG, GERMANY; WWW.CARL-WALTHER.DE

**IMPORTER:** UMAREX USA INC. (DEPT. AR), 6007 S 29TH ST., FORT SMITH, AR 72908; (479) 646-4210; WWW.COLT22RIMFIRE.COM

**CALIBER:** .22 LR

**ACTION TYPE:** SEMI-AUTOMATIC, RIMFIRE RIFLE

**RECEIVER:** ALUMINUM

**BARREL:** 16.2"

**RIFLING:** SIX-GROOVE, 1:13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" RH TWIST

**MAGAZINE:** 30-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

**SIGHTS:** DETACHABLE CARRY HANDLE IRON SIGHTS, PICATINNY RAIL FOR ATTACHMENTS

**TRIGGER:** SINGLE-STAGE, 6 LBS., 9 OZS.

**STOCK:** LENGTH OF PULL, 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" (EXTENDED); DROP AT HEEL, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"; DROP AT COMB, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 31"—34"

**WEIGHT:** 6 LBS.

**ACCESSORIES:** WRENCH, ALLEN WRENCHES, OWNER'S MANUAL

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$599



position, stoppages were minimal. During a weekend excursion, a *Rifleman* staff member and his family fired in excess of 450 rounds with standard, high-velocity and hyper-velocity ammunition with only two stoppages. Subsequent accuracy tests, the results of which can be found in the accompanying table, totaled 150 rounds with no stoppages.

The Colt .22 Tactical Rimfire is a good rifle for the young shooter interested in getting involved with tactical-style firearms, as well as the older, cost-conscious plinker, and anyone else who just likes shooting rapid-fire .22s. It's fun to shoot, and as one of the young men who went on the weekend excursion attested, "This is the most awesome thing I've ever done!"

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.