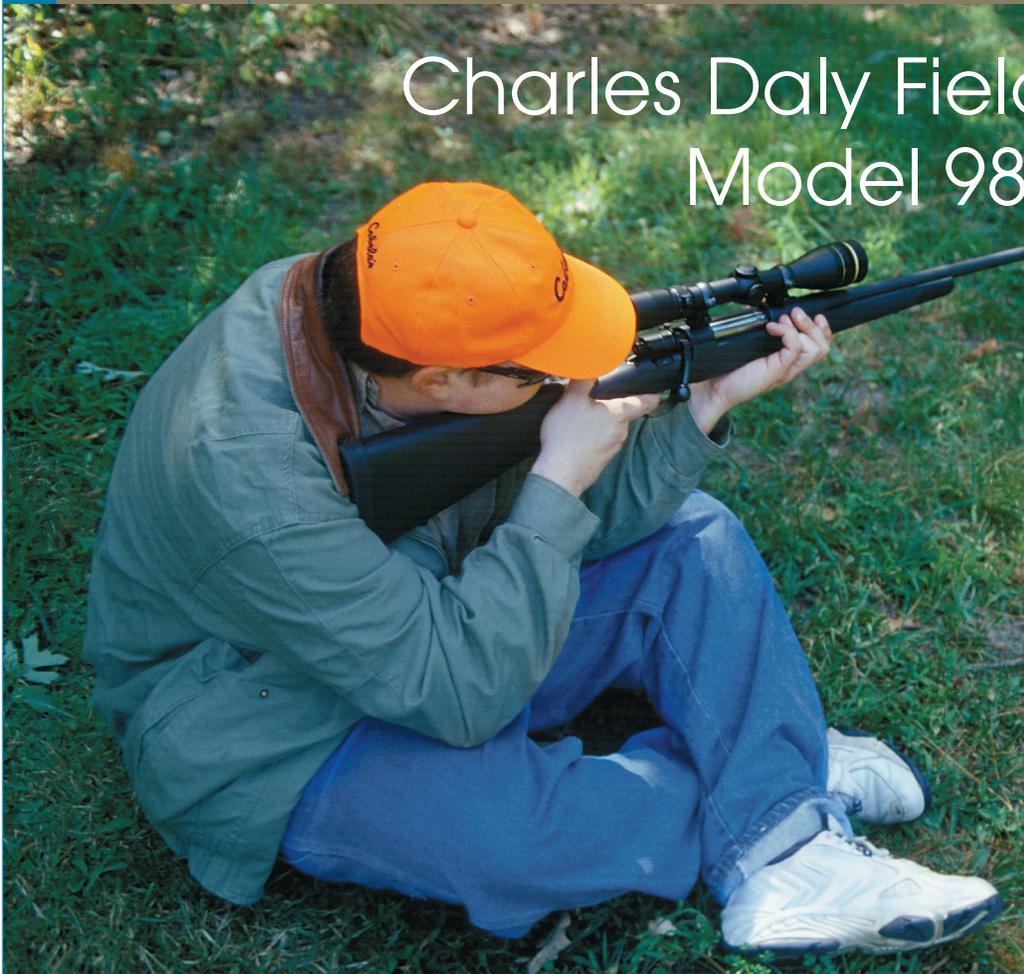


# Charles Daly Field Grade Model 98 Mauser



## DALY MODEL 98

**MANUFACTURER:** Zastava Arms, Spanskilj Boraca 4, YU-34000 Kragujevac, Yugoslavia

**IMPORTER:** Charles Daly, Inc. (Dept. AR), P.O. Box 6625, Harrisburg, PA 17112; (717) 540-8518; www.charlesdaly.com

**CALIBERS:** .22-250 Rem., .243 Win. (tested), .25-'06 Rem., .270 Win., .308 Win., .30-'06 Sprg., 7 mm Rem. Mag., .300 Win. Mag.

