

Weatherby Super Big GameMaster Rifle

Weatherby's new Super Big GameMaster hunting rifle is an all-business tool that brings varmint rifle accuracy to a light-weight medium-game rifle at a price within reach of most serious shooters.



WEATHERBY SBGM

- MANUFACTURER:** Weatherby, Inc. (Dept. AR), 3100 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422; (805) 466-1767; www.weatherby.com
- CALIBERS:** .240 Wby. Mag., .25-'06 Rem., .257 Wby. Mag. (tested), .270 Win., .270 Wby. Mag., .280 Rem., 7 mm Rem. Mag., 7 mm Wby. Mag., .30-'06 Sprg., .300 Win. Mag., .300 Wby. Mag. and .338-'06 A-Square
- ACTION TYPE:** bolt-action, repeating rifle
- RECEIVER:** forged chrome-moly steel with matte blue finish
- BARREL:** 24" fluted, hammer-forged, stainless (26" on magnum models)
- RIFLING:** six groove, 1:10" RH twist
- MAGAZINE:** internal five-round (three in magnum models)
- SIGHTS:** none, receiver drilled and tapped for scope bases
- TRIGGER:** two-stage, adjustable, 4 lbs. pull
- STOCK:** hand-laminated synthetic; length of pull, 13 1/2"; drop at heel, 1"; drop at comb, 1"
- OVERALL LENGTH:** 46 3/8"
- WEIGHT:** 5 3/4 lbs. (standard calibers), 6 1/2 lbs. (magnum calibers)
- SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,459 (standard calibers), \$1,517 (magnum calibers)

Aimed at American sportsmen looking for a high-quality, lightweight big game hunting rifle with varmint rifle accuracy, Weatherby's new Super Big GameMaster (SBGM) rifle will be

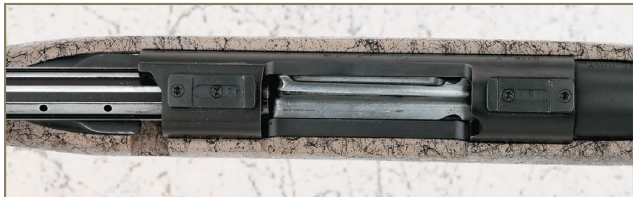
offered in 12 popular standard and magnum calibers ranging from .240 Wby. Mag. through .338-'06 A-Square. The basis for the SBGM rifle is the Weatherby Mark V bolt action. Over the years, the

Mark V action has earned acclaim for its reliability, durability and strength. As technical details of this action have been covered many times in the pages of *American Rifleman*, they will not be repeated here.

For this application, Weatherby chose a matte finish rather than the traditional high-polish blue. The bright polish on the fluted bolt contrasts nicely with the matte finish on the action body. The SBGM rifle is also equipped with Weatherby's adjustable,

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.



The SBGM rifle is based on the Mark V action—an action renowned for its reliability, strength and smoothness of operation.

two-stage trigger factory set for a pull weight of 4 lbs. and a five-shot (three-shot in magnum calibers) double-column, internal magazine with a hinged floor plate.

As a quality barrel is essential for varmint rifle accuracy, Weatherby specified a hammer-forged, hand-lapped Kreiger Criterion barrel. This 24" (26" in magnum calibers) match-grade, stainless steel barrel has six longitudinal flutes, an

11 degree target crown and a sporter contour.

Using the best features from benchrest and varmint rifles, the synthetic stock on the Weatherby SBGM rifle consists of hand-laminated Aramid, fiberglass and unidirectional graphite fibers with a tan finish and black spiderwebs. Inside the stock is a CNC-machined, aluminum bedding block/backbone designed to provide a solid, stable platform for the action that will remain unaffected by moisture, solvents and age. A

The barrel of the SBGM rifle features six longitudinal flutes to reduce weight and aid cooling.



