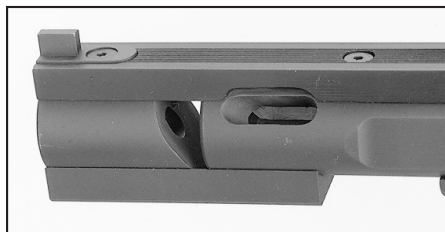


# DOPE BAG

Dope Bag is compiled by Staff and Contributing Editors: David Andrews, Hugh C. Birnbaum, Bruce N. Canfield, Russ Carpenter, O. Reid Coffield, William C. Davis, Jr., Pete Dickey, Charles Fagg, Robert W. Hunnicutt, Mark A. Keefe, IV, Angus Laidlaw, Scott E. Mayer, Charles E. Petty, Robert B. Pomeranz, O.D., Jim Supica, Charles R. Suydam, A.W.F. Taylerson and Stanton L. Wornley, Jr.

**CAUTION:** 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

## HIGH STANDARD ISU OLYMPIC



**The Olympic's compensator is a barrel segment retained by upper and lower ribs, combined with a pair of large ports.**

command high prices on the gun show circuit. The result is that there are now four different sources of High Standard-type pistols.

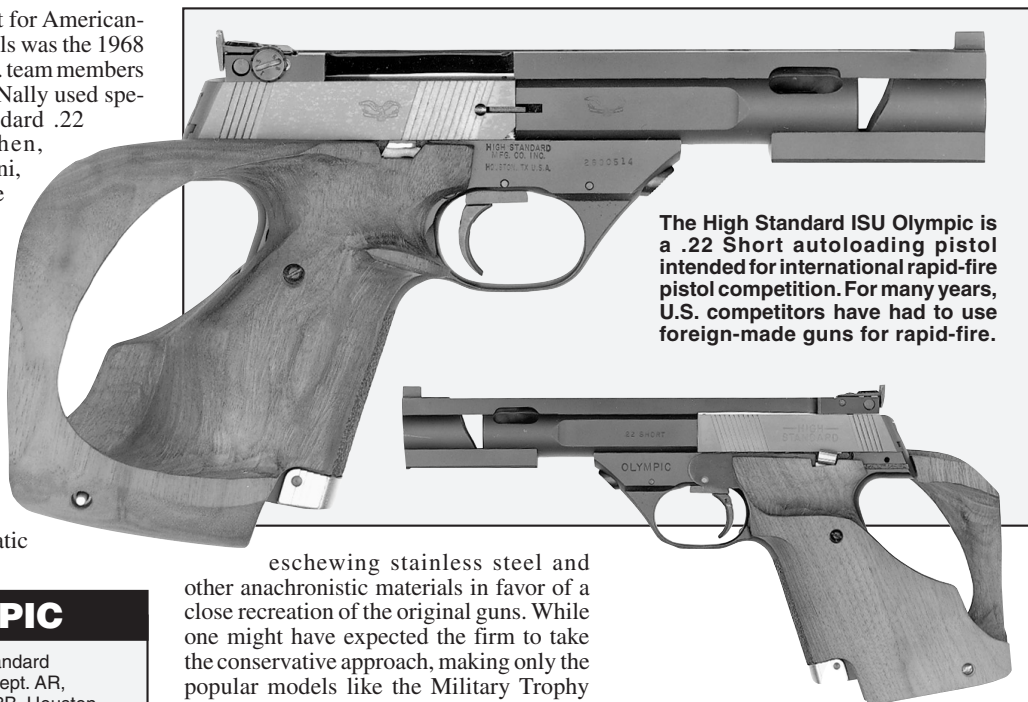
High Standard Mfg. Co. of Houston is probably the most "authentic" of these,

mium on minimum recoil, so the .22 Short has ruled rapid-fire competition for years. Various barrel-venting and compensator designs have reduced recoil to the point that a common stunt is to fire five rounds while balancing five empties on the barrel.

High Standard used a number of barrel venting configurations, especially for the 1968 Olympic guns. These are well-

**T**HE last great moment for American-made rapid-fire pistols was the 1968 Olympics, when U.S. team members Bill McMillan and Jim McNally used specially-prepared High Standard .22 Short pistols. Since then, European brands like Pardini, Unique and Walther have ruled the roost.

The original High Standard went belly-up in 1984, and one might have been forgiven for thinking that was the end of the name. But while no one laments the passing of the old Connecticut firm's .22 rifles or shotguns, the target pistol line was never really replaced, with the result that even humble specimens like the Dura-Matic



**The High Standard ISU Olympic is a .22 Short autoloading pistol intended for international rapid-fire pistol competition. For many years, U.S. competitors have had to use foreign-made guns for rapid-fire.**

### HS OLYMPIC

**MANUFACTURER:** High Standard Manufacturing Co., Inc., Dept. AR, 4601 S. Pinemont, No. 148B, Houston, TX 77041

**MECHANISM TYPE:** blowback operated semi-automatic pistol

**CALIBER:** .22 Short

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 11 $\frac{5}{16}$ "

