

FNH USA FNP-9



Linkage between the trigger and sear is by dual action bars. A projection on the right-hand bar (arrow) deactivates the firing pin safety as the trigger is pulled.

Fabrique Nationale Herstal (FNH) of Belgium is perhaps best known, in handguns, for its legendary, John Browning-designed P35 Hi-Power. Today, FNH offers a modern stable of pistols through its American affiliate FNH USA, including the full-size FNP-9 semi-automatic. The new pistol is currently offered only in 9 mm Luger, but a .40 S&W version is slated for release later this year. It is built in FNH USA's Columbia, S.C., plant in both double-action-only and conventional double-action/single-action configurations. We evaluated one of the latter variants. Construction starts with a polymer frame and forged steel slide. Slide travel is

controlled by two sets of steel guide rails pinned to the frame. The rails are not bonded to the frame—a patented feature that allows the gun to be easily rebuilt. As the pistol's slide

moves forward and the barrel rises into battery, locking surfaces on the hood engage the top of the slide. In addition, the FNP-9's fixed locking lug beneath the barrel is swept back in the manner of the Hi-Power. This bottom lug locks into a U-shaped recess in a steel locking block pinned to the frame between the front guide rails.

After firing, the FNP-9's flat-coil recoil spring compresses along an aluminum guide rod with a plastic buffer. The front of the guide rod is held by a hole in the face of the slide, while the rear is retained by a recess in the front of the barrel's locking lug.

The forged steel slide has a large external extractor, the top of which is

painted red to indicate a loaded chamber. The fixed blade ejector is pinned to the back of the frame above and behind the magazine well. Dovetail recesses in the top of the slide retain low-profile sights that are drift-adjustable for windage. Rapid sight alignment is aided by three white dot inserts.

The FNP-9's barrel is left in the white, but the slide is treated with a matte industrial hard tool finish known as Tungsten Diamond Light Coat for durability.

Ergonomic enhancements include slanted vertical slide serrations to aid the firer's purchase when racking the pistol.

The pistol's grip frame is a one-piece unit that has sides featuring stippling

and a gentle thumb shelf that curves downward away from the magazine release. Raised serrations enhance the gripping surfaces of the frontstrap, backstrap and outside face of the trigger guard. Additionally, curved or straight backstrap panels can be installed interchangeably.

A double-column steel magazine with a synthetic follower accommodates up to 10 rounds, while those intended for law enforcement sale hold 16. A broad polymer floorplate and the generously flared magazine well aid rapid and smooth reloading.

Features desirable to left-handed shooters include a reversible magazine release button and an ambidextrous decocking lever. The lever does not function as a safety, so the FNP-9 cannot be carried "cocked and locked."

The pistol's conventional double-action/single-action system of operation appears to be an amalgam of those fielded in previous Browning and FNH semi-automatics. As the FNP-9's synthetic, curved trigger blade is pulled, dual action bars at the top of the trigger pivot to raise the sear, allowing the hammer to fall and start the firing cycle. Simultaneously, a projection on the right-hand action bar raises the firing pin safety block in the slide out of the way.

The trigger bar and other internal and external components are formed by metal injection molding to tight tolerances. That, in part, allows FNH-USA to specify a factory standard of 3¼ to 4 lbs. for single-action trigger pull weight and 10 lbs. for double-action.

SHOOTING RESULTS					
9 mm Luger Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' Energy		Group Size In Inches		
	(f.p.s.)	(ft.-lbs.)	Smallest	Largest	Average
Federal No. P9HS2 147-gr. JHP HS	906 Avg. 13 Sd	261	2.87	4.02	3.46
Black Hills 124-gr. JHP	1054 Avg. 16 Sd	309	2.96	4.14	3.68
Hornady No. 90252 XTP 115-gr JHP	1147 Avg. 11 Sd	336	2.73	3.88	3.32
Average Extreme Spread:			3.48		

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 4" barrel. Range temperature: 72° F. Humidity: 66%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yds. from a Ransom Rest. Abbreviations: HS (HydraShok), JHP (jacketed hollow-point), XTP (Extreme Terminal Performance), Sd (standard deviation).

