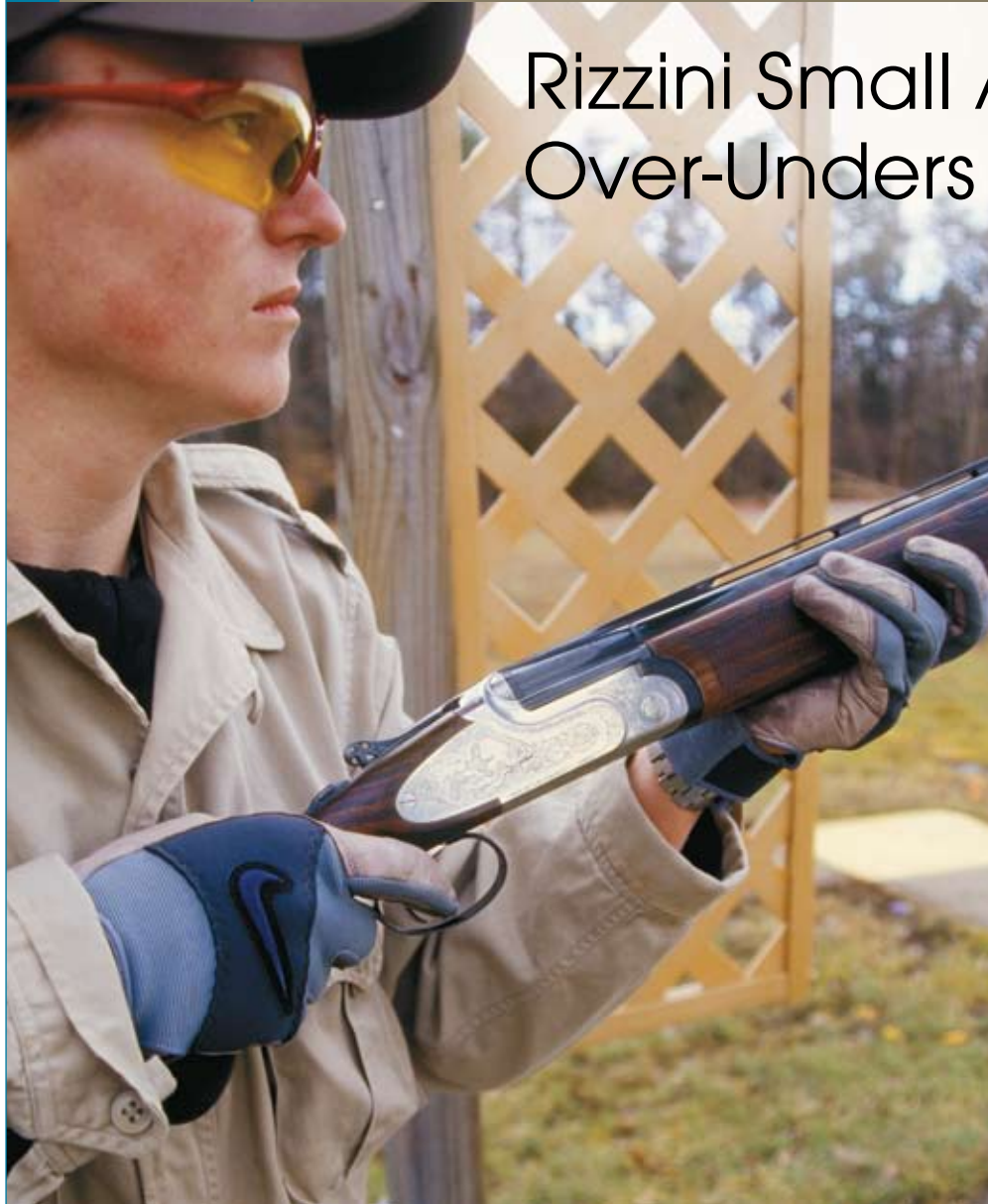


# Rizzini Small Action Over-Unders



trolled (CNC) machining to manufacture precision interchangeable parts and simplified designs that are rugged and dependable.

