



## Remington 40-XB Tactical Rifle

**R**emington Arms Co. brought out the first 40-X Rangemaster, chambered in .22 Long Rifle, in July 1955. Billed as target guns, the 40-Xs were built to somewhat greater precision than production Model 700s and were fitted with match-grade barrels. Eventually the 40-X was available in standard and magnum chamberings, in both single-shot and repeater versions. That made it a multi-purpose target rifle, configurable for just about any competitive shooting activity from benchrest to NRA High Power with the addition of the proper barrel and stock.

In 2002, the company adapted the 40-X target series for law enforcement use, resulting in the birth of the 40-XB Tactical Rifle in .308 Win. The original production in that year went exclusively to Remington distributor AcuSport, which also had a hand in some of

the gun's specifications. Starting in 2003, however, the 40-XB Tactical will be available from other distributors as well as from Remington.

According to Remington, the new gun is suitable not only for law enforcement counter-sniper use, but also for practical rifle and other target competition. Based on the rugged and proven Model 700 short-action, the 40-XB Tactical Rifle exhibits all the familiar Remington features. However, the action is not just a Model 700 with a different rollmark. For greater potential accuracy, the receiver face of the 40-XB Tactical is trued, and the bolt lugs are lapped into their seats in the receiver for full, equal contact.

Also, the rifle sports a modified Remington 700 trigger that can be adjusted to a pull weight of 1 lb., 8 ozs. to 3 lbs., 8 ozs. by

means of a screw in front of the bolt release in the trigger guard. Finally, the bolt shroud lacks Remington's Integrated Security System key lock that is standard on its hunting arms.

Rather than the hammer-forged barrels used on Remington's factory production rifles, a stainless-steel button-rifled tube is offered on the 40-XB Tactical. Rifled in the custom shop, these barrels are decidedly beefy, measuring 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long and 0.875" in diameter at the recessed crown, and have three wide, shallow flutes similar to those offered on the Model 700 Police Light Tactical Rifle (LTR). According to Remington, this flute pattern was computer-designed to work with the harmonics of the barrel for enhanced accuracy.

Chambers are cut to minimum SAAMI specifications. While most .308 Win. barrels have a 1:10" twist,

the rifling on our 40-XB Tactical was in a six-groove, 1:12" pattern, the configuration specified for the original lot of guns provided to AcuSport. A 1:10"-twist barrel can be ordered at no extra charge.

### 40-XB

**MANUFACTURER:** Remington Arms Co., Inc. (Dept. AR), 870 Remington Drive, P.O. Box 700, Madison, NC 27025-0700; (800) 243-9700; www.remington.com

**CALIBER:** .308 Win.

**ACTION TYPE:** repeating bolt-action rifle

**RECEIVER:** 4140 chrome-moly NP3-coated steel

**BARREL:** 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", stainless steel

**RIFLING:** six-groove, 1:12" twist

**MAGAZINE:** internal box, four-round capacity

**SIGHTS:** none; drilled and topped for scope bases

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

**STOCK:** length of pull, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; drop at heel, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "; drop at comb, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ "

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 46 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

**WEIGHT:** 10 lbs., 9 ozs.

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,580

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 new 40-XB Tactical, built in the Remington Custom Shop, has an accurized action, button-rifled stainless match barrel, NP3 protective finish and H-S Precision stock. The latter has an integral aluminum bedding block that cradles the action.

The 40-XB rifles made for Acusport have a protective black Teflon coating on all exposed metal surfaces; currently produced models, however, will have the durable Robar NP3 synthetic coating. Both finishes confer a satiny surface texture that reduces reflections and, in our opinion, is more appealing than the flat black finishes on many contemporary tactical firearms. An added benefit of both the Teflon and Robar surface treatments is

that they smooth the bolt's travel in its raceways.