During our evaluation the trigger of our sample broke at 4 lbs. for single-action firing and at 10 lbs. pull double-action.

Considering the FNP-9's clear purpose as a carry or service gun, we selected a variety of defensive loads from Federal, Hornady and Black Hills for accuracy testing. Results are shown in the accompanying table. There were no malfunctions of any kind.

We set up several

action-style multiple target presentations and found that the FNP-9 recovered quickly between shots. The gun's commendably low bore axis no doubt played a significant role here.

Armed citizens and law enforcement officers looking for a full-size semi-automatic pistol with ambidextrous features would be well advised to take a look at this new offering from FNH-USA.

FNH USA FNP-9

MANUFACTURER: FNH USA (Dept. AR), P.O. Box 697, McLean, VA 22101; (703) 288-1292; www.fnhusa.com

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

ACTION TYPE: short-recoil operated semi-automatic

FRAME: black polymer

BARREL: 4" carbon steel

RIFLING: five-groove; 1:18" RH twist

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

SIGHTS: three-dot U-notch rear and front post drift-adjustable for windage

TRIGGER: double-action; 4 lbs. single-action, 10 lbs. double-action

OVERALL LENGTH: 7"

WIDTH: 1¾"

HEIGHT: 5½"

WEIGHT: 23 ozs.

ACCESSORIES: straight contour backstrap, lockable storage case, one extra magazine

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$599

The FNP-9's control levers (r.) don't add undesirable width or bulk to the pistol, but have sufficient surfaces to allow speedy and positive engagement.



The field-stripped FNP-9 (l.) includes the pistol's one-piece polymer grip frame. Its generously flared magazine well aids rapid reloading of the double-column steel magazines.

The barrel and guide rod of the FNP-9 pistol are held by the front of the slide without the aid of a barrel bushing.

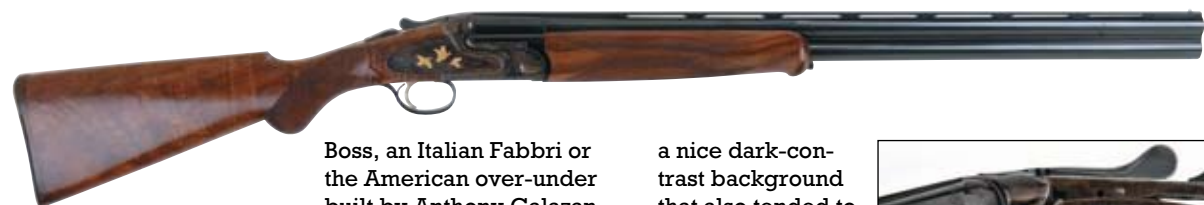


Two backstraps are supplied with the FNP-9. Turning out a slotted screw allows the user a choice of straight or curved styles.

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.

Caesar Guerini Magnus Over-Under



The new "Magnus" shotgun from Caesar Guerini is a top-end production over-under with the beauty and lines of a high-grade custom gun.

Starting with a 4140 steel drop forging, the receiver is machined in a beautiful double scallop. One defines the bolster contour of the breech where it meets the top barrel before sweeping into a second that matches the rounded contour of the barrel's monobloc reinforcement. As a finishing touch, the sides of the receiver are machined to resemble a true sidelock action. The sculpted effect is reminiscent of an English

Boss, an Italian Fabbri or the American over-under built by Anthony Galazan, arguably the three most stylish—and expensive—over-unders ever built. The Magnus' sideplates attach without screws via machined slots in the receiver that mate with tabs on each sideplate. Wes Lang of Caesar Guerini U.S.A. explained, "By not using screws to attach the sideplates we don't have to weaken the wood. This lack of screws and holes leaves the sideplates unobstructed for engraving and embellishment." The Magnus we tested featured full-coverage, tight English scroll roll-stamp engraving. The receiver and sideplates were color-casehardened, providing the gold birds

a nice dark-contrast background that also tended to tone down the roll-stamp engraving. Although some shotgun aficionados turn up their noses at anything short of hand engraving and real gold inlay, the Magnus' embellishments simulate that very expensive handwork nicely. To complement the metal work, the Guerini Magnus we tested was stocked with beautifully figured Circassian walnut finished with hand-rubbed oil. The buttstock features a Prince of Wales pistol grip while the fore-end has a tastefully executed schnabel; both stock and