**BARREL LENGTH:** 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

**WEIGHT:** 45 ozs.

**WIDTH:** 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ "

**HEIGHT:** 5 $\frac{5}{16}$ "

**MAGAZINE CAPACITY:** 5

**TRIGGER:** single-stage, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. pull

**SIGHTS:** Patridge with rear adjustable for windage and elevation

**ACCESSORIES:** plastic carrying case

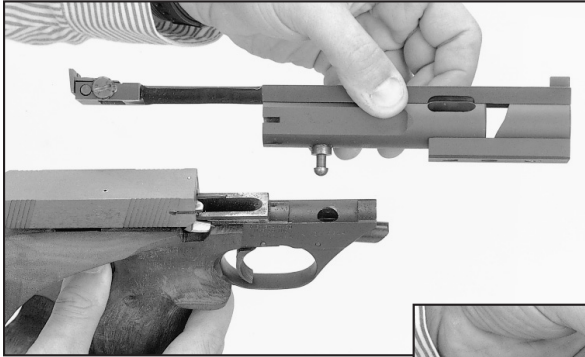
**PRICE:** \$1,995

eschewing stainless steel and other anachronistic materials in favor of a close recreation of the original guns. While one might have expected the firm to take the conservative approach, making only the popular models like the Military Trophy and Victor, it steadily has expanded its offerings, even to the point of recreating one of the most specialized pistols, the ISU Olympic rapid-fire gun.

Rapid-fire shooting requires the competitor to engage five turning targets in times of eight, six and four seconds. While the original target was man-shaped, this was later bowdlerized to a coffin shape and finally to a bullseye with a 100 mm (3.93") 10-ring. This sort of shooting places a pre-

**The High Standard ISU Olympic's trigger blade is adjustable fore and aft by turning out a set screw and moving it along a track.**





The barrel assembly is retained by a stud that is secured by a plunger in the frame front. Pressing the plunger in allows barrel removal. The slide may then be moved forward off the frame.

described in Tom Dance's *High Standard: A Collector's Guide to the Hamden and Hartford Target Pistols*. Alan Aronstein of the new High Standard came up with his own solution that is elegant in its simplicity.

What is effectively a 5½" barrel is actually two different sections on the ISU Olympic, held together top and bottom by screwed-on ribs. The rear surface of the front section is cut at an angle that directs gas up and out and that provides a big surface for the speeding gas to strike, thus pushing the gun forward. Muzzle jump is further controlled by a pair of upward-



The stocks are contoured to pass around the hand and are oversize to accommodate small-handed shooters.

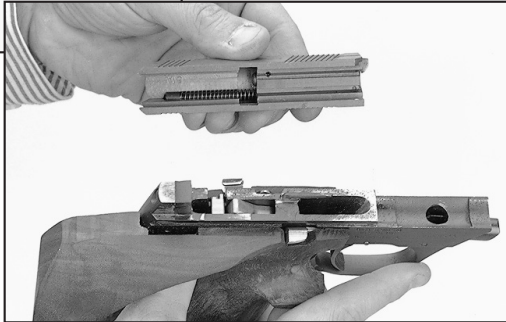
pointing ports on either side of the top rib. That part is relieved above the ports for passage of gas.

This system may lack something in aesthetics, but it is effective and, one suspects, cheaper than alternatives. It also stays clean through hundreds of rounds of shooting.

To accommodate the .22 Short cartridge's very limited recoil impulse, the pistol's slide is made of a green/gold anodized aluminum and weighs just a bit more than 2 ozs. The frame is fitted with a red buffer to prevent battering at the rear of the slide's stroke.

The trigger blade is adjustable for position fore and aft, but the overtravel stop and pull weight adjustments are deleted on this

model—the factory states that getting reliable functioning requires very specific trigger tuning and that it's unlikely the user can improve pull much. While that explanation is unlikely to satisfy tinkers, we found the factory pull quite adequate.



The magazine is modified from the .22 Long Rifle unit by roll-pinning a filler block at the front and installing a new follower. Capacity is reduced to five rounds.

Also modified is the ejector, which has a long point to commence ejection early in slide recoil. While some of the experimental High Standard rapid-fire guns had no extractors (a dud round causes a cease-fire), the new pistol has a pivoting hook extractor for unloading without recourse to a cleaning rod.

The sights are a replaceable Patridge front and a rear sight click-adjustable for windage and elevation. The adjustment

ing box. They are left considerably oversized for the convenience of small-handed shooters; the rest of us will want to get busy with a rasp before trying any serious firing.

Disassembly follows other High Standard target autoloaders. Remove the magazine by pulling forward on the gold-colored catch at the bottom front of the grip frame, then clear the chamber by retracting and locking back the slide. Press in on the barrel plunger with the thumb while holding the barrel with the other fingers. With the plunger all the way in, the barrel can be tilted forward and off the frame.

The slide is then free to move forward off the frame. No further disassembly should be required for routine cleaning or maintenance, and reassembly is in reverse order.

The Olympic ISU was fired for accuracy with results shown in the accompanying table, and function-fired with Eley, Lapua and RWS ammunition.

When firing from the Ransom Rest, we quickly found the High Standard fired shotgun patterns with RWS R25 ammunition. After carefully checking the pistol and grip adapters and recleaning, we gave up on the RWS and tried Eley Rapid Fire Match, with superb results. Accuracy with some 15-year-old Short Pistol Match was even better. Either of these would easily hold the tie-breaking 50 mm inner ring, while some Lapua ammunition we tried would come close, and easily hold the 10-ring.

