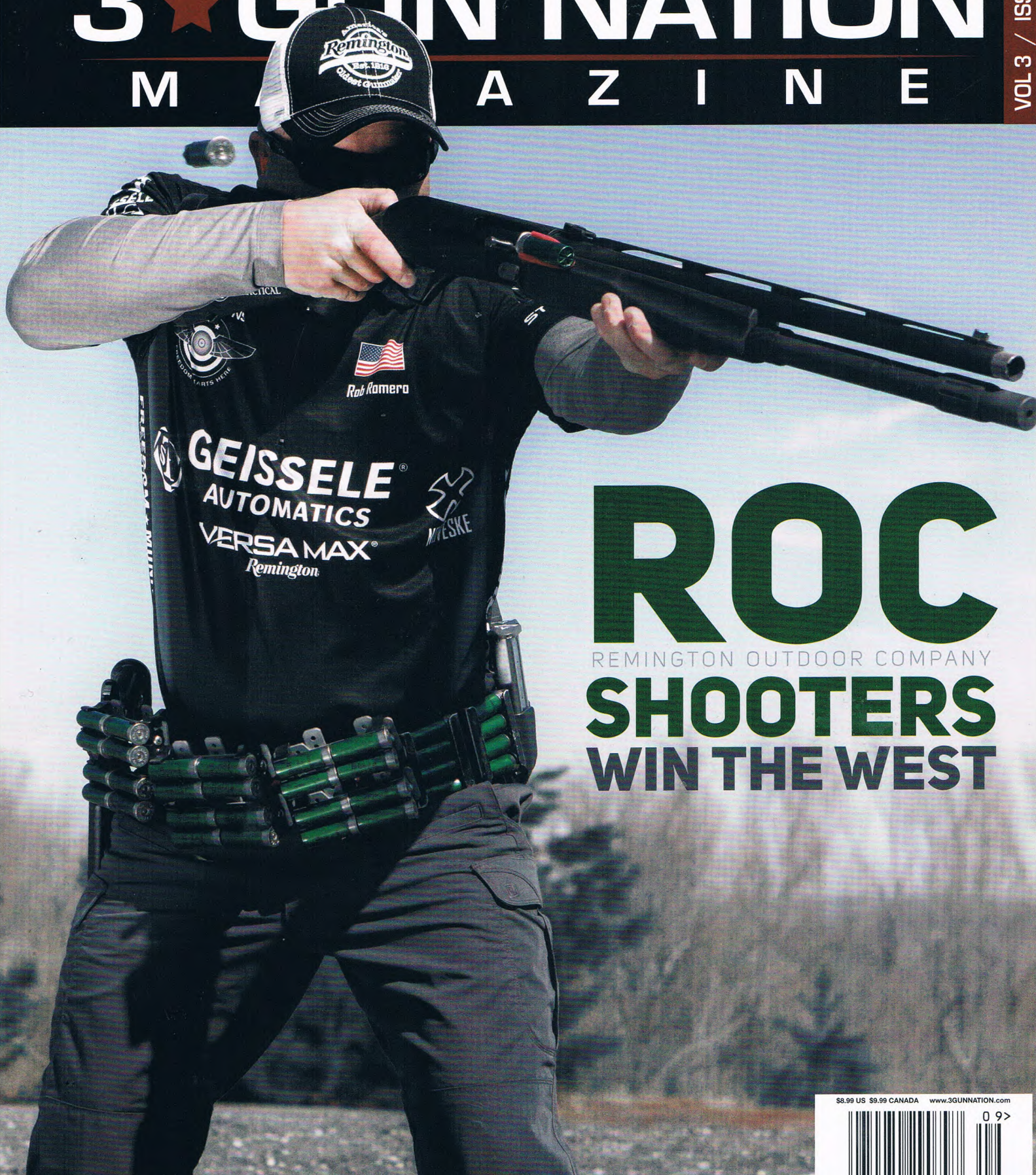


# 3★ GUN NATION

## M A Z I N E

VOL 3 / ISSUE 1



# ROC

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# UP YOUR RIFLE GAME

## Upgrade Your AR-15 with These Accessories for Better Speed and Accuracy

Ok, you're new to this 3-gun game, and you've just bought your first entry-level or standard-grade AR-15. It's likely some version of an M4-type of rifle, a flattop receiver and a 16- to 18-inch barrel, with plastic handguards, and maybe an A2-front sight assembly and corresponding gas block. You've got a nasty Mil-Spec trigger, and you're turning in 4- to 5-inch groups on the range.

