



## Wilson CQB Pistol

**N**ot long ago, it was hard to find a 1911-style pistol with custom features. Most commercial guns required the hands of a gunsmith to make them suitable for carry. Today, it's hard to find a basic M1911A1 because most makers of that type of pistol offer lines customized for specific uses. Wilson Combat is one of those M1911A1 makers that offers models specialized for personal defense. We recently received a Close Quarters Battle (CQB) pistol from the company's Tactical Series for test and evaluation.

At a glance, Wilson's CQB doesn't stand out

more than many other full-size M1911s with beavertail grip safeties and low-profile sights. But once you start going down the list of specifications, it's clear that the beauty of the CQB is what Wilson adds "under the hood." The slide alone is packed with more than half a dozen features that enhance the pistol's performance and reliability. Take, for example, the sights. The unobtrusive, snag-proof units have Wilson's "Combat Pyramid" contour, which is claimed to be one of the fastest available when it comes to target acquisition. Tritium inserts in both front and rear sights provide the popular "three-dot"

alignment configuration for precise aiming even in low-light environments. Though considered "fixed" sights, there is some degree of windage adjustment by drifting the rear sight in its dovetail slot.

Reliability is improved through the use of a polished and adjusted "Bullet Proof" extractor, and by the generous lowering and flaring of the ejection port. A heavy duty recoil spring rests against a recoil spring guide-mounted "Shok-Buff" buffer to reduce battering. Accuracy potential is improved by careful hand-fitting of the slide to frame and by the use of a hand-fitted and throated stainless

steel match barrel and bushing. Wilson is so confident of its pistol's accuracy that it offers an accuracy guarantee of 1" groups at 25 yds. when using Federal 230-gr. Hydra-Shok ammunition.

Wilson didn't neglect the forged and machined stainless steel frame, either, when it came to optimizing the CQB for reliability and performance. Working with the above-mentioned slide-specific enhancements to improve reliability are an extended tactical ejector and polished feed ramp. An exceptional trigger pull is provided by Wilson's "No. 190 Ultralight Crisp" trigger that is claimed to

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.

## WILSON CQB

**MANUFACTURER:** Wilson Combat (Dept. AR), 2234 CR 719, Berryville, AR 72616; (800) 955-4856; www.wilsoncombat.com

**CALIBER:** .45 ACP

**ACTION TYPE:** short-recoil, center-fire, single-action, semi-automatic

**FRAME:** stainless steel, OD Green Armor-Tuff finish

**BARREL:** 5", stainless steel

**RIFLING:** four-groove, 1:16" RH twist

**MAGAZINE:** detachable box; single-column, eight-round capacity

**SIGHTS:** "Combat Pyramid" three-dot sighting system

**TRIGGER:** single-action; 3 lbs., 9 ozs. pull

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8 7/8"

**WIDTH:** 1 3/8"

**HEIGHT:** 5 1/4"

**WEIGHT:** 38 oz.

**ACCESSORIES:** spare magazine, pistol rug

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,895

"Ultralight" hammer and a fully machined sear. The high-ride beavertail safety has a raised palm pad to ensure it's fully depressed when the pistol is grasped, and an extended thumb safety lever stays securely in the "safe" position, but is released without any dragging or binding.

Aiding handling is a flat mainspring housing checkered at 30 lines per inch—a checkering rate duplicated on the frontstrap to provide a positive grasping surface. The magazine well is beveled, which makes magazine speed changes easier, and the two eight-round magazines provided with the CQB have bumpers on their floorplates. For those who choose to carry an M1911-style pistol, the CQB is thoroughly dehorned.

Cosmetically, the CQB takes the popular two-tone theme to a new level. The entire pistol is coated with corrosion-resistant Armor-Tuff finish—an attractive

be set to 3 1/2 lbs. pull at the factory. Indeed, we measured the trigger pull at 3 lbs., 9 ozs.

Other frame features include a skeletonized


.45 ACP Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Federal H-S No. P45HS1 230-gr. JHP	893 Avg.	407 5 Sd	0.94	1.60	1.28
Hornady XTP No. 9112 200-gr. JHP	889 Avg.	351 12 Sd	1.14	2.01	1.64
Remington G-S No. GS45APA 185-gr. JHP23 Sd	1042 Avg.	446	0.44	1.95	1.44
Average Extreme Spread:					1.45

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 5" barrel. Range temperature: 81° F. Humidity: 50%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yds. from a Ransom Rest. Abbreviations: H-S (Hydra-Shok), G-S (Golden Saber), JHP (jacketed hollow-point), Sd (standard deviation), XTP (Extreme Terminal Performance).