Although a boxlock, the Magnus has sideplates that attach via machined slots in the receiver, allowing plenty of space for engraving.

fore-end were checkered at 22 lines per inch. The working mechanism of the Magnus is simple and straightforward. A pair of pin-guided coil springs powering the hammers are held in the fire position by top-mounted sears. This tried and true system adds a couple of features we really like. The sears have an addi-

tional safety notch to catch the hammer if it should be accidentally knocked loose. The gun will still fire from the safety notch position without excess trigger pull weight and with enough hammer force to ensure positive primer ignition. Also, the inertia block that moves rearward from the recoil of the first round to carry the trigger on to engage the sear of the second barrel does not ride directly on the trigger, but is mounted independently behind it.

The lock-up of the action is accomplished with a milled, tapered bite in the face of the monobloc just underneath the bottom barrel into which a steel locking wedge engages when the gun is closed. The 28" chrome-lined barrels were nicely finished with full-length side ribs, a low-profile 1/4"-wide, matte ventilated rib

and a single brass front bead. An additional cosmetic touch was the finely executed micro-jewelling of the monobloc portion of the barrels that fits into the receiver. The Magnus comes standard with five screw-in chokes: Cylinder, Improved Cylinder, Modified, Improved Modified and Full. At 6 lbs., 14 ozs., the Magnus is of appropriate weight for a 12-ga. gun chambered for 3" magnum ammunition. Our test gun balanced slightly forward of the hinge pin. The gun handled very well on the skeet field and was a pleasure to shoot. The 14 1/2" length of pull seems a bit long for a field gun, but the 1 1/2" drop at the comb and 2 1/4" drop at heel puts the shooter's eye in perfect position above the rib. The gun's ejectors were well-timed and extremely robust, kicking the empty shell cases well clear.

The Magnus is fitted with an automatic safety that

resets to safe when the gun is opened. Incorporated in the top safety lever is the barrel selector, which we didn't like. Although perfectly functional, its single and double red dots indicating barrel selection appeared out of place on such an elegant gun.

In all, the Caesar Guerini is a very handsome gun that handled well and functioned flawlessly. Anyone would be proud to carry the Magnus afield and, backed by Guerini's lifetime warranty, it could also be the last shotgun you ever buy.

GUERINI MAGNUS

MANUFACTURER: Caesar Guerini, Vai Parte, 33-25060 Marcheno, Brescia, Italy, 39 030 896-6144; info@caesarguerini.it
IMPORTER: Caesar Guerini USA, LLC (Dept. AR) 700 Lake St., Cambridge, MD 21613; (410) 901-1131; www.gueriniusa.com
MECHANISM TYPE: over-under, boxlock shotgun
GAUGE: 12, 3"
OVERALL LENGTH: 45 1/2"
BARREL LENGTH: 26", 28" (tested)
WEIGHT: 6 lbs., 14 ozs.
TRIGGER: single-selective; 5 lbs. pull, upper barrel; 5 1/4 lbs. pull, lower barrel
STOCK: Circassian walnut; length of pull, 14 1/2"; drop at comb, 1 1/2"; drop at heel, 2 1/4"
CHOKE SYSTEM: interchangeable screw-in
ACCESSORIES: hard plastic gun case, five choke tubes, choke wrench, gun socks
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$2,730



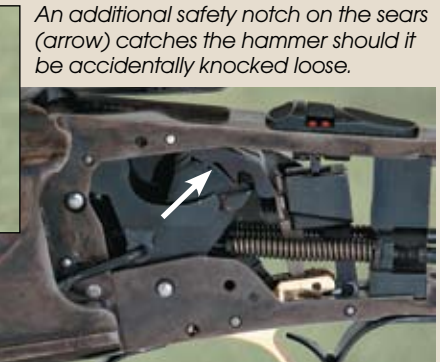
The Magnus' action locks up with a milled bite in the face of the monobloc just underneath the bottom barrel.



