

DSA Collector Series T48



The DSA T48's handguards, buttstock, pistol grip and carry handle are turned of smooth European walnut finished to a high luster.

DSA expands its broad line of FAL-type rifles with the SA58 Collector Series. Each of the four models—the Congo, Para Congo, G1 and T48—represents a unique milestone in the history of the *Fusil Automatique Legere*. DSA recently sent us its rendition of the T48, one of those fascinating “what ifs” in military history, for testing and evaluation.

After World War II, the FN FAL, chambered in .308 Win., competed against the T44—designed by the Springfield Armory—as a replacement for the M1 Garand. Between them, High Standard and Harrington & Richardson built 300 prototypes and these American-made products of Belgian design received the military nomenclature T48. In rigorous military field trials,

the FALs performed as well as, but not significantly better than, the T44; but it seems that when it comes to small-arms testing, a tie is a win for the home team, and, thus, it was the T44 that became the M14.

Among the new, U.S.-made components in the T48 is DSA's drop-forged, two-piece steel receiver that is finish-milled to metric specifications and features Type 1 lightening cuts on the magazine and barrel wells as on original T48s. The top half includes the bolt guide rails and the barrel and magazine wells, while the bottom half houses the trigger group and provides attachment points for the pistol grip and buttstock. Uniting the two halves is a large slotted hinge pin located between the trigger and magazine

wells. The user can pivot them apart for cleaning and maintenance by pulling the take-down latch at the rear of the lower receiver. The charging handle on the left side of the receiver does not reciprocate with the bolt during firing.

Inside the receiver is a milled steel bolt with cammed surfaces on the bottom that provide lockup by mating with a recessed seat in the front of the receiver. A guide rod at the rear of the tombstone-shaped bolt carrier ensures alignment with the coiled return springs housed in the buttstock. As in the original, the top cover on DSA's T48 includes a stripper clip guide.

Threaded into the receiver is a newly manufactured, 22" steel barrel with broach-cut, hand-lapped rifling. Its exterior

DSA T48

MANUFACTURER: DSA, Inc. (Dept. AR) P.O. Box 370, Barrington, IL 60011; (847) 277-7258; www.dsarms.com

CALIBER: .308 Win.
ACTION TYPE: gas-operated semi-automatic

RECEIVER: forged steel with Duracoat finish

BARREL: 22" steel with false muzzle brake

RIFLING: four-groove with 1:10.4" RH twist

MAGAZINE: detachable 10-round stamped steel box (will also accommodate surplus 20-round magazines)

SIGHTS: front post adjustable for elevation, rear aperture adjustable for windage,

TRIGGER: single-stage non-adjustable 6 lbs. pull

STOCK: length of pull, 14 1/2"; drop at heel, 1/2"; drop at comb, 1/2"

OVERALL LENGTH: 44"

WEIGHT: 9.5 lbs.

ACCESSORIES: sling, stripper clips

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$1,695

dimensions and stepped profile closely follow those of the original gun.

The FAL's gas-operating system makes use of



A handsome rifle, DSA's T48 also accurately represents a unique milestone in the history of the *Fusil Automatique Legere*.

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YDS.)					
.308 Win. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Hornady No.8096 168-gr. HPBT A-Max	2407 Avg.	2,728 31 Sd	1.54	1.82	1.65
Rem. No. R308W7 168-gr. HPBT	2670 Avg.	2,659 16 Sd	1.62	1.93	1.79
Speer No. 24550 150-gr. JSP Grand Slam	3966 Avg.	2,397 11 Sd	0.71	1.18	0.96
Average Extreme Spread:					1.82

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 22" barrel. Range temperature: 81° F. Humidity: 66%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: HPBT (hollow-point boattail) JSP (jacketed soft-point) Rem. (Remington) Sd (standard deviation).

a piston that operates on the tappet principle. DSA's American-made gas piston is plated with Nitrotec, which the manufacturer claims is more resistant to fouling and corrosion than chrome. Surrounding the gas system is a two-piece wooden handguard assembly. Each has three slotted horizontal vents to aid heat exhaust and together form a triangular contour.

The safety consists of a two-position lever with a cylindrical knob at the tail

that is within easy reach of the firer's thumb. Rotating it upward so it is aligned with the "S" stamped into the side of the receiver blocks movement of the trigger, hammer and sear. Pushing it downward toward the red "R" disengages the safety mechanism.

