



# RUGER 22/45 MK III HUNTER

**N**ow in its 57th year of production, Ruger's classic .22 rimfire pistol continues to reinvent itself. The latest iteration of this icon is the 22/45 Mk III Hunter model intended for small-game hunting, plinking and informal target shooting.

The 22/45 Hunter has a grip frame molded from black Zytel polymer. Its 11 degree grip angle

is similar to that of M1911 pistols. Weighing 5.4 ozs, this synthetic grip assembly is 58 percent lighter than the 12.8-oz. metal grip assembly of the standard Mk III pistol. The light grip frame puts the center of balance just inside the front of the trigger guard. That creates a mild muzzle heaviness that aids sight alignment and reduces muzzle rise. With an empty weight of 33½ ozs., the Hunter can be carried comfortably in the field for long periods.

The Hunter's integral grip panels are molded with a finely checkered flat diamond pattern with a red Ruger logo insert. To help maintain a secure grip, the backstrap is checkered with a coarse,

*An internal locking system operated by a special key prevents unauthorized use by locking the safety in the "on" position, preventing the bolt from being opened.*

flat diamond pattern and the front-strap with fine horizontal grooves. We found the 2<sup>7</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" pull length and trigger position offered an especially comfortable grip for shooters with small hands. The trigger's long take-up was completely offset by the 4-lb. pull weight with crisp let-off and short overtravel.

As with disassembly and assembly of all Ruger rimfire pistols, removal and installation of the (in)famous mainspring housing must be mastered in order to perform routine maintenance. While the process for the 22/45 Hunter differs slightly from that of the standard Mk III, it is easy once you get the knack of it, and the instruction manual clearly illustrates and describes the process. Once the mainspring housing assembly is removed, the receiver slides easily off the frame, allowing full access to the fire-control system.

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 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.

## SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

.22 LONG RIFLE CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
REMINGTON No. 6122 40-GR. LRN	1000 AVG. 49 SD	89	1.26	5.10	2.86
FEDERAL No. 710 40-GR. LRN	1094 AVG. 19 SD	106	1.98	3.04	2.48
WINCHESTER No. X22LRH 37-GR. HP	1085 AVG. 25 SD	97	1.50	3.20	2.31

### AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD:

2.57

VELOCITIES REPRESENT AN AVERAGE OF 10 SHOTS FIRED OVER A CHRONOGRAPH AT 15 FT. ACCURACY RESULTS REPRESENT AN AVERAGE OF FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS FIRED OFF SANDBAGS AT 25 YDS. ABBREVIATIONS: LRN (LEAD ROUND NOSE), HP (HOLLOW POINT), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).



*The rear sight blade features a shallow V notch with a vertical white line.*

The Hunter comes equipped with no less than four safety systems: a swinging-button manual safety, a magazine safety, an internal lock and a loaded-chamber indicator. The manual safety button locks the trigger, and the magazine-disconnect safety prevents the pistol from firing unless a magazine is fully inserted. The internal lock fixes the safety in the "on" position using a special key to prevent unauthorized use. The loaded-chamber indicator provides visual and tactile indication when a cartridge is in the chamber. While this may sound complicated, the systems are intuitive and function smoothly together. Because of the magazine safety and elongated magazine floorplate, 22/45 magazines will not fit older Mk I or Mk II pistols or standard Mk III pistols.

With a sight radius of 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>", high-visibility front-sight blade inserts and a rear sight that is adjustable for windage and elevation, the Hunter comes well equipped for accurate shooting. Horizontal

loops in the front sight blade hold a translucent red or yellow/green plastic rod with beads in diameters of 0.095", 0.110" or 0.122". The rod is held in place by a small, flat spring that engages a notch on the rod. The rods are easy to change using the special plastic tool included for the purpose. The upper edge of the rear sight blade slopes downward to a shallow V notch. Beneath the notch is a vertical white line. In use, the white line and high-visibility front sight are quickly and easily aligned. The receiver is also drilled and tapped for an included scope base.

