

# Browning Gold Fusion Shotgun



Since discontinuing John M. Browning's pioneering recoil-operated Auto-5 in 1998, Browning has been rapidly expanding and refining its Gold Hunter line of gas-operated shotguns. The latest in that series is the Gold Fusion. Browning's Gold Fusion models are light-weight guns geared toward all-around field and target use. Some 8 ozs. lighter than an equivalent Gold Hunter in the same gauge, furniture and barrel length, the Gold Fusion comes standard with a 3" chamber and is offered with

synthetic or wood stocks, as well as a choice of 26" or 28" barrel lengths.

As with the rest of the Browning Gold line, the Fusion has a self-regulating, short-stroke gas system that handles shells from 1-oz. target loads to the heaviest 3" magnums without need for adjustment. This system is identical in operation to that of its parent Gold Hunter. Gas is bled through

two ports in the barrel into the gas cylinder where the pressure forces the aluminum gas piston and polymer operating sleeve rearward about 1/2". The sleeve assembly contains the operating rod, which consists of a single steel pin on its right rear. The operating rod then transfers this rearward momentum to the bolt that moves fully rearward, extracting the empty shell,



*The bolt is unchanged from previous Golds. The locking lug at the bolt's rear engages a recess in the barrel extension. A hook extractor is on the bolt's right.*

## GOLD FUSION

- MANUFACTURER:** Fabrique Nationale Herstal SA, Parc Industriel des Hauts Sarts, 3e Ave., 4040 Herstal, Belgium
- IMPORTER:** Browning Arms Co. (Dept. AR), One Browning Place, Morgan, UT 84050, (801) 876-2711, www.browning.com
- GAUGE:** 12-ga., 3" chamber
- ACTION TYPE:** gas-operated semi-automatic shotgun
- RECEIVER:** matte black aluminum alloy
- BARREL:** 26" (tested), 28", 30" back-bored, chrome-lined
- CHOKES:** five Invector Plus choke tubes
- MAGAZINE:** tubular, accepts four 2¾" shells or three 3" shotshells
- TRIGGER:** single-stage, 5½ lbs. pull
- STOCK:** walnut or synthetic; length of pull, 14¼"; drop at heel, 1¾"; drop at comb, 1½"
- OVERALL LENGTH:** 46½"
- WEIGHT:** 7 lbs., 4 ozs
- ACCESSORIES:** tube wrench, hard plastic carrying case.
- SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$985

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."

**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.

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.



## Modified Choke

■ = Point of Hold  
Winchester Supreme Double-X  
Magnum

12-ga., 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz.,

No. 6 copper plated Lead

Average Pellet count: 280

Measured Velocity @3-ft.:

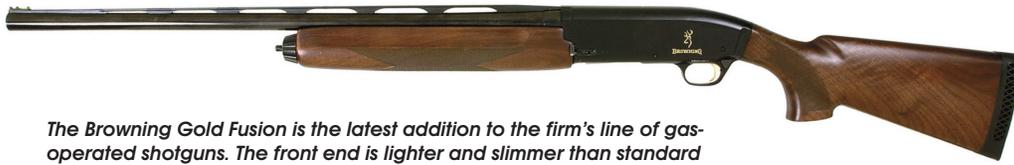
1346 f.p.s.

Remaining Energy Per

Pellet @40 yds.: 1 ft.-lb.

Recoil: 48.5 ft.-lbs.

Total Hits	161 (58%)
21" Inner Circle	80 (29%)
30" Outer Ring	81 (29%)



*The Browning Gold Fusion is the latest addition to the firm's line of gas-operated shotguns. The front end is lighter and slimmer than standard Golds, and the gun proved very responsive in the field.*

ejecting it and recocking the hammer. As the bolt assembly moves forward under pressure of the recoil spring, it picks up and chambers a new shell.

To handle the variances in gas volume produced by different field and target shells, Browning uses a piston within a piston that functions much like a pressure relief valve. Any gas volume greater than the amount necessary to cycle the action forces open a valve that vents excess gas through holes around the piston's circumference. The gas then exits through relieved areas between the barrel and front half of the fore-end. A coil return spring surrounding the magazine tube pushes the sleeve and piston back into position after firing.

The external dimensions of the Gold Fusion's aluminum receiver match those of the Gold Hunter. The receiver's side contours are stepped down at the rear to allow for a thin wrist at the stock.

The bolt head travels on a carrier that moves on rails in either side of the receiver. When fully closed, the top rear of the bolt locks up into a recess cut into the top of the steel barrel extension. There is a single hook extractor on the right side of the bolt. A tube in the buttstock contains the recoil spring that is compressed by a link on the bottom rear of the bolt carrier during recoil. The energy of the spring closes the bolt after firing. A button-shaped projection on the left-hand receiver wall serves as an ejector.