Our sample pistol was an early production model, and required a couple of trips back to the maker before function was satisfactory. Users should be very careful not

## ACCURACY RESULTS

.22 Short Cartridge	Vel. @15' (f.p.s.)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
Eley Rapid Fire Match	687 Avg. 31 Sd	1.23	1.75	1.47
Eley Short Pistol	705 Avg. 16 Sd	0.80	1.43	1.09
Lapua Short	791 Avg. 21 Sd	2.25	2.60	2.39
Average Extreme Spread				1.65
Five consecutive 5-shot groups from 25 yds., fired from Ransom Rest. Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation)				



knobs are coin-slotted for convenient turning with a dime. The sight rib is deeply cut away at the rear to clear a wide path for ejected cases.

Safeties are not used in most target shooting, but the High Standard has one at the left rear of the frame. The slide stop is on the opposite side. The grips are contoured to pass around the hand, which is permissible in international shooting, provided the pistol fits into a dimension-limit-

to bend the long, thin extractor. This can bind the slide, causing both failures to feed and eject.

Our gun also never would reliably fire RWS ammunition, though Eley and Lapua worked satisfactorily.

Any gun like the ISU Olympic is aimed at a very tiny market, but it's good to see an American manufacturer determined to succeed at the highest levels of international shooting competition.



## D-MAX SIDEWINDER REVOLVER

**T**HE MIL, Inc., Thunder Five (October 1993, p. 60) was an odd-looking revolver that combined .410 shotshell and .45 Colt capabilities in an intimidating, if bulky, arm.

Now another small maker, D-Max, Inc., has introduced a .410/45 revolver called the Sidewinder. While the Thunder Five was based on a Charter Arms design and was defense-oriented, the Sidewinder grew from Ruger's Super Blackhawk and is intended for hunting.

D-Max proprietor Darvin Carda kept getting opportunities to shoot grouse while armed only with a deer rifle. He decided a revolver that could shoot metallic cartridges and shotshells might be the answer, and modified a Super Blackhawk to fire the .410/45 combination so well-proven in the Thompson/Center Contender.

He made a few for friends, then decid-

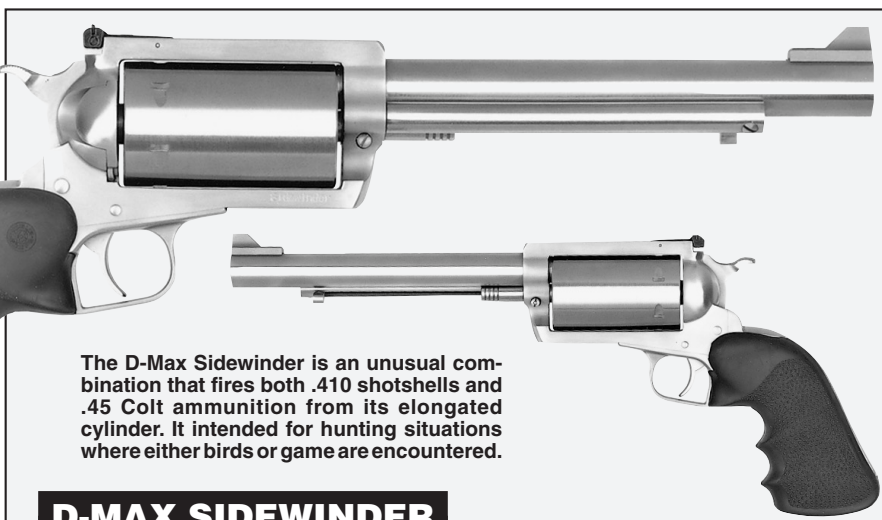


**The Sidewinder's cylinder is truly massive, and we found that removing the gun's long base pin required some tricky manipulation.**

ed to get into the business in 1992, starting first by modifying customer guns, then combining his own investment-cast stainless cylinder frame with Ruger grip frames, and finally to making the whole gun. D-Max no longer modifies customer guns.

The Sidewinder is an impressively large and heavy piece, as can easily be imagined, given that the Super Blackhawk's already beefy cylinder is extended to just short of 3". The cylinder frame is proportionally long at 4 3/4". When combined with a 7 1/2" barrel, these dimensions mean the Sidewinder is no hideout gun.

The base pin is 5 1/4" long, and just barely allows removal of the cylinder before stopping against the ejector rod button. This



**The D-Max Sidewinder is an unusual combination that fires both .410 shotshells and .45 Colt ammunition from its elongated cylinder. It intended for hunting situations where either birds or game are encountered.**

### D-MAX SIDEWINDER

**MANUFACTURER:** D-Max, Inc., Dept. AR, RR1, Box 473, Bagley, MN 56621

**MECHANISM TYPE:** single-action revolver

**CALIBER:** .45 Colt/.410, 3"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 15"

**BARREL LENGTH:** 7 1/2"

**WEIGHT:** 61 ozs.

**WIDTH:** 1 3/4"

**HEIGHT:** 6 1/2"

**CYLINDER CAPACITY:** 6

**TRIGGER:** single-stage, 3 1/2 lbs. pull

**SIGHTS:** ramped front, rear click-adjustable for windage and elevation

**ACCESSORIES:** choke tube, wrench, extra tubes, \$17

**PRICE:** \$775

**The sights and grip frame of the D-Max Sidewinder will no doubt be familiar to any owner of a Ruger Super Blackhawk revolver.**



conveniently renders it a captive part, helping prevent it being lost.