Rugged and dependable does not mean that Rizzini shotguns are crude or clunky. For example, the company's new Aurum and Artemis small action over-unders in .410 bore and 28 gauge are willow-switch slender and weigh only 5½ lbs. Although the Aurum small action frame size is scaled for a true 28-ga. frame, the .410 barrels are cosmetically well-matched to the slightly larger 28-ga. frame, balance nicely and proved to be fast and easy to shoot on both skeet and sporting clays. The 28 gauge was even better.

In the good-looks department the small-framed Rizzinis are eye-catching. Along with their overall slender lines, the guns were stocked with nicely figured Turkish walnut with 20-lines-per-inch hand-cut checkering on the Prince of Wales pistol grip and the appropriately slim, Schnabel-tipped fore-end.

The sculpturing of the frames is well executed and complemented by roll-stamped scroll and game scene engraving in a coin finish. The pierced break lever is a very classy touch; unfortunately the overly large safety/barrel selector with its painted red dots is a wart on an otherwise classic beauty. But, cosmetics

As the world has become smaller, companies have evolved into multi-national entities that pierce borders and bridge continents. Big auto makers, computers conglomerates and software giants have been at it for decades, but now even small Italian gun companies have gone global. B. Rizzini, a family-owned firm that has built a reputation for qual-

ity over-under shotguns, recently launched Rizzini USA to import its Italian-made guns and offer custom gun stocks manufactured here in the United States.

B. Rizzini entered the gunmaking business 30 years ago in the village of Marcheno, nestled in the Trompia Valley a few miles north of Brescia, Italy. The center of Italian gunmaking for over 500 years, Val

Trompia is the home of Beretta, Perazzi and nearly every Italian gunmaker of note. The first guns produced by B. Rizzini were good, but so were other hand-built shotguns coming out of the small shops in the valley. What would eventually set B. Rizzini apart from its peers has been the company's commitment to state-of-the-art computer numerically con-

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.

## RIZZINI ARTEMIS

**MANUFACTURER:** B. Rizzini  
Via 2 Giugno 7/7  
Bis - 25060

Marcheno (BS), Italy

**IMPORTER:** Rizzini  
USA (Dept. AR) 19  
Bag Hollow Road,  
Harpwell, ME 04079;  
(866) 833-5276; www.  
rizziniusa.com

**ACTION TYPE:** boxlock-over-under shotgun

**GAUGE:** .410-bore (tested) and 28 gauge

**RECEIVER:** coin finish receiver

**BARREL:** Blued finish 26", 28" (tested), 30"

**CHOKES:** interchangeable choke tubes standard, fixed chokes by special order

**RIBS:** full-length hard brazed steel side ribs, 1/4" hard brazed steel vent rib

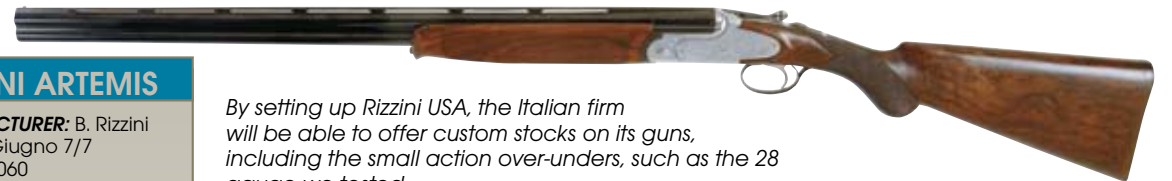
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 28"  
**WEIGHT:** 5½ lbs.

**STOCK:** Turkish walnut, oil finished, Prince of Wales grip or straight English, walnut butt plate

**STOCK DIMENSIONS:** length of pull, 14½"; drop at comb, 1½"; drop at heel, 2¼"

**ACCESSORIES:** hard case with combination locks, five choke tubes & wrench, sling swivels, gun oil, owners manual

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$2,550 Artemis  
\$2,250 Aurum



By setting up Rizzini USA, the Italian firm will be able to offer custom stocks on its guns, including the small action over-unders, such as the 28 gauge we tested.

aside; the real beauty of Rizzini shotguns is not on the surface; it's inside.