Although most of the components of the Fusion are derived from its parent, the Browning Gold Hunter,

some parts in its front end have been modified to reduce weight. For example, the outside diameter of the Fusion's operating sleeve bar is reduced. Additionally, the barrel walls are thinner and the Fusion makes use of an aluminum magazine tube in lieu of the steel unit of the Gold Hunter. A black ceramic coating protects the magazine tube from barrel heat.

The bore of the Fusion's lightweight barrel is back-bored, chrome-lined and accommodates Browning's Invector-Plus screw-in choke tube system. Five tubes are supplied with the Gold Fusion. The barrel is topped by a 1/4"-wide vent rib that is 5/8" tall at the rear and gently decreases in height until it reaches the muzzle. In lieu of a bead, the Gold Fusion features a Hi-Viz, Pro-Comp, fiber-optic sight popular among sporting clays shooters.

The sample we received for testing has a reddish-

brown walnut stock with satin finish. Its cut checkering is a double-bordered point pattern of 20 lines per inch on the wrist and 22 lines per inch on the fore-end. There are a few flat points and over-runs, but the checkering is generally well-executed. The comb and top of the fore-end are fluted for better purchase by the shooter.

Additionally, a large pistol grip with generous right-hand palm swell helps fill the firing hand. A 1" thick ventilated, rubber recoil pad completes the buttstock. The aluminum receiver has a matte-black finish and wood-to-metal fit is excellent. A stud on the magazine extension allows for the attachment of a quick-detachable sling swivel, but the stock has no matching unit.

Shooters will find the magazine cut-off and speed-loading features of the Gold Fusion helpful. The cut-off is a small lever on the left of the receiver that

allows shooters to isolate shells in the magazine. This lets a shooter remove the shell from the chamber and replace it with another. This feature is most useful when duck and goose seasons overlap and a hunter has to quickly exchange a duck load for a goose load.

Speed loading is a useful feature that automatically loads the first round from the magazine into the chamber. The bolt must be open for this to work, but it eliminates the need to press the bolt release button when loading.



*The basic gas system is unchanged. The forward piston (top) functions like a pressure-relief valve and vents gas unnecessary to cycle the action. To lighten the front of the gun, the magazine tube (above) is of aluminum with a heat-resistant black ceramic coating. The Fusion comes standard with a Hi-Viz, Pro-Comp fiber-optic front sight (above r.) popular with clays shooters. There is also a magazine cut-off on the receiver's left front (r.).*



Viewed from below, the Gold Fusion's pistol grip stock has a generous right-hand palm swell. The walnut wrist has well-executed 20 line-per-inch checkering.

Two pins retain the trigger guard assembly, which contains the entire fire control system, including the hammer, trigger, sear and disconnector as well as the shell carrier, which is powered by a coil spring.

The safety is a large triangular cross-bolt behind the trigger. It is reversible for left-handed shooters and has a red annular ring to indicate the "fire" position. Not only does the safety block the rearward movement of the trigger, it also has an extension that secures the hammer.

