



GAMO SOCOM EXTREME

Spain's Industrias el Gamo has developed a decades-long reputation for producing high-quality, affordable airguns. In fact, the company is the largest European airgun manufacturer today, with its products being sold and used in more than 50 countries, including the United States. Gamo USA, a subsidiary of the Spanish company, brings a host of its products to these shores. One of the most intriguing of the company's newest offerings is the SOCOM series of .177-cal. break-barrel, spring-piston, single-shot air rifles. As is obvious from the SOCOM series name, they are intended as tactical-style air rifles.

The new series consists of three models: the ultra-powerful full-size SOCOM Extreme, the laser-equipped SOCOM Tactical and the compact SOCOM Carbine. Each comes equipped with a full-size variable-power Gamo scope.

The Tactical and Carbine variants have an adjustable cheek-piece, but the Extreme variant that we received for testing has a fixed, raised comb.

The SOCOM Extreme is a substantial air rifle, has an 18" barrel and weighs in at 9 lbs., sans included scope. The spring-piston powerplant of the Extreme requires a substantial 60 lbs. of cocking effort, but the result is an air rifle Gamo USA claims can propel standard lead pellets at roughly 1250 f.p.s. Even more impressive, the company claims the Extreme is capable of propelling Gamo's own Raptor PBA (Performance Ballistic Alloy) pellets at 1650 f.p.s.

The matte black composite stock of the SOCOM Extreme helps keep the overall weight down. The buttstock is fitted with a 1"-thick ventilated rubber recoil pad. The Extreme's generously raised fixed comb is designed for both left- and right-hand use.

As compared with more traditionally configured air rifle stocks, the pistol grip has a nearly vertical orientation. In addition, it features oversize ambidextrous palm swells, and the composite trigger guard is an integral part of the stock.

The Extreme's fore-end tapers

out to a very subtle Schnabel-style tip, and its bottom is open to allow for the barrel's downward arcing movement when the Extreme is cocked.

Manufactured from 4140 steel, the 18" barrel of the SOCOM Extreme has 12-groove rifling with a 1:18" rate of twist. The Extreme's barrel is jacketed with an enlarged composite shroud that is threaded onto the steel barrel. The shroud creates an exterior that offers a non-slip, larger-diameter gripping surface for cocking the action.

The 16½"-long receiver of the SOCOM Extreme, also manufactured from 4140 steel, houses the air rifle's spring-piston action and features an evenly polished blued exterior. The Extreme's barrel sports a matching blued steel finish. Prominently marked on the forward, upper portion of the receiver is gold-lettered text indicating the respective 1650 and 1250 f.p.s. capabilities of the air rifle.

The SOCOM Extreme has no iron sights, rather it relies on the included 3-9X 50 mm Gamo scope.

SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YDS.)

.177 CALIBER PELLET	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
GAMO 7.7-GR. MATCH	1119 AVG. 11 SD	21	1.51	2.46	2.21
GAMO 5.4-GR. RAPTOR/PBA	1449 AVG. 46 SD	25	0.89	2.67	1.86
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.04

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM AN 18" BARREL. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 79° F. HUMIDITY: 58%. ABBREVIATIONS: PBA (PERFORMANCE BALLISTIC ALLOY), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).

The Gamo SOCOM Extreme is a tactical-style air rifle that offers excellent power and good performance at a reasonable price. It comes standard with a 3-9X 50 mm illuminated air rifle scope. The buttstock of the Extreme features a generous 1"-thick ventilated recoil pad and an ambidextrous cheekpiece with a fixed comb. The Tactical and Carbine SOCOMs feature a buttstock with a comb adjustable for height (below r.).

GAMO SOCOM EXTREME

MANUFACTURER: INDUSTRIAS EL GAMO, S.A.U., P.O. BOX 16, 08830 SANT BOI DE LLOBREGAT, BARCELONA, SPAIN
IMPORTER: GAMO USA (DEPT. AR), 3911 S.W. 47TH AVE., SUITE 914, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33314; (954) 581-5822; WWW.GAMOUSA.COM
CALIBER: .177
ACTION TYPE: BREAK-BARREL, SPRING-PISTON, SINGLE-SHOT AIR RIFLE
RECEIVER: BLUED 4140 STEEL
BARREL: 18", BLUED 4140 STEEL
RIFLING: 12-GROOVE, 1:18" RH TWIST
SIGHTS: INTEGRAL SCOPE RAIL AND 3-9X 50 MM ILLUMINATED DOT SCOPE
TRIGGER PULL: TWO-STAGE, 5 LBS.
STOCK: BLACK SYNTHETIC; LENGTH OF PULL 14¾"; DROP AT HEEL, 2¼"; DROP AT COMB, 2¾"
OVERALL LENGTH: 45¼"
WEIGHT: 10 LBS., 14 OZS. (WITH SCOPE)
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$450



Featuring a matte-black anodized finish on its one-piece aluminum body, the RGBD scope is designed specifically for the unique recoil characteristics of an air rifle.