The 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" fluted barrel of the Hunter is 0.875" in diameter with four full flutes and two partial flutes 0.300" in width and 0.110" in depth to reduce weight. Accuracy of the Hunter proved more than adequate for the intended purpose. One feature the Hunter shares with most other Ruger semi-automatic .22 pistols we have tested is flawless functioning with standard-velocity or

## RUGER 22/45 MK III HUNTER

**MANUFACTURER:** STURM, RUGER & CO., INC. (DEPT. AR), 1 LACEY PLACE, SOUTHPORT, CT 06890; (203) 256-3860; WWW.RUGER.COM

**CALIBER:** .22 LONG RIFLE

**ACTION TYPE:** SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIMFIRE PISTOL

**FRAME:** MOLDED BLACK ZYTEL SYNTHETIC  
**BARREL:** 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>", FLUTED STAINLESS STEEL  
**RIFLING:** 1:16", SIX-GROOVE, RH TWIST  
**SIGHTS:** RAMPED-POST FRONT WITH INTERCHANGEABLE HIGH-VISIBILITY PLASTIC INSERTS; NOTCHED-BLADE REAR, CLICK-ADJUSTABLE FOR WINDAGE AND ELEVATION; RECEIVER DRILLED AND TAPPED FOR SCOPE BASES

**TRIGGER PULL:** SINGLE ACTION, 4 LBS.

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"

**HEIGHT:** 5<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"

**WIDTH:** 1"


**WEIGHT:** 33½ OZS.

**ACCESSORIES:** PLASTIC CASE, INSTRUCTION MANUAL, SIX HIGH-VISIBILITY FRONT SIGHT BLADE INSERTS, SIGHT INSERT TOOL, TWO WRENCHES FOR INTERNAL LOCK, EXTRA MAGAZINE, SCOPE BASE

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$487

high-velocity .22 Long Rifle ammunition loaded with either solid or hollow-point bullets.

At the range, most observers commented favorably on the 22/45 Hunter's clean lines, crisp workmanship and utilitarian materials. Its stainless steel barrel and receiver are corrosion-resistant, and the synthetic grip frame is corrosion-proof. Both should provide many years of service with very little maintenance.

Considering the high order of workmanship, flawless functioning, excellent sights and multiple safety systems, Ruger's new 22/45 Mk III Hunter is truly a pistol for all seasons. 

*The elongated floorplate used for the 22/45 Mk III's magazine (l.), along with its facility for use with the gun's magazine disconnect safety, preclude its use in standard Mk III pistols with metal frames.*



# LEGACY ESCORT COMBO SHOTGUN

Escort semi-automatic shotguns are made in Turkey by Hatsan Arms Co. and imported by Legacy Sports. When importation of Turkish-made shotguns first began, the jury remained out on the question of quality. Now the jury has returned a verdict: Escort shotguns offer a host of features and significant value.

Hatsan Arms accomplished this by licensing mature Italian shotgun designs and building them on modern machinery in Turkey. Look closely at the Escort Combo shotgun, and you will see the unmistakable styling and mechanical cues from its Italian heritage, such as the vented fore-end and sophisticated gas system. By taking advantage of the low labor costs in Turkey, Hatsan can offer a shotgun loaded with features at an attractive price.

Legacy's Escort Combo consists of a 12- or 20-ga., 3" magnum shotgun with two nickel-chrome steel

barrels: a 24" barrel with an adjustable sight for turkey hunting and a 28" barrel for waterfowl hunting. The barrels accept screw-in choke tubes, and four are included—three internal type (improved cylinder, modified, and full) suitable for steel shot and one external, extra-full turkey type for lead shot. Both barrels have aluminum alloy ventilated ribs with cross hatching to reduce glare and chrome-lined bores to facilitate cleaning.

The Escort 24" turkey barrel has a HiViz front sight with yellow/green, interchangeable light pipes having triangular tips of different heights for vertical adjustment of the shot pattern impact point. In addition, the front sight can be pivoted to adjust for windage. The U-shaped rear sight has a fixed light pipe with a tip on both sides of the U. In use, the two tips can be quickly aligned with the triangle front sight.