A hallmark of Rizzini shotgun manufacturing is the CNC machining of nearly every part. Precision machining provides better surface finish and closer tolerances than cast parts, but is more expensive. To offset some of this cost, Rizzini designed its guns' mechanisms to be ingeniously simple and, for all practical purposes, foolproof.

At first glance the Rizzini mechanism appears quite similar to many of the other popular Italian over-unders on the market. But on closer inspection the beauty of the design becomes evident. Where most others have sears hinged to the upper tang section of the frame, Rizzini incorporates all of the critical moving parts into the trigger plate. Machined from solid bar stock, the trigger plate has a vertical stanchion that

## SHOOTING RESULTS (25 Yds.)

### AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS



Improved-Modified Choke

Full Choke

■=Point of Hold

Federal Classic Hi Brass .410-Bore, 3" 11/16 oz., No. 7½ Copper-Plated Lead

Average Pellet count: 241  
Measured Velocity @3-ft.: 1122 f.p.s.  
Remaining Energy Per Pellet @ 25 yds.: 1 ft.-lb.

Total Hits	207 (86%)	Total Hits	210 (87%)
21" Inner Circle	162 (67%)	21" Inner Circle	185 (77%)
30" Outer Ring	45 (19%)	30" Outer Ring	25 (10%)

retains the sears, so that the sears, hammers and trigger are all on the trigger plate, eliminating the possibility of mismatching critical relationships when the trigger plate is mated to

the receiver. Another original Rizzini design feature is a unique ejector system. While most shotguns rely on the fore-end's metal to release the guns' ejectors, Rizzini has built the ejector system completely within the jeweled monobloc of the stacked barrels.

Furthermore, unlike other guns, the Rizzini does not rely on the fore-end metal to cock the hammers. The hammers are cocked by dual steel cocking bars levered rearward by the monobloc as the gun is opened. This manufacturing philosophy of using the robust steel parts of the action to do the heavy work and consolidating critical relationship parts on the machined steel trigger plate ensures that a Rizzini will hold up to heavy use, probably for generations. However, if the gun should eventually shoot loose, the

All the Rizzini's critical moving parts are incorporated into the trigger plate, including the sears, hammers and trigger (r.). The hammers are powered by coil springs.



The pierced top lever is a nice, classy touch, but the overly large safety/barrel selector with its red dots seems out of place on such a delightful little gun.



By using CNC machines, Rizzini ensures that critical dimensions on its guns are the same, allowing for complete barrel interchangeability.



trunnions on which the barrels hinge are replaceable in five progressively larger sizes—just in case your grandchildren’s grandchildren are active shooters.

One additional benefit to this type of design and precision CNC machining is interchangeability. Until now, nearly all over-unders have needed a little hand-work to fit the barrels to the receiver and time the ejectors to function prop-

erly; not so with Rizzini. As a final production step, all Rizzini barrels are placed in a machining fixture where the locking lugs, hinge cuts and even the fore-end hanger are machined. The finished barrels require no additional hand fitting; so, being exactly the same, barrels can be swapped from receiver to receiver with no difference in fit, and the ejectors will remain perfectly timed. To all of this,

add an American custom shop and a truly world-class shotgun company is born.

For the time being, all metal machining and custom engraving will continue to be performed in Italy. Rizzini USA’s custom shop will concentrate on special stock dimensions, custom stocks for target shooters and various upgrades of wood. Although pre-fitted oversized stocks pres-

ently come from Italy, the custom shop is currently installing a FADAL-brand CNC machining center to turn and inlet stocks directly from blank wood.

With Rizzini USA, the original company of B. Rizzini is now competing on the world stage, and with the new American custom shop and the Small Action over-unders it’s likely going to be competing successfully for many years to come.



Though produced by Henry Repeating Arms, the brass-framed Big Boy’s silhouette is more reminiscent of a Whitney or Burgess than that of its namesake. Overall fit and finish of the American-made rifle was quite good.

