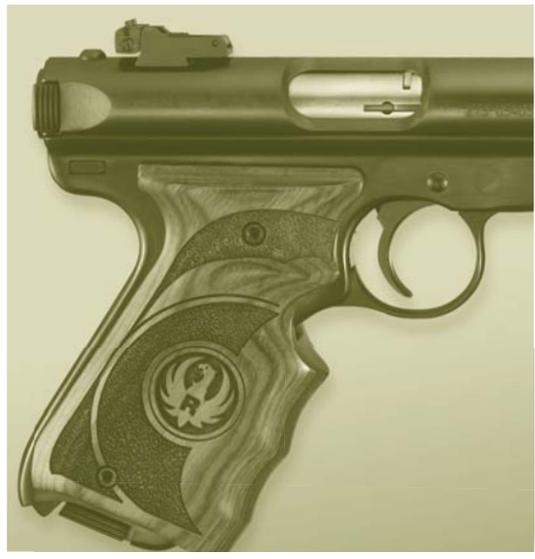




**STANDARD CATALOG OF®**



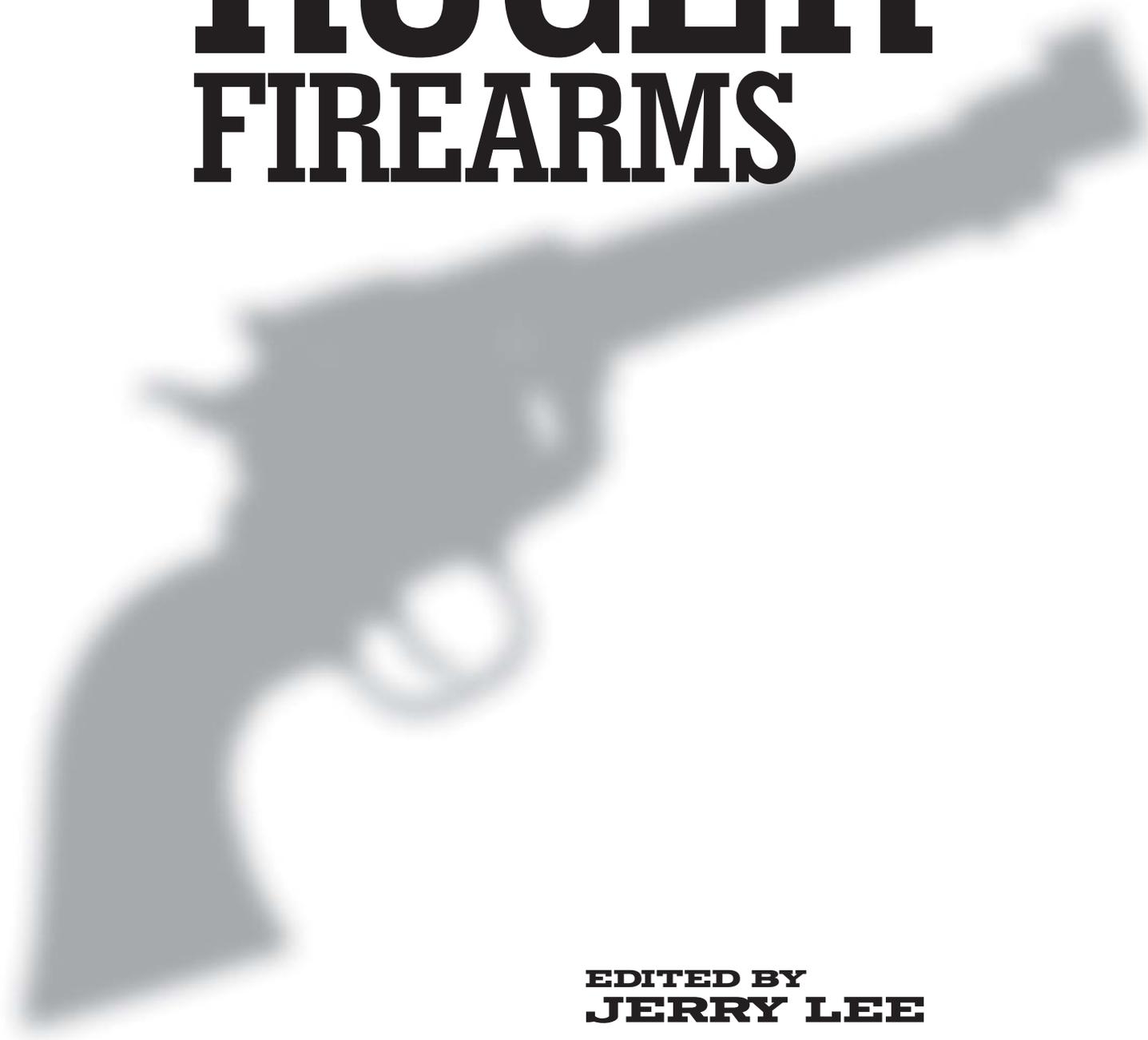
# **RUGER FIREARMS**



**JERRY LEE**

STANDARD CATALOG OF<sup>®</sup>  
**RUGER**  
**FIREARMS**

**EDITED BY**  
**JERRY LEE**



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# CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	4
PRICING AND GRADING .....	4
WILLIAM BATTERMAN RUGER .....	6

## Section I

Semi-Automatic Rimfire Pistols .....	16
Single-Action Revolvers .....	28
Double-Action Revolvers .....	50
Semi-Automatic Centerfire Pistols .....	60
Semi-Automatic Rifles .....	72
Single-Shot Rifles .....	86
Bolt-Action Rifles Centerfire & Rimfire .....	92
Shotguns .....	108

## Section II

The 10/22 Turns 50 by James E. House and Kathleen A. House .....	117
Collecting Rugers by Bill Hamm .....	128
The Ruger Collector's Association .....	132
More Than Guns .....	134
Early and Rare No. 1 Rifles by Lee Newton .....	138
The Skeeter Skelton Specials by Jerry Lee .....	144
Profile of an Artist: Paul Lantuch by Don Findley .....	146
Fancy Rugers by Bill Hamm .....	150

## Section III

Ruger & Gun Digest .....	153
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Six Gun '53 Style by Warren Page .....	154
Ruger's Reactionary Rifle by Roger Barlow .....	158
The New Ruger Double Action Revolver by John T. Amber .....	168
The Model 77 Ruger Rifle by Daniel Peterson .....	172
30 Years of Good Gun Designs by Ken Warner .....	181
Shooting Ruger's Redhawk by Ken Warner .....	199
Ruger's 22 Auto: The First 50 Years by Don Findley .....	202
The Good Old Days: 60 Years of Sixguns by John Taffin .....	210
Ruger's Charming Charger by Dave Workman .....	216
Power & Grace: The Ruger Super Blackhawk Turns 50 by Don Findley .....	220
Ruger Single-Action Grip Frames by Bill Hamm .....	227

## Section IV

Serial Number & Caliber History .....	232
Revolvers .....	232
Pistols .....	243
Rifles.....	251
Shotguns .....	259
Serial Number Index .....	261
Ruger Exploded Gun Drawings .....	262

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I also wish to acknowledge the talented contributions of Corrina Peterson, editor, Gun Digest Books and Tom Nelsen, art designer, Gun Digest Books, for helping to make this book a reality.

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the *Standard Catalog of Ruger Firearms*.

There have been few individuals involved with the American firearms history who have made a real difference to the industry—individuals who possessed an inventive mind and knew how to get things done, but also understood how to make a business become successful and grow. Their names are familiar to anyone who is a student of the gun.

Samuel Colt, Horace Smith, Daniel B. Wesson, Eliphalet Remington, Oliver Winchester, John M. Marlin, John Browning and Arthur Savage were sons of the 19th century. The companies that bear their names are still going today, many generations after they were founded.

One other name should be added to that list of visionary giants in the world of firearms, William Batterman Ruger. He started his company in 1949, in the middle of the 20th century just a few years after World War II in a small building now affectionately known as the Red Barn in the tranquil little New

England town of Southport, Conn. Sturm, Ruger & Co. has been one of the biggest success stories in the industry, reaching a point where it can be said to be the only full-line manufacturer of rifles, shotguns, revolvers and auto pistols, all made in the U.S.A. From the first .22 pistol 65 years ago to the almost 200 firearms in the latest catalog, the company has offered a gun for every need for the average shooter. Within these pages will be found historical information, specifications, photos and estimated values of the guns of Bill Ruger. There are also stories about the man and his guns, including a historical view of articles over the years in "The World's Greatest Gunbook," *Gun Digest*, and some other publications.

I hope you enjoy *Standard Catalog of Ruger Firearms* and the opportunity to learn about the great guns, the successful company and the man himself, William B. Ruger.

*Author and editor, Jerry Lee*

## PRICING AND GRADING

In most cases, the condition of a firearm determines its value. As with all collectible items, a grading system is necessary to give buyers and sellers a measurement that most closely reflects a general consensus on condition. While all grading systems are subjective, the system presented in this publication attempts to

describe a firearm in universal terms. It is strongly recommended that the reader be closely acquainted with this grading system before attempting to determine the correct value of a particular firearm.

### NIB (NEW IN BOX)

This category can sometimes be misleading. It means that the firearm is in its original factory carton with all of the appropriate papers. It also means the gun is new, that it has not been fired, and has no wear. This classification brings a substantial premium for both the collector and shooter. It should be noted

that NIB values are not the same as MSRP (manufacturer's suggested retail price), but rather are "street prices" that can be considerably lower than the MSRP. A NIB value should closely represent the selling price for a new, unfired gun in the box.

## EXCELLENT

Collector quality firearms in this condition are highly desirable. The firearm must be in at least 98 percent condition with respect to blue wear, stock or grip finish, and bore. The gun must

also be in 100 percent original factory condition without refinishing, repair, alterations, or additions of any kind. Sights must be factory original, as well.

## VERY GOOD

Firearms in this category are also sought after both by the collector and shooter. Modern firearms must be in working order and retain approximately 92 percent original metal and

wood finish. It must be 100 percent factory original, but may have some small repairs, alterations, or non-factory additions. No refinishing is permitted in this category.

## GOOD

Guns in this category may not be considered to be as collectible as the previous grades. They must retain at least 80 percent of the metal and wood finish, but may display evidence of old refinishing. Small repairs, alterations, or non-factory addi-

tions are sometimes encountered in this class. Factory replacement parts are permitted. The overall working condition of the firearm must be good, as well as safe. The bore may exhibit wear or some corrosion.

## FAIR

Firearms in this category should be in satisfactory working order and safe to shoot. The overall metal and wood finish must be at least 30 percent. Repairs, alterations, non-factory ad-

ditions, and recent refinishing would all place a firearm in this classification. The firearm must be considered safe to fire if in a working state.

## POOR

Neither collectors nor shooters are likely to exhibit much interest in firearms in this condition. They are likely to retain little metal or wood finish, and pitting or rust will be seen. Guns in this condition may not be in working order or safe to shoot. Repairs and parts replacement would be necessary to restore the

firearm to safe working order. In some cases their principal value lies in spare parts.

Example prices for the conditions described above are shown in this format:

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
600	500	425	350	250	150

Prices given in this book are designed as a guide, not as a quote, and the prices given reflect retail values. This is very important to remember. You will seldom realize full retail value if you trade in a gun or sell it to a dealer. In this situation, your gun will be valued at its wholesale price, which is generally substantially below retail value to allow for the seller's profit margin.

Values of modern firearms can vary greatly based on several factors of the individual gun. Rare models are often—but not always—more valuable than those that have high production numbers. Some models are rare because they were discontinued due to low sales figures and might not bring high prices on the used gun market. If a particular model was not well received when it was new, it may not have a high demand as a discontinued gun. In other instances, a model can be highly sought after by collectors because it is no longer in production.

Other factors that determine the value of firearms are rare chamberings, unusual barrel lengths or features like grips, stocks, sights or finishes. Factory engraving or checkering can add considerably to the value of many guns. In many instances the older versions of a series of models will bring a higher price than later ones.

It should be remembered that prices for firearms might vary with the time of the year, geographical location, and the general economy. As might be expected, guns used for hunting are more likely to sell in late summer or early fall as hunting

season approaches. Likewise, big-game rifles chambered for powerful magnum cartridges will likely have more appeal in western states than in the Deep South, while semi-automatic rifles or shotguns will not sell well in states where their use for hunting is prohibited, such as is the case in Pennsylvania.

It is not practical to list prices in this book with regard to time of year or location. What is given here is a reasonable price based on sales at gun shows, auction houses, and information obtained from knowledgeable collectors and dealers. In certain cases there will be no price indicated under a particular condition, but rather the symbol “-” This indicates there is no known price available for the gun in that condition, or that sales for the particular model are so few that a reliable price cannot be ascertained. This can also occur with highly engraved special edition firearms that usually are unfired and used very little.

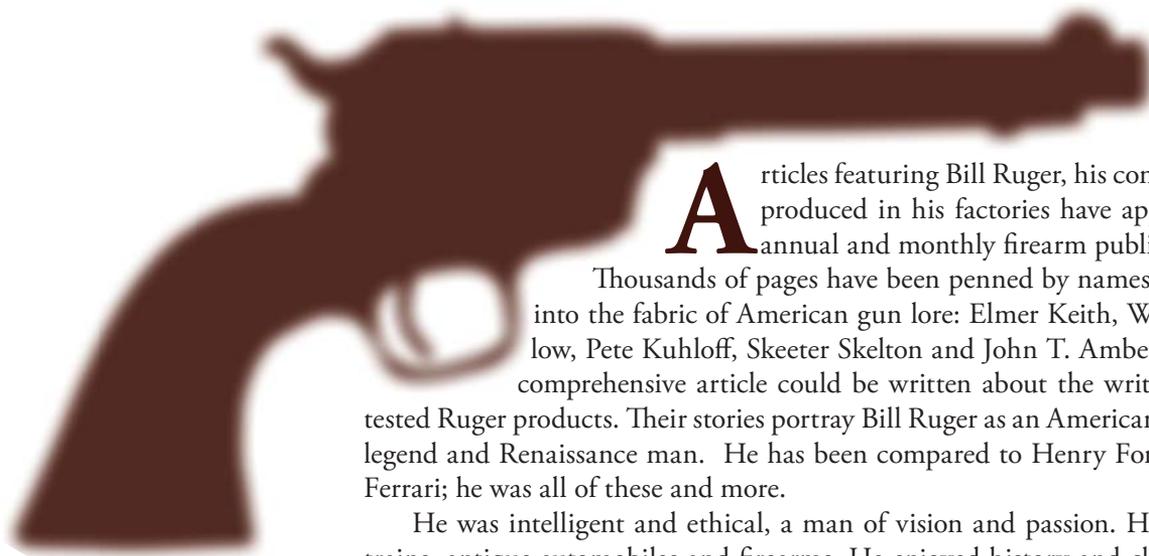
*Standard Catalog of Ruger Firearms* can be used as an identification guide and as a source of starting prices for a planned firearms transaction. If you begin by valuing a given firearm according to the values shown in this book, you will not be too far off the mark.

In the final analysis, a firearm is worth only what someone is willing to pay for it. New trends arise quickly, and there are many excellent bargains to be found in today's market. With patience and good judgment—and with this book under your arm—you, too, can find them.



# WILLIAM BATTERMAN RUGER

by JOHN C. DOUGAN



*The first Ruger revolver shipped. Engraved by Cole Agee, gold and silver-plated and inscribed on the backstrap, "To John T. Amber With the Compliments of Col. Ruger". This historic Ruger single-action revolver graced the cover of the Gun Digest, 8th Edition in 1954, 50 years ago.*

Courtesy John C. Dougan

Articles featuring Bill Ruger, his company and the products produced in his factories have appeared in almost every annual and monthly firearm publication for five decades.

Thousands of pages have been penned by names that are forever woven into the fabric of American gun lore: Elmer Keith, Warren Page, Roger Barlow, Pete Kuhloff, Skeeter Skelton and John T. Amber, to name but a few. A comprehensive article could be written about the writers who promoted and tested Ruger products. Their stories portray Bill Ruger as an American icon, a genius, a living legend and Renaissance man. He has been compared to Henry Ford, Sam Colt and Enzo Ferrari; he was all of these and more.

He was intelligent and ethical, a man of vision and passion. He loved vintage electric trains, antique automobiles and firearms. He enjoyed history and classic literature and was driven by an intense awareness of art and of order in all things; this is evident in his letters and drawings and is clearly manifested in the shapes of his gun designs.

Ruger was captivated by, and understood, mechanisms and the mechanisms that made them. He appreciated anything with moving parts and even designed and built some of his own machinery. It is only natural that he would have an affinity for automobiles and firearms.

Ruger collected antique cars designed by the engineers and coach makers of a bygone era: Stutz, Bentley, Bugatti, Rolls Royce, Packard and Duesenberg. He collected the great cars from Europe, Britain and America. There were almost 30 cars in the collection. He even designed and built his own classic cars in the late 1960s.

Among Ruger's favorite trains was the Lionel set from his boyhood. There was over 350 feet of track to his train collection.

Ruger liked nice things, among which was an amazing and varied collection of nineteenth and twentieth century art. Over 200 beautiful paintings and sculptures by Schreyvogel, Bierstadt, Remington and others graced the walls and rooms of his offices and homes.

*After the Hunt* is a wonderful new book by Adrienne Ruger Conzelman that offers a first-hand account of Bill Ruger and his breathtaking art collection. He was also a patron of contemporary artists and engravers: Triggs, Kritz, Lantuch, and A.A. White.

Ruger was an ardent hunter and had an appetite for adventure and stories of adventure. Some of his favorite guns were the classic double rifles taken on safari and used to hunt big game in far-off Africa or India, and single-shot target rifles from the late 19th century.

In a less complicated time when coffee was percolated, agreements were sealed with a handshake and a Coke was a nickel. Alexander Sturm and Bill Ruger established Sturm, Ruger & Co. At first they struggled, but overcame and began shipping 22LR semi-automatic pistols in October of 1949 from a small wooden shop across the street from the Southport, Connecticut train-station. By 1951 production of the Ruger Standard Auto was well under way and the possibility of producing a single-action revolver was being explored. Ruger began to work on preliminary designs for the famous Ruger Single-Six.

The company was making a profit and all was going well when tragedy struck. Ruger's friend and partner became ill, Alex Sturm died at age 29. Ruger never got over the loss.

Alone, Bill Ruger led his company to an unprecedented level in the American firearms industry. Early on, Colt and S&W were indifferent to Ruger's dream; they had been resting on their laurels for years and perceived themselves as invincible in their respective markets. Too late, they awoke to the realization that Ruger was a force to be reckoned with in the pistol and revolver markets. Ruger was the competition and he was formidable!

Eventually Ruger was presented with the opportunity to purchase these competitors, Colt, Smith & Wesson and later Winchester—each with a rich and illustrious tradition. Although Ruger had the financial ability, these companies were not acquired; this is an interesting irony, a milestone in the history of American arms making.

At the time of this writing Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. has designed and manufactured over twenty million pistols, revolvers, shotguns and rifles in all popular calibers. They have produced hundreds of models and sub-models under at least 115 U.S. and foreign patents.

In the pursuit of quality and efficiency of fabrication, Ruger utilized stampings and coil springs and pioneered and perfected the application of precision investment castings to small arms manufacturing. Whenever possible, component shapes were designed to fit generic tools and to conform to established fabrication techniques rather than require that special tooling be designed to produce the shapes.

Ruger believed that pricing for his products should be structured so that a typical customer could purchase one of his guns for a price equal to one week's pay. This manufacturing and marketing approach proved to be sound, and indeed, one week's pay would purchase a gun and Ruger would still make a profit. Fifty years later this principal still holds true.

In 1996 Simon & Shuster released *Ruger and His Guns* by R.L.Wilson, an official biography that is an unprecedented window into Bill Ruger's life wherein the products and history of his factories are revealed in striking detail. Additionally, there are at least 20 well-researched and detailed reference books that explore specific models or groups of Ruger firearms for purposes of collecting.

This writer can offer very little that has not been written about the man, the guns and his factories. What will be presented here is a comprehensive chronological outline of company history and product development, with insight into some of Bill Ruger's special accomplishments.

*Aerial view of the "Red Barn" and shops where Ruger began. The company still maintains these historical buildings and, except for a paved parking lot, they have changed very little. The Southport train station is seen in the foreground, ca. 1956.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

*1999 – Southport, Connecticut: Bill Ruger presented Walt Sych with an inscribed Ruger Red Label O/U shotgun to celebrate Walt's 50 years of continuous service at Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

*Bill Ruger and his partner Alexander Sturm giving a tour of their shops to the Ambassador from Brazil, at the "Red Barn" complex in Southport, Connecticut ca. 1950.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

**1944: James Thompson "Tom" Ruger** is born.

**1946: Ruger and a partner** opened the Ruger Corp. in Southport, Connecticut to manufacture a line of carpenter tools, some of which resemble pistols. Goes into receivership in 1949.

**1949: Meets Alexander Sturm** and proposes partnership. Establishes Sturm, Ruger & Co. to manufacture 22-caliber pistols in the same buildings that housed The Ruger Corp., on the same tooling. Shipments commence in October. One of the buildings is two stories and resembles a barn. All of the structures are painted barn red with white trim. This complex is affectionately referred to as "**The Red Barn**".

**1916: Bill Ruger was born** June 21st in Brooklyn, New York, son of Adolph Ruger and Mary Batterman Ruger.

Ruger attended public schools in Brooklyn. Enrolled in Salisbury Prep School, Salisbury, Connecticut and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**1938: Ruger met and married** Mary Carolyn Thompson and left the university after two years to concentrate on gun designing. They moved to Hartford, Connecticut and Ruger took a job at a small shop that specialized in guns where he converted an 1899 lever-action Savage rifle to a semi-auto. The rifle and an article by William B. Ruger later appeared in the December, 1943 *American Rifleman*.

**1939: William B. Ruger Jr. is born.**

**Ruger begins work at Springfield Armory for the U.S. Government.**

**1940: Auto Ordnance**, at age 24 Ruger went to work in the engineering department to perfect the light machinegun he had developed a couple of years before. He spent the next four years there.

**1941: Carolyn R. "Molly" Ruger is born.**

**1951: Introduced Mark I Automatic Pistol** with adjustable sights and various barrel lengths. Proved to be a match winner and was adopted by the Army and Air Force as a training arm.

**Alexander Sturm dies**; returning in the fall from a hunting trip in Quebec, Ruger finds his partner in the hospital, seriously ill. Alex dies less than two weeks later.

**1953: Began Manufacture of Single-Six**, 22LR chambering. Styled after the Colt Peacemaker, it remained in production until 1973. An aluminum Lightweight Model and Engraved Model were introduced in 1956. A magnum model was introduced in 1959 chambered for the 22 WRM. A Super Single Six with adjustable sights was added to the Single-Six line in 1964.

*Assembling Standard Autos from sub-assemblies at the "Red Barn" factory in 1956.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

*Paulina Sturm*, Alex's wife dies in January at age 31. She was Teddy Roosevelt's granddaughter.

**1955: Introduces Blackhawk** single-action revolvers: Initially offered in the 357 Magnum chambering; in 1956, the 44 Magnum; in 1965, the 41 Magnum; in 1967 the 30 Carbine caliber; and in 1971 the 45 Colt.

**1958: The Bearcat Revolver**, 22LR chambering. This small, aluminum-frame single-action revolver was reminiscent of Civil War-era Remington revolvers. In 1971 a Super Bearcat model with a steel frame was introduced. Both models were discontinued in 1973. In 1993 introduces the New Bearcat, redesigned to employ the innovative "transfer bar" ignition system in use on all revolvers beginning in 1973.

**The Red Barn closes**, the original wooden structures where Alex Sturm and Bill Ruger began a decade before had become obsolete, business was very good and more space was needed for production. The tooling was relocated to a newly finished factory built specifically for firearms production.

**Safari in Kenya**, Ruger and George Rowbottom, six weeks, took a lion.

**1959: The Lacey Place factory opens**, moved and began production by January. More space was built in successive years as the demand for Ruger handguns grew. This plant produced over 3,000,000 guns and was becoming obsolete by the late 1980s due to lack of space to expand; it was closed in the summer of 1991 and now houses the corporate offices of Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.\_

*Serial number 5112.  
One of only 22 engraved  
and cased Single-Six  
revolvers shipped to Spain  
for engraving in 1954.  
Additionally, 238 Single-  
Sixes were engraved by  
Charles H. Jerred of Fulton,  
New York 1954-1958.*

Courtesy John C. Dougan

*The Ruger team with  
Rhode Island Governor  
John Notte. They were  
there to present the  
Governor with an  
inscribed Ruger 44  
Carbine, serial number  
600. Standing (L-R):  
"Monty" Montenaro,  
Elaine "Lanie" Horelik,  
Peggy Montenaro, Mary  
Ruger, Bill Ruger and  
Michael Horelik. Seated  
is Governor Notte.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

*Bill Ruger and his partner Alexander Sturm giving a tour of their shops to the Ambassador from Brazil, at the "Red Barn" complex in Southport, Connecticut ca. 1950.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

*Amid a forest of barrels, Bill Ruger inspects a newly completed 44 Magnum Carbine. Early 1960s; the Lacey Place factory in Southport, Connecticut.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

***The Super Blackhawk Revolver***, 44 Magnum chambering. A redesigned and improved version of the earlier 44 Magnum Blackhawk, the Super Blackhawk proved to be a favorite of handgun hunters and sportsmen.

***1960: The Deerstalker Carbine***, 44 Magnum chambering. Ruger's first rifle, this semi-automatic carbine met with wide acceptance as the ideal brush-country deer rifle. Name changed to 44 Carbine in 1962.

***Safari in Uganda***, Ruger and Pete Kuhloff took Deerstalker 44 Magnum carbine. Shot leopard, warthog, hyena, waterbuck and a record book reedbuck.

***1963: The Hawkeye Pistol***, 256 Winchester Magnum chambering. This unusual single-shot pistol featured a heavy manually rotating breechblock. Discontinued 1964.

***Pine Tree Castings***; foundry established at Newport, NH by Sturm, Ruger & Co. as a source for precision investment castings for the firearms made by its parent company. Pine Tree has also become a reliable supplier to all industries

requiring production lots of high-quality investment castings. Over the years, they have cast valve bodies, jet engine components, parts for gun manufacturers and other items too numerous to list. On several occasions additional space was added.

***The Newport factory***, separated from Pine Tree Castings by the Sugar River, was opened for gun production. This 200,000 square foot facility is self-reliant and is now one of the most advanced small arms plants in the world. Hundreds of workers make stocks, operate machines, make parts, polish, finish and assemble long guns and revolvers.

***1964: The Model 10/22 Rifle***, 22LR chambering. This autoloading rifle incorporated a unique 10-shot rotary magazine and has become one of the most popular firearms of its type in the world. It is still in production in many configurations.

***1967: The Number One Single-Shot Rifle***. Produced in a variety of chamberings from 22-250 to 458 Magnum, the Ruger Number One Rifle is used today by big-game hunters in all parts of the world. In 1972, an "Americanized" version of this single-shot design was introduced as the Number 3 Carbine.

***1968: The M-77 Bolt-Action Rifle***. Offered in a variety of configurations and chamberings from 22-250 to 458 Magnum, the M-77 Rifle achieved unusual standing and great popularity among sportsmen.

***1969-70: Ruger Tourers***. Two prototype automobiles patterned after the Bentley Vanden Plas. Powered by a powerful 425 hp Ford engine. The car was never put into production. The prototypes are in the factory collection.

***1971: The Security-Six, Police Service-Six and Speed-Six Double-Action Revolvers***. Offered in 38 Special and 357 Magnum chamberings. The new double-action revolver design marked Ruger's entry into the law-enforcement field and has met

*Aerial view of the Lacey Place plant in Southport, Connecticut. This facility opened in 1959 and suspended operations in 1991. The corporate offices are still housed there. The large building in the foreground is Superior Manufacturing Co., ca. late 1960s.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

with ever-increasing demand among sportsmen and law enforcement agencies. In 1975, stainless steel versions of all double-action models were offered. Beginning in 1986 these were replaced by the GP-100, SP-101, Redhawk and Super Redhawk revolvers. Chamberings range from 22LR to 480 Ruger in several frame sizes and finishes.

**1972: *The Old Army Revolver.*** Offered in 45-caliber percussion. Ruger's first offering for the blackpowder shooter. The Old Army Revolver, like the Single-Six model, was redolent of the guns of the Western frontier days. A stainless steel version was offered in 1975. Old Armies are still in production, with and without adjustable sights.

***Above Left:*** 1973 – Bill Ruger in his Southport, Connecticut office, discussing the merits of the new and innovative lockwork of the New Model Single-Six.

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

***Above Right:*** Summer 1971: In the stock-making department at the Newport, New Hampshire plant. Bill Ruger with Skeeter Skelton, Handgun Editor of Shooting Times.

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

***Left:*** Bill Ruger and Chris Cashavelli at the drafting table in the engineering department at the Lacey Place plant in Southport, Connecticut ca. 1973.

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

*Aerial view of Pine  
Tree Casting and the  
plant at Newport, New  
Hampshire ca. 1975.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

***The One Millionth  
Ruger Standard  
Automatic Pistol.***

*Pulled from the  
production line in  
1979, then engraved  
and inlaid with gold  
by Master Engraver  
Ray Viramontez, this  
highly ornate pistol was  
auctioned to the highest  
bidder in connection with  
the 1980 NRA meetings.  
The proceeds went to the  
International Shooter  
Development Fund.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.

**1973: *The New Model Single-Six, New Model Blackhawk and New Model Super Blackhawk*** were introduced incorporating an entirely new, patented “transfer-bar” ignition system. All older model Ruger single-action revolvers were discontinued at this time. In 1974, stainless models were introduced. These models are still being produced in all popular calibers. Collaboration with Remington in 1982 resulted in a 357 Maximum Blackhawk. In 1986 a Bisley version was introduced. In 1993 the Vaquero model came out featuring a topstrap akin to the Colt Peacemaker.

**1975: *The Mini-14 Rifle.*** Chambered for the 223 Remington cartridge. The company released to the general market this model that had already enjoyed considerable success in government and law-enforcement markets. Many foreign governments and police forces have adopted a Government Model rifle in a variety of configurations. In 1978, stainless steel versions were being shipped. The Ranch Rifle, a model with integral scope mounts and The Mini-Thirty chambered for the 7.62x39mm cartridge was later introduced.

**1,000,000<sup>th</sup> Ruger  
Double-Action Revolver.** *Pulled  
from the assembly line in 1983  
and engraved and inlaid by Master  
Engraver Paul Lantuch, this stainless steel  
Security-Six was released from the collection  
of Sturm, Ruger & Co. to be auctioned to  
the highest bidder in connection with the  
1985 SHOT Show. The proceeds went to  
the National Shooting Sports Foundation.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

**1977: *The Over and Under Shotgun.*** Although shotgun manufacturing represented a new area for Sturm, Ruger & Co., the new 20-gauge Red Label Over and Under shotgun demonstrated their expertise and originality in small arms design and manufacture. Later a 12- and 28-gauge were offered, and a .410 barrel liner to fit the 28-gauge could be ordered. The Red Label Over and Under is still being offered in various configurations and enjoys great popularity with hunters and competition shooters.

***Titania,*** construction of Ruger's second yacht began at Robert Derektor's Boat Yard in Mamaroneck, NY. Schooled as a naval architect, Ruger designed the 88-foot boat himself. Derektor provided engineering, drawings and construction. It was completed in late 1979.

**1979: *The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*** of Ruger Firearms.

***Completes the 1,000,000<sup>th</sup>*** Standard Auto pistol.

**1982: *The Mark II Standard and Target Pistols,*** 22LR chambering. Upgrade of original pistol designs, specifically a different magazine and hold-open mechanism. Still in production in many configurations and finishes; the most popular pistol of its type.

***Completes the 1,000,000<sup>th</sup>*** double-action revolver.

***Free Conversion Kit Offer,*** to be factory-installed on "Old Model" single-action revolvers and older Bearcats made before 1973. The kit features another patented transfer bar similar to that of the New Model. Installation of the kit helps prevent accidental discharge and allows for loading of all six chambers. This free service is still offered.

**1987: *P85 Pistol,*** 9mm chambering. Ruger occupied a 9000 square foot building close to the airport in Prescott, AZ to build and ship the first guns. A revolutionary design influenced by proven concepts integrated into a new standard of perfection for this type pistol. The new design focused on safety and reliability. Military and law-enforcement agencies around the world used these pistols. Eventually offered in several styles, configurations, calibers, materials and finishes.

**1989: *The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*** of Ruger Firearms.

***Occupies Prescott Factory,*** an extensively renovated 200,000 square foot building near the airport in Prescott, AZ. ***Ruger Investment Casting*** is established to cast titanium components. Tooling is set and production of the P-series continues, slowly at first, but now all Ruger pistols are produced in this state-of-the-art plant. Later Ruger Investment Casting was expanded to accommodate the production of castings for outside customers. Ruger casts titanium golf club heads. They also market their own line of golf clubs.

***Introduced the M-77 Mark II Rifle,*** an improved version of the original M-77 featuring a controlled-feed extractor and a three-position receiver safety. Today the M-77 MK II family includes over 100 rifles to meet any need, in all popular chamberings from 223 Remington to 458 Lott.

**1991: *Southport factory closes*** after 30 years of operation. Production of single-action revolvers and 22-caliber pistols was moved to the Company's other two plants. The Company's corporate headquarters remain in the Southport facility.

***Stephen Vogel dies,*** Ruger's son-in-law, VP of Ruger Export Corp. at Southport and later plant manager at the early Prescott operation.

**1993: *Tom Ruger dies,*** Ruger's younger son, was vice president of sales and marketing at the Southport operation.

**1994: *Mrs. Ruger passes away,*** on Thursday before Easter. Wife and companion for nearly 60 years.

***Production of MP9,*** a selective-fire 9mm from Uzi Gal's M201. For law-enforcement and government sales only.

**1996: *The M-96 Lever Action Rifle,*** in 22LR and 44 Magnum chamberings. Popular with sportsmen and Cowboy Action Shooters.

*Bill Ruger in his office in Southport, Connecticut – 1987.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

October 1996: *Bill Ruger at his Prescott, Arizona plant. The magnificent bronze statue is "An Honest Days Work" by Fred Fellows. The beautiful automobile is a Ruger Sports Tourer, one of two built in 1968 – 1970.*

Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

**1997: Ruger Carbine**, 9mm and 40 S&W chamberings. Autoloader mounted in a black polymer stock. Uses 10-round Ruger pistol magazines.

