

BUCKMASTERS

Gun Hunter

MAGAZINE

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MADE IN THE USA • USA \$3.95

Bargain Big-Game Rifles

- Winchester XPR
- Ruger American
Magnum

Handloading Pioneers

Top 10 Woods Rifles

The .22 Centerfires as Deer Cartridges

Winchester XPR Rifle

10 Minutes with a Trigger Maker



A Stack of Pretty Much Nothing

// By Wayne van Zwoll

At the top of my “Why didn’t I think of that?” list, there’s bottled water — and Quake’s new foam shooting rest. Cleverly designed to fit together, the four M-shaped Stack-A-Rest blocks measure 10 x 6½ inches at the base. Each is 2 inches high to the serifs of the legs and the 1-inch-wide saddle between the peaks, which are 3½ inches high. The M is also split lengthwise to form a 1¾-inch channel an inch high. A groove on the bottom of one block allows you to slip it onto a vehicle window to steady a spotting scope.

On your bench, Stack-A-Rest blocks fit together in a snap. I’ve come to favor three up front, one under the stock’s toe. Even on smooth surfaces, the blocks don’t

easily slip. Not quite the right height? Turn them to rest the rifle lengthwise. Or set the top block at an angle.

Whoever designed Stack-A-Rest provided a small hole



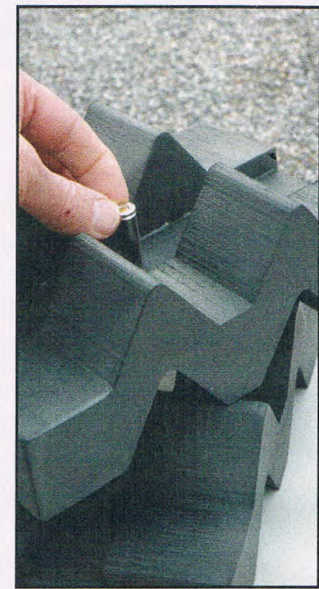
Weighing less than 3 ounces each, Stack-A-Rest blocks support rifles securely with myriad adjustment options.

in the middle of each; if you angle one atop another, you can insert a dowel or even a cartridge case to secure the two. The dowel also serves as a pivot, so you can swivel the block cradling the rifle.

After combining and separating the blocks, placing them under the fore-end and toe rifles in every imaginable way, I decided the options were darned near infinite. No matter the shape of your rifle or the angle of your bench to the target, Stack-A-Rest will put your sight on the bull’s-eye.

The blocks won’t mar your rifle or flatten checkering. They weigh next to nothing, a real blessing for those of us tired of lugging leaky sandbags and mechanical rests.

BPI could charge a lot for this item. After all, water at your airport’s newsstand, to replace what you just handed to the TSA officer, is 3 bucks a



A hole in the blocks accepts a dowel or even a cartridge case to secure them and allow them to pivot.

bottle. Charitably, it does not. Stack-A-Rest may represent the most value you’ll ever get for \$40.

Quake is now in the BPI Outdoors family. quake.com

Triple K Big Thunder Holster

// By Robert Sadowski

Large-frame revolvers with scopes don’t lend themselves to being easily carried. Finding a holster that fits and won’t drag your britches to the dirt or cut into your waist can be difficult. The holster also needs to make the pistol immediately available when game appears.

Triple K’s Big Thunder Scoped Holster Rig evenly distributes the weight of large handguns across shoulders and torso. The comfortable leather neck strap attaches to a waist strap to keep the revolver close to your body.

The stitched leather rig accommodates scoped and unscoped handguns, placing them at the front ready

position yet secure and out of the way when hiking or riding ATVs or horses.

Ideal for tree stand or stalk hunting, the rig is adjustable and can be made to fit over a heavy coat or thin shirt.

Versions are offered for Smith and Wesson X-frames and N-frames, Ruger Blackhawk, Super Blackhawk and Redhawk revolvers as well as Magnum Research’s BFR short- and long-cylinder revolvers. Models are also in the works for Thompson/Center Contender/G2 and Encore single-shot revolvers.

The molded leather holster completely covers the revolver and trigger, leaving only the grip exposed.

A safety strap secures the

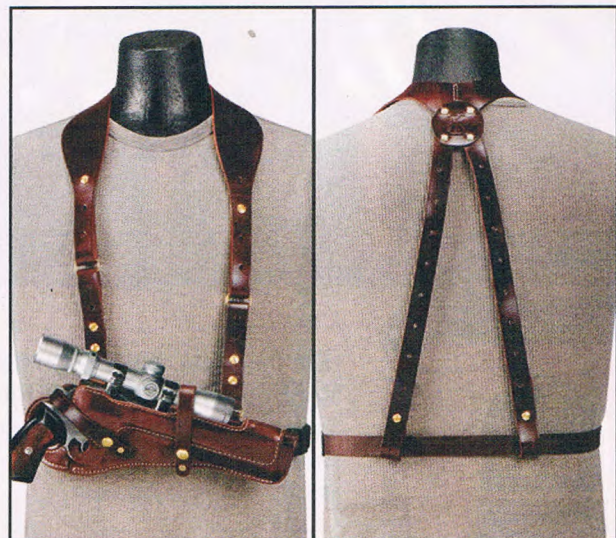
pistol. A slot along the top edge allows the revolver to be holstered with an optic mounted. A second safety straps secures over the optic. The pistols remains snug

and rattle free.