An H-S Precision Pro-Series synthetic stock with an integral aluminum bedding block cradles the barreled action. Relatively flat rather than angled from the pistol grip to the toe for straight-back recoil on sandbags, the stock also features a vertical pistol grip, palm swell and a wide, flattened fore-end with two sling swivel studs. A third stud is in the customary location on the



Based on the Remington Model 700 action, the 40-XB Tactical has all the familiar Remington features, such as a round receiver and a two-lug bolt. The coated stainless barrel (above) features a recessed crown and three wide, shallow flutes. Pull weight adjustment is via a screw (arrow) located just forward of the bolt release inside the trigger guard.

## SHOOTING RESULTS

.308 Win. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Federal No. GM308M 168-gr. Sierra MK HPBT	2643 Avg. 15 Sd	2606	0.63	0.92	0.74
Hornady No. 80965 168-gr. A-Max	2803 Avg. 21 Sd	2932	0.66	1.15	0.88
Winchester No. S308J 168-gr. Nos. HPBT	2678 Avg. 8 Sd		0.45	0.86	0.69
Average Extreme Spread:					0.77

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 27 1/2" barrel. Range temperature: 47°F. Humidity: 38%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: HPBT (hollow-point boattail), MK (MatchKing), Nos. (Nosler), Sd (standard deviation).

stock toe. The stock fully free-floats the barrel. Standard Remington BDL-type bottom metal is used with the 40-XB Tactical, with a hinged floorplate released by a button inside the trigger guard.

We mounted a Bushnell Elite 4200 on the 40-XB Tactical and fired the rifle for accuracy at 100 yds. off sandbags using three loads: Federal's Gold Medal load with a Sierra 168-gr. hollow-point boattail MatchKing bullet; a Hornady TAP (Tactical Application Police) load with a 168-gr. A-Max bullet; and a Winchester match load with a 168-gr. Nosler hollow-point boattail match bullet. Factory match cartridges were both single-loaded and fed from the gun's internal four-round magazine. There were no failures to feed, fire or eject.

Remington guarantees each 40-XB to produce five-shot groups of 0.75 m.o.a. or better with at least one brand of match ammunition. Our test rifle met that standard, group-

ing into less than 3/4" with the factory Federal and Winchester loads.

In addition to sandbag testing, some shooting was also done in the prone position using a Harris bipod, as this was thought to more closely approximate the likely method of firing in the field. Even with this less-steady position, sub-m.o.a. accuracy was possible on targets to 300 yds.

The 40-XB had excellent shooting manners, with silky-smooth bolt lift and travel, and a trigger that broke cleanly at 2 lbs., 8 ozs. Recoil was minimal, thanks to the gun's nearly 11-lb. weight. The only thing we had to get used to was the muzzle-heavy feel that resulted from its long bull barrel.

Many contemporary tactical rifles carry a price tag well in excess of \$2,000. By comparison, Remington's new 40-XB Tactical is a bargain, as it has a level of refinement and accuracy similar to many of its competitors at a cost of only \$1,580.





# Stoeger Uplander Special

## UPLANDER

**MANUFACTURER:** E.R. Amantino & Cia., Ltd., Veranopolis, RS, Brazil  
**IMPORTER:** Stoeger Industries, Inc. (Dept. AR), 17603 Indian Head Highway, Suite 200, Accokeek, MD 20607-2501; (301) 283-6300; www.stoegerindustries.com  
**GAUGE:** 12, 20, 28 (tested); 3" in 12 and 20 ga.  
**ACTION TYPE:** side-by-side shotgun  
**RECEIVER:** nickel-finished carbon steel  
**BARRELS:** blued, 26"  
**CHOKES:** fixed improved cylinder, modified (screw in chokes available on 12 and 20 ga.)  
**TRIGGER:** double, single-stage, non-adjustable; 7 lbs. pull, front; 7½ lbs. pull, rear  
**STOCK:** Brazilian hardwood; length of pull, 14½"; drop at heel, 2½"; drop at comb, 1½"  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 42"  
**WEIGHT:** 7 lbs., 4 ozs.  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$365

Typically, the combination of the words "affordable," "28-ga.," "side-by-side," and "well made" is used only when describing a fanciful object that does not exist outside that fancy. But leave it to Stoeger, one of America's oldest names in high-value firearms, to scour the world and find a maker that could combine those attributes into a tangible shotgun. The Uplander Special, part of the Stoeger Uplander line of side-by-side shotguns made by E.R. Amantino of Brazil, combines rugged, no-frills features, including double triggers and non-selective extractors, with cosmetic niceties such as a nickel-finished receiver and hand-rubbed, oil-finished, straight-wrist stock.

