

# Springfield Armory M1 Garand



Springfield's new M1 Garand is a mix of new parts—such as the investment cast receiver and new walnut stock from Boyd's—and original G.I. parts that have been carefully inspected and refinished. Due to the lack of imported Garands, the time has never been better for a "new" M1 to meet the demands of the shooting public.

Since the end of World War II, the M1 Garand has held a unique place of adoration in the hearts of American shooters that no other service rifle can hope to attain. It is venerated for a number of reasons. During World War II, the M1 was the tip of America's spear at a time

when our country was united in an initially desperate, but ultimately successful crusade against tyranny. The M1 is also a powerful testament to our nation's manufacturing capability and economic wealth. Compared to other military semi-automatic rifles of the day, the Garand was

expensive and difficult to manufacture. Despite the complicated and expensive milling the rifle requires, some 6 million M1s were produced over the course of its production history.

The Garand also appeals to a shooter's innate desire for milled steel and hardwood stocks. It is at heart a rifleman's rifle, one that any true rifleman is proud to carry. Additionally, many American shooters have had first-hand contact with the M1 through NRA and the Civilian Marksmanship

*For evaluation, we elected to shoot Springfield's new M1 Garand as many competitors will—with the G.I. iron sights.*



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.

## SPRINGFIELD M1

**MANUFACTURER:** Springfield, Inc., (Dept AR), 420 W. Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254; (800) 680-6866; www.springfieldarmory.com  
**CALIBER:** .30-06 Sprg. (tested) .308 Win.  
**ACTION TYPE:** gas-operated semi-automatic rifle  
**RECEIVER:** investment cast, phosphate-coated steel  
**BARREL:** 23½"  
**RIFLING:** six-groove, 1:10", RH twist  
**MAGAZINE:** eight-round en-bloc clip  
**SIGHTS:** rear aperture adjustable for windage and elevation; front post adjustable for windage  
**TRIGGER:** two-stage, 6½ lbs. pull  
**STOCK:** walnut; length of pull, 13"; drop at heel, 1½"; drop at comb, 1½"  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 39"  
**WEIGHT:** 9 lbs., 8½ ozs.  
**ACCESSORIES:** four eight-round en-bloc clips, cable lock, G.I. field manual and supplement from manufacturer  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,061



## SHOOTING RESULTS

.30-'06 Sprg. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Federal GM3006M 168-gr. BTHP Sierra MatchKing	2741 Avg. 21 Sd	2803	1.88	2.92	2.41
Hornady No. 8117 168-gr. BTHP A-Max	2782 Avg. 22 Sd	2887	1.76	2.83	2.34
U.S. M2 Ball 152-gr. FMJ Lake City 67	2821 Avg. 22 Sd	2527	3.09	4.14	3.62
Average Extreme Spread:					2.79

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 23½" barrel. Range temperature: 76° F. Humidity: 41%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: BTHP (boattail hollow point), FMJ (full metal jacket), Sd (standard deviation).

The Springfield M1's Boyd walnut stock has an attractive grain that is stained and oiled to simulate that of an original military Garand.

would be dauntingly expensive. For those with M1 parts kits, Springfield has plans to sell receivers separately in the future.

The replica receiver is investment-cast by A.D.I. of Lithgow, Australia. Springfield representatives tell us original G.I. blueprints were consulted when this project was started, and such attention to detail is evident. Our test example exhibits no casting voids and is overall of a very high standard. We compared the receiver of the new gun against an original made in 1944 by the U.S. arsenal of the same name, and there was not one contour or groove on the original that you couldn't find on the new receiver. Given the different manufacturing process, there are accordingly fewer and fainter machining marks.