# Henry Big Boy



Anyone with even the slightest knowledge of firearm history would have to recognize the name B. Tyler Henry. Back around the middle part of the 19th century, Henry came up with what many people believe to be the first practical repeating rifle. While there were other claimants to the title, particularly Christopher Spencer, what can’t be denied was the Henry’s importance in paving the way for the later Winchester lever guns.

A few years ago, B. Tyler’s modern namesake, The Henry Repeating Arms Co., headquartered rather incongruously in Brooklyn, N.Y., brought out a little .22 lever-action that was not only handy, accurate and good looking, but which also had a very reasonable sticker price. The line has been expanded to include other rimfire models, including a new .17 HMR “Varmint Express.”

Realizing that much of today’s interest in lever-actions comes from the

Cowboy Action shooting crowd, Henry decided that what was needed was a reliable center-fire that could be offered at a competitive price, that would be easy to load and have a smooth action right out of the box. Enter the Henry Big Boy .44 Magnum.

As its name implies, the Big Boy is chambered for .44 Magnum and .44 Special. The rifle features a polished brass receiver that is touted as being the only new solid-frame .44 lever-action to be marketed since

## HENRY BIG BOY

**MANUFACTURER:** Henry Repeating Arms Co. (Dept. AR), 110 8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11215; (718) 499-5600; www.henryrepeating.com

**CALIBER:** .44 Mag., .44 Spl.

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

**RECEIVER:** polished brass

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 38½"

**BARREL:** blued, octagonal, 20"

**RIFLING:** six-groove, 1:38" RH twist

**MAGAZINE:** tubular, 10-round capacity

**WEIGHT:** 8 lbs., 10 ozs.

**SIGHTS:** adjustable Marble’s semi-buckhorn rear with white diamond insert, drift-adjustable brass beaded front blade

**TRIGGER:** single-stage, non adjustable; 4½-lb. pull

**STOCK:** un-checked American walnut; length of pull 14½"; drop at heel, 2½"; drop at comb 1½"

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$750

## SHOOTING RESULTS (100 Yds.)

.44 Rem. Mag Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' Energy (f.p.s.) (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
		Smallest	Largest	Average
CCI Blazer No.3562 200-gr JHP	1586 Avg. 1117 37 Sd	1.37	2.25	1.81
Hornady No. BH44MAG 240-gr JHP	1545 Avg. 1272 18 Sd	1.75	2.50	2.03
<b>.44 Spl. Cartridge</b>				
Hornady 240-gr JHP No. BH44SPEC	1545 Avg. 1272 Sd 13	1.75	2.50	2.03
Average Extreme Spread				1.95
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 20" barrel. Range temperature 72° F. Humidity 35 percent. Accuracy for five, consecutive five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sand-bag rest. Abbreviations: SWC (semi-wadcutter), HP (hollow point), JHP (jacketed hollow-point).				



The .44 Mag. Big Boy loads from the end of the magazine tube in the manner of many .22 rimfires. This was found to be easy and speedy.

Empties are ejected from a cutout in the side of the receiver rather than through the top as with many production lever-actions.



1866. What Henry means is its gun does not load from a gate in the side of the action, a la the Winchester, but rather through the muzzle end of the magazine with a twist-and-pull tube, in the style of many .22s.

The tube does not have to be completely withdrawn, as a cartridge-shaped portal is cut into the magazine tube about 3" from the top for the insertion of a round. Of course, the original Henry was charged from the end of the magazine also, but a pesky exposed plunger lever had the nasty habit of getting hung up on the shooter’s hand, inhibiting proper feeding. This setup

completely eliminates that problem. We found the Big Boy method to be fast, efficient and easier to use than the standard Winchester-style arrangement. Ten rounds could be loaded in about half the time they could in the more traditional manner.

Though called a Henry and sporting a brass frame, the Big Boy’s silhouette is very unlike the original Henry, actually resembling a Whitney or a Burgess. This is not meant to be pejorative, as the gun’s appearance is certainly Victorian enough to please even the fussiest Wild West actioneer. The receiver is surprisingly svelte, especially

considering that it’s made to handle .44 Mag. pressures.