An illuminated dot within its rangefinding reticle can be adjusted to red, blue or green coloring in three individual brightness settings. Powered by a lithium CR2032 3-volt battery, the illuminated dot can also be turned off to provide a simple black dot.

The adjustment dial is located on the left side of the scope's body, complementing the scope's capped windage and elevation adjustment dials. The scope is affixed by way of a modular mount to an integral rail on the top of the Extreme's receiver with three Allen-head screws.

The SOCOM Extreme has an ambidextrous safety lever located forward of the trigger. Reminiscent of that of an M1 Garand, the lever safety can be disengaged by simply pushing it forward. Pulling it back engages the safety. Markings on the lower face of the composite trigger guard indicate the orientation of the safety

and its use. Also, the safety is not automatically engaged when the action is cocked.

A cylindrical hole at the rear of the trigger guard provides access to the Extreme's trigger adjustment screw located just behind the trigger. This allows users to adjust the length of the trigger's second-stage pull.


The SOCOM Extreme received for evaluation impressed our testers with its attractive composite stock and evenly applied blued finish. Although the air rifle was somewhat heavy and large, the ergonomics of the stock and its handling characteristics were quite good. In addition, the scope proved easy to install, and our testers found the multi-colored dot in the scope's reticle beneficial.

For testing, we tried out the SOCOM Extreme with Gamo's Match 7.7-gr. and Raptor PBA 5.4-gr. pellets, both of which were .177-cal. Accuracy was good at 50 yds., with the PBA pellets showing the potential for excellent accuracy despite some fliers.

The Match pellets were a tad more consistent but less accurate overall. Measured velocity with

both pellets was not quite up to the company's claims, but our results were recorded at 15 ft., rather than at the muzzle.

The trigger of the Extreme broke cleanly but somewhat heavily at 5 lbs. We also noted the 60 lbs. of cocking force needed to operate the action was substantial.

The new SOCOM series from Gamo, judging by the SOCOM Extreme, is a good choice for those looking for solid air rifle with tactical-style features—and all at a reasonable price. 



WINCHESTER 1892 DELUXE TAKEDOWN

When Oliver Winchester's son-in-law and Winchester Repeating Arms Co. President Thomas G. Bennett was looking for a new lever-action rifle that could withstand the higher pressures found in military cartridges used for single-shot rifles in the mid-1880s, he turned to John M. Browning. In one of his earliest firearms developed for Winchester, the Model 1886, Browning designed the first repeating rifle to incorporate dual sliding vertical breech locks. This strong design feature, in addition to the massive frame and parts, proved effective in bearing the pressures of the .45-70 Gov't, .45-90 Win. and .50-110 Win., among many others cartridges.

Having a rifle capable of cartridge interchangeability with handguns had long been a desirable feature for consumers, as was proven with the success of the Winchester Model 1873. Winchester carried over that feature, along with the vertical breech locks of the Model 1886, to the Model 1892. Known for its light weight and compact, smooth lever-action

design, the '92 has long been hailed as one of the premier Winchester rifles of the 19th century.

It was originally chambered in .44-40 Win., .38-40 Win. and .32-20 Win., then later in .25-20 Win. and .218 Bee. Today, Browning and Winchester Repeating Arms have joined Davidson's in providing the new Winchester 1892 Limited Series Deluxe Takedown, manufactured by Japan's Miroku, in either .44-40 Win. or .45 Colt. This rifle is modeled primarily from the Fancy Sporting Rifle, Takedown Model 1892, which was introduced in October 1893 and produced until 1932. Of the new Limited series, Winchester made only 251 of each caliber with the 20" barrels in 2008, and just 251 of each caliber with 24" barrels. A 16"-barrel Deluxe Trapper Takedown version should be available for 2010.

Although the parts are generally not interchangeable with original '92s, Rossi rifles or other replicas, this 1892 Limited is virtually identical to the original '92 takedown model in function and appearance. Standard design features include a side-loading port, vertical case

ejection, a tubular magazine and a lever- or thumb-activated hammer.

Downward movement of the lever pulls the vertical breech blocks from their slots in the receiver and breech bolt while simultaneously pulling the bolt to the rear, ejecting a case or cartridge, and cocking the hammer. Returning the lever upward loads the next round from the magazine and re-inserts the vertical locks into their slots, locking the breech bolt in place.