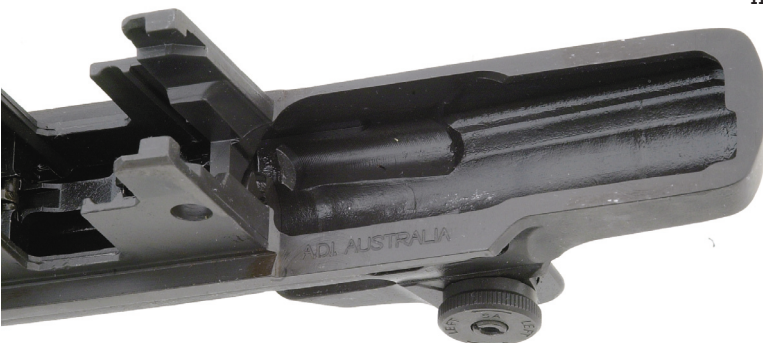
Other differences include a new barrel that has a slightly thicker profile. It also lacks the beveled



Standard G.I. sights are provided with the new gun, and the rear aperture is adjustable in 1/2-m.o.a. increments.

crown of the originals we examined. These differences are admittedly slight and visible only after considerable side-by-side examination.

Springfield has gone to great lengths to give its M1 the appearance of a newly issued gun. All of the original parts are refinished with a gray phosphate coating similar to that used on many originals. Since mint original stocks are scarce, and a beat-up surplus stock would look out of place, Springfield chose to include a new one. The new stock has a



G.I. blueprints helped ensure interior and exterior contours match the originals. The newly made investment cast receiver is supplied to Springfield, Inc., by A.D.I. of Lithgow, Australia.

Program (CMP) competition or military service. Because the war in Vietnam demanded every available M14 and M16, the Garand remained in stateside service among reserve units until the 1970s.

For those reasons and others, the M1 Garand has been a big part of America's shooting culture during the past half-century. In the past few years, film and television have thrown fuel on the fire through productions such as "Saving Private Ryan" and "Band of Brothers." This renewed interest in the Garand burst upon the shooting scene just as guns returning from our overseas allies dried up in the surplus marketplace. Springfield, Inc., of Geneseo, Ill., aims to fill this growing void with its M1. Springfield is an appropriate candidate among major manufacturers that might attempt such

an undertaking. Thirty years ago, service rifle shooters were anxious to try the M14, but the guns were not available through CMP. Springfield, Inc., began marketing the M1A, a semi-automatic, civilian version of the military's M14.

We call Springfield's M1 Garand new, but while it features a newly manufactured receiver, barrel and stock, the remainder of the parts are first-quality surplus. Springfield plans to offer just 10,000 M1s in either the gun's original chambering of .30-'06 Sprg. or .308 Win. due to the dearth of original components. M1 operating rods and gas cylinders are some of the parts whose replication

The new M1's stock is oversize and stands proud over the G.I. buttplate (r.). The attractive wood also projects above the G.I. barrel band (below).



thicker profile that stands very proud over the G.I. butt plate and barrel band. Its oversize profile was clearly intended for service rifle shooters who like the extra weight for competition purposes. Additionally, the tight fit of the stock to the receiver and trigger guard aids the M1's accuracy potential. The walnut stock from Boyd's replicates the original military finish and has attractive grain.

Like most military rifles of its era, the M1

Garand has a two-stage trigger. Our example from Springfield broke at 6¼-lbs. pull after considerable take-up. For testing, we chose match and service loads from Federal, Winchester, Hornady and Black Hills. Our test shooter, who is a southpaw, couldn't find a scope mount he could work with and chose to use the supplied iron sights instead, as most surplus and commercial units fit to the left side. The accuracy results shown on the accompany-

ing table are commendable for an M1 shot with iron sights that has not been accurized for competition.

Given the absence of an in-line stock and compensator, as well the fact that it fires a bullet three times the weight of a 5.56 mm NATO at a comparable velocity, an M1 Garand is not going to sit on top of a target like an AR-15. There is some inevitable muzzle rise, but the M1's weight and excellent balance enable the practiced

shooter to consistently return to the original point-of-aim.