But don't worry, that rifle could be just fine, and with a few upgrades get you well within the acceptable range for match accuracy and speed—and ready to compete!

### Component or Modular Trigger

Any good rifle upgrade begins with a better trigger. If your AR has a Mil-Spec version from the factory, you're way behind the curve on extracting the most accuracy from your rifle. During long-range work, it's difficult to not impart movement upon the rifle itself when pulling on a gritty, heavy trigger full of slop.

The market is currently flush with both component and modular variants available. Component trigger systems upgrade the parts of your trigger, with parts benefiting from better geometry, built to much tighter tolerances. JP has long been a sought after component upgrade in this game, really setting the benchmark, while newer players such as Hiperfire are gaining popularity.

Modular triggers, meanwhile, are self-contained in an aluminum housing and are a drop-in replacement system. The modular system is much easier to install, and by all accounts delivers perfectly suitable accuracy for the sport of 3-gun.

Timney's AR-15 Competition is one of the better modular units on the market today, proven by three of the four 3GN champions – Tommy Thacker, Keith Garcia and Greg Jordan – running a Timney on their way to winning the toughest title in the game. The AR-15 Competition is factory pre-set, at 3, 4 or 4.5 pounds, delivering a tremendous upgrade over any Mil-Spec trigger that comes standard from the factory. While the lightened, cleaner pull will help inspire better accuracy, the shorter trigger reset will aid in faster follow-up shots as well. Installation is a breeze with this trigger unit, with minimal tools or real gunsmithing skills needed to complete what is arguably the most important upgrade for your 3-gun rifle. The AR-15 Competition retails for \$228.75



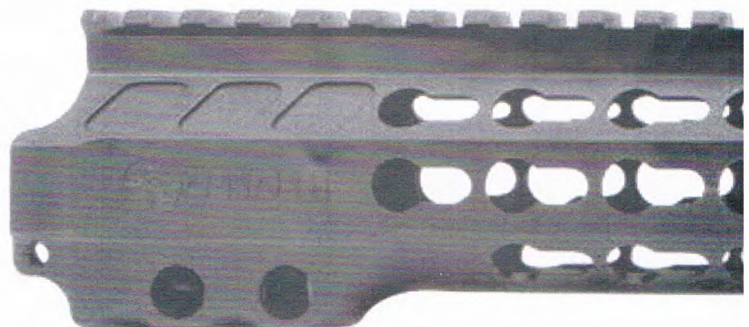
### Handguards or Rail System

Any good rifle upgrade begins with a better trigger. If your AR has a Mil-Spec version from the factory, you're way behind the curve on extracting the most accuracy from your rifle. During long-range work, it's difficult to not impart movement upon the rifle itself when pulling on a gritty, heavy trigger full of slop.

With match-grade trigger installed, another great upgrade for your 3-gun rifle comes in the form of improved handguards, or rails. The typical M4-style rails, when used during match conditions, can apply unpredictable force to the barrel during field-expedient rests. This applied stress to the barrel can deliver changes to the point of bullet impact, which can really ruin your match day. An improved handguard, aside from being lighter, smaller diameter, and more ergonomic, should also be free-floated, enabling shooters to extract the most long-range accuracy possible from their rifle, no matter the hold or rest used while on the clock.

Samson Manufacturing's Evolution line of rails has been extremely popular among 3-gunners over the last few seasons, available in several different lengths ranging from Picatinny to Key-Mod attachment systems. The 15-inch Key-Mod Evolution retails for \$219.

New at SHOT Show, Armalite introduced a line of rails sure to make a big splash. The M-15 Tac and M-15 3-Gun models each feature a smaller outside diameter, Key-Mod attachment system and ultra light-weight—the principal difference between the two models being a full length of Picatinny rail along the top of the Tac model. Available in 12- and 15-inch models, the M-15 handguards will have a suggested retail of \$189.