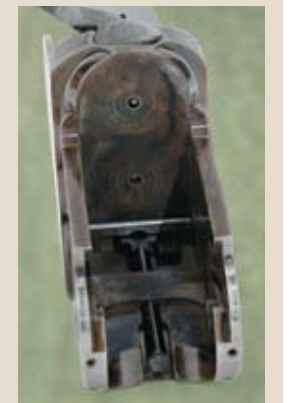
An automatic safety resets to safe when the gun is opened and incorporates a somewhat too-modern barrel selector.



A crosshatched and contoured piece of solid walnut serves as the Guerini Magnus' buttplate.



An additional safety notch on the sears (arrow) catches the hammer should it be accidentally knocked loose.



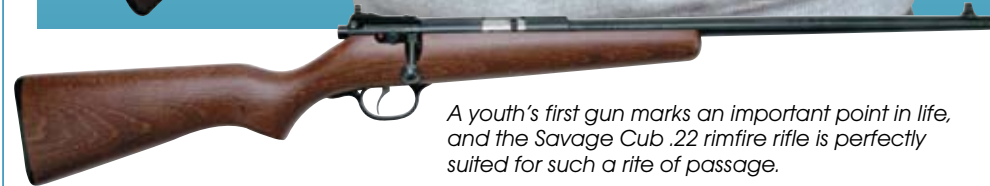
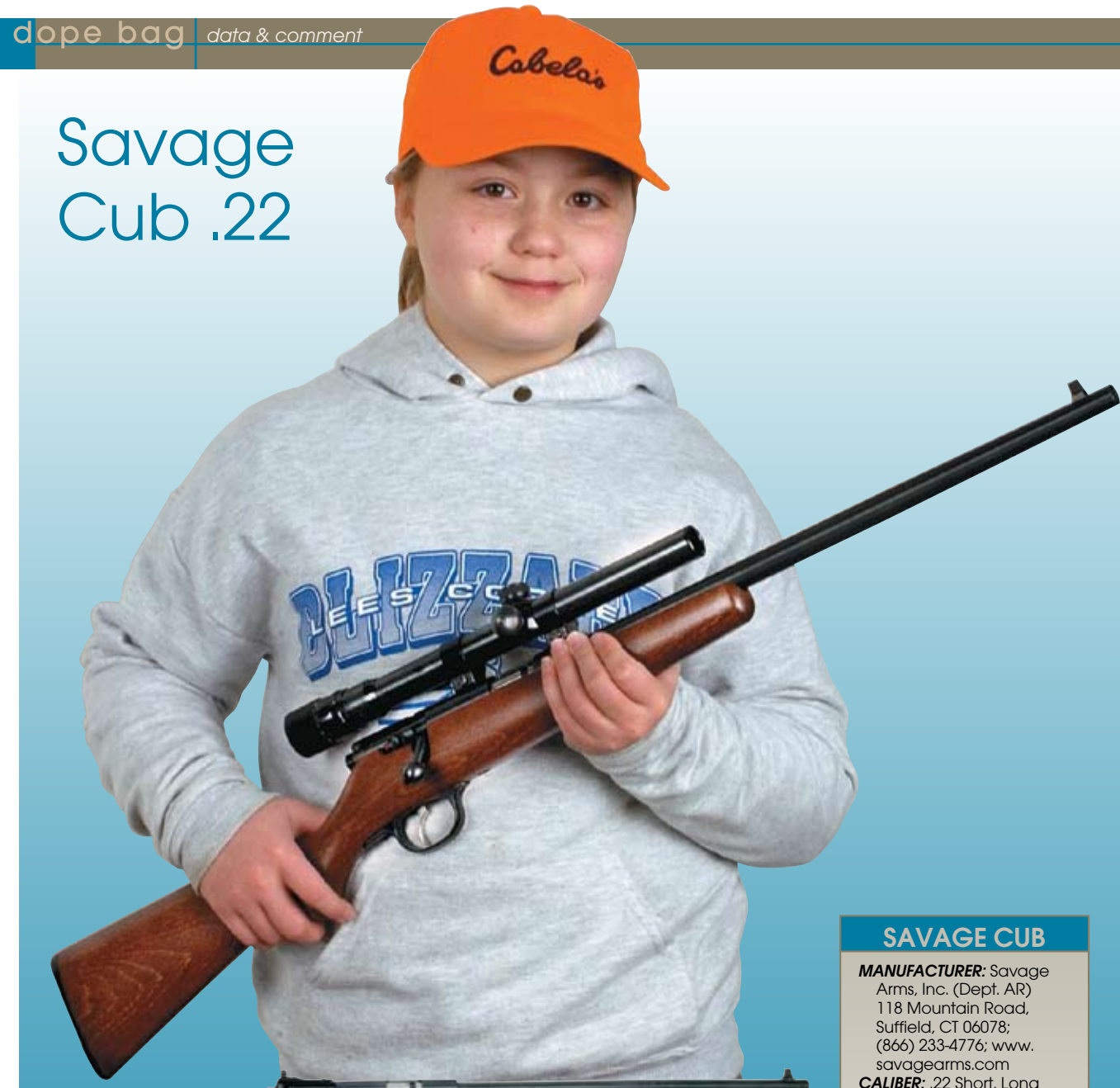
The Magnus' receiver (above) starts as a 4140 chrome-moly steel drop forging. Its sides are machined to resemble a true sidelock action with a sculpted effect reminiscent of an English Fabbri or American Galazan over-under.