SHOOTING RESULTS

.257 Wby. Mag. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Weatherby B257115X 115-gr. Barnes XBT	3351 Avg. 11 Sd	2,869	2.07	2.64	2.18
Weatherby N257115BST 115-gr. Nosler BST	3397 Avg. 18 Sd	2,947	1.29	2.56	1.98
Average Extreme Spread:			2.08		

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 26" barrel. Range temperature: 81° F. Humidity: 42%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: BST (Ballistic Tip), Sd (standard deviation), XBT (X-Bullet).

Pachmayr Decelerator recoil pad and blued steel, quick-detachable sling swivel studs are standard equipment. The stock has a Monte Carlo comb, but no checkering or fore-end cap.

No metal sights are provided, nor is provision made for same. Both receiver bridges are drilled and tapped for scope mount bases. We used Weatherby bases and scope rings to mount a Zeiss 3-9X 40 mm Conquest rifle scope on the SBGM rifle.

We checked accuracy and muzzle velocity using Weatherby ammunition in two, 115-gr. bullet styles: Nosler Ballistic Tip and Barnes X. Our tests proved the Weatherby SBGM rifle offers accuracy sufficient for hunting at long ranges. Perceived recoil was mod-

erate despite its weight. The SBGM tames some of the perceived recoil by means of its forward sloping Monte Carlo comb and soft rubber recoil pad.

Functioning proved flawless with a smooth bolt glide. We found the trigger crisp and predictable, which aided accurate shooting. Quickly firing five rounds heated the thin barrel beyond touching, although the point of impact did not change. The flutes of the barrel allowed it to cool very quickly.

Workmanship, fit and finish were very good, but the SBGM rifle is an all-business tool for real-life hunting. As such, the SBGM rifle carries a price tag that brings this model within reach of most serious shooters.



Beretta A391 Extrema 3.5

While Beretta is one of the last of the world's major shotgun manufacturers to embrace the 12-ga., 3½" shotshell, the result was well worth the wait. Based on the successful A391 Urika 12-ga., 3" gun (May 2000, p. 39), the gas-operated Beretta A391 Extrema 3.5 closely follows the lines of its progenitor—as a matter of fact they are virtually indistinguishable at a glance—but an entirely different bolt and recoil spring system are employed with the Extrema 3.5.

In development for the past four years, the Extrema



The Extrema is Beretta's first 12-ga. 3½" shotgun. The gas-operated autoloader borrows from the Urika 391, the Benelli Black Eagle and Franchi semi-automatics in its internal design.

borrows from other designs (notably Benelli and Franchi, two firms owned by Beretta Holdings) to stand up to the constant pounding of heavy 12-ga., 3" and 3½" hunting loads. Although it will cycle some 1-oz. loads, that is not the gun's intended role. It is meant as a field gun, pure and simple, and Beretta recommends that only shot charges of 1½ oz. or heavier be fired in it. With that in mind, the Extrema is only offered with a synthetic stock in matte black, or full-coverage Realtree Advantage Timber, Wetlands or Hardwoods.

The Extrema's 4140 steel barrel, which is overbored to 0.742", is hammer forged and fitted with the "Optima Plus" bore system, which features lengthened forcing cones and has choke tubes with longer, thinner tubes

than the majority of other designs. The full vent rib is crosshatched to reduce glare and is topped by a gold bead at its front. The barrel extension is a separate piece firmly threaded to the barrel and is left in the white, as it is not visible when the gun is assembled.

Extraction is via a hook on the bolt's right side, and the ejector is pinned into the receiver's left and is a tapered rectangular stud. It rides in a channel in the wall of the barrel extension and is pushed forward along with its guide under spring tension. Depending on the force of the recoiling shell, the extractor will travel rearward as much as is necessary to clear the ejection port before kicking the case free.

The Extrema employs the same gas system as the Urika with a few changes. Two gas holes vent the gas necessary to cycle the gun into the gas piston, driving the piston rearward that, in turn, drives the operating rod rearward. Excess gas is vented forward and out of vents at the bottom front of the fore-end. A steel ring with a toothed forward face to reduce fouling around the piston has been added to the gas piston assembly. This allows the system to be self-cleaning to some extent.