The boxlock double barrel is available in 12-, 20- or 28-ga. versions with different barrel

lengths and screw-in choke tubes in 12- and 20-ga. guns. We received a 28-ga. sample for evaluation. True to the commercially offered gun, the sample had 26" barrels and fixed improved cylinder and modified chokes.

Lockup is by way of the classic Purdy double underlump system with the lumps being true chopper lumps machined as part of the monobloc. The dual locking bars are held forward in the locked position by a powerful coil spring. Pressing the top

latch to the right retracts the bars to unlock the action for loading or unloading and simultaneously causes the guide rod for the aforementioned coil spring to press the automatic, top tang-mounted safety back into the "safe" position. There is no practical means of converting the safety from automatic to manual.

Cocking is by a pair of rods in the bottom of the receiver that are pressed back by the fore-end iron as the fore-end is lowered. Those rods push back mas-



Dual locking bars are held in the locked position by a powerful coil spring (1.). Cocking is by a pair of rods in the bottom of the receiver that are pressed back by the fore-end iron. Those rods push back massive C-shaped hammers (2.) against the pressure of mousetrap springs. Holding the hammers in the cocked position are a pair of long, bottom-mounted sears (3.).



## SHOOTING RESULTS

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.



Improved  
Cylinder Choke

Modified  
Choke

■ = Point of Hold

Winchester SuperX Long Range X28

28-ga., 2 3/4", 3/4 oz., No. 6 Lead

Average Pellet count: 168

Measured Velocity @3 ft.: 1233 f.p.s.

Total Hits	91 (54%)	Total Hits	95 (57%)
21" Inner Circle	53 (31%)	21" Inner Circle	56 (34%)
30" Outer Ring	38 (23%)	30" Outer Ring	39 (23%)

sive C-shaped hammers against the pressure of mousetrap springs. Holding the hammers in the cocked position are a pair of long, bottom-mounted sears. Their tails rest on extensions of their respective triggers, and an extension hanging from the automatic safety button is positioned over those tails, blocking them from being lifted to release the hammers and fire the gun. Spring-retracted firing pins are retained by bushings in the breechface for easy replacement in the unlikely event of a broken firing pin.

Outwardly, the Stoeger Uplander Special is mostly business. Our sample

came stocked with dark, straight-grained Brazilian hardwood fitted with a 3/4"-thick, solid rubber recoil pad. Checkering on the wrist and beavertail fore-end is in a bordered pattern and is obviously hand-cut at a rate of about 18 lines per inch. There were numerous flat points and overruns.

A modified Anson push-rod-style fore-end latch secures the fore-end to a single hanger soldered to the bottom rib. The nickel finish is well done and contrasts nicely with the polished, blued barrels and trigger guard. Wood-to-metal fit, while perhaps

Stoeger's Uplander Special side-by-side shotgun combines rugged, no-frills features with cosmetic niceties, such as an oil-finished stock.

crude to well-heeled side-by-side aficionados, is nonetheless very good for a shotgun in this price range.

We patterned the Stoeger Uplander Special at 40 yds. with the results shown in the accompanying table. Patterns were fairly well-centered and even, indicating above-average attention to barrel regulation for a value-priced side-by-side.

Chokes, though billed as improved cylinder and modified, actually measured cylinder and improved cylinder, and patterned a tight improved cylinder and a loose modified, respectively. We function-fired the Uplander Special as it was intended to be used—on upland birds—and in our case, early-season ruffed grouse.

We found the Stoeger Uplander Special not as

lively as we would have liked for such tight shooting. The muzzles were sluggish to respond and the sticky, rubber recoil pad hindered quick gun mounts. Change the beavertail fore-end to a splinter-type and make the buttpad thinner, harder and slicker, and you'd have an ideal, low-priced 28-ga. side-by-side for "in your face" woodcock, quail or grouse.