**ACTION TYPE:** bolt-action, rifle  
**RECEIVER:** matte-blued, forged steel

**BARREL:** matte-blued, 22", hammer-forged steel

**RIFLING:** six-groove, 1:8" RH twist

**MAGAZINE:** four-round box  
**SIGHTS:** none, receiver drilled and tapped

**TRIGGER:** single-stage, adjustable, 5½-lbs. pull

**STOCK:** black synthetic; length of pull, 14"; drop at heel, 1¼"; drop at comb, 1"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 42½"  
**WEIGHT:** 7 lbs., 8 ozs.  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$449

It seems the more a modern bolt-action rifle resembles an original Mauser sporter, the more shooters tend to like it. For those with a taste for Mauser bolt-action sporters, but not necessarily the funds to spare for an original, much less a newly made custom gun, Charles Daly now offers three lines of Mauser 98-style sporters made by

Zastava of Yugoslavia. Its Field Grade comes with a synthetic stock and only right-hand actions are available. The Superior Grade has a choice of left-hand or right-hand actions, plus a hardwood stock with white-line spacers bordering the butt and contrasting fore-end cap. Lastly, the Superior Grade Mini-Mauser is built around a short receiver. Available in .22 Hornet, .223 Rem. or 7.62x39 mm chamberings, a choice of left- or right-hand actions is

available for the Mini-Mauser as well. For testing, we received an example of the Model 98 Field Grade in .243 Win.

All of the major design elements of an original Mauser action are present in the new Charles Daly Field Grade. Its bolt has a one-piece body with two fixed, horizontally opposed locking locks and a third safety lug that locks into the rear receiver bridge, a flat bolt face, and a large claw extractor running down the right side for controlled-round feed. In

terms of finish, the front half of the bolt is left in the white while the rear half—including the striker, bolt sleeve and bolt handle—are finished in a matte blue. The receiver has the familiar bolt release lever on the left receiver wall, however, the thumb cut-out and clip slot have been eliminated for additional strength. In any case, these clip-loading features are of no value in a



Like the original Mauser 98, the Model 98 Field Grade has a flat bolt face and a large claw extractor for controlled-round feed.



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.

## SHOOTING RESULTS

| .243 Win. Cartridge            | Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.) | Energy (ft.-lbs.) | Group Size In Inches |         |         |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|
|                                |                     |                   | Smallest             | Largest | Average |
| Remington PRT243WC 90-gr. BT   | 2820 Avg. 28 Sd     | 1,589             | 2.04                 | 2.81    | 2.52    |
| Winchester SBST243A 95-gr. BST | 2860 Avg. 26 Sd     | 1,726             | 1.67                 | 2.43    | 1.98    |
| Federal 243AS 80-gr. JSP       | 3086 Avg. 26 Sd     | 1,692             | 1.52                 | 2.46    | 1.86    |
| Average Extreme Spread:        |                     |                   |                      |         | 2.12    |

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 22" barrel. Range temperature: 78° F. Humidity: 66%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: BT (boattail), BST (Ballistic Silvertip), Sd (Standard deviation)



A two-position safety button on the right side of the receiver simplifies scope mounting and is within easy reach of the firer's thumb.



The Charles Daly Field Grade retains the traditional bolt release lever, but the clip slot and thumb cut-out for stripper clip loading have been eliminated.



In keeping with the features of original Mauser sporters, the magazine floorplate is hinged to aid unloading.



The trigger of the Charles Daly Model 98 is an adjustable single-stage design with short travel and a raked profile.

sporting rifle such as the Charles Daly Field that is drilled and tapped for mounting a scope that will prevent their use.

Although it is clearly true to its heritage, other traditional Mauser features have been modified or eliminated to suit modern tastes in hunting rifles. For example, the top of the bolt

handle is dished to help it clear the eyepiece of a scope. And to keep it from rapping the firer's hand, the knob is turned out and swept back. The flat bottom of the round bolt knob provides additional clearance and is checkered for a better grip.