Other controls include a bolt stop lever on the left hand side of the receiver between the trigger guard and magazine well and a magazine release lever on the opposite side.

Despite FAL rifles' reputation for heavy, less than precise trigger pulls, our test sample's trigger exhibited no stacking or creep and broke cleanly at 6 lbs. with minimal overtravel.

Metallic sights include a front post detent-adjustable for elevation and a rear aperture screw adjustable for windage. The rear aperture rests on a stepped ramp that provides the user with additional range adjustments.

For accuracy testing, we fitted the T48 with DSA's Extreme Duty Scope Mount which replaces the rifle's top cover. The milled aircraft aluminum Picatinny rail allowed us to attach a Leupold M8 3-9X scope.

We fired a variety of match and service-type loads from Black Hills, Winchester and Remington. Accuracy results are shown in the accompanying table.

There were no malfunctions of any kind. We also fired the T48 with the standard top cover in place to test the stripper clip guide. Our test gun came with two 10-round clips, which the guide held firmly in place without any binding.

No doubt, the T48 will appeal most to those who can appreciate both the fine workmanship and precision fitting DSA has put into its Collector Series, as well as the intriguing history the rifle represents.



DSA thoughtfully replicated details of the original T48, such as the stripper clip guide in the top cover (above), the stamped steel buttplate and rotating sling swivels on the barrel and toe of the buttstock (above r.) and a false muzzle brake that follows the original's contours, but lacks its slots (below, r.).

The FAL's gas system (top) operates on the tappet principle. The knob at the rear of the gas block (above) allows the user to adjust the amount of propellant gas that operates the gun. Metallic sights include a front post detent-adjustable for elevation (above), and a rear aperture adjustable for windage (r.).

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.

Navy Arms Gunfighter



Navy Arms pioneered the reproduction firearm industry decades ago when it introduced an Italian-made copy of the 1851 Navy revolver. Since then, an entire industry has grown up around reproduction guns, spurred on by the booming popularity of Cowboy Action shooting. Navy Arms is still a major player in the field and has just introduced a new series of single-action revolvers geared to Cowboy Action games. Dubbed the "Gunfighter" series, the new six-gun represents an upgrade of the Model 1873.

As any history buff or Western movie fan will tell you, Colt's Model 1873 is the definitive six-gun of the Old West. Simple, rugged and reliable, it is what even non-shooters visualize when imagining a cowboy's sidearm. Navy Arms has for some years been importing



various versions of the 1873 made to the company's specifications by Uberti in Italy. Accurate detail and satisfactory workmanship have made the revolvers bestsellers among Old West aficionados but, with the coming of Cowboy Action shooting and the crowded fields of both competing guns and competing shooters, Navy Arms decided to market an 1873-based revolver that offered enhancements in both performance and appearance. After consulting with top competitors, Navy Arms developed the Gunfighter series.

Available in 4½", 5½" or 7½" barrel lengths, a Gunfighter series revolver has a color case-hardened

receiver, trigger and hammer mated to a high-polish blue barrel and cylinder. On our sample, the hammer exhibited good color that was mostly lacking on the frame. What really makes the gun visually distinctive is German silver-plating on the backstrap and trigger guard. The gleaming silver contrasts with checkered hard black plastic grip panels and distinguishes the wheelgun, even when it's holstered. The grips are more functional than aesthetic, allowing competitors a firm, secure grip on the six-shooter even in damp conditions. They also save money on a part that many customers are going to swap out anyway for custom grips by aftermarket manufacturers, such as Eagle Grips.

Internally, each Gunfighter series revolver is upgraded with a U.S.-made Wolff spring kit.

GUNFIGHTER

MANUFACTURER: A. Uberti S.r.l., Via Artigiani n.r.l., Gardone Val Trompia, Brescia, Italy 25063
IMPORTER: Navy Arms Co. (Dept. AR), 219 Lawn St., Martinsburg, WV 25401; (304) 262-9870; www.navyarms.com
CALIBER: .357 Mag., .44-40 Win., .45 Colt (tested)
ACTION TYPE: single-action center-fire revolver
FRAME: color case-hardened steel with silver-plated backstrap and trigger guard
BARREL LENGTH: 4½" (tested), 5½", 7½"
RIFLING: six-groove, 1:16" LH twist
CAPACITY: six rounds
SIGHTS: fixed blade front, grooved topstrap rear
TRIGGER: single-action; 2 lbs., 5 ozs. pull
OVERALL LENGTH: 11"
WIDTH: 1"
HEIGHT: 5"
WEIGHT: 38 oz.
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$479

Navy Arms removes the normally sufficient original springs from Gunfighter series revolvers and

replaces them with the reputedly excellent and highly reliable Wolff springs to preclude the possibility of a spring-related malfunction in competition.