SHOOTING RESULTS

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.

<p>Improved Cylinder Tube</p>	<p>Cylinder Tube</p>
<p>■ =Point of Hold Federal 12-ga., 2 1/4", No. 6 Lead Average Pellet count: 253 Measured Velocity @3-ft.: 1185 f.p.s. Remaining Energy Per Pellet @ 40 yds.: 1 ft.-lb. Recoil: 31.4 ft.-lbs.</p>	
Total Hits 117 (46%) 21" Inner Circle 65 (25%) 30" Outer Ring 52 (21%)	Total Hits 83 (33%) 21" Inner Circle 46 (18%) 30" Outer Ring 37 (15%)

Savage Cub .22



A youth's first gun marks an important point in life, and the Savage Cub .22 rimfire rifle is perfectly suited for such a rite of passage.

A young person's first rifle marks one of the most important events in life. Such a gun signifies the conveyance of trust, responsibility and maturity. For those reasons, many believe a first gun should have traditional styling with blued steel and a hardwood stock. Remember, a first gun may become an heirloom

that your son or daughter can proudly pass on to their offspring.

Savage Arms' Cub .22 rifle is aimed squarely at the youth/heirloom market. It offers features well-suited to a first rifle in an attractively styled and competitively priced package of diminutive dimensions gauged to youthful ergonomics.

While the Cub's technology is no-frills basic, the rifle does not look cheap. The barrel, receiver and sights are finished in a medium polish blue that contrasts nicely with a brightly polished bolt head and nickel-plated trigger. The hardwood stock is evenly finished in a walnut stain with a ribbed, black plastic

SAVAGE CUB

MANUFACTURER: Savage Arms, Inc. (Dept. AR) 118 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078; (866) 233-4776; www.savagearms.com

CALIBER: .22 Short, Long or Long Rifle

ACTION TYPE: bolt-action, single-shot, rimfire rifle

RECEIVER: blued steel

BARREL: 16 1/4"

RIFLING: six-groove; 1:16" RH twist

SIGHTS: post front, rear peep fully adjustable for windage and elevation, dovetail grooves for scope

TRIGGER: single-stage, 4 lbs. pull

STOCK: walnut-finished hardwood: length of pull, 12"; drop at heel, 1 1/4"; drop at comb, 1 1/4"

OVERALL LENGTH: 33"

WEIGHT: 3 lbs., 13 1/2 ozs.