Although the three-position safety lever of the original Mausers is certainly reliable and easy to use, it severely hampers scope

mounting. Consequently, numerous aftermarket suppliers offer do-it-yourselfers and professional gunsmiths low profile replacements for military surplus rifles. As the Charles Daly Mauser is intended to be field-ready out of the box, it is supplied with a safety button on right receiver wall. It features a stepped contour and is positioned within reach of the firer's thumb. Pulling the button rearward blocks movement of the trigger, while pushing forward exposes a red dot that provides a visual cue that the gun is ready to fire.

A hammer-forged barrel with a slim sporter contour is threaded into the receiver ring. Its recessed crown protects the rifling's origin. Raised, 12 line-per-inch-checkering is molded into the wrist and fore-end, but the surface of the black synthetic stock is otherwise smooth. The stock caters to American tastes with no hogback contour. Although the pistol grip is sharply defined, the dimensions of the wrist are very slim. Other features include a recessed comb with a prominent Monte-Carlo cheekpiece, 5/8"-thick rubber recoil pad and quick-detachable sling swivel studs on the fore-end and toe of the stock.

The trigger guard and fixed magazine assembly consist of forged steel. In true Mauser sporter tradition, a knurled button on the trigger guard releases the hinged floorplate for ease in unloading. The curved

trigger blade features a grooved face. Its heavily raked profile and single stage operation make trigger travel very short compared to two-stage military surplus examples. Our example broke at 5¼ lbs. pull with minimal take-up and overtravel.

Using Weaver bases and Millet rings, we fitted a Leupold Vari-X III 3.5-10X scope to the Charles Daly Mauser for accuracy testing. Results are shown in the accompanying table. Its shape is trim enough to tote through thick woods and dense underbrush, but its all-steel construction makes the gun noticeably heavier than some comparable bolt-action sporting rifles.

In terms of value, the Charles Daly Mauser sits at a crossroads. It's certainly less expensive than adding a new stock, trigger, safety and hinged floorplate to a surplus rifle, never mind the additional gunsmithing costs of drilling and tapping for scope mounts, modifying the bolt handle and replacing or recountouring the barrel. On the other hand, the Charles Daly Mauser Field Grade is only marginally less expensive than the economy models offered by other manufacturers of new bolt-action rifles. That being said, if you know what features you like in bolt-action rifles, and what you like adds up to "Mauser," then the Charles Daly Mausers are certainly worth your consideration.





# Les Baer Custom Ultimate .223 Super Match

**A**s a gunsmith, Les Baer rightly reasoned that he would be able to produce guns with more consistent performance and better accuracy potential if the major components were made to tighter tolerances to begin with. Unsatisfied with anything available on the M1911 commercial market, he chose to make his own parts including slides, frames and barrels. For those searching for the same uncompromising performance in a semi-auto rifle, Les Baer now offers a variety of AR-15-style rifles for match competition, varminting and

law enforcement. For testing and evaluation we received the flagship of the line, the Custom Ultimate AR .223 Super Match Model.

For the Super Match Model, Baer begins with forged aluminum alloy upper and lower receivers CNC machined in-house to match-grade tolerances for a tight and precise fit. Other manufacturers use shims or screws to reduce play between the upper and lower receivers, but the fit of Les Baer's gun is such that there is no dis-

cernable play between the two even though he uses military-style captured receiver pins.

In addition, Baer decided to manufacture the bolt, fluted bolt carrier and extractor himself as well as an aluminum gas block of his own design because outside suppliers could not meet the quality standards he sought. The bolt, bolt carrier, cam pin and extractor of the Super Match are all chrome-plated for enhanced durability and smoother operation.