**1998: 77/50 Muzzleloading Rifle**, single shot, 50-caliber bolt-action percussion rifle for use with blackpowder during muzzle-loading hunting season.

**Bill Ruger personally donates \$1,000,000** to the National Firearms Museum.

**Bill Ruger personally donates \$1,000,000** to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center to establish the Cody Firearms Museum.

**Bill Ruger is named Man-of-the-Year** by the Shooting, Hunting & Outdoor Trade (S.H.O.T.). Featured in *SHOT BUSINESS* magazine.

**1999: The Golden Anniversary of Ruger Firearms.** Celebrated by dozens of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary memorabilia and special offerings.

**2000: Bill Ruger officially retires**, October 24, 2000. Becomes Chairman Emeritus.

**Bill Ruger Jr. appointed CEO**

**2002: Announces Gold Label Side-by-Side Shotgun** in 12-gauge, weighing only 6-1/2 pounds, made in the tradition of the finest European and British makers. Dickson-style selective ejectors, no visible pins or screws, back-bored with choke tubes.

The Gold Label is a work of art, to be cherished during your lifetime, and then passed on to another who exults in the joy of being afield on a crisp fall day.

With this gun Sturm, Ruger has reached the pinnacle of gunmaking.

**William B. Ruger dies** at home close to his factory in Prescott, Arizona. He was a pragmatist who understood and accepted the eventuality of life. On Saturday morning July 6, 2002, with mercy and grace God drew him to his bosom.

Ruger believed in his own ability. He enjoyed a long and sententious life on his own terms. He always knew that the American Dream existed and could be attained through vision and perseverance. His legacy is proof enough.

The time for grieving is at an end; a time to celebrate the memory of his life, his factories, the guns and his extraordinary achievements is now at hand. I knew Mr. Ruger and I believe this is how he would want to be remembered, and we shall remember him with fondness each time we admire a factory engraved Single-Six or shoulder a Gold Label and fill our game bag.

## ADDENDUM: RUGER AFTER RUGER

Bill Ruger was laid to rest in the summer of 2002 and by 2006, slowly at first, at the direction of Steve Sanetti and Bill Ruger Jr., several planned events began to unfold.

**2006: Personnel changes.** In an effort to increase production, Frank Bonaventura, former manager of manufacturing at the old Southport plant was brought out of retirement to oversee the operations at the New Hampshire factory and Bill Ruger Jr. retired. Meanwhile, Bob Stutler was shipping tens of thousands of pistols from the Prescott facility.

**2008: A new course.** Pursuant to the Ruger custom, new and innovative products continued to be introduced. A new board of directors was seated and the company charted a new course which would restructure manufacturing and expand the product line. In 2008, after nearly four decades of service CEO Steve Sanetti, left the company to head up the National Shooting Sports Foundation, but not before tutoring a new and capable CEO, Michael Fifer. Since its beginning in 1949, the Ruger company has been known for its more traditional, yet innovative sporting, law enforcement, recreational and target arms. Quite unexpectedly, at the 2008 SHOT Show, Bob Stutler unveiled the LCP (lightweight Compact Pistol), a small .380 pocket pistol which featured a polymer frame. It is rumored that the Ruger team arrived back home with orders in hand for 70,000 units (the LC9 eventually followed). Less than a year later the LCR (Lightweight Compact Revolver) was introduced, a pocket size revolver chambered for the venerable .38 special cartridge, again featuring a polymer cylinder frame and stainless cylinder. Seemingly out of character, with these two offerings Ruger expanded into new territory and began to emerge as a frontrunner in the research, development and production of black polymer/aluminum alloy small arms. Immediately, the market place embraced these exciting and revolutionary designs. Some saying, "It's about time."

**2009: A Ruger AR-15.** Designated as the SR-556, Ruger's iteration in 2009 of the AR-15 was perhaps the most astonishing departure from Ruger tradition. Chambered in 5.56x45mm it redefined the AR platform and became an instant sensation among the modern rifle aficionados.

Simultaneously, designs for a broad new family of semi-auto pistols were on the drawing board and on the testing range. These were to be designated as the SR series, which includes the following models SR22, SR9, SR40 and SR45 chambered for .22LR, 9mm, .40 S&W and .45ACP respectively. These well-designed pistols feature a polymer frame and stainless or blued steel slide. Of course, there are sub-models and variants in all models.

**2011: A Ruger 1911.** Perhaps the most-welcome offering in 2011 was when the all stainless steel SR1911 was announced. A Commander model was added in 2013.

**2012: A Takedown 10/22.** There are dozens of great models of the 10/22 rifle; notwithstanding, the Takedown Model introduced in 2012 has to be the most ingenious conception of an old idea. Winchester, Marlin and Savage among others offered the takedown feature on bolt action, slide action and lever guns since the latter part of the nineteenth century, so, it is nothing revolutionary, except that Ruger came up with a simpler way to remove the barrel. It is worthy of note: in 2012, Ruger sold over one million firearms for the first time.

**2013: The Red Label returns.** After a hiatus of a couple of years, the Red Label over/under shotgun was reintroduced with several design improvements that streamlined production costs, allowing a lower retail price.

**Ruger appoints a new president.** Chris Killoy, VP of Sales and Marketing, is promoted to President and Chief Operating Office of Ruger effective January 1, 2014. A graduate of West Point, he served in a variety of Armor and Infantry assignments in the U.S. Army. He previously held management positions at Smith & Wesson and Savage.

**Expanding to North Carolina.** The latest big news from Ruger was the announcement in the summer of 2013 of plans to establish a new 220,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Mayodan, North Carolina. Combined with the Prescott, Arizona and Newport, New Hampshire factories, the square footage of manufacturing space is now close to one million square feet. Production of the new American Rimfire Rifle was underway in Mayodan before the end of 2013.—*John Dougan, President, Ruger Collectors' Association, March 2014.*



# SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIMFIRE PISTOLS



*Where it all began, the first Ruger prototype, circa 1946.*

When an advertisement for the “.22 Ruger pistol” appeared in the August 1949 issue of the National Rifle Association’s *American Rifleman* magazine, firearms history was made. The ad presented the very first Ruger firearm to the shooting public, and it also introduced the name Sturm, Ruger and Co., Inc. to an industry that one day would be dominated by the company.

At a glance, the image of the Ruger pistol was very familiar; it bore a striking resemblance to the German Luger. Not only were the names similar, the overall look of the new handgun—the profile, angle of the grip, shape of the trigger guard, the tapered barrel and design of the front sight—said “Luger.” This was not a negative, as the Luger was one of the most famous and recognizable guns in the world. However, the similarities ended with the outward appearance, for the Ruger’s operating

mechanism and blow-back action were nothing like that of the toggle-locked, recoil-operated Luger.

The introductory price for what would soon become known as the Standard Model was \$37.50, well positioned to compete with the other .22 semiautomatic pistols on the market. This was about half the price of the popular Colt Woodsman, and was also less than the lowest priced High Standard .22 pistol, those being the only manufacturers of rimfire pistols in the country at the time. Primarily based on that ad in *American Rifleman*, workers at the Ruger plant in Southport, CT were soon very busy filling orders. By October 6, 1949 the first shipment of 100 pistols was on the way to retailers, wholesalers and individuals. The new pistol was an immediate success and the Ruger name was on its way to becoming a major player in the firearms industry.



*The Ruger company placed this ad in the August 1949 issue of American Rifleman, the NRA's membership journal and the only true "gun" magazine at the time.*

From 1949 to 1951, the Standard Model had a Ruger red eagle medallion inlay on the left grip panel. The medallion was designed by Bill Ruger's partner and co-founder, Alex Sturm, who was an artist and writer, in addition to being a collector of fine firearms. The red eagle became the logo for the company in its advertising, on letterheads, catalogs and business cards, as well as the grip panel of the pistol. This was changed to a black eagle beginning with serial number 34369, in honor of Sturm who died on November 16, 1951 from viral

hepatitis at the age of 28. The black eagle grip was on all Ruger Standard .22 pistols until 1999, when the red eagle medallion was resurrected for a special 50th anniversary model. (Approximately 25,600 pistols with red eagle medallion on the grip were manufactured before the death of Alexander Sturm, although serial numbers exist beyond 35,000. This is due to the fact that blocks of serial numbers were often set aside and then used at a later date.)



*A first-year Standard Model, serial number 0194, from the first shipment from the Ruger factory in October of 1949.*

Photo courtesy Don Findley.

## STANDARD MODEL, RED EAGLE GRIP MEDALLION

The Standard Model was based on a simple and reliable blowback design that would function with both standard and high-speed .22 Long Rifle ammunition. Features include a tubular receiver with a cylindrical bolt, blue finish, checkered hard rubber grips, wide grooved trigger, thumb safety, fixed sights and a nine-shot detachable magazine. With the original 4 ¾-inch barrel, weight is 36 ounces. Approximately 890 pistols were shipped via REA in a wooden “salt cod” box. Add a premium of \$3000 if NIB, \$1000 to \$2000 if good to excellent condition.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
750	550	450	375	250	150

## STANDARD MODEL, BLACK EAGLE GRIP

Manufactured from 1952 to 1982, this model came with either hard rubber or checkered walnut grips, and with a black medallion on the grip panel. There were approximately 30 design changes during this 30-year run, most of them minor variations and refinements. In 1981, a stainless steel model with 4 ¾-inch barrel was introduced with rollmarks of Bill Ruger’s signature and the designation “1 of 5000.” Add \$100 for this model if NIB or Exc. condition. Within this group of 5,000 pistols were 25 that were marked “CAL. FREEDOM ’82,” which had been donated by Ruger to be auctioned to raise funds to defeat a handgun ban in California. Add \$500 to \$750 for this model, depending on condition.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
450	400	300	250	200	100

*Serial number R1010.  
4-¾” barrel. Assembled  
and marketed in  
Mexico by Armamex  
S. A.. Approximately  
in 1955. Presentation  
pistol. Presented to  
Hilario Medina (Justice  
of the Peace) at his  
retirement in 1957.  
All lettering silver  
inlaid. Silver grips.*

Photo courtesy Don Findley



## STANDARD MODEL, “HECHO EN MEXICO”

Early in 1957 Ruger shipped 250 sets of parts to Armamex in Mexico. Armamex fabricated barrels for the parts-sets, and then finished and assembled 250 pistols – 200 with 4 ¾-inch barrels, 50 with 6 ½-inch. Due to the rarity of these pistols, an expert examination and appraisal is recommended.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1750	1500	1200	850	600	400

## MARK I TARGET MODEL

Specifications are the same as the Standard Model except the Target Model has adjustable sights and either a 6 ⅞-inch tapered target barrel, a 5 ¼-inch tapered barrel (rare) or a ½-inch bull barrel.

**RED EAGLE 6 ⅞” BBL.**

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
750	675	500	350	250	150



*The Mark I Target model was the first reference of “Mark I” for the Ruger .22 series.*

Photo courtesy Don Findley.

***Black or Silver Eagle 6 7/8” BBL.***

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
450	400	300	250	200	125

***5 1/4” BBL.***

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
875	750	600	400	300	200

***5 1/2” BBL.***

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
450	400	300	250	200	125



**MARK I TARGET MODEL GOVERNMENT ISSUE**

From 1956 to 1967 about 5,570 “U.S.” marked Mark I Target Models were shipped to various agencies of the U.S. military. No NIB examples are believed to exist as all of these pistols were used for training purposes. Some were fitted with silencers and used in the tunnels of Vietnam. The serial numbers on some U.S.-marked guns measure 1/8-inch in height, while standard serial numbers measure 3/32-inch.

*The letters “U.S.” were rollmarked on the receiver of each Ruger pistol before shipment to the military.*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
—	875	700	550	400	300

*The Mark II was introduced in 1982 with several refinements to the original Standard Model, which had a run of over one million guns.*



*This photo appeared in the 1983 Gun Digest, announcing the Ruger Mark II series.*



### **MARK II STANDARD MODEL**

Changes for this model were mostly on the inside and included a 10-round magazine instead of the original nine, a faster lock-time, a magazine release button that could easily be moved to either side of the grip, and a device to hold the action open after the last shot was fired. A new safety allowed the pistol to be loaded or unloaded, or the action to be manually operated, with the safety on. With the Mark II there was an optional stainless steel finish. The original price for this model in 1982 was \$147.50. Two special “Friends

of NRA” models were manufactured for the National Rifle Association’s auctions in 1997 (blue finish) and in 2001 (stainless). Add a \$200 premium for either of these models, if NIB or excellent condition. To mark the end of the Mark II series, in 2004 the last 1,000 were marked “One of One Thousand.” A small premium of 10 to 20 percent could be negotiated for this model.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
350	250	175	125	100	75

### **MARK II STANDARD MODEL, STAINLESS**

The stainless steel series of the Mark II was introduced in 1983.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
375	300	200	150	125	100

### **MARK II STANDARD TARGET MODEL**

The target variation was offered with adjustable sights, a 6 7/8-inch standard tapered barrel, or a bull barrel in 4, 5 1/4, 5 1/2, 6 7/8, 8 (rare) or 10-inch lengths. Add 20 percent for 8-inch barrel. Add 10 percent for stainless Target Model.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
400	325	225	175	150	125



*A civilian version of the Government Model Target. Only a handful of these models with a U.S. rollmark are believed to be in civilian hands.*

### **MARK II GOVERNMENT TARGET MODEL**

This special model is a civilian version of a special model made for the federal government as a training pistol for U.S. military personnel. It has an adjustable rear sight, 6 7/8-inch bull barrel and came with either a blue or stainless finish. These models were made with a tight chamber to enhance accuracy. A very limited number with a “U.S.” marking on the right side of the frame—perhaps no more than 25—are believed to have found their way to civilian hands. One of these models was sold at auction in December 2013 for more than \$1,500. The civilian Government Model was identical but did not have the government markings. In 1992, a variation with a slab-side barrel was introduced in stainless steel. Add \$50 for slab-side barrel.

#### **CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT MODEL**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	350	250	200	150	100

#### **GOVERNMENT MODEL WITH U.S. MARKING**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1800	1450	1000	700	400	300

*This first version of the 22/45 series was introduced in 1993 with a grip angle similar to the Model 1911.*



**MARK II MODEL 22/45**

Introduced in 1993, the Model 22/45 featured a composite (Zytel) frame patterned after the shape of the grip frame on the Government Model 1911 .45 auto pistol and was designed to appeal to the many shooters who favor that model. Other changes included reshaping the bottom of the magazine and moving the magazine release button to the same position as is found on the Model 1911. Barrel lengths available were 4 inches with standard sights, 5 ¼ inches with target sights, or a 5 ½ inch bull barrel with target sights. A blue or stainless finish was offered. Add 10 percent for stainless finish and 10 percent for bull barrel model.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
300	250	225	200	150	100



*Mark II Standard Model, 50th Anniversary*

## MARK II STANDARD MODEL, 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Made only in 1999, this model commemorated 50 years of the original Ruger Standard Pistol with a “50th Anniversary” Ruger crest on the top of the frame and the return of a red eagle medallion, this time on both grip panels. While the pre-1951 medallion had a red eagle on a silver background, this anniversary model featured a silver eagle on a red background. After this date, all Ruger .22 pistols had these medallions. About 35,000 50th Anniversary models were manufactured.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
400	300	175	125	100	75



*This series was made in 2004 to raise funds for the U.S. Shooting Team at the Athens Olympic Games.*

Photo courtesy Rick Verzal.

A limited edition Mark II was offered through Talo Distributors with the bolt embellished in gold with the USA Shooting “Victory In Athens” mark on the rear of the bolt. Features include a Hi-Viz front sight and checkered thumb-rest black laminate grips. This was the first of several Ruger models made in honor of subsequent Olympic games. Only about 2500 were made. Each pistol came in a commemorative box and had a special serial number with a USA- prefix. A special medallion was also available and only 250 of these were made. Values shown include the special box. Add a premium of \$100 for the medallion. Twenty-five commemorative coins were also made and values for these would be speculative.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
650	550	450	350	–	–

## MARK III STANDARD MODEL

This further refinement of Ruger’s original .22 pistol was introduced to the marketplace in 2005 and as of 2014 is the current model in production. New features included placing the magazine release button on the left side at the rear of the trigger guard, where it is located on most modern semiauto pistols. Mark III pistols also have a loaded chamber indicator, internal lock, magazine disconnect, and recontoured sights and ejection port. Standard features include fixed sights, black checkered grips, blue finish, and a 4 ¾ or 6 inch barrel.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
300	250	185	150	125	85

*In addition to repositioning the magazine release button (see Target model photo below), the Mark III model added a loaded-chamber indicator, internal lock and magazine disconnect.*



*An option for the Hunter Model is this attractive and ergonomic set of contoured laminate grips.*



***Below:*** *This view of a Mark III Target model shows the location of the magazine release button behind the trigger guard.*

### MARK III HUNTER

The Hunter model has a 6.88-inch crowned and fluted barrel, adjustable rear sight with Hi-Viz front sight, checkered cocobolo grips, and is drilled and tapped for scope mounts. Stainless steel finish. A limited number were sold with Crimson Trace laser grips. Add \$150 for this variation. Add \$50 for contoured target laminate grips.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
575	500	400	325	225	125

### MARK III TARGET

This model has the same general features as the Mark III Standard except for its adjustable sights and checkered composition grip panels. Available with a 5 1/2-inch bull barrel or 6 7/8-inch tapered barrel. Add \$50 for laminated target grips. Add \$100 for stainless finish. Add \$150 for Government Competition model with slab-side barrel.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
375	300	250	200	150	100



*The slab-side barrel sets model apart from the other Target models.*

### **MARK III COMPETITION**

A variant of the Target Model series, the Competition model was introduced in 2005. It comes only in a stainless finish, and has a 6 7/8-inch slab-side barrel and checkered brown laminate grips with a thumb rest. Weight is 45 ounces.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
535	425	350	275	175	100

### **MARK III 22/45**

Several variations are offered with barrel lengths of 4, 4 1/2, 5 1/2, or 6 7/8 inches, fluted or bull barrel, and one model with a threaded barrel and Picatinny rail. Hunter Model has adjustable rear and fiber optic front sight. Weight is from 31 to 35 ounces, depending on barrel length and type. Prices shown are for the standard model. Add \$50 for Threaded Barrel model. Add \$125 for Hunter Model with adjustable rear and fiber optic front sights. Add \$50 for stainless finish.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
300	250	185	150	125	85



*As with the Mark II version, this model is patterned after the Government Model 1911 with an aluminum upper and polymer frame for lighter weight.*

### MARK III 22/45 LITE

The newest variation of this popular model introduced in 2013 with a 4.4-inch fluted and threaded barrel, aluminum upper, Zytel polymer frame, replaceable black laminate grip panels, and barrel sleeve. Weight is approximately 23 ounces.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
425	375	300	225	135	100



*The unique Charger had a striking appearance and while it was listed under handguns in the Ruger catalog it was based on the 10/22 Carbine design.*

### CHARGER

The Charger was introduced in 2008 with a 10-inch barrel and a gray/black laminated pistol-grip stock with a unique ergonomic fore-end. A bipod is included. Capacity of the 10/22-type rotary magazine is 10 rounds and the weight is 52 ounces. An accessory rail is mounted on top of the receiver. The Charger was in production from 2008 through 2012.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
375	300	225	175	125	100



*The SR22 is a modern pistol with features found on many more expensive models.*

*Interchangeable rubber grips on the SR22 allow users to choose the best for their hand.*

## **SR22**

This model was introduced in 2012. It is a traditional double/single-action semiauto chambered for the .22 Long Rifle rimfire cartridge and operates with a straight blowback design. (Unlike the SR9, SR40 and SR45 centerfire models, the SR22 is not a striker-fired pistol.) With its polymer grip frame and aluminum slide, the gun weighs only 17.5 ounces. The barrel length is 3.5 inches with the overall length measuring 6.4 inches. Magazine capacity is 10 rounds. The three-dot style sights are adjustable and there is a Picatinny rail for lights or other accessories. Other features include an external hammer, a loaded chamber indicator, and ergonomic rubber grips that come in two interchangeable styles. Operating controls include a safety/decocker lever and magazine release button, both ambidextrous. Finish is black matte on the frame and either a black or silver anodized slide. A threaded barrel is an available option. Add a premium of \$35 for a threaded barrel, \$20 for the silver anodized slide finish.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
350	300	235	200	150	100



# SINGLE-ACTION REVOLVERS

Single-action Ruger revolvers are separated into two categories, defined as Old Models and New Models. The most significant difference between the categories is that the Old Models, made before 1973, were based on the original single-action designs of the 19th century and should be carried with the hammer lined up with an empty chamber. This was to avoid an accidental

discharge if a gun was dropped with the hammer positioned over a live round. Beginning in 1973, a unique transfer bar safety was added, which prevented the gun from firing unless the trigger was pulled, allowing the safe carry of six rounds in the cylinder. All Ruger single actions made after 1973 have this safety feature, including current models.

## SINGLE-ACTION REVOLVERS: OLD MODELS (1953-1973)

The year was 1951. Bill Ruger's company was profitable and becoming well established in the industry, and he was anxious to expand his product line. The new medium of television was growing rapidly. Black and white TV screens were lighting up America's living rooms every night and some of the most popular programs were westerns. A common thread in these shows was the type of handguns used by both good guys and bad guys. By far the most frequently seen models were single-action revolvers, most of them patterned after the Colt Single Action Army.

Bill Ruger, who had always been a fan of the classic Colt, saw an opportunity. Colt had ceased production of the Single Action Army in 1940 and there was no indication that it would be back anytime soon. In fact, an official announcement from Colt several years earlier had stated there would not be a post-war Colt SAA. Because of the American public's love of westerns on the

TV screen and in motion pictures, Ruger decided it was the time was right to develop an updated and improved version of the single-action revolver.

The timing was a wise move. It would be another 16 years before Colt returned to the single-action market, and by that time, Ruger would be well positioned as the leader in the field. The popularity of the TV western continued through the '50s, peaking in 1959 when, amazingly, the ratings showed that eight of the 10 most watched television programs were stories of the American west.

Work had been underway on the first Ruger single-action revolver since 1951 and by the fall of 1953, the gun was ready and 60 units were shipped in December. The name was the Single Six and like the Ruger Standard Automatic pistol, it was chambered for everyman's cartridge, the wonderful little .22 Long Rifle.

### SINGLE SIX (OLD MODEL)

Inspired by the classic Colt Single Action Army, the Single Six in .22 LR was first introduced with a 5 1/2-inch barrel. Later models were added with a 4 3/8-inch, 6 1/2-inch or 9 1/2-inch barrel lengths. The Single Six could also be used with .22 Short or .22 Long ammunition.

As the name suggested, the cylinder held six rounds but, as noted above, the original model could only be safely carried with the hammer over an empty chamber. Grips were checkered hard rubber with a black eagle medalion inlay on each side. Varnished walnut or stag grips



*From 1957, this ad  
ran in every gun and  
outdoor magazine.*

were available as an option with true ivory grips added in 1954. The standard model had a blued barrel and cylinder with an anodized aluminum grip frame. The earliest Single Sixes featured a flat loading gate and rounded profile front sight and are referred to by collectors and Ruger aficionados as Flat Loading Gate models. A lightweight variation with an aluminum frame and/or cylinder was introduced in 1956. Original prices were \$57.50 for the standard model in 1953, and \$63.25 for the Lightweight (1956). In 1959 a version was introduced chambered for the .22 Winchester Magnum

Rimfire cartridge, and was made only with a 6 ½-inch barrel. The Convertible model with interchangeable .22 LR and .22 WMR cylinders became available in 1962 and replaced the .22 WMR-only model. It was made with barrel lengths of 4 ⅝, 5 ½, 6 ½ or 9 ½ inches and was in production until 1972.

The Super Single Six model was introduced in 1964 with upgraded features including an adjustable rear sight, a ramp front, and an integral sight rib. Most Super Single Sixes came with interchangeable cylinders for .22 LR and .22 WMR.



### SINGLE SIX (FLAT LOADING-GATE)

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
900	700	550	450	225	150

Add \$300 for serial number under 2000 if NIB or Excellent condition. Add \$600 for factory stag grips or \$1200 for factory ivory grips. Authentication of these grips by an expert appraiser is advised.

### SINGLE SIX (CONTOURED GATE)

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
700	600	450	350	200	125

Add a 35 percent premium for 4 5/8-in barrel, and 20 percent for 9 1/2-inch barrels, for those with a serial number under 195000. Add \$600 for factory stag grips or \$1200 for factory ivory grips. Authentication of these grips by an expert appraiser is advised.

### SINGLE SIX ENGRAVED MODELS

Between 1954 and 1958, 250 Single Sixes were engraved by the Ruger factory. Known as the RSSE models (Ruger Single Six Engraved), they are very rare and among the most collectible Ruger Firearms. See "Fancy Rugers" elsewhere in this book for more details.

**SPANISH ENGRAVED** (serial no. 7 and 8, and 5100 to 5119).

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
22500	20000	16000	—	—	—

**JARRED ENGRAVED**, (all blue).

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
18000	15000	12000	—	—	—

**JARRED ENGRAVED**, (standard).

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
10000	8500	6500	—	—	—

### SINGLE SIX .22 MAGNUM

Chambered for the .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire cartridge with a 6.5-inch barrel. In production from 1959 to 1962.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
600	500	400	350	200	125

## SINGLE SIX CONVERTIBLE

Most models were sold with both a .22 LR and a .22 WMR cylinder. Deduct \$25 to \$35 if no second cylinder. Barrel lengths were 4 5/8 inches (rare), 5 1/2, 6 1/2, and 9 1/2 inches. About 100 nickel-plated guns were made from 1965 to 1968. Add a premium of \$100 for 4 5/8 or 9 1/2-inch barrel.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
650	550	450	375	225	150

## LIGHTWEIGHT MODEL SINGLE SIX

There were four variations of this rare model. Specifications are the same as for the standard Single Six except for the use of an alloy cylinder and frame, or a steel cylinder and alloy frame.

*LW SINGLE SIX (with black anodized aluminum frame with blue steel cylinder).*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
950	800	600	500	300	200

*LW SINGLE SIX (with black anodized aluminum frame and cylinder).*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1100	950	700	600	350	250

*LW SINGLE SIX (with silver anodized aluminum frame and cylinder with "S" marking).*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1600	1200	900	750	500	300

*LW SINGLE SIX (with silver anodized aluminum frame and aluminum cylinder).*

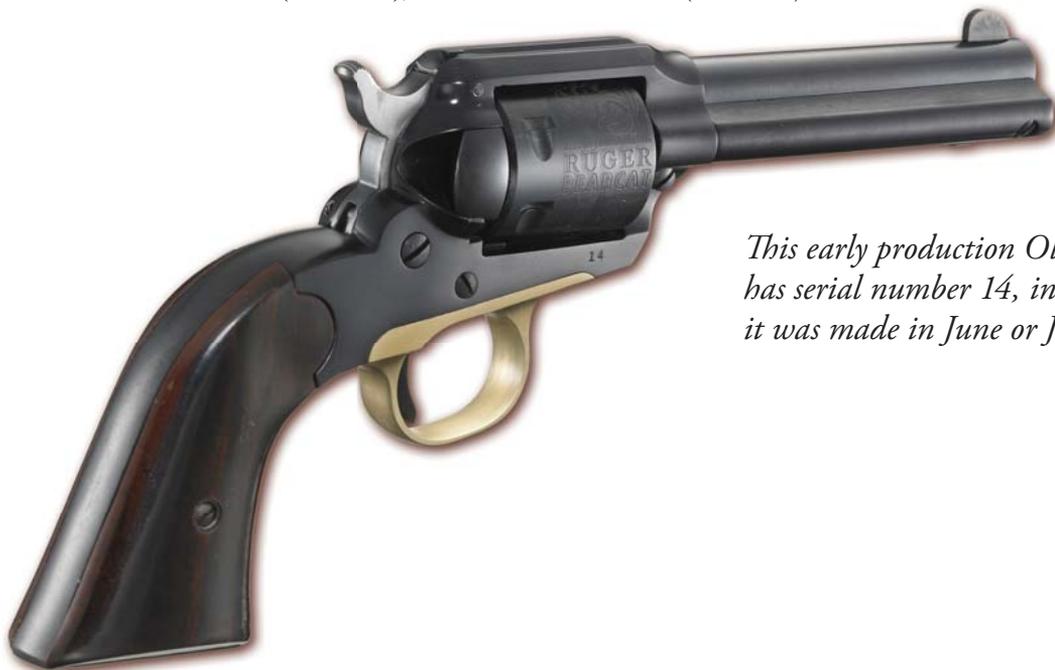
NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1500	1100	900	750	500	300

## SUPER SINGLE SIX CONVERTIBLE

Features were similar to the Single Six Convertible except most have cylinders for both .22 LR and .22 WMR cartridges, adjustable sights, and barrel lengths of 5 1/2 or 6 1/2 inches.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
600	500	400	350	200	125

Add \$1000 for 4 5/8" bbl. (200 built), \$1500 for nickel finish (100 built).



*This early production Old Model Bearcat has serial number 14, indicating that it was made in June or July of 1958.*

## BEARCAT

This is a scaled-down single action chambered in .22 LR with a four-inch barrel and non-fluted, roll-engraved cylinder. The frame is black anodized aluminum with a brass colored, anodized alloy trigger guard. Introduced in 1958, the first models had plastic wood-impregnated grips, which were changed to walnut in 1963. The old model was discontinued in 1972 but was returned to production in 1993 as the Bearcat New Model. Add a premium of \$150 to \$200 for a serial number under 30000. *Add \$350 for black anodized trigger guard. Add 20 percent for alphabet prefix serial number.*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
450	350	300	265	225	175

## SUPER BEARCAT

This is a model similar to the standard Bearcat except it has a steel frame, trigger guard and grip frame. Manufactured from 1971 to 1974.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
575	500	400	300	200	125

*Ruger's first centerfire  
was the .357 Magnum  
Blackhawk in 1955.  
It set the stage for a  
long run of single-  
action Ruger sixguns.*

Photo by John Taffin.



## BLACKHAWK

The success of the Single Six led to the development of what would become one of Ruger's most successful firearms, the Blackhawk .357 Magnum single action. Bill Ruger was convinced that there was a demand for an updated single-action revolver about the size of the Colt and one that was chambered for a modern centerfire cartridge. In 1955, the Blackhawk was introduced in .357 Magnum, becoming the first Ruger centerfire firearm. With its adjustable rear sight, the Ruger was designed to appeal to the handgun hunter and the handloader who would often be using various loads and bullet weights. The inner workings were similar to that of the Colt except for the Ruger's coil springs, instead of the flat springs in the Colt design of 1873, which were prone to breakage. The cylinder top-strap was flat-shaped, which led to the original design

becoming known as the Flattop Blackhawk. After about serial number 42,600, the top strap was reshaped to offer more protection to the rear sight. Barrel lengths were 4 7/8 inches—by far the most popular—also 6 1/2 inches, and a few hundred with a 10-inch barrel. The finish was blue and the standard grips were black rubber with a black eagle medallion on the left grip. Smooth walnut grips were later offered, along with stag and true ivory. Add \$1000 to \$1500 for 10" barrel, depending on condition. Add \$600 for factory original stag grips, \$1200 for ivory grips, with an expert appraisal strongly suggested.

### BLACKHAWK .357 FLATTOP

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1000	800	550	450	350	250



*An Old Model Blackhawk Flattop in .44 Magnum, made in 1959.*

### BLACKHAWK .44 MAGNUM FLATTOP

In 1956, Bill Ruger learned about a new cartridge being developed by Remington and Smith & Wesson known as the .44 Remington Magnum. Gun writer Elmer Keith had been working with hot .44 Special loads for years and lobbying for one of the gun companies to chamber a revolver for such a cartridge. Remington and Smith & Wesson engineers did a lot of experimenting and decided to just lengthen the .44 Special case and call it the .44 Remington Magnum, creating a relationship between the two .44 calibers much like that of the .38 Special and the .357 Magnum, meaning that .44 Special ammo could be used in a .44 Magnum revolver. After hearing about the .44 Magnum, Bill Ruger and his engineering team began working on chambering the Blackhawk for the new cartridge. By late 1956, it was ready to be introduced to the shooting public. According to some sources, Bill Ruger was able to get his .44 Magnum Blackhawk into some gun stores before Smith & Wesson's double-action revolver. Other sources dispute this and claim that the Smith & Wesson was the first .44 Mag. on the market. Confusion often occurs when trying to pin down the exact date a firearm was "introduced," or when it "went into production," and then, when the first one was actually sold at the retail level. In any event, Bill Ruger's dedication and efforts of designing, testing and building the Blackhawk .44 Magnum were quite remarkable. It had a cylinder and frame a bit heavier than those on the .357 Magnum version. Otherwise, it was very similar to the original Blackhawk. It was offered in barrel lengths of 6 1/2, 7 1/2 and 10 inches. The latter two lengths are quite rare. Add \$1000 for 7 1/2" bbl., \$1500 for 10" bbl., if NIB or Exc. Condition.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1250	800	500	450	350	250

## SUPER BLACKHAWK

A new single action called the Super Blackhawk was introduced in 1959. It was designed to answer the complaints of some shooters about the difficulty in handling the .44 Magnum in the standard Blackhawk revolver. The changes and upgrades included a larger and heavier frame, a more substantial grip with a squared-off rear trigger guard, a non-fluted cylinder, and a longer barrel, all designed to better manage the heavy recoil of the .44 Magnum. All barrels were to be 7 ½ inches, although a few were made with 6 ½-inch lengths. Smooth walnut grips were standard and the early models came in a mahogany presentation case. About 1,600 models were made with a brass frame. Add \$400 for mahogany case. Add \$700 for authenticated 6 ½-inch barrel. Add \$1000 for authenticated factory brass frame in NIB or Exc. condition.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
800	600	400	300	200	150

*Ruger announces the  
Super Blackhawk  
in 1959.*

Courtesy John Taffin.



## BLACKHAWK, 1962 MODEL

In late 1962, the shape of the top strap of the cylinder frame on the Blackhawk was changed to include integral ribs around the area of the rear sight, ending production of what later became known as the Flattop model. In addition to the .357 Magnum, new chamberings were later added including .41 Magnum (1965), .30 Carbine (1967), .45 Colt (1971). An optional brass frame was offered between 1965 and 1972, and will bring a significant premium.