The Garand is certainly one service rifle that breeds fondness rather than contempt in those who are familiar with it. Springfield's Garand costs significantly more than a heavily used surplus gun, but compares favorably with those that have been reconditioned, and should appeal to shooters and collectors in search of a desirable gun in new condition. 

## Taurus CIA Revolver

**T**aurus for a long time took the market position of offering satisfactory, value-priced alternatives to premium-priced American revolvers. During the past decade, however, the company has greatly expanded, offering popularly priced, serviceable pistols, rimfire rifles and a more extensive revolver line-up.

Despite these strides, Taurus is still best known here in America for small, self-defense-oriented revolvers. Its Model 85 was traditionally the third option

when shooters were considering a small revolver such as the Smith & Wesson Chief's Special or the discontinued Colt Detective Special. The Taurus product offered reliable functioning, similar controls and was less expensive.

In recent years, the Brazilian firm has benefitted from Smith & Wesson's lost market share that resulted from consumer outrage over its deal with the Clinton administration (a deal since abandoned by new management and the Bush Administration). With Colt



*The Taurus CIA revolver is a viable carry gun. It is handsome and appears well-made. Also, it evinces all the advantages of the concealed hammer design concept.*

out of the compact revolver business and companies such as CHARCO and Dan Wesson undergoing restructuring, Taurus became the “only game in town” for many wheelgun shoppers. Pressing its advantage, Taurus demonstrated its solidarity with gunowners by giving a free NRA annual membership with each gun sold for a limited time—an offer that the firm is repeating this year.

Into this atmosphere Taurus has now introduced the CIA, a double-action-only (DAO) .38 Spl.- or .357 Mag.-cal. revolver, a gun that strikes at the very heart of one of S&W's core product lines—the Centennials. We recently received one for testing and evaluation. The model we were sent is the .38 Spl.-cal. 850 or, more specifically, the 850SS2, the “SS” designation apparently referring to the stainless steel from which the gun is fabricated and the “2”



The feature that really sets the CIA apart from Taurus' previous offerings is the fact that it has an internal concealed hammer much like the S&W Centennial revolvers. The rear sight (above r.) is merely a fixed notch in the top rear of the frame.

referring to the barrel length in inches. The Model 850 is also available in carbon steel as the 850B2 (“B” for “blue steel”) or titanium (with a ported barrel) as the 850SH2. Additionally, the CIA is offered in the potent .357 Mag. chambering as the Models 650B2 (blued steel) and 650SS2 (stainless steel), both with ported barrels.

The immediately apparent feature, and the one that makes the CIA distinctive among Taurus' revolver line, is the fully-enclosed hammer. Taurus has offered “concealed hammer” guns previously, such as the Model 85CH, but those guns don't really have concealed hammers. What they have are spurless hammers that fit flush with the frame at rest and cannot be thumb-cocked. The CIA differs from such designs in that the hammer is completely enveloped by the frame walls. The backstrap of the CIA continues, smooth and unbroken, to the topstrap.

The advantages of such a design are numerous. The primary benefit is that it creates a snag-free profile for fast, easy and reliable presentation in a crisis. Also, because it has an internal hammer, the CIA can, if necessary, be fired from a jacket pocket without the gun jamming due to fabric getting between the hammer and firing pin.

Further, the enclosed design keeps the inner workings of the gun clean, preventing dirt, dust and debris from entering the action. Finally, by eliminating the single-action option, the gun may be less likely to be fired inadvertently in the high stress of an armed confrontation.

Taurus outdid itself on the finish of our sample gun. The satin stainless steel was immaculate. The surface was clean, softly matted and free of any rough spots or sharp

edges. There were no tooling marks to be seen anywhere and even the inner face of the recoil shield was quite smooth.

The metal-to-metal fit was also very good. It was as tight as practicable for a mass-produced carry gun, with no large or uneven gaps or misalignments.