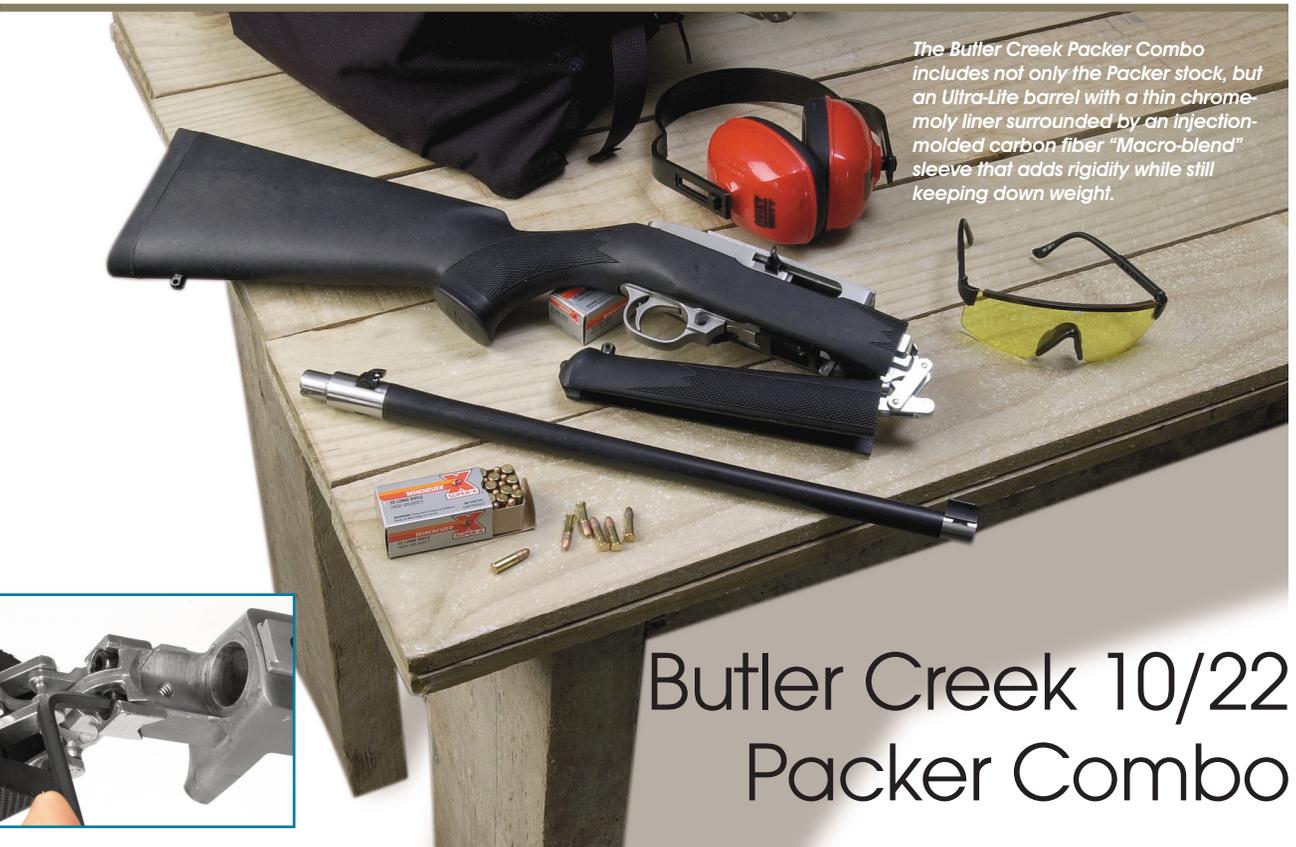
The curved trigger blade is gold-plated and

our example broke at 5-lbs. pull with minimal take-up and almost no overtravel.

The Browning Gold Fusion was pattern tested at 40 yds. with the improved cylinder Invector Plus choke tube. The results are shown in the accompanying table. Function firing was with a variety of 2¾" and 3" target and field loads. The Fusion consistently cycled loads as light as 1 oz., but it proved balky with light 7/8-oz. target loads.

Sometimes, a shotgun can be lightened without any significant improvement in its handling qualities. The lighter front end of the Gold

Fusion, however, definitely translates into a more responsive gun that requires less effort to get in front of fast-moving targets. As befits a gun billed as lightweight, the lines of the Gold Fusion are very sleek, save for the tall rib and fiber-optic sights. The latter's colors can be swapped out to compensate for different light conditions, though their value was often lost on some. For those who like the advantages of a lightweight semi-automatic for busting targets and pursuing upland birds, the Fusion is a target gun equally at home in the field.



The Butler Creek Packer Combo includes not only the Packer stock, but an Ultra-Lite barrel with a thin chrome-moly liner surrounded by an injection-molded carbon fiber "Macro-blend" sleeve that adds rigidity while still keeping down weight.



## Butler Creek 10/22 Packer Combo

Butler Creek's Packer Combo is a clever takedown system for the Ruger 10/22 in which a specially designed stock allows users to remove and re-install the included barrel quickly and easily. For those who canoe, backpack or just simply need to conserve

every ounce of weight and inch of space possible, the Packer Combo is ideal.

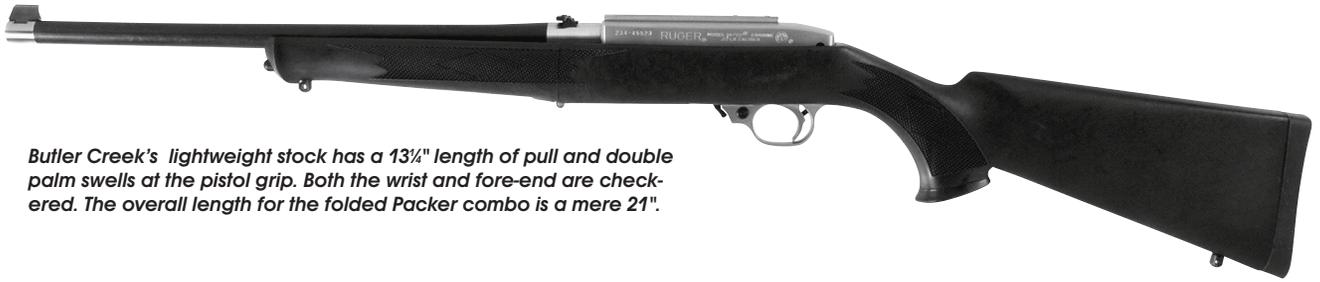
It features not only Butler Creek's clever barrel-takedown system Packer stock, but also one of its Ultra-Lite barrels that is 30 percent lighter than the factory tube. The entire system

is installed easily without the need for a gunsmith.