Two leather finishes, Havana Brown and Plain, are offered.

MSRP: \$179.99.

triplek.com



Timney Ruger American Trigger

// By John Haviland

The Marksman Adjustable trigger on Ruger American Rifle and Rimfire rifles is the best trigger Ruger has ever put on any of its rifles. However, some shooters consider the movement of the safety blade in the middle of the trigger a distraction, and the Marksman could be improved on with a lighter, more consistent pull. For instance,

the Marksman on my Ruger American Rifle adjusts down to only 4 pounds, and its pull weight varies 8 ounces.

To make the great American rifles even better, Timney Triggers has stepped up with a drop-in replacement trigger with a 1.5- to 4-pound adjustment range and no variation in pull.

The trigger assembly is CNC



machined and housed in an anodized aluminum frame. Its self-contained sear is Teflon-nickel coated to produce a uniform pull.

Switching out the Marksman for the Timney took about 20 minutes with a few simple tools. Images on the instruction sheet helped to identify parts.

Tapping out two trigger housing pins freed the factory trigger assembly from the rifle. I removed and set aside the Ruger's safety connecting bar, safety button bolt lock

pin and its retaining clip and spring. Those parts were reinstalled on the Timney trigger assembly.

I lined up the Timney trigger on the bottom of the American's receiver, tapped the housing pins back into place, and the rifle was ready to go.

The Timney's trigger pull was set at 2.6 pounds at the factory. I turned in the pull weight adjustment screw a slight amount to increase the pull to 3 pounds. The trigger releases at that weight each and every time with no creep or overtravel. Perfect.

MSRP: \$124.75 / timneytriggers.com



Accurate LT-32 and LT-30 Powders // By John Haviland

Accurate Powder's new LT-32 and LT-30 powders were intended for target shooters, but they also work well in hunting cartridges on up to the .45-70 Govt.

Rob Behr of Western Powder says LT-32 was originally a military surplus powder. Thunderbird Powder sold it for a while, and it became popular with benchrest competitors.

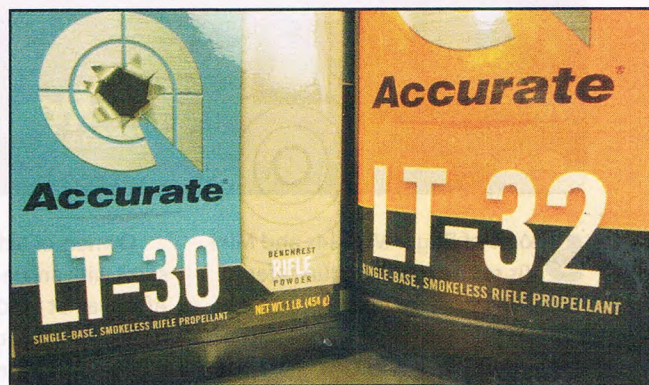
Western Powder obtained some LT-32, found it was a great powder, and contacted General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems-Canada Valleyfield about producing it. "Valleyfield added a second coating to the powder that makes it stable across a wide range of temperatures," Behr notes.

The two powders are kissing cousins, but LT-30 is slightly faster-burning than

LT-32, notes Behr. These fine-grained extruded powders flow well through powder measures to produce precise weights.

In addition to benchrest cartridges like the 6mm PPC and .30 BR, the two powders provide great accuracy in .223, .30-30, .308 Win, 7.62x39 and .45-70 cartridges. Load data for the powders is available at Accurate Powder's website.

I shot jacketed bullets with LT-32 in two bolt-action .223s, and LT-30 and 32 in a CZ bolt-action 7.62x39. While velocities were a bit slower than those stated by Accurate, accuracy was great. LT-32, loaded in the .223, shot a five-shot group that measured .54 inch with Nosler 69-grain HPBT bullets, and .73-inch groups with Hornady 40-grain V-MAX and Nosler 50-grain



Ballistic Tips.

The CZ 7.62x39 grouped three Hornady 123-grain SP bullets in .69 inch with LT-32, and 1.05 inches with LT-30. Standard deviation was as low as 6 and 7 fps for the .223 loads, and 7 and 8 fps for the 7.62x39.

LT-32's burn rate is similar to IMR-4198, a great powder for shooting cast bullets in the .308 Winchester.

I loaded bullets cast from

an RCBS 30 165-SIL mold in the .308, starting with 22.0 grains of LT-32 and increasing the powder weight a grain at a time until I reached 26.0 grains.

Groups shot from a Mossberg MVP Predator .308 hovered around 1.5 inches with lighter amounts of powder, but shrank to under an inch with the 26-grain charge. Perfect.

accuratepowder.com