As it stands, though, the Uplander Special is responsive and agile enough for late-season grouse when there is less foliage and more opportunity for longer shots. It should also prove outstanding for released game birds, and given the sturdiness of its construction, the Uplander Special should reward the cost-conscious shooter with a lifetime of reliable performance.

NRPA



The Stoeger Uplander Special employs the classic Purdy double underlump system.

Spring-retracted firing pins are retained by bushings in the breechface (r.) for easy replacement in the unlikely event of a broken firing pin. When on "safe," an extension from the automatic, tang-mounted safety button (below r.) hangs over the tails of the sears. This blocks them from releasing the hammers.





# Anschutz Model 1717D Rifle

Anschutz sporting rifles combine tasteful elegance with Germanic quality and a strong DNA of accuracy. In 2002, Anschutz became the only European manufacturer to introduce a rifle chambered for the new .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire (HMR).

The .17 HMR cartridge has established a reputation for accuracy and the Model 1717D Classic Sporter substantially raises that standard. Groups of five shots

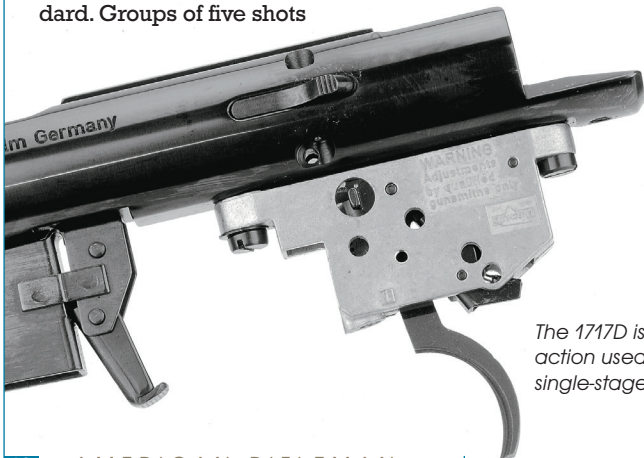
fired at 100 yds. from a rest produced extreme spreads averaging less than 0.50". This is directly attributable to the Model 54 action, target trigger and match-grade barrels used on the 1717 series—the same that are used on Anschutz' renowned target rifles.

Anschutz' Model 54 action is a turn-bolt repeater with a short, 60 degree bolt lift, two eccentric rear locking lugs and dual extractors. Ejection

occurs when the case strikes a surface in the receiver that projects through a slot cut in the bolt. The action cocks on opening, after which the rear of the striker protrudes through the back end of the bolt body.

A two-position wing safety on the bolt shroud holds the firing pin and locks the bolt in the closed position when applied. Safety status is indicated by a red arrow on the bolt body pointing to a red "F" or a white "S" on the wing safety. A detachable, single-column, steel magazine holding four rounds feeds through a slot in the bottom of the receiver.

The match-grade, hand-lapped, carbon steel barrel has six conventional



The 1717D is built on the same Model 54 bolt-action used in the firm's target rifles. It features a single-stage trigger adjustable for weight of pull.

## ANSCHUTZ 1717D

**MANUFACTURER:** J.G. Anschutz GmbH & Co. KG, P.O. Box 1128, D-89001 Ulm, Germany, [www.anschutz-sport.com](http://www.anschutz-sport.com)

**IMPORTER:** AcuSport Corp. (Dept. AR), One Hunter Place, Bellefontaine, OH 43311; (800) 543-3150; [www.acusport.com](http://www.acusport.com)

**CALIBER:** .17 HMR (tested), .22 LR, .22 WMR

**ACTION TYPE:** bolt-action, repeating rimfire rifle

**RECEIVER:** blued carbon steel

**BARREL:** blued 23½" carbon steel, sporter (tested) or heavy contour

**RIFLING:** conventional, six-groove, 1.9" RH twist

**MAGAZINE:** detachable, steel, single-column, four-shot capacity

**SIGHTS:** none; receiver grooved for 11 mm dovetail mount plus drilled and tapped for scope bases

**TRIGGER:** single-stage, adjustable for pull weight between 2 lb. and 4 lbs., 6 ozs.; 2 lb., 8 oz. pull

**STOCK:** satin-finished walnut: length of pull, 14½"; drop at heel, 1¼"; drop at comb, 1½"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 43"