To ensure accuracy, Baer added one of his benchrest-quality, 416-series stainless steel barrels that are cryo-treated, precision cut rifled and hand-lapped to a 3 to 5 micron finish then finally air-gauged to ensure consistency. The barrel's 1:9" twist is suitable for match bullets up to 69 grs. Three-gun matches seldom

## LES BAER .223 SM

**MANUFACTURER:** Les Baer Custom, Inc. (Dept. AR), 29601 34th Ave., Hillside, IL 61257; (309) 658-2716; www.lesbaer.com

**CALIBER:** .223 Rem.

**ACTION TYPE:** gas-operated, semi-automatic, center-fire rifle

**RECEIVER:** forged aluminum alloy match-grade upper and lower

**BARREL:** Baer precision cut 0.9"-diameter stainless, cyro-treated, 18", 20" (tested), 22", 24"

**RIFLING:** five-groove, 1:9" RH twist

**MAGAZINE:** detachable, 10-round, AR-15-style

**SIGHTS:** none, equipped with Picatinny rail

**TRIGGER:** Jewell, two-stage, adjustable, 3½-lbs. pull

**STOCK:** synthetic: length of pull, 13¾"; drop at heel, 2"; drop at comb, 2"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 38½"

**WEIGHT:** 9½ lbs.

**ACCESSORIES:** magazine, Versa-Pod, soft carry case

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$2,144



The bolt, fluted carrier, extractor and cam pin of Baer's Super Match rifles are precision made in-house and hard-chromed for greater durability and smoother operation.

involve targets beyond 300 yds., so heavier bullets are not needed. However, barrels with tighter twists are available as an option for those who need to shoot heavier bullets.

Baer chose to go with A2-style buttstock dimen-

## SHOOTING RESULTS

| .223 Rem. Cartridge  | Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.) | Energy (ft.-lbs.) | Group Size In Inches |         |         |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|
|  |                     |                   | Smallest             | Largest | Average |
| Federal No. GM223M 69-gr. BTHP   | 2812 Avg. 16 Sd     | 1,132             | 0.42                 | 0.53    | 0.48    |
| Black Hills 68-gr. BTHP  | 2756 Avg. 19 Sd     | 1,109             | 0.38                 | 0.52    | 0.46    |
| Hornady No.8024 52-gr. HP  | 3012 Avg. 15 Sd     | 1,051             | 0.44                 | 0.58    | 0.52    |
| Average Extreme Spread:  |                     |                   | 0.48                 |         |         |
| Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 20" barrel. Range temperature: 79°F. Humidity: 66%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: HP (hollow-point) BTHP (boattail hollow-point), Sd (standard deviation). |                     |                   |                      |         |         |



The Picatinny rails running the length of the flat-top upper receiver matches up with that of the handguard to ensure adequate eye relief for even the largest of scopes (below l.). There is also a combination handstop/bipod adaptor for attaching a Versa-Pod bipod (l.), and a Jewell two-stage adjustable trigger (below r.).



sions for the Super Match because the added length of pull and bulk aid the positional shooting demanded in competition. The stock also has a G.I.-style grooved buttplate and retains the fixed sling loop of the A2-style stock.

In contrast to the generic appearance of the buttstock, Baer subtly re-contoured the pistol grip for better purchase by the firer by adding filler material under the trigger guard corner.

Another critical item Baer had to make in-house was an adjustable, free-floating handguard and locking ring. The anodized aluminum tubular handguard has four full-length Picatinny rails running along the top, bottom and both sides. This configuration is necessary to accommodate the attachment of the multitude of lights, sights, scopes and grips currently popular with action shooters. The rail atop the flat-top receiver makes for an almost infinite amount of eye relief, thus simplifying the mounting of long scopes. Included with the Super Match is Les Baer's Versa-

Pod Picatinny Rail Adaptor for a detachable bipod of the same name. The front of this multi-function accessory has a peg for the attachment of the bipod while the curved rear surface functions as a hand stop to aid offhand shooting. The sling swivel on the adaptor's flat bottom rotates 360 degrees.

In the end, three things were purchased from outside suppliers for the Baer Super Match: a Jewell two-stage trigger, a QMI Gold Titanium firing pin and the Versa-Pod bipod. After some take up, the Jewell trigger of our test example broke at 3½ lbs. with no perceptible creep or stacking and it certainly aided us in accurate shooting. For accuracy testing a Leupold Vari-X III 8.5-25X scope was mounted to the Super Match with

Les Baer's optional EDM rings. Precision inserts allow for the attachment of scopes with either 30 mm or 1" tubes.