Gas operation is by means of two angled holes in the barrel about 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " in front of the bolt face that bleed gas into a collar under the barrel. The gas impinges on a sliding piston that pushes the dual operating rods and bolt to the rear against a captive recoil spring on the magazine tube. When the piston clears the collar, gas in excess of that needed to cycle the action is vented inside the fore-end. It then exits through eight angled slots.

Barrels are interchangeable by removing the magazine cap and sliding them forward. The single locking lug on the upper surface of the bolt locks into a depression in the barrel extension. The receiver holds the magazine tube, fire-control assembly and bolt/carrier assembly. Magazine capacity is four rounds with one in the chamber and two rounds plus one in the chamber for waterfowl with the included plug installed.

The bolt-release button is on the lower left side of the receiver, and

*Two holes in the barrel bleed gas into a collar where it impinges on a sliding piston. The piston pushes the dual operating rods and bolt to the rear against the recoil spring. Gas not needed to cycle the action is vented.*

*Legacy's Escort Combo consists of a gas-operated, 3" magnum shotgun with two barrels: a 24" barrel with an adjustable HiViz sight for turkey hunting and a 28" barrel for waterfowl hunting. Both barrels have chrome-lined bores and accept a wide variety of internal or external screw-in choke tubes.*



*The rear sight can be mounted anywhere along the ventilated rib, although Hatsan recommends placing it 20" from the front sight.*

## LEGACY ESCORT SHOTGUN

**MANUFACTURER:** HATSAN ARMS CO., IZMIR-ANKARA KARAYOLU 28. KM No. 289, KEMALPASA TR-35170 IZMIR, TURKEY

**IMPORTER:** LEGACY SPORTS INT'L (DEPT. AR), 4750 LANGLEY LANE, SUITE 208, RENO, NV 89502; (775) 828-0555; WWW.LEGACYSPTS.COM

**GAUGE:** 12, 3" (TESTED); 20, 3"

**ACTION TYPE:** GAS-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN

**RECEIVER:** ALUMINUM ALLOY

**BARRELS:** 24" AND 28", CHROME-LINED WITH VENTILATED RIB

**CHOKES:** THREE INTERNAL CHOKE TUBES: FULL, MODIFIED, IMPROVED CYLINDER; ONE EXTERNAL CHOKE TUBE: TURKEY

**SIGHTS:** 24" BARREL: HiVIZ FRONT WITH INTERCHANGEABLE GREEN/YELLOW LIGHT PIPES, ADJUSTABLE FOR WINDAGE AND ELEVATION, DETACHABLE HiVIZ REAR; 28" BARREL: HiVIZ FRONT BEAD

**TRIGGER PULL:** 3 LBS., 8 OZS.

**STOCK:** SYNTHETIC WITH MOSSY OAK OBSESSION CAMO FINISH, VENTILATED RUBBER RECOIL PAD; LENGTH OF PULL 13 $\frac{7}{8}$ ", DROP AT HEEL (ADJUSTABLE) 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", DROP AT COMB 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ "

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 47 $\frac{5}{8}$ " (28" BARREL)

**WEIGHT:** 7 LBS., 6 OZS. (28" BARREL)

**ACCESSORIES:** HARD-PLASTIC CARRY CASE, INSTRUCTION MANUAL, EXTRA BARREL, CABLE GUN LOCK, CHOKE-TUBE KEY, FOUR CHOKE TUBES, CHOKE-TUBE BOX, SCREW DRIVER, TWO STOCK SHIMS, TWO RUBBER "O" RINGS, FOUR HIGH-VISIBILITY FRONT SIGHT LIGHT-PIPE INSERTS, MAGAZINE-SPRING FOLLOWER, MAGAZINE PLUG

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$574


the crossbolt safety is in the rear of the trigger guard. The magazine cut-off button is located on the right front side of the receiver. To load the Escort, a shell is placed on the lifter inside the receiver and the bolt-release button is pressed. With the safety on, additional shells can be inserted in the magazine tube through the opening in the bottom of the receiver.