The Super Blackhawk frame needs little introduction, and all its safety features are carried forward in the Sidewinder. The firing pin is mounted in the frame and can be struck by the hammer only when the trigger is pulled, lifting a transfer bar between hammer and firing pin.

An interlock between the loading gate

and hammer prevents the latter being pulled back with the gate open, or the gate opened with the hammer back. Like Ruger single-actions, it loads with the hammer down; there is no Colt-style half-cock notch.

The cylindrical barrel is fitted for interchangeable choke tubes that are in the T/C style, though made by D-Max. A section of hex key serves to remove and replace the tubes. The manufacturer states that the modified tube can be used with .410 slugs, but that the tube should be removed whenever firing .45 Colt ammunition.

Sights follow the Ruger pattern, with a large front sight screwed to the barrel and a rear sight click-adjustable for windage and elevation. It seemed to us that the long top strap would be a natural spot for scope mounting, but there were no holes drilled and tapped. A rather bulky Hogue Monogrip is standard equipment. The manufacturer also offers shoulder and belt holsters for the Sidewinder.

The Sidewinder was fired for accuracy with Black Hills .45 Colt ammunition and pattern-tested with Remington 3" shot-

**The straight choke tube rifling stabilizes the wad for tighter patterns. It should be removed before firing bullets or .410 slugs.**



## ACCURACY RESULTS

.45 Colt Cartridge	Vel. @15' (f.p.s.)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
Black Hills 255-gr. SWC	786 Avg. 28 Sd	2.77	4.02	3.45
Average Extreme Spread				3.45
Five consecutive 5-shot groups from yds., fired from sandbags. Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation), SWC (semi-wadcutter)				

shells. There were no failures of any kind.

We were pleased that accuracy with .45 Colt ammunition was not bad at all, though the long freebore in the cylinder quickly leaded up, with ill effects on accuracy after about 25 rounds or so. While it might be natural to assume that the long cylinder and



As might be guessed, recoil is mild with the Sidewinder, though muzzle flash and blast are strong with 3" .410 shotshells.

7½" barrel would yield higher velocities, the numbers for the D-Max were only about 75 f.p.s. faster than those for a 4¾"-barreled revolver we recently tried.

We were impressed by the patterns thrown by the D-Max with the full-choke tube. It seemed clear to us that grouse-sized birds would be easy targets for the revolver at close ranges.

We also liked the pistol's excellent trigger pull, which made it easy to extract its maximum accuracy potential. The sights were less usable, since we found the stainless front blade contrasted poorly against the target. This might be less annoying when shooting at game in dim light.

Recoil was negligible with .45 Colt ammunition, and seemed about equivalent to a .357 Mag. when shotshells were used. Muzzle blast and flash are both quite sharp when .410s are fired.

The manufacturer cautions against firing .45 Colt ammo with the choke tube installed. We fired a few by accident, and found that the majority of bullets tumbled at 25 yds. The choke tube itself was distorted a bit, but we were able to remove and replace it without great effort.

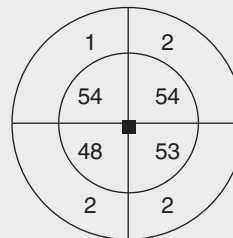
Our only major complaint against the Sidewinder was that the very long base pin tends to bind, making reassembly a trial. We found that lubricating it a bit helps it to slide back into place.

The ability to use .410 and .45 interchangeably can be had in the Thompson/Center Contender or the H&R Survivor, and most of us might select these as a bit more versatile and inexpensive. On the other hand, the D-Max Sidewinder offers both rapid selection of ammunition type by just spinning the cylinder, as well as greater firepower.

For the user who needs that particular combination, it is a useful, if not inexpensive, choice. **NRP**

## PATTERN RESULTS

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 10 YDS.



Full Tube

■ = Point of Hold  
Remington Express Max  
11/16-4  
Pellet count—229

Total Hits 216 (94%)  
21.2" Inner Circle 209 (91%)  
30" Outer Ring 7 (3%)

# CZ ZKM 452 MODEL 2-E RIFLE



The CZ ZKM 452 rifle developed a good reputation as a fine .22 sporter and had almost a cult following even before the Berlin Wall came down.