Although the Packer Combo works together as a system, the stock and the barrel are not mutually exclusive and are also sold separately. The Combo package is simply intended as a convenient way to reduce both

the weight and size of a Ruger 10/22 .22 LR rifle.

The synthetic Packer stock itself is divided into two separate sections—the buttstock and the fore-end—the latter of which houses Butler Creek's cam-lock system. The cam-lock has a male dovetail on the end that



**Butler Creek's lightweight stock has a 13¼" length of pull and double palm swells at the pistol grip. Both the wrist and fore-end are checkered. The overall length for the folded Packer combo is a mere 21".**

engages a slot on the bottom of the barrel. As the fore-end is folded or closed, the cam moves the male dovetail and either pulls out or pushes in the barrel from the receiver depending on the movement of the fore-end, respectively.

The included Ultra-Lite barrel is 16½" and is manufactured to the factory contour with a recessed target crown. The light weight is achieved by utilizing a thin, chrome-moly steel liner between a machined breech and muzzle of stainless steel. A custom carbon fiber "Macro-blend" sleeve is molded over the assembly for rigidity and light weight.

To install the system, first

ensure that the 10/22 is unloaded. Follow the standard 10/22 disassembly instructions. Once the gun is disassembled, use a 5/32" Allen wrench to remove the two retainer screws from the factory-barrel retainer V-block under the barrel on the front face of the receiver, allowing the barrel to be removed. Carefully remove the barrel by pulling it forward while giving it one-quarter twist in both clockwise and counter-clockwise directions.

To install the two-sectioned Packer stock, begin with the fore-end half that houses the cam-lock. This attaches to the face of the receiver by means of a

replacement V-block (part of the cam-lock) that attaches in place of the factory V-block. Next, install the remaining rear section of the Packer stock as you would the factory stock.

Now that the receiver and the stock are assembled, place the Ultra-Lite barrel partially in the receiver, but not completely. Make sure that the dovetail slot in the bottom of the barrel is engaged by the cam-lock and slowly close the fore-end. This system ensures that the barrel is properly aligned as the fore-end is closed.

To remove the barrel, grasp it firmly forward of the fore-end. Depress the release button at the forward tip of the fore-end and fold the fore-end back completely. Next, twist the barrel about 90 degrees (to clear the male dovetail that is on the end of the cam-lock) and pull it straight out.

The Packer Combo-equipped 10/22 almost floats out of your hands at 4 lbs., 5½ oz. and folds down to a minuscule 21". As for handling, length of pull is increased ¼" over the Ruger factory stock to 13¾", drop at heel goes from the Ruger's 2¾" to 2½", and drop at comb changes from

1¼" to 1½". The stock rests well on the shoulder and has a noticeable curve to the lower part of the pistol grip. The stock also features double palm swells and has a checkered fore-end and pistol grip.

In regards to fit and finish, only a small seam from the molding process shows. The cam-lock system functions well, locking positively and disassembling with little trouble, although it does take a few tries to get the parts "broken-in." Function firing resulted in no malfunctions and the Packer Combo 10/22 proved to be more accurate—especially with Federal ammunition—than the original, which is impressive considering it is a takedown system.

For those who want a small, light .22 for the outdoors, the Packer Combo installed on a 10/22 fills the bill. Butler Creek also offers a carrying case that has separate pockets for the barrel and folded action/stock.

Available from:  
Butler Creek (Dept. AR),  
P.O. Box 1690, Oregon City,  
OR 97045; (800) 948-1356;  
[www.butlercreek.com](http://www.butlercreek.com).  
Suggested retail price:  
\$279.95.



**Assembly is easy and requires no tools or gunsmithing. After it is put together, disassembly is by depressing the release button in fore-end (above I.) and folding it back (above). Then twist the barrel 90 degrees and pull it straight out (I.).**

## SHOOTING RESULTS

.22 LR Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
CCI 0030 40-gr. Mini-Mag	1167 Avg. 22 Sd	121	1.14	2.50	1.75
Winchester X22LR 40-gr. Super-X	1163 Avg. 26 Sd	115	1.70	2.91	2.10
Federal UM1 40-gr. Gold Medal UM	1099 Avg. 16 Sd	107	0.96	2.36	1.17
Average Extreme Spread:					1.67
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 16½" barrel. Range temperature: 75° F. Humidity: 21%. Accuracy for five consecutive, 10-shot groups at 50 yds. from a sand-bag. Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation), UM (UltraMatch).					