OD green on the frame and black on the slide. The finish is neither a high gloss nor a dull matte, but rather a subdued gloss. The color combination smartly sets off the unique color of the black Diamondwood grip panels.

Our test CQB pistol was function-fired with several brands of .45 ACP ammunition for accuracy in a Ransom Rest and off-hand. The CQB exhibited an odd tendency toward weak ejection when fired in the Ransom Rest, result-

ing once in a jam, but functioned flawlessly when fired offhand. Accuracy was, as to be expected, well above average and resulted in some very tight groups as can be seen in the accompanying table.

The Wilson CQB most definitely lives up to the reputation of the Wilson name. It offers the buyer an extremely high-quality pistol with impeccable handling and shooting characteristics—all in a package supremely suited for its intended role. 



The CQB's polished feed ramp (arrow) is one of many touches that adds to the pistol's reliability and is another sign of Wilson's attention to detail.



Accuracy potential is improved by the use of a handfitted and throated stainless steel match barrel and bushing.



Thirty-line-per-inch checkering on the frontstrap provides a positive grasping surface, enhancing the CQB's handling. The same checkering is used on the flat mainspring housing.



The CQB comes standard with a "Shok-Buffer" buffer to reduce battering and perceived recoil.



A skeletonized "Ultralight" hammer combines with a high-ride beavertail safety for improved shooting and handling characteristics.

**SILMA 70EJ DELUXE**



# Silma 70EJ Deluxe 20 Ga.

A few decades ago, well before the time of many current *American Rifleman* readers, some pundit stated that “what this country needs is a good five-cent cigar.” To that, one might also add 99-cent-a-gallon gasoline, a

\$10 dress shirt, truly affordable health care and a reasonably priced, quality over-under shotgun.

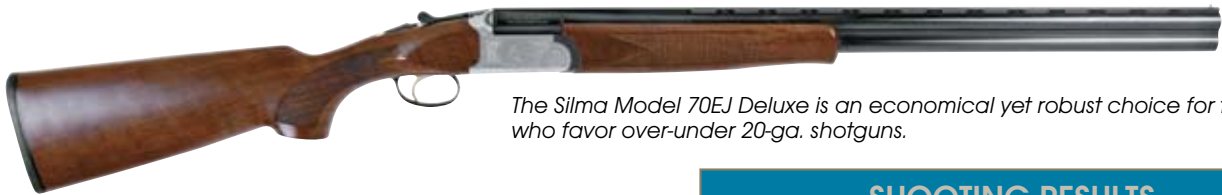
With the stackbarrel offerings of the major gun-makers starting at a four-figure level, it has been left to some smaller but no less

reputable firms to fill the economy niche, with guns that often compare well on a feature-by-feature basis with their more expensive competitors. One of these firms is Silma, a 50-year-old family-owned business in Brescia, Italy, that

**MANUFACTURER:** Silma s.r.l., Via I Maggio, 74, 25060 Zanano di Sarezzo (BS) Italy; www.silma.net  
**IMPORTER:** Legacy Sports Int'l (Dept. AR), 206 S. Union St., Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 548-4837, www.legacysports.com  
**GAUGE:** 12, 20 (tested), 28, .410 bore  
**ACTION TYPE:** over-under, boxlock shotgun  
**RECEIVER:** nickel steel, nickel-plated  
**BARREL:** chrome-moly steel, 27½"  
**CHOKES:** interchangeable choke tubes  
**TRIGGER:** single non-selective, 6 lbs., 8 ozs. pull (lower), 6 lbs., 12 ozs. pull (upper)  
**STOCK:** European walnut; length of pull, 14½"; drop at heel, 2¼"; drop at comb, 1½"  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 44½"  
**WEIGHT:** 6 lbs., 10 ozs.  
**ACCESSORIES:** improved cylinder, modified, full choke tubes; choke tube wrench  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$823

produces shotguns and double rifles. Currently imported by Legacy Sports Int'l of Alexandria, Va., are three over-under shotgun models: the 70EJ Standard, 70EJ Lightweight and 70EJ Deluxe reviewed here.

