



The SSG 04's minimum-dimension ejection port contributes to the rigidity of its receiver while a Picatinny rail facilitates scope mounting.

STEYR SSG 04 RIFLE

First seen in 2003 and distributed in quantity in 2004, the Steyr SSG 04 supersedes the company's venerable rear-locking SSG 69 bolt gun, which has served police and military units worldwide for more than 30 years, and which, at present, is still available. Chamberings for the SSG 04 are .308 Win. and .300 Win. Mag. We evaluated a sample in the latter.

The SSG 04 utilizes the Steyr Safe Bolt System (SBS) (July 1997, p. 44). The SBS is characterized by a number of unique features, including a full-diameter forward-locking bolt with lugs that are enclosed by a

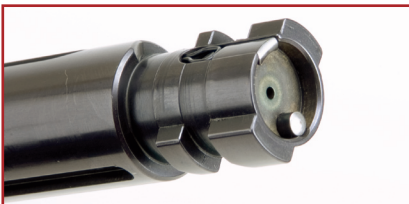
safety bushing to contain any escaping gas, a bolt handle that locks into the receiver and thus acts as a safety lug, and a rearward extension of the firing pin that serves to indicate if the action is cocked.

Also innovative is the Steyr 2+1 Safety System that employs a unique tang-mounted rotating three-position safety piece. When the red indicator dot on the safety can be seen, the action can be worked and the gun fired. Rotated rearward so that only the white dot is visible, the gun's action may be worked, but the trigger is locked. To lock both the bolt and trigger, the safety is rotated



fully to the rear. Additionally, when the safety is in this position, the bolt handle may be pressed downward an additional 3/16" or so to lock the firing pin as well.

This safety system is also employed to remove the bolt. With the bolt handle lifted, putting the safety piece in the third



The SSG 04's bolt head features four locking lugs, a plunger ejector and a pivoting extractor.

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 (100 YDS.)

.300 WIN. MAG. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL No. GM300WM 190-GR. BTHP MK	2919 17 Sd	3,595	0.83	1.33	1.15
HORNADY No. 82035 178-GR. A-MAX	2878 18 Sd	3,275	0.62	0.97	0.78
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD:					0.96

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 23.6" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 80° F. HUMIDITY: 55%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A BIPOD AND REAR SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: BTHP (BOATTAIL HOLLOW-POINT), MK (MATCHKING), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).



The muzzle is fitted with a brake (above, l.). The grey button (above, r.) must be depressed to disengage the SSG 04's safety.



"locked" position allows the bolt to be withdrawn rearward from the receiver.

The .300 Win. Mag. SSG 04 comes with a 23.6" hammer-forged barrel, while the .308 Win. can be had with either 20" or 23.6" tubes. At 1.15" in diameter forward of the receiver ring and 0.78" just rearward of the muzzle brake, the barrel has a rather lightweight profile for easy field carry.

The bolt features four lugs arranged in pairs arrayed 180 degrees apart, with the lug circle and bolt body having the same 0.825" diameter. Bolt lift is approximately 70 degrees. Because the lugs of the bolt are the same outside diameter as the bolt body, there is no need for interior raceways, which allows the 1.375"-diameter steel receiver to maintain a beefy 0.275" wall thickness throughout its length.

The SSG 04 utilizes the same trigger as other SBS rifles and is factory-set at around 3 lbs., 8 ozs. to 4 lbs., 8 ozs. Pull weight is not user-adjustable but can be lightened by a certified Steyr service technician or a qualified gunsmith.

Right-side thumbscrews on the butt allow the comb to be elevated 1.5", and the vertical butt pad position can be adjusted through a practical range of about 3". Spacers allow pull length to be modified as well. The stock also features a 3/4"-thick butt pad and dual sling-swivel studs. Although the gun's narrow, tapered fore-end is not optimal for sandbag use, it is appropriate for the Harris bipod included with the rifle.