# Tikka Model 595 Continental Varmint Rifle



**T**ikka's new Model 595 Continental Varmint is a bolt-action, light varmint rifle for hunting to ranges of 200 yds. The Continental Varmint is neither a slim-barrel sporter nor a bull-barrel heavy varmint rifle. Rather, it has a medium weight, alloyed steel barrel tapering to a diameter of 0.790" at the muzzle. This results in barrel mass sufficient to resist heat buildup for sustained varmint shooting while keeping total weight low enough for portability. Tikka complements the gun with a checkered walnut stock having a high comb for scope use and a beavertail fore-end with a flat bottom that provides stability for shooting from a rest. Yet, fore-end width remains narrow enough for positional field shooting without a rest. Surprisingly, these design compromises do not result in a "jack-of-all-trades, master-of-none" rifle. Instead, the Continental Varmint does everything well, combining

accuracy with portability and flexibility.

Tikka is a well-established Finnish brand that, along with Sako, is now part of Beretta Holdings. A few years back, independent manufacturer Tikka was absorbed by Sako. However, Sako wisely continued the Tikka brand and designs as a separate product line from its own. That continues today, with Tikka rifles being distinctly different from those of Sako or Beretta.

The Continental Varmint rifle uses Tikka's Model 595 short action that has five flat outer surfaces (six counting the flat bottom), an outside diameter of 1.290" at the front receiver ring and an overall length of 9" (approximately 2.870" between the receiver front ring and rear bridge). These dimensions make it suitable for short-case calibers such as the .17 Rem., .223 Rem., .22-250 Rem. or .308 Win., all of which are chambered in this model. Additional design features



*A key part of Tikka's light varmint rifle concept is the beavertail fore-end with a flat bottom for shooting from a rest. However, the fore-end remains narrow enough for comfortable position shooting in the field. The result is a fully capable, portable rifle.*

## SHOOTING RESULTS

.223 Rem. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Recoil (ft.-lbs.)	Smallest (Inches)	Largest (Inches)	Average (Inches)
PMC 223SMA 52-gr. HPBT	3114 Avg. 40 Sd	1,120	4.6	0.46	0.98	0.68
Federal P223E 55-gr. HPBT	3185 Avg. 25 Sd	1,240	4.8	0.75	1.75	1.32
Winchester X223R 55-gr. PSP	3041 Avg. 22 Sd	1,130	4.7	0.61	1.42	0.98
Average Extreme Spread:						0.99
Measured average velocity for 20 rounds from a 26" barrel. Range temperature: 79°F. Humidity: 49%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: HPBT (hollow-point boattail), PSP (pointed soft-point), Sd (standard deviation).						

**Tikka's new Model 595 Continental Varmint rifle appeals to a new market niche—the light varmint rifle. Not a sporter and not a heavy varmint rifle, at just over 8 lbs. the Continental Varmint is an accurate, all-around light varmint.**



include a rotating external extractor, an internal ejector, a 90 degree bolt lift and a detachable, single-column box magazine molded of fiberglass-reinforced synthetic material.

Locking is by means of two opposed lugs on the front of the 0.684"-diameter bolt body that lock into recesses in the receiver. The bolt body itself has two gas relief holes to vent high-pressure gases in the event of a case head failure—one on the lower front between the locking lugs and one under the root of the bolt handle. The rear bolt shroud fully encloses the bolt body, preventing gases from hit-

ting the shooter's face. There is a two-position safety, a cocking indicator tab on the bolt tang and a two-stage trigger adjustable for let-off weight.

The Continental Varmint does not come with metal sights, but the tops of the receiver ring and bridge are drilled and tapped for conventional scope bases as well as dovetailed for Tikka base/ring combo units. To test the rifle, we mounted a Pentax 3-9X 42 mm Lightseeker scope. We experienced no problems mounting the scope on the rifle.

In line with current customer preferences, barrel length is 26" to wring maxi-

mum velocity from the .223 Rem. chambering of our test gun. Our example had conventional, six-groove rifling with 1:12" RH twist, which is standard for that caliber. The barrel is free-floated and tapers to a muzzle diameter of 0.790" with a target crown.

Workmanship, fit and finish of the Tikka are above average. Wood-to-metal fit is very good, and all metal parts, save the brightly polished bolt, are blued—the barrel having a medium-polish blue that contrasts nicely with the matte finish on the receiver. The stock is dark walnut with a semi-gloss finish and 18 lines-per-inch, diamond-pattern cut checkering on the pistol grip and fore-end. Quick detach sling swivel studs and a radiused, brown rubber butt pad are standard. The full pistol grip has a comfortable Wundhammer swell on the right side (but not the left).