It is with the bolt, operating rod and recoil spring that the

Extrema becomes very different; all three are part of an assembly that is easily removed for cleaning as a unit. The two-piece bolt has a rotating head reminiscent of the Benelli Black Eagle. The recoil spring slides over the magazine tube and is surrounded by a polymer tube below the dual action bars. Similar to some Franchi designs, the recoil spring is a larger spring forward of the bolt as opposed to a smaller one at its rear. That allows the buttstock to house a recoil reduction system.

The round, knurled, trigger-blocking manual safety is forward of the trigger and integral with the front of the guard. It is disengaged by pushing from right to left. When in the "fire" position, a red annular ring around the shaft of the safety is exposed.

The bolt release is in the familiar position on the receiver's right front. Depressing the smooth, rounded button frees the bolt to move forward. There is also a magazine cut-off on the left front of the receiver. It is mounted flush with the receiver, and depressing its rear head blocks the carrier from lifting up and feeding another cartridge from the magazine. On top of the receiver are two sets of recesses that allow for Weaver-style scope bases to be attached, which is welcome news to turkey hunters who

prefer optics.

Aesthetically, the Extrema followed the Giugiaro Design-based lines of the Model 391. It, like the Urika, is a thoroughly modern-looking gun with racy, atypical lines. The stock and fore-end have soft rubber panels over-molded on both sides to aid in gripping the gun, especially when it is wet. The panels are stippled and of a medium gray hue, further adding to the gun's racy lines.

The buttstock incorporates Beretta's Gel-Tek recoil pad system as standard equipment. The pad is made of a soft gel-type



Beretta's Gel-Tek recoil pad system, made of a soft gel-type material, is effective at reducing perceived recoil and features an interchangeable pad system.

EXTREMA A391

MANUFACTURER: Fabbrica D'Armi Pietro Beretta S.p.A. Via Pietro Beretta, 25063 Gardone Val Trompia, Brescia, Italy

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

GAUGE: 12, 3½"
ACTION TYPE: gas-operated, semi-automatic shotgun
RECEIVER: anodized aluminum

BARREL: 28" (tested), 30"
CHOKES: five Optima-Bore choke tubes: full, improved-modified, modified, improved cylinder, cylinder

TRIGGER: non-adjustable, single-stage, 4 lbs. pull
STOCK: synthetic: length of pull, 14½"; drop at heel, 2¼"; drop at comb, 1½"

OVERALL LENGTH: 49½"
WEIGHT: 7 lbs., 3 ozs.
ACCESSORIES: lockable hard plastic case, choke tube key, choke tubes

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$1,129 (black); \$1,241 (Realtree camo)

AVG. OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.



Improved Cylinder Choke Tube

■ = Point of Hold
Federal Premium PW133
12-ga., 3/4", 1 1/2-oz.,
No. 2 Steel

Average Pellet count: 167
Measured Velocity @3-ft.:
1438 f.p.s.
Remaining Energy Per
Pellet @40 yds.: 4.2 ft.-lb.

Total Hits	96 (57%)
21" Inner Circle	58 (34%)
30" Outer Ring	38 (23%)



The bolt, operating rod and recoil spring are part of an assembly that is easily removed for cleaning. The recoil spring slides over the magazine tube and is surrounded by a polymer tube below the dual action bars.

material used in the medical industry and is effective at reducing perceived recoil. The pads are interchangeable, and Beretta advises that different lengths will be offered soon. To detach the unit, simply withdraw the U-shaped wire bar at the stock's toe and lift the pad off the stock.

The buttstock is the only major assembly on the Extrema that is completely interchangeable with the Urika. One of our staffers who regularly shoots a 3" 391 threw the Extrema to his shoulder and immediately noticed something was different. On the new gun, the rear of the trigger guard is flush with the rear of the receiver, while it is positioned a bit more forward on the 3" version. The change gives the Extrema's buttstock more of a full pis-


tol grip feel, as opposed to the longer, more open feel of the 391.