## CZ ZKM 452

**MANUFACTURER:** Ceska Zbrojovka, 688 27 Uhersky Brod, Czech Republic  
**IMPORTER:** Magnum Research, Inc., Dept. AR, 7110 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432  
**MECHANISM TYPE:** bolt-action rifle  
**CALIBER:** .22 Long Rifle (tested), .22 WMRF  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 44"  
**BARREL LENGTH:** 25"  
**RIFLING:** 6-groove; 1:16" LH twist  
**WEIGHT:** 6 lbs. 9 ozs  
**MAGAZINE CAPACITY:** 5 (10 available)  
**TRIGGER:** single-stage adjustable, 3½-lb. pull  
**SIGHTS:** windage- and elevation-adjustable open rear, hooded front  
**STOCK:** European walnut: length of pull, 13¾"; drop at heel, 2"; drop at comb, 7/8"  
**ACCESSORIES:** sling swivels  
**PRICE:** \$299, \$379 (.22 WMRF)

**C**ESKA ZBROJOVKA or CZ is probably far more famous for its pistols and Mauser-based center-fire rifles than its .22 sporters. The ZKM 452, however, developed a fine reputation while the Iron Curtain was still up. As manufactured in the newly created Czech Republic, the ZKM 452 is now being offered here by Magnum Research, Inc.

The 452 reflects its European heritage through the schnabel fore-end and hog's back comb on its plain but attractively figured stock. The grip of our sample rifle was functionally checkered in a 14-line per inch bordered point-pattern with numerous overruns. A checkered black plastic

buttplate with the CZ logo and sling swivels are provided.

While the 25" barrel and most other metal parts are blued, the tubular receiver is matte-finished and grooved for tip-off mounts. The barrel is screwed into the receiver and has bore and groove diameters of .213" and .219", respectively.

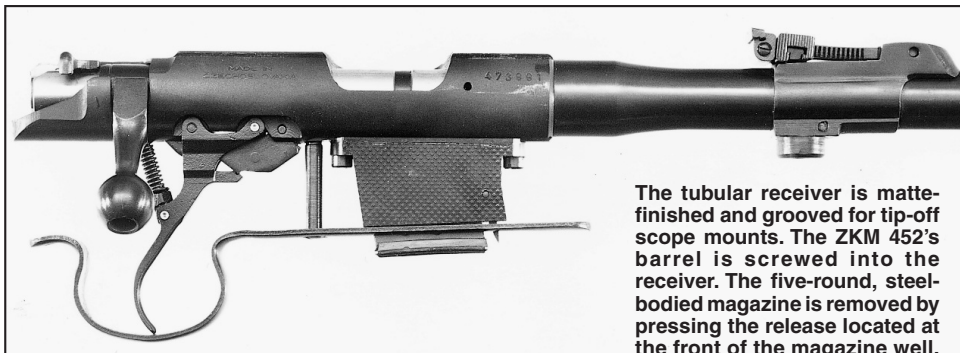
The rear-locking bolt has two lugs; one is the root of the blued handle itself and the other, on the bolt's opposite side, engages a recess on the left receiver wall. Dual extractors oppose each other on the bolt face while a projection on the bottom of the receiver behind the magazine well serves as the ejector.



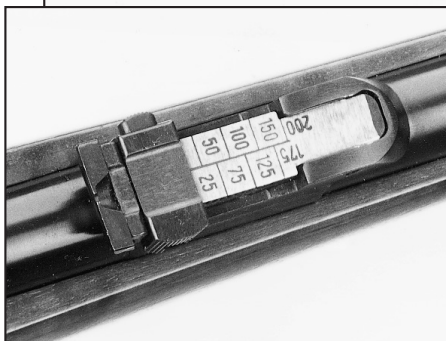
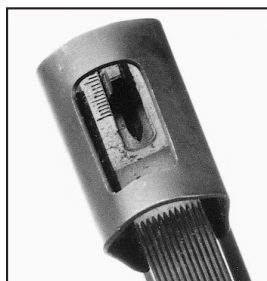
# DOPE BAG

The safety lever on the top rear of the bolt is pressed forward to block the cocking piece and firing pin. When it is in the "off" position, a red dot on the top-right receiver wall behind the bolt is revealed. The bolt cannot be manipulated when the safety is engaged.

Our sample arrived with a smooth 3½-lb. trigger pull out of the box with a degree of over-travel. The vertically grooved single-stage trigger is adjustable for weight of pull with a range from 3.3 to 4.5



The tubular receiver is matte-finished and grooved for tip-off scope mounts. The ZKM 452's barrel is screwed into the receiver. The five-round, steel-bodied magazine is removed by pressing the release located at the front of the magazine well.



The hooded front sight (l.) has an index-marked base that slopes forward to allow for height adjustment of the blade. The ZKM 452's open U-notch rear sight (r.) is elevation adjustable from 25 to 200 meters in 25-meter increments.

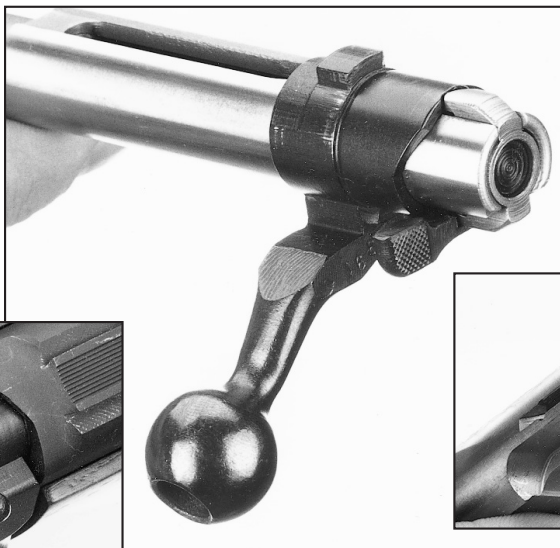
lbs. To make the adjustment, the barrelled action must first be removed from the stock to allow access to the adjustment screw.