### **BLACKHAWK, .357 MAGNUM**

*Add \$1000 for authenticated factory brass frame, if NIB or Exc. condition.*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
700	500	350	200	150	125

### **BLACKHAWK, .41 MAGNUM**

*Add a \$2000 premium for authenticated brass frame if NIB or Exc. condition.*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
800	600	450	300	150	125

### **BLACKHAWK, .30 CARBINE**

*Factory brass frame not known for this model.*



*This Blackhawk variation with integral ribs around the rear sight replaced the Flattop model in 1962. The .45 Colt did not come along until 1971, like this one belonging to famed sixgunner John Taffin, shown here with the results of some of his favorite handloads.*

Photo by John Taffin.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
850	650	450	300	150	125

**BLACKHAWK, .45 COLT**

*Add \$1000 for authenticated factory brass frame, if NIB or Exc. condition.*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
900	700	500	350	150	125

**BLACKHAWK CONVERTIBLE**

The Convertible model is identical to the Post-1962 Old Model Blackhawk except it came with an interchangeable cylinder. There were two versions: the .357 Magnum model came with an interchangeable cylinder for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge, and the .45 Colt model with its extra cylinder for the .45 ACP. Barrel lengths offered were 4 3/8 or 7 1/2 inches.

**BLACKHAWK CONVERTIBLE .357M/9MM**

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
750	650	450	300	200	150

**BLACKHAWK CONVERTIBLE .45C/.45 ACP**

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1250	1100	800	600	400	200

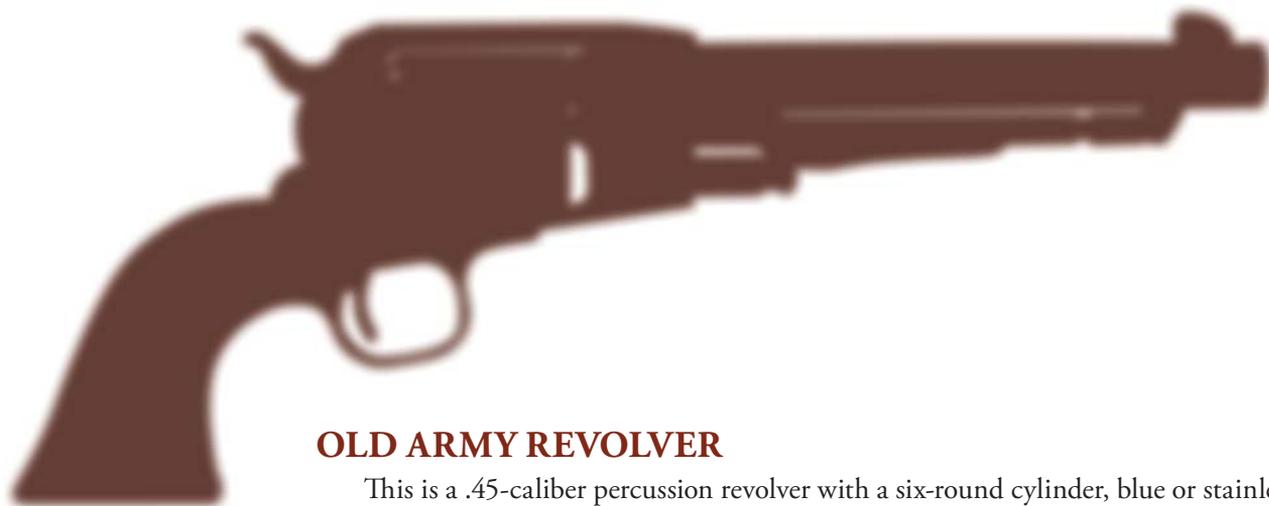
**HAWKEYE SINGLE SHOT**

This rare Ruger single-action, single-shot handgun was manufactured for only one year, in 1963. Chambered for the .256 Magnum, a bottle-neck cartridge, the Hawkeye was an excellent design from an engineering and performance standpoint. While it was a single shot, it looked like a six-shooter. The Hawkeye was designed primarily for the small-game hunter and has an 8 1/2-inch barrel with adjustable sights, and was drilled and tapped for scope mounting. Smith & Wesson had a double-action revolver chambered for another bottle-neck round, the .22 Jet, and experienced ejection problems because of the shape of the cartridge. The Hawkeye's unique design features a breechblock that rotates to the side for loading, which solved the ejection problem. However, the model was not a commercial success and only about 3,300 were manufactured. This rarity makes it one of the more popular models for Ruger collectors.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
2500	2000	1500	1000	500	300

*One of the most highly collectible Ruger single actions is the Hawkeye, a single-shot in .256 Magnum.*

Photo by Rick Verzal.



*Manufactured from 1972 to 2008, the Old Army was Ruger's entry into the world of black powder.*

### **OLD ARMY REVOLVER**

This is a .45-caliber percussion revolver with a six-round cylinder, blue or stainless finish and walnut grips. Its outward appearance is more like that of the Remington Model 1858 cap and ball pistol. It was made with a 5 ½-inch or 7 ½-inch barrel. The rear sight is adjustable for windage and elevation and there is a ramp style front sight. In 1994 a fixed-sight model was added to the line. About 1,200 Old Army revolvers were made with a brass frame. Add \$150 for stainless model. Add \$400 for brass frame. There were three series of Old Army revolvers made for members of the Ruger Collectors Association with various levels of engraving. A total of about 2200 were in the series. An expert appraisal is advised for any of these models.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
600	500	400	325	250	150

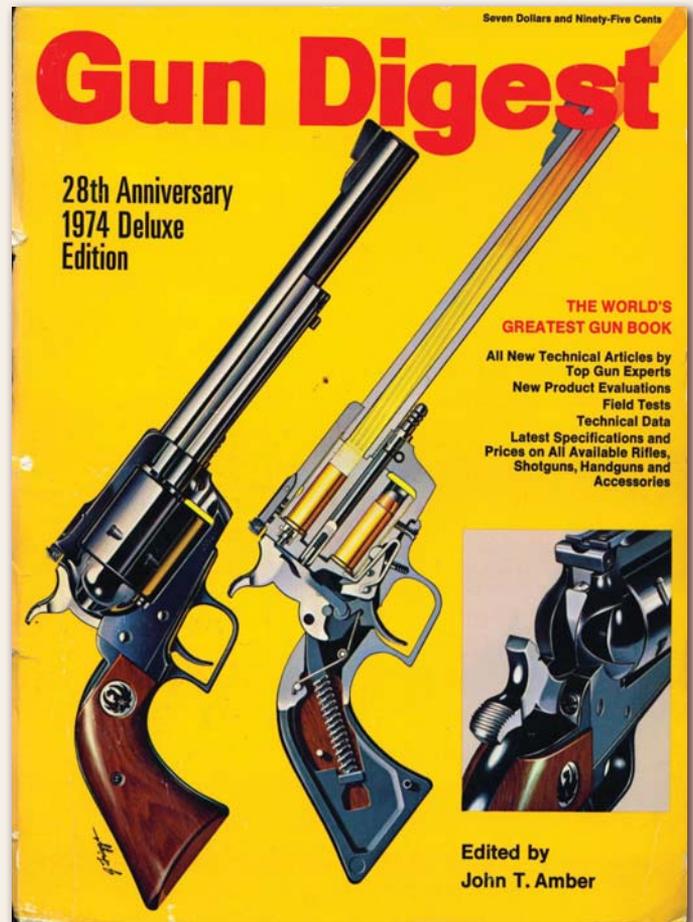
# SINGLE-ACTION REVOLVERS: NEW MODELS (1973-PRESENT)

Beginning in 1973, the Ruger New Model single action era was born. Several improvements were introduced to all Ruger single-action revolvers, the most significant of which was the patented transfer bar safety system. This system prevents the gun from firing if the hammer is accidentally struck while positioned next to a loaded cylinder, and allows safe carry with all chambers loaded. Before this significant improvement in revolver design, the sensible and common practice was to carry any single action with the hammer resting on an empty chamber. With the transfer bar lockwork, the hammer is never in contact with a firing pin, and the gun cannot fire unless the trigger is pulled, which pivots the bar upward between the hammer and firing pin. As the hammer strikes the bar, it transfers the energy to the firing pin and fires the gun. The transfer bar system remains a feature in all currently produced Ruger single-action revolvers.

To this day, now more than 40 years after the introduction of the transfer bar safety, the Ruger company will provide a free upgrade for single action revolvers made before 1973 with the older firing system. For more information, see the Ruger website: ([www.ruger.com/safety/announcements](http://www.ruger.com/safety/announcements)) or call (603) 865-2442.

Another change for the New Model was in the loading or unloading procedure. Unlike on earlier designs, the hammer has no half-cock position. With the hammer in the forward position, the loading gate is opened and the cylinder can fully rotate. After loading or unloading, the gate is simply closed.

Externally, the most noticeable difference between the Old Model and the New Model is the frame design, with integral ribs protecting the adjustable rear sight. This change led to the Old Model becoming known as the Flattop. Other changes included a reshaping of the Patridge-style front sight, two screws on

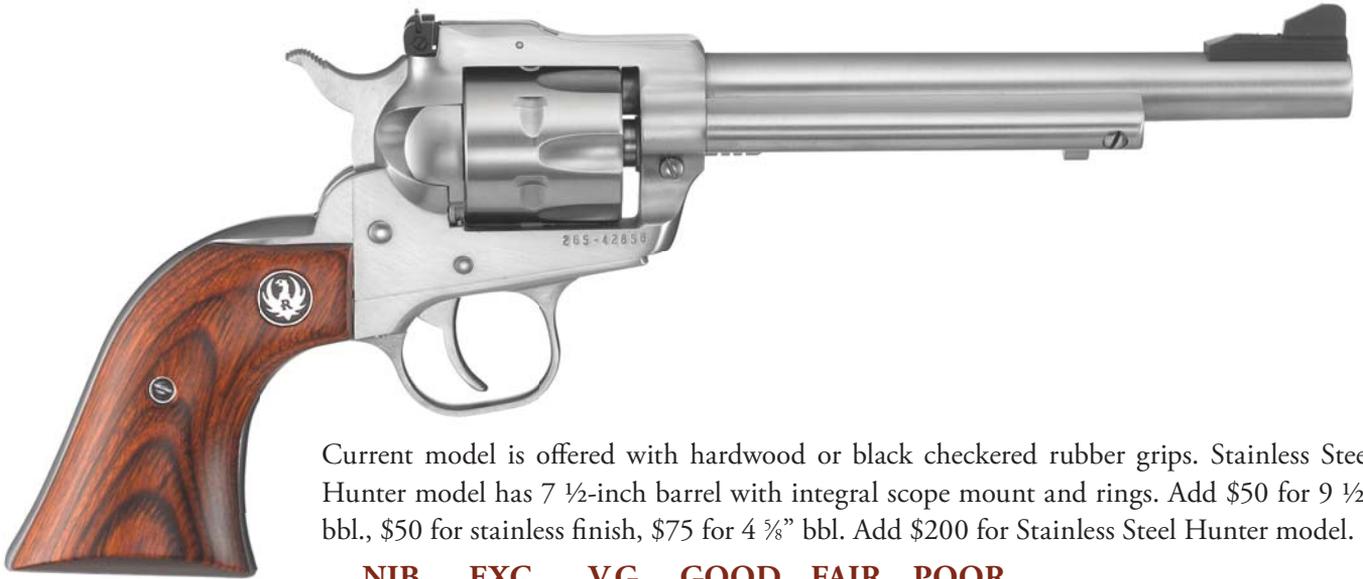


*The excellent drawing by the late and well-renowned firearms artist James Triggs on this cover of the 1974 28th edition of Gun Digest illustrates the transfer-bar safety mechanism in a New Model Super Blackhawk.*

the frame instead of three on the pre-1973 models, and wider, non-grooved trigger.

## SINGLE SIX CONVERTIBLE

Introduced in 1973 at a suggested retail price of \$95, which included an extra cylinder chambered for the .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire. Features included the design changes previously mentioned for all New Model single actions. Barrel lengths available were 4 5/8, 5 1/2, 6 1/2 and 9 1/2 inches. Blue or stainless finish with fixed or adjustable sights. The adjustable sight model was known for many years as the New Model Super Single Six. The "Super" was dropped some time in the 1990s and both the fixed and adjustable sight models were then known as the New Model Single Six Convertible, as they are to this day. Original grips were checkered walnut, with Goncalo Alves, rosewood and black laminated in the '80s and '90s.



Current model is offered with hardwood or black checkered rubber grips. Stainless Steel Hunter model has 7 1/2-inch barrel with integral scope mount and rings. Add \$50 for 9 1/2" bbl., \$50 for stainless finish, \$75 for 4 3/8" bbl. Add \$200 for Stainless Steel Hunter model.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
450	375	300	200	175	125

*This 2011-production Single Six Convertible came with an extra cylinder chambered in .22 WMR. Note the two screws on the sideplate, identifying this as a New Model single action, compared to three screws on the Old Models.*

### SUPER SINGLE SIX STAR MODEL

This model was produced only from 1974 to 1975 with a single cylinder in .22 Long Rifle only and with a blue or stainless finish. Barrel lengths and other features were the same as the convertible model. The name of this model relates to a star that was stamped on the bottom of the frame. Add a premium of 50 to 60 percent for blued model with 4 5/8-inch barrel. Add a premium of 20 to 30 percent for a stainless model with 4 5/8 or 9 1/2-inch barrel.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
500	450	375	300	200	150

*The Single Six was a natural for the .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire when it was announced in 2002. Ruger added the chambering the following year.*



### SINGLE SIX .17 HMR

Same features as Single Six Convertible except chambered for .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire cartridge. Blue finish, rosewood or black checkered grips, 6 1/2-inch barrel and adjustable sights. The Convertible Hunter model came with an extra cylinder chambered for the .17 Mach 2. It has a 7 1/2-inch barrel with integral scope mount and rings. The Convertible Hunter was made for only a year, from 2005 to 2006, and is quite rare. Add a premium of \$300 for this model.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
450	375	300	200	175	125

## SUPER SINGLE SIX SSM .32 H&R MAGNUM

This model was similar to the Super Six except was chambered for the .32 H&R Magnum centerfire cartridge in production from 1984 to 1994 and again from 2001 to 2004.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
700	525	375	225	150	125

*With a nine-round cylinder, the Single Nine is chambered only in .22 Magnum.*

## SINGLE NINE

This variation of the Single Six series with a 6 ½-inch barrel was introduced in 2011. Chambered only for the .22 WMR cartridge, the cylinder capacity is nine rounds. Features include Williams adjustable fiber-optic sights and a satin stainless finish.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
525	450	385	300	220	150

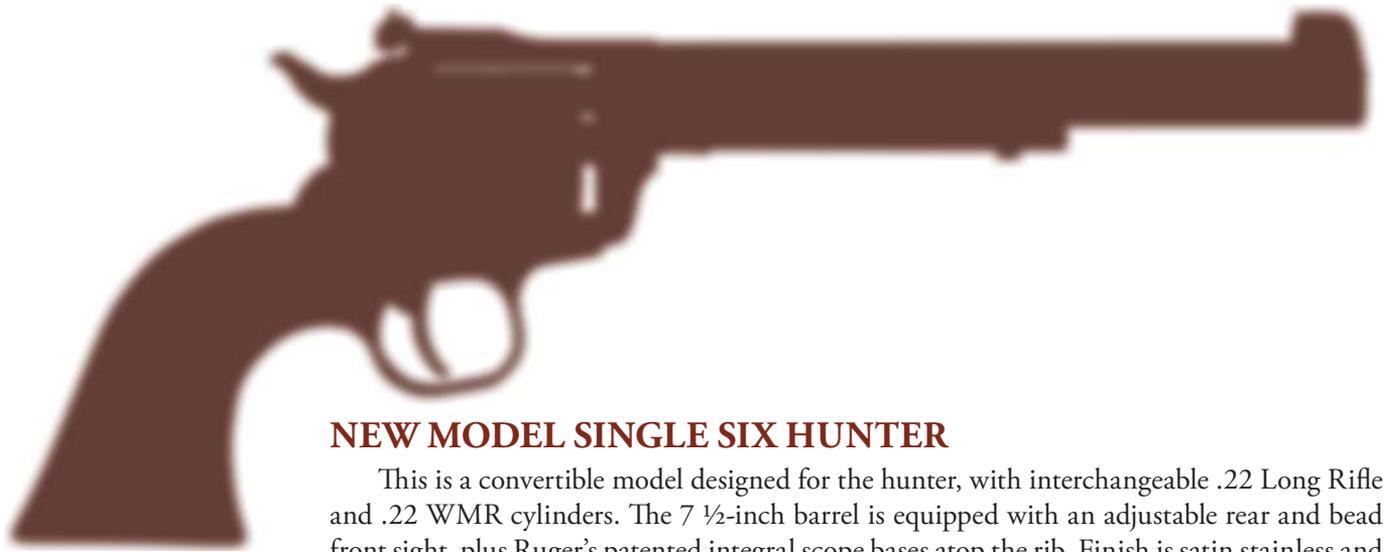


*As the name implies, the Single Ten is a “ten-shooter.” It is chambered for the world’s most popular cartridge, the .22 Long Rifle.*

## SINGLE TEN

In 2013, this model was introduced in .22 Long Rifle with a 10-round cylinder. Offered only with a 5 ½-inch barrel, other features are identical to the Single Nine.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
525	450	385	300	220	150



## NEW MODEL SINGLE SIX HUNTER

This is a convertible model designed for the hunter, with interchangeable .22 Long Rifle and .22 WMR cylinders. The 7 ½-inch barrel is equipped with an adjustable rear and bead front sight, plus Ruger's patented integral scope bases atop the rib. Finish is satin stainless and the grips are black laminate. Weight of this model is 45 ounces.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
675	550	485	350	250	200

*Three New Model rimfires show the different sighting combinations available in current the production guns. At the top, a Single Ten with fiber optic front and adjustable rear sights; center, a Single Six Hunter model with adjustable sights plus integral scope mount bases; and at bottom, a New Model Convertible model with adjustable rear and ramp front sights. Fixed sights are also optional for the Convertible model.*



## NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK

The original .357 Blackhawk had become the favorite of many single-action aficionados by 1973, and while some of the changes with the New Model were controversial to some, it was widely accepted by most shooters. Popular gun writers like Skeeter Skelton welcomed the changes with high praise. In the March 1977 issue of Shooting Times, he wrote, "Bill Ruger abandoned the Blackhawk's excellent, time-tried, well-loved design and in doing so came up with what is undoubtedly the safest, most rugged single action made to date."

Still in production, there have been many variations offered in its more than 40-year history. In addition to the most popular chambering, .357 Magnum, the New Model Blackhawk has been offered in .30 Carbine, .327 Federal Magnum, .357 Maximum, .41 Magnum, .44



*Like all New Model single actions, this .45 Colt Blackhawk can safely be carried with six rounds in the cylinder.*

Photo by John Taffin.



*The 4 5/8-inch barrel is the most popular choice among many single-action aficionados. This New Model Blackhawk in .357 Magnum came off the assembly line in 2006.*



*Fans of the .44 Special have been asking Ruger to chamber one of its single actions for the round for more than 50 years. It finally became a reality in 2010, and in the original Blackhawk Flattop design, an added bonus to many.*

Special, .45 Colt, and in convertible models with extra cylinders—.357/9mm, .38-40/10mm, .44 Mag./44-40, and .45 Colt/.45 ACP. Barrel lengths have included 4 5/8, 5 1/2, 6 1/2 and 7 1/2 inches. Finishes have been offered in blue, satin stainless or high-gloss stainless. Grips available have included hardwood, walnut, Goncalo Alves, rosewood, and checkered hard rubber. Add \$100 for stainless, if NIB or Exc. condition.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
500	425	350	300	200	150

*This New Model Flattop  
is in .357 Magnum.*

Photo by John Taffin.



### **NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK FLATTOP**

The .44 Special Blackhawk became a reality in 2010 and is a big seller. It is made only in the Flattop design and with a blue finish and a 4 5/8 or 5 1/2-inch barrel.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
500	425	350	300	200	150

### **NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK 50TH ANNIVERSARY SET**

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Blackhawk, a matched pair, one in .357 Magnum and the other in .44 Magnum, was manufactured from 2005 to 2008 with matching serial numbers and a gold rollmark, “50 Years of Blackhawk, 1955-2005” and “50 Years of .44 Magnum, 1955-2005” in a wooden case. These models were also sold separately. Deduct 50 percent for a single revolver.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1200	1100	900	700	-	-



### NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK CONVERTIBLE

This series of convertible single actions with two cylinders has been made in the following combinations: .357 Mag./9mm, .38-40/10mm. Mag.(discontinued), .44 Mag./44-40 (discontinued), and .45 Colt/.45 ACP. Add a premium of 40 percent for .38-40/10mm; 50 percent for .44 Mag./44-40. Add 75 percent for .357/9mm, if stainless steel.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
575	475	400	300	200	150

*These two NM Blackhawk models are both .45s, each with a .45 ACP and .45 Colt cylinder.*

Photo by John Taffin.

### NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK SRM .357 REM. MAXIMUM

Manufactured between 1982 and 1984, this model was specifically designed for silhouette shooting and was offered with a 7 1/2 or 10 1/2" barrel. A joint venture between Ruger and Remington, the .357 Remington Maximum was 3/10-inch longer than the .357 Magnum. This model, and all other revolvers chambered for the cartridge, experienced problems with gas erosion in the forcing cone and under the top strap. It was removed from production after about 9,200 were manufactured.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
750	675	525	400	300	200



*This Bisley Model is chambered in .44 Magnum and has a non-fluted cylinder with the Bisley roll mark.*

### **BISLEY MODEL REVOLVER**

A Bisley-frame variation of the New Model Blackhawk was added in 1985 and was offered in a wide variety of chamberings including .22 Long Rifle, .32 H&R Mag., .357 Mag., .41 Mag., .44 Mag. and .45 Colt. Features were a Flattop frame, long grip frame, lowered hammer spur, fixed or adjustable sights, smooth Goncalo Alves grips, and a satin blue finish. Barrel lengths were 6 ½-inches in .22 LR and .32 H&R Mag., 7 ½ inches in other calibers. Approximately 750 .22 caliber Bisleys were made with stainless finish. A non-fluted cylinder option was offered in 1986, for one year only, roll-marked with a Bisley logo. Add \$100 for .32 H&R Magnum or .41 Magnum.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
600	500	375	300	200	125

### **BISLEY SHOOTIST MODEL**

A very rare limited-edition Bisley Shootist model in .22 LR with a 4 ⅝-inch barrel and stainless finish was made in 1994, in memory of Bill Ruger’s son, Tom, who had died the previous year. The backstrap is inscribed “In Memory of Our Friend, Tom Ruger, The Shootist.” Only 52 of this edition were made, some with the owner’s name engraved on the backstrap. Estimated values are very speculative.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
2000	1600	1200	1000	-	-

### **NEW MODEL SUPER BLACKHAWK**

That great old gunwriter and rancher from Salmon, Idaho, Elmer Keith, called the .44 Magnum New Model Super Blackhawk, “One of the world’s truly great handguns...widely regarded as the finest, most advanced single-action revolver ever produced.” Like all Ruger New Model single actions, it has the transfer bar safety system. Introduced in 1973 with a 7 ½-inch barrel, other lengths were later offered including 10 ½ inches (1979), 5 ½ inches (1987) and 4 ⅝ inches (1994). Finish was a high-polish blue, with satin stainless added in 1983 and high-gloss stainless in 1994 and grips were walnut, rosewood or brown laminate. A Stainless Hunter model with ribbed barrel, integral scope mount and rings was introduced in 1992, discontinued in 1995, then reintroduced in 2002. A Bisley Stainless Hunter was added in 2009. These variations all remain in production as of 2014. Add \$150 to \$200 for either Stainless Hunter model, if NIB or Exc. condition.



*The Super Blackhawk is the ultimate single-action in production today in the minds of many who hunt with a handgun.*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
600	550	450	325	250	175

### NEW MODEL SUPER BLACKHAWK 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Manufactured in 2009, this limited edition model (1500 made) has a blue gloss finish with gold trim, and “50th ANNIVERSARY” roll marked on the barrel.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
750	625	525	400	350	300

### VAQUERO

The Vaquero was the first Ruger centerfire single action six-gun manufactured with fixed sights. It was introduced in 1993 and was designed to appeal to the participants in the sport of cowboy action shooting, a competition discipline that requires the guns have the features of original models of the late 19th century. The Vaquero was initially chambered only in .45 Colt, with .44-40 WCF and .44 Magnum added in 1994, and .357 Magnum in 1997. Standard single-action barrel lengths are 4 ¾, 5 ½ and 7 ½ inches. Built on the same frame as the New Model Blackhawk, the Vaquero was superseded by the New Vaquero in 2005. Add \$100 for Bird’s Head grip model, if NIB or excellent condition.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
550	475	400	325	225	150

### VAQUERO SASS PAIR

A set of two Vaquero models with high gloss stainless finish, black checkered grips with SASS logo, consecutive serial numbers with “SASS” prefix, and special carrying case.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1500	1300	1000	800	500	300



*This special Vaquero two-gun set with carrying case was made for members of the Single Action Shooting Society.*



*The differences are subtle but they are there. A New Vaquero in the center is framed by two original Vaqueros.*

Photo by John Taffin.

## **NEW VAQUERO**

Built on the slightly smaller frame (XR3) of the Old Model Blackhawk, this model is more like the Colt Single Action Army in size and appearance. The internal workings, including the transfer bar system, are the same as other New Model single actions. Finish is blue with case hardened frame or stainless steel. The trigger is slightly re-contoured and

*The Bisley grip is preferred by many shooters as it gives a bit more control over the recoil.*



the ejector rod head is crescent shaped. Grips are checkered black hard rubber and barrel lengths are the same as the first model, but the New Vaquero is chambered only in .357 or .45 Colt. The .357 Magnum is not offered in the 7 ½-inch barrel. Standard Grade 1 engraving was an option for several years. Add \$400 to \$500 for this feature if NIB or excellent condition.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
600	500	425	325	225	150

## **BISLEY VAQUERO**

Similar to the Vaquero but with Bisley-style hammer and grip frame. Made with a 5 ½-inch barrel in .357 Magnum and with a 5 ½ or 4 ¾-inch barrel in .44 Magnum or .45 Colt. Introduced with rosewood grips, the finish was blue with a case-hardened frame or stainless steel. The Bisley Vaquero was discontinued after 2004 and reintroduced in 2009 only in .357 and .45 Colt with a high gloss stainless finish and simulated ivory grips. Add a slight premium of \$50 to \$75 for this model.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
600	500	425	325	225	150



## **NEW BEARCAT**

This old favorite was reintroduced in 1994 as the Super Bearcat with a four-inch barrel, fixed sights, rosewood grips and interchangeable cylinders in .22 LR and .22 WMR. Features included smooth rosewood grips, fixed sights, and the transfer bar hammer-block safety. There was a factory recall of the .22 WMR cylinders, meaning that samples with both cylinders are rare. About 1000 Bearcats were sold with the WMR cylinders, between serial numbers 93-00500 and 93-01944. A “timing” problem made them unsafe and therefore the



magnum cylinders were recalled, but not all were returned to Ruger. The rarity of samples with both .22 LR and .22 WMR cylinders makes them more valuable but the WMR cylinders must not be used. As stated on the Ruger website: Firing a .22 Magnum cartridge in a cylinder not correctly timed with the barrel may result in excessively high pressures, causing the cartridge case head to fail. This can result in personal injury to the shooter or bystanders from pieces of cartridge case brass.

Current production revolvers are available only in .22 LR with a 4.2-inch barrel and either a blue or stainless finish. Add \$750 for the convertible model with two cylinders. Add \$75 for stainless finish.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	385	325	275	225	150



### **NEW BEARCAT 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

This limited edition version of the Bearcat was manufactured in 2008 to commemorate the little revolver's 50th anniversary with blue finish and gold-filled script reading "RUGER BEARCAT" and "50TH ANNIVERSARY BEARCAT – 2008." Only 2,539 were made and came in a special box and carrying case.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	600	500	-	-	-



# DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVERS

By the late 1960s, Sturm, Ruger & Co. had become a major player in the firearms industry. The product line had grown to include carbines and rifles, and in 1969, the company entered the double-action revolver market. As it had been for decades, the DA revolver was still the standard law enforcement sidearm, and it was the most popular type of handgun with most gun owners. This category was dominated by the guns of Smith & Wesson and Colt, with both companies using complicated and fragile designs that had their origins in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Bill Ruger recognized there was a need for a modern double-action revolver that could be made with the latest manufacturing methods and sold at a moderate price. After several years of de-

velopment and testing, the Security Six was introduced in 1970. Here is how one of the great gun writers at the time, George Nonte, described it in the 1971 edition of *Gun Digest*:

“This genuinely solid-frame revolver—there are no sideplates or sideplate screws to loosen—the new Ruger S.S. is made of steel throughout, except for the checkered walnut grip panels. The basic components—frame, cylinder, crane and barrel—are made of heat-treated chrome-moly steel, while the coil springs used throughout are wound from the best steel music wire.

The new Ruger double action can be field stripped in a minute—literally—and reassembled in about as short a time with only a coin as a tool.”

## SECURITY SIX

The Security Six was chambered for the .357 Magnum with a six-round cylinder, checkered walnut grips, a square butt, adjustable sights and blue finish. A stainless version was added in 1975. Barrel lengths were 2 ¾, 3, 4 or 6 inches, and a 4-inch heavy barrel was also offered. Some early models were made with fixed sights, and this variation was later named the Police Service Six. It too was chambered in .357 Magnum, in .38 Special-only, and 9mm, all with a 2 ¾ or 4-inch barrel. A few Security-Sixes were made with a rounded butt and these will bring a premium. Another model variation was added in 1973, the Speed-Six. It also had a 2 ¾ or 4-inch barrel, and a few were made with a 6-inch. All Speed-Sixes had fixed sights and a rounded butt. In addition to the .357, .38 Spe-

cial and 9mm, a few Speed-Sixes were chambered in .38 S&W with a lanyard ring attached to the grip. The Security Six was in production until 1985, and the Police Service and Speed-Six until 1987. There were several special-issue/limited-production variations of the above revolvers made between 1978 and 1984. Among them were 659 for the Alabama State Trooper Association, 415 for the Minneapolis Police Department, 315 for the Minnesota Conservation Officers, 200 for South Dakota Peace Officers Association, 200 for the U.S. Government (with leftovers sold to the Ruger Collectors Association), and 30,000 for Government of India Border Security. Values for any of these would be speculative, but some level of premium would be expected.



*The standard Security Six was offered with blue or stainless finish and with adjustable sights and a square butt.*

### SECURITY SIX

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
400	365	325	250	200	100

*Add \$100 for round butt and fixed sights.*

### SPEED SIX

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
400	365	325	250	200	100

*Add a 200 percent premium for .38 S&W. Add \$100 to \$200 for 9mm. Add \$35 for stainless finish.*





*A limited number  
of Service Six .38  
Special revolvers were  
marked "U.S." for the  
federal government.*

*Ruger ushered in  
the 1980s with the  
Redhawk, a full-size  
sixgun designed for  
the handgun hunter.*

## POLICE SERVICE SIX

For the Police Service Six, add \$100 to \$200 for 9mm. A higher premium should be considered for the U.S. model.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
425	375	325	250	200	100

*This cutaway illustration by James Triggs provides an inside look at the Redhawk design.*

## REDHAWK

Following on the heels of the success of the Security-Six series of revolvers, Ruger's next double action was the big Redhawk. Chambered for the .44 Magnum, it was designed for the handgun hunter who wanted a DA revolver that could handle a constant diet of heavy loads that were beyond the capability of the Smith & Wesson Model 29. The big revolver was also offered in .357 Magnum until 1985 and .41 Magnum from 1984 to 1991. The Redhawk was introduced at the annual NRA meeting in May of 1979. Built on a totally new design for a double-action revolver, features included a solid frame with no removable sideplates, an offset ejector rod that allowed a thicker frame in several critical

*The Redhawk was designed for a steady diet of magnum ammunition.*

Photo by John Taffin.

areas, and a single spring hammer and trigger mechanism that created an exceptionally smooth trigger pull. Barrel lengths were 5 ½ or 7 ½ inches with a weight from 49 to 52 ounces. The rear sight was fully adjustable and the ramp-style front sight had interchangeable blades of different heights and colors. The grips were smooth walnut. Only a blue finish was available until 1984 when the stainless model was introduced. At the same time, a 4-inch barrel model was added in .44 Magnum. The blue-finish Redhawk went out of production in 2009.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
650	500	425	350	250	150

### **STAINLESS REDHAWK**

The stainless variation was introduced in 1984 chambered for the .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum or .44 Magnum. The .357 and .41 were discontinued in 1991 and the .45 Colt was added in 1998. Barrel lengths included 4, 4.2, 5 ½ or 7 ½ inches. The sights were a fully adjustable rear and a ramp front with interchangeable inserts of different colors and heights. Smooth walnut or Hogue rubber grips were offered. Production of the Redhawk was temporarily discontinued in November of 2013 but was expected to be back in the product line at some point in 2014. Add \$50 for the 7 ½-inch barreled model with scope rings.