Remaining brass parts include a slightly curved buttplate and brass barrel band. All other exposed metal is of blued steel, to include an adjustable Marble’s semi-buckhorn rear sight with white diamond accent. The blade front sight has a small brass bead for quick target acquisition.

Like many modern old-style firearms, the Henry sports a transfer bar that makes it impossible for the gun to be discharged unless the trigger is pulled fully to the rear. As well, there is a block that keeps the trigger from being activated unless the lever is completely closed.

The straight-grip stock and fore-end is of smooth American walnut with a length of pull of 14½". We found the gun came up naturally and comfortably—an asset for rapid-fire target work as well as hunting.

Though weighing almost 9 lbs., because of its nice balance, the Big Boy seems lighter than it really is. The weight, abetted by a good overall general configuration, really tamed the recoil of the .44 Mag. loads we tested. Jounce from the milder .44 Specials, as might be expected, was hardly noticeable.

As advertised by the maker, the rifle’s out-of-the-box action was extremely smooth and chambering and extraction were impec-

cable, with the exception of some slightly longer-than-usual .44 Mag loads which hung up in the follower. Rounds could be ripped off just as fast as the shooter could work the lever. Empties are ejected though a cut in the right side of the frame rather than through the top of the action as with many standard center-fire lever guns.

Where the gun excelled, though, was in the accuracy department. Both from the bench and offhand 25-, 50- and 100-yd. open-sight groups were top-notch no matter what brand or type of ammunition was used. Changing from .44 Mag. to .44 Spl. proved to be no problem after we worked out how much to adjust the rear sight elevation.

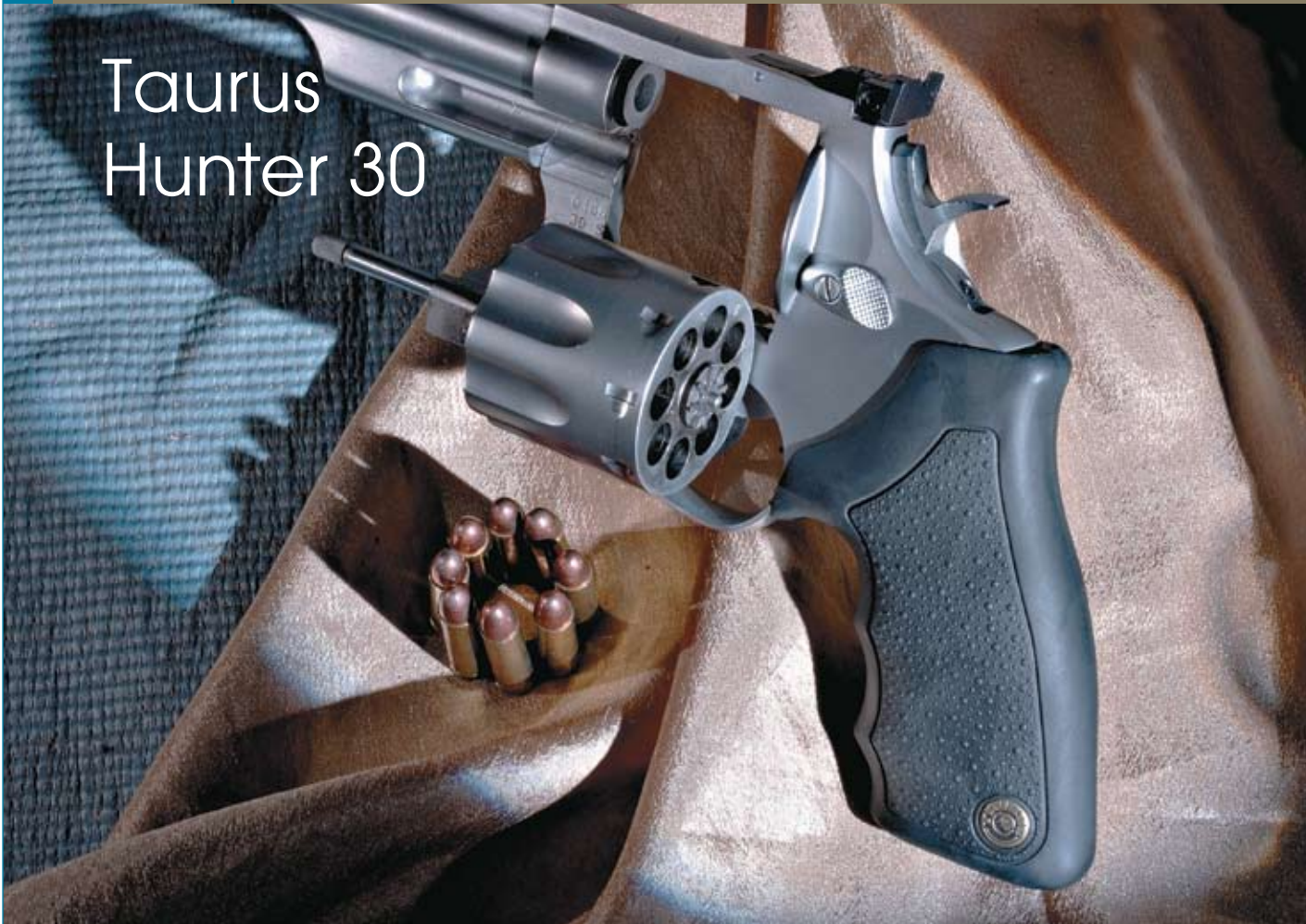
Big Boys are 100-percent American made, and overall workmanship is good—especially in the wood-to-metal fit department. The only defect we noted was in the polishing on the receiver. In the sunlight ripples were noticed along the flats. If a gun is going to have a bright brass frame, care should be taken to ensure that it is properly finished.