As appropriate for use in wet, cold climates where any bright object may cause birds to flare, Hatsan has equipped the Escort Combo with a synthetic stock that is impervious to moisture, a 13 $\frac{7}{8}$ " pull on the stock for use with heavy coats, and Mossy Oak Obsession camouflage finish on the fore-end, stock and external metal surfaces. Another indication of the attention to detail was the black finish on the bolt and operating handle to eliminate reflective surfaces. In addition, there are two European specialties: the magazine cut-off switch and sling swivels.

We found the Escort to be surprisingly lively for a magnum waterfowl/turkey shotgun weighing just over 7 lbs. Empty balance is just forward of the rear edge of the fore-end, placing the mass between the shooter's off-hand and

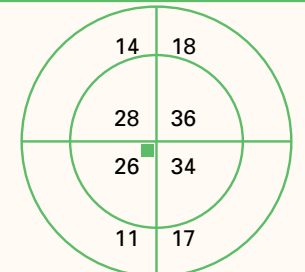
shoulder for a controlled swing. With the 28" barrel, we found the Escort placed shot patterns consistently low and left.

Operation of the Escort proved intuitive with all controls well-placed. Trigger pull was crisp with very little take-up or overtravel. Functioning proved flawless with all 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 3" loads tested. Recoil proved very heavy with 3" loads and moderately heavy with 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " magnum loads. Replacing the hard rubber recoil pad with a softer pad, adding weight and porting the barrels would help tame the heavy recoil but, of course, would also raise the price.

The Escort Combo is an excellent value for the waterfowler or turkey hunter who enjoys both seasons, but does not want to purchase two separate shotguns. 

## SHOOTING RESULTS 24" BARREL

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS @ 40 YDS.



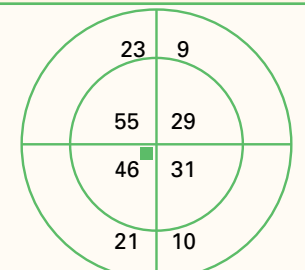
■ = POINT OF HOLD

WINCHESTER XX MAGNUM No. X123XC  
12-GA., 3", 1 $\frac{1}{8}$  OZ., No. 4  
COPPER-BUFFERED LEAD  
AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 245  
MEASURED VELOCITY @ 3 FT.:  
1118 F.P.S.  
REMAINING ENERGY PER PELLET:  
3.7 FT.-LBS.

TOTAL HITS	184 (75%)
21" INNER CIRCLE	124 (51%)
30" OUTER RING	60 (24%)

## SHOOTING RESULTS 28" BARREL

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS @ 40 YDS.



■ = POINT OF HOLD

ENVIRON METAL HEAVY-SHOT  
12-GA., 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  OZ., No. 6  
HEAVY-SHOT  
AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 257  
MEASURED VELOCITY @ 3 FT.:  
1327 F.P.S.  
REMAINING ENERGY PER PELLET:  
2.3 FT.-LBS.

TOTAL HITS	224 (88%)
21" INNER CIRCLE	161 (63%)
30" OUTER RING	63 (25%)



# BURRIS FULLFIELD II

## 4.5-14X42 MM

### BALLISTIC PLEX

**W**hen designing its Ballistic Plex reticle, engineers at Burris observed that the trajectories of many popular cartridges (such as the .243 Win. with a 100-gr. bullet, .270 Win. with a 150-gr. bullet and .30-'06 Sprg. with a 165-gr. bullet) were remarkably similar. Using Sierra's Infinity Ballistics Software and extensive testing, they developed a set of ballistic reference lines for a number of different cartridges and loads.