Aside from the internal and external enhancements, the Gunfighter series revolver is pure Model 1873. It has the same legendary profile, weight, balance and handling that made the original the most iconic handgun of the 19th century. However, it also shares the drawbacks of the design as well. There is no transfer bar safety, so the revolver must be loaded with only five rounds at a time and carried with the hammer resting on the empty sixth chamber.

The front sight, though historically accurate, is a thin, tapered blade that can be difficult to see and with a top edge that can be difficult to vertically

align within the topstrap groove that serves as a rear sight. The hogleg grip frame of the 1873 is traditional and handsome, but is less comfortable than, say, a Bisley-type grip. Many shooters tend to wrap the pinky finger around the bottom of the grip frame of Model 1873s. All of these complaints are often ignored by Cowboy Action shooters though, since few consider authenticity a burden.

We tested a .45 Colt-cal. Gunfighter series revolver, but it is

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

.45 Colt Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Magtech No. C45D 250-gr. LFP	623 Avg. 54 Sd	216	2.75	5.25	3.73
Remington No. R45C 250-gr. LRN	822 Avg. 38 Sd	376	2.38	5.25	4.38
Winchester No. X45CP2 255-gr Super-X LRN	779 Avg. 33 Sd	344	3.87	1.18	3.08
Average Extreme Spread:					3.73

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 4¾" barrel. Range temperature: 81° F. Humidity 50%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yds. fired from a Ransom Rest. Abbreviations: LFP (lead flat-point), LRN (lead round-nose) Sd (standard deviation).

also offered in .357 Mag. and .44-40 Win. All controls functioned crisply and distinctly and all mechanical movements were sufficiently smooth for an out-of-the box gun, though time or a competent gunsmith could

slick it up still more. The virtue of the hogleg grip was on full display, with the gun rolling up in the hand as it was fired, dissipating felt recoil. Maintaining a good grip was noticeably eased by the checkered grip panels. The Gunfighter was not an unpleasant gun to shoot and performed on a par with the various 1873s on the market, including some that are considerably more expensive. Inherent accuracy was adequate as indicated by the Ransom Rest. Practical accuracy, however, was hampered somewhat by the less-than-ideal sight picture offered by the historically accurate front blade.

On the whole, the Gunfighter represents a nice variation on what was already a fine gun—Navy Arms' Model 1873. The bluing is well executed and the silver plating handsome. Moreover, the functional improvements of the checkered grips and Wolff springs are practical and comforting. Cowboy Action shooters take pride in their distinctive characterizations and now they have a distinctive 1873 revolver.