For field testing, the Extrema was used on a late season duck and snow goose hunt at Pintail Peninsula outside of Stuttgart, Ark. We, along with other writers and Federal and Beretta staffers, also fired eight guns in an elongated five-stand sporting clays "flurry." In less than an hour more than 1,800 rounds of Federal shotshells were fired with only two failures to feed. We also fired 2 3/4", 3" and 3 1/2" shells through the same guns, mixed up in the magazines, and experienced no malfunctions whatsoever. The Extrema was also taken turkey hunting by another staffer, where he successfully bagged two gobblers. The Extrema was patterned

with Federal field loads, and the results are shown in the accompanying table.

High marks need to be given to the ejection system, as it kicked 2 3/4", 3" and 3 1/2" shells out with aplomb. As a matter of fact, the big 3 1/2" shells were more positively ejected than the shorter ones due to the increased ejector spring tension. We also found the fore-end to be extremely trim for a 3 1/2" gun, making the Extrema feel far more lively than its nearly 8-lb. weight would lead you to believe. The gun cycles extremely fast for a gas-operated autoloader—a feature that will no doubt be noticed by practical shooters. Perceived recoil, due the over-boring, weight and the efficiency of the gas system and recoil pad, was more than manageable—

even with heavy 3 1/2" Federal goose loads.

In the Extrema, Beretta has introduced a gun with all the positive aesthetic features of the 391 Urika, but with a bolt and recoil system designed specifically to tame and function with heavy 3 1/2" shells. Those who are looking to take a reliable, fast-handling 3 1/2" into the goose pit or the turkey woods need to give the Extrema a hard look. 

The rear of the Extrema's trigger guard is flush with the rear of the receiver and the wrist has a full pistol grip feel (top l.). To ensure reliability, the Extrema's gas piston assembly (top r.) acts as a pressure relief valve; only the gas necessary to cycle the action is used. The Extrema's ejector rides in a channel in the wall of the barrel extension (bottom r.) and is pushed forward along with its guide under spring tension. Depending on the force of the shell, the extractor will travel rearward as much as is necessary to clear the ejection port. The Extrema's two-piece bolt has a rotating head (bottom l.) reminiscent of the Benelli Black Eagle. A hook extractor is on the bolt head's right.





New England Firearms Versa-Pack

Although based on a design originated in 1900, the single-shot rifles and shotguns from New England Firearms (NEF) and its sister company, H&R 1871, remain as popular with American shooters as they were 100 years ago, and for good reason. Simple, rugged and foolproof, the guns offer economical performance as well as (with many models) the versatility of interchangeable barrels. NEF's newest offering, the Versa-Pack, embodies the virtues of the design in a reduced-size model, with .22 LR and .410 bore barrels, that is intended primarily for younger

or smaller size shooters.

The Versa-Pack is identical in design, construction and operation to other NEF single-shot long guns. Each of its two barrels has an underlug with a semi-circular recess that fits around the steel hinge pin set into the malleable iron receiver. Depressing a stamped-steel serrated lever to the right of the hammer retracts the gun's Browning-type locking bolt from an angled cut in the barrel underlug, allowing the barrel to be pivoted downward for loading or unloading. Upon opening, an automatic ejector forcefully throws fired or unfired cartridges rearward out of the chamber.

To fire the loaded gun, the hammer is simply cocked and the trigger pulled. There is no manual

safety; however, the gun features the NEF Transfer Bar System, which allows the hammer to contact the firing pin only when the trigger is pulled.

Removing a barrel is accomplished by turning out the fore-end retaining screw, removing the fore-end, breaking open the action and lifting the barrel off the hinge pin. Barrel installation is accomplished in reverse order.

Both the straight-wristed buttstock and splinter fore-end of the Versa-Pack are of stained American hardwood. In the absence of checkering, a reasonably secure grip is afforded by the stock's satin gloss finish. A 1"-thick ventilated rubber buttpad is installed on the buttstock to soften the recoil of .410-bore loads.