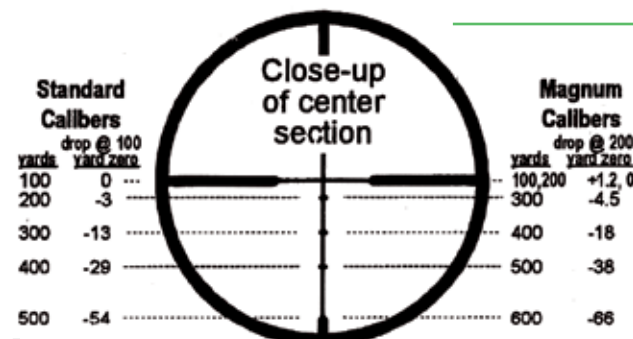
In theory, one zeroes the scope at 100 yds. using the center of the crosshairs. The successive ballistic reference lines are then used to shoot at 200, 300 and 400 yds., respectively. For shooting at 500 yds., the junction of the thick and thin segments of the lower vertical crosshair is used as the aiming point. However, Burris recommends shooting tests to verify the accuracy of the reference lines.

Since the Ballistic Plex reticle is in the second focal plane, the factory-calibrated trajectory compensation

is accurate at only one magnification, indicated by a dot on the power ring. Also, the Ballistic Plex is not designed to assist with range estimation, but should be used in conjunction with a laser rangefinder or some similar device. When the reticle is used with higher-velocity magnums, the center of the crosshairs can be zeroed at 200 yds., assigning the ballistic reference lines to 300, 400, 500 and 600 yds.

We tested a Fullfield II 4.5-14x42 mm scope with a Ballistic Plex reticle, and like the 15 other models in the line, it had a 1" one-piece aircraft-aluminum tube, multicoating on all lenses, steel-on-steel clickers, double internal springs, quad seals in the ocular/power-ring area and full waterproofing and nitrogen purging.

We mounted our Fullfield II scope on a highly accurate Howa 1500 heavy-barreled .308 Win. target rifle, using a Farrell Picatinny rail base and TRS steel rings. Federal's 155-gr. Gold Medal match ammunition was used to calibrate the scope.



*The Ballistic Plex reticle can be used to aim dead-on at 100 to 500 yds. with a variety of standard cartridges, and 200 to 600 yds. with many magnums.*

#### BURRIS FULLFIELD II

**MANUFACTURER:** BURRIS CO., INC. (DEPT. AR), 331 E. 8TH ST., GREELEY, CO 80631; (970) 356-1670; WWW.BURRISOPTICS.COM

**MODEL:** 200183

**MAGNIFICATION AND OBJECTIVE:** 4.5-14x42 MM

**TUBE DIAMETER:** 1"

**FINISH:** MATTE-BLACK ANODIZING

**FIELD OF VIEW (FT. @ 100 YDS.):** 22 FT. (4.5X), 7.5 FT. (14X)

**EYE RELIEF:** 3.1"-3.8"

**CLICK VALUE:** ¼" @ 100 YDS.

**WINDAGE AND ELEVATION ADJUSTMENT RANGE:** 40" @ 100 YDS. (W), 40" @ 100 YDS. (E)

**RETICLE:** BALLISTIC PLEX

**LENGTH:** 13"

**WEIGHT:** 18 OZS.

**FEATURES:** OBJECTIVE PARALLAX FOCUS RING, ADJUSTABLE FROM 50 YDS. TO INFINITY; RUBBER-COATED OCULAR FOCUSING RING

**ACCESSORIES:** OWNER'S MANUAL, LENS COVERS

**OPTIONS:** SUNSHADE

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$602

The Ballistic Plex is not specifically calibrated for this load; however, it is calibrated for 150-gr., .30-'06 Sprg. ammunition, which is ballistically similar. In any event, we wanted to see how easy it would be to recalibrate the Ballistic Plex for this load.

With initial zeroing done at 100 yds. at the recommended 14X magnification, the 200- and 300-yd. zeros indicated by the reticle were acceptably close to the actual bullet trajectory. The 400- and 500-yd. reticle zeros, however, were off roughly 4" and 7", respectively. Using the instruction sheet, we recalibrated the reticle to the actual ballistics of a load by forgoing the 100-yd. zero, and instead zeroing the scope at 400 yds. using the 400-yd. reference line on the reticle. That placed the zeros indicated by the reticle within 2" of the actual bullet impacts.

With a little effort on the shooter's part, the 4.5-14x42 mm Fullfield II is a versatile optical tool suitable for both big-game and varmint hunting. 