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Rise Armament 1121XR Rifle in 6.5 Creedmoor: Full Review

The Rise Armament 1121XR semi-automatic rifle has everything an AR platform needs to excel at long range.

Photo by Mark Fagan

By Tom Beckstrand
Tom Beckstrand is a 2011 police sniper with more effect and the right equipment. Hitting a target that far away with an AR platform rifle is even more difficult due to some mechanical attributes of the rifle. However, this offer some advantages that make it worth the effort. The AR-or-make-right follow up shots that enable the second-to-none capacity for mass fire and combat-ready change thanks to its semiautomatic operation. The AR also has the advantage of absorbing the shooter's position loss because the shooter doesn't need to reset to a long range.

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The first consideration when choosing an AR for long range work is cartridge selection. The new Rise Armament 1121XR recently sent to Guns & Ammo for testing is chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor. It has a 22-inch stainless barrel and 1:8 twist. Cartridge is a good combination for AR-platform shooting. Length determines velocity, and the 6.5 Creedmoor is a long-range cartridge. Bullet weight is a trade-off between 6.5BR stamina and has a 1.5-inch twist. I ideal for long range shooting.

Chambering an AR in 6.5 Creedmoor is optimal for shooting in 1,000 yards because 6 Creedmoor good barrel life with high ballistic coefficient (BC) bullets and good velocity. It's possible to pick a faster bore that might resist the wind better, but it'll experience a shorter barrel life. There's also the tendency to go AR-barrel, but the 6.5 Creedmoor is a good choice for a long-range rifle because it's a good balance between velocity and barrel life. Keep one caution. Finding a cartridge that balances barrel life with high BC ammunition with good velocity is critical. The 6.5 Creedmoor sits in the sweet spot.

The trigger and grip configuration is essential to a good AR intended for shots at long range. The Rise Armament 1121XR addresses both of these. (Photo by Mark Fagan)

After the cartridge, the most important component is the rifle's long-range ability is the trigger. AR triggers can be difficult to manage when used on precision rifles because they work differently than a bolt action's trigger. Bolt actions have a single-stage trigger that allows the shooter to pull the trigger without disturbing the sight picture, allowing for a single-stage trigger that swings on a pendulum. Just before the cartridge fires, and shooter's ready-reported to hold the rifle steady, an AR starts the hammer into the back of the bolt carrier group to the primer. Hammer drops is important for precision shooting with AR-platform rifles.

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One way to see the impact (and intended) the AR hammer has on the rifle's precision is to watch the scope's reticle when dry firing. A rail-opener hammer that pieces most of the mass away from the arm at which it rotates will cause the reticle to bounce when dry fired. That bounce is difficult to eliminate.

The Rise Armament 1121XR's bolt carrier group is designed to reduce the hammer. The bolt carrier's length of pull can be adjusted. (Photo by Mark Fagan)

Rise Armament has two triggers that are ideal for precision use. The first is the M-1911-that they're famous for. Its hammer is flat and it has a crisp hit off that breaks at just a hair more than 4 pounds. It is a wonderful trigger for precision work. The second trigger is a two-stage Rise Armament Mach 3 that weighs 3 lbs. It may be easy for long range, but the first stage is very long and very imprecisely-what I see when dry firing before shooting groups. The whole had almost no pendulum, and it's good for a long-range shot under ideal conditions. I'm not impressed with the Mach 3 accuracy potential.

Rise Armament also offers its new tomo trigger, which I've also installed. While the M-1911 is exceptional, I prefer the tomo for precision use. Rise Armament has become the Stealth Shooter in "... Nature anyone knows about 5.7 of the AR trigger world. These products have flown under the radar, but Rise Armament makes some of the best triggers. I'm glad they've made a better precision mechanismsday easy and have hammer shapes that fit long-range shooting.

The 1121XR's hammer is a rail-opener design that allows the operator and hammer to be well and bright sighted on the objective. (Photo by Mark Fagan)

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The Magpul PRS Gen3 is based on precision design & production and features the smooth and bright sighted-on-the-objective. It complements the Magpul PRS Gen3 stock, which is also in the 1121XR.

My preference for the new tomo is due to the two-stage design and the lighter 3-pound combined pull weight. It's revolting. It offers a quick weight that light and an AR-trigger because the bolt velocity requires substantial rear engagement. What makes it doubly difficult is how Rise Armament incorporated a full power hammer spring.

The AR-platform 20mm Picatinny rail is a good place to mount a Leupold Mark 5HD 5-25x56 M1 scope. The Rise Armament 1121XR's bolt carrier group is designed to reduce the hammer's impact on the scope's reticle. (Photo by Mark Fagan)

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit figured out a couple decades ago that the AR's bore accuracy only comes from the bolt's locking lugs and the chamber's ability to hold the cartridge in the same place every time the semiautomatic ignition. However, the biggest trigger pull that made it to us a lighter hammer spring because it's easier for the trigger to lift off. Rise Armament employed its each shady tactics to obtain the unit's a lovely crisp 3-pound pull weight with the new tomo trigger. It's just a good, solid design made from good engineering.