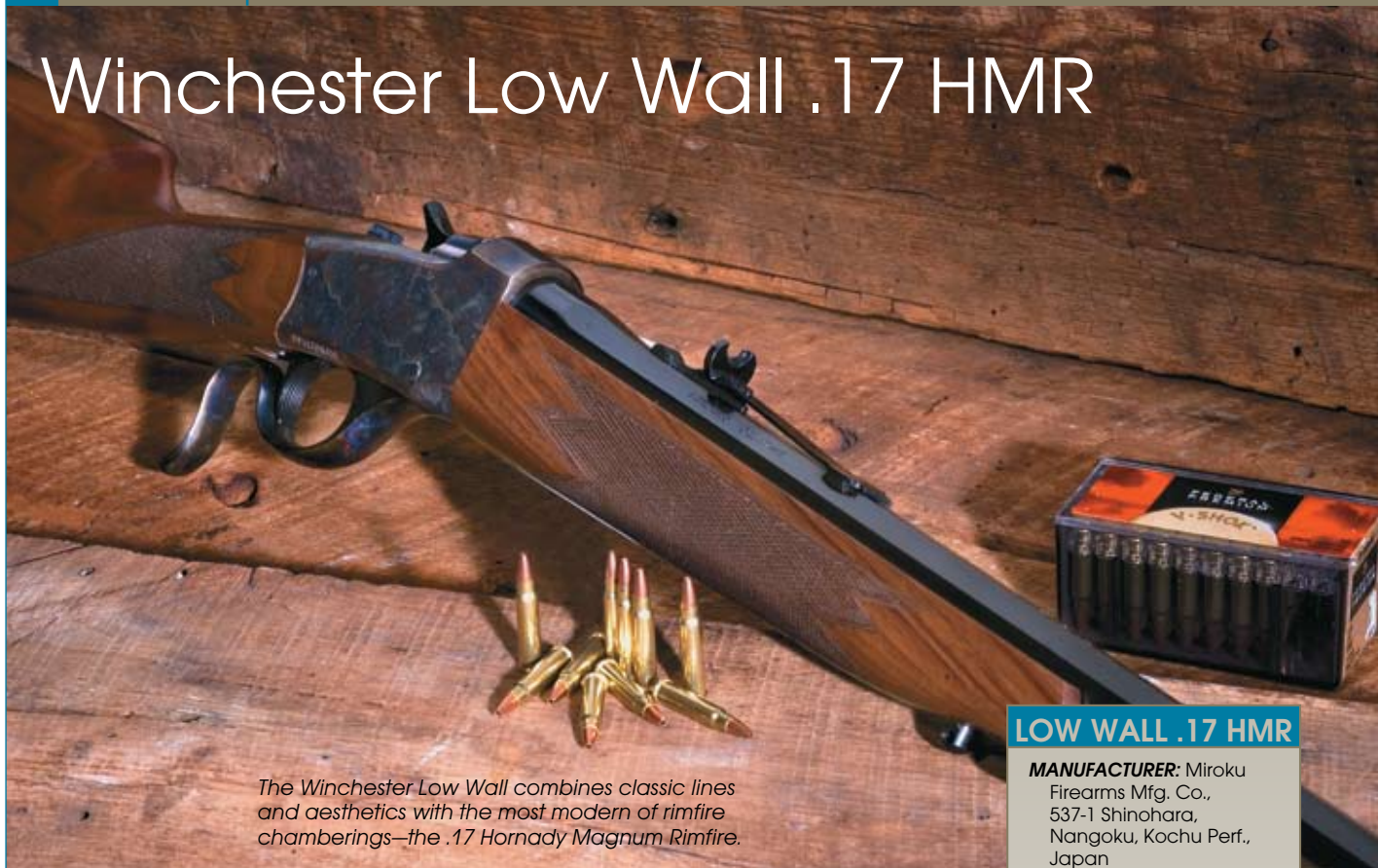
The Gunfighter is intended as an upgrade from a stock entry-level gun for competition. Internally, the revolver has a set of Wolff U.S.-made springs. Otherwise, the gun remains faithful to the original Model 1873 with its loading gate on the frame's right side.



German silver-plating on the grip frame and trigger guard sets the Gunfighter apart from other SAA clones.

Again, like the original, the firing pin is on the hammer and there is no transfer-bar safety, so only five rounds may be safely chambered. Sights, too, are historically accurate, including the thin front blade (l.)

Winchester Low Wall .17 HMR



The Winchester Low Wall combines classic lines and aesthetics with the most modern of rimfire chamberings—the .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire.

Browning re-introduced the svelter little Low Wall in 1995 (August 1995, p. 34) in .22 Hornet, .223 Rem., .243 Win. and then in .22 LR. But, as Browning, Fabrique Nationale and U.S. Repeating Arms Co. (makers of Winchester rifles and shot-guns) share the same owner, why not a Model 1885 under the Winchester name?

Unlike the previous Low Walls, which were also made by Japan's Miroku, this gun is proudly marked "Winchester" on both the barrel and the receiver.

The Low Wall .17 HMR is a "thick side" variant that is mechanically similar in most respects to the Brownings, but with a few changes. The Winchester, with its case-color receiver and finger lever, is a

traditionalist's gun in lines, features and handling—but with .17 HMR performance.

The external hammer is powered by dual coil springs, while detent balls on either side of the finger lever's top help hold the action closed. When the lever is lowered, the breechblock drops down and out of the way, allowing the chamber to be loaded. As the lever is closed, the knurled hammer is cocked. The hammer has a half-cock notch with an inertial sear mechanism that prevents the hammer from going fully forward unless the trigger is depressed.