ACCESSORIES: gun lock

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$149

The Cub has a 60 degree turning bolt and a manually loaded single-shot action (below) that will accept .22 Short, .22 Long or .22 Long Rifle cartridges. It comes equipped with a two-position safety and single-stage trigger that, on our sample, broke at 4 lbs.



buttplate and black polymer trigger guard.

The Cub is a single-shot, bolt-action, rimfire rifle with a 16 1/4" barrel that can fire .22 Short, .22 Long or .22 Long Rifle ammunition. The two-piece, machined steel bolt has dual extractors, and there is a fixed-blade ejector in the bottom of the receiver. Locking is accomplished by the root of the straight bolt handle turning about 60 degrees downward into a notch in the tubular steel receiver. A pin on the bolt riding an angled notch in the receiver cocks the firing pin on opening. A two-position safety lever is located on the right side of the receiver just behind the bolt;

elementary technology, but well-made and safe.

The barreled action is held to the stock by two equal-size stock screws with slotted heads, making disassembly fast and easy. The trigger guard is secured by two Phillips-head screws. To remove the bolt, ensure that the chamber is empty, pull the trigger and withdraw the bolt to the rear. This is sufficient for routine maintenance and lubrication.

The barrel is pinned to the receiver and the trigger assembly is held in place by two slotted screws, the rear one serving as an auxiliary recoil lug. A black plastic insert inside the receiver serves as a cartridge guide to

ease loading—simply drop the cartridge in the notch on the insert and close the bolt. The insert is removable, but there is no magazine slot cut into the bottom of the receiver, thus barring later upgrades to a repeater.

A blade front sight complements a rear peep sight adjustable for both windage and elevation. The receiver is also grooved for a dovetail scope mount, however, the rear sight may have to be removed to provide clearance. We found the factory sights appropriate and functional; however, a dab of white paint on the front blade improved visibility.

Our test rifle had a

single-stage trigger pull weight of a consistent 4 lbs. We applaud this, as excessively heavy triggers deter accuracy and reduce beginners' confidence.

Stock dimensions of the Cub are intended for entry-level, young shooters of 8-12 years of age. For that reason, they are reduced—pull length is just 12". This stock should serve a young shooter well until the early teen growth years. When the shooter outgrows the stock, the Cub can be temporarily retired until its next assignment.

At just 16 1/4" in length, the short barrel's effect on muzzle velocity and accuracy were the subject of special scrutiny. We need not have worried. Accuracy proved fully on par with other sporting rimfire rifles and muzzle velocity was unaffected thanks, no doubt, to the very progressive propellants being used today.

Yes, the Cub is "cute" because of its short barrel, reduced overall length and traditional styling. We judged workmanship, fit and finish to be well above some other youth rifles in this price range. The Cub also offers the safety features appropriate for a first gun. If you are considering a first gun for your son or daughter, the Savage Cub has much to offer at a competitive price.

SHOOTING RESULTS

.22 Long Rifle Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Winchester T22 40-gr. solid	1143 Avg. 9 Sd	117	0.51	1.17	0.93
Federal AE 40-gr. solid	1267 Avg. 15 Sd	143	0.53	1.23	0.97
CCI MiniMag 40-gr. HP	1320 Avg. 12 Sd	155	0.70	1.01	0.86
Average Extreme Spread:			0.92		
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 16 1/4" barrel. Range temperature: 81° F. Humidity: 50%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 50 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation), HP (hollow point), AE (American Eagle).					

The Cub has a tubular steel receiver to which the barrel is pinned (below). The two-piece bolt has dual extractors, and the bolt handle is the locking lug, which engages a notch cut in the receiver when closed. The receiver-mounted ejector is fixed.