*The GP-100 is a very popular .357 Magnum with a blue or stainless finish and in several barrel lengths.*

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
800	675	525	400	300	200

## GP-100

The GP-100 .357 Magnum revolver was introduced in 1986. It was a totally new design with a larger and stronger frame than the one used the Security Six series to appeal to those shooters who wanted to primarily use the heavier magnum loads. Some of its design features were taken from the Security Six, such as the easy take-down system, while others were borrowed from the Redhawk, like the locking system and interchangeable front sight blades. Introduced with a patented one-piece Monsanto Santoprene grip with walnut inserts, the GP-100 could be had with a square or round butt. Other grip options were later offered including black rubber Hogue Monogrips. Barrel lengths initially were a 4.2 or 6-inch heavy barrel, or a 6-inch standard barrel. A 3-inch became available in 1989 with either a heavy barrel and full-length shroud, or a standard barrel with a short shroud. Also in 1989 a .38 Special-only chambering became available. All variations were offered with either fixed or adjustable sights, and with a blue or stainless finish. In 2009, the new .327 Federal Magnum was added. Its smaller dimensions allowed it to be chambered in a 7-round cylinder. The .327 was discontinued by Ruger at the end of 2013 but the GP-100 continues to be a very popular Ruger model in .357 Magnum. Add \$40 for stainless finish.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
550	400	325	250	150	100

## GP-100 MATCH CHAMPION

The Match Champion model is the most recent addition to Ruger's revolver line. It was introduced in 2014 and has several unique features that set it apart from the standard GP-100, including a slab-sided, half-lug barrel measuring 4.2 inches, a satin stainless finish, fixed Novak Lo-Mount Carry rear sight with a green fiber-optic front sight, and Hogue Hardwood grips with stippled sides. It also has a match-tuned action, which includes polished internal



*A recent addition to the Ruger catalog is the GP-100 Match Champion.*



parts and what Ruger describes as a carefully centered trigger and hammer. It is chambered only in .357 Magnum. Weight is 38 ounces.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
725	600	450	300	200	100

### **SUPER REDHAWK**

The next step in the evolution of the Ruger double-action revolver was the Super Redhawk, which was unveiled in late 1987. A more massive version of the Redhawk, it had a 7 ½ or 9 ½-inch barrel with the rib milled to accept the Ruger scope-ring system. The frame was

*Super Redhawk*

extended to accommodate the scope-ring system but it also added to the weight, which was 52 ounces with the 7 ½-inch barrel, 58 ounces with the 9 ½-inch, further taming the felt recoil. Initially available only in .44 Magnum, the .454 Casull was added in 1999 and the new .480 Ruger in 2001. The .454 Casull model can also use .45 Colt cartridges. The cylinder is fluted on the .44 Magnum guns, and non-fluted on the .454 and .480 models. Sights are a fully adjustable rear and a drift-adjustable ramp front. All Super Redhawks are made of stainless steel, most with a satin finish. From 1998 to 2004, a polished finish was optional. The original grips were rubber with a gonalco alves insert like those on the GP-100. These were changed several years ago to Hogue Tamer Monogrips, which are on the current models. The .480 Ruger was discontinued in 2008 and was then resurrected in 2013.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
800	675	550	400	300	200

*Redefining the snub-nosed revolver or “snubbie,” the Alaskan is still a massive handgun. In .480 Ruger, it is truly loaded for bear.*

## **SUPER REDHAWK ALASKAN**

Designed primarily for protection from dangerous game like the big bears in Alaska, the Super Redhawk Alaskan was introduced in 2005. It is chambered for the .44 Magnum, .454 Casull/.45 Colt or .480 Ruger with a non-fluted cylinder for all calibers. As with the standard Super Redhawk, the .480 Ruger was discontinued for several years, from 2008-2012, and brought back in 2013. The 2 ½-inch barrel makes for easier carrying and handling in the woods, especially in a shoulder holster. Weight is still heavy enough to comfortably handle the big calibers like the Ruger and Casull. The frame is identical to that on the full-size Super Redhawk, but the muzzle of the Alaskan is flush with the front edge of the frame. The Alaskan comes with Hogue Tamer Monogrips, a stainless finish, and an adjustable rear sight.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
900	750	600	450	325	225

*The 2 ½-inch barrel, fixed sight SP101 can be had in .357 Magnum or .38 Special-only versions.*

*The spurless-hammer model (5720) is designed for concealed carry.*

### **SP-101**

Ruger entered another market niche in 1989, that of the small-frame double-action revolver. The new model was the SP-101, which is basically a small-frame version of the GP-100. It has been chambered in a variety of cartridges over the years—.22 Long Rifle, .32 H&R Magnum, .327 Federal Magnum, 9mm, .38 Special and .357 Magnum. Currently it is offered only in .22 Long Rifle, .38 Special (only) or .357 Magnum. Barrel lengths have included 2 ¼, 3 ⅙, 4 and 4.2 inches with fixed sights on the shorter models, adjustable rear and fiber optic front sights in the 4.2-inch guns. A DA-only version with a 2 ¼-inch barrel and spurless hammer was introduced in 1993 in .357 and .38 Special. All SP-101s are made of stainless steel with a satin finish. Grips are Monsanto Santoprene cushioned rubber/plastic or black rubber with engraved wood inserts. Add \$150 for 9mm model.

*This model with a 4.2-inch barrel is available in .22 LR or .357 Magnum.*

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
550	400	325	250	150	100



*The LCR (Lightweight Compact Revolver) is a thoroughly modern model designed for comfortable concealed carry.*



*For those who prefer the flexibility of using an exposed hammer, Ruger added the LCRx in 2014.*

## LCR

The LCR is a very compact revolver chambered in .22 LR, .22 WMR, .38 Special and .357 Magnum. It has an aluminum frame, steel cylinder, and a polymer fire control housing. Weight ranges from 13 to 17 ounces, depending on the caliber. The cylinder capacity is 8 rounds for .22 LR, 6 rounds for .22 WMR, and 5 rounds for the .38 Special and .357 Magnum chamberings. Grips are Hogue Tamer Monogrips or Crimson Trace Lasergrips. All models have an enclosed hammer and are double-action only except the LCRx, a new variation added in 2014 in .38 Special, which has an exposed hammer. Add \$50 for .357 Magnum. Add \$250 for Crimson Trace grips.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
425	350	250	200	150	100



# SEMI-AUTOMATIC CENTERFIRE PISTOLS

Ruger's first centerfire pistol was the P85. It was introduced in 1985, although it did not go into production until 1987. The first Ruger firearm to be manufactured at the Prescott, Arizona plant, the P85 evolved into a series of subsequent models with various changes

and improvements over a period of more than 25 years. This series included the P89, P90, P91, P93, P94, P944, P95, P97 and P345. All of these models and numerous variants were based on the original P85 design.

### P85 SERIES

In the early 1980s, Ruger was working on a design of a traditional double/single action 9mm pistol to compete for a government contract to replace the Beretta military sidearm. By the 1980s, most major law enforcement agencies had made the switch from revolvers to semiauto pistols or were making plans to do so and Bill Ruger wanted a handgun that would be competitive in that segment of the market. The first ever Ruger centerfire autoloading pistol was the P85. It was first announced in 1985, but it did not go into production until 1987. The testing for the military sidearm went on for several years and in the end, the government decided to not make a change and to stay with the Beretta. However, the P85 was very well accepted by many law enforcement agencies around the country, as well as with the shooting public.

The P85 is a traditional double-action/single-action with a manual safety that also served as a decocker. It was chambered in 9mm and the features included a 4 ½-inch barrel, fixed 3-dot sights (drift-adjustable rear), black synthetic ergonomic grips, and a steel slide and hard-coated aluminum frame, both with a matte black finish. All P85s were shipped in a lockable plastic case with an extra magazine. Magazine capacity is 15-rounds. The KP85 model was introduced in 1990 with a stainless steel receiver. All other features were identical to the standard model. Also in 1990, a double-action-only

model (P85DA) and a decocker-only (P85DC) were introduced. Stainless versions of these models were designated KP85DA and KP85 DC. (Throughout the Ruger product line, the stainless steel models begin with or include a "K".)

There was a safety issue with P85 pistols when it was discovered that if the firing pin had been broken, the gun might fire when the decocker was used. A recall notice was issued in 1990 so that a new safety could be installed on all P85s made between 1987 and 1990 at no charge to the customer. The modified pistols were marked "MKIIR" on the safety. Any P85 without this mark should be returned to Ruger for this free modification, to this day. It was reported that there was only once instance of this kind of accidental discharge occurring, out of about 200,000 P85 pistols.

The model designation for the P85 and KP85 was changed to P85 Mark II and KP85 Mark II in 1990. This model had the improved safety mechanism and a larger, ambidextrous safety/decocking lever. The estimated values shown also apply to the Mark II models. Incidentally, this improved safety mechanism is in all P-series pistols subsequently manufactured. The P85 MarkII and KP85 MarkII were in production only during 1990 and were replaced in 1991 by the P89 and KP89.



*The P85 introduced a long series of DA revolvers that were in production until 2013.*

**P85/P85 MARK II**

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
375	300	250	200	150	100

**KP85/KP85 MARK II**

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
400	325	275	225	150	100

**P89**

This model was introduced in 1991 and had several improvements over the P85 and P85 MKII designs. It included the previously mentioned improved safety mechanism, a more secure front-sight screw, a thicker barrel link, changes to the barrel/slide relationship to improve accuracy, and minor modifications to the magazine. Other specifications were unchanged from the P85 except that 10-round magazines were furnished during the 1994-2004



*P-89DC*



*The stainless version had the official designation KP89.*

period when the high-capacity magazine ban was in effect. There were several variations. In addition to the KP89 stainless model, there was a decock-only version (P89DC), a double-action-only model (P89DAO), and the KP89X, which was a stainless steel model with an extra barrel for the .30 Luger cartridge. Less than 6,000 of these were made and only in 1994. The P89 was in production until 2007.

### **P89, P89DC, P89DAO**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
425	350	300	225	150	100

### **KP89**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	375	325	250	150	100

### **KP89X**

This model came with an extra barrel chambered for the .30 Luger.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
500	425	350	275	225	150

### **P90**

Introduced in 1991, this model was based on the P89 design except that it was chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge with a single-stack, 8-round magazine. General specifications were the same as the P89. Optional features included finger-grooved rubber grips and tritium night sights. A variety of models were offered including the stainless KP90 and the decocking KP90D model. There were also special order models for various law enforcement agencies. The P90 was a very popular model and remained in production for 20 years, until 2010.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
475	425	350	275	225	150



*The P90/KP90 was the first Ruger pistol chambered in .45 ACP.*

### **KP90, KP90D**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
500	450	375	285	225	150

### **KP91**

By 1991, the .40 S&W caliber was well on its way to becoming the caliber of choice in law enforcement circles, as well as with the general public. Ruger wisely joined the crowd by chambering the KP90 for the round and designating it the Model KP91. It was offered only in two versions—a decocker model with ambidextrous decocking levers (KP91D) or in a double-action-only model (KP91DAO). The KP91 was introduced in 1992 and in production until 1994.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
475	425	350	275	225	150

### **P93**

The P93 was the first compact model of the P-series of Ruger pistols. With the exception of a 3.9-inch barrel instead of 4.5 inches, specifications were similar to the P91. Grips are of textured Xenoy with a Ruger eagle medallion. In 9mm only, weight was about an ounce less than the full-size pistol. Two versions were offered—decocker or double-action-only. The stainless steel model (KP93) was introduced first, in 1994, and the blue finish decocker model (P93DC) added in 1998. The P93 and KP93 were in production until 2004. As with most Ruger centerfire pistols, other combinations of operating controls were available on special order, usually by law enforcement agencies. These variations, in most cases, do not add a premium to the value of the gun.

### **P93DC**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
425	375	325	275	225	150



*The P93DC was the decocker version of the P93.*

**KP93DC, KP93DAO**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
475	425	350	275	225	150

*This variant of the P series is between the P91 and P93 in size.*

**P94/KP94**

The P94 has a barrel length of 4.2 inches, precisely half-way between the 4.5-inch P91 and 3.9-inch P93 barrels. This model was offered in 9mm or .40 S&W with a magazine capacity of 15 or 11 rounds, respectively. Other specifications are the same as the P93 series. Two variants were listed in the Ruger catalog, a decocker and a double-action-only, but other

operating combinations were available on special order. The KP94 was in production from 1994 to 2004, and the blued P94 from 1998 to 2004.

## **P94**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
400	325	275	225	150	100

## **KP94DC, KP94DAO**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
425	350	295	225	150	100

## **P944**

Another 1994 Ruger introduction was a variant of the P94 designated as the P944. Offered only in .40 S&W, it is essentially identical to the P94 except there is a cam block incorporated into the recoil-spring guide, instead of the 1911-type swinging link on the previous models of the P-series. This cam block system was subsequently incorporated into all future P-series pistols. The P944 remained in production until 2011.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	400	350	275	225	150

*Ruger's first synthetic-frame centerfire pistol was the P95 in 1993.*

## **P95/KP95**

By the mid 1990s, the trend to the use of polymer frames in the manufacture of pistols was well underway. Ruger had utilized a frame made of Dupont Zytel material in the Mark II 22/45 pistol in 1993, but the P95 was the first company's first centerfire pistol to be made with a synthetic frame. This reduced the weight by about four ounces and also reduced production costs, due to the strength of the fiberglass-reinforced polyurethane material. Unlike most other polymer-frame pistols, no metal inserts were necessary in the P95 design, and the

slide moves back and forth directly on the polymer rails. In 9mm only, this model was introduced in 1996. Two variations were offered—a double-action-only model (P95 DAO) or the decocker model (P95DC). In 2001 a thumb-safety version was added. An accessory rail was optional and with “PR” added to those model numbers. Other specifications are the same as the P94/944 models. The P95 series was discontinued in 2013.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
375	325	275	225	150	125

### P97/KP97

This model is based on the design of the polymer-framed P95 except it is chambered in .45 ACP with an 8-round magazine capacity. Other features and specifications are the same as the P95. It was in production from 1999 to 2004.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
400	350	300	250	175	150



*The last of the P-series  
Ruger pistols was  
one of the best, the  
compact P345.*

### KP345

This mid-sized pistol incorporates some of the features of the P95 and P97 models. Chambered for the .45 ACP, it has a more slender and more ergonomic polymer frame with smoothed edges, a 4.2-inch barrel, keyed safety lock, loaded chamber indicator, and a magazine disconnect that prevents the gun from firing if the magazine is not in place. Capacity of the single-stack magazine is 8 rounds and the weight is 29 ounces. An accessory rail was an optional feature. Another interesting feature is that the KP345 featured the Ruger red eagle medallion on both grips. Unlike the pre-1951 grips on the original Standard Model rimfire pistol, which featured a red eagle on a silver background, the KP345 has a silver eagle on a red background. The KP345 was in production from 2004 until 2013, by which time all P-series pistols had been discontinued, to be replaced by the SR series.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
525	450	350	275	225	150

*The .45 ACP model in the SR series is a bit larger and heavier than the 9mm and .40 S&W versions.*

Photo by John Taffin.

## **SR SERIES**

In 2007, Ruger introduced the company's first striker-fired, polymer-frame pistol, the SR9. As the model name indicates, the SR9 is chambered for the 9mm cartridge. Subsequent models followed with the SR40 in .40 S&W (2011) and SR45 in .45 ACP (2013). There are

*The standard 9mm SR9 with blue finish.*

*All SR series models  
feature a reversible  
backstrap.*

*The SR Compact  
model is made in  
9mm or .40 S&W.*

also compact models (SR9C and SR40C).

(Even though the model name is similar, the SR-22 rimfire is not striker-fired but is a blowback-operated, traditional double/single-action pistol that does not share any design features with the SR centerfire series.)

The SR9, SR40 and SR45 models have a short-recoil, locked-breech action with a pre-set trigger. When the slide cycles, the striker is partially cocked and when the trigger is pulled, the striker becomes fully cocked and released. The trigger pull is designed to have the feel of the smooth trigger pull of a quality double-action revolver.

The standard size SR9 and SR40 have 4.14-inch barrels, low-profile 3-dot sights, an ambidextrous thumb safety, loaded chamber indicator and Picatinny rail. Weight is 26.5 ounces for the SR9, 27.25 for the SR40. The grip frame is black glass-filled nylon with a reversible backstrap. Finish options for the slide are brushed stainless, black stainless, or OD Green stainless (discontinued after 2010). Magazine capacity of the SR9 is 17 rounds, for the SR40, 15 rounds. Where required by law, 10-round magazines are available.

The compact SR9C and SR40C have the same general specifications but with 3.4-inch barrels and weight of 23.4 ounces. The slightly larger .45 ACP SR45 model has a 4.5-inch barrel with a weight of 30.15 ounces.

### **SR9, SR40, SR45**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	385	325	275	225	150

### **LC SERIES**

At the 2008 SHOT Show, the manager of the Prescott, Arizona Ruger plant, Bob Stutler, surprised a gathering of gun writers when he pulled from his vest pocket the first Ruger pistol that could be described as a “vest pocket” gun. It was the LCP (Lightweight Compact Pistol), a mini-.380 that was very close in size to that of early 20th century .25 automatics. The little polymer-frame LCP measures just 5.16 inches in overall

*The little LCP is barely bigger than the classic .25 autos of a century ago. Its ergonomic grip is much easier to hold.*

length, is only 3.6 inches high, and a slim and trim .82 inches in width. Barrel length is 2.75 inches with adjustable 3-dot sights, and the alloy steel barrel and glass-filled nylon frame result in a weight of just 9.4 ounces, a fraction less than a Baby Browning .25. Options include a blue or stainless slide, and a Laser Max or Crimson Trace integral laser sight. To the values below add \$60 for Laser Max, \$120 for Crimson Trace, \$40 for stainless slide.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
325	285	235	185	135	100

*An upgrade from the LCP .380 is the LC9 in the considerably more powerful 9mm.*

## LC9

This slightly larger variant of the LCP was created to provide a very compact pistol for those in the concealed carry market who preferred the popular 9mm cartridge. The barrel length is 3.12 inches and magazine capacity is 7 rounds, plus one the chamber. Sights are of the adjustable 3-dot design. Dimensions show an overall length of 6.0 inches, height of 4.5 inches, width of .90 inches. The weight is 17.1 ounces and, as with the LCP, options include a Laser Max or a Crimson Trace integral laser sight. A premium of \$60 for Laser Max sight, \$120 for Crimson Trace.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
350	300	250	200	150	125

## LC380

*This compromise design puts the easier handling .380 in the larger LC9 model.*

The larger size of the LC9 was appealing to some who liked a bigger gun than the LC380, but had a preference for the .380 cartridge. Ruger simply chambered the LC9 for the smaller .380, which is known in many parts of the world as a “9mm short.” Specifications are virtually the same as the LC9, including the sight options for which the same premiums shown for that model should be added.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
350	300	250	200	150	125

## SR1911 SERIES

In the 100th year of what arguably could be called the world’s most popular pistol, Ruger introduced the SR1911, chambered for the classic .45 ACP round. This model stays true to most of the familiar features of the 1911 as it has evolved over the years, including what has become known as the series 70 design. Enhancements are those most modern 1911 aficionados have come to expect: oversized ejection port, extended magazine release, checkered backstrap, adjustable skeletonized trigger, lightweight skeletonized hammer, extended thumb safety, oversized beavertail grip safety, and a visual inspection port that acts as a loaded chamber indicator. The bead-blasted stainless steel frame and slide are precision

*After all these years, a Ruger 1911. Shown are the full-size and Commander-size models.*

*Extended controls are where they should be and are familiar to any 1911 user.*

machined for a superior slide-to-frame fit, and the barrel and bushing are produced from the same bar stock. Other highlights include a standard recoil guide system, flat mainspring housing, checkered hardwood grips, high profile 3-dot sights with a Novak LoMount Carry rear and standard front. Magazine capacity is 8 rounds of ammunition, plus one in the chamber. Each SR1911 ships with one 8-round and one 7-round magazine, a bushing wrench and a soft case. The SR1911 specifications are familiar to many: 5-inch barrel, 39-ounce weight, 8.67 inches overall length. The SR1911 CMD (Commander-style) Model is identical except for its 4.25-inch barrel, 36.4-ounce weight and 7+1 round capacity.

### **SR1911, SR1911 CMD**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
725	600	500	425	350	200



# SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES

## **.44 MAGNUM CARBINE**

The .44 Magnum Carbine was Bill Ruger's first move into the long-gun segment of the firearms industry. Harry Sefried, Ruger chief engineer and gun designer for many years, created the carbine, which was introduced in 1960. The .44 Magnum cartridge had become very popular with those who hunted with a handgun. The concept of a handgun and rifle combination chambered for the same cartridge was an old tradition and it was only a matter of time before a .44 Magnum long gun would come along.

The gas-operated system uses a short-stroke piston with gas tapped from the barrel when a round is fired. The tubular magazine capacity is four rounds. Reloading is by way of an opening on the bottom of the receiver in front of the trigger, much like that of a repeating shotgun. The action remains open after the last shot is fired. Other features include blue finish, an American walnut stock with barrel band, folding rear sight adjustable for elevation, gold bead front sight, and a cross bolt safety in front of the trigger guard. Specifications list the weight at 5 pounds, 12 ounces and the barrel length originally at 18.25 inches and later extended to 18.5 inches.

Early examples were marked with the name "Deerstalker." In order to avoid confusion with the Ithaca "Deerslayer" model shotgun, Ruger changed the name to simply the ".44 Magnum Carbine." There were several variations including an International model with full-length stock with checkering and a fore-end cap; a Sporter model with a Monte Carlo buttstock and a finger-grooved fore-end; the RS model with a receiver sight, and a 25th Anniversary Commemorative model made in the last year of production, 1985. Add a 75 percent premium for the Sporter Model with a factory-checked stock.

*The .44 Carbine was big news when it was announced in late 1960 and made the cover of Gun Digest. The cover art was by James Triggs, long-time Ruger illustrator.*

*Ruger's first long gun, the .44 Carbine, still has a following with many shooters, although it has been out of production since 1985.*

Photo courtesy rugerforum.com.

### **.44 STANDARD CARBINE**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
600	500	425	350	250	150

### **DEERSTALKER MODEL**

During the first year of production (1961-1962) about 3,750 guns were marked Deerstalker and are worth considerably more to collectors, if in good or better condition.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1000	850	700	550	400	250

### **INTERNATIONAL MODEL**

This variation is identical to the standard model except that it has a full-length Mannlicher-style stock.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
900	750	650	525	350	200

### **SPORTER MODEL**

The standard Sporter model featured a Monte Carlo stock and finger-grooved fore-end. A few came with a factory-checked stock, which is worth a premium of 50 to 75 percent, depending on the overall condition. An examination by a Ruger expert is advised.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
875	750	600	500	375	200

### **RS MODEL**

The RS indicates this model came from the factory with a receiver sight and sling swivels.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	550	450	350	275	200

### **25TH ANNIVERSARY MODEL**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
750	650	550	400	300	200

## **10/22 CARBINE**

The year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the ubiquitous 10/22 semi-auto .22 rifle. Since its year of introduction in 1964, more than six million have been sold to multiple generations of happy shooters. It can arguably be described as the most popular rimfire rifle of all time. While the 10/22's outward appearance is similar to that of the .44 Magnum Carbine, the two models are very different. Like the .44, the 10/22 was a joint project of Bill Ruger

and Harry Sefried. The most unique feature of the 10/22 is the rotary magazine, which was inspired by one of Bill Ruger's favorite rifles, the Savage 99. Unlike the internal spool magazine of the Savage lever action, the Ruger's 10-round box magazine is detachable. Among the features the 10/22 shared with the .44 Magnum Carbine are an American walnut stock with barrel band, folding leaf rear sight, cross bolt safety in front of the trigger guard, an 18 ½ -inch barrel and a weight ranging from 5 ¼ to 5 ½ pounds. In the late 1970s, as walnut became more expensive, the stock material was changed to hardwood or maple. This was done so Ruger could remain competitive with the price. There have been very many model variations over the 50 years of the 10/22's production life, most of them centered around different stock styles and colors, barrel types and lengths, and sighting equipment. Also, as with many Ruger firearms, there have been many special or limited editions created for specific distributors. Readers interested in more information should contact their Ruger dealer or check the company website at [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com).

A 10/22 Magnum model chambered for the .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire was introduced in 1999 and remained in production until 2006. It was virtually identical to the rimfire model except for the longer bolt to accommodate the slightly longer .22 WMR cartridge.

A Model 10/17 chambered for the .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire round, based on the .22 WMR necked down to .17, was announced in 2004 but other than a few prototypes, it never went into production. According to a Ruger executive, "No guns were made in a production run or sold to or through distributors." However, it should be noted that there are many customized 10/22 carbines and rifles in existence, including quite a few chambered for the .17 WMR (and also the .17 Mach 2—the .22 LR necked down to .17). There are several well-known gunsmiths who have made their name by customizing the popular 10/22 in all its variations. Much like the Model 1911 Government Model pistol and the AR-15 rifle, a sizeable cottage industry exists of suppliers of accessories for customizing the 10/22. For those interested in learning more, recommended reading is *Customize the Ruger 10/22*, by James and Kathleen House, Krause Publications, 2006.

*Now in its 50th year,  
the standard version  
of the 10/22 Carbine  
has changed very  
little since 1964.*

### **10/22 CARBINE**

Until about 1980 (serial number 119-70000), the 10/22 had a walnut stock. The current model has a hardwood stock with curved metal buttplate, or a synthetic stock, and the metal parts have a satin black or stain stainless finish. Add \$25 for stainless finish, \$100 for LaserMax laser sight.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
225	200	175	150	100	65

*The Sporter has been one of the favorite models in the Ruger 10/22 catalog since the beginning.*

**10/22 SPORTER, CURRENT PRODUCTION**

Current model with checkered walnut stock, sling swivels, rubber buttplate.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
300	275	225	175	125	75

*The target model comes in two attractive variations.*

**10/22 SPORTER (1966 – 1971 PRODUCTION)**

Early model with finger-groove walnut stock, Monte Carlo comb, beavertail fore-end. In addition to the following values, an additional premium of 100 to 200 percent should be added for a documented factory checkered stock, if the model is in excellent or better condition.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
650	575	500	400	300	200

**10/22 TARGET**

The current Target model has a 20-inch hammer-forged bull barrel with no sights, in blue with a brown laminate stock or stainless with a gray/black laminate stock. A previous version was available with a thumbhole laminate stock. Add \$25 for the stainless model, \$50 for thumbhole stock.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	375	300	250	200	150

**10/22 LIBERTY MODEL**

Approximately 100,000 models were manufactured during 1976 with markings commemorating the 200th year of American liberty. (Serial number range: 115-42700 to 116-46200). Values assume that the original specially marked box in excellent or better condition is included.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	400	325	250	200	150

**10/22 CANADIAN CENTENNIAL**

Manufactured only in 1967 with markings commemorating Canada's centennial. There were 4,500 made with 2,000 of these sold in a matching set with a Remington

Model 742 rifle in .308 Winchester caliber with matching serial numbers.

*Model 10/22 Canadian Centennial model only*

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	400	325	250	200	150

*Canadian Centennial Matched Set with Remington Model 742*

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
950	800	650	500	400	300

*Add \$300 for the Deluxe Matched Set with fancier decorative appointments.*

*The Mannlicher-type stock on the International Carbine gave this model a special look.*

### ***10/22 INTERNATIONAL CARBINE, EARLY PRODUCTION (1966-1971)***

This was the first version of the 10/22 with a full-length walnut stock. For factory hand-checked stock add a premium of 50 percent.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1000	800	650	500	350	250

### ***10/22 INTERNATIONAL CARBINE W/FULL-LENGTH HARDWOOD STOCK***

This model came back to the Ruger catalog in 1994 and remained in production until 2003. It was offered with blue or stainless finish and a hardwood full-length stock. For stainless steel finish add a premium of 50 percent.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
350	275	225	175	125	100

*This model comes with a flash suppressor and bipod.*

### ***10/22 TACTICAL MODEL***

Features include a black Hogue OverMolded synthetic stock and 16 1/8-inch threaded barrel with flash suppressor. Weight of this model is only 4.3 pounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
275	235	200	165	125	100

### ***10/22 TACTICAL MODEL HEAVY BARREL***

This variation of the Tactical Model has a 16 1/8-inch heavy hammer-forged barrel with spiraled finish and a bipod. Weight is 6.9 pounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
500	425	325	275	225	150

**10/22 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MODEL**

In late 2013, Ruger invited fans of the 10/22 to submit design ideas for this special edition. Shown is the winning entry with features including the modular composite stock of the American Rimfire Rifle, Picatinny rail from the Gunsite Scout Rifle, a threaded barrel with a Mini-14 style flash suppressor and commemorative markings. All 10/22s made in 2014 have a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo on the bolt. MSRP: \$379.

**10/22 TD MODEL**

Similar to standard synthetic stock model with added feature of easy takedown system allowing the barrel and fore-end to be separated from the rest of the rifle. Barrel length is 18.5 inches, or 16.6 inches with threaded barrel and flash suppressor. Standard model has stainless finish, the suppressor model is black matte alloy steel. Each model comes with a nylon backpack-style carry bag. Add \$20 for threaded barrel/flash suppressor model.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
300	275	225	175	125	75

**10/22 U.S. SHOOTING TEAM TD MODEL**

This special edition was made for Talo Distributors in 2012 to support the U.S. Shooting Team in the 2012 Olympic Games. The model was limited to 5000 units and came with a bright blue painted finish and red nylon case with the U.S. Shooting Team logo. Values are speculative but a premium should be expected over the standard TD model.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	400	-	-	-	-

**10/22 MAGNUM**

Identical features as standard model except chambered for .22 WMR cartridge and with a heavier bolt. Weight 6.5 pounds. In production from 1999 to 2006.

*10/22 TD U.S. Bag*

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
950	800	700	550	400	250

## MINI-14

This military style rifle was introduced in 1975 after being in development since 1971. Quoting from R.L. Wilson's fine book, *Ruger & His Guns*, Bill Ruger described the Mini-14 as "a miniaturized M14, to take the .223 cartridge." He said when he mentioned the rifle to Col. Rene R. Studler, a high-ranking Ordnance officer, the colonel asked if he had showed it to the government. Ruger also stated, "I have often said—and I know I am correct here—if we had brought the Mini-14 out five years earlier it would have become the Standard army rifle." That could have been the case, especially since Col. Studler played a large role in the development of the M1 and M2 carbines.

The Mini-14 series, soon to celebrate its 40th anniversary, became popular with hunters, ranchers and law enforcement personnel, for which a select-fire model was available.

General specifications are a gas-operated action, 18 1/2-inch barrel, detachable magazine with a 5, 10 or 20-round capacity, military style peep sight with blade front, blue finish, hardwood stock and a weight of 6.4 pounds. A stainless version was added in 1999 with either a wood or synthetic stock. Several other variations of the Mini-14 have been offered over the last four decades, including a model chambered for the .222 Remington caliber in the early '80s. It was made mostly for export to Europe, although some were sold domestically. One of the most popular variants is the Ranch Rifle, which was introduced in 1982 and comes with an integral scope mount, folding rear sight and recoil pad. It has been referred to as the modern equivalent of the lever-action .30-30 that many ranchers once carried in the pickup. The original standard Mini-14 was discontinued in 2004. Current production variations include the Ranch Rifle, and several Target and Tactical models.

*The Mini-14 was described by Bill Ruger as just that, a miniature M14 designed to take the .223 cartridge.*



### MINI-14 STANDARD MODEL

The standard model, 1975 to 2004 production, was available in a blue or stainless finish. Add 20 to 30 percent for .222 Remington caliber. Add 50 percent for folding stock.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
500	425	350	275	200	150

**Below:** *The Ranch Rifle has added features including integral scope mounts, recoil pad and a ventilated fiberglass handguard.*



### MINI-14 RANCH RIFLE

The current production Ranch Rifle with blue finish comes with a choice of a wood or synthetic stock.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
750	625	500	375	225	175

*The current stainless Ranch Rifle model has a synthetic stock.*

The stainless model of the Mini-14 Ranch Rifle was offered in 6.8mm SPC from 2008 to 2011, as well as .223/5.56 NATO. Add 50 percent for folding stock on early models.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
850	700	600	450	325	200

*The Mini-14 Target model is available with a thumbhole or Hogue OverMolded stock.*

#### ***MINI-14 RANCH RIFLE, TARGET MODEL***

This model features a heavy barrel with harmonic tuner, and comes with no sights.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
900	775	625	500	350	200

The Mini-14 Tactical Rifle has a 16 1/8-inch barrel and is available with a blue or stainless finish in several model variations. Add 10 percent for the stainless model. Add 30

*The Tactical Rifle is offered with a choice of a fixed or collapsible and folding stock.*

percent for NRA model with special NRA/ILA markings and serial number.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
850	700	600	450	325	200



*The 99/44 Deerfield Carbine is a variant of the Mini-14 chambered in .44 Magnum.*

#### **99/44 DEERFIELD CARBINE**

This is a semi-auto carbine and although it is chambered for the .44 Magnum, it is a variation of the Mini-14, not the .44 Carbine. Some confuse this model with the discontinued .44 Carbine because the Carbine was originally named Deerstalker. The 99/44 Deerfield has a rotary magazine similar to that of the 10/22, the 96/44 lever-action and several short-action Model 77 bolt-action rimfire and centerfire rifles. Features include a rotating bolt with two front locking-lugs, a folding receiver sight, hardwood stock and an 18.5-inch barrel with integral scope mount bases. The action is an open-top design similar to the M1 military carbine. The 99/44 Deerfield was in production from 2000 to 2006.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	600	450	325	200	150

#### **PC4/PC9 CARBINE SERIES**

This semiautomatic carbine is chambered in two popular pistol calibers: 9mm (PC9) or .40 S&W (PC40). Magazine capacity is 15 rounds (PC9) or 10 rounds (PC40). Barrel length is 16 ¼ inches with an adjustable rear or adjustable receiver sight, and post front sight. The stock is black synthetic and the finish matte black.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
625	450	375	325	200	100

## MINI-THIRTY

The Mini-Thirty is chambered for the 7.62x39 round made famous by the AK-47 rifle. Its general features are the same as the Mini-14. A hardwood stock version was made from 1987 to 2004, but in recent years only synthetic stocks have been offered.

*In 9mm or .40 S&W, the PC9 and PC4 was made from 1998 to 2006.*

The current model is available only with a stainless finish and with a five or 20-round magazine. Barrel length is 18 ½ inches with integral scope mounts and an adjustable ghost-ring rear sight. The weight is approximately 6 ¾ pounds.

*Add \$25 for 20-round magazine.*

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
800	675	525	400	300	200

*The current production standard Mini-Thirty has a satin stainless finish and a synthetic stock.*

*The Tactical model has a 16 ⅛ or 20-inch barrel with a flash suppressor.*

The Tactical version has a 20-round magazine and blued alloy steel finish.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
800	675	525	400	300	200



*The hardwood-stocked Mini-Thirty model was discontinued in 2004.*

Early production Mini-Thirty models came with a five-round magazine, hardwood stock and scope rings.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
600	500	400	300	200	150

*Ruger's take on the modern sporting rifle was announced with the SR-556—a "Ruger AR-15."*



## SR-556

### SR-556

The SR-556 was introduced to the industry in 2009. With the same features that many other manufacturers offer in what has become known in some circles as "America's Gun," the SR-556 was at first chambered only for the 5.56 NATO cartridge. In 2010 and 2011, the 6.8 PPC was added but was discontinued after one year. The

SR-556 operates with a gas piston system with magazine capacities of 10 rounds, 25 (only in the 6.5 PPC model) and 30 rounds. Other features are the Troy Industries folding sights, quad rail handguard, a fixed or telescoping black synthetic stock, and a 16.12-inch barrel with a muzzle brake. Weight is 7.4 to 7.9 pounds. This model comes in a soft carry case and three magazines.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1700	1500	1200	850	500	250



*This variant of the SR-556 line has an M4-style telescoping stock.*

**SR-556E**

This model has an A2 pistol grip, M4-style telescoping stock, flash suppressor, vented aluminum handguard with full-length Picatinny rail. Introduced in 2011.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1200	950	750	600	350	200



*The Varmint Target model is the most recent addition to the Ruger SR-556 series.*

### ***SR-556VT***

Introduced in 2013, this Varmint Target model with a 5-round magazine has the same general features as the previous SR-556 models except for its fixed A2 style buttstock, 20-inch stainless steel barrel, Magpul MOE pistol grip, and a vented handguard with Picatinny rail. Weight is 8.5 pounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1700	1500	1200	850	500	250

### **SR-22**

Features include an all-aluminum chassis replicating the AR platform dimensions between the sighting plane, buttstock height and grip. The SR-22 is essentially a 10/22 action inside an AR-style aluminum chassis. Ammo capacity is 10 rounds in the famous Ruger detachable rotary magazine. The Picatinny rail includes a six-position telescoping M4 stock, Hogue Monogrip pistol grip that interchange with any AR-style compatible option. The round handguard is mounted on a standard thread AR barrel nut. The precision-rifled, cold-hammer forged 16 1/8-inch alloy/steel barrel is equipped with a Mini-14 style flash suppressor. The rimfire addition to the Ruger SR rifle series was introduced in 2013.