The Silma Model 70EJ Deluxe we received for testing typifies the Silma line, characterized by traditional design and construction. Its chrome-molybdenum steel barrels are assembled in the monobloc style, with a solid rib joining the upper and lower tubes. A 1/4"-wide ventilated rib, cross-hatched to reduce light reflection, is set atop the upper barrel, and sports a 0.11"-diameter gold-colored front bead. Both barrels, in all gauges, are threaded for choke tubes; our sample came with a full tube in the upper barrel and a modified tube in the lower. All 70EJ variants come with three tubes—improved cylinder, modi-



The Silma Model 70EJ Deluxe is an economical yet robust choice for those who favor over-under 20-ga. shotguns.

fied and full—and cylinder and improved-modified tubes are also available.

Both the 70EJ Standard and Deluxe can be had in 12, 20 and 28 gauge, as well as .410 bore. Chambers are 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" on 12-ga. barrels, 3" on 20-ga. and .410-bore barrels, and 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" on 28-ga. barrels. The 70EJ Lightweight, which features an aluminum alloy receiver, is offered in 12- and 20-ga. versions only. The 70EJ Standard and Deluxe are mechanically identical; the latter distinguished by its wood and engraving. Two receiver sizes are used on the 70EJ shotguns: one for 12-ga. models and another, trimmer, unit for the smaller bore sizes.

The blued barrels of the 70EJ Deluxe are set off by the gun's nickel-plated boxlock receiver, which is extensively roll-engraved with game scenes and scroll ornamentation. The walnut pistol-grip buttstock and schnabel fore-end feature 18-line-per-inch, machine-

cut checkered panels and a 3/8"-thick black rubber recoil pad. Fore-end attachment to the lower barrel is through a recessed under-lever. Both the trigger guard and top lever of the 70EJ Deluxe are blued, while the trigger is gold-plated.

Mechanically, the 70EJ Deluxe features a single, non-selective trigger (that always fires the bottom barrel first) and a trigger-blocking sliding tang safety that automatically engages whenever the action is opened. Hammer cocking is by way of a single, robust bar in the bottom of the receiver that is pushed rearward by a finger on the fore-end iron when the action is opened.

Lockup is accomplished via a single locking bolt that enters a recess in the monobloc. Both the locking recess and locking bolt are tapered to ensure tight lockup even after wear occurs. Overall, the Silma's lockwork appeared robust and capable of giv-



The barrels employ the monobloc principle. A tapered notch (arrow) is engaged by locking bolt.



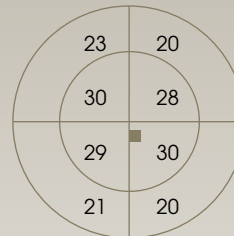
The barrels accept choke tubes. Our sample came with a full in the upper barrel and a modified in the lower.



Simple and rugged, the Silma's lockwork (l.) features a non-selective mechanical trigger and an automatic trigger-blocking safety.

## SHOOTING RESULTS

### AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.



MODIFIED  
CHOKE



FULL  
CHOKE

■ = Point of Hold

Winchester Super-X Field Load  
20 Ga., 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"—1 oz.—No. 7 1/2 lead

Average Pellet Count: 324  
Measured Velocity @ 3 ft.: 1221 f.p.s.

Total Hits	201 (62%)	Total Hits	233 (72%)
21" Inner Circle	117 (36%)	21" Inner Circle	155 (48%)
30" Outer Ring	84 (26%)	30" Outer Ring	78 (24%)

ing long service. The gun also has automatic ejectors (hence the "EJ" model designation)—a welcome feature when quick shooting in the field is required.

Our 70EJ Deluxe balanced at a point about 3/4" forward of the hinge pins, and that, coupled with its 6-lb., 10-oz. weight gave it a lively feel in the field. The stock fit our test-firer—an average-sized man—quite well, with its comb height and roughly 1/4" of cast-off naturally placing his eye in near-perfect alignment with the rib and bead. Additionally, the shape and size of the pistol grip and fore-end both contributed to the gun's comfortable, natural feel. Firing at both machine- and hand-thrown clay birds proved the gun capable of satisfying performance.