The Winchester Low Wall has an ejector-only system, as opposed to the small, pivoting extraction-only lever of the Brownings. The ejector is essentially a scaled down version of that employed on the 1885 High Wall. The lower half of the

breechface serves as the extractor and ejector. As the breechblock is fully lowered, the recess on the top of the block clears the ejector, which is linked to the top of the finger lever. As the lever nears the end of its travel, primary mechanical extraction occurs and is quickly followed by coil-spring-powered ejection. The ejection sear, spring and guide are mounted on the left of the tenon under the fore-end. As the lever is lowered, the base of the spring guide pin moves slightly rearward, allowing the sear bushing to move forward and press the front arm of the sear downward. This drops the sear arm down and the second tab on the arm out of engagement with the guide on the inside front of the bushing. This frees the springs to move rearward, impacting the ejector and kicking the case vigorously free.

LOW WALL .17 HMR

MANUFACTURER: Miroku Firearms Mfg. Co., 537-1 Shinohara, Nangoku, Kochu Perf., Japan

IMPORTER: USRAC (Dept. AR), 275 Winchester Ave., Morgan, UT 84050-9333; (801) 876-3440; www.winchester-guns.com

CALIBER: .17 HMR

ACTION TYPE: single-shot rimfire rifle

RECEIVER: case-colored carbon steel

BARREL: 24½"

RIFLING: six-groove, 1:9" RH twist

MAGAZINE: none

SIGHTS: elevation and windage adjustable semi-buckhorn rear, drift adjustable for windage blade front

TRIGGER: single-stage, adjustable, 4 lbs., 4 ozs. pull

STOCK: walnut; length of pull, 13"; drop at heel, 1/2"; drop at comb, 7/8"

OVERALL LENGTH: 41½"

WEIGHT: 7 lbs., 15 ozs.

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$936

With the addition of the ejector, a shell deflector—again styled off the High Wall—has been added to the top tang, although it is a bit higher than those on original guns. If positioned

SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YDS.)						
.17 HMR Cartridge	Vel. @ 15'	Energy (f.p.s.)	Group Size In Inches			
			Smallest	Largest	Average	
Hornady No. 83170 17-gr. V-Max JHP	3671 Avg.	1556	0.55	0.95	0.78	
Federal No. P770 17-gr. V-Shok TNT JHP	3643 Avg.	1621	0.69	1.02	0.89	
Average Extreme Spread:					0.84	

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 24½" barrel. Range temperature: 74° F. Humidity: 69%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 50 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: JHP (jacketed hollow point), Sd (standard deviation).

on the left, empties are guided to the right; if on the right empties go left. If set at 90 degrees to the chamber, the empties stop right there.

The polished blue 24" octagonal barrel is free-floated along its entire length, as the schnable fore-end is fixed to the tenon protruding from the action body's front via two screws.

A small slotted screw at the bottom rear of the

action—revealed when the finger lever is open—allows pull weight adjustments to the single-stage trigger. Out of the box, the pull measured 4 lbs, 4 ozs. We adjusted it down to 3 lbs., 5 ozs. and then up to 5 lbs., 2 ozs. It proved fairly crisp with no creep or slack and little overtravel.

Sights are as traditional as they come. Topping the barrel's front is a dovetailed front blade complete with



Unlike original rimfire 1885s, the new gun has an ejector-only mechanism. On the tang's top rear is a shell deflector (top, arrow) that directs the spent case either to the left or right, or it can halt the case for easy case recovery. Right behind the trigger is the single-stage trigger's adjustment screw (above, arrow). Measured pull was 4 lbs., 4 ozs.



The new Low Wall is based on John Browning's Model 1885 Winchester Low Wall design. It has the "thick side" receiver contour.

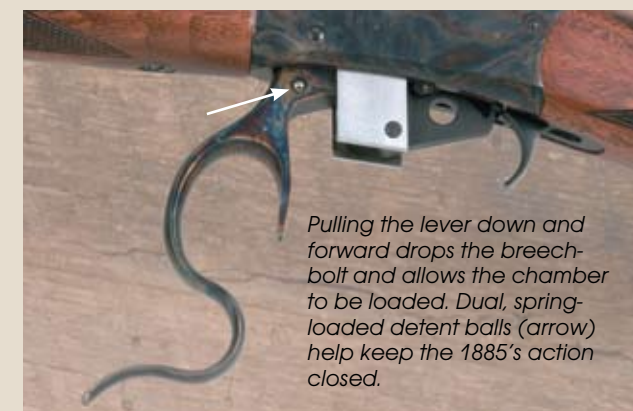
a rear-facing, somewhat fine brass bead that is drift-adjustable for windage. The rear is an elevator-adjustable buckhorn unit with a fine opening at its center. It, too, is drift-adjustable for windage, and its elevator has five steps. The tang, by the way, is tapped to accept a tang-mounted peep rear sight, and the barrel and receiver are tapped to accept scope bases as well.