Of course, the original '92 was never chambered in .45 Colt, but the cartridge is popular with today's Cowboy Action shooters. These shooters, like Western frontiersmen of the 19th century, often prefer rifle/handgun cartridge interchangeability, so Winchester made sure to offer the 1892 Limited in that caliber.

Also, Winchester incorporated a tang-mounted, hammer-blocking slide safety and a rebounding hammer, which work together for added safety. When engaged, the slide safety prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin. If the rifle is on "safe" and the trigger is pulled,

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YDS.)

.44-40 WIN. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BLACK HILLS 200-GR. RNFP	1170 AVG. 20 SD	615	3.62	5.66	4.42
WINCHESTER No. USA45CB 225-GR. CL	923 AVG. 23 SD	425	3.22	7.04	5.47
MAGTECH No. 45D 225-GR. LFN	886 AVG. 19 SD	393	3.44	6.50	5.41
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					5.10

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FROM A 20" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 79° F. HUMIDITY: 45%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: RNFP (ROUND-NOSE FLAT POINT), CL (CAST LEAD), LFN (LEAD FLAT NOSE), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).

The 1892 Limited Deluxe Takedown's tang safety and rebounding hammer (below, l.) work together to increase the rifle's safety. The dual sliding vertical breech locks (below, r.) are hallmarks of the original smooth-cycling Model 92, and are key in keeping the gun lightweight and compact.



the hammer still falls. In that case, instead of striking the firing pin the hammer is blocked, falling only to the rebound position.

After the safety is disengaged and the trigger is pulled, the hammer momentarily strikes the firing pin then automatically moves to the rebound position, where it cannot move forward. One can ease the hammer down with the thumb to the rebound position by pulling the trigger without fear of an accidental discharge, even with the safety disengaged. With the new gun's design the only way for it to fire is for the safety to be off, the hammer to be completely to the rear and the trigger to be pulled.

The classic and convenient

takedown feature is especially useful for cleaning, storage and transportation, just as it was in days of the Old West. One needs simply to open the action, pull the takedown lever at the end of the magazine tube outward, rotate the lever counterclockwise at least five times, then grasp the fore-end/barrel and rotate it 90 degrees to disengage it from the receiver.

This newest '92 rendition is well-made and well-balanced, and the fit and finish appear excellent. The crescent-style steel buttplate extends over the heel of the walnut stock, and the pistol grip and fore-end feature fine, machine-cut diamond checkering and borders touched up by hand. The blued-


WINCHESTER 1892 TD

MANUFACTURER: MIROKU FIREARMS MFG. CO., 537-1 SHINOHARA-NANGOKU CITY, KOCHU PREF., JAPAN
DISTRIBUTOR: DAVIDSON'S, INC. (DEPT. AR), 6100 WILKINSON DRIVE, PRESCOTT, AZ 86301; (928) 776-8055; WWW.GALLERYOFGUNS.COM
CALIBER: .44-40 WIN. (TESTED), .45 COLT
ACTION TYPE: LEVER-ACTION, CENTER-FIRE RIFLE
RECEIVER: BLUED STEEL
BARREL: 20" (TESTED), 24"
RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE, 1:36" RH TWIST
MAGAZINE CAPACITY: NINE
SIGHTS: DOVETAILED FRONT POST, DOVETAILED BUCKHORN REAR WITH ELEVATOR
TRIGGER PULL: SINGLE-STAGE; 5 LBS., 4 OZS.
STOCK: SATIN WALNUT: LENGTH OF PULL, 13"; DROP AT HEEL, 2½"; DROP AT COMB, 1½"
OVERALL LENGTH: 38"
WEIGHT: 6 LBS., 8 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, LOCK
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$1,875

steel receiver and barrel are well-polished, and the gun feels solid.

Both the buckhorn rear sight, with stepped elevator, and front brass bead sight are dovetailed into the octagonal barrel. As is typical with buckhorn sights, accuracy may suffer with some shooters, but the generously open sight picture is a significant advantage over some other open sights. Fortunately, if better accuracy is desired Brownells offers an Improved Peep Tang Sight from Marble Arms that fits a Winchester '92 with a tang safety.

The smooth action and light recoil helped us continuously keep the rifle on the shoulder during rapid fire and send fairly accurate shots downrange. A number of different loads were fired through the gun, and all cycled with no problems.

The new Winchester 1892 Limited Deluxe Takedown incorporates high quality, classic design and modern safety features that are sure to please Winchester enthusiasts, collectors, hunters and Cowboy Action shooters. 

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.