Match loads from Federal, Hornady and Black Hills in weights up to 69-grs. were used in our testing. Results shown on the accompanying table were quite impressive. A 10-round magazine is supplied with the gun, but for function-firing we also used some surplus and commercial magazines that had proven reliable in previous tests. There were no malfunctions with any of the ammunition tested. The Super Match's weight of just over 12 lbs. made perceived recoil negligible.

Shooting the Super Match is a pleasure thanks to the gun's smooth trigger

and top-notch accuracy. The Super Match consistently rewarded good marksmanship with center-of-mass hits and tight groups. The Versa Pod is compact and the quick release lever makes installation and reattachment quick and easy. Additionally, it rotates side-to-side so the shooter can remove cant from the sight picture without adjusting the length of the legs. That proved to be of benefit when we were forced to rest the gun on uneven ground to make some of our shots during field tests.

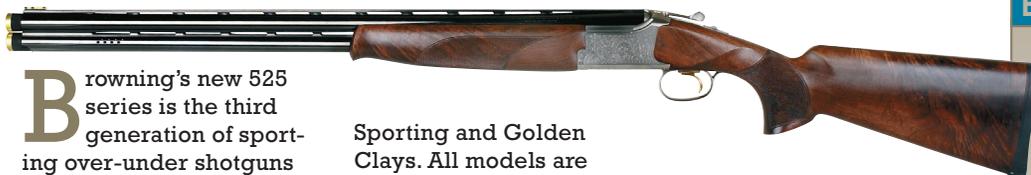
Of course, it would be the height of foolishness to expect that the workmanship and performance found in a gun like the Super Match would come at a cheap price. And at a price of more \$2,000 dollars, it cost twice as much as a mass-produced gun. But for competitors and others who desire a semi-auto rifle this accurate, the gap in cost narrows to almost nothing when weighed against the cost of gunsmithing a standard AR-15-style rifle.



Baer Custom Ultimate rifles are fitted with a precision-machined, free-floating adjustable handguard made in-house by Baer.



# Browning Citori 525 Sporting Over-Under



**B**rowning's new 525 series is the third generation of sporting over-under shotguns to crown the Citori product line. Aimed at both the sporting clays competitor and hunter, the new Citori 525 series incorporates numerous evolutionary product improvements over the Citori 425. Considered the flagship of the Citori line, the new 525 series is offered in three models: Field,

Sporting and Golden Clays. All models are offered in 12 or 20 ga. with the Sporting and Golden Clays models chambered for 2¾" shells and Field models chambered for 3" shells. We recently received a 525 Sporting model in 12 ga. for test and evaluation.

A most obvious change from previous Citori 425 models is the flaring

pattern of cut, flat diamond checkering on the pistol grip and fore-end. This checkering covers more area than previous models and rolls over the top of the wrist. There is a pronounced palm swell on the right side of the pistol grip, and the grip itself curves more closely than earlier models. The comb of the stock has slightly more drop than earlier models, and wood quality is substantially upgraded with oil-finished walnut having considerable figure, a schnabel fore-end tip and a smooth, black rubber buttpad. Another subtle change is that the rear edge of the receiver now slopes rearward slightly instead of being vertical. These features



*Although numerous evolutionary changes have been made in the Citori 525, the basic Citori action remains unchanged.*

## BROWNING CITORI

**MANUFACTURER:** Miroku Firearms Mfg. Co., 537-1 Shinohara-Nangoku City, Kochu Pref., Japan  
**IMPORTER:** Browning (Dept. AR), One Browning Place, Morgan, UT 84050-9326; (800) 333-3288, www.browning.com