*The rimfire addition to the SR series uses an action identical to the Ruger 10/22.*

**NIB**   **EXC.**   **V.G.**   **GOOD**   **FAIR**   **POOR**  
 550   450   375   250   200   150



*Strengthened to handle the .308 Win./7.62 NATO cartridge, otherwise the SR-762 features are similar to those of the SR-556.*

**SR-762**

This addition to the SR rifle series adds the .308 Winchester chambering. Features are similar to the SR-556 models. Magazine capacity is 20 rounds and the weight is 8.6 pounds.

**NIB**   **EXC.**   **V.G.**   **GOOD**   **FAIR**   **POOR**  
 1900   1650   1300   900   500   300



# SINGLE-SHOT RIFLES

### NO. 1 RIFLE

At the 1966 NRA convention in Chicago, a select group of gun writers were shown four prototypes of a new Ruger rifle. It was a classic-style single-shot based on John Farquharson's falling-block design that was patented in Scotland in 1872. In an article that appeared in the 1967 edition of *Gun Digest*, the late Roger Barlow eloquently described the appeal of the single shot rifle.

"The man with a single shot rifle, stalking his game skillfully, thoughtfully calculating his range, not just shooting at his quarry but selecting the most effective shot to place that bullet, then carefully aiming and making that one shot count — that man surely is more of a hunter than is the fellow having half a dozen shots available in his repeater."

The new Ruger rifle was indeed designed to appeal to the traditional sportsman who appreciated and understood the challenge as well as the advantages and disadvantages of one shot. This was another design created by two of Ruger's top engineers, Harry Sefried and Larry Larson. Originally the rifle was going to be named the Victorian, due to its 19th century styling, but not long after it went into production, the name was changed. From the beginning, the actions were stamped "No. 1" and that became the official name. (Editor's note: This Ruger model should always be referred to in print as "No. 1" and not "Number One," or "Number 1.")

The design is not a copy of the Farquharson but is a modern take on the action. The falling-block is operated with a lever located just behind the trigger guard. This action is much shorter in length—about 4.5 inches—than those of the various repeating rifle designs, which provides one of the No. 1's major advantages. It can have a longer barrel than a repeating rifle with the same overall length, and therefore achieve a higher velocity.

The earliest production rifles were referred to as the S22L, S26M and S24H. These were basically barrel-

length and weight designations. The variations were later named Light Sporter, Medium Sporter, Tropical Rifle, 1B Standard and others.

The No. 1 has been chambered for a long list of calibers over its almost 50-year history and in several different variations. When the rifle was introduced, the original calibers were the .222 Remington, .22-250, .243 Winchester, 6mm Remington, .308 Winchester, .30-06 and .458 Winchester Magnum. All were offered with either a 22- or 26-inch barrel, except the .458 Win. Mag., which had a 24-inch heavy barrel. The very first

No. 1, by the way, was chambered in 30-06 Winchester and is in the private collection of the Ruger family.

Other variations like the International were later added along with many more calibers. The No. 1 has been offered in virtually every popular American caliber, ranging from the .204 Ruger to the .480 Ruger, and also including several European rounds. Some of the rarest chamberings will require a premium over the values of the standard calibers.

The earliest No. 1 models were marked with serial numbers with no prefix and these models will also bring a premium. This serial number range goes from 1 to approximately 8437 for rifles produced through the end of 1969. Beginning in 1970, a prefix was added starting with 130-00000.

A major change has taken place in the available calibers for the No. 1. Beginning in 2013, Ruger is chambering the No. 1 in a limited range of calibers. The company announced in its 2014 catalog and on

***Top Left:*** *This ad for the No. 1 ran in most outdoor magazines in 1999.*

Courtesy Classic Sporting Arms.

***Top Right:*** *Because of its classic styling the No. 1 is a favorite platform for customizing. The gun work on this model was done by gunmaker James Anderson with engraving by Roger Kebr.*

its website that each variation will now be chambered in only one caliber each year, and that caliber will be changed every year. The Light Sporter for 2014 is being offered only in .280 Remington, the Varminter in .220 Swift, the International in .257 Roberts, the Medium Sporter in 9.3x62, and the Tropical in .450/400 Nitro Express 3-inch. No one knows what this limiting of caliber choices will do to the values of Ruger No. 1s in the future. If you have your heart set on a new No. 1 in one of these particular calibers, don't wait too long.

*This is the current edition of the basic No. 1 Light Sporter.*

### **NO. 1-A LIGHT SPORTER**

This model features a checkered American walnut stock with an Alexander Henry style fore-end, barrel band with sling swivel, and a 22-inch barrel with a quarter rib with a folding rear and a ramp front sight. Like all No. 1 variations, it has a shotgun-style tang safety, pistol grip cap and rubber recoil pad. Average weight is 7 ¼ pounds. Previously offered in .204 Ruger, .22 Hornet (rare), .222 Rem., .223 Rem., .243 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor, .270 Win., 7x57 Mauser, 7mm-08 (rare), .280 Rem. (2014 only), .308

*For more on the No. 1, see "Early and Rare No. 1s" elsewhere in this edition  
—Author.*

*Features shown here include the thumb safety, and the quarter rib with integral scope bases and a folding rear sight.*

Win., .30-06, .300 RCM, .303 British. For serial numbers without a prefix, add a premium to the following prices of 25 to 50 percent, depending on the condition of the rifle.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1050	900	750	550	350	200

***NO. 1-B STANDARD***

The stock on this model has a semi-beavertail fore-end with swivel studs in the buttstock and fore-end. Barrel length is 22 or 26 inches with the quarter rib equipped with the well-known Ruger integral scope mount bases with rings. Average weight is 8 to 8 ¼ pounds. This model was in production from 1966 to 2010 and at various times was chambered in .204 Ruger, .218 Bee, .22 Hornet, .223 Rem., .22-250 Rem., .243 Win., 6mm Rem., .257 Roberts, .25-06 Rem., 6.5 Rem. Mag., 6.5 Creedmoor, .270 Win., .270 Weatherby Mag., 7x57 Mauser, 7mm-08 Win., .280 Rem., 7mm Rem. Mag., .300 Win. Mag., .300 Weatherby Mag., and .338 Win. Magnum. For serial numbers without a prefix add a premium to the following prices of 25 to 50 percent, depending on the condition of the rifle. Also add a premium of 100 percent for rare calibers including the 6.5 Remington Magnum and 7x57 Mauser.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
950	800	675	450	300	150

***NO. 1-H TROPICAL RIFLE***

This model is chambered for several big-bore cartridges and was designed primarily for use on dangerous game. The heavy contour 24-inch barrel has adjustable open sights and a barrel band. Other features are similar to other No. 1 models. Calibers have included the .375 H&H Magnum, .405 Win., .416 Ruger, .416 Remington, .416 Rigby, .450/.400 NE, .45-70 Govt., .458 Lott, and .458 Win. Magnum. For serial

*A single-shot dangerous game rifle may not be for everyone but the No. 1 Tropical Rifle has seen a lot of action in Africa.*

numbers without a prefix add a premium of from 25 to 50 percent, depending on the condition of the rifle. Also add a premium of 100 percent for .404 Jeffery and 250 percent for .45-70 Govt.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1050	900	750	550	350	200

*To many shooters, this is the classiest of the No. 1s, the International model.*

### **NO. 1-RSI INTERNATIONAL**

The full-length “Mannlicher” style stock and 20-inch barrel set this one apart from other No. 1s. It is equipped with adjustable open sights and an American walnut checkered stock with a complete sling swivel mounted on the fore-end. This model was limited to the following calibers: .243 Win., .257 Roberts (2014 only), .270 Win., 7x57 Mauser, .30-06 and .300 RCM.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1100	950	800	600	400	250



*Two Medium Sporters, the standard model and the 50th Anniversary limited edition from 1999.*

### **NO.1-S MEDIUM SPORTER**

Similar to the Light Sporter with a 22 or 26-inch medium-weight barrel and open sights. This model was chambered in these cartridge: .218 Bee, 7mm Remington Magnum, .300 Win. Mag., .300 H&H Mag., 9.3x62 (2014 only), 9.3x74R, .338 RCM, .338

Win Mag., .375 Ruger, .38-55 Winchester, .45-70 Govt., .460 S&W Mag., .480 Ruger/.475 Linebaugh. Weight varies depending on caliber from 7 to 8 pounds. As with the other early production models, add a premium to the following prices of from 25 to 50 percent for a non-prefix serial number, depending on the condition of the rifle. A limited edition of 1500 rifles marking Ruger's 50th anniversary was made in 1999. These models featured a high-grade Circassian walnut stock and gold inlays of William B. Ruger's signature and 50 Years logo. Chambered in .45-70 Govt. only. Add a 100 percent premium for this model.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1000	850	700	500	300	200

*A heavy 24-inch barrel model in a wide range of flat-shooting calibers makes for an ideal Varmint rifle.*

### **NO. 1-V VARMINTER**

Introduced in 1970, this model has a 24 or 26-inch heavy barrel with no sights and target scope blocks. Weight is 8 ¾ to 9 pounds. It has been chambered in the following calibers: 204 Ruger\*, .22 PPC, .223 Rem., .22-250 Rem., .220 Swift\*, .243 Win., 6mm Rem., 6mm PPC, .25-06 Rem., 6.5-284 Norma\*, 6.5 Creedmoor, 7mm Rem. Mag., .280 Rem., .300 Win. Magnum.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1100	950	800	550	350	200

### **NO. 1 LYMAN 1878 CENTENNIAL RIFLE**

A commemorative Ruger No. 1 series celebrating the centennial of the Lyman Products Company, a manufacturer of reloading tools and other equipment for shooters, was manufactured in 1978. The Grade 1 rifle, of which only 101 were made, is hand engraved with gold accents and a high-grade walnut stock. It has a 28-inch barrel with a 30-inch long tubular 4X Lyman Century scope. The Grade II series, of which 1000 were made, has photo engraving and not as fancy wood. All models came with a walnut presentation case for the rifle, scope and accessories including a set of loading dies, bullet mold, a framed letter of authenticity, and a centennial journal like the one that was issued in 1878.

#### **Grade I**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
2500	2000	1500	1000	600	400

#### **Grade II**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1900	1400	900	650	400	300

### **NO. 1 STAINLESS SERIES**

No longer in production, the stainless series of No. 1 rifles was offered in four variations of the No. 1 and in many calibers. Features and specifications are similar to the blue-finish models. On all variations listed below, the actions and barrels are stainless and the receivers have a quarter rib and no sights. The stocks are all black laminated.

- No. 1 K1-B-BBZ Standard. Chambered in .243 Win., .25-06 Rem., .270 Win., 7mm Rem. Mag., 7mm STW (Shooting Times Westerner), .308 Win., .30-06, .300 Win. Magnum.

- No. 1 K1-S-BBZ Sporter. Chambered in .45-70 Govt. or .375 Ruger with 22-inch barrel.
- No. 1 K1-H-BBZ Tropical. Chambered in .375 H&H Mag., .405 Winchester, .416 Ruger, .416 Rigby, .458 Win. Mag., .458 Lott, with a heavy 24-inch barrel. Weight is approximately 9 pounds.
- No. 1 K1-V-BBZ Varminter. Chambered in .204 Ruger or .22-250 Remington only with a 24-inch bull barrel. Weight is approximately 9 pounds.

*Estimated values are for all models.*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
950	800	675	450	300	150



*The No. 3 was made from 1972 to 1987 and was a popular-priced variation of the No. 1 with many of the same features*

### NO. 3 RIFLE

This is a less elaborate, more moderately priced variation of the No. 1. The falling-block action is identical except the operating lever is less ornate and it lacks the locking bar. The non-checked military-style stock is similar to that on the .44 Carbine and 10/22, with a barrel band. Barrel length is 22 inches with a folding rear sight and blade front. The No. 3 was introduced in 1972 in .45-70; later chamberings were in .22 Hornet, .223 Remington, .30-40 Krag, .375 Winchester and .44 Magnum. Add a 25 percent premium for .44 Magnum or .375 Winchester.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
700	600	500	350	200	125

*Ruger's first and only black powder rifle was the Model 77-50 bolt action.*

### MODEL 77-50

This model is an in-line percussion .50 caliber rifle with a 22-inch barrel with barrel band and an adjustable folding rear sight. The 77-50 was in production from 1997 to 2004 and was with a blue or stainless finish. Stock choices were a non-checked hardwood stock, a straight-grip checkered walnut, black synthetic or black laminate. Approximate weight is 6 ½ pounds. A premium of \$75 should be added for the straight-grip checkered walnut stock, or \$100 for the stainless finish/laminated stock model.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
500	400	325	250	150	100



# BOLT-ACTION RIFLES CENTERFIRE & RIMFIRE

### MODEL 77

The Model 77 bolt-action rifle was introduced in 1968 to compete head-on with the Winchester Model 70 and Remington Model 700, the “big guns” in the world of big-game rifles. It was a handsome rifle with a checkered stock designed by Len Brownell, one of the country’s best custom stock makers. The Model 77 was introduced in two action lengths, with the short action initially chambered for the .22-250 Remington, .220 Swift, 6mm Remington, .243 Winchester, .250 Savage, 6.5 Rem. Magnum, .284 Winchester, 7mm/08 Rem., .308 Win., .350 Rem. Mag. and .358 Winchester. The long action model was introduced in .257 Roberts, .25-06 Rem., .270 Win., .280 Rem., 7x57 Mauser, 7mm Rem. Mag., .30-06, .300 Win. Mag., 338 Win. Mag., .416 Taylor and .458 Winchester Magnum. Many model variations and other calibers have been added over the Model 77’s 46-year run, and some of the more rare chamberings are worthy of a premium over the values

*Bill Ruger (left) and outdoor writer John Wootters at a 1971 writer’s conference having a conversation about a Model 77 rifle.*

of the standard models. The original Model 77 was replaced by the Model 77 Mark II series in 1989 and the Mark II by the Model 77 Hawkeye series in 2007.

### MODEL 77 R

General specifications for this first model of the series include a 22-inch barrel for standard calibers, 24-inches for magnums, shotgun style tang safety, checkered American walnut stock with red pad and detachable sling swivels, staggered magazine with hinged floorplate and a capacity of three to five rounds, depending on caliber. Original Model 77s offered either a round-top action drilled and tapped for scope mounting, or Ruger's integral scope bases milled into the top of the action. This was the M77 ST model. The R suffix in the M77 R refers to a rifle supplied with integral scope bases and rings with no iron sights, while the RS reference is for a rifle with both rings and iron sights. Until 1972, the bolt handle knob on the Model 77 was flat and the handle had a "dog leg" shape. This was changed in 1972 to a round knob. Add 20 percent to these values for the flat bolt models.

*A premium of 20 percent should also be added for .250 Savage chambering, or a 100 percent premium for the rarest calibers, .284 Winchester or .350 Remington Magnum.*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
500	425	350	285	200	125

### MODEL 77 RS

This model has integral scope mounts on top of the receiver plus a folding rear sight and ramp front sight secured by a barrel band. Add a premium of 20 percent for rifles chambered in .250 Savage, 100 percent for .284 Win., .35 Whelen, .350 Rem. Mag. or .358 Winchester.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
550	475	400	325	200	125

### MODEL 77 ST, 77 PL

An early model variation with what has become known as the "round-top" Model 77, it had no integral scope mounts but was drilled and tapped for traditional scope mounting. It also was equipped with iron sights. The PL model had no iron sights. Available calibers were .257 Roberts, .25-06 Rem., .270 Win., 7x57 Mauser, 7mm Rem. Mag., .30-06, .300 Win. Mag. and .338 Winchester Magnum.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
550	475	400	325	200	125

### MODEL 77 RSI INTERNATIONAL

This is also known as the International model. It has the "Mannlicher" style full-length stock and an 18½-inch barrel. Introduced in 1983, the RSI has been chambered in .22-250, .243 Win., .250 Savage, .270 Win., 7x57 Mauser, 7mm-08, .308 Win., and .30-06. It was discontinued in 1993 and replaced by the Mark II RSI model. Add a 50 percent premium for .250 Savage, 7x57 Mauser or 7mm-08 Remington.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
600	500	400	325	225	125

### MODEL 77 RL, RLS

These variations were introduced in 1986 and are similar to the standard R and RS models except for an ultra light barrel of 20-inches without sights (RL) or 18 ½ inches with open sights (RLS), and a weight of approximately six pounds. Both models came with a black fore-end tip. The RL was chambered in .22-250, .243 Win., .250 Savage, .257 Roberts, .270 Win., .308 Win., and .30-06. Add a 75 percent premium for the .250 Savage chambering or 50 percent for .257 Roberts.

M77 RL

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
500	425	350	285	200	125

*From the 1983  
edition of Gun  
Digest, this model  
became known  
as the Model 77  
RSI International  
and then the  
Mark II RSI.*

### **MODEL 77 RLS**

The RLS had fewer caliber choices: .243 Win., .270 Win., .308 Win., and .30-06.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
475	400	325	250	200	125

### **MODEL 77V VARMINT**

This variation has a 24-inch heavy barrel (26 in .220 Swift), is drilled and tapped for target scope bases, and has a wide beavertail fore-end. It was introduced in 1968 and in production until 1992, chambered in .22-250, .220 Swift, .243 Win., 6mm Rem., .25-06, .280 Rem., .308 Win. and .30-06. Weight is approximately 9 pounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
500	425	350	285	200	125

### **MODEL 77 RS AFRICAN**

Designed for dangerous game, this model was chambered in .458 Winchester Magnum and came in two grades. It featured a 24-inch heavy barrel secured to the stock with a barrel band and an extra screw attachment through the fore-end into the barrel, plus an extra recoil lug and a bolt through the stock. Other features include a steel trigger guard and floorplate. Early models featured a higher grade stock of Circassian walnut and these are worthy of a 15 to 25 percent premium, depending on the condition.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	600	500	350	200	125

*NOTE: Approximately 50 Model 77 RS African rifles were chambered for the .416 Taylor cartridge and these should be appraised individually. Some of these examples have reportedly sold for \$3,000 to \$5,000.*

### **MOD. 77 MARK II**

In 1989 Ruger introduced the Model 77 Mark II series. It is similar to the original Model 77 but with design changes and improvements. One of the major changes is with the safety, changing from the sliding, tang-mounted two-position style to a three-position wing-style safety. A three-position safety's main advantage is that it gives the shooter three choices. With the wing in the rear position, both the bolt and the trigger firing mechanism are locked. In the center position the bolt can be operated, but the gun cannot be fired. And in the forward position, the gun is ready to fire. This is considered by some shooters to be a safer design, however others prefer the convenience of the tang-mounted safety. Other differences between the standard Model 77 and the Mark II include a change in the floor-plate latch, moving it from inside the trigger guard to immediately in front of the trigger guard. This was in response to some shooters who thought the older design might cause the floor plate to accidentally open. Another change was from a plunger type ejector to a fixed-blade type, more like that on an original Mauser, and from a push-feed bolt operation to controlled-round-feed, which some shooters prefer. The overall design of the Mark II is slimmer and trimmer than the Model 77R, resulting in one less round in the magazine. There is also a new and different trigger mechanism, which is not adjustable. Like the original M77 series, the Mark II has been produced in a wide variety of styles and chambered in most of the calibers popular with American hunters and shooters.

*The 77R continued to be the standard version of the Model 77 after the Mark II series replaced the early models.*

### **MODEL 77 R MARK II**

This standard model of the Mark II Model 77 series has specifications like the previous models including a checkered walnut stock, 22 or 24-inch barrel, and a weight of approximately seven pounds. Chamberings have included what seems to be the longest list of any Ruger model: .204 Ruger, .223 Rem., .22-250, .220 Swift, .243 Win., 6mm Rem., .257 Roberts, .25-06, 6.5x55 Swedish, .260 Rem., .270 Win., .270 WSM, .280 Rem., 7mm Mauser, 7mm Rem. Mag., 7mm RSUM, .308 win., .30-06, .300 Win. Mag., .300 WSM, .300 RSUM, .338 Win. Mag. and .350 Rem. Magnum.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
500	425	350	285	200	125

### **MODEL 77 LR MARK II**

A left-hand variation was available from 1991 to 2007. Calibers included .25-06 Rem., .270 Win., 7mm Rem. Mag., .30-06, .300 Win. Magnum.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
550	475	400	325	200	125

### **MODEL 77RL MARK II**

The ultra light variation of the Mark II family, like the earlier version, had the checkered walnut stock with black fore-end and a 20-inch barrel. It was offered in .223 Rem., .243 Win., .257 Roberts, .270 Win., .308 Win, and .30-06.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
650	550	425	325	200	150

*The All-Weather  
Model 77*

### **MODEL 77RFP MARK II ALL-WEATHER STAINLESS**

One of the first, if not the first, of the Model 77 series to have a synthetic stock and stainless steel barrel and action, the All-Weather Mark II was available in .204 Ruger, .223 Rem., .22-250, .243 Win., .25-06, .260 Rem., .270 Win., .270 WSM, .280 Rem., 7.62x39mm, 7mm Rem. Mag., 7mm WSM, 7mm RSUM, .308 win., .30-06, .300 Win. Mag., .300 WSM, .300 RSUM, .325 WSM, .338 Win. Mag. and .350 Rem. Magnum.

It was in production from 1990 to 2006.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
500	425	350	285	200	125

*This Mark II  
International model  
looks great with its  
stainless finish and  
checkered walnut stock.*

### **MODEL 77 RSI MARK II**

With its racy full-length Mannlicher-style stock, open sights and 18 ½ -inch barrel, this popular model was offered only in .243 Win., .270 Win., .308 Win. and .30-06. It was in production from 1993 to 2008.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
800	685	525	425	300	200

*This is the Mark II RSM, ready for dangerous game.*

### **MODEL 77 MARK II RSM**

Chambered for the .375 H&H Magnum, .416 Rigby or .458 Lott, this model was in production from 1990 to 2010. The hand-checked, premium-grade Circassian walnut stock had an ebony fore-end tip. Barrel length was 24 inches for the .375, 23 inches for the other chamberings, with a quarter rib and two folding express-type sights.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
2000	1600	1250	800	400	250

### **MODEL 77 EXPRESS MARK II**

Introduced in 1992, the Express Mark II featured a select Circassian walnut straight comb stock with 22 line-per-inch checkering. Barrel length is 22 inches with a v-notch express-type rear and blade front sight. The receiver is milled for Ruger's integral scope mount bases. This model was chambered in .270 Win., 7mm Rem. Mag., .30-06, .300 Win. Mag. and .338 Win. Magnum. This model was in production until 2002.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1200	950	750	550	400	200

### **MODEL 77 KVBZ MARK II VARMINT RIFLE**

This all stainless-steel model was in production from 1993 to 2012. Chamberings included .22 PPC, .204 Ruger, .223 Rem., .22-250, .220 Swift, .243 Win., .25-06 Rem., 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Winchester. It had a black or brown laminated stock and a 26-inch heavy barrel with no sights.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
800	600	500	400	300	200

### **MODEL K77VT MARK II**

This target model was introduced in 1994 and was chambered in .204 Ruger, .223, .22-250, .243 Win., .25-06, 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Winchester. Features include a 26-inch heavy stainless barrel (28 in 6.5 Creedmoor), no sights, and a black laminated stock. Weight is between 9 ½ and 9 ¾ pounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
900	700	600	450	325	200

### **MODEL 77 MARK II FRONTIER 2005**

This model is designed for a forward-mounted scope, which is referred to by some as a scout rifle. In production from 2005 to 2008, it was chambered for four calibers: .243 Win., .7mm-08, .308 Win. and .300 WSM. Features included a gray laminated stock, blue or stainless finish, and a 16 ½-inch barrel with a cantilever base for mounting the scope forward of the rifle's action. The stainless version was also made for the .325 WSM, .338 Federal and .358 Winchester calibers. Add \$100 for the stainless model.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
650	500	400	325	250	150

### **MODEL 77 MARK II COMPACT**

Designed primarily for shooters of smaller stature, this compact model has a 16 ½-inch barrel and a shorter checkered walnut stock. In production from 2002 to 2008, it was

*The Model 77  
Mark II Compact  
offered a shorter barrel  
and length of pull.*

chambered in .223 Rem., .243 Win., .260 Rem., 7mm-08 Rem. and .308 Winchester. A stainless version was offered with a laminated stock.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
650	550	425	325	200	150

#### **MODEL 77 MARK II COMPACT MAGNUM**

Introduced in 2008 and in production through 2012, this model is similar to the M77 R Mark II except for its shorter length action, black matte finish, and 20-inch barrel with a U-type notch rear sight and a brass bead front. It was offered with an American walnut stock and blue finish, or a black synthetic stock and stainless finish. Calibers were limited to the .308 Winchester, .300 RCM and .338 RCM.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
750	625	500	400	300	200

*Designed in cooperation  
with the Gunsite  
Academy, the Gunsite  
Scout is a tactical rifle  
based on a concept  
created by the late gun  
writer Jeff Cooper.*

*The heart of the scout  
rifle concept is a  
forward-mounted scope,  
meant to be positioned  
on this Picatinny rail  
atop the fore-end.*

#### **MODEL 77 MARK II GUNSITE SCOUT**

A tactical style rifle in .308 Winchester with a 16 ½ or 18-inch barrel, black laminate stock and matte black or stainless steel finish. Sights are an adjustable rear, post front and a Picatinny top rail for forward-position scope mounting. It has a removable flash suppressor, a non-rotating Mauser-type extractor and controlled-round feed. The removable

box magazine has a capacity of 10 rounds. This model has the logo of the famous Arizona Gunsite Academy shooting school on the grip cap. It is offered with a right or left-hand action.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
850	650	525	425	300	200

*The Guide Gun is a serious rifle for big and dangerous game in a wide range of calibers.*

### **GUIDE GUN**

This is a heavy/dangerous-game rifle with a 20-inch barrel, muzzle brake, barrel band, integral scout mounting bases and express-style iron sights. It has a Green Mountain laminated stock with a recoil pad and an adjustable length of pull. The rifle comes in .30-06, .300 RCM, .300 Win. Mag., .338 RCM, .338 Win. Mag., .375 Ruger and .416

Ruger. Weight varies from 8 to 8 ½ pounds. This model was new in 2013.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1050	875	700	550	350	250

### **MODEL M77 HAWKEYE SERIES**

In 2007 the Ruger company made several changes to the popular Model 77 series and gave the new model the name Hawkeye. Among the changes was a new trigger system called the LC6, advertised as being smoother and lighter than the previous trigger. (The “LC” refers to light and crisp.) The stock was slightly reshaped and the finish bead blasted to reduce glare. Both blued and stainless finishes are offered. The trigger guard is steel instead of aluminum on the original Model 77 and the Mark II. There are slight dimensional changes but the Hawkeye is still part of the Model 77 family and its action is essentially the same as the one of earlier Model 77 rifles. The Hawkeye has been made in most of the same variations as the Mark II. Chamberings have included .204 Ruger, .223 Rem., .22-250, .243 Win., .257 Roberts, .25-06 Rem., 6.5 Creedmoor, .270 Win., 7mm-08 Rem., 7mm Rem. Mag., .308 Win., .30-06, .300 Win. Mag., .300 RCM, .338 Win., Mag., .338 RCM and .358 Winchester. Other specifications are familiar to shooter who have experience with the Mark II series: controlled round feed, checkered American walnut stock with red recoil pad, 22 or 24-inch barrel and no sights. A left-hand model is available at no increase in price.

*The Hawkeye replaced the Model 77 Mark II series in 2007. It is available in right and left-hand models.*

### **MODEL 77 HAWKEYE STANDARD**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	550	425	300	225	150

### **MODEL 77 HAWKEYE LAMINATE STAINLESS COMPACT**

This model is identical to the standard model except for its black laminated stock and matte stainless steel finish. The Laminate Compact model is identical except for its 16 ½-inch barrel. The model is currently chambered only .223 Rem., .243 Win., 7mm-08 and .308 Winchester. Previously it was available in .260 Rem., 6.5 SPC and .300 RCM.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	550	425	300	225	150

*The Hawkeye Laminated Stainless Compact is a popular choice for younger shooters and hunters, or others of small stature.*

### **MODEL 77 HAWKEYE ALL WEATHER**

Based on the standard model, this rifle has a weather-resistant stainless steel barrel and receiver in Hawkeye Matte finish and a black synthetic stock with recoil pad. It is chambered in .204 Ruger, .223 Rem., .243 Win., .270 Win., 7mm-08 Rem., 7mm Rem. Mag., .308 Win., .30-06, .300 Win. Magnum. Barrel length is 22 inches except for the .204 Ruger and magnums. No sights are provided but the receiver is milled for Ruger integral scope mount bases.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	550	425	300	225	150

### **MODEL 77 HAWKEYE VARMINT TARGET**

Designed for the long-range hunter or target shooter, this variant of the Hawkeye has a two-stage target trigger and 26-inch heavy barrel (28" in 6.5 Creedmoor). The stock finish is black laminate and metal finish is matte stainless. Chamberings include .204 Ruger, .223 Rem., .22-250 Rem. 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Winchester. Weight is approximately 9 ¼ to 9 ¾ pounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
850	650	525	425	300	200

*The Hawkeye Predator is designed for long range hunting of predatory varmints of all sizes.*

### **MODEL 77 HAWKEYE PREDATOR**

This model has the attractive Green Mountain laminate stock with a matte stainless receiver and barrel with integral scope mount bases and no sights. Barrel lengths for the five chamberings are: 24 inches for .204 Ruger, .22-250 Remington and 6.5 Creedmoor; and 22 inches for .223 Rem. and .308 Winchester. The two-stage trigger is adjustable.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
850	650	525	425	300	200

*Designed for use on big game at longer ranges, the Magnum Hunter is chambered in .300 Winchester Magnum.*

### **MODEL 77 HAWKEYE MAGNUM HUNTER**

Designed for the long-range hunter, this model is chambered in .300 Winchester Magnum and has a 24-inch barrel with a muzzle brake. The Green Hogue stock has a fully curved pistol grip and finger-grooved fore-end.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
900	700	600	450	325	200

*The Hawkeye African is equipped with a removable muzzle brake that significantly reduces recoil.*

### **MODEL HM77R HAWKEYE AFRICAN**

Chambered in .300 Win. Mag., .338 Win. Mag., 9.3x62mm, .375 Ruger or .416 Ruger. Features include a checkered American walnut stock with ebony fore-end cap, barrel band with sling swivel stud and a 23-inch barrel with express-style sights and muzzle brake. Metal finish is satin blue. Approximate weight is 8 pounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1050	875	700	550	350	250

### **MODEL HM77R HAWKEYE ALASKAN**

Designed for the rugged weather of Alaska, this model has a 20-inch barrel with express-style adjustable rear and ramp front sights, and a black Hogue OverMolded synthetic stock. Finish is Diamondblack or stainless. Chambered in .375 Ruger or .416 Ruger this model was in production from 2007 through 2012.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1000	825	650	500	300	200

### **MODEL 77 ROTARY MAGAZINE SERIES**

The Model 77/22 .22 rimfire was introduced in 1984 and has since evolved into several rimfire and centerfire models that use the famous Ruger detachable rotary magazine. This is the magazine that was first seen when the 10/22 semiauto carbine came along in 1964. The current Rotary Magazine Series of rifles include those chambered for three rimfire calibers: .22 Long Rifle, .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire, and .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire—and these four centerfires: .17 Hornet, .22 Hornet, .357 Magnum and .44 Magnum.