The open U-notch rear sight is elevation adjustable from 25 to 200 meters in 25-meter increments by depressing the plungers on either side of the slide and moving it forward or back. Windage adjustment is controlled by opposing screws at the rear of the sight leaf.

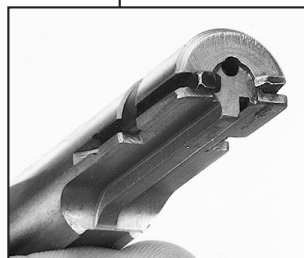
The hooded front sight is dovetailed into a ramp and held in place by a set screw forward of the sight blade. The base slopes forward to allow for height adjustment of the blade. Index marks

are cut in the left top of the base to record height adjustments.

The five-round, steel-bodied magazine is removed by pressing the release at the front of the magazine well. The plastic floorplate protrudes below the stock for easier grasping.



The rear-locking bolt (top) has two lugs, one being the bolt handle itself. The safety lever is on the top rear of the bolt and is pressed forward to block the cocking piece and the firing pin (l.). Dual extractors (r.) oppose each other on the bolt face.



## ACCURACY RESULTS

.22 Long Rifle Cartridge	Vel. @15' (f.p.s.)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
Eley Match No. WG4205	1075 17 Sd	0.48	0.86	0.66
PMC Zapper HP No. 22-D-937	1281 13 Sd	0.69	1.45	1.05
Sellier & Bellot No. 549081	1160 11 Sd	0.71	1.10	0.88
Average Extreme Spread				0.86

Five consecutive 10-shot groups at 50 yds. fired from sandbags. Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation), HP (hollow point)

To field strip the ZKM 452, begin, of course, by removing the magazine and ensuring that the chamber is unloaded, then depress the trigger and withdraw the bolt from the receiver. Invert the bolt and, using a brass punch or similar non-marring tool, press the firing pin rearward through the channel in the bolt's bottom. This allows the bolt handle to be turned clockwise, relieving firing pin spring pressure.

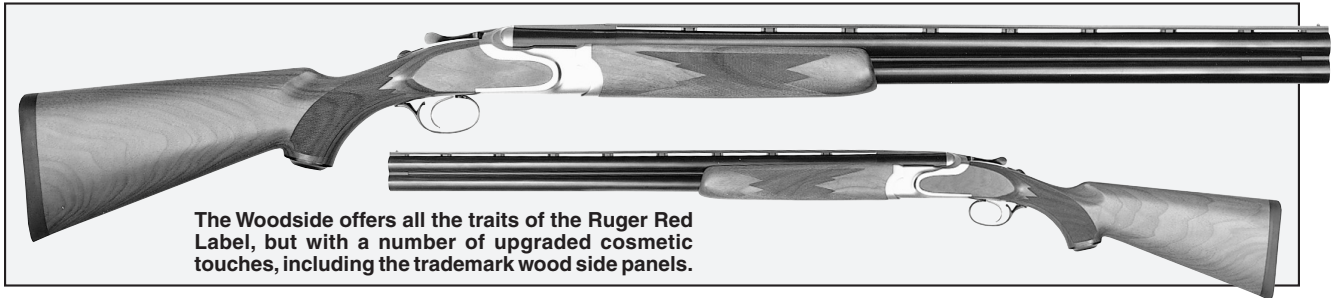
Next, depress the rear of the firing pin with a punch, allowing the safety lever to be lifted up and off. Slowly release the pressure on the punch and the mainspring and its retainer will move rearward and out of the bolt body. The firing pin may then be lifted out to the rear, freeing the bolt handle. Reassembly is in reverse order.

The ZKM 452, fitted with a Bausch & Lomb 6-24X scope and Warne rings, was function-fired with Eley, PMC, Remington, Sellier & Bellot and Winchester ammunition and tested for accuracy, with the results shown in the accompanying table. There were no failures of any kind.

The ZKM 452 has long been considered one of the finest .22 sporters made due to its accuracy and handling qualities; we found that claim hard to dispute.

MRP

## RUGER RED LABEL WOODSIDE



The Woodside offers all the traits of the Ruger Red Label, but with a number of upgraded cosmetic touches, including the trademark wood side panels.

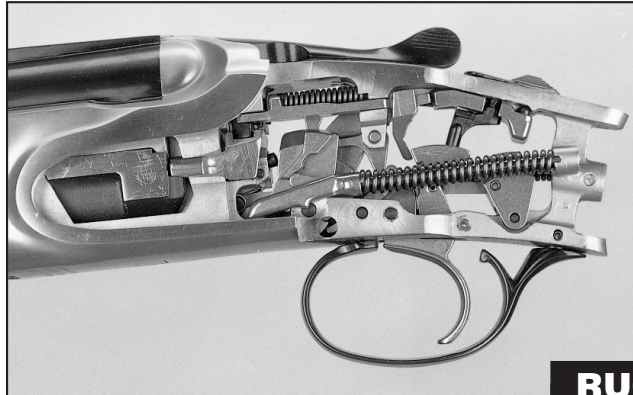
**T**HE introduction of the 20-ga. Ruger Red Label in 1977, followed up by a 12-ga. version in 1982, satisfied those wanting the performance of European over/unders in a durable, reasonably-priced, American-made arm. Now Ruger aims to compete aesthetically as well, with a cosmetically distinctive Red Label version called the Woodside.