The stock is of well-figured walnut with 20-line-per-inch, machine-cut checkering on the wrist and fore-end. The thin pistol grip is straight, and the butt is topped by a case-colored crescent steel buttplate.

The Winchester was

fired at 50 yds. for accuracy with Federal and Hornady ammunition, and the results are shown in the accompanying table. Using Browning bases, we mounted a Leupold 4.5-14X scope for our accuracy testing, and there were no failures of any kind. It carries well afield due to its lack of protuberances and was quick to get on target.

This rifle combines the clean design of John Browning, the Winchester name, good accuracy and great handling into a gun that is both modern and nostalgic. Handling it makes you want one—you might not know what you'll use it for, but you just have to have it anyway.



Pulling the lever down and forward drops the breechblock and allows the chamber to be loaded. Dual, spring-loaded detent balls (arrow) help keep the 1885's action closed.

Sights on the Winchester 1885 Low Wall are a drift adjustable for windage front with a rear-facing brass bead. The rear is of the buckhorn style and is drift adjustable for windage. The latter has an elevator for elevation adjustments. The receiver's top is also drilled and tapped to accept scope bases and mounts.



Weaver Grand Slam 3-10x40 mm



Weaver's Grand Slam 3-10x40 mm scope is specifically designed to hold up under the extreme variations encountered during hunting.

Over the past 70 years, Weaver has built a reputation for solid dependability and good value, but not much prestige. The Meade Telescope Company that now owns Weaver intends to improve that image.

Available in 12 different models for 1.5X-5X to 6X-20X variables and even a 4.75X fixed power, there is an appropriate Weaver Grand Slam for every conceivable hunting application. The company claims that the Grand Slam series is specifically designed to hold up under the extreme variations of temperature, humidity and rough use on hunting grounds from Africa to the Yukon. With that in mind, the NRA technical staff "torture" tested a 3-10x40 mm Grand Slam sent to us for evaluation.

The foundation of the Grand Slam series is a one-piece scope tube that not only adds strength, but provides a waterproof housing for the optics. The ends and all other openings, such as windage and elevation adjustment controls, are double sealed with O-rings and gaskets to further inhibit leakage. As Weaver's top-of-the-line scope, the Grand Slam series features its best



We found the Grand Slam's 1/4-m.o.a. adjustments positive and accurate (l.), but the variable power graduation markings (r.) were too small to be easily read in low light.

precision-ground, fully multi-coated lenses. Weaver claims that the Grand Slam's optics are equal or superior in light transmission to any comparable scope on the market, regardless of price, and the bright, crisp images of our test model, especially those in dim light, support that claim.

Having mounted the 3-10x40 mm Weaver Grand Slam on a Sako Finnlight .270 Win. with quick detachable Warne rings, we tested the accuracy of the Weaver Micro-Trac windage and elevation adjustment system, which utilizes 90-degree adjustment screws with opposing springs to physically move the erector tube that houses the scope's reticle. With this system, elevation adjustments do not affect windage

and vice versa. We found the 1/4-m.o.a. adjustments positive and accurate in both planes.

We sighted the scope to produce a tight group dead center at 100 yds., then removed it from the rifle and performed drop tests from a height of 12" onto a rubber gunsmith's mat. The scope was then placed in a plastic container full of water, placed in a freezer and frozen solid for 24 hours. The next day the block of ice containing the Weaver Grand Slam scope was dropped into 110-degree water. After the ice melted, the scope showed no signs of internal lens fogging or of water ingress. It was then re-mounted on the Sako Finnlight and fired. The point of impact on the first and all subsequent shots was exactly the

GRAND SLAM

IMPORTER: Weaver, Inc. (Dept. AR), 201 Plantation Oak Drive, Thomasville, GA 31792, (800) 285-0689, www.weaveroptics.com

MODEL: Grand Slam
MAGNIFICATION RANGE: 3-10X

OBJECTIVE SIZE: 40 mm
FINISH: silver matte
FIELD OF VIEW: 35' to 11.3' @ 100 yds.)
EYE RELIEF: 3" to 3 1/2"
ADJUSTMENT RANGE: 70" (windage), 70" (elevation); 1/4" increments @ 100 yds.