With a Winchester Super-X field load of 1 oz. of No. 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lead shot, both barrels with their respective choke tubes patterned

within the standard percentages for those chokes. The patterns were slightly high in relation to the point of hold. There were no malfunctions during clay target shooting or patterning.

With its two-tone appearance, deep-blue barrels, well-executed roll engraving, and well-shaped (if plain) hardwood stocks we considered our Silma Model 70EJ Deluxe to be visually appealing for a field-grade gun. Nonetheless, there were some areas for cosmetic improvement. For example, the gun's machine checkering was even but not sufficiently deep to produce sharp diamonds. Also, there were a few very minor blemishes on the finish of the nickeled receiver.

The Silma 70EJ Deluxe is an attractive, fast-swinging and low-recoiling gun that is also mechanically robust. At a list price of \$823, it represents an excellent value for the cost-conscious 20-ga. shotgunner.



## Heckler & Koch P2000 US

**B**ased on the successful USP Compact (February 1997, p. 36), the new P2000 US offers a limited choice of trigger options and several features new to H&K that were developed for European police agencies. While only one fire control system is offered, it is of significant interest.

The P2000 at present comes in 9 mm Luger and .40 S&W with no decocker or manual safety. It is essentially a "slick-slide" semi-automatic, as its only external control lever is the ambidextrous slide release. The heart of the pistol is what H&K call its "LEM" trigger (for Law Enforcement Modification), which is essentially a double-action-only trigger in terms of its *length* of pull, but with a single-action pull *weight*. When the slide is retracted, the hammer travels rearward, compresses the hammer spring and, on LEM-equipped guns, an audible

click is heard. As the slide travels forward again, so do the hammer and trigger, which are linked by the trigger bar. But the majority of the tension has been taken off the hammer spring (much like a set trigger), so it is "pre-cocked," requiring a lesser amount of pressure, but the same length of travel, to cock the hammer and release the sear for firing.

Unlike many "pre-cocked" semi-automatic designs, the P2000 still employs a spurless hammer, so it still has a "second-strike" capability in the event of a misfire. The trigger may be pulled again, but at the full double-action pull weight, and length, because the gun's hammer spring is not pre-cocked.

The frame has a slightly different look and feel than the USP Compact, while remaining dimensionally very similar. On the sides of the polymer frame there are vertical ridges and the

"HK2000" logo as opposed to the stippling pattern of the USP Compact. There are shallow finger grooves on both sides of the frame that make the P2000 seem thinner in the hand, though the depth is only 0.11" greater.

The molded-in accessory rail on the bottom of the dustcover has conventional open side rails as well as a single under rail for attachment of a laser, flashlight or other device. Previously, H&K had used a proprietary closed rail design. The slide's front is slightly different from standard USPs as well, as its front face is scalloped more deeply to make holster insertion easier.

Like the Walther P99 and S&W 99, the P2000 has grip inserts that allow users to tailor the backstrap shape to their individual preferences. The gun comes with three inserts, marked "S," "M" or "L" for small, medium or large. Changing them

out is easily accomplished by driving out the roll pin at the backstrap's bottom rear, sliding the existing backstrap off, inserting the new one and replacing the pin. Trigger reach as well as backstrap shape are affected by the change.

Otherwise, the standard USP Compact design is employed. The frame is fiber-reinforced molded polymer, and there are steel inserts molded in on each side of the frame rails where the slide bears against the frame. The front pair are just forward of the slide stop and are 0.515" long while the rear pair behind the ejector are 0.282" in length. The 3<sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub>"-long barrel is cold-hammer-forged, has polygonal rifling and locks-up in modified Browning fashion. Like the Compact, the P2000 employs a dual captive recoil spring assembly with a buffer at its front.