**GAUGE:** 12, 2¾"  
**ACTION TYPE:** box-lock, over-under shotgun  
**RECEIVER:** engraved, silver nitrided, alloy steel  
**BARRELS:** blued, 28" (tested), 30" back-bored, chrome-plated chambers  
**CHOKES:** interchangeable, Midas-Grade, extended choke tubes: C, IC, M, IM, F  
**SIGHTS:** Hi-VIZ Pro-Comp on tapered, ventilated rib  
**TRIGGER:** single-selective, adjustable for pull length: top barrel, 5-lbs. pull; bottom barrel, 4-lbs. pull  
**STOCK:** oil-finished, high-grade walnut; length of pull, 14¾"; drop at heel, 2½"; drop at comb, 1⅜"  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 46⅝"  
**WEIGHT:** 8 lbs., 6 ozs.  
**ACCESSORIES:** five choke tubes, choke tube key, trigger shoes, wrench  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** Sporting, \$2,493; Golden Clays, \$3,993; Field, \$1,777

## SHOOTING RESULTS

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.



Improved Cylinder Choke Tube



Modified Choke Tube

■ = Point of Hold  
Federal P128

12ga., 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., No. 6 Copper Plated Lead

Average Pellet count: 253

Measured Velocity @3-ft.: 1345 f.p.s.

|                  |           |                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| Total Hits       | 117 (46%) | Total Hits       | 147 (58%) |
| 21" Inner Circle | 65 (26%)  | 21" Inner Circle | 89 (35%)  |
| 30" Outer Ring   | 50 (20%)  | 30" Outer Ring   | 58 (23%)  |



Standard features include lightweight ported barrels and Midas-Grade interchangeable choke tubes with HI-VIZ fiber optic sights.

successfully combine refined European tastes with burgeoning American preferences without becoming a hodgepodge.

To enhance balance and handling qualities, lightweight 28" and 30" steel barrels were developed with a ventilated mid rib that moves the center of balance rearward for a speedier swing. These new barrels are back-bored and ported with chrome-lined chambers and Midas-Grade, screw-in, extended choke tubes.

Selective automatic ejectors are standard equipment. The ventilated

top rib tapers from 11 mm at the breech to 8 mm at the muzzle and is serrated to reduce glare. Sights consist of a HI-VIZ Pro-Comp fiber optic front sight with a white mid-rib bead.

Fire control has been improved with a single, selective trigger that is crisper than previous units with less overtravel. Of particular interest here is the Triple Trigger system that offers three distinct types of interchangeable trigger shoe—narrow with a smooth surface, wide with a checkered surface and wide with an inwardly curved smooth surface—all of which are

gold-plated and can be adjusted for pull length. All three are supplied with the gun along with a small Allen wrench.

The silver-nitride finished, alloy steel receiver and top lever are extensively covered with tasteful engraving of a modified fleur-de-lis pattern. The barrels have a high polish blue finish. We found workmanship of a high order on our test gun.

Wood-to-metal fit and metal-to-metal fit were consistently good.

We fired the Citori 525 Sporting at sporting clays and five-stand as well as at American trap. Handling was noticeably faster than standard Citori model shotgun, but not as lively as that of the Citori Superlight Feather. Our impression is that the barrel ports functioned well in reducing perceived recoil and speeded recovery times for an oft-needed second shot. Both barrels patterned slightly high and on center, which is exactly where most sporting clays competitors prefer them. The tapering rib and HI-VIZ sights also earned praise.

The triple trigger system proved a novelty for most shooters. After fiddling with the trigger blades and pull distance to get the best position, all testers thought the system well worthwhile. For most owners, the blade and pull length will be set once and remain in place.

As the flagship for the future Citori product line, the 525 series offers good value and excellent workmanship combined with legendary Citori reliability and strength.



Browning's new Model 525 is the flagship of the evergreen Citori shotgun line and replaces the 425 series in Browning's product line. Offered in 12 or 20 ga., the Model 525 comes in Field, Sporting and Golden Clays grades. Full coverage engraving in a modified fleur-de-lis pattern on the silver nitride-finished receiver and top lever is a hallmark of the Citori 525 shotgun (above l.). Note the rearward slope of the receiver edge. The gold-plated, single-selective trigger is adjustable for pull and comes with three different styles of bow. Selection is via the tang-mounted safety button (above r.). Locking remains the classic Browning style, which uses a full-width locking block (l.).