The end of the 1121XR's life is also a product of quality manufacturing. Rise Armament shapes its receivers from billet aluminum, so everything is straight and true. They also make the 15-inch handguard from billet to ensure the barrel's alignment. It's just along the balance of the rail can accommodate other sections of Picatinny or MLS rail.

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The 6.5 Creedmoor is a wonderful choice for long-range AR shooting. Creedmoor brass, accuracy and barrel life. (Photo by Mark Fagan)

The rifle also comes with Magpul's Gen 3 PRS stock, the best choice for long-range precision shooting. This stock has an adjustable comb to help the shooter establish the crucial connection between the head and the stock. A solid connection is necessary to allow the shooter to see where the bullet impacts to make adjustments. The stock has a 1.5-inch drop at the comb and 0.5-inch drop at the heel. The stock's design also allows for two highly minimal rifle mounted shooting, recall, and the trigger can pass the stock more comfortably with the case leg. The angles on the face is useful when making small elevation corrections by either moving the rear leg closer to or further from the grip.

Magpul's Gen3 PRS stock has a comfortable cheek rest. (Photo by Mark Fagan)

Initial barrel weights from 16 to 37 grains and the 1121XR aligned all with equal upheld. Unlikely for the shooter to notice the difference. The rifle's barrel weight is 37 grains, and it's balanced with the receiver's position at about the 4-inch point. Rise Armament said that alcohol on the bolt ... a series longer than AR should have ... to the. Rise Armament positive ejection. There were no malfunctions during testing.

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The rifle's stock comes with the Leupold Mark 5HD scope. Leupold's unique 5x-25x scope design would be my one pick for use in this rifle. That 5-30 power bracket was designed for rifles. It's shorter to avoid dragging on the magazine, but has a great ballistic coefficient and results extend by for 1,000 yard shooting.

The bolt carrier group has the correct hammer design for compression. However, the reader does activate, drop primers, and reset the bolt to strengthen the hammer spring. Photo by Mark Fagan

Rise Armament guns are every detail right to make firm an accurate and long range rifle. With the 1121XR, 1000 yard shots are not possible, are enjoyable.

Rise Armament 1121XR

- **Type:** Direct impingement, semiautomatic
- **Action:** Semi-automatic (Hammer fired)
- **Capacity:** 10 rds
- **Barrel:** 22 in. | 1:8 in. twist
- **Overall Length:** 41.5 in.
- **Weight:** 7 lbs., 12.5 oz.
- **Stock:** Magpul PRS
- **Finish:** Cerakote
- **Length of Pull:** 13.5 in.
- **Finish:** Cerakote, FDE
- **Sights:** None
- **Safety:** Two position lever
- **MSRP:** $2,450
- **Manufacturer:** Rise Armament, 844-747-1599, risearmament.com

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Photo by Mark Fagan

Rise Armament Cassette Triggers

Photo by Mark Fagan

AR triggers come in one of two general types: Cassette and traditional. The traditional trigger has the two-stage assemblies, including the trigger and disconnector and the hammer. Of course, there are also the springs that power the hammer and trigger.

The other trigger type is the cassette, which is a kind that Armament makes and offers as an aftermarket accessory. They have several models, but the M-911 (1911) and tomo (1300) are the brand's big single- and two-stage triggers. The cassette includes the trigger, disconnector, hammer, hammer extensions, connector of operation, reliability, and finishes such are uncommon in AR-trigger construction.

The M-911 is a single-stage unit and features a bright and anodized housing. The hammer and trigger are constructed of tool steel. This is important because many AR triggers are metal injection molded (MIM), which can have voids in the steel and are only fired on the surface. Using tool steel ensures the homogeneity of the material and makes them more reliable.

Assembling the hammer, trigger, disconnector and springs into the cassette makes user installation a snap. Rise Armament's Mach 3 doesn't require tinkering as an element to install. Mach 3 contains the disconnector and the hammer and trigger pins. Secure the pins by a screw the safety selector, and remove the factory trigger components. The design lets the cassette trigger replace the safety selector, hammer and trigger pins, and the stage.

Rise Armament's tomo trigger is the two-stage model. Unique to this cassette trigger are the independent springs. Separating the first and second stages is interesting. The trigger shoe handles one stage while the second overtraveling trigger shoe handles another. The tomo produces reliable and clean 3-pound trigger pull. Rise Armament's tomo is a good trigger for precision work.

Normally, I'm concerned about the durability of such a large number of parts. Rise Armament said it's best steel that they work hardest through respect. They call it "heavy-lid" hardening, which means that trigger's steel is hardened the surface and retains the toughness of the core of the trigger. Next, Rise Armament coated the hammer and trigger with black nitride to provide corrosion resistance and some lubricity. It was designed to be functional and durable, but geeky looks are a bonus.

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Rise's aren't the most well-known triggers in the AR community, but they should be. Long tool steel and black nitride are rare to the point of almost being unique. However, when combined with ideal fashion shapes and functional, durable, and reliable performance profile housing, Rise's triggers are top contenders for anyone interested in Replica trigger performance.

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