RETICLE: Dual-X
LENGTH: 11 1/4"
WEIGHT: 13 ozs.
PRICE: \$330

same as before the scope was removed.

The Weaver Grand Slam proved to be a tough, rugged scope with high-quality optics. The Micro-Trac windage and elevation adjustment system received high marks from the NRA staff. The sure grip power ring, however, while functional, looks a bit odd and overly large for the tube diameter. Also the variable power graduation markings were too small to be easily read in low-light conditions.

Cosmetics aside, the Weaver Grand Slam scope is a top-of-the-line hunting scope that is the kind of real value seven decades of American hunters have come to expect from the name Weaver.

Tripp Research 1911 Cobramags



Cobramags offer unparalleled reliability partly through the use of a stainless body that has larger internal volume. One of the Cobramag's key features is a new follower design (below, l.) that integrates a stainless steel reinforcement at the front and left side where stresses are greatest. The magazine's feed lips (below, r.) grasp cartridges more firmly.

John M. Browning designed his M1911 to feed ball ammunition before hollow-point and lead semi-wadcuter ammunition came on the scene. Many prudent M1911 owners had the feed ramps of their pistols polished and the chamber mouths relieved to ensure the pistols would reliably feed such ammunition.

The problem is twofold. First, as the slide moves forward and strips a cartridge from the magazine at a slight "up angle," the cartridge is pushed forward whereupon the nose of the bullet impacts the feed ramp. The cartridge then bounces upward into the chamber throat, where the bullet nose hits the top of the chamber wall. This has little effect when full metal jacketed (FMJ) round-nosed ammunition is used. It is when hollow point or flat nosed bullets enter the equation that problems arise. When bullets of these types impact an unpolished feed ramp, they frequently stop cold. If they get beyond that obstacle,



the next hurdle is the chamber—where the bullet nose again impacts, this time at the top of the chamber.

Recently, however, a revolutionary new magazine has appeared on the scene that promises to, for the most part, end magazine problems. Tripp Research recently introduced its patent-pending Cobramags. In so doing, Tripp essentially reinvented the M1911 magazine, and, after trying them, we can attest to their claims of unprecedented reliability. The acid test was an unmodified Rock Island (Philippine-made) M1911A1 that will reliably feed nothing other than FMJ ammunition using any other magazine, including Metalfarm, Shooting Star or Wilson Combat. When we used the Cobramags, the pistol even fed lead

semi-wadcutter ammunition with total reliability. It still will not reliably feed this ammunition with any other magazine—the bullet usually jams against chamber wall as it tries to enter the chamber. With a Cobramag installed, there were no stoppages.

There are a number of reasons for Cobramag reliability. The cartridge is held .080" higher in the magazine to avoid "nose down" feed ramp stoppages and "nose up" jams at the chamber. Since the cartridge is higher, the feed angle can be reduced, allowing the cartridge almost straight line access to the chamber. The feed lips have also been designed to more firmly grasp the cartridge while at the same time allowing it to feed smoothly. The heat-treated stainless steel mag-

azine tube was designed to provide larger internal volume than usual. This provides more room for the spring to compress, so that there is less stress on it when it is fully loaded. The spring itself is chrome silicon with an increased number of coils as compared to conventional magazine springs, and it is designed for consistent lift.

Another key feature of Cobramags is a new follower that integrates a stainless steel reinforcement at the front and left side where stresses are greatest as the follower engages the slide stop. There are several follower heights available to advance or delay slide lock back. The follower also has molded in clearance channels to allow dirt and fouling to escape, and its long wraparound "skirt" prevents it from tipping in the magazine tube. Also, eight-round-capacity Cobramags are designed from the outset as eight-round magazines.

Based on our experience with eight different M1911A1s, from inexpensive to very costly custom pistols, all functioning with total reliability, we believe that Tripp Research has redefined the M1911 magazine. Cobramags—offered in capacities ranging from six to 10 rounds and in .45 ACP, .40 S&W and 9x19 mm/.38 Super—are not cheap, but if one carries an M1911 type pistol for self-defense or as a member of the military or law enforcement, we recommend the purchase of some Cobramags—today.

Available from: Brownell's (Dept. AR), 200 South Front St., Montezuma, IA 50171; (641) 623-5401; www.brownells.com. Suggested retail price: \$44.