We tested the Versa-

The Versa-Pack's front sight consists of a bright red polymer post protected by a removable steel hood.

NEF VERSA-PACK

MANUFACTURER: New England Firearms (Dept. AR), 60 Industrial Rowe, Gardner, MA 01440, (978) 632-9393; www.hr1871.com
CALIBER: 22 LR/.410 bore
ACTION TYPE: break-action, single-shot rifle/shotgun
RECEIVER: malleable iron
BARREL: 20" (rifle); 22" full choke (shotgun)
RIFLING: 16-groove, RH twist
SIGHTS: front hooded red plastic post, rear notch adjustable for windage and elevation (rifle); 0.125"-diameter gold bead (shotgun)
TRIGGER: two-stage, 3½ lbs. pull
STOCK: length of pull, 12½"; drop at heel, 2¾"; drop at comb, 1½"
OVERALL LENGTH: 33¾" (rifle); 35¾" (shotgun)
WEIGHT: 5 lbs., 4 ozs. (rifle); 5 lbs., 2 ozs. (shotgun)
ACCESSORIES: floating compartmentalized nylon carry case, gun lock
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$165

The NEF Versa-Pack consists of .22 LR and .410 bore barrels in a reduced-size package that is economical and easy to carry or store. It is intended primarily for younger or smaller shooters, though it will appeal to adults as a multi-purpose utility gun that is also fun to shoot.



Pack with its 20"-long .22 LR barrel. Accuracy and velocity results are given in the accompanying table. No malfunctions of any kind were experienced.

For our accuracy testing we mounted a Burris 3-9X Compact scope on the barrel using a Weaver base and rings. This required the removal of the rear iron sight unit, which was accomplished by simply turning out a single large screw. Care must be taken not to lose the small spring that sits under the rear sight body.

In addition to firing with

a scope, some informal shooting was done with the barrel's iron sights, which consisted of a front hooded post made of red plastic, and a steel windage- and elevation-adjustable rear sight set in a polymer housing. Using these sights, our adult test shooters had little problem hitting a standard 12-oz. soda can at 30 to 40 yds., even offhand.

Casual testing was also performed using a Winchester 2½" field load (1/2 oz. of No. 6 shot) in the 22"-long .410-bore barrel, which featured a 3" cham-

ber. As with the .22 LR barrel, functioning was flawless. The NEF balanced about 1" to the rear of the pivot pin and swung surprisingly well for a gun of this type. Hand-thrown clay pigeons (as well as dirt clods and other improvised targets) were decisively smoked by the gun's full-choked barrel at quail-flushing range.

An 11-year-old boy who test fired the gun found its stock slightly long, and its weight a bit too heavy for prolonged offhand firing; nonetheless, it was still a much better fit for him (and clearly more enjoyable to shoot) than a normal adult-size arm. We'd judge that 10- or 11-year-olds would be the youngest shooters for whom the Versa-Pack would be suitable. We noted that the gun's light weight produces a surprising, but not excessive, level of recoil

with .410 shells.

Although the Versa-Pack's 12½" pull length and approximately 5-lb. weight make the gun ideal for younger shooters, adults will find the gun appealing as well—as a survival gun that can be stowed in its nylon case behind the seat of a pickup or a light plane, or on an ATV; as a general utility gun for pest control on a farm or ranch; or as a versatile companion gun for trappers or backpackers. According to NEF, the Versa-Pack in its nylon case will float if dropped into water. There were no complaints about the short stock from adult testers; in fact, when the gun is used in colder climates that demand heavy outdoorwear, its stock length should be just about ideal.

We found little to fault in the Versa-Pack, though we'd have liked sling swivel studs installed on the stock and fore-end. Also, to enhance its appeal as an outdoor survival arm, we'd suggest a future Versa-Pack version with either stainless or nickel-plated barrels.

The Versa-Pack is attractive as a starter gun for young shooters, as a multi-purpose utility gun for adults, and as a fun gun for both. And with a list price of \$165, it should appeal to even the most budget-conscious.