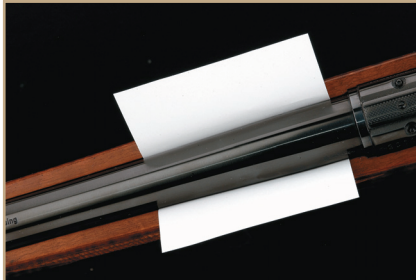
**WEIGHT:** 7 lbs., 10 ozs.

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,272 (standard wood); \$1,448 (Mastergrade wood)

## SHOOTING RESULTS

.17 HMR Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Hornady 17 gr. V-Max	2595 Avg. 16 Sd	254	0.37	0.64	0.48

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 23" barrel. Range temperature: 75°F. Humidity: 42%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag rest. Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation).



No metal sights are supplied, but the top of the receiver is grooved for dovetail scope mounts as well as drilled and tapped.



Anschutz .17 HMR barrels are of match-grade carbon steel and fully free-floated—as shown by the paper between the barrel and stock (above I.). Accuracy of the Anschutz Model 1717D Classic Sporter can only be described as outstanding with five shot extreme spreads averaging less than 0.50". Such performance enables Model 1717D rifles to reliably hit small targets at 200 yds.

Topflight accuracy, elegant styling and quality workmanship have enabled the Anschutz Model 1717D Classic varmint sporter to capture the qualitative high ground in .17 HMR rifles.

grooves with a right hand twist of 1:9". Heavy and light sporter contour barrels differentiate the two otherwise identical 1717D Classic models. The Sporter Barrel model weighs about 6 ozs. less than the Heavy Barrel model. Both barrels are 23½" in length. The sporter contour barrel on our test rifle was tapered from 0.98" at the breech to 0.71" at the muzzle.

Metal sights are not supplied, however, the receiver has an 11 mm dovetail groove for scope mounts. The receiver is drilled and tapped for scope mount bases. The bolt handle is turned down and swept rearward in order to clear ocular scope lens bells. For testing, we mounted a Weaver 2.5-7X 28 mm variable scope using Weaver 1" rings. We found the comb height correct for use with such optical sights.

Fire control consists of an Anschutz single-stage trigger adjustable for a pull weight between 2 lbs. and 4 lbs., 6 ozs. The unit is detachable and has a matte blue trigger bow with five vertical grooves. The trigger on our test example broke cleanly and reliably at 2 lbs., 8 ozs., which contributed substantially to accuracy.

Both Model 1717 rifles are offered with a choice of standard-grade walnut or upscale Mastergrade walnut at additional cost. The one-piece stock of our test Model 1717 was of Mastergrade walnut with a satin finish. Styling is geared to American tastes with a fluted pistol grip, straight comb and rounded fore-end tip. There are no sling swivel studs, pistol grip cap or fore-end cap. The stock ends with a black plastic buttplate with hori-

zontal surface grooves. Checkering on both sides of the fore-end and pistol grip is cleanly hand-cut in a double-border, diamond pattern of 18 lines per inch.

Workmanship, fit and finish of the Model 1717D proved well above average and fully commensurate with the asking price. Wood-to-metal fit was generally good, save being substantially proud around the rear of the trigger guard and gapped at the receiver tang. Metal-to-metal fit was very good as was the finish on all metal parts save the sintered trigger bow.

Several hundred rounds of Hornady .17 HMR ammunition were fired through the Model 1717D without malfunction. Accuracy results can only be described as outstanding.

With top-flight accuracy, elegant styling and quality workmanship, the Anschutz Model 1717D Classic Sporter is an excellent value and, for the time being, captures the qualitative high ground in .17 HMR caliber rimfire rifles.