The SSG 04's staggered, double-column, synthetic box magazine has a capacity of 10 rounds in .308 Win. and seven rounds in .300 Win. Mag. Depressing the two spring-

STEYR SSG 04

MANUFACTURER: STEYR MANNLICHER GMBH & Co. KG, RAMINGTAL 46, 4442 KLEINRAMING, AUSTRIA; WWW.STEYR-MANNLICHER.COM

IMPORTER: STEYR ARMS, INC. (DEPT. AR), P.O. BOX 2609, CUMMING, GA 30028; (770) 888-4201; WWW.STEYRARMS.COM

CALIBER: .308 WIN., .300 WIN. MAG. (TESTED)

ACTION TYPE: BOLT-ACTION, CENTER-FIRE REPEATING RIFLE

RECEIVER: BLUED STEEL

BARREL LENGTH: 23.6"; 20"

AVAILABLE ONLY IN .308 WIN.

RIFLING: FOUR GROOVE, 1:10" RH TWIST

MAGAZINE: SYNTHETIC DETACHABLE BOX MAGAZINE, 10-ROUND CAPACITY (.308 WIN.), SEVEN-ROUND CAPACITY (.300 WIN. MAG.)

SIGHTS: NONE SUPPLIED; PICATINNY RAIL FOR SCOPE MOUNTING

TRIGGER PULL: TWO STAGE, 3 LBS., 8 OZS.

STOCK: FIBERGLASS-REINFORCED BLACK SYNTHETIC; LENGTH OF PULL, 13⁷/₈"; DROP AT HEEL, 1¹/₂"; DROP AT COMB, 1" (WITH COMB FULLY LOWERED)

OVERALL LENGTH: 46³/₄"


WEIGHT: 9 LBS., 14 OZS. (WITHOUT BIPOD)

ACCESSORIES: PLASTIC CASE, TEST TARGET, INSTRUCTION MANUAL, HARRIS BIPOD

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$2,717

loaded catches on either side of the box releases the magazine. We test-fired the SSG 04 at 100 yds. off a Harris bipod and a rear sandbag using Hornady and Federal match ammunition. Although recoil was considerably attenuated by the muzzle brake, there was still considerable gun movement upon firing. However, this did not seem to impair grouping, which was particularly impressive with the Hornady load. No malfunctions of any kind were noted.

Trigger quality was good: a crisp break, right at 3 lbs, 8 ozs. About the only complaint we had was that during gun cleaning, the comb had to be raised to its maximum height for bolt removal, and then fully lowered for cleaning rod insertion.

In features and accuracy, the Steyr SSG 04 is the equal of any of the current crop of factory tactical rifles. Weighing around 13 lbs. with a scope, it will be especially attractive to users desiring the range and power of a precision rifle in an easily portable package. 



WILSON COMBAT CARRY COMP

Produced exclusively in .45 ACP, the Wilson Combat Carry Comp is only about 1/2" shorter than a full-size Government Model, but it incorporates a single-port compensator at the end of a shortened slide. Two versions are offered: a Compact model with an Officer's ACP-size frame and a Professional model based on a full-size frame. We tested the latter.

Both models are built on Wilson Combat 70-series-style slides and frames that are CNC-machined from high-quality 4140 forgings. All Carry Comp components are from Wilson; and for extra longevity, heavy-duty

Wilson Bullet Proof parts are used wherever possible.

The Carry Comp has the requisite features of a modern custom M1911, such as a lightweight aluminum trigger, a slotted Commander-style hammer and a fitted match-grade barrel. An extended ejector, a lowered and flared ejection port, and a fully throated barrel promote reliability.

Ergonomics are emphasized in the gun's extended thumb safety, extended magazine-release button, beavertail grip safety with palm pad, high-cut frontstrap with 30 line-per-inch machine-cut checkering, checkered mainspring

housing, beveled magazine well and thorough dehorning. Essentially a custom pistol, the Carry Comp can be had with a choice of long or short trigger, arched or flat mainspring housing, and either strong-side or ambidextrous thumb safety.

Recoil is handled by a 12-lb. recoil spring, a standard spring guide and a reverse plug that extends forward under the compensator body, allowing the use of a longer spring for smoother and more reliable cycling.