SHOOTING RESULTS

.22 LR Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
CCI Stinger 32-gr. HP	1666 Avg. 13 Sd	197	1.88	2.42	2.09
Federal No. 711 GM Target 40-gr. Solid	1199 Avg. 15 Sd	128	1.52	1.91	1.76
Remington No. 1500 40-gr. Solid	1170 Avg. 28 Sd	122	1.33	1.59	1.45
Average Extreme Spread:					1.77
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 20" barrel. Range temperature: 78°F. Humidity: 56%. Accuracy for five consecutive, 10-shot groups at 50 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: GM (Gold Medal), HP (hollow-point), Sd (Standard deviation).					



The adjustable rear sight can be quickly removed for scope mounting by turning out a single screw (below). Both the shotgun and rifle barrels have an underlug with a semi-circular recess (l.) that fits around a steel hinge pin set into the receiver. To remove or change a barrel, simply remove the fore-end by turning out the front stock screw (below l.), open the action and lift out the barrel.



Kel-Tec Sub 2000 Rifle



Kel-Tec's Sub 2000 Rifle is an updated version of the company's Sub-9 (Oct. 1997, p. 48), improved by way of enhanced safety features, more modern materials, simpler construction and a considerably lower price tag. When compared to the earlier \$700 Sub-9, the new \$383 Sub 2000 is not made "cheaper" as much as it's made smarter. It also retains the compactness, versatility, reliability and level of accuracy established by the earlier version.

For those not familiar with the pistol-caliber rifles from Kel-Tec, the Sub 2000 is a single-action, blowback-operated, semi-automatic that fires from a closed bolt and folds easily in half into a 16"x7" size for compact

storage. When folded for storage, a spring-loaded detente in the butt engages a recess in the front sight to keep the firearm from unfolding. The new Sub 2000 version incorporates a keyed lock to prevent the detente from being retracted, thus securing the firearm from unauthorized use. To fold the Sub 2000, the trigger guard is pressed down, and the front half of the rifle is tipped back over the action and stock.

In addition to the above-mentioned lock there is a more positive sear- and hammer-blocking crossbolt safety that disconnects the trigger bar. The crossbolt is in lieu of the pivoting safety lever on the Sub-9.

Whereas the Sub-9 relied on a two-piece receiver CNC-machined from aircraft-grade aluminum, the new Sub 2000 makes extensive use of impact-modified, glass-

Adjustments of the fluorescent orange blade front sight are made via two opposing threaded plastic rods.

reinforced Zytel. Fixed inside the Zytel receiver is a simple steel tube that runs from the front of the action through the receiver and forms the tubular steel stock on which the butt plate is pinned. There's a cut-out for the operating handle under the stock part of the tube that includes a safety notch into which the operating handle can be turned to lock the action open. There is also an ejection port cut-out in the steel tube, and the bolt reciprocates within the tube to prevent wear on the Zytel receiver.

Arguably, one of the failings of the earlier Sub-9 version is a part called the "block nut" that allowed users to adjust how tight the barrel locks to the receiver when the gun is unfolded into the firing position. Just the existence of that part implied that the hinge would work loose over time. Time, however, has shown that the additional part and its adjustment are unnecessary on the Sub 2000. Instead, the new version has a spring-loaded collar that

KEL-TEC SUB 2000

MANUFACTURER: Kel-Tec CNC Industries, Inc. (Dept. AR), P.O. Box 236009, Cocoa, FL 32923; (321) 631-0068; www.kel-tec.com

CALIBER: 9x19 mm

ACTION TYPE: single-action, blowback-operated, semi-automatic rifle

RECEIVER: black, impact-modified, glass-reinforced Zytel with steel insert

BARREL: blued steel, 16 1/8"

RIFLING: conventional, six-groove, 1:10" RH twist

MAGAZINE: 10-round Glock (tested)*

SIGHTS: aperture rear; orange, plastic blade front adjustable for windage and elevation

TRIGGER: single-stage, non-adjustable, 10 lbs., 8 ozs.