Cabela's



Cowboy-Action



Henry Rifle

**MANUFACTURER:** Aldo Uberti, Casella Postale 43, I-25063 Gardone V.T., Italy  
**IMPORTER:** Cabela's (Dept. AR), One Cabela Drive, Sidney, NE 69160; (800) 237-4444; www.cabelas.com  
**CALIBER:** .45 Colt\*  
**ACTION TYPE:** lever-action rifle  
**RECEIVER:** polished brass  
**BARREL:** blued, 24" octagonal\*  
**RIFLING:** six-groove, 1:16" RH twist  
**MAGAZINE:** full-length tubular, 12-round capacity  
**SIGHTS:** ladder rear, white metal blade front  
**TRIGGER:** single-stage, non-adjustable, 8-lbs. pull  
**STOCK:** Walnut; length of pull, 13"; drop at heel, 3¼"; drop at comb, 2¼"  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 43¾"  
**WEIGHT:** 9 lbs., 3 ozs.  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$899  
 \*Other options available.

Original Henry rifles were submitted in the early 1860s to rigorous military trials. Then Chief of Ordnance Col. James Ripley openly did not like the Henry, claiming among other things that it was wasteful of ammunition. As is often the case, the men in the field saw things differently from the men at the desks, and the field ordnance officers liked the repeater very much.

The rifle design those men admired is very much like that of the Cabela's Cowboy-Action version. Both the original and the Cabela's reproduction guns have the same length barrels with full-length tubular magazines. While original Henrys were chambered for the .44 Henry Rimfire, the Cabela's is chambered for the more practical center-fire .45 Colt cartridge.

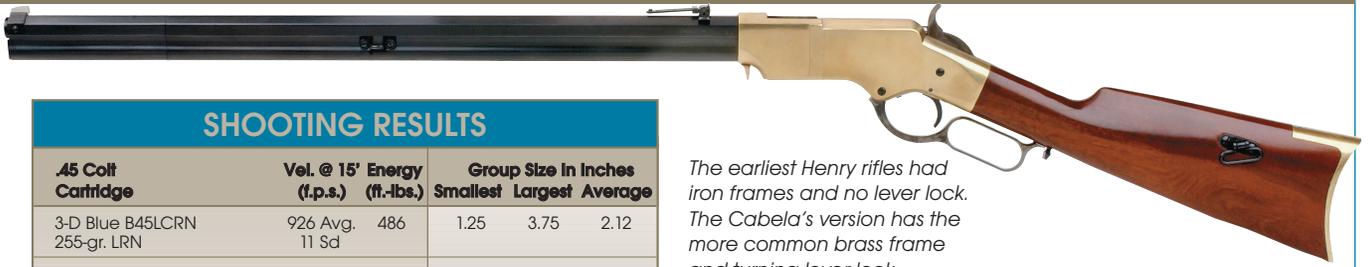
In the post-Civil War era, two rifles, the Henry and the Spencer, were the only lever-actions of significance, and the Henry clearly had more staying power among shooters. The Henry, like Cabela's copy of it, was simpler, streamlined and available in one chambering instead of the confusing

Cabela's is importing a copy of that "... damn Yankee rifle that can be loaded Sunday and fired all the week." The Uberti-made Cowboy-Action Henry model remains faithful to

the original within practical limitations.

The original Henry rifle can trace its evolution back to the Walter Hunt magazine rifle of 1849, through the tubular magazine-fed Lewis Jennings rifle and to the

early attempts of Smith & Wesson to make a repeating pistol—a lever-action. That process of evolution culminated in a patent granted October 16, 1860, to Benjamin T. Henry for his lever-action repeating rifle.