The CIA comes fitted with Taurus' rubber finger-groove stocks. As is the trend today, the stocks do not permit purchase by all five fingers, but offer a compromise between controlla-

## CIA REVOLVER

**MANUFACTURER:** Forjas Taurus S.S.; Av. So Forte, 511-Cx. Postal 44, CEP 91.360-000, Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil

**IMPORTER:** Taurus Int'l Manufacturing, Inc. (Dept. AR), 16175 NW 49th Ave., Miami, FL 33014; (305) 624-1115; www.taurususa.com

**CALIBER:** .38 Spl. (tested), .357 Mag.

**ACTION TYPE:** double-action-only, center-fire revolver

**RECEIVER:** stainless steel (tested), blued steel, titanium

**FINISH:** matte stainless steel (tested), blued carbon steel, matte titanium

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 6¾"

**BARREL:** 2"

**RIFLING:** five-groove, 1:16" RH twist

**WEIGHT:** 23 ozs.

**SIGHTS:** integral serrated ramp front, fixed rear

**TRIGGER:** double-action-only; 9½ lbs. pull

**STOCKS:** rubber

**ACCESSORIES:** Taurus Security System integral lock

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$422

## SHOOTING RESULTS

.38 Spl. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15'	Energy (f.p.s.) (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Federal P38HS1 129-gr. HS	862 Avg. 14 Sd	213	3.56	4.79	4.12
Hornady 9032 125-gr. XTP	740 Avg. 14 Sd	152	2.75	5.0	3.65
Winchester X38HSP 125-gr. ST	808 Avg. 22 Sd	181	3.32	4.56	3.89
Average Extreme Spread					3.89

Measured velocity for 10 rounds from a 2" barrel. Range temperature 65°. Humidity: 48%. Accuracy for five consecutive 5-shot groups at 25 yds. from a Ransom Rest. Abbreviations: HS (Hydra-Shok), Sd (standard deviation), ST (SilverTip), XTP (Extreme Terminal Performance).



The CIA's 2" barrel has a fully shrouded ejector rod housing. The front sight is an integral serrated ramp.

bility and concealability. While it may feel awkward, most shooters can control a revolver without having their pinky on the grip. There is some concern that rubber stocks “catch” clothing and may not be best for concealment. On the other hand, that same tactility enhances grip when shooting. The rubber also dampens some felt recoil.

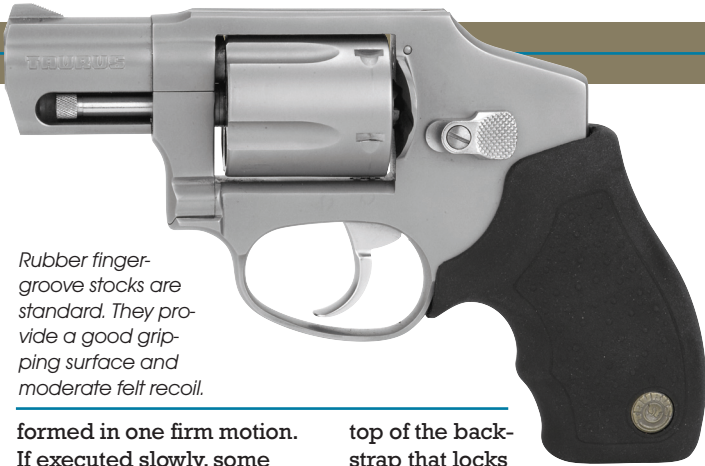
The five-shot M850SS2 is rated for +P ammunition. This looks to be a very sturdy little gun. It weighs in at 23 ozs. (24 ozs. in carbon steel). That may be problematic in a “pocket” gun, as weight is as big an obstacle as size when it comes to comfortable discreet carry.