On the bottom of the trigger guard just forward

## H&K P2000 US

**MANUFACTURER:** Heckler & Koch GmbH, Box 239, Neckar, Germany

**IMPORTER:** Heckler & Koch, Inc., (Dept. AR), 21480 Pacific Blvd., Sterling, VA 20166; (703) 450-1900; www.hecklerkoch-usa.com

**CALIBER:** 9x19 mm, .40 S&W (tested)

**ACTION TYPE:** short recoil, double-action-only, semi-automatic pistol

**FRAME:** fiber-reinforced molded polymer

**BARREL:** 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

**RIFLING:** polygonal, 1:10" RH twist

**MAGAZINE:** detachable box; double-column, 10-round capacity

**SIGHTS:** three-dot tritium; ramp front drift adjustable for windage and elevation

**TRIGGER:** double-action: "LEM" 6 lbs., 8 ozs. pull; double-action, 15 lbs. pull

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

**WIDTH:** 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ "

**HEIGHT:** 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ "

**WEIGHT:** 38 ozs.

**ACCESSORIES:** extra magazine, plastic case

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:**

\$890 (with magazine disconnect safety); \$865 (without)

port's right rear. Its top is marked with red paint visible when the extractor is snapped over a cartridge's rim, acting as a loaded chamber indicator. The ejector is held in place—like all the fire-control parts—by the hammer pin and is a fixed steel unit on the frame's left. The pistol is offered with or without a magazine disconnect safety.

H&K's integral Lock-Out safety device and a two-pronged key are standard. The Lock-Out assembly replaces the lanyard loop insert, and, when engaged, blocks the movement of the gun's hammer strut and hammer.

Sights are of the three-dot pattern and contain tritium. The dots ride in a steel front ramp and a low-contour rear sight base that are both dovetailed into the slide and, hence, adjustable for windage. Elevation is changed by replacing the height of the front sight, if needed.

To fieldstrip the P2000 US, depress the magazine release and remove the magazine. Pull the slide back and inspect the chamber to ensure the gun is

SHOOTING RESULTS					
.40 S&W Cartridge	Vel. @ 15'	Energy (f.p.s.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Winchester X40SWSTHP 155-gr. STHP	1169 Avg. 11 Sd	471	2.42	3.74	3.43
Remington GS40SWA 165-gr. GS	1043 Avg. 12 Sd	399	2.42	3.42	2.89
Mag-Tech 40B 180-gr. FMC	944 Avg. 14 Sd	356	2.76	3.23	3.01
Average Extreme Spread					3.11
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel. Range temperature: 81 °F. Humidity: 50%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: STHP (Silvertip hollow-point), GS (Golden Saber), FMC (full-metal case), Sd (standard deviation).					

unloaded. Retract the slide about 1/2" to line up the clearance notch with the slide stop then push out the stop from right to left. Remove the slide, forward, off the frame. Press rearward on the dual captive recoil spring assembly to remove it. The barrel may then be lifted out.

The sample P2000 US in .40 S&W was fired for accuracy at 25 yds. from sandbags, and the results are shown in the accompanying table. We also functioned-fired the pistol and tried various defensive drills and found that, though the trigger travel is long, double taps were easy to accomplish with practice. There were no

malfunctions of any kind during the 400-round test session, even when mixing different bullet weights and styles in the same magazine.

Several of those familiar with the USP Compact, with medium to large hands, stated the P2000 pointed a little better, likely due to the finger groove and grip panel shape. Also, as the P2000 lacks a frame-mounted control lever, some shooters were able to obtain a higher grip on the gun than on standard USPs. The scallop at the front was credited with making drawing and re-holstering a little smoother. One shooter with smaller hands preferred the USP Compact to the medium or large back-panel-equipped P2000; but, to be fair, at the time of writing a sample of the "S" panel was not available.

With its innovative LEM trigger system—offering the piece of mind of a double-action pull length and a single-action-like pull weight—and its grip panel inserts, the P2000 is one of the simplest and most user-friendly semi-automatic pistol designs we've seen in some time. It adds not a lot of choices, but lots of versatility to the USP line.

of the grip frame, the ambidextrous magazine release is pressed down to free the double-column box magazine.

The large hook extractor is on the ejection



The P2000 uses a captive recoil spring assembly. The 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel is cold-hammer-forged with polygonal rifling.