*The 77/22 has the look and feel of a big-game rifle, with a checkered American walnut stock and three-position wing-type safety.*

### **MODEL 77/22**

The current 77/22 model comes with a 20 or 24-inch barrel without sights, blue or stainless finish, and a walnut or synthetic stock. The blue finish model has a 20-inch barrel, the stainless comes only with a 24-inch barrel. Capacity of the rotary magazine is 10 rounds of .22 Long Rifle ammunition. Earlier production models included the 77/22 RS, as the designation for the version with iron sights, 77/22 R for the no-sight model, which came with scope rings to fit the integral scope mounts. The .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire (WMR) was added to the 77/22 series in 1990. Specifications are the same as for the .22 LR model except that the rotary magazine holds only nine rounds. Add \$50 for the stainless model, \$25 for iron sights. Early models with no “77/22” rollmark on the receiver can bring a premium of up to 100 percent, depending on condition.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	600	475	375	250	150

### **MOD. 77/17**

When Hornady introduced the .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire (HMR) in 2002, Ruger was one of the first manufacturers to chamber a rifle for the new round in the form of the Model 77/17. Specifications are identical to the 77/22 .22 LR and .22 WMR rifles except for the barrel length of 22 inches with a walnut stock, and 24 inches for the stainless

*This variation of the 77/17 model comes with a stainless finish, a black laminated stock and a 24-inch heavy barrel.*

model with a Green Mountain (discontinued) or black laminated stock. A 77/17 HMR Varmint model was introduced in 2006 with a 24-inch barrel and black synthetic stock but that model has been discontinued. Values shown are for the 77/17 HMR with blue finish and walnut stock. Add \$50 for the stainless model. A variation chambered for the .17 Mach 2 cartridge was introduced in 2005 and discontinued in 2006. Production was limited and values for this model are speculative.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	600	475	375	250	150

**MODEL 77/22 VARMINT**

This model has the same features as the standard model with the exception of a stainless finish, 20-inch heavy barrel and brown laminated stock. Values shown are for both the .22 LR and .22 WMR models. The Varmint model is no longer in production.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
725	625	500	375	250	150

**MODEL 77/22 .22 HORNET**

In 1994 Ruger lengthened the receiver and rotary magazine to fit the .22 Hornet cartridge, the classic little round from the 1920s that was developed by Col. Townsend Whelen, among others. It is considered by many firearms historians to have been the first “varmint” cartridge. Magazine capacity is six rounds. Barrel length is 20 inches for the standard model with a blue finish and a checkered American walnut stock. A matte stainless model with a 24-inch heavy barrel and Green Mountain laminate stock was introduced in 2012.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
725	625	500	375	250	150

*This handsome Green Mountain laminate stock is available in .22 Hornet and .17 Hornet models.*

**MODEL 77/17 .17 HORNET**

Introduced in 2013, with general specifications similar to the .22 Hornet model but chambered for the .17 Hornady Hornet cartridge. It is available only in the variation with a 24-inch heavy barrel, matte stainless finish, and a Green Mountain laminated stock.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
725	625	500	375	250	150

**MODEL 77/44**

Another variation of the bolt-action rotary magazine rifle was chambered for the powerful .44 Magnum cartridge. Introduced in 1998, it was offered with a plain hardwood or checkered American walnut stock. The current model has either a black synthetic or Next

GI Vista Camo stock, stainless finish, and an 18 ½-inch barrel. Sights are an adjustable rear and a bead front. Magazine capacity is four rounds and the weight is approximately 5 ¼ pounds. Add \$25 for Next GI Vista stock.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
700	600	500	375	250	150

**MODEL 77/357**

Identical to the .44 Magnum variant except for the caliber, which allows one more round in the magazine, this model is offered only with a black synthetic stock. It was introduced in 2012.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
750	650	525	400	250	150

*The only Ruger lever action was chambered for the .44 Magnum as well as .22 LR, .22 WMR and .17 WMR.*

**MODEL 96 CARBINE SERIES**

Ruger’s only lever action was in production from 1996 to 2008 and is included in this section since it was a member of the rotary-magazine family. It was chambered for three different rimfire calibers (.22 LR, .22 WMR, .17 HMR) and one centerfire (.44 Magnum). The stocks on these models are reminiscent of the unchecked hardwood versions seen on the original .44 Carbine with a military style barrel band and curved buttplate. All models in this series have 18 ½-inch barrels with a Model 10/22-style folding rear sight and a blade or bead front. The safety is a push-bolt style on the front of the trigger guard.

**MODEL 96/17**

Chambered for the .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire, this model has a magazine capacity of nine rounds and an average weight of 5 ¼ pounds. It was introduced in 2002.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
450	350	250	200	150	125

**MODEL 96/22**

This .22 Long Rifle model has a magazine capacity of 10 rounds. Other features the same as 96/17.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
400	300	200	175	150	125

**MODEL 96/22M**

Chambered for the .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire with a magazine capacity of nine rounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
500	425	350	285	200	125

**MODEL 96/44**

The .44 Magnum model is similar to the above variations as well as the .44 Carbine of yore, except for the action type. Capacity of the rotary magazine is four rounds and the weight for this model is about 5 7/8 pounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
550	450	350	275	200	125

**AMERICAN RIFLE SERIES**

A new Ruger centerfire rifle with a totally new design was introduced in 2012. It is a budget-priced rifle meant for the average shooter and is appropriately named the American Rifle. From the ground up it was designed to be made at as low a price as possible, yet keeping the Ruger name synonymous with safety, form and function, as well as accuracy. The American Rifle has been a very successful addition to the Ruger product line. It is chambered for the most popular cartridges in the country: .222 Rem., .22-250 Rem., .243 Win., .270 Win., 7mm-08, .308 Win. and .30-06, all with 22-inch barrels with integral scope bases and no sights. The light weight composite stock is a new design with a comfortable contoured fore-end, a 13 3/4-inch length of pull, and has a new bedding system to help ensure a constant fit for extreme accuracy. Also new is the Ruger Marksman Adjustable Trigger with a unique trigger-in-a-trigger design, not acting as a safety as in some other brands, but providing a crisp, clean trigger pull that is adjustable in weight from three to five pounds. The standard model's approximate weight is between 6 1/8 and 6 3/8 pounds. Metal finish is matte black but an all-weather model is a 2014 introduction with a matte stainless finish. Add \$50 for the all-weather model. In 2014 Ruger announced that the American Rifle could be ordered with a factory installed Redfield Revolution 3-9X scope. Add \$200 for the Redfield scope if the rifle is new-in-box.

*The American Rifle is a totally new design, not based on any other rifle.*

**AMERICAN RIFLE**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
375	325	275	225	175	125



**AMERICAN RIFLE COMPACT**

This model shares the same specifications as the standard model but has an 18-inch barrel and is chambered for only the short-action calibers: .223 Rem., .22-250 Rem., .243 Win., 7mm-08 and .308 Winchester. Weight is six pounds and the stock has a shorter length of pull than the standard model, 12 ½ inches. An All-Weather Compact model is available and should bring a premium of \$50

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
375	325	275	225	175	125

**AMERICAN RIMFIRE**

In 2014 the American Rifle series was expanded further with a version chambered in three different rimfire choices—.22 Long Rifle, .22 WMR (Winchester Magnum Rimfire), and .17 HRM (Hornady Rimfire Magnum). This unique model has a modular stock with interchangeable comb heights and lengths of pull, which allow the rifle to be adapted for young shooters and modified as they grow. Four stock modules are included with the rifle. The black composite stock also features the same contoured fore-end as the center-fire models. The American Rimfire uses the popular Ruger detachable rotary magazine. Sights are a folding adjustable rear, as seen on the 10/22 semiauto model, and Williams fiber-optic front. Barrel length is 22 inches and the average weight is six pounds. Another key feature is the same Ruger Marksman Adjustable Trigger that is used on the centerfire American Rifle model, adjustable between three and five pounds.

*The American Rimfire's interchangeable stock modules allow the rifle to be easily adapted to different shooters.*

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
280	235	200	175	150	125

**AMERICAN RIMFIRE COMPACT**

With the same features as the previously listed model, the Compact has an 18-inch barrel, 12 ½-inch length of pull, and weight of 5 ⅜ pounds.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
280	235	200	175	150	125



# SHOTGUNS



### RED LABEL

The Red Label over/under shotgun was introduced in 1977 and took Bill Ruger's company to a new level as the only full-line manufacturer of pistols, revolvers, rifles and shotguns made in the USA. It was introduced only in 20-gauge, which was unusual as virtually all new shotguns first go on the market in 12 gauge with smaller gauges following after the 12 has tested the waters. In the case of the Red Label, a 12 gauge version was added in 1982 and the 28 gauge in 1995.

The original Red Label had a blue finish on both the receiver and barrels, and fixed chokes in the common combinations of improved cylinder/modified, modified/full, or skeet/skeet with 26 or 28-inch barrels with a ventilated rib and bead front sight. Interchangeable choke tubes were offered as an option in 1988 and be-

came standard in 1990. A stainless receiver with a blued barrel became optional in 1985 and then became standard finish combination starting in 1989. All 20-gauge guns have been made with 3-inch chambers. The 12s had 2 3/4-inch chambers until 1986 when 3-inches became the standard.

General features of the Red Label are a single selective mechanical trigger, selective automatic ejectors, and checkered American walnut stock with a pistol grip or English-type straight grip. Its streamlined box-lock action has no exposed pins or screws. Weights ranged from about 7 to 8 pounds.

The Red Label was in production through 2011. After a hiatus of a couple of years and a few minor changes, it returned to the Ruger catalog in 2014.

*Ruger's Red Label had all the features of a quality over/under: A checkered walnut stock, ventilated rib, automatic ejectors and a single selective trigger.*



**RED LABEL STANDARD MODEL—1977 TO 2011 PRODUCTION**

Add a premium of 20 to 30 percent for 28 gauge, depending on condition.

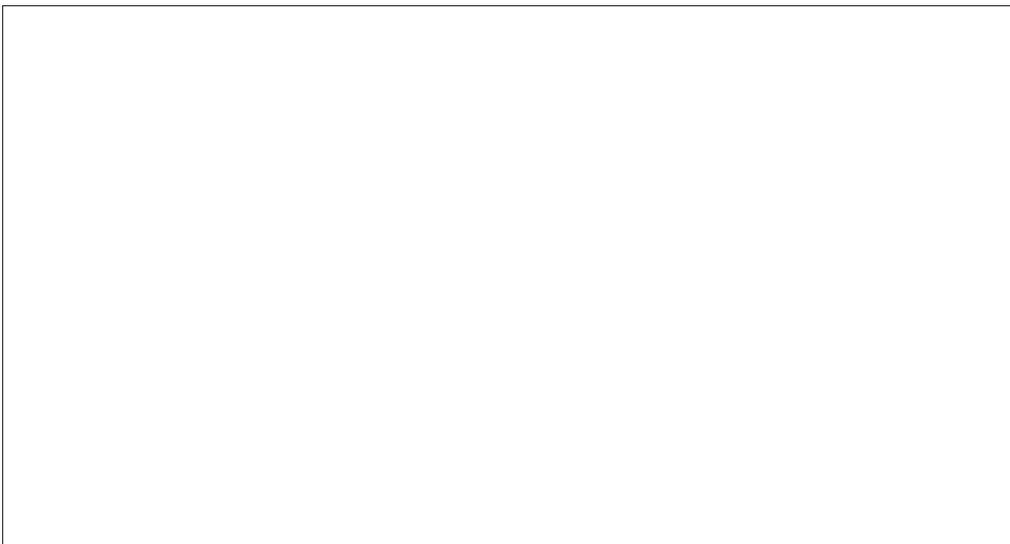
NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1500	1200	950	750	400	200

**RED LABEL ENGRAVED**

A series of Red Labels were engraved with game birds in a gold inlay on the receiver appropriate to the gauge. The 12 gauge featured a pheasant, the 20 gauge a grouse, and the 28 gauge a woodcock. These were offered in all standard barrel lengths with choke tubes and were made between 2001 and 2011. Add a 20 to 30 percent premium for 28 gauge.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1800	1500	1200	900	500	300

*This 28-gauge example of the Red Label Engraved series features a gold inlaid gauge-appropriate woodcock.*



*This 20 gauge of the series has a ruffed grouse.*

Courtesy Rock Island Auction Co.

### **RED LABEL HAND ENGRAVED**

Approximately 300 guns were hand engraved by several well renowned custom engravers in the late 1990s using the Ruger A, B, and C patterns. Values shown are for 12 or 20 gauge in the three engraving patterns. Add 20 to 30 percent for 28 gauge.

#### **A Grade Engraving**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
2400	2000	1500	1200	600	300

#### **B Grade Engraving (1/3 coverage)**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
2600	2200	1800	1400	700	350

#### **C Grade Engraving (2/3 coverage)**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
3000	2500	2000	1500	800	400



*In 1999 this special edition Red Label celebrated the Sturm, Ruger & Co. 50th anniversary.*

### **RED LABEL 50TH ANNIVERSARY ENGRAVED**

In 1999 a limited edition model in 12, 20 and 28 gauge was made with a 50th Anniversary Ruger logo engraved on the receiver. Add a 20 to 30 percent premium for 28 gauge.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1700	1400	1050	850	400	200

### **RED LABEL ENGLISH FIELD**

This model was identical in specifications to the standard Red Label except for its straight English-style grip. It was chambered in 12, 20 and 28 gauge and in production from 1992 to 2000. Add a 20 to 30 percent premium for 28 gauge.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1500	1200	950	750	400	200

### **RED LABEL SPORTING CLAYS**

With 30-inch barrels, Briley choke tubes and back-bored forcing cones, this model is designed for sporting clays competition, although it can be a good choice for some hunting situations. The stock is American walnut or synthetic. In 12 gauge, this model was in production from 1992 to 2011 and in 20 gauge from 1992 to 2007.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1600	1300	1050	800	400	200

### **RED LABEL SPORTING CLAYS ENGRAVED**

A limited number of Sporting Clays 12-gauge models were engraved with the Ruger B-grade pattern of 1/3 coverage.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
2000	1500	1200	900	500	300

**RED LABEL ALL WEATHER STAINLESS**

With a black synthetic stock and stainless receiver and barrels, this striking model was made in 12 gauge only with 26, 28 or 30 inch barrels. It was in production from 1999 to 2004.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1200	900	750	600	400	200

**RED LABEL ALL WEATHER ENGRAVED**

Introduced in 2000, this is the stainless model with a scroll-engraved receiver with a gold inlaid duck. In 12 gauge only with 26, 28 or 30-inch barrels.

NIB	EXC.	V.G.	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1675	1325	1075	750	500	300

**RED LABEL WOODSIDE**

The design of the stock sets this model apart from other over/under shotguns. Rounded sections of wood extend forward from the buttstock and fit into sculpted slots on the sides of the receiver—hence the name “Woodside”—for a dramatic and stylized look. This Red Label variant was greatly admired by some, criticized by others. The wood was high-grade walnut and there was a choice of either a standard pistol grip or an English-style straight grip. The Woodside was made only in 12 gauge and in 26, 28 and 30-inch

*Two excellent examples of this unique Red Label design. The top gun is a standard production model while the one below is a prototype that belonged to the late writer Roger Barlow. Note the stainless trigger guard, operating lever and safety on the prototype. Guns courtesy Lee Newton, Classic Sporting Arms.*

Photo by Thomas Hutton.

*The unique Woodside model was featured on the cover of the 50th Anniversary edition of Gun Digest.*

barrel lengths with screw-in chokes. In production from 1995 to 2002, exact numbers aren't available but some estimates are that only about 3,000 were made.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1500	1250	1000	800	400	200

***RED LABEL WOODSIDE HAND ENGRAVED***

Fewer than 100 Woodside models were engraved. All were in 12 gauge and featured high-grade Circassian walnut stocks.

**A Grade Engraving**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
2400	2000	1500	1200	600	300

**B Grade Engraving (1/3 coverage)**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
2600	2200	1800	1400	700	350

**C Grade Engraving (2/3 coverage)**

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
2800	2500	2000	1500	800	400

***RED LABEL, 2014 MODEL***

After a two-year absence from the Ruger catalog, the Red Label returned in 2014 in a slightly redesigned form. It looks much like the original but has a few changes, mostly on the inside. Some of these changes have lowered production costs a bit, and the good news is that the suggested retail price is about \$500 less than that for the previous model in 2011. The new model's receiver is a one-piece casting, compared to two pieces welded



*Back and better than ever, the Red Label of 2014 has several design improvements plus, a lower price.*

*The Red Label comes with this molded semi-soft case and five steel-shot-compatible Briley chokes.*

together on the old version. Locking lugs do not protrude through the receiver as on the earlier model, and the gun's balance point is a bit further back for an improved handling feel. The barrels now have two-inch forcing cones and are back-bored for reduced recoil. One noticeable change is the lack of side ribs between the barrels, which were on the original but were removable by the user. Another way to tell the new model from the old is the top lever now has a stainless finish.

The new Red Label was introduced at the 2014 SHOT Show only in 12 gauge but a 20 is believed to be coming in the near future. The 12 is still a bit on the heavy side, between 7 ½ and 7.9 pounds, depending on barrel lengths, which are 26, 28 or 30 inches.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
1150	1000	800	600	300	200

### ***RUGER TRAP MODEL SINGLE BARREL***

One of the rarest Rugers, this single-shot trap gun was in production for only one year, in 2001, and only about 300 were made. It was based on the Red Label receiver with a single 32-inch stainless barrel, two choke tubes (modified and full) and a fully adjustable high-post rib. The high-grade checkered American walnut stock has an ad-

justable cheekpiece and buttplate. The trigger is also adjustable. Weight is approximately nine pounds.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
3800	3000	2500	1800	900	500

## **GOLD LABEL**

The Gold Label side-by-side double was in production from 2004 through 2006 and only about 3,360 were made. Former Gun Digest editor Ken Ramage profiled the Ruger Gold Label in the 2004 58th edition.

*A world-class shotgun, traditionally produced by British and other European manufacturers employing skilled hand labor, must integrate several indispensable traits: durability, aesthetics and remarkable handling characteristics. Not easy to do, and certainly not in a modern production arm.*

*Ruger's objective was to create such a shotgun to be made by modern manufacturing techniques and materials and, after a design and development period of several years, the result is before you — the Gold Label Side-by-Side.*

*Weighing less than 6-½ pounds, the new gun can be comfortably carried for hours. Perhaps the first thing a person notices upon handling the gun is that the wrist is unusually thin and the splinter forend is subordinate to the barrels—both classic characteristics of “best” European guns. The net result is that the gun rests deep in the shooter's hands and comes naturally to shoulder.*

*This handsome fitted case for the Gold Label was available as an accessory.*

*Photo Courtesy Westley Richards & Co.*

*The Gold Label is a new design, from stem to stern. Note the clean, rounded action lines that flow into the barrels—no accident thanks to the internal hammer interrupters, spring-assisted opening system, convenient safety/barrel selector, and absence of exposed pins or screws in the smooth, low profile stainless steel receiver. There are no protrusions from the rear of the barrels when the action is opened. The 3-inch chambers and positive extractors present themselves unobtrusively for fast and easy loading or unloading, and the Dickson-style selective ejectors reliably kick out empties. The selective single trigger allows a quick choice of either barrel, giving versatility for any field situation.*

*The 12-gauge hammer-forged barrels, with forcing cones relieved to lessen felt recoil and shot deformation, include a complete set of (5) steel shot-compatible, thin wall screw-in choke tubes: All contribute to uniform patterns, pattern flexibility, and superb handling dynamics. A matte steel rib with a gold bead sight draws the eye naturally to the muzzles of the 28-inch barrels just as surely as the graceful stock and splinter fore-end guide the hands toward the target.*

*The Gold Label balances gracefully, just  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch ahead of the barrel pivot point at the hinge pin, thus keeping its weight distributed between the shooter's hands for the lively response demanded by the upland game hunter. The gun is stocked with premium grade walnut, in either straight-grip or pistol-grip versions; the wrist and splinter fore-end carry crisp 22 lpi checkering.*

### **GOLD LABEL**

All were in 12 gauge with 28-inch barrels and interchangeable choke tubes. The boxlock action and receiver featured a stainless finish with blued barrels. The checkered AAA-grade American walnut stock could be had with a straight English style or a pistol grip, and the fore-end was the classic splinter type. Add \$400 for the Ruger hard case.

<b>NIB</b>	<b>EXC.</b>	<b>V.G.</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>
3500	2900	2300	1700	850	500



# THE 10/22 TURNS 50

America's favorite .22 hits the half century mark

by JAMES E. HOUSE AND KATHLEEN A. HOUSE

**S**ome products reflect an excellence of design that becomes synonymous with the company that produced them. Although Sturm, Ruger & Company is a relatively newcomer in the field of firearms manufacturing, it has established itself as a company that produces excellent firearms that are durable and represent good value. One of the products that has gone a long way toward establishing the reputation of Sturm, Ruger & Company is the .22 LR autoloader known as the Model 10/22, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014. Even though the 10/22 performs well, it is the fact that so much can be done to modify the 10/22 that has helped make it an American icon. It is truly a “tinker toy” rifle that can be configured to suit almost any taste or purpose, which spawned numerous producers of after-market accessories.

## **STURM, RUGER & COMPANY, INC.**

From a modest beginning 65 years ago, Ruger has become the largest manufacturer of firearms in this country. The initial product, a .22 caliber semiautomatic pistol that sold for \$37.50, was introduced in 1949. Other manufactur-

*The Ruger 10/22 autoloader has become the benchmark against which other rimfire semiautomatic rifles are compared.*

ers may produce handguns, along with rifles and shotguns, but Ruger manufactures a very comprehensive line of firearms that includes all variations of these types, all made in the U.S.A. The handguns include numerous models of rimfire semiautomatics but also a wide variety of centerfire semiautos. Ruger revolvers have from the beginning included both rimfire and centerfire single-action mod-

els, and the current offerings of this type are numerous. Double-action revolvers are also well represented by models that are suitable for sporting and law enforcement uses.

In recent years Ruger has also produced double-barrel shotguns in both over/under and side-by-side models. Centerfire rifles are currently offered in a bewildering array of models that include the bolt-action Model 77 Mark II Hawkeye series, the new American Rifle, as well as the single-shot No. 1, and several models of semiautomatics. Throughout the years, many models have been introduced and discontinued including the lever-action Model 96/44 (.44 Magnum), 96/22M (.22 WMR) and 92/22 (.22 LR). Ruger also produces outstanding bolt-action rifles in .22 LR, .22 WMR, and .17 HMR. The .17 Mach 2 was briefly in production but was not a success for Ruger or other manufacturers.

Whereas these offerings include something for almost any shooter, it should be made clear that the first rimfire rifle offered by the Sturm, Ruger & Company was the .22 semiautomatic that has arguably become the most successful rimfire rifle of all time. That little rifle is known as the Model 10/22 Carbine which was introduced a half-century ago in 1964. In the intervening 50 years, over 5 million 10/22s have been produced. Moreover, the 10/22 continues to be produced in numerous versions that span the range from plinking, target, and tactical models.

With a firearm as long-lived and successful as the 10/22, there are numerous dates that are significant with regard to the variants produced and when certain changes were made. The accompanying table (left), provides a timeline that summarizes some of the most important dates related to events in the life of the 10/22. In addition to the events listed, there are many others in which minor changes were made in sights, markings, and other features that are too numerous to list in detail in this brief survey.

Year	Event
1964	Ruger 10/22 Carbine introduced
1966	Sporter version (noncheckered) introduced
1966	International version (noncheckered) introduced
1967	Canadian Expo version of the 10/22
1969	International version discontinued
1972	Deluxe Sporter introduced
1981	Hardwood stock replaced walnut
1986	Stainless steel/laminated stock version introduced
1994	International version reintroduced (checkered)
1996	Target model 10/22T introduced
1997	Stainless steel/composite all-weather version
1998	Ruger 10/22 Magnum introduced
2000	Heavy barrel/thumbhole stock version
2004	Introduction of 10/22 Rifle version
2004	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the 10/22
2005	Introduction of 10/22 Compact Rifle
2006	Ruger 10/22 Magnum discontinued
2009	Tactical models introduced
2012	Takedown version introduced
2013	Takedown with threaded barrel and suppressor

## RUGER 10/22 VERSIONS

Although they will be discussed in more detail later, this section presents an overview of the several versions of the 10/22 that are available at the present time. The original Ruger 10/22, known as the Carbine, has distinctive styling. Being a true carbine and having a barrel that measures only 18.5 inches, it also sports a stock that has carbine styling. The butt plate is curved, and the forearm is circled with a barrel band. Loosely speaking, a 10/22 Carbine bears some resemblance to the military M1 Carbine. However, in addition to the Carbine version of the 10/22, there are also variants known as the Rifle (introduced in 2004), which has a 20-inch barrel, and the version with a heavy 20-inch barrel that is known as the 10/22 Target (introduced in 1996). In September 2005, Ruger announced the introduction of yet another version of the 10/22. This version, officially known as the 10/22 Compact Rifle, has a 16.5-inch barrel and a scaled down stock that gives a length of pull of only 12.5 inches. The 10/22 Compact Rifle has a stock that resembles that of the Rifle in that there is no barrel band,

and the butt plate is flat rather than curved like that on the Carbine.

Although current Ruger 10/22 products include the Carbine, Target, Sporter, Tactical, Takedown and Compact Rifle models, there have been a very large number of small changes over the years. These include changes in sights, stocks, and other parts, but the basic design has remained the same. It is neither possible nor necessary to give a complete description of these variants although that information would certainly be of interest to the serious collector. The most complete catalog of 10/22 variants in the first 30 years of its production is the book by

*At the forward end of the forearm a barrelband circles the stock and barrel.*

### THE RUGER 10/22 MODELS

Model	Length, in.	Bbl. Length, in.	Weight, lb.	Stock
Carbine	37	18.5	5	Hardwood <sup>a</sup>
Sporter	37	18.88	5.75	Walnut
Target	38.5	20	7.5	Laminated
Rifle <sup>b</sup>	38.5	20	5	Hardwood
International <sup>b</sup>	37	18.5	5.6	Walnut
Compact	33.5	16.12	4.5	Hardwood
Tactical	34.50	16.12HB <sup>c</sup>	6.88	Composite
Tactical	36.25	16.12SB <sup>d</sup>	4.30	Composite
Takedown	37	18.5SS	4.67	Composite
Takedown	36.75	16.62 <sup>e</sup>	4.67	Composite
Magnum <sup>b</sup>	37.25	18.5	6.5	Hardwood

<sup>a</sup>Variants have blue barrel with hardwood or synthetic stock, or stainless barrel with synthetic stock. <sup>b</sup>Discontinued models. <sup>c</sup>Heavy barrel, 0.920". <sup>d</sup>Standard-weight barrel. <sup>e</sup>Threaded blue barrel with suppressor

William E. Workman (1994), *The Ruger 10/22*, Krause Publications, Iola, WI 54990-0001. A wealth of information on the entire Ruger product line is also presented in R.L. Wilson's *Ruger and His Guns* (Simon & Schuster, 1996). These books are required reading for collectors and others who are serious about the Ruger 10/22. (Editor's note: To this list we must add the excellent book by James and Kathleen House, *Customize The Ruger 10/22*, published by Krause/Gun Digest Books, 2006, from which this article was excerpted and updated by the authors.)

There are also a number of variants that were prepared exclusively for a particular distributor but were never Ruger catalog items. For example, one of these has a 22-inch stainless steel barrel and checkered hardwood stock. This variant was marketed through Wal-Mart

by Lipsey's, a large firearms distributor located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. On some Internet chat rooms owners refer to it as the "Wal-Mart version" of the 10/22. As this is being written, several distributors are marketing numerous versions of the Ruger 10/22 that differ in type and finish of stock, metal finish, and other features. Over the years, there have been other short runs of 10/22s produced that had special characteristics. For example, the 40th Anniversary 10/22 that was produced in 2004 had a large medallion embedded in the right hand side of the buttstock to commemorate the event. A brother-in-law has a Ruger 10/22 with stainless steel barrel and laminated stock that was marketed with a 4X scope and sling with the Ruger logo embossed in it. Apparently, this package was offered through a large chain of stores but never appeared as a catalog item.

## THE 10/22 CARBINE

The original Ruger 10/22, the Carbine, was offered with a walnut stock and 18.5-inch blue steel barrel. Over the many years of its production, it has been produced in many other forms that include some having stainless steel barrels and laminated, composite, or hardwood

stocks. Current versions of the carbine include those with a blue barrel and hardwood or composite stock, one having a stainless barrel and composite stock, and one having a blue barrel and composite stock that has a laser sight attached to the forearm. A large number of "distributor exclusive" versions are available through several major distributors of Ruger firearms. These include some that are similar to previously offered factory versions. It is not surprising that over the 50 years since it was introduced, the 10/22 has undergone many changes most of which are minor.

Although the Ruger 10/22 broke with tradition in many areas, perhaps the most unique was the fact that it uses a 10-round rotary magazine that is completely enclosed in the action. This results in a clean profile with a magazine that does not protrude from the bottom of the action precisely where it is natural to hold the rifle while it is being carried in one hand. This cartridge reservoir is novel, but that is not sufficient to explain why the 10/22 is held in such high esteem. No, it is the fact that the Ruger ro-

*The buttplate of the 10/22 has the unique carbine style.*

tary magazine enables it to rank among the most reliable .22 autoloaders that has endeared it to many shooters. The action is legendary for long life and reliability, and the 10/22 also has an excellent reputation for accuracy among rifles of this type. These attributes are responsible for many 10/22s being found in remote areas where the owners need a reliable rifle for pest control and small game hunting.

The Ruger 10/22 has always had a receiver made of an aluminum alloy. Although this is true of the 10/22 in .22 LR, the discontinued .22 WMR version has a steel receiver. If you fire both the 22 LR and the 22 WMR rifles, you will quickly see that they are in some respects different rifles. Because of this, they should be considered separately.

Although the 10/22 comes with excellent open sights, the accuracy of any rifle is easier to demonstrate by adding a scope. However, because the receiver has a slightly rounded profile, it is not possible to have grooves milled in it to accommodate scope mounts. Instead, the top of the receiver has four dummy screws that fill the holes where the screws that attach a scope rail can be fastened. For many years, the standard scope rail had grooves along the sides that resemble those milled into the receivers of most rimfire rifles. Beginning in 2004, all versions of the Ruger 10/22 were shipped with a scope rail that not only has grooves along the sides but also has transverse grooves that

*This version of the 10/22 was widely available through Wal-Mart stores. It has a 22-inch stainless steel barrel and checkered hardwood stock.*

***Left:** An adjustable folding rear sight is used on most versions of the 10/22 Carbine.*

***Above:** The front sight on the 10/22 Carbine is a bead on a post that is held in a dovetail groove.*

*The rotary magazine  
does not protrude  
from the bottom  
of the action.*

*For many years the  
Ruger scope base  
accommodated  
mounts that clamp  
in the grooves along  
the edges (top), but  
current scope rails will  
also accommodate  
Weaver-type rings.*

*With a checkered  
walnut stock, the Ruger  
10/22 Deluxe Sporter  
is a handsome rifle.*

enable the enormously popular Weaver-type scope rings to be attached. The new scope rail thus increases the options that are available for the types of mounts that can be used to attach a scope to a 10/22. The steel receivers of the 10/22 in mag-

num calibers have raised sections that have milled into them the curved notches that are like those found on the center-fire Ruger rifles. Thus, mounting a scope on one of the older 10/22s in .22 WMR caliber is an entirely different situation.

### **THE 10/22 DELUXE SPORTER**

A personal favorite of the authors is the version designated as the 10/22 DSP, which is known as the Deluxe Sporter version. It has the same length barrel as the Carbine, but has a checkered walnut

stock that has sling swivels installed. Another attractive version is known as the 10/22 International, which has a full-length Mannlicher style stock. It has been introduced and discontinued twice.

*A target crown is  
used on the .920-inch  
hammer-forged barrel of  
the Ruger 10/22 Target.*

*The Ruger 10/22  
Magnum has scope bases  
that are part of the  
receiver to which Ruger  
rings can be clamped.*

## **THE 10/22 TARGET**

Rimfire shooting sports such as benchrest and silhouette competition demand a rifle that is much more accurate than the factory produced Ruger 10/22

Carbine. Although many shooters modify their carbines, Ruger decided to offer a more capable rifle, and the 10/22 Target was the result. It features a 0.920-inch

*Since it was introduced  
in 1996, the 10/22  
Target has developed an  
excellent reputation as a  
highly accurate rimfire.*

diameter, hammer-forged barrel, a heavy target-style stock, and an improved trigger. These attributes go a long way toward removing the necessity for adding aftermarket parts for many shooters.

Although I never actually thought of the Ruger 10/22 Target as beautiful, it is impressive. With a 20-inch barrel measuring almost an inch in diameter and an attractive brown laminated stock, the

Target weighs 7.5 pounds. It comes with no sights because this rifle begs to have a scope attached and to be challenged. Target versions of the 10/22 are available with either blue or stainless steel barrels and laminated stocks, and both come with target type crowns. Functioning of the 10/22 Target is identical to the other variants of the model.

## THE 10/22 COMPACT RIFLE

Recognizing the need to provide equipment for smaller shooters, Ruger introduced a scaled-down version of the 10/22 in September 2005. The resulting version, known as the 10/22 Compact Rifle, features a blued barrel measuring 16.12 inches and a shortened hardwood stock that gives a 12.5-inch length of pull. The stock has a regular flat butt plate, and gone is the barrel band. In many ways, the Compact resembles the Rifle version with a shorter stock and barrel.

Sights on the Compact consist of a front sight on a low ramp and a blade rear sight. Along the top of the front sight there is a fiber optic insert, and the rear sight

has fiber optic inserts on either side of the notch. As with all current 10/22s, Ruger supplies a scope base with the Compact that can accommodate either tip-off or Weaver-type rings.

In 2004 Ruger produced the 10-shot magazines made of clear plastic for the 10/22. These magazines have a red rotor. It is the clear magazine that is standard on the Compact model. Altogether, the 10/22 Compact is a handy, sturdy auto-loader that will travel well. It is convenient not only for shooters of small stature, but also anyone who wants a compact rimfire rifle, and that takes in a lot of territory.

*A rubber buttplate is used on the 10/22 Target that prevents slipping when shooting from a bench.*

*The rear sight on the 10/22 Compact Rifle has a fiber-optic insert that gives a green dot on either side of the notch.*

## THE RUGER 10/22 TACTICAL

Ever aware of the changing market, Ruger responded with the introduction of the 10/22 Tactical in 2009. There are two versions of the Tactical model, one featuring a black Hogue OverMolded stock and a blue heavy barrel that is just over 16 inches in length. The other has a black composite stock and a standard

weight barrel. Weights of these models are 6.88 pounds for the heavy barreled model and 4.3 pounds for the version with a standard weight barrel. The heavy barreled model is provided with a folding bipod. Functioning and accommodation of accessories are identical to other 10/22 versions.

## THE RUGER 10/22 TAKEDOWN

There is a lot of interest in rifles that can be made smaller for easier transport and packing. Ruger responded to that demand by offering the 10/22 Take-

down Model in 2012. The Takedown is available in two versions both of which feature black composite stocks and blue barrels. One version features a standard

18.5-inch barrel whereas the other, introduced in 2013, has a barrel measuring 16.62 inches in length that has a threaded muzzle with a suppressor attached. Both versions utilize a two-piece stock that comes apart at the front of the action.

The Takedown Model is composed of two subassemblies, one comprising the buttstock and action and the other

consists of the barrel and forearm. The two units are held together securely by a series of interrupted threads or flanges. A recessed lever located in front of the magazine serves as a locking device, and it must be pushed forward to unlatch the units. Rotating the units one-quarter turn relative to each other separates the locking flanges so that the halves of the rifle can be pulled apart. The Ruger Car-

*In late 2005 Ruger introduced the 10/22 Compact Rifle (right), which is a smaller version of the 10/22 Rifle (left).*

bine and Compact models are of convenient size, but the Takedown version

makes it possible to have a Ruger 10/22 that can have even smaller dimensions.