## SHOOTING RESULTS

| .45 Colt Cartridge              | Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.) | Energy (ft.-lbs.) | Group Size In Inches |         |         |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|
|                                 |                     |                   | Smallest             | Largest | Average |
| 3-D Blue B45LCRN<br>255-gr. LRN | 926 Avg.<br>11 Sd   | 486               | 1.25                 | 3.75    | 2.12    |
| Black Hills<br>250-gr. LFP      | 926 Avg.<br>9 Sd    | 476               | 2.54                 | 4.10    | 3.23    |
| Winchester CB45C<br>250-gr. LFN | 836 Avg.<br>16 Sd   | 388               | 2.18                 | 4.28    | 3.30    |
| Average Extreme Spread:         |                     |                   |                      |         | 2.88    |

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 24" barrel. Range temperature: 93°F. Humidity: 90%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 50 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: LFP (lead flat-point), LRN (lead round-nose), Sd (standard deviation).

Spencer varieties. There are, however, weak points to the original Henry, many of which were addressed by its original maker, the New Haven Arms Co.

The follower spring is long and was considered undependable. The answer back then was the .44 Henry Flat cartridge, which had noticeably flat-point bullets.



Sights consist of a white metal blade front and folding leaf rear mounted on the barrel with ladder-type elevation marked "2" through "8" in increments of one.



In testing the Cabela's gun, we used several hundred rounds of round- and flat-nose .45 Colt loads with no malfunctions whatsoever.

The Cabela's gun retains the exposed magazine tube that is open at the bottom and that has been historically faulted for being easy to dent and susceptible to infiltration by dirt and moisture. On the Cabela's version, the magazine tube is very thick and strong and would require significant impact to dent.

The new gun is equipped with the side-mounted sling swivels found on many original Henrys, and has a case-hardened lever, lever lock and hammer. The walnut buttstock has a satin oil finish and brass furniture, and workmanship is excellent.

Loading a lever-action Henry is more like loading a lever-action .22 rimfire than a center-fire Marlin or Winchester. On the Henry, press the follower finger lever up until the engagement indicator at the muzzle protrudes about 1/16". Next, rotate the muzzle collar clockwise to expose the opening to the top of the magazine tube. Cartridges are now

The earliest Henry rifles had iron frames and no lever lock. The Cabela's version has the more common brass frame and turning lever lock.

rim first, then the collar realigned with the magazine and the follower gently lowered. The maker warns not to let the follower fall under spring pressure onto the cartridges. The maker also warns not to carry the Henry with a cartridge loaded in the chamber, nor to touch the trigger while operating the lever. Indeed, we found that pulling the trigger with the lever open or partially open allows the hammer to fall, which could result in the gun firing when out-of-battery.

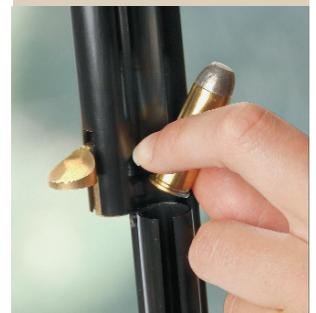
Our sample, though fairly accurate, did not seem to have its sights regulated for any conventional shooting distance. At their lowest setting, bullets struck high at 50 yds., and low at 100 yds. We filed some metal off the generous front sight until bullets struck the bullseye at 50 yds. The next sight setting on the ladder, marked "2", was then on at 100 yds.

There were no malfunctions with the Cabela's Henry, though ejection is proportional to the force with which the lever is worked, and we found that if the lever was not worked briskly, the empty case often ended up lying on top of the bolt, partially obscuring the sights for the next shot. When the lever was worked briskly, cases were ejected up and back, often smartly into the shooter's forehead.

After 25 rapid shots, the Henry is almost too hot to hold; and at the 10th shot, the follower contacts the



As with original Henrys, the Cabela's has a trapdoor in the buttstock (above) and is loaded by pushing the follower forward in the magazine (below).



supporting hand if it's grasping the front of the brass frame. The balance of the rifle does not change noticeably as the magazine is emptied, and the magazine is easy to load. The trigger pull, though heavy, is crisp and positive with no creep, take-up or overtravel.

The Cabela's Henry rifle, then, closely emulates the original Henry rifle. Gun cranks will be fascinated by how it works; history buffs will appreciate its authenticity; collectors will approve of its workmanship; and shooters will enjoy a lot of fun shooting this neat, old-looking gun.