Moreover, in weight-to-firepower ratio, this revolver compares poorly to many new compact carry pistols, including Taurus’ own Millennium models, as well as to lightweight revolvers. The stainless steel of the M850SS2 is corrosion-resistant, but so are aluminum alloy and titanium—and both are much lighter.

On the other hand, the gun’s weight goes a long way toward dampening felt recoil. Even with the hotter +P loads and without barrel porting, felt recoil is mild. The full underlug improved the balance, or lack thereof, one usually finds with a snub-nose revolver.

The M850 was smooth on the draw, as expected. The trigger was better than average for a DAO revolver. The arc was fairly short, but the pull had to be per-

*The cylinder has five chambers, and the CIA may be had in either .357 Mag. or in .38 Spl. The .38 Spl. version can handle +P loads.*



*Rubber finger-groove stocks are standard. They provide a good gripping surface and moderate felt recoil.*

formed in one firm motion. If executed slowly, some stacking is noticeable and light primer hits become a problem.

The gun was fired for accuracy with the results shown in the accompanying table. During close-range shooting drills (7 yds.) we found that the gun printed about 6" below point of aim and tended to scatter shots with the majority of ammunition we tested. Though it is serrated to prevent glare, the ramp has the same light color as the rest of the gun and is difficult to visually acquire in bright light. On the plus side, perceived recoil was—as expected—quite manageable.

The Taurus Security System is incorporated into CIA revolvers. It consists of a key-activated lock at the

top of the back-strap that locks the action. It can be utilized at the owner’s discretion and is a nice feature for those who desire an integral locking mechanism.

All things considered, the Taurus CIA revolver is a viable carry gun. It is handsome, appears well-made and evinces all the advantages of the concealed-hammer design concept. While there is a weight issue with the steel models, those who find that a problem can opt for the titanium version and get a ported barrel to boot. With the added bonus of Taurus’ Unlimited Lifetime Repair Policy, the CIA revolvers should muscle a place for themselves in the highly competitive carry gun market.



## Beretta Whitewing Over-Under

Few gunmakers produce a line of shotguns as highly regarded—and highly coveted—as that of Fabbrica d’Armi Pietro Beretta S.p.A.. There have always been those, however, who found Beretta quality economically unattainable. The Gardone Val Trompia firm’s newest model, the Whitewing, introduced in 2001, is an attempt to provide a more moderately priced over-under shotgun without compromising essential quality or shootability.

The Whitewing is produced in 12 and 20 ga., and it is a variant of the company’s popular Model S686 line. All S686 models fea-

# BERETTA WHITEWING

**MANUFACTURER:** Fabbrica d'Armi Pietro Beretta S.p.A., Via Pietro Beretta, 18-25063 Gardone Val Trompia (Brescia) Italy

**IMPORTER:** Beretta U.S.A. Corp. (Dept. AR), 17601 Beretta Drive, Accokeek, MD 20607; (301) 283-2191; www.berettausa.com