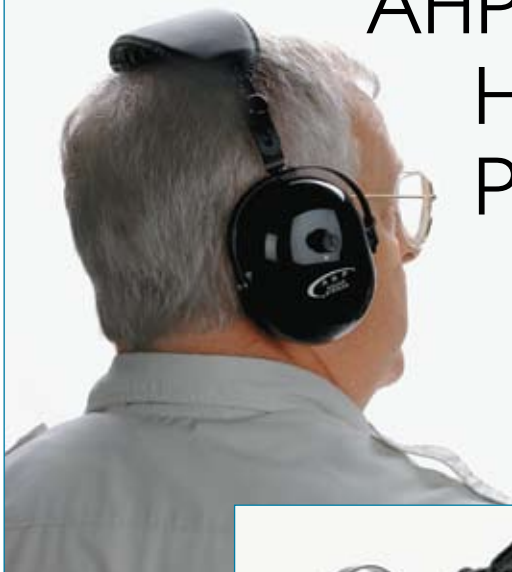


Steel inserts (arrows) are molded in on each side of the fiber-reinforced polymer frame for slide-bearing surfaces.



The slide's front face is scalloped (top) to ease holster insertion. Each gun comes with three backstrap inserts that can be changed out by driving out the roll pin at the bottom rear.

# AHP Electronic Hearing Protectors



**T**he technology of electronic hearing protection continues to evolve and improve rapidly.

The first generation of electronic hearing protectors worked by simply cutting off sounds above approximately 72 decibels (dB). The resultant "clipping" made speech and range commands hard to understand, as some words were cut-off or missed entirely. Second-generation protectors offered "dynamic sound compression" that compressed peaks of sound below 70 dB without cutting them off. That made range commands easier to understand, but did little for low-volume ambient sound levels.

Enter Advanced Hearing Products, Inc., with its third-generation electronic circuitry. Not only do AHP ear protectors have sound compression technology with super fast attack times (approximately 2 milliseconds), they also amplify

*Electronically, both AHP muff units function completely independently for natural stereo sound; there is no connecting wire between them. The two LR1-N 1.5 volt batteries in each unit provide approximately 200 hours of use at full volume.*

low-volume ambient sounds so that ordinary speech and range commands are crystal clear and in natural stereo.

AHP in this manner has addressed a key shortcoming of most muff-type hearing protectors—reduced situational awareness due to poor low-level sound amplification in areas such as shooting ranges. AHP offers two models. The Premier is designed with a noise reduction ratio (NRR) of about 26 dB for indoor shooting ranges where maximum sound attenuation is needed in a confined area. The Slimline is designed with a NRR of about 21 dB for use on outdoor ranges where sound confinement is not a problem.

The Premier electronic hearing protectors we tested weigh just 15 ozs. with batteries. The 1½" deep ear cups are molded of hard, black plastic with soft gray foam inside covering the electronic package and batteries. Soft, 1" thick seals inside the cups contact the shooter's head and are flexible enough to seal around the frames of shooting glasses. To

stabilize the units comfortably on the shooter's head, a soft, six-part cushion pad on a 3" diameter black leather crown spreads the weight over a large area. The spring steel frame holds both ear cups firmly with a single hinge pin at their mid-point. Each ear cup has about ¾" of individual height adjustment with a large, plastic set knob to secure it in place.

We wore the Premier unit for long periods both indoors in coolish temperatures and outdoors in high-humidity conditions. All testers felt they were exceptionally comfortable and extremely suitable for long-term wear.

Electronically, both AHP cups function completely independently for natural stereo sound. That enables users to adjust the volume of each unit to the hearing requirements of each ear. The outer surface of each ear cup has a microphone and an on-off/volume adjustment knob. There are no other controls. The result is clear sound that seems perfectly natural. Indeed, the sound is so natural that often during our tests we nearly forgot the protectors were in use. Sound peaks are compressed below the 70 dB damage level, but not clipped. Users felt the amplification of low-level ambient sounds made a world of difference and did, indeed, increase situational awareness.

AHP advises that fresh batteries will provide approximately 200 hours of use at full volume due to the very low power consumption of about 4 milliamps. However, when not in use, the units should be switched off and the batteries removed if long-term storage is planned.

Both units are completely modular, allowing damaged parts to be easily replaced or cleaned. Optional input jacks allow connection to radio nets, cellular phones and other electronic devices if desired.

In its Premier series of third-generation electronic hearing protectors, AHP has established a new benchmark in performance by dramatically improving sound quality and comfort for increased situational awareness and safety.

*Available from:*  
Advanced Hearing Protection, Inc. (Dept. AR),  
6000 Willow Creek Road,  
Suite 200, Prescott, AZ  
86301; (928) 445-5491