A fully adjustable rear peep sight (above) along with a post front and dovetail grooves on the receiver (l.) for mounting a scope are standard on the Savage Cub.

Burrís Fullfield II 3-9X



Perhaps the most versatile model in Burrís' Fullfield II line is its variable 3-9X 40 mm model. It is available in matte or gloss black and nickel finishes.

The matte-finished scopes are offered with a choice of four different reticles, including a standard duplex Burrís calls Plex, a Ballistic Mil-Dot, a three-post European-style variant dubbed 3P#4 and, lastly, the variant included on our test sample, the Ballistic Plex.

The bottom arm of the four-arm crosshair of the Ballistic Plex reticle has three horizontal stadia lines between the center of the crosshair and the start of the bottom arm's thicker duplex. This arrangement provides extra aiming points that help the shooter compensate for bullet drop from 100 to 500 yds. with most center-fire chamberings used for medium to large game.

A ballistic chart containing data for common calibers appropriate for medium- to long-range hunting is included in the manual, providing the shooter with

a foundation for the range work necessary to get the most utility from the Ballistic Plex reticle.

The reticle has no inherent rangefinding capability. Accordingly, a scope with the Ballistic Plex reticle works best when the range is known or used with a laser rangefinder. The Ballistic Plex's crosshairs subtend from 0.31" at 100 yds. at the scope's highest magnification (9X) to 0.86" at the same distance at the scope's lowest (3X) and field of view ranges from 33 ft. to 13 ft. at 100 yds. Fifty inches of elevation and windage adjustment at 100 yds. are available to the shooter in 1/4-m.o.a. clicks.

The Burrís' one-piece 7075-T6 aluminum alloy main tube is mated to a European-style eyepiece that doubles as the scope's power ring, which aids rapid changes between magnification settings, requires no locking mechanism

and reduces the number of potential leak paths.

Durable double internal springs control the Fullfield's erector, the mechanism that regulates



The rear eyepiece doubles as the scope's power ring. The power settings may be viewed without taking your head off the stock (top).

changes in magnification, as well as steel-on-steel contact in the scope's reticle click adjustment components for repeatable elevation or windage changes with reassuringly audible and tactile clicks.


All internal and external lenses are HiLume multi-coated for enhanced light transmission. Every scope is individually tested to be waterproof and fogproof and is warrantied forever.

We mounted the Fullfield II on a Ruger 77 bolt-action rifle chambered in .270 Win. The scope's weight of 12.7 ozs and length of 12 1/2" did not appreciably increase the bulk or diminish the balance and pointability of the test rifle. The length of the eyepiece, however, combined with an optimum eye relief of 3.1" to 3.8" persuaded us to mount the scope as far forward as we could get it in the

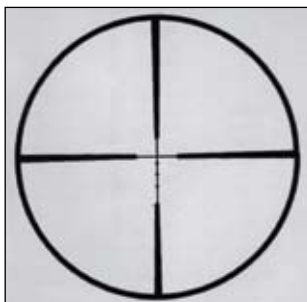
rings without impinging on the power ring or reticle adjustment housing.

As is our usual protocol, we zeroed the scope by shooting the square: We put on 12 upward elevation clicks and 12 windage clicks to the right and fired a group, then fired a second group after putting 24 downward clicks on the scope. A third group followed 24 clicks to the left, and after 24 upward clicks we shot a fourth. Lastly we turned 12 clicks to the left and 12 clicks downward to return to zero. Our first and last groups overlapped, and the center of our corner groups was never more than a 1/2" off the square.

Our test scope had no discernable perimeter or pinhole distortion, and light-gathering and resolution qualities were comparable with other scopes in its price range.

In sum, the American-made Burrís Fullfield II is a well-made riflescope whose Ballistic Plex reticle provides hunters the bonus of additional aiming points. 

Available from: Burrís Optics (Dept. AR), 331 E. 8th St., Greeley, CO 80631; (888) 228-7747; www.burrisoptics.com. Suggested retail price: \$354.



The lower center line of the Ballistic Plex's crosshair has three horizontal stadia lines.