**GAUGE:** 12, 3" (tested); 20, 3"  
**ACTION TYPE:** boxlock over-under shotgun

**RECEIVER:** chrome-plated steel

**BARRELS:** 26", 28" chrome-lined, hammer-forged

**CHOKES:** interchangeable, Mobilchokes: full, modified, improved cylinder

**TRIGGER:** single selective; 4½ lbs. pull, top barrel; 4 lbs. pull, bottom barrel

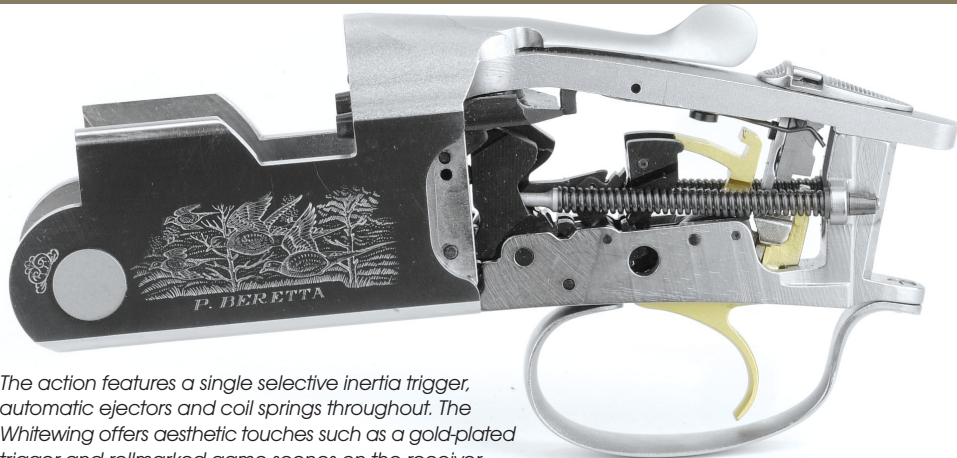
**STOCK:** walnut: length of pull, 14½"; drop at heel, 2½"; drop at comb, 1½"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 45½"

**WEIGHT:** 7 lbs., 4 ozs.

**ACCESSORIES:** choke tube wrench

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,298



The action features a single selective inertia trigger, automatic ejectors and coil springs throughout. The Whitewing offers aesthetic touches such as a gold-plated trigger and rollmarked game scenes on the receiver.



quick gun handling and recoil control.

A tang-mounted sliding safety is moved to the rear to put it in a safe condition; when it is pushed forward, a red dot becomes visible on the tang and the gun may be fired. Note that the safety automatically resets to the "safe" position when the top lever is turned to open the gun. Attached to the safety is a barrel selector button. In the leftward position, a single red dot is visible on the safety, and the shell in the bottom barrel is fired first; moved to the right, two dots can be seen, and the top barrel fires first.

Welded by laser fusion to the Whitewing's monobloc are two hammer-forged, chrome-lined barrels, which are joined only at the front and rear, leaving a space between the two tubes that reduces weight and enhances cooling. Both the 12- and 20-ga. barrels have 3" chambers, and are available in 26" or 28" lengths. Each Whitewing is supplied with full, modified and improved cylinder Beretta Mobilchoke tubes, along with a choke tube wrench. Atop the upper barrel is a 0.22"-wide rib with a machined

crosshatch pattern that cuts reflections and a 0.115"-diameter silver bead at the muzzle.

The Whitewing's walnut stock has traditional European field-gun lines with a slight shadbelly to the butt, and it features a high-gloss finish, 24-line-per-inch machine-cut checkering on the fore-end and buttstock wrist, a pronounced pistol grip and a 0.7"-thick radiused rubber recoil pad. Fore-end attachment is via a Deeley and Edge latch.

Although marketed as a more economical version of the 686, the Whitewing is not totally bereft of ornamentation. Esthetic touches include a gold-plated trigger, highly polished blued barrels, contrasting chrome plating on the matte-and-polished receiver and tasteful game bird scenes roll-marked on the receiver sides. Beretta also markets a companion gun to the Whitewing, the Blackwing,

ture a low-profile boxlock action, single selective inertia trigger, automatic ejection and coil springs throughout. Lockup is by way of locking lugs that protrude from the sides of the standing breech to engage recesses in the face of the monobloc. Designed for the long term, the new Beretta has easily replaceable hinge pins and replaceable locking lugs, which are tapered so as to remain tight even after wear from long use.

The Whitewing's trim, low-profile receiver not only reduces overall gun weight; its low bore axis also promotes effective hand/eye coordination,

*The Beretta Whitewing over-under offers the functional virtues of the firm's \$686 line in a more affordable model.*

## SHOOTING RESULTS

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.



Full Choke



Improved Cylinder Choke

■=Point of Hold

Remington Game Load GL126

12-ga., 2½", 1 oz., No. 6 Lead

Average Pellet count: 218

Measured Velocity @3-ft.: 1290 f.p.s.