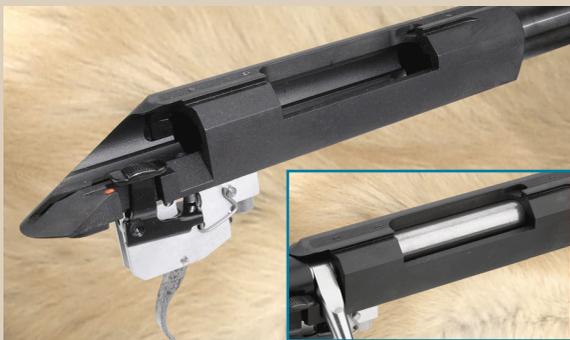
In test firing the Continental, we found the bolt glided with exceptional smoothness and no binding. Trigger pull was crisp and consistent with a let-off weight of 3½ lbs. Accuracy proved very good with all brands of ammunition, and functioning was flawless.

We liked the general handling and balance of the Continental Varmint. It is truly portable yet capable of excellent accuracy as we found out on a Tejon Ranch ground squirrel safari in California. The

Continental consistently dispatched the small rodents at ranges up to 200 yds. and proved a steady rifle from solid rests and impromptu field positions. Our only real complaint was that some of our more avid varmint hunters would prefer a five-round-capacity magazine instead of the three-round unit.

Tikka must be commended for its addition to the new light varmint rifle market. Not a sporter and not a full-house heavy varmint rifle, the Continental Varmint nonetheless proves that niche markets still exist for high-quality firearms. 

**The Model 595's receiver (below) is a stressed, two-bridge design of heat-treated, alloy steel with five upper flat surfaces and a flat bottom. The trigger guard is of molded synthetic material. The Tikka's bolt (r.) features dual opposed front locking lugs with a rotating external extractor and an internal plunger ejector.**



### TIKKA MODEL 595

**MANUFACTURER:** Tikka Rifles, P.O. Box 149, 11101 Riihimäki, Finland

**IMPORTER:** Beretta USA Corp. (Dept AR), 17601 Beretta Drive, Accokeek, MD 20607, (301) 283-2191, www.beretta.com

**CALIBER:** .17 Rem., .223 Rem. (tested), .22-250 Rem., .308 Win.

**ACTION TYPE:** bolt-action center-fire rifle

**RECEIVER:** blued alloy steel

**BARREL:** 26"

**RIFLING:** conventional, six-groove, 1:12" RH twist

**MAGAZINE:** three rounds, detachable box

**SIGHTS:** none, receiver drilled and tapped for scope mounts and grooved for Tikka bases

**TRIGGER:** single-stage, adjustable, 3½-lb. pull

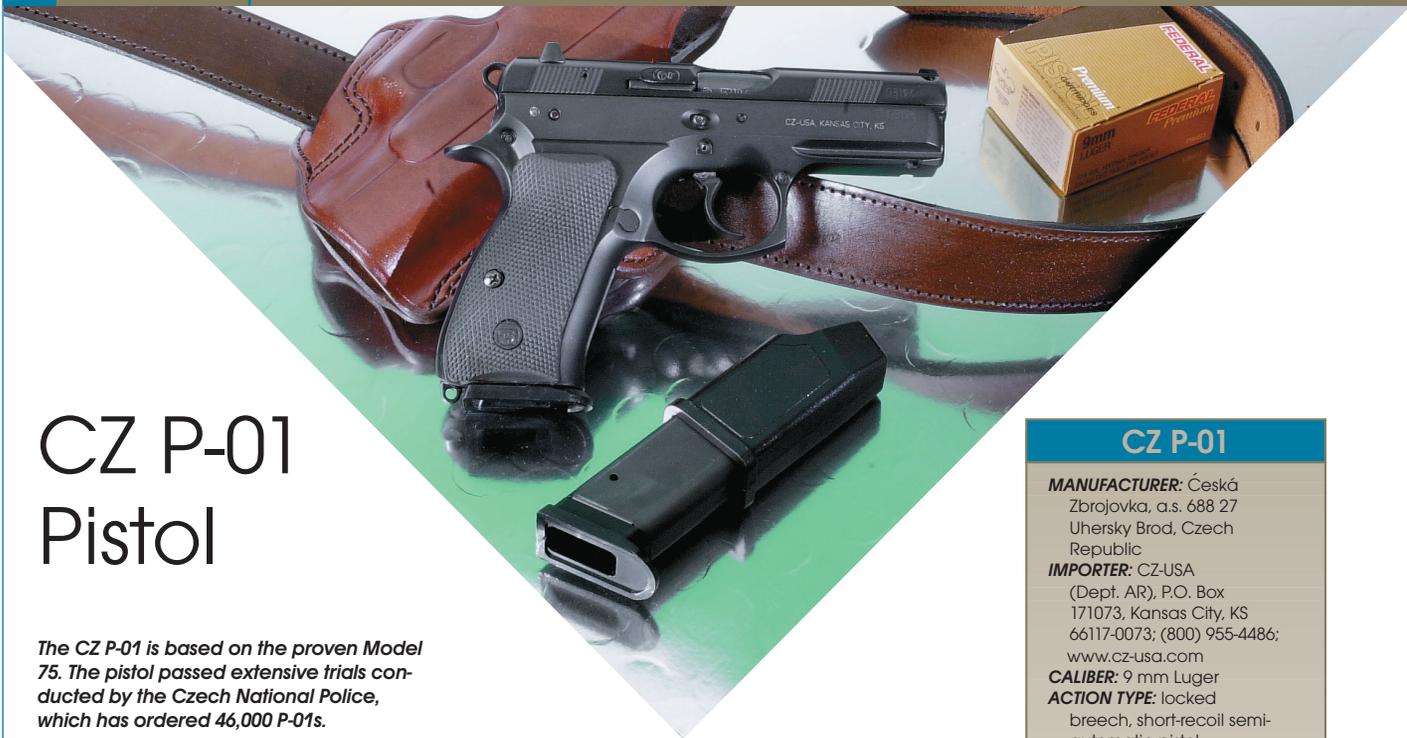
**STOCK:** semi-matte-finished walnut; length of pull, 14½"; drop at heel, 1½"; drop at comb, 1¼"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 46"