Though introduced in the 1995 model year, the Woodside had been on the drawing board since at least the late 1970s; a photograph in the 1980 *Gun Digest* clearly shows a Red Label prototype having the signature wooden side panels. According to the company, the Woodside's styling was personally designed by founder Bill Ruger.

The Woodside is available in 12-ga. only with 3" chambers, and in 26", 28" or 30" barrel lengths. The Woodside's back-bored barrels are identical to those of the standard 12-ga. Red Label, with an inside diameter of .743". The upper barrel is topped by a free-floating, serrated ventilated rib .33" wide, with a .122" gold front bead. All Woodsides are supplied with 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>"-long stainless-steel

Briley choke tubes in full, modified, improved cylinder and two skeet chokes, all suitable for steel shot.

The Woodside's receiver, like those of all Red Labels, is a satin-finish stainless steel investment casting that contrasts nice-



**The receiver has windows cut to accommodate the wooden panels. Additional metal in the form of bosses has been added to ensure durability and strength.**

ly with the gun's blued, hammer-forged barrels. It differs mainly in having two large windows in its sides to accommodate the extended stock panels. The Woodside does not simply use a cut-up Red Label frame, however. To ensure strength and durability, additional metal has been added to the Woodside's receiver in the form of bosses surrounding the panel cutouts. These bosses also compensate for some of the weight lost from the cutouts, and help ensure that the Woodside retains the same feel of the standard Red Label.

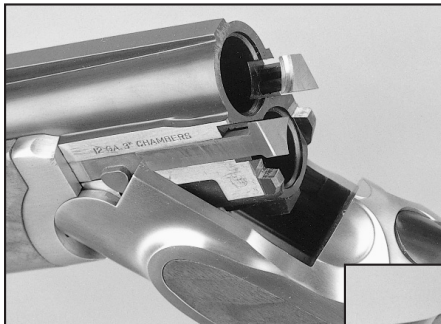
In internal function and design, the Woodside offers no surprises for those familiar with Red Label lockwork (August 1978, p. 54); it retains the same single selective trigger, automatic tang-mounted safety and barrel selector, rebounding ham-

mers, internal inertia weight and hammer interrupter, and automatic ejectors of its predecessors. It is worth noting, however, that the Woodside's design incorporates Ruger's redesigned hammer struts which, by contacting the hammers at a more advantageous leverage point, allow a reduction in hammer spring tension and thus the cocking force required.

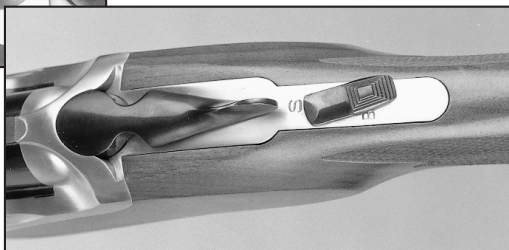
The Woodside we received had 28" barrels with skeet and

## RUGER WOODSIDE

**MANUFACTURER:** Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc., Dept. AR, Southport, CT 06490  
**MECHANISM TYPE:** over-under shotgun  
**GAUGE:** 12, 3"  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 45"  
**BARREL LENGTH:** 26", 28" (tested)  
**WEIGHT:** 7½ lbs.  
**TRIGGER:** 4 lbs. bottom barrel; 4¾ lbs. top barrel  
**SIGHTS:** front gold bead, .122" diameter  
**STOCK:** Circassian walnut: drop at comb 1½"; drop at heel 2½"; 14½" pull  
**ACCESSORIES:** five choke tubes, choke tube wrench  
**PRICE:** \$1675 (engraved models approx. \$2800 to \$3300)



**The Woodside retains the automatic tang-mounted safety and barrel selector system (r.) and the automatic ejectors of its predecessors. The hammer struts have been redesigned, and they contact the hammers at a more advantageous leverage point.**



modified choke tubes installed in the upper and lower barrels, respectively. The gun's balance point was located at the forward-most part of the receiver.

The Woodside was pattern-tested with a Federal Premium field load consisting of 1¼ ozs. of No. 6 shot, with the results shown in the accompanying diagram, and function-fired with Federal and Winchester field loads. Ejection was positive, throwing empties about 6 ft. away. There were no malfunctions of any kind.

One small complaint was that our



# DOPE BAG

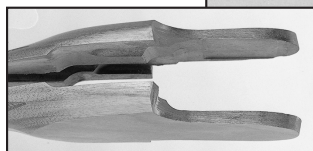


Like Ruger's standard Red Label, the Woodside has back-bored barrels. Five interchangeable choke tubes are supplied.

Woodside's weight of trigger pull depended upon which barrel was selected to fire first. With the top barrel selected, the first pull broke at 4 lbs., but the second trigger pull (bottom barrel) weighed in at 5¼ lbs. The pulls were more even when the bottom barrel fired first, at 4 lbs. bottom and 4¾ lbs. top.