## THE RUGER 10/22 RIFLE

Introduced in 2004, the Ruger 10/22 Rifle represents a sort of combination of the Deluxe Sporter and Carbine versions but with some unique features. First, the Rifle has a 20-inch barrel rather than the 18.5-inch barrel used on the Carbine and Deluxe Sporter. Like the Carbine and Deluxe Sporter versions, the barrel of the Rifle is fitted with open sights. Second, the stock is slimmer than those used on either the Carbine or Sporter. One of the esthetic deficiencies of the 10/22 Carbine has always been that the stock is rather fat in cross section. This is necessitated by the rotary magazine which is approximately

twice as wide as a clip that holds stacked rimfire cartridges. However, the stock of the Carbine is fairly thick throughout its entire length. On the Rifle version, the stock is slimmer and especially so in the areas of the grip and the forearm. With its longer barrel and slim stock, I developed a love at first sight relationship with the 10/22 Rifle. It would be some time before I owned one, but it was worth the wait. It seems that the 10/22 Rifle was offered only with a hardwood stock and a blued steel barrel. This model has been discontinued but it is still listed as a “distributor exclusive” by Williams Shooters Supply.

*One of the hallmarks of the 10/22 has always been the reliable 10-shot rotary magazine it uses. Shown here is the clear polymer version.*

## ENHANCING THE RUGER 10/22

It is unlikely that there is any machine produced by a factory, even using modern manufacturing techniques, that could not be made better in some way. Manufacturers must make decisions based on availability of materials, cost-related issues, and marketability of the end product. A custom shop may not be forced to operate under all of these constraints, and the owner of a Ruger

10/22 certainly does not have to. Almost everything except the receiver housing is replaceable. Moreover, components are available that exceed the capabilities of the original factory components in many instances. The owner of a 10/22 can customize his or her rifle to almost any degree desired. As good as the 10/22 is in factory form, it can be made better. Aftermarket products of virtually every type are available for the 10/22, and you can turn your rifle into an elegant tack-driving machine.

The replacement of barrels and stocks on Ruger 10/22s is so common that several companies offer accessory kits that consist of a stock and barrel combination. Stocks range from elegant sporter type to tactical models with pistol grips, hand guards, and folding buttstocks. Laminated stocks are also available in various color combinations. One popular type of aftermarket stock is known as the thumbhole model, and several styles are produced. In general, stocks are produced with barrel channels that are cut to fit a factory barrel or to fit a heavy barrel having a diameter of 0.920 inch.

When it comes to barrels for the Ruger 10/22, the term smorgasbord comes

*The buttplate on the Ruger 10/22 Rifle is flat and checkered rather than curved and slick as on the Carbine.*

to mind. Some barrels have contours that match that of the factory Carbine barrel so they can be used with the factory stock. Probably the most popular style of aftermarket barrel is that which is not tapered but rather has a uniform diameter of 0.920 inch. Within this general type, the buyer can choose from those having a blue finish or those made of stainless steel. Another type of barrel has the same configuration as the factory barrel for most of its length but for the last four inches or so the diameter is increased to 0.920 inch. This allows the use of the factory stock or a stock that has a barrel channel of the same size. Finally, there are several barrels available that have an outside diameter of 0.920 inch, but which have an inner sleeve made of steel encased in a sleeve made of aluminum or a carbon fiber composite. These barrels are light in weight, but they can be used with a stock that is designed for use with a heavy barrel.

Because the array of items produced for the Ruger 10/22, not all of the aftermarket products available can be described here. Those that are described are certainly representative of most of the accessories that are available, but it is not a complete list. Before you embark on customizing your 10/22, study the catalogs and web sites of the numerous manufacturers. You may find that there are many more options available than you ever imagined. It is a very large market indeed. After all, the Ruger 10/22 is that kind of machine, and it would be very difficult to outgrow this little rifle.

*This article was excerpted from *Customize The Ruger 10/22* by James E. and Kathleen A. House (Gun Digest Books/Krause, 2006) and was revised and updated by the authors. The book is highly recommended for anyone who wants to know more about the 10/22 and customizing it, including the many sources for parts and accessories.*

*These are just a few of the aftermarket items that are available for the Ruger 10/22. This firearm is an industry in itself.*



# COLLECTING RUGERS

What you need to know if you want to be a Ruger collector

Photo by John Taffin

by **BILL HAMM**

**I** have enjoyed collecting guns and specifically Rugers for many years. During that time I have learned several good lessons. Some of those were quite costly but those are the ones that really stick in your mind never to repeat again. I think of it as paying for my education.

I have listed some general pointers for the beginning collector to consider that I think will help in building a good quality collection. They are certainly not all in-

clusive but hopefully will be of some help.

There is nothing wrong with accumulating guns, all types of guns; we have all been there. Myself, I love guns, period! If that is what you enjoy, that is fine, but if you want to become a true collector of a certain gun or guns, I believe it requires focus. In Ruger collecting, it does not matter what you decide to collect or how you approach it, but I suggest you have a plan.

### THE INITIAL PLAN

An example of a plan would be that you decide you want to collect one example of each major type of the Ruger early autos and old model revolvers. Your plan would lay out and list what that would include: Standard Autos and Target models, Red Eagle and Black Eagle grips, different barrel lengths. Next: the Single-six Revolvers, flat loading gates and round loading gates,

black rubber and walnut grips, different barrel lengths. Then the Blackhawk .357 Revolvers, etc. If you have limited funds, figure that into your plan. You do not want to mortgage the farm or at least not all of it! Then you go about your search. Try not to sway too much, instill discipline in yourself, try to stay on your plan. This is usually very hard for us gun lovers.

### PLAN TWO

Once you have fulfilled the above or are nearly there, you need to decide what is next, how do you expand? For

example, you may decide that you really like a particular series of gun, let's say the Single-Sixes. You want to expand that

particular part of your collection, really get into the different variations of these guns. You should then focus on that area. First, find out all you can about the Single-Sixes—read, read, read! Ask fellow collectors, look at gun displays at gun shows, if available, etc. Then list

all the guns that would make up a complete collection of the different variations of those guns. An example is that there are four major variations of the flat loading gate or “flatgate” guns. Then begin the hunt. Again, you may have limited funds, so figure that into your plan.

## BOOKS, MAGAZINE ARTICLES

You just cannot read too much about the guns you decide to collect! Most of the authors are true collectors themselves and are sharing their many hours of hands-on research, knowledge, and

experience. Use this to your advantage. There are several good books on Ruger collecting. While some are out of print they can still be found, and their cost will pay for themselves many times over.

## LISTEN AND LEARN

Try to get to know fellow collectors who are interested in Rugers and especially the same type of Rugers that you are. You will find most of them willing and even eager to share their knowledge and experience. Be humble, ask questions, do not be embarrassed, everyone has to learn. At the same time do not

be a “pest”, remember you cannot learn everything from them overnight, so use good judgment and taste when having discussions with them. Remember, much of your knowledge needs to be hands-on experience. I have many collector friends who have taught me so much, and they are still teaching me today.

## JOIN A COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION

This is a good way to meet people with the same common interests. You learn contacts and often find some good guns for your collection. The Ruger Collectors' Association and Red Eagle News Exchange are two good Ruger information sources.

The Ruger Collectors' Association is the oldest organization for the Ruger collector or enthusiast. Membership includes the Association's sporadically-produced newsletter and invitation to members-only events. For more information (or to apply for a \$30.00 annual membership), write to: Ruger Collectors' Association, Inc., P.O. Box 240, Greens Farms, CT 06436, or go on line to [www.rugercollectorsassociation.com](http://www.rugercollectorsassociation.com).

[www.rugercollectorsassociation.com](http://www.rugercollectorsassociation.com).

The Red Eagle News Exchange is a quarterly publication filled with new information, updates, and articles about collecting Ruger firearms and memorabilia. This is an excellent resource for the Ruger collector or enthusiast, and the wealth of information sent to new subscribers as a free gift with a \$25.00 paid annual subscription is alone well worth the money. Highly recommended. For more information or to subscribe, write Red Eagle News Exchange (Chad Hiddleson - Editor), 1945 Clover Avenue, Perry, IA 50220, or call (515) 465-2057. Or go to the Ruger Forum on line: [www.rugerforum.com](http://www.rugerforum.com).

## DISPLAY YOUR GUNS

The Ruger Collectors Association has two major annual theme shows. Many gun show promoters all over the country have “display tables” available at reduced table rates. I suggest you show your guns off. You do not have to wait

until you have the perfect collection. You may meet someone from the general public that sees your display and happens to have a real good gun for your collection. You do not always get them but it has happened more than once for me.

## SOURCES

I have found some of the best sources for good collectible guns to be gun shows, local newspaper, gun publications, estate sales and auctions. The Internet adds another broad dimension. Fel-

low collections are a valuable source to obtain leads for those special guns.

Now for some additional pointers about the guns themselves.

## CONDITION

I really believe that you are better in the long run to spend more money up front to obtain top condition guns for your collection than the less expensive junker stuff. In future trading or selling this will pay off immensely. Of course,

that is not to say that in order to fill a particular rare open slot in an almost complete collection that I would not buy a lesser condition very hard to find gun and then try to upgrade.

## ORIGINALITY

I am a purist when it comes to the guns for my collection. Factory original is a must - I have found that non-original guns normally do not enhance your

collection. This is where your study and reading really pays off. You will know what is original and what is not.

## GUNS, GUNS, GUNS

Nothing helps you determine the originality and spot rare variations like looking at and handling actual guns. The more the better. The more you examine

the more familiar you become with what a "right" gun is and what it should look like.

## EXAMINATION

Take your time when examining a gun that will go into your collection. Look at it very closely, study every feature. Sometimes this is one of the hardest things to do - excitement over finding that rare gun takes over and blinds

you to true condition and problems you should have noticed before you get it home. Everyone will experience this no matter how hard you try. Do not dismay; you are paying for your education. Learn from these mistakes.

## CHECKLIST

One way that I try to ensure I give the gun a thorough examination before purchase is to have my mental check list ready. Examples are:

- Has the gun been refinished? Look for signs of blue in previous rust pits, sharp edges buffed away, lettering not sharp, waves from excess buffing, etc. Look at the color of the bluing. Scratches, scuffs, dings - notice them!
- Screw heads buggered - has the gun been messed with?
- Are the grips right? Are the medallions right for the period of the gun, grip finish correct?
- Is the Barrel length correct? Is

the barrel address correct for the period of manufacture of the gun, front sight correct, rear sight correct? Is the ejector rod button correct, ejector rod housing aluminum or steel - which is correct?

- Safety kit installed in old model guns? If so, are the original parts with the gun? Old model guns without the original parts lose a considerable part of their collector appeal and value.

- Boxes. The original box and paper work add desirability and value to any gun, especially a collectible gun. Always ask if the box is with the gun. Sometimes the box may be "under the

table” or not visible with the gun. Unless you ask it may not be furnished with the gun. Older Ruger boxes often bring a good price, some of the rare ones a hefty price, so it is added gravy for the seller if you overlook the box; he will sell it to another collector.

- **Box Configuration.** Again, this is where your study and observation will pay off. Is the box right for the gun? Is the instruction manual included and is it correct? Warranty card right? Ruger boxes and shipping cartons if applicable are numbered to the original gun. Lead pencils and grease pencils were used to number the older boxes on the ends and sides of the boxes before computerized end labels on the later “new models.”

- **Buyer Beware.** On the rare and especially more expensive guns always inquire about the existence of a validating “factory letter.” There are unscrupulous dealers and individuals who

will tell you anything to make a sale. Again, this is where your study and education can really pay off, you can spot what is not right about a particular gun. Be wary but not so cautious that you never take that chance to get a rare gun. Sometimes you have to listen to your gut and just jump in or you will miss a good gun.

- **Unscrupulous Dealers and Individuals.** Again, where there is money to be made there are cheats and crooks--just a way of life! Look for dealers and individuals with good reputations. Keep your ears open regarding others who got “burned or ripped off.” There are many good deals to be found but as my wise old grandma used to say, “Sonny boy, if it looks too good to be true it usually ain’t true”!

*This article first appeared on the website [www.gunblast.com](http://www.gunblast.com) and is reprinted with permission.*

## REFERENCE BOOKS FOR RUGER COLLECTING

The reference books listed below are recommended by the author. Some are out of print but good places to find them are gun book dealers, gun shows,

and from other collectors. Some of these books can also be purchased directly from the Ruger Collectors’ Association once you become a member.

***Ruger and His Guns*** by R.L. Wilson. Currently available new or used from Amazon.com.

***Know Your Ruger Single Action Revolvers 1953-63*** by John C. Dougan. Can be special-ordered used from Amazon.com.

***Know Your Ruger Single Actions: The Second Decade, 1963-73*** by John C. Dougan. Can be special-ordered used from Amazon.com.

***Complements of Col. Ruger; A Study of Factory Engraved Single Action Revolvers*** by John C. Dougan. Available used from All Books in Chattanooga, TN - email: [mailto:allbooks@cdc.net](mailto:mailto:allbooks@cdc.net)

***A Blacksmith Guide to Ruger Flattops & Super Blackhawks*** by H. W. Ross, Jr. Available used from All Books in Chattanooga, TN - email: [mailto:allbooks@cdc.net](mailto:mailto:allbooks@cdc.net)

***Ruger Blackhawk Revolvers in .357 and .44*** by H. W. Ross, Jr.

***Ruger Automatic Pistols and Single Action Revolvers*** by Hugo A. Lueders edited by Don Findley. Currently available new from Amazon.com.

***Encyclopedia of Ruger Semi-Automatic Rimfire Pistols - 1949-1992*** by Chad Hiddleston. Currently available used from Amazon.com.



# THE RUGER COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION

**C**o-founded in 1975 by the late Stephen K. Vogel and John R. Hansen, Jr., the Ruger Collectors' Association is an independent organization of Ruger collectors, not affiliated with or sponsored by Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. The association's members are dedicated to the study and preservation of Ruger firearms and memorabilia while promoting camaraderie and fellowship among those interested in collecting and exchanging information about these firearms.

The RCA publishes a quarterly journal, known as *The Ruger Collectors' Journal*, and regularly displays at the NRA and other major firearms shows. From time to time, special issues of Ruger firearms have been produced for and purchased by the RCA, and offered exclusively to its members. The current headquarters are at P.O. Box 240, Green Farms, CT 06838. Contact PVerzal@aol.com for show information packets.

Ruger collecting began in earnest in the early 1970s when collectors were first brought together as a group due to the efforts of Mark May. The name of the fledgling Ruger collector faction was the Phoenix Club. At the 1975 NRA Annual Meetings in San Diego Jay Hansen and Stephen Vogel collaborated with the

Phoenix Club leadership, and the Ruger Collectors' Association was formed. The original RCA headquarters was located on the second floor, above the coach house, at the Pavilion de Chasse, Vogel's estate at Fairfield, CT.

The principle objectives of the Association were threefold; to educate interested persons by an annual presence at the NRA meetings and selected major gun shows, to promote fellowship of collectors across the country and abroad, and publish a journal.

With a focus on all aspects on Ruger products and history, the *RCA Journal* features interesting articles penned by some of the country's most knowledgeable collectors. Ruger-related historical events are chronicled in the *Journal* as they occur.

As a National Firearms Museum affiliate, the RCA has participated in every NRA Annual Meetings show since its formation by presenting a stimulating exhibit each year. The displays have won Best of Show on more than one occasion as well as numerous other awards and are always a center of activity during the show.

As a result of this coming together, pioneering books about Ruger firearms were authored by Davis, Crowder, Leud-

ers, Dougan, Ross and Munnell featuring data that was available then, mostly by observation, conversation and experience. By the mid-1980s Ruger collecting was firmly established, resulting in more comprehensive works by Dougan, Clayton, Burke and Findley.

Ruger collectors seem to have a traditional view of responsibility, by the serious arms student, to utilize their knowledge, collection, support material and accoutrements to publicly and privately inform interested individuals and upcoming generations of collectors. With vision and perspective, they make every effort to insure a future for Ruger collecting.

As Ruger collectors mature they develop a vision of what they wish their col-

lection to say and then deliberate on how to establish and structure it. As Ruger collectors mature they develop a vision of what they wish their collection to say and then deliberate on how to establish and structure it. A well-rounded collection, even a modest one, that conveys a story will be remembered long after the owner is forgotten.

A visit to the RCA website will provide a wealth of information on the organization, on Ruger guns and the company's history. News and photos of recent RCA exhibits are available, along with information on becoming a member and links to question & answer forums, classifieds and souvenir merchandise.

Excerpted in part from the RCA website: [www.rugercollectorsassociation.com](http://www.rugercollectorsassociation.com)

*The original Ruger headquarters, known as the "old red barn" in Newport, Conn. is depicted in this painting by James Triggs, the company's main illustrator for many years. Messrs. Sturm and Ruger are also shown.*



## SECTION II

# MORE THAN GUNS

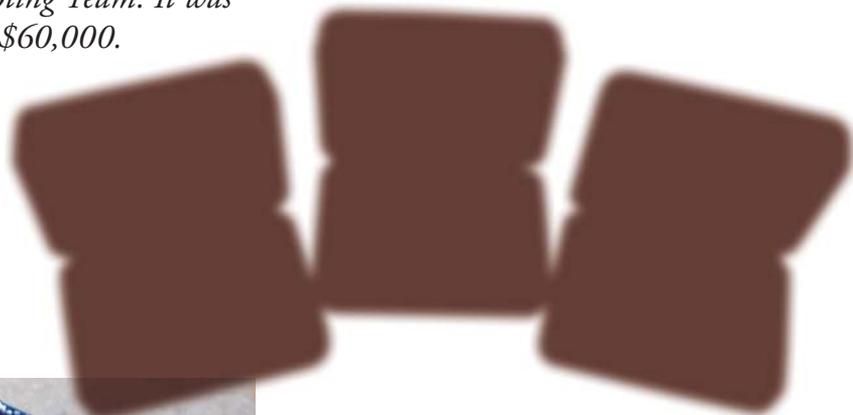
*Bill Ruger is shown on a promotional brochure for a Ruger Gallery at the National Firearms Museum in the year 2000. The Mark II pistols are special editions commemorating the National Rifle Association.*

**R**uger collections are not limited to firearms. These photographs are provided by Rick Verzal from his personal collection. Our thanks to Rick for sharing some of his Ruger memorabilia.—Author



*The first of many Ruger projects to raise funds for the U.S. Shooting Team in the 2004 Olympic Summer games included this Mark II Target pistol. For each pistol sold Ruger contributed \$20 to the Shooting Team. It was limited to 3000 units and the project raised \$60,000.*

*The pistol has a 5 ½-inch slab sided barrel, green fiber optic sights, special “USA” prefix serial numbers and a gold-plated bolt inscribed “Victory In Athens.” It came with the special box. The large medallion was limited to 250 units and only 25 of the small coins shown were produced.*



*These tie clips were gifts to employees of the Ruger company in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Only 170 of each size were made.*



*How special are these?  
Willam B. Ruger personal matchbooks.*

*These hand drills were no doubt used to create hundreds of thousands of Ruger firearms.*



*A Single Six is shown with a set of spiral ratchet or "Yankee" screwdrivers from the Ruger factory.*



*Alexander Sturm, Bill Ruger's business partner and personal friend, was a member of the high society set in New York. Described here as an "author and humorist," he married Theodore Roosevelt's 19-year-old granddaughter in August of 1944.*

*Sturm was a man of many interests and talents. In addition to his passion for firearms, he was an author and sculptor. Examples seen here include these very rare fox figurines done by Sturm, and two copies of his book "Problem Fox." It was written when he was 18 and tells the story of a young fox who comes from noble parents but must prove his worth to be accepted. The copy with the blue-green dust jacket is the only one known to exist.*



# EARLY AND RARE NO. 1 RIFLES

## Understanding the “non prefix” early models of the No. 1 Rifle

by LEE NEWTON

I bought my first No. 1, a very early 130-prefix 1B in 7mm Remington Magnum in November of 1972. Since that time, with only a couple of exceptions, I've used No. 1's exclusively for what hunting opportunities I've had. Two of the best write-ups in existence on the No. 1 and single shot rifles in general are by John Wootters. The Foreword in Joe Clayton's No. 1 Book and the May 1990 issue of Petersen's Hunting. The article, titled "The One-Shot Mystique" has a few sentences I'd like to pass on. "A man who opens a case in hunting camp and lifts out a single-shot rifle makes a statement about himself. It may be quite unconscious, or it may be pure egotistical one-upmanship, but it does project the image of a superior marksman and a hunter of above-average skills."

Personally, I like the Ruger No. 1 Single Shot, for all those many good reasons written many times before. It is a beautiful and classic rifle. The first shot is the one that counts; the very few big game animals that I have managed to miss with the first shot, I didn't hit them with any of the other shots either!

I have been a No. 1 collector since 1976, when I acquired my second No. 1.

In March of 1977, I met Joe Clayton at the Dallas Arms Collectors show. A year later, I found my first two non-prefix rifles. They were a .243 with a 22-inch barrel, AH forearm and no sights (with knockout wood) and a .22-250 1B with target scope blocks with a Unertl scope on it. At that early date, Joe said he had not seen one of the target scope block configurations. I was hooked, and still have these first two rifles in my collection today.

The Clayton Ruger No. 1 Book was published in 1983; it had a lot of good information and some beautiful color photographs. I realize that today it is quite hard to come by and usually quite expensive. In the nearly 25 years since it was published, more has been learned, many limited exclusive special runs have been made and the Internet has helped spread the information. As it relates to non-prefix rifles, the No. 1 Book provides the information that:

1. The first rifle "commercially shipped" was #935, 26-inch barrel, beavertail forearm in .308 Winchester on September 15, 1966.\*
2. The last non-prefix shipped was #5290 in January 1975.

3. The highest number shipped was #8437 in May 1972.
4. Only about 7500 non-prefix rifles were made.

\* Joe told me that the factory had advised him that #935 was the first rifle shipped and that it was 1966. At one time, I owned #935, as new in the box. The box had the U.S. postage stamps and the Newport cancellation on September 15, 1967. There was a great effort to have the No. 1 announced and written up in all the major magazines for their October 1966 issue, but that is for another story. I believe the first No. 1's were shipped in March of 1967. I would certainly like to hear from anyone who has a rifle with an earlier shipping date. (Why did I ever sell it?!)

From this information, we know that approximately 7500 rifles were pro-

duced and shipped over a relatively long period of time, until 1975. Obviously, 130-prefix numbered rifles were manufactured and shipped simultaneously beginning in 1970. I believe the majority of the rarer configurations and calibers to have been assembled prior to 1970; after that time, the standard models and calibers are catalogued, with the information that "no specifications other than those listed will be offered" However, the General Megee rifle in .32 S&W Long is an exception (Clayton Book page 37 and Shooting Times, April 1971.) The General published an article in American Rifleman, January 1970, which is probably what earned him the special consideration for a unique rifle. This article was very complimentary of the accuracy of No. 1 rifles in .270 Winchester and .222 Remington.

*This early No. 1 AB was engraved by Alvin A. White in 1968. It is serial number 956 and is chambered in .308 Winchester.*

## CALIBERS

Calibers that were published as being available or that are known to me in the non pre-fix rifle are: .222 Remington, .22-250 Remington, .243 Winchester, 6mm Remington, .25-06 Remington, .264 Winchester Magnum, 6.5 mm Remington Magnum, .270 Winchester, .280 Remington, 7×57, 7mm Remington Magnum, .308 Winchester, .30-06, .300 Winchester Magnum, .300 H&H Magnum, .338 Winchester Magnum, .375 H&H Magnum, .45-70, .458 Winchester Magnum. Those

published as being available, but not known to me are the .264 Win. Mag., 6.5mm Rem. Mag., .300 H&H Mag., and .338 Win. Mag. The .25-06 was listed available as a 1V in in 1971 and as a 1B in 1973. The 7mm Rem. Mag. and .300 Win. Mag. were listed as available in the 1V in 1973. The .45-70 was listed as available in S24H in 1969 and as a 1S in 1970(with 22-inch medium weight barrel). The .45-70 in 1H is only known in the prefix series and is a rare rifle.

## RARITY POINTS

Many collectors have had difficulty understanding or interpreting the Ruger No. 1 Evaluation Table in the Clayton No. 1 book, especially as it relates to the non-prefix serial number configurations and calibers. I believe much of the problem lies with using these "Rarity Points" as an absolute, rather than a rela-

tive indicator. Also, at the rare end of the scale, my observations and experience are somewhat different; we all have the benefit of another 25 years collecting experience. In summary, the Rarity Points are based on Configuration, Caliber and Digits in the serial#; this applies to the non-prefix rifles.

Caliber points are:

- .22-250 Remington & .308 Winchester-3
- .243 Winchester, 6mm Remington & .30-06-4
- .270 Winchester, .375 H&H Magnum, .45-70 & .458 Winchester Magnum-5
- .222 Remington, 7mm Remington Magnum & .300 Winchester Magnum-6
- .25-06 Remington-7
- .280 Remington-8
- 7×57-10
- .264 Winchester Magnum-11

Configuration points are:

- S26M Beavertail no sights-2
- S22L Beavertail no sights, S22L AH no sights & S26M Beavertail Target Scope blocks-3
- S22L AH sights & S26M AH no sights-4
- S26M AH sights & S24H-5
- S26M Beavertail sights & S26M AH Target Scope Blocks-6
- S22M-7, and S22L Beavertail sights-8

Serial # points are: One digit-10, Two digit-8, Three digit-6 and Four digit-4.

The Scale is: Nice rifle 0-4, Collectable 5-7, Rare 8-10, and Very Rare 11+.

## 1967 CATALOGUE

The 1967 Catalogue spread on the No. 1 contains a wealth of information. If you, as a collector have not read it thoroughly, I would certainly recommend it. The Catalogue describes how these different rifles could be ordered; the customer picked the barrel weight and length, the caliber, the forearm style and the sighting equipment-rib and

sights or no sights or target scope blocks. I suggested several years ago a shorthand system for identifying the various configurations that I believe is much more convenient. It uses two or three letters to describe the barrel weight, forearm style and sighting equipment. It works well for the 10 configurations that are the most difficult to describe. These are:

- BB- 26-inch barrel, Beavertail forearm, no sights (the present 1B)
- BBS- 26-inch barrel, Beavertail forearm, Sights
- BBB-26-inch barrel, Beavertail forearm, target scope Blocks
- BH- 26-inch barrel, Alex Henry forearm, no sights
- BHS- 26-inch barrel, Alex Henry forearm, Sights (what was the 1S)
- BHB-26-inch barrel, Alex Henry forearm, target scope Blocks
- AB- 22-inch barrel, Beavertail forearm, no sights (the present 1AB)
- ABS-22-inch barrel, Beavertail forearm, Sights
- AH- 22-inch barrel, Alex Henry forearm, no sights
- AHS- 22-inch barrel, Alex Henry forearm, Sights (the present 1A)

On the above, I will note that the 26-inch barrels are the "B" or medium weight and the 22-inch barrels are the

"A" or light weight. The other three configurations are the 1V, 1H and 1S in .45-70

With this new Configuration terminology, I will provide some examples of the failure of the rarity points! A 4 digit in BB and .22-250 racks up 9 points (4+2+3: Rare) and a 4 digit AB and .308 totals 10 points(4+3+3; Rare). A 3 digit

My Caliber rarity:

- Common-.22-250 Remington, .308 Winchester, .243 Winchester
- Fairly Common- .222 Remington, 6mm Remington, 7mm Remington Magnum, .30-06
- Rare: .25-06, .270 Winchester, 7×57, .280 Remington, .300 Winchester Magnum
- Very Rare: .375 H&H Magnum, .45-70, .458 Winchester Magnum

My Configuration scale: (percentage is of 7,500 rifles)

- Common . . . . . BB (60%)
- Fairly Common. . . . . AB (15%)
- Somewhat Common . AH (8%)
- Rare . . . . . BH (6%)
- Very Rare . . . . . BHS, AHS, BBB, BBS ( 2% each)
- Very, Very Rare. . . . . BHB, 1V (less than 1% each)
- Not Often Found . . . . . ABS, 1H, 1S(.45-70) (less than .5% each)

Now, down to the nitty-gritty. There are 127 possible combinations of Caliber and Configuration. This is derived from the 12 calibers in the 10 configurations (10×12=120) adding the 4 calibers of the 1V, the 2 calibers of the 1H and the 1S in .45-70 (120+4+2+1=127) A statement from the No. 1 book that the BB in .22-250 and the AB in .308 accounted for over 20 percent of the production and three assumptions is the basis for these estimates.

of any caliber and configuration becomes Very Rare by this Evaluation Scale. Therein lies the problem!

What is Rare and Very Rare as compared to what?

Assumptions:

1. The BB is the most common configuration-estimate 60%
2. The AB is the second most common configuration-estimate 15%
3. The common rifles are the BB in .222, .22-250, .243, 6mm, 7mm RM and .30-06 and the AB in .308, which account for 60% of the production (The converse is true; these common calibers in any configuration other than the ones listed makes for an uncommon rifle!)

*No. 1 rifles frequently are favorites for customizing. This one was dressed up in beautiful high grade walnut for writer Tom Turpin by Jim Wilkinson's Rifle Ranch in Prescott, Arizona. Its non-prefix 27XX serial number shows it was made in the second year of production, 1968.*

Photo by Tom Turpin.

I want to emphasize again that these are my estimates only, using the few facts and the assumptions to make the calculations. To quote from the No.1 book, page 119:

*The factory will not provide data on the number of rifles made in a given caliber or variation. If you attempt to obtain information on anything other than the date of manufacture of a particular rifle, you will receive the following reply: "We would be unable to supply information relating to the number of rifles produced in each caliber or specification as it is against company policy to provide information of this nature."*

That has been my experience also. That was the case 25 years ago and I guess it still is. Here are my estimates of the number of rifles made in each caliber and configuration:

CALIBER	BB	BBS	BBB	BH	BHS	BHB	AB	ABS	AH	AHS	1H	1V	1S
.222 REM.	675	<25	<50	<50	<25	<25	150	<8	150	<50	-	1*	-
.22-250	1050	<50	75	75	<50	<8	75	<8	75	<50	-	<25	-
.243 WIN.	825	75	<50	75	<50	<25	150	<25	75	<50	-	-	-
6MM	460	<50	<50	<50	<50	<8	<50	<8	<50	<25	-	-	-
.25-06	75	NM	-	<50	-								
.270 WIN.	150	<8	NM	<25	<8	NM	<8	NM	<8	<8	-	-	-
.280 REM.	75	<8	<8	<25	<25	<8	<25	<8	<25	<8	-	-	-
7x57	75	<8	<8	<25	<25	<8	<25	<8	<8	<8	-	-	-
7MM RM	460	<50	<25	75	<50	<25	<75	<25	<50	<50	-	<25	-
.308 WIN.	150	<8	<50	<50	<25	<8	675	<25	75	75	-	-	-
.30-06	375	<50	<50	75	<50	<25	75	<25	75	<50	-	-	-
.300 WM	75	<8	<8	<25	<50	<8	NM	NM	NM	NM	-	<8	-
.375 H&H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<25	-	-
.458 WM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<25	-	-
.45-70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<25

NM=Probably Not Made

\* In the development of the 1V Configuration at least one .222 Remington rifle was produced. It is serial# 6580 and was made in February, 1970. It was never shipped; it was sold on the Ruger Auction in September, 2007. No other 1V's in .222 are known, either with a non-prefix receiver or in the early 130-prefix. Another previously unknown non-prefix 1V, this one in .243 Winchester, has been auctioned on the Ruger Auction Website in May of 2008. It is #7233. This caliber was produced in the 1V configuration in later years, but no other non-prefix or 130- prefix rifles are known.

Note that 16 Caliber/Configurations are projected as not produced; that leaves 111 likely different rifles to look for! The numbers estimated as production for each Caliber/Configuration are based upon a percentage of the 7500 non prefix rifles produced. The percentages that were estimated are:

14%=1050, 11%=825, 9%=675, 6%=460, 5%=375, 2%=150, 1%=75, <1%=<50, <.5%=<25, <.1%=<8.

I believe that the percentages from 14% to 5% are accurate within +/-1%; the percentages from 2% to <.1% are accurate to within +/-5%. That is an out for me in that some of these rifles which I list as <25 and <8 just may not have ever been made! One other very interesting calculation can be made from the

percentages—that is, that the 12 most common rifles make up 70% of the production, and that the next 19 Caliber/Configurations are 19% of the production, and the rarest 80 Caliber/Configurations are only 11% of the rifles. For a long time, I have stated to interested or beginning collectors that any non-prefix rifle other than a BB or a .308 Winchester AB is a very rare rifle! And there are some very rare rifles that are BB depending on the caliber. A low or unique serial number or prior ownership by a prominent individual could add a “special” rarity on its own. Even the quality of the wood can affect the desirability. Every collector knows that the buttstock can range from “pine board plain” to the finest of figured walnut.

## SPECIAL RIFLES

One very rare type of rifle I have not mentioned yet is the “one of a kind” that does not fit the regular Caliber/Configuration charts. One example is the S24M beavertail in .222 Remington, serial# 2103 pictured on page 120 of the Ruger No.1 book. These rifles do exist; they are

very special and were made for special people. There better be a story behind the rifle that makes sense; they weren't made for just anyone! I doubt the factory could or would verify them, so it's the history and story and your experience that you have to rely on.

## LAST COMMENTS

I do not consider the grooved front sight to be anything other than a variation; it is a result of whether a rifle was made earlier or made later. Likewise, with the checkering pattern on the Alex Henry forearm, it is simply an indication of the time frame the rifle was finished. As a different example, all of the non-prefix 1V's I am familiar with do not have the diamond checkering pattern on the bottom of the beavertail forearm, which is proper for the time frame in which they were completed and shipped. The .45-70s also have the later Alex Henry forearm and checkering pattern. The “S” safety stamp is another variation that results from the time frame of marking.

Many of the 1V models of the 1970-1972 period have this safety marking, as do other early 130-prefix rifles. These last comments, grooved sights, checkering patterns and safety markings are what I consider to be manufacturing variations, not differences in configuration.

In closing, I want to stress again that these are my estimates based on the stated assumptions, observed ratios, and calculations to achieve the correct percentages. Any No. 1 owners having one of these scarcer Caliber/Configurations (<25) are solicited to report to me that these rifles do exist. (The author can be contacted by going on line to [www.classicsportingarms.com](http://www.classicsportingarms.com).)