A fixed, no-sag Wilson rear sight and a slightly ramped 0.125"-wide by 0.150"-high front post,

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

.45 ACP CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
COR-BON POW'R BALL 165-GR. SP	1123 Avg. 22 Sd	462	1.60	2.07	1.73
HORNADY No. 91128 200-GR. TAP FPD	991 Avg. 7 Sd	436	1.42	1.88	1.63
WINCHESTER No. S45 230-GR. SXT	823 Avg. 11 Sd	346	2.20	2.56	2.39
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD:					1.91

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 4" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 82° F. HUMIDITY: 66%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FROM A CALDWELL HAMMR REST. ABBREVIATIONS: FPD (FOR PERSONAL DEFENSE), SP (SOFT POINT), SXT (SUPREME EXPANSION TECHNOLOGY), TAP (TACTICAL APPLICATION POLICE), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).



Sights include a fixed no-slag rear notch and front post; both have tritium inserts (below). As its name implies, the Carry Comp features a single-port compensator (far, r.) contoured to match the slide.



WILSON CARRY COMP

MANUFACTURER: WILSON COMBAT (DEPT. AR), 2234 CR 719, BERRYVILLE, AR 72616-4573; (800) 955-4856; WWW.WILSONCOMBAT.COM

CALIBER: .45 ACP

ACTION TYPE: SHORT-RECOIL-OPERATED, SINGLE-ACTION, CENTER-FIRE SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL

FRAME: FORGED 4140 STEEL

BARREL: STAINLESS STEEL, 4"

RIFLING: SIX GROOVES, 1:16" RH TWIST

MAGAZINE: STEEL BOX WITH EXTENDED BASEPAD, EIGHT-ROUND CAPACITY

SIGHTS: RAMPED DOVETAIL-MOUNTED FRONT POST; REAR NO-SLAG FIXED; TRITIUM INSERTS IN THREE-DOT PATTERN

TRIGGER PULL: SINGLE ACTION; 4 LBS.

GRIPS: CHECKERED KINGWOOD, COCOBOLO OR DYMONDWOOD

OVERALL LENGTH: 8¼"

HEIGHT: 5¾"

WIDTH: 1⅜"

WEIGHT: 39 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: NYLON PISTOL RUG, OWNER'S MANUAL, TEST TARGET, EXTRA MAGAZINE, INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO

OPTIONS: AMBIDEXTROUS THUMB SAFETY, WILSON ADJUSTABLE REAR SIGHT, THIN STOCKS, VARIOUS STOCK WOODS, OTHERS ON REQUEST

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$2,895 (FIXED SIGHTS, STRONG-SIDE THUMB SAFETY); OTHER PRICING VARIES WITH OPTIONS



both with green tritium inserts in a three-dot pattern, are standard on the Carry Comp. A Wilson adjustable rear sight is also available.

All Carry Comps have a corrosion-resistant Armor-Tuff finish, available in black, olive green and gray. Our test gun had black Armor-Tuff on the slide and compensator, and the frame and frame-mounted components were olive green.

What sets the Carry Comp apart from other defensive M1911s is its single-port compensator threaded onto the end of the gun's stainless steel, unramped Wilson barrel. The gun employs a "cone compensator,"

which has a tapered shank that fits snugly in the bore of the slide to replace the bushing. The compensator resembles the Wilson Accu-Comp.

We fired the Carry Comp with defensive ammunition from Cor-Bon, Hornady and Winchester using Caldwell's new HAMMR pistol rest. The Hornady load performed best, with an impressive 1.63" average that approximated the Wilson Combat in-house accuracy standard of 1½" at 25 yds. Our test-fire session also served as an informal evaluation of the HAMMR rest, which once properly set up, produced smaller and

more consistent groups than our test shooter was able to achieve off sandbags. In speed-shooting drills, the Carry Comp's recoil and muzzle flip was noticeably less than that of a non-compensated Government Model. There were no stoppages of any kind.

The Wilson Carry Comp is not inexpensive. However, the price reflects the custom quality that goes into each gun. For those seeking a defensive pistol offering match-grade accuracy, excellent ergonomics, high reliability and the recoil reduction of a compensator, the Wilson Carry Comp may be just the ticket. 