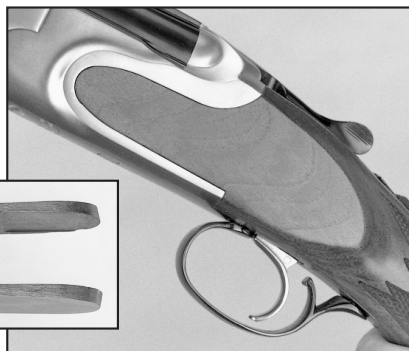
In our test firing, the Woodside exhibited a rather neutral feel. Though not quite as quick-handling as the lightweight 28-ga. Red Label we tested previously (September 1995, p. 53), our Woodside was sufficiently lively for a good tally in the field or, potentially, on a sporting clays course (though for this latter purpose we'd like to see the buttstock from Ruger's Red Label Sporting Clays model offered as a Woodside option).

Since the Woodside represents a cosmetic rather than a mechanical improvement, it invites particularly close inspection in that area. All Woodsides come with select Circassian walnut stocks and fore-ends; the wood on the sample we received was attractively figured, with



well-executed checkering in a 20-lines-per-inch bordered point pattern the same as found on the Red Label. The stock of our sample exhibited a moderate amount of cast-off (for a right-handed shooter) and a slight palm swell. In keeping with the gun's enhanced appearance, the Woodside is available with three different levels of optional receiver engraving: a light pattern engraving around the receiver perimeter, 1/3 coverage and 2/3 coverage.

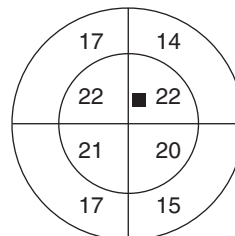
The Woodside's main cosmetic distinction, however, resides in the wooden panels that extend forward around the receiver sides from the buttstock. While the term "wood to metal fit" is an overused gunwriter cliché, it is unquestionably applicable here.



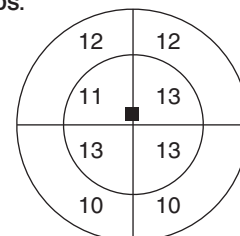
The wooden side panels that project from the buttstock and extend forward around the receiver are the main cosmetic change.

## RUGER RED LABEL WOODSIDE

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS  
AT 40 YDS.



Modified Tube



Skeet Tube

■=Point of Hold  
Federal Premium 3¼-1¼-6  
Pellet count—265

Total Hits	148 (56%)	Total Hits	95 (36%)
21.2" Inner Circle	85 (32%)	21.2" Inner Circle	50 (19%)
30" Outer Ring	63 (24%)	30" Outer Ring	45 (17%)

Though the overall effect of the extended wood panels is generally attractive, we thought that the execution of the design left some room for improvement. The curve of the panels was not even and uniform, but exhibited "flat spots" we found unappealing, and there were several gaps between the fitted wood and metal surfaces. Apparently we weren't the only ones who felt this way, for a Ruger spokesman told us that, in response to customer feedback, plans were in the works to modify slightly the side panel design.

All in all, the Woodside combines all the traditional Red Label virtues of durability, American manufacture, and good value for the money, with several cosmetic touches, including better wood and the trademark wood side panels. For those liking the standard Red Label but wanting something a bit fancier, the Woodside's cosmetic enhancements might well be worth the gun's \$300 higher price tag.



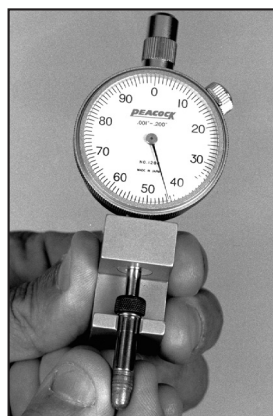
## BALD EAGLE .22 RIMFIRE GAUGE

**S**MALLBORE rifle target shooters and BR-50 (Bench-Rest 50) competitors have long known that variations in .22 Long Rifle rim thickness contribute to larger groups. Measuring these variations, however, is problematical using common calipers or micrometers. Now a gauge from Bald Eagle Precision Machine, well-known for its precision rifle rests, will make such measurements quickly and easily.

The Bald Eagle Rimfire Cartridge Gauge consists of a precision dial indicator affixed to an anodized base. The indicator shaft terminates in a knurled endpiece whose flattened face rests against a shelf projecting from the base. A semicircular cutout in the shelf is dimensioned to accept

the body of a .22 Short, Long or Long Rifle cartridge case.

In use, the head of a .22 rimfire cartridge is used to depress the indicator shaft, allowing the body of the case to enter the semicircular cutout. With the case rim supported by the lip of the cutout, rim thickness is read out directly from the dial. The adjustable dial can be zeroed either with the shaft at rest against the shelf (giving true rim thickness readings) or at



some predetermined setting for quick cartridge sorting comparison.

We sorted a 50-round box of .22 target ammunition into four rim thickness groups, arranged in .001" increments, in a little over four minutes. This is a product likely to become indispensable to all serious rimfire competitors.

Available from: Bald Eagle Precision Machine Co., Dept. AR, 101-A Allison St., Lock Haven, PA 17745. Price: \$80.