Our guess is that hunters will opt to charge their Big Boys with .44 Magnums and Cowboy Action competitors will load the milder .44 Specials. No matter; based upon our evaluation the Big Boy should fill either task admirably.





# Taurus Hunter 30



The new Hunter 30, chambered for .30 Carbine, is the latest product from Taurus, a company that continuously raises the bar in handgun design. At first glance the Hunter 30 looks a lot like the Raging Bull series of handguns, but on closer inspection some distinct differences become apparent. Gone are the four ports on either side of the front sight needed to cut down on muzzle jump in the original Raging Bull in .454 Casull. Built on the same frame size and taking advantage of the Raging series' large cylinder size, the Hunter 30 is chambered to hold eight of the slimmer .30 Carbine cartridges, as opposed to a cylinder capacity of only five in the

Based on the Raging Bull series of revolvers, the Taurus Hunter 30 dispenses with some features of that line, and the result is a fun, high-capacity plinking or hunting revolver in .30 Carbine.

Raging Bull .454 Casull. To facilitate ejection of the rimless .30 Carbine cases, several eight-cartridge-capacity Taurus "Stellar Clips" are supplied.

In keeping with the Raging series' original design platform, the Hunter 30 has a full-length ventilated rib. In a departure from the Raging revolvers, a short underlug is used rather than a full-length one. Also gone are the fore-and-aft cylinder locks, which are replaced by a more conventional single

cylinder lock found on the left side of the frame. The big gun is stocked with a black, synthetic monogrip that provides a good grip and cushions against recoil. The overall impression of the Hunter 30 is of a solid, well-built revolver with good attention to fit and finish, but—would it shoot as good as it looked? On the range several things became readily apparent. With its long 12" barrel and an empty weight of 4½ lbs., the Hunter 30 is big. However,

the contoured synthetic grips give it a secure, comfortable feel, while the extra barrel weight and long sight radius make for a steady hold. Designed for hunting and target shooting, the added size and weight are a plus for shooting at long yardage.

After first unlocking the security locked hammer with the provided key, we fired the Hunter 30 from a shooting bag rest at 25 yds. to determine sight alignment. The square blade front and large notched rear sights made for easy target acquisition and an easily held sight picture when used in a six o'clock hold. The first five-shot group was slightly low and right. With its rear



The Hunter 30, with its 12" barrel has a long sight radius for its adjustable iron sights, but Taurus also offers a scope mount (above) for those choosing to mount an optical sight. Like all Taurus revolvers, the Hunter 30 comes with an integral key lock.