## Recoil & Gas Management

With the trigger and handguard upgraded to help enable us to extract the most accuracy from our rifle, now we turn toward speed in the form of the recoil management and the gas system. An adjustable gas block will enable you to tune the amount of gas that is allowed to enter the gas port, which in turn blows down the gas tube and drives the direct impingement system by imparting force upon the bolt. Meanwhile, a muzzle brake or compensator helps direct escaping gas in a new direction, helping to tame the forces of recoil into a more manageable and repeatable pattern. In the simplest terms, this recoil management helps the sights settle back on target faster, helping the shooter be ready to fire again more quickly.

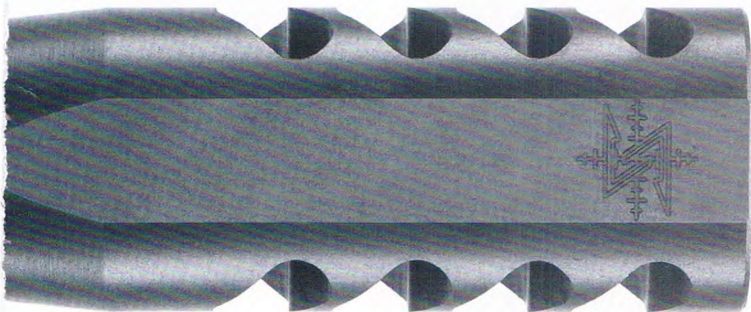
Installed and tested in concert then, a good comp/brake and adjustable gas block will enable a shooter to tune these new parts to their exact 3-gun ammunition. Adjusting the gas block to allow just a bit more than the minimum required amount of gas to reliably cycle the action, with generous testing to confirm, and now you have a gas system that gives you everything you need, and nothing you don't in terms of perceived recoil.

There are lots of great products on the market in both categories; with one system we've heard good reports on coming from Seekins Precision. Pair the company's AR ATC Muzzle Brake with its Low Profile Adjustable Gas Block, and whether you're using a high-end low mass bolt or Mil-Spec factory version, one can tune their preferred load for outstanding recoil management and shot-

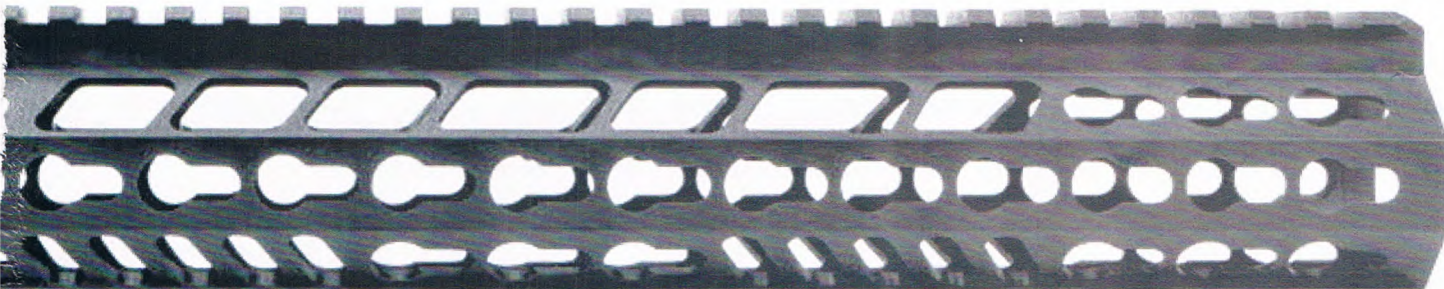
to-shot splits. The AR ATC Muzzle Brake retails for \$129, while the Low Profile Adjustable Gas Block starts at \$59.99.

Armalite also recently introduced the M-15 3-Gun Muzzle Brake, which can be tuned by using drill bits ranging from 0.118- to 0.225 inches. Holes are drilled through tuning screws, regulating the amount of gas passing through the ports located at the 3-, 9- and 12-o'clock positions.

Match it to Armalite's Adjustable Gas Block for a complete system. Team Armalite shooters have been fielding this combo to good results on the 3GN Pro Series. Look for a full review of the M-15 3-Gun Muzzle Brake in a future issue of 3-Gun Nation Magazine.



So there you have it, a complete rifle upgrade system—with each modification being well within the skillset of the average hobbyist. A competition-grade trigger to help make your shots true and fast, a free-float handguard to reduce any negative influence on your barrel, and a comp and gas block system to tame recoil and get you back on target faster than ever before—upgrade all or any one of these elements on your AR-15, add a healthy dose of ammo and practice, and you'll see faster, more accurate rifle shooting for your 3-gun game!