Total Hits	166 (76%)	Total Hits	107 (48%)
21" Inner Circle	111 (51%)	21" Inner Circle	56 (26%)
30" Outer Ring	55 (25%)	30" Outer Ring	49 (22%)

which has a blued receiver, more extensive game scenes, a Schnabel fore-end and a list price approximately \$100 higher.

We patterned the Whitewing using the full and improved cylinder Mobilchoke tubes and a Remington game load consisting of 1 oz. of No. 6 shot. Both tubes produced patterns well within the respective percentage ranges considered standard for those chokes. The upper barrel shot about 4" low and 1" to the right in relation to the point of hold, while the lower barrel's pattern was fairly centered. The Whitewing's trigger broke crisply at 4¼ lbs. for the



Each Whitewing is supplied with full, modified and improved cylinder choke tubes (above l.) and a choke tube wrench. A sliding tang safety automatically resets to the "safe" position when the action is opened. A sliding selector switch in the middle of the button determines which barrel fires first.

upper barrel and 4¼ lbs. for the lower barrel.

Testing the Whitewing on clay targets using both the Remington game load and a Winchester AA target load of 1 oz. of No. 8 lead shot revealed that the new Beretta's shooting manners are every bit as refined as those of its more expensive siblings. While gun fit is an inherently subjective quality that varies from

person to person, our test shooters gave the Whitewing high marks. The gun balanced at the hinge pin, putting the weight nicely between the shooter's hands and promoting snappy handling. Also getting a nod of approval was the gun's trim fore-end and well-proportioned buttstock, which featured approximately 4 mm of cast-off for right-handers.

While the Whitewing lacks some aesthetic features found on Beretta's more pricey models, the new gun is every bit the functional equal of the other S686 variants when it comes to hitting clay or live targets. With a suggested list price of \$1,298, the Whitewing is sure to make the Beretta marque accessible to a greater range of shooters.



# Gamo Silver Shadow

The Gamo Silver Shadow has a black synthetic stock and nickel-plated barrel and receiver, and it generates nearly 950 f.p.s. with certain .177-cal. pellets. Its stock and finish make it a trendsetter in air rifles.



The Spanish firm of Industrias El Gamo, S.A., has become the largest airgun manufacturer in Europe by providing quality adult air rifles, air pistols, scopes, pellets and other accessories at rea-

sonable prices. The emphasis of Gamo air rifles is on plinking, short-range varmint hunting and pest control, rather than serious target competition. The newest model in the Gamo line is the Silver

Shadow, an air rifle that combines a proven spring-piston action with some novel features.

The Silver Shadow utilizes the same firing mechanism as the three popular Gamo Hunter models, all of

which are designed to propel .177-cal. pellets to 1000 f.p.s. The Silver Shadow shares many of the other features of those models, including single-stroke barrel cocking; an adjustable rear sight; an



The barrel-cocking mechanism (r.) allows easy pellet loading, even for shooters with thick fingers.

anti-beartrap safety mechanism; a two-stage trigger adjustable for second-stage length; a two-position safety inside the polymer trigger guard; a steel receiver with integral machined dovetail cuts for scope mounting; and a steel scope arresting block that prevents rearward scope movement under recoil.

Beyond those similarities to other Gamo models, the Silver Shadow has several unique features. First, instead of the walnut or beech stock used on other Gamo rifles, the Silver Shadow has a matte black solid synthetic ambidextrous stock with a high Monte Carlo comb for proper head positioning with a scope. The stock also has textured gripping panels on the wrist and fore-end, a ventilated 1"-thick recoil pad and a single sling swivel stud at the stock toe.

Also new is the electroless-nickel plating on the barrel and receiver, which produces an aesthet-

ically pleasing contrast with the black stock while also inhibiting rust and corrosion. There are steel components (such as the cocking linkage and trigger mechanism) that are not plated.