Cylinder capacity for the gun is eight .30 Carbine cartridges (r.) that are mounted in sheet steel Stellar Clips.



The tension on the mainspring (which affects trigger pull) is hand-adjustable via a knurled retaining nut inside the grip frame.

## TAURUS HUNTER 30

**MANUFACTURER:** Taurus Forjas S.A., Av. Do Forte 511, Porto Alegre, Brazil BR-91360

**IMPORTER:** Taurus Int'l (Dept AR), 16175 N.W. 49th Ave., Miami, FL 33014; (305) 624-1115; www.taurususa.com

**CALIBER:** .30 Carbine  
**ACTION TYPE:** double-action revolver

**FRAME:** forged stainless steel

**BARREL:** 12", stainless steel  
**RIFLING:** six-groove, 1:16½" RH twist

**CYLINDER CAPACITY:** eight rounds

**SIGHTS:** Patridge front, notched rear adjustable for windage and elevation

**TRIGGER:** double-action: single action, 4-lb., 6-oz. pull; double-action, 12-lb. pull.

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 19¼"

**WIDTH:** 1¾"

**HEIGHT:** 6½"

**WEIGHT:** 4 lbs., 8 ozs.

**ACCESSORIES:** scope base mount, hammer safety lock key, stellar clips, owners manual

**SUGGEST RETAIL PRICE:** \$743

sight fully adjustable for both windage and elevation, it took fewer than half a dozen shots to cut the center out of the bull.

Due to weather we were limited to the NRA indoor test range where the longest yardage available to us was 50 yds., whereas the Hunter 30 is designed for varmint shots of a 100 yds. or more. Although scope mounts are included, we limited our test to the supplied iron sights; if the revolver would group well with iron sights, the addition of a scope would only improve performance. Using several brands of factory loaded ammunition, from a benchrest our groups averaged about 2½" and showed very little differ-

ence from brand to brand.

In single-action, the Hunter 30's trigger, which has an adjustable trigger stop, broke crisply at 4 lbs., 6 ozs. In double-action our sample had a stiff 12-lb. trigger pull from the factory. Fortunately, the hammer spring is hand-adjustable via a knurled retaining nut underneath the grip. Unfortunately, even when adjusted, the slick trigger surface did not provide good purchase for the revolver fired in that way. In our opinion, serrating the trigger surface would be a definite improvement in controlling the Hunter 30 in double-action.

Due to its weight, recoil is very modest and makes for very fast follow-up shots. With a two-hand

hold shooting the Hunter 30 offhand, accuracy was much better than expected. The synthetic stocks, grip angle and heavy barrel provided a sight platform steady enough to consistently keep all eight shots in the black. After firing several hundred rounds of various brands of ammunition we experienced no malfunctions of any kind.

The Hunter 30 shoots as good as it looks and, in our tests, exceeded expectations. With inexpensive .30 Carbine ammo still available, the Hunter 30 is sure to become a very popular long-range handgun for varmint hunters or recreational target shooters who want to test their handgun skills out to triple-digit yardage.

SHOOTING RESULTS (50 Yds.)					
.30 Carbine Cartridge	Vel. @ 15'	Energy (f.p.s.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Federal No. AE30CB 110-gr. FMC	1594 Avg.	621 18 Sd	2.03	2.84	2.36
MagTech No. 30A 110-gr. FMC	1531 Avg.	572 35 Sd	2.28	3.40	2.72
Winchester No. X30M1 110-Gr. S-X HSP	1642 Avg.	659 28 Sd	2.16	3.04	2.53
Average Extreme Spread:					2.53

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 12" barrel. Range temperature: 81° F. Humidity: 50%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 50 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: FMC (full metal case), S-X HSP (Super-X hollow softpoint), Sd (standard deviation).



# Trijicon TriPower

While reflex sights offer blazingly fast target acquisition, they are also often criticized for requiring a power source for the reticle. This could result in users losing their battery-powered reticle at an extremely inopportune time.