STOCK: tubular blued steel: length of pull, 13"; drop at heel, 0"; drop at comb, 0"

OVERALL LENGTH: 30"

WEIGHT: 4 lbs.

ACCESSORIES: key for deployment lock

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$383

*Other options available.

The receiver is made of Zytel with a steel tube running through it to form the buttstock (r.). The bolt reciprocates inside the tube, preventing wear on the Zytel. The new Sub 2000 incorporates a keyed lock (middle) to prevent unauthorized use. Without the key, the Sub 2000 cannot be unfolded into the firing position. The barrel is press-fitted in the Zytel hinge block (far r.).



SHOOTING RESULTS

9x19 mm Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Hornady No. 9020 90-gr. XTP	1539 Avg. 35 Sd	473	1.19	2.37	1.64
Speer No. 23614 115-gr. GDHP	1338 Avg. 21 Sd	457	1.47	4.37	2.27
Winchester No. S9 147-gr. SXT	958 Avg. 55 Sd	300	2.56	3.60	3.06
Average Extreme Spread:					2.47
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 16 1/2" barrel. Range temperature: 78°F. Humidity: 63%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 50 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: GDHP (Gold Dot hollow-point), Sd (standard deviation), SXT (Supreme Expansion Technology), XTP (Extreme Terminal Performance).					

ensures tight and accurate locking of the hinge mechanism. Instead of the complicated block nut, the new gun has its barrel press fitted in the Zytel hinge block and is secured with a non-adjustable lock nut. The new arrangement clearly simplifies the construction of the Sub 2000 over the Sub-9, but perhaps the most intelligent simplification is the new way the Sub 2000 provides for magazine interchangeability.

On the earlier gun, prospective owners could specify, within reason, the type of magazines they wanted to use with their Sub-9. If a police officer carried a Glock pistol, he or she could specify a Glock grip on the Sub-9 for complete magazine interchangeability—likewise if the companion handgun be a Kel-Tec, Beretta, S&W, etc. Instead of requiring a whole

new grip assembly on the Sub 2000 for that level of versatility, the only part that need be changed out is the magazine catch. The exception is for Glock magazines, which require a unique grip.

Another simplified area of the Sub 2000 is the sights. The rear aperture, while identical in proportion and operation to the steel unit of the Sub-9, is now plastic on the Sub 2000. The front sight, too, is changed from that of an AR-15-style metal post adjustable in the same manner as an AR-15, to a simple orange, plastic blade secured by tension between two opposing threaded plastic rods. Adjustment is now by loosening one threaded rod, and tightening the opposing rod to move the front sight horizontally. We found that when the tension between the two rods is removed, nothing holds the vertical adjust-

ment of the sight, so extra care should be taken to not disturb elevation settings when adjusting windage.

We fired our sample Sub 2000 at 50 yds. using ammunition ranging from 90-gr. subsonic with no malfunctions. Magazines drop smartly from the pistol grip, even when empty, and the only qualm about the Sub 2000 is that the safety button operates the reverse of most right-hand guns. There was no mention in the manual about being able to reverse the operation of the button.

With the Sub 2000, we fired more than 600 rounds of standard, subsonic and +P ammunition, 400 of which were consecutive without cleaning. There

was a failure rate of seven percent during those 400 rounds, which were all stovepipe-type malfunctions—particularly with aluminum-cased ammunition. Standard 115-gr. Ball ammunition functioned flawlessly and there was only minor battering on the hinge where the bolt impacts it.

With the new Sub 2000, then, Kel-Tec has improved upon an already sturdy and reliable arm. Whether acquired for home defense, recreational plinking or to complement a semi-automatic handgun, the Sub 2000 delivers Kel-Tec's established level of accuracy, reliability and fun shooting—but at a friendlier price.



The Sub 2000 is cleverly designed to fold easily in half into a 16"x7" size for compact storage.