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## WHY TIMNEY?

- 1) Over 60 years of experience
- 2) In-House manufacturing of every major component.
- 3) All Triggers are hand assembled, tested and calibrated.
- 4) The highest quality standards in the industry.
- 5) All triggers are easily ordered online.
- 6) Expert installation available.
- 7) Best customer service in the industry.
- 8) Timney Triggers are proudly made in the USA
- 9) All Timney Triggers come with a Lifetime Warranty.



# TIMNEY TRIGGERS USA

**Why settle for a sloppy trigger which can cause a good rifle to shoot badly?**

Now you can replace your creepy two-stage trigger with one that is smooth and breaks crisp. The trigger is factory preset with a pull weight of either 3 or 4 pounds. Installation is quick and no adjustments are necessary – a 100% true drop-in trigger!



“At SHOT in 2014, I cold-called Barnes and pitched a sponsorship to them,” Outzen said. “They took a chance as they had never been involved with competitive shooting previously. So not only was it my first major match win, but it was their first match sponsorship too. I can’t thank Jessica Brooks-Stevens (Sr. Product Marketing Manager, ROC Ammunition) enough for giving me a shot to represent them.”

“I think Remington has been a huge supporter of shooters, including Jansen Jones, Kalani and myself, as we are all shooting the Versamax this year,” added Romero. “Their support has been amazing, so I think it’s awesome we were able to deliver right out of the gate. All the ROC shooters did very well at this match, and I know we all are excited to do great things for these brands going forward. After shooting a Benelli for 10 years, you’d think there would be a transition period. But I believe in the product. I’m not going to worry about a shotgun stage at all this season.”

The 3GN Western Regional Championship, presented by Barnes Bullets, provided an extremely lucrative prize table, with title sponsor Barnes putting up more than \$25,000 in bullets and loaded ammunition certificates.

More than 40 cases of 5.56, in several different loadings, highlighted the contribution, along with multiple cases of .308 Win., 300 Win. Mag., .338 Lapua, and .300 AAC BLK, along with multiple cases of .30- and .22-caliber bullets for loading.

Part of the prize contribution came from Barnes’ newest product line—Range AR, designed for target, training and competition shooting. Engineered to deliver higher velocity, flatter trajectory and dependable accuracy—at an affordable price—Range AR features quality, factory-fresh brass paired with lead-free, copper-jacketed, zinc core OTFB (Open Tip Flat Base) projectiles. According to Barnes, the robust zinc core provides excellent performance in ARs with faster twist rates, while specialized propellants optimize performance at any barrel length.

Freedom Munitions kicked in another \$15K in ammo, making this decidedly the “Ammo Regional,” which also inspired a lot of happy faces once the prize table was complete.

Oakley Standard Issue delivered more than \$14,000 in ballistic eyewear, a tremendous amount of support in this new partnership naming Oakley Standard Issue as the “Official Eyewear” of 3GN. Timney Triggers also shipped out 25 triggers, part of their continued and increased commitment as the “Official Trigger” of 3GN.

Black Hole Weaponry, Rise Armament, Seekins Precision, Condition Zero Mounts, Chamber View, XRAIL by RCI, AR-Luth, Taccom, Magpul, PrOlix and MGM Targets all gave tremendous support to the 3GN Western Regional, creating an outstanding prize table to kick off the 2015 Regional Championship Series, presented by Remington Outdoor Company.



## Cole Components Sixth Element Stock

To shoot proficiently and consistently, it’s critical that your rifle fits your body and shooting style as perfectly as possible. When your stock is properly fitted, you should be able to pick up your rifle and, with perfect placement and eye-relief, begin placing accurate shots downrange as soon as the butt pad hits your shoulder.

The 6th Element Stock from Cole Components is designed to enhance your rifle shooting performance, by providing the most adjustability of any AR-15 stock ever created, ensuring the absolute best fit possible. Weighing in at only 12 ounces the Sixth Element Stock is an ideal option for your tactical, precision rifle, and 3-gun setup. The 6th Element Stock offers six adjustments, including length of pull, camber, and height positions.

Machined in the USA from billet 6061 aluminum and filament wound carbon fiber, the Sixth Element Stock is made from the highest quality materials. Cole Components will be launching the 6th Element Stock in early Spring 2015, with a retail price under \$200.