**WEIGHT:** 8½ lbs.

**ACCESSORIES:** quick-detach sling swivel studs

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$720



# CZ P-01 Pistol

*The CZ P-01 is based on the proven Model 75. The pistol passed extensive trials conducted by the Czech National Police, which has ordered 46,000 P-01s.*

For Americans, Česká Zbrojovka Uhersky Brod's CZ 75 had been the most desired handgun produced behind the Iron Curtain (Sept. 1981, p. 48). It had earned the praise of none other than M1911 devotee Jeff Cooper, who declared it the best double-action pistol design in the world, owing, perhaps, to the fact that it could be carried "cocked and locked." Numerous CZ 75 copies were manufactured in Western Europe and marketed in the United States before the genuine article became available here—through CZ-USA—a few years ago.

CZ has since expanded the line to include models with ambidextrous controls, shortened slides and frames, decockers and double-action-only (DAO) triggers.

The latest incarnation of the design, the CZ P-01, differs markedly in a number of ways from the original, yet should be equally appealing to American shooters. The CZ P-01 is a short recoil-operated, aluminum alloy-framed, double-action (DA) pistol equipped with a decocker. It was created at the behest of the Czech National Police, which presented CZ with a daunting protocol for the pistol's performance.

The test included such requirements as firing without failure following 4,000 dry firings and 3,000 decockings. Moreover, it had to endure 1,350 field strippings and 150 detail strippings. Further, to demonstrate the interchangeability of parts, any number of P-01 pistols could be randomly selected,

disassembled, their parts mixed and the guns reassembled with no failures permitted.

Safety was evinced by the guns being dropped from a variety of angles onto concrete from a height of 1.5 meters (54 times) and 3 meters (five times) with no failures (a failure being a discharge). The guns were then required to fire without being serviced.

The necessary durability was proven by having the pistols fire after being frozen for 24 hours at -36° F, and again after being heated for 24 hours at 126° F. The guns also had to tolerate immersion in mud, sand and combinations thereof—even after being stripped of oil. Finally, the pistols had to have a service life of 15,000 rounds.

Obviously, a pistol of reasonable size and competitive price that could meet such standards would be highly attractive to the U.S. market. The people at CZ-USA thought so, too. A company official declared the P-01 "the most reliable and accurate pistol the company has ever made."

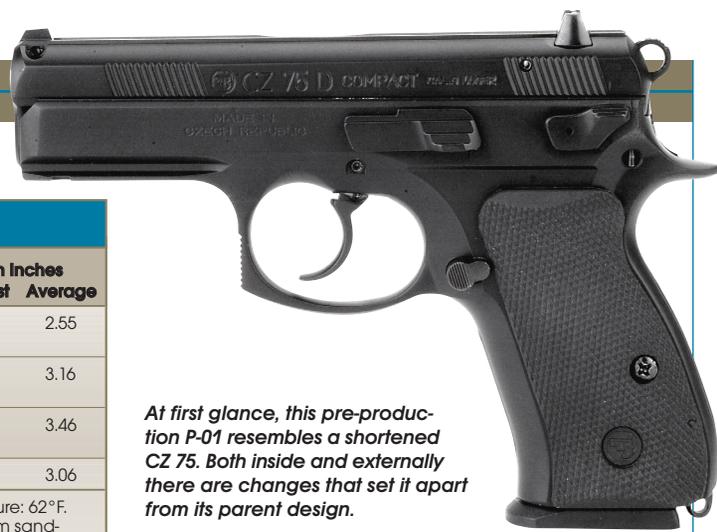


*The CZ P-01 features serrations on the front and rear of the slide. The frame's dust cover has an accessory rail on its front.*