Among the features of the Model 54 bolt are a 60-degree bolt lift, dual extractors and two eccentric locking lugs at the rear.



# Benelli Super Black Eagle

*With SteadyGrip*



## SUPER BLACK EAGLE

**MANUFACTURER:** Benelli Armi S.p.A., Via Della Stazione, 50 61029, Urbino, Italy

**IMPORTER:** Benelli USA Corp. (Dept. AR), 17603 Indian Head Highway, Accokeek, MD 20607-2501; (301) 283-6981; www.benelli-usa.com

**GAUGE:** 12, 3½"

**ACTION TYPE:** inertia recoil-operated semi-automatic

**RECEIVER:** camouflaged steel upper, camouflaged aluminum lower

**BARREL:** camouflaged 24", chrome-lined

**SIGHTS:** high-visibility red fiber optic front, drilled and tapped for scope mounting

**CHOKES:** removable screw-in extra-full turkey choke

**TRIGGER:** single-stage, 5 lb. pull

**STOCK:** synthetic, full-coverage (except on SteadyGrip) Advantage Timber High Definition camouflage; length of pull, 14¼"; drop at heel, 2½"; drop at comb, 1¾"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 45½"

**WEIGHT:** 7 lbs., 5 ozs.


**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:**

\$1465

gobblers be in a teasing mood. Many shooters, their wrists becoming sore, let the gun lie flat on their knee or let the butt drop, allowing the gun to rest against their leg. If and when a turkey comes into range, they hope they can twist or level the gun quickly and without the bird seeing them. The Super Black Eagle with SteadyGrip dispenses with all that.

With the grip in hand, you can comfortably hold the gun upright and level on your knee for extended periods. When a gobbler comes into range, you are more or less ready to fire. Just snug the butt into your shoulder, aim and squeeze the trigger. A fellow shooter on a turkey hunt in Kentucky was able to take a bird without even going to that much trouble. He simply held the SteadyGrip, pivoted the gun on his knee until he was on target, then fired it like a long-barreled pistol and cleanly took the tom.

The grip is not camouflaged; it doesn't need to be since your hand will be covering it. With the gun slung over your shoulder, the SteadyGrip-equipped Super Black Eagle is not a nuisance to carry, as we were afraid it would be. The grip lies flat along the wearer's back like the stock and shows no tendency to catch branches.

The inclusion of a pistol grip on a hunting shotgun may not seem like much, but it's one of those little changes that makes a big difference out in the field. Benelli's Super Black Eagle turkey gun with SteadyGrip may be the next stage in turkey gun evolution. 

the ventilated rib, making them easy to see in the shadows of the turkey woods. For those shooters who prefer optics, though, the Benelli comes drilled and tapped for scope mounting.

All of this puts it on a par with other top-of-the-line turkey guns on the market. What sets this Benelli apart is a little item borrowed from the company's tactical line—a pistol grip.

Because of a turkey's sharp eyes and the slow, gradual process of calling the birds into range, it is usually necessary to sit motionless against a tree with the gun at the ready when hunting a long beard. Most often that means with the gun on your knee. It's often uncomfortable and frequently excruciating, should the

was tolerable, if not moderate, and the long chamber and inertial locking system of the Super Black Eagle made it compatible with 2¾", 3" and 3½" shotshells. The fact it was a Benelli made it reliable.

In turkey guise, this scattergun features the aforementioned 3½" chamber as well as a 24" barrel. Further, the Super Black Eagle turkey gun comes with an extra-full turkey choke tube installed. It also has the (nearly) full-coverage

Advantage Timber High Definition camouflage pattern. Fiber-optic sights are mounted on

*SteadyGrip is a small change that makes a big difference.*

**A**mong long guns, few types have evolved more rapidly than the turkey gun. A turning point in its evolution was the introduction 10 years ago of the 3½"-chambered, 12-ga.

semi-automatic shotgun, courtesy of Benelli USA. Dubbed the Super Black Eagle, this gun could put out a serious payload of shot, yet was much lighter and less cumbersome than a 10-gauge. The recoil