Enter the Trijicon TriPower. This innovative reflex sight offers an extremely reliable powered reticle through its unique triple-illumination system. One is Trijicon's renowned self-luminous tritium—a radioactive isotope of hydrogen that has a half-life of 12½ years. The second illumination source is a fiber-optic system that is integrated with the tritium system. The brightness of the reticle is automatically adjusted in relation to the surrounding ambient light by the fiber-optic system. The third power source is an on-call battery back-up system. It provides a manual supplemental light source for situations in which a bright reticle is needed in an environment with little to no ambient light, or daylight situations where an extremely bright reticle is needed.

For versatility, the battery system has 14 daylight settings and six night settings. The system also features a “low battery” indicator and an automatic shut-off after two hours to conserve power.

An optional fourth power source is Cyalume chemical light sticks that can be inserted in a port on the TriPower. Such a chemical light stick can provide

additional illumination power for four to six hours.

The TriPower is designed for use generally out to ranges of 550 yds. and features a sturdy, impact-resistant polymer body. Being a reflex sight, the TriPower uses a reflective lens system and a

projected aiming reticle to establish an optical axis that remains aligned to the zero of the firearm no matter the angle at which it is viewed. The lenses of the TriPower are coated for optimum light transmission.

The TriPower features a red chevron reticle that is easy to visually pick up. The height of the chevron is 14.4 m.o.a., while the overall width is 16.6 m.o.a. The width of the inner, bottom “legs” of the chevron is 8.3 m.o.a.

When using the TriPower, we did notice a red “fog” in the visual plane. It did not, however, affect visual acquisition of the reticle. A call to Trijicon revealed that this was a trait

present in the first batch of TriPowers, but that subsequent models feature a new lens that greatly reduces this “haziness.”

For testing, we attached the TriPower to a Beretta CX4 Storm with the supplied 30 mm ring. The TriPower, whose tube's diameter of 30 mm allows for the use of commonly available rings and mounts, attached easily and functioned well. The TriPower features windage and elevation adjustments that equal 0.391 m.o.a. per click. To test repeatability, we “shot the square” at 50 yds. The last group fired was exactly in the center of the first group.

During the course of testing, the electronic mem-

brane switch that operates the illuminated reticle was manipulated extensively. The dimmer/brighter and on/off buttons worked exactly as designed.

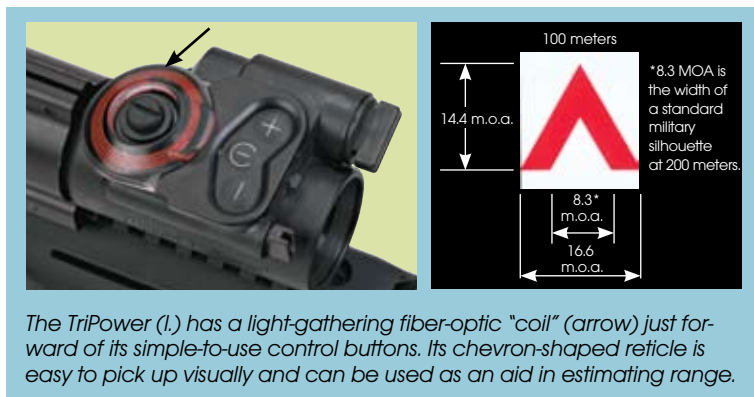
As a further test, we submerged the TriPower in 110 degree water for 10 minutes and then placed it in a freezer for 10 more. There was no leakage or fogging.

The TriPower is a sturdy, reliable reflex sight that does an admirable job of addressing one of the most often criticized aspects of electronic sighting systems.

Contact: Trijicon, Inc. (Dept. AR), 49385 Shafer Ave., Wixom, MI 48393; (800) 338-0563; [www.trijicon.com](http://www.trijicon.com). Suggested retail price: \$550.



The Trijicon TriPower offers users an effective reflex sight with an ultra-reliable reticle. The TriPower's three sources of power are tritium, fiber-optics and a battery back-up system.



The TriPower (L) has a light-gathering fiber-optic “coil” (arrow) just forward of its simple-to-use control buttons. Its chevron-shaped reticle is easy to pick up visually and can be used as an aid in estimating range.