## CZ P-01

**MANUFACTURER:** Česká Zbrojovka, a.s. 688 27 Uhersky Brod, Czech Republic  
**IMPORTER:** CZ-USA (Dept. AR), P.O. Box 171073, Kansas City, KS 66117-0073; (800) 955-4486; www.cz-usa.com  
**CALIBER:** 9 mm Luger  
**ACTION TYPE:** locked breech, short-recoil semi-automatic pistol  
**FRAME:** blue-finished, anodized aluminum alloy receiver, carbon steel slide  
**BARREL:** 4"  
**RIFLING:** 1:16" RH twist  
**MAGAZINE:** detachable box, 10-round capacity  
**SIGHTS:** pinned front post; square-notch, low-profile dovetailed rear; three dots  
**TRIGGER:** double-action; 9 lbs. double-action pull; 5 lbs. single-action pull  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7½"  
**WIDTH:** 1½"  
**HEIGHT:** 5¾"  
**WEIGHT:** 1 lb., 9 ozs.  
**ACCESSORIES:** hard plastic case, gun lock, cleaning kit, test target  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$550

At first glance, the P-01 simply resembles a chopped (shortened barrel/slide and frame) CZ 75, but there are subtle and significant differences. The new gun has both rear *and* forward serrations on the slide for better purchase. The trigger guard is recurved and horizontally grooved for those who place their off-hand forefingers there. The sights are of a low-profile, snag-free contour similar to the popular Novak design. The hammer rowel is round, like that of a Colt Commander, which



*At first glance, this pre-production P-01 resembles a shortened CZ 75. Both inside and externally there are changes that set it apart from its parent design.*

## SHOOTING RESULTS

9 mm Luger Cartridge	Vel. @15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Recoil (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
				Smallest	Largest	Average
Federal 124-gr. FMJ	1039 Avg. 13 Sd	297	4.7	2.32	2.87	2.55
Winchester 115-gr. JHP	1126 Avg. 12 Sd	324	4.7	2.52	3.54	3.16
Black Hills 124-gr. JHP	1184 Avg. 18 Sd	386	5.9	2.88	4.14	3.46
Average Extreme Spread						3.06
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 4" barrel. Range temperature: 62°F. Humidity: 85%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yds. from sandbags. Abbreviations: FMJ (full metal jacket), JHP (jacketed hollow point), Sd (standard deviation).						

reduces hammer bite on the web of the shooting hand. Further, the magazine release button has been enlarged for faster, surer engagement. Additionally, there is an accessory rail built into the frame ahead of the trigger guard. The grip panels, previously made of hard plastic, are now made of soft, checkered rubber. The compact gun also has a lanyard loop, a retention device useful for uniformed personnel but of little value to civilians. The last, but likely most important, obvious difference between the

P-01 and the original CZ 75 is the absence of the safety lever and the presence of the decocker.

As with traditional DA pistols, the P-01 has a long, relatively heavy first trigger pull that both cocks the hammer and releases it. All subsequent shots are single action with the energy from the fired round cycling the action and cocking the hammer. The transition from the DA to the SA trigger pull is problematic for some, but can be overcome with practice. The trigger on the new CZ is on par

with other triggers of this type on other brands of guns. The decocker is a nice feature that allows the shooter to safely lower the hammer of a cocked pistol without having to touch the hammer or trigger. It is a simple system that appeals to consumers who seek an added margin of safety as well as to law enforcement agencies looking to avoid both complicated training and liability risks. A loaded-chamber indicator is another positive safety feature of the P-01.

CZ 75s, with their deeply sculpted backstraps and slim grip panels, have always fit well into the hands of most shooters, and the P-01 is no exception. This is particularly impressive given the fact that CZ 75s have a double-stack magazine design, their civilian units holding the legally mandated 10 rounds. There is nothing about the feel of this small gun's grip frame to indicate it is a compact model. The only complaint as to ergonomics was that the extreme forward position of the trigger in the double-action mode made reach difficult for those with medium to small hands. Otherwise, the controls—including the frame-mounted safety—are quite good;

well-located and easy to manipulate. The aluminum alloy frame is a big plus for the P-01. It makes little sense to make a gun that is compact but heavy. The frame is mated to a steel slide and both are coated with a thick layer of a durable polymer finish.

We were quite impressed with the CZ P-01. Despite being designed specifically for Czech law enforcement, it has practically all the features anyone would want in a double-action carry gun: reliability, accuracy, a reasonably powerful chambering, firepower, light weight, compactness, durability and good ergonomics.



*The new double-action P-01 has a decocking lever on the frame's left rear. The frame is of aluminum alloy, and the lanyard ring on its bottom reflects its origin as a Czech National Police arm.*



*The CZ P-01 has low-profile, three-dot sights. The front is pinned in place, while the rear is drift-adjustable for windage.*