Finally, the Silver Shadow sports a new iron sight system incorporating TRUGLO fiber-optic units in both the front sight post and rear sight blade, resulting in a glowing three-dot sight picture with a red dot centered between two green dots. The front sight unit is a synthetic collar that fits around the muzzle, incorporating a dovetail-mounted bead. The rear sight is a steel and notched plastic unit with large, well-marked dials click-adjustable for windage and elevation.

We tested the Silver Shadow for accuracy at 10 meters with no malfunctions of any kind. We used the Silver Shadow's iron sights, which were among

## SHOOTING RESULTS

.177 cal. Pellet	Vel. @15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Gamo Hunter 8.3 gr.	921 Avg. 30 Sd	15.6	0.56	0.83	0.72
Gamo MP 7.9 gr.	924 Avg. 6 Sd	14.9	0.49	0.76	0.65
Gamo Match 7.5 gr.	934 Avg. 8 Sd	14.5	0.46	0.67	0.58
Average Extreme Spread					0.65

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from an 18" barrel. Range temperature: 60° F. Humidity: 56%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups of 10 meters from a sandbag. Abbreviations: MP (Master Point), Sd (standard deviation).

the best we've used on a rifle of this type, and that contributed to the tight groups we achieved. Best accuracy was obtained with Gamo Match pellets, which produced a 0.58" average group size with a velocity of 934 f.p.s. (the highest velocity obtained with any pellet tested). Full accuracy and velocity results are given in the accompanying table.

Informal shooting—both offhand and from a rest—at empty 35 mm film canisters and small-size cat food cans amply demonstrated the Silver Shadow's ability to hit small targets at 25 to 30 yds. Even when used with iron sights alone, the Silver Shadow has sufficient power and accuracy to eliminate any rat or starling within that range.

The 38-lb. cocking effort, while no problem for our 5'11", 210-lb. test shooter, was a reminder that the rifle was designed for adult use. Recoil and vibration were noticeable but not distracting. Our test

shooter considered the stock's proportions well suited to an adult frame, and the rifle's 6-lb. weight balanced about 6" forward of the trigger guard, giving a slightly muzzle-heavy feel that contributed to steady offhand shooting.

The gun's trigger is a slightly creepy 4 lbs., and a front sling swivel stud to

match the one at the stock toe would be welcome.

While synthetic stocks and plated finishes are not new among cartridge arms, the Silver Shadow is among the first arms to extend that trend to air rifles. The rifle offers good accuracy, high velocity, rugged design and an eye-catching appearance at a modest list price.



## SILVER SHADOW

**MANUFACTURER:** Industrias El Gamo, S.A., .0830 Sant Boi de Llobregat, Ctra. Sta. Cruz de Calafell, km 10, Barcelona, Spain

**IMPORTER:** Gamo USA (Dept. AR), 3911 S.W. 47th Ave., Suite 914, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314; (954) 581-5822; www.gamo.com

**CALIBER:** .177 (tested), .22

**ACTION TYPE:** single-stroke, barrel-cocking, spring-piston air rifle

**RECEIVER:** electroless, nickel-plated steel

**BARREL:** 18"

**RIFLING:** 12-groove, RH twist

**SIGHTS:** front bead; rear notch click-adjustable for windage and elevation; TRUGLO fiber-optic three-dot sighting system; receiver grooved for scope mounts

**TRIGGER:** two-stage, 4 lbs. pull, adjustable for second-stage length

**STOCK:** black synthetic with textured gripping panels: length of pull, 13 3/4"; drop at comb, 1 1/4"; drop at heel of comb, 1 1/4"; drop at heel, 1 1/4"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 43 1/2"

**WEIGHT:** 6 lbs., 2 ozs.

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$200



The trigger pull weight of our sample's two-stage unit measured 4 lbs., and the second stage's length of pull is adjustable by the user.