• *This article is excerpted with permission from the Classic Sporting Arms website.*



# THE SKEETER SKELTON SPECIALS

by JERRY LEE

photos courtesy JOEL HUTCHCROFT, editor in chief, *Shooting Times*

*One of a pair of Skeeter Skelton Special New Model Flattops, with serial number SSS 001.*

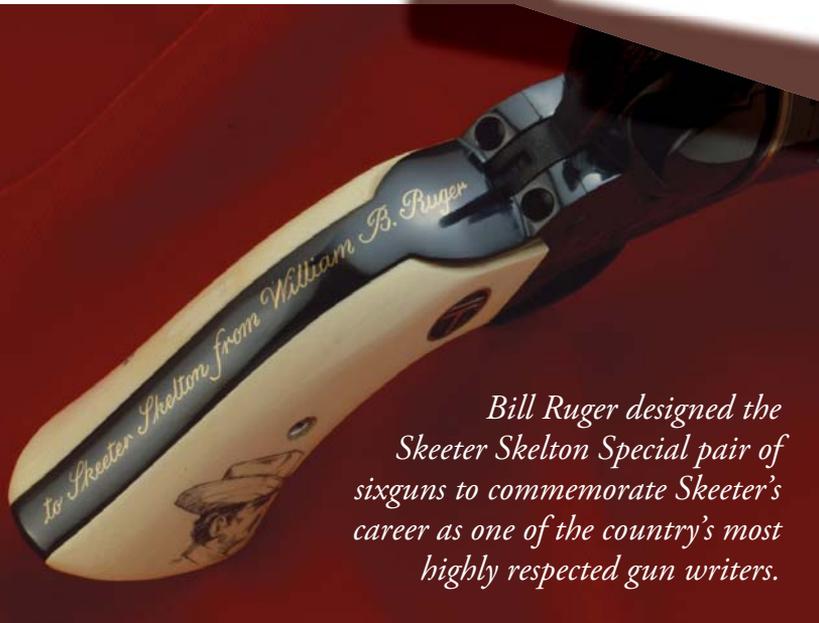
*The ivory grip has a scrimshawed image of his Deaf Smith County, Texas Sheriff's badge by James Triggs, Ruger's official artist.*

**M**any of us of a certain age grew up reading the works of a handful of authors during what I call the golden age of gun writing. This would be a 50-year period from the 1930s through the '70s, an era when the gun industry gave gun writers an enormous amount of guns and cartridges to write about. It was a time when the better writers gave us their best hunting stories and gave us

opinions on the latest new guns, ammo and accessories.

It's easy to start an argument about who should be on the list of the best and most influential outdoor and gun writers—Jack O'Connor would probably be mentioned the most, along with Elmer Keith and Townsend Whelen. When we get into the 1970s, Jeff Cooper, Jim Carmichael and, definitely, Skeeter Skelton would have to be added.

I would place O'Connor first, and right behind him would be Skeeter Skel-



*Bill Ruger designed the Skeeter Skelton Special pair of sixguns to commemorate Skeeter's career as one of the country's most highly respected gun writers.*



ton. He was a lawman in the southwest when the revolver was still king, and wrote extensively on the sixguns of the era in *Shooting Times* and other magazines. His career included serving as a county sheriff in Texas, and as an agent with the Border Patrol, the U.S. Customs Service, and the DEA. That experience gave him plenty of material for writing about guns and their applications in law enforcement. Skeeter was also a great storyteller and often wrote about his adventures as a boy, and later as a lawman, along the Rio Grande. His stories about “The Ill-Gotten Gains of Me & Joe” were classics. Skeeter, like Jack O’Connor, was a great writer and could have written the great American novel, had he wished to.

Skelton was a big Ruger fan and loved the Blackhawk single actions. Over the years he became a good friend of Bill Ruger and in the late ‘80s, after Skelton’s

health began to take its toll, Ruger arranged to have a special pair of .44 Magnum Blackhawks made. These two sixguns were a one-of-a-kind pair, built on the Flattop Old Model frame with the New Model lockwork. They were extensively engraved and Bill Ruger planned to surprise Skelton and personally deliver the guns to Skelton at his home in New Mexico. Sadly, Skeeter suffered a series of strokes and passed away on January 17, 1988, never knowing about the special pair of revolvers.

The project was finished and Bill Ruger presented the first gun, serial number SSS 001, to Skelton’s wife, Sally, in February of 1988. It is this gun that is seen in the photos accompanying this article. Work on the second gun, serial number SSS 002, was not completed for almost two years and it was presented to Mrs. Skelton in March of 1990.

**Top:** *The right side view of serial number SSS 001 shows Skelton’s likeness on the ivory grip by James Triggs, with engraving and gold inlay by Ray Viramontez. Both guns feature Skeet’s signature on the right side of the frame.*

**Left:** *The CSA initials are for Skelton, Charles Allan. But to his many friends, he was Skeeter.*



# PROFILE OF AN ARTIST: PAUL LANTUCH

by DON FINDLEY

**P**aul Lantuch grew up in Vilnius, Lithuania. Vilnius, located in southeast Lithuania, is known for its Old Town of beautiful architecture. As a young boy his passions were horseback riding and drawing. As a teenager he visited the Hermitage Museum at St. Petersburg. While there, he saw a section of the Greek Classic collection and left with an acute awareness of “cleanliness of thought and unadulterated by unnecessary details” displayed in 4th and 5th century B.C. intaglios.

*Paul Lantuch at his  
workbench in New  
Haven, Connecticut.*

Paul returned to Vilnius with a new outlook on life and a vision for the direction he would take. He studied at the Vilnius Institute of Art and became increasingly frustrated with the communist government’s interventions in education. Art history was screened to the point at which it would conform to communist ideology. Paul and a group of friends started an underground newspaper with essays devoted to government banned artists. The dissident group was arrested, interrogated, and expelled from the academy.

Paul realized it was not enough to draw; he felt the need to paint, etch, sculpt, engrave, as well as carve wood and stone. He felt the more of these goals he achieved the more freedom he would possess. Through trial and error Paul developed techniques that would prove invaluable in his later commercial success. As his reputation as an artist/craftsman grew Paul began to receive more and more commissions from the private public. The government condemned such activities as capitalistic. Since his arrest he was only allowed to earn at minimum wage. The KGB frequently invaded his home to more thoroughly monitor his activities. Paul is quoted, “I lived a more

artistic life rather than a political life in Lithuania.”

With his wife and daughter, Paul immigrated to the United States in February of 1980 with \$410 in his pocket. He was 33 years old, did not speak the language, and had no job. For the first few months Paul was unable to find employment. For a short time the family survived with assistance from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) until his wife found work in a sweat shop.

Paul’s big break came by way of an old friend Leonid Tarassuk. Paul had met Leonid in 1970 back in Lithuania and he and his family had immigrated to the states in the mid-70s. Leonid was a friend of author R.L. (Larry) Wilson, well known for his many high quality books on firearms. He had been instrumental in gaining exit visas from the Soviet Union for Leonid Tarassuk and his family. Wilson arranged for Paul to have a meeting with William B. Ruger of Sturm Ruger & Co. Ruger was in the market for an in-house engraver and asked Paul if he would engrave a gun for him as a sample of his abilities. Paul answered “sure” even though he had never engraved a firearm. He had experience in creating and designing jewelry, and some engraving was involved in that process.

Ruger gave Paul a Red Label shotgun to engrave and a cash advance for

tools and material. Paul took the gun to his apartment in Brooklyn, where he and his family had settled. After several days of nervous agonizing, he began to lay out a design. In three months the shotgun was finished, and he got the job. From that day forward engraving was Paul’s primary trade.

The Lantuch family moved to Fairfield, Connecticut, just down the road from the Ruger, Southport plant. Paul was allowed to work from home away from the distractions from the busy Ruger factory. As he settled in and life be-

*A Ruger New Model Super Blackhawk .44 Magnum engraved in recess relief and inlaid in 22 karat gold. The finish is brown patina. Relief carved mammoth ivory grips with 18 karat and sterling silver bezel holding Canadian chrome jade.*

*An 18 x 24-inch print, etching and engraving on copper: Vita Nova, a New Life. Done in 1989.*

*A Ruger 50th Anniversary .44 Magnum Flattop New Model Blackhawk, engraved in western scroll with 24-karat gold bands inlaid on the cylinder and barrel. A Ruger logo is inlaid in 24-karat gold on the recoil shield. Engraved and inlaid by the Ruger Studio of Art and Decoration. Signed in front of the trigger guard "AD 2006 Paul Lantuch". Carved ivory grip panels by Nutmeg Sports of Tolland, Conn.*

Photo courtesy Bill Cross.



came more stable Paul was involved in jewelry design and print making.

The Ruger Southport plant was closed in 1991. R.L. Wilson managed a group of engravers, engraving mainly Colt firearms. Paul joined Wilson's group for the next couple of years, until he was contacted by Neiman Marcus Precious Jewelry Dept. He became a vendor for the prestigious department store where he designed and created jewelry for the six years.

Off and on for several years, the Ruger company had contemplated opening

*A pair of Ruger P85 9mm pistols engraved and gold inlaid especially for Bill Ruger, Sr. Grip frames were cast aluminum for production P85s. These frames are steel just for this project. Lantuch later replaced the stock grip panels (shown) with hand-fitted ebony panels.*



*Another Ruger P85  
flush gold inlaid  
for Bill Ruger.*

*A Ruger Red Label  
20-gauge shotgun inlaid  
in multi-colored gold  
and silver for Bill Ruger,  
Sr. Paul Lantuch also  
carved and checkered  
the stock. This was his  
first work on a firearm.*

a Custom Shop. In 2003, Bill Ruger Jr. started plans for creating the Ruger Studio of Art and Decoration. Firearms engraving would be the principal product of the new Studio. He contacted Paul for his opinion on the creation of the Ruger Studio, and to see if he would run it. The Studio opened in January of 2004 with Paul at the helm. He rounded up his former bench jewelers and taught them the basics of the trade. Work at the Ruger Studio was intense and did not allow Paul time for outside contracts and is no longer in operation. Ruger now offers engraving services through Baron Technology, Inc.

For the next few years Paul engraved shotguns on a commission basis for Connecticut Shotgun Manufacturing Co., owned by Antony Galazan. The next two

years were devoted to engraving guns for Westley Richards & Co.

Paul has been acknowledged by the Firearms Engravers Guild of America as a Master Engraver for “excellence in engraving.” That title is not awarded casually but must be earned. Paul is also a master at carving precious stone and ivory. In designing and creating beautiful jewelry his abilities would be hard to match. No doubt, his print design and execution will be ranked among the best in that field. The photographs included here will speak for his gold inlay design and implementation. Paul believes he is still learning and his best work is still ahead. History will remember Paul Lantuch as one of the outstanding artists of all time.

*\* This article was excerpted from the Ruger Collector's Journal, December 2013.*



## SECTION II

# FANCY RUGERS

## The Engraved Single Six Revolver Model RSSE, 1954-1958

by BILL HAMM

Once the Ruger Single Six .22-caliber revolver production was firmly established in early 1954, Bill Ruger began develop-

ing an engraved-un program for the Single Six revolver. The model would be called the "RSSE" for Ruger Single Six Engraved.

### SPANISH ENGRAVED SINGLE SIXES

On March 17, 1954 Single Six No. 7 and No. 8 were sent to Spain for engraving. They were returned in July and

subsequently presented to Bill Ruger's friend, John Amber, editor of Gun Digest. In December 1954 a group of 20





consecutively serial numbered guns, No. 5100 through 5119, was sent to Spain for engraving. All had the standard 5 ½-barrel. They were returned from the overseas engravers during May and September 1955. Of course, they were returned unfinished in the “white” and had to be fitted and the final finishing completed. Four of these “Spanish” Engraved Single

Sixes were retained in the Factory Collection; eleven were shipped to customers during September 1956 and five to customers in 1958. While not all of the exact same pattern, they exhibit a deep cut profuse full floral scroll and are indeed beautiful guns. The Spanish are the most sought after and desired variation or so-called “Holy Grail” of the RSSEs.

*A Jerred Engraved RSSE with his “revised standard pattern” is shown with its Presentation Case. All photos are from the author’s collection.*

## **JERRED ENGRAVED SINGLE SIXES**

In the Spring of 1954, Mr. Ruger also commissioned a talented young engraver from Fulton, New York by the name of Charles H. Jerred to begin engraving the Single Six revolvers in the USA. Charles Jerred apprenticed under the great Albert Kraus, a Master Engraver for Hunter Arms.

All of the Jerred-engraved Single Sixes had 5 ½-inch barrels and most of the early Jerred engraved guns had flat cartridge loading gates or “flatgates”. The later engraved guns had contoured loading gates or “round gates”. However, this is not always the case and the type gate may depend on the ship date.

The first 22 Jerred gun’s grip frames were finished in blue/black anodizing. These are known as “all blue” Jerred guns. They are the second most sought

after highly desirable variation by collectors.

Jerred engraved 216 more Single Sixes and they had non-anodized polished aluminum alloy grip frames similar to the Spanish guns. Some of these had flat loading gates and later ones had the contoured Colt-style loading gate. Some had plain screw heads and later guns had engraved screw heads. The Jerred RSSEs engraving patterns had varying degrees of coverage during the early stages of the program. Then a “standard pattern” and finally a “revised standard pattern” was settled on by Mr. Ruger during February/March 1956 using the Spanish RSSE No. 5114 as a pattern. In total, Mr. Jerred engraved 238 Single Six revolvers over about a four-year period.

## PACKAGING

The engraved Single Sixes were shipped in a standard Single Six black and red cardboard box with an outer brown cardboard shipping carton. Each gun also came with a black leatherette covered wood framed display case. It was shipped in a brown cardboard outer shipping carton that had a "RSSE" ink stamp. Each case had a gold Ruger Eagle on the top. Their cloth interior, both bottom and top, was covered in green billiard cloth. The guns could be ordered

in pairs with consecutive serial numbers.

By mid-1958 the demand for the engraved model had all but subsided. The higher suggested retail price of \$150.50 for the Engraved model versus \$63.25 for the Standard Single Six model at that time is believed to be the primary reason for the lack of interest in these guns.

Today these guns are extremely to very rare, extremely hard to find, and a must for the collection of most serious Ruger collectors.

## RUGER "FACTORY ENGRAVED" SINGLE SIX REVOLVER, MODEL RSSE: MAJOR TYPES AND VARIATIONS

- Spanish engraved, non-anodized polished aluminum alloy grip frame, flat or contoured loading gate, varnished walnut grips, fitted leatherette covered display case, 5 ½-inch barrel. 22 produced.

- Jerred engraved, "all blue" finish with a blue/black anodized aluminum alloy grip frame, flat or round/contour loading gate, varnished walnut grips, fitted leatherette covered display case, 5 ½-inch barrel. 22 produced.

- Jerred engraved, polished aluminum alloy grip frame, flat or round/contour loading gate, varnished walnut grips, fitted leatherette covered display case, 5 ½-inch barrel. 216 produced.

The majority of the information in this article was obtained from two great books authored by my good friend, John C. Dougan. The first book was entitled *Complements of Col. Ruger; A Study Of Factory Engraved Single Action Revolvers* and his latest book, entitled *Ruger Pistols & Revolvers, The Vintage Years 1949-1973*. Both books are highly recommended if you would like to gain an in-depth knowledge and through understanding of the history of the engraved Ruger Single Action Revolvers, including their serial number listing, year of manufacture, and other information.

*Printed with permission from Gun Blast website [www.gunblast.com](http://www.gunblast.com).*

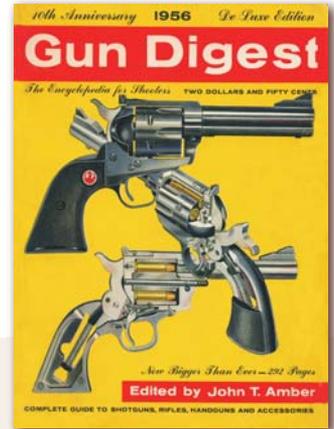
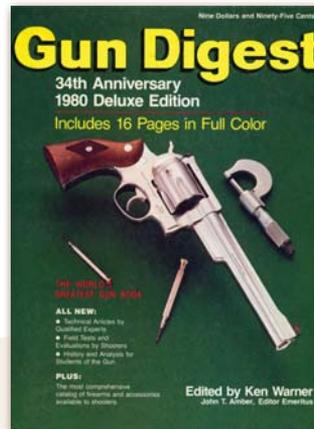
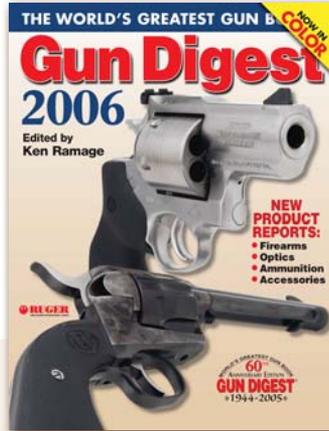
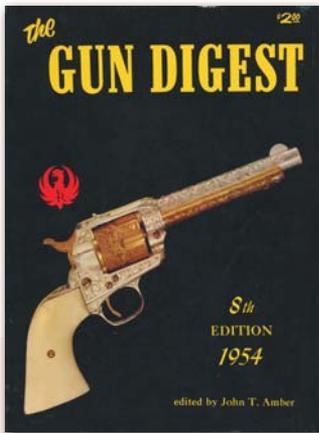


*A Spanish Engraved RSSE No. 5100.*



*This is a Jerred Engraved RSSE "all blue" pattern, No. 24394.*

*This Jerred Engraved RSSE features his "revised standard pattern," as chosen by Bill Ruger.*



# RUGER & GUN DIGEST

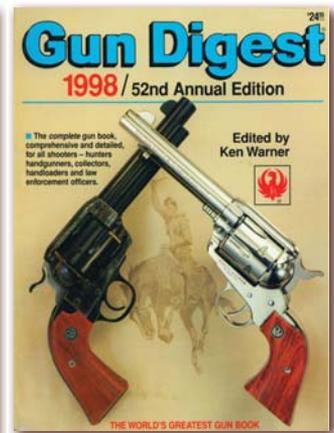
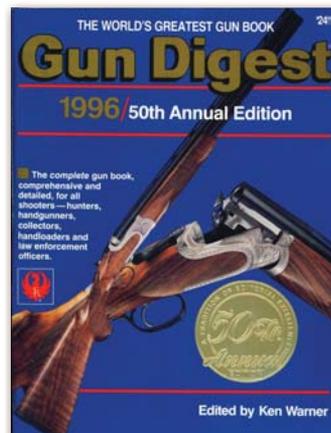
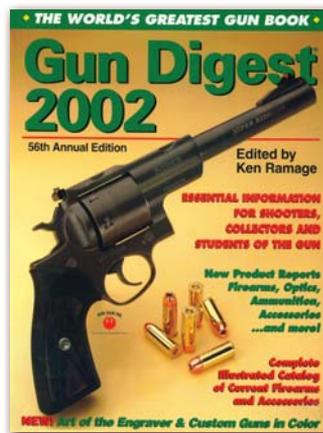
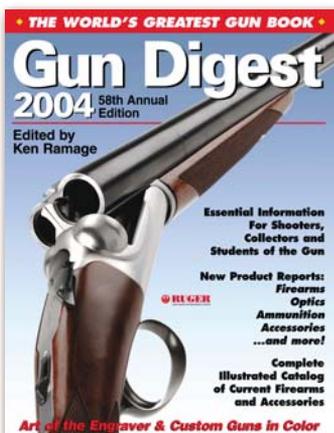
The guns of Sturm, Ruger & Co. have been featured numerous times for more than half a century in Gun Digest, parent title of Gun Digest Books, publisher of this book you are holding, Standard Catalog of Ruger Firearms.

Popular gun and outdoor writers of the day have profiled and tested virtually every Ruger ever made in the pages of the annual publication that we proudly refer to as "The World's Finest Gun Book."

For a look back in time at some of William B. Ruger's creations, many of which truly changed the course of firearms history, we have resurrected a few articles from the Gun Digest files. Early reviews of the Single-Six, the No. 1 rifle, the Blackhawks, and other, plus look at the first 50 years of the Ruger .22 Pistol provide a good education on one of America's great firearms companies, along with a pleasant dose of nostalgia for those of who remember when it all started in 1949.

Enjoy the trip.

Jerry Lee





# SIX GUN '53 STYLE

by WARREN PAGE

*This article  
was originally  
published in the  
1954 edition of  
Gun Digest.*

**N**O TELLING how long the idea had simmered in his mind, but it certainly broke into a rolling boil that evening up in Quebec. Bill Ruger and I had cussed the shy and backward moose for the last time, had doused the gas lantern, and crawled into our bags before he burst out with it.

“What would you think of an up-to-date 22 rimfire revolver, a modern job with all the looks and feel of the Frontier model?”

“Look, Bill, let’s leave Hopalong Cassidy out of this. Right now I’m thinking

only of that beega bool moose I plan to wallop tomorrow.” And I worked deeper into the down sleeping sack.

“I’m serious. Like every other gun nut you have always had a hankering for the hang of that old style of grip. There never was one quite like it before or since. And we could have used a rugged 22 six gun this afternoon, no?”

I popped up out of the sleeping bag. Maybe he had something, Hopalong Cassidy and all. Partly because of the balance, partly because of the handle shape, there just weren’t any guns made

that quite duplicated the feel of the old Model P Colts, the Single Action Army and Navy types, the Remington Models of '72 and '75, or of the Paterson, Walker, and Dragoon man-killers that had preceded them. It wasn't only the antiquarian who was interested by those 19-century models — at least one of which, the Model P, was produced as late as 1940. It was also the practical shooter who liked the point and feel of the old-timers. And though any 22 pistol could have done the job, we sure could have used a six gun that day. The ridges had been fairly crawling with juicy birch grouse, but we hadn't dared blast a few for supper lest we spook the moose, if any, out of the country.

And at that moment, as far as I know, the germinal idea of what Sturm, Ruger and Company now produces as the Single Six Revolver first saw the light of day — on a dark and rainy Quebec night three years ago.

Before we flew out of camp with our moose meat, Bill had the new six-shooter half designed in his mind, had sketched his notebook full of frames and ejectors and grip shapes and production-easy ideas for hammer and trigger parts. This gun was to be something a whole slew of shooters had always wanted. And by the time we had driven from Chicou-timi down through Vermont, with a stop-off at the hideaway of hermit-like Schiff the Gunman to refresh our memory of the

hang and feel of the earliest six-gun types, the '53 Single Six was really taking shape.

Even after months in the freezer, moose are meant to be eaten, so eventually the Pages and Ruger were champing bull steaks in Bill's Connecticut hacienda. With the coffee Bill nudged me toward his drafting board, in the corner by his handgun collection, and unveiled the first working drawings of what was to be the Single Six. There she was in outline, a gun with all the rakishness and purposeful deadliness of appearance we associate with the six-guns toted by the Earps, the Hickoks, and the Bat Mastersons who rode tall and shot straight in yesteryear — yet a modern piece in every production detail. I offered two-bits' worth of suggestion that the sights be Partridge type, square-notched, with a wide and square blade; but Bill had already doped out that modern touch.

Almost a year elapsed before the first few guns were filed and whipsawed out;

*Bill Ruger with the new Ruger Single Six.*

then Ruger, John Amber, and I met at a little inn up in Connecticut to look over a pre-production model. The head waiter's eyes nearly dropped into our soup plates when he saw that pocket artillery on the table between us, and when we tried the guns for hang in the hand by dry-snapping at his wall decorations, the perspiring maitre d'hotel figured that Billy the Kid had returned to shoot up his saloon.

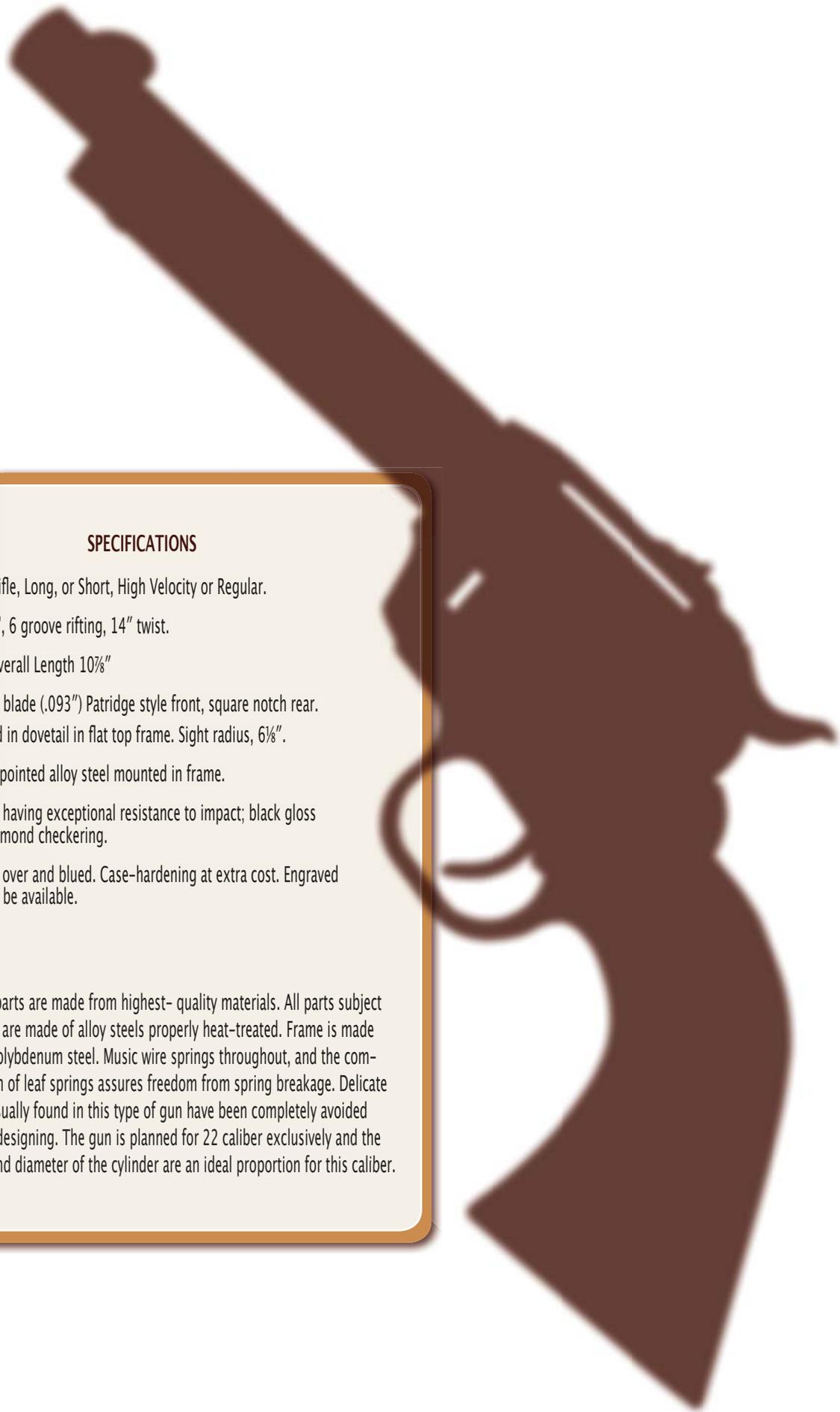
But the Single Six, while it has all the basic proportions of the single action six-shooter so vital in our national history as the Frontier Model or the Peacemaker, and the same natural balance in the hand, is a 20th-century weapon in construction. It is not a copy of the famous Colt Model P. No significant measurement is the same, for one thing. The action details, for another, are simplified and completely redesigned to use today's ideas, long-lived music wire springs throughout instead of flat springs, for example. The six-chambered cylinder, each chamber recessed for 22 rimfire cartridge heads, is designed around 22 short or long rifle use; hence it's about ¼ inch smaller in both diameter and length than the general run of Peacemaker cylinders. This has the incidental effect of permitting a lower frame top, hence a lower sighting plane and a lowered hammer spur easier to reach with the cocking thumb, well adapted to target work. It wouldn't surprise me at all to find some serious paper-target pistolers, after rigging up a click-adjustable rear sight for

the gun, trying this new Single Six in competition. It points most sweetly, and there's a lot of gun-meat out there to hang steadily in the black.

The frame is two-piece, as in similar revolvers in the Model P tradition, the cylinder frame being chrome molybdenum steel. The grip frame, which does little work save to support the everlasting hard rubber grips — and there's a traditional touch — is of high-tensile aluminum. The ejector is a punch-out rod under the barrel as with the old-timers, but the loading gate is simplified for production reasons. Barrel 5½ inches, weight 35 ounces, sighting radius just over 6 inches. Don't miss the Technicolor shot on front cover.

This is a single action gun — and as I see it, there's little reason for having a 22 rimfire revolver of this weight anything but a single action, since they're not defense weapons. It is not, however, a short action, although the light hammer weight and short stroke come fairly close to it. A chisel-pointed firing pin rides on a rebound spring in the cylinder frame, the hammer being flat-faced, so that the gun can be dry-snapped without injury until your trigger finger grows calluses. The cylinder pin comes out easily for cleaning, and the cylinders on the guns I've seen — and have recently been shooting with a lot of pleasure — line up tight and positively with the barrel. The Single Six should last a shooting lifetime and then some.

And it is not a curio or collector's item. This is a practical 22 rimfire plinker or target revolver executed in 1953 fashion. Of course, it can be ordered with an old-style case-hardened frame if you prefer that to modern blueing, and to some of your non-shooting pals it will look just like the six-shooter Gary Cooper was wielding in "High Noon." Yet I say again the Single Six is a modern weapon. It is only because so many shooters have grown to love the natural menacing hang of the old equalizers that the newest Ruger follows the traditional appearance of those handguns which ruled the Western frontiers.



### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 22 Long Rifle, Long, or Short, High Velocity or Regular.

**Barrel:** Length, 5½", 6 groove rifling, 14" twist.

**Weight:** 35 ozs., Overall Length 10⅞"

**Sights:** Fixed, wide blade (.093") Patridge style front, square notch rear. Rear sight mounted in dovetail in flat top frame. Sight radius, 6⅞".

**Firing; Pin:** Chisel-pointed alloy steel mounted in frame.

**Grips:** Hard rubber having exceptional resistance to impact; black gloss finish, sharp diamond checkering.

**Finish:** Polished all over and blued. Case-hardening at extra cost. Engraved models will also be available.

**Price:** \$57.50

All component parts are made from highest-quality materials. All parts subject to high stresses are made of alloy steels properly heat-treated. Frame is made from chrome molybdenum steel. Music wire springs throughout, and the complete elimination of leaf springs assures freedom from spring breakage. Delicate internal parts usually found in this type of gun have been completely avoided by ingenious redesigning. The gun is planned for 22 caliber exclusively and the overall length and diameter of the cylinder are an ideal proportion for this caliber.



# RUGER'S REACTIONARY RIFLE

by ROGER BARLOW

**Yes, reactionary, in the sense that the genius of Southport has brought forth the Victorian, a superb new single shot rifle that is indeed a throwback. Craftsmanship, elegance and assured performance were respected watchwords of that period, and the new Ruger exemplifies them all.**

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**I**NTERESTING, is it not, that the most exciting gun news of recent months, if not years, was the announcement and introduction of a new high grade rifle by Sturm, Ruger & Co. — a rifle without a magazine or clip, without a bolt, slide or automatic action; requiring each cartridge to be manually inserted in the breech. In plain words, *a single shot!* The gun world has come pretty near full circle in just 80 years to get us back to a type which was once considered to be the finest sporting rifle of all. In fact, a good many American gun enthusiasts still consider those late 19th century single shots to be the most desirable firearms ever made.

Indeed, what knowledgeable gun bug can resist making tracks to Abercrombie & Fitch or Joe's Gun Shop when he hears that there is a mint condition Peabody-Martini Creedmoor, a Mid-Range Ballard, Alexander Henry or Sharps-Borchardt for sale or just on display?

This is the same sort of honey that brings all the automobile bugs in full flight to the local Sports Car Center when the news spreads (like wildfire, of course) that there is a Bugatti Type 55, an SSK Mercedes, a Lancia Dilambda or a 32-valve Stutz Black Hawk in the shop. Who has eyes for even an E Type Jag or a hot Corvette, much less a Pontiac Grand Prix (!), when such noble iron is on display.

And who has eyes for any of the myriad current examples of mass produced Mauser derivatives (complete with die stamped checkering) when there is a Gibbs Farquharson to fondle, admire and dream of owning!

The appeal which these fine old single shot breechloaders have for present day shooters is a delicate blend of appreciation of superb workmanship, admiration for good engineering and design, and reverence for a great name whose fame was justly earned. Those were rifles for sportsmen and shooters of discrimina-

tion, to be owned with pride and passed on from father to son; not mere shooting iron to be sold at the cheapest possible price; soon to be allowed to degenerate into rust and splintered wood. These magnificent single shots were the Pierce Arrows and Rolls-Royce Silver Ghosts of the gun world, not the DeSotos, Overlands or Austins.

Thus their appeal is not entirely be-

## THE SINGLE SHOT AFIELD

The man with a single shot rifle, stalking his game skillfully, thoughtfully calculating his range, not just shooting at his quarry but selecting the most effective spot to place that bullet, then carefully aiming and making that one shot count — that man surely is more of a hunter than is the fellow having half a dozen shots available in his repeater. The latter ignores many of the subtleties practiced by the man with the single shot, he often casually blasts away, knowing that he can fire again quickly if he misses the first time, or the second time, or the third or even the fourth or fifth. The single shot rifle seems to *make* one into a more exemplary hunter while, on the other hand, the repeater or autoloader all too often seems to lure one into careless hunting and shooting habits, whether with rifle or shotgun.

Certainly many hunters using magazine rifles do practice all the hunting skills and do indeed make that first shot really count — just as though there was only one shot available. All too many of us shooters using “repeaters” seem disappointed if we don’t actually have an opportunity of getting off a burst of three or four shots. Like small boys, it seems we aren’t having as much fun as we anticipated unless there is plenty of noise.

I’m sure we’ve all been in the woods with an old and really experienced deer hunter who, upon hearing a shot in the distance, will pause and listen attentively for a moment and then say with quiet satisfaction. “Meat on the table for someone.” Let that one shot be followed up by three or four in rapid succession and his

cause they are single shot rifles but is, to a very considerable extent, based upon their *excellence as rifles*. Yet the mere fact that these firearms provide the hunter with but a single chambered cartridge, not backed up by anywhere from three to a dozen more in a convenient magazine, somehow elevates the act of taking game with such a rifle to a rather special plane of achievement.

reaction will probably be to spit with silent disgust and walk on. He knows from years of practical experience that a volley like that more often than not means inept shooting or shooting when there was no real chance of scoring a hit in the first place.

As a hunter who regularly goes afield with bolt action magazine rifles as well as with single shots, I can certainly testify that I personally derive appreciably more satisfaction from my hunting when taking game with one of the latter. (Incidentally, I have found that a second *considered* shot can be gotten off in surprisingly quick time, when using a single shot, if a spare cartridge is held between the fingers of the left hand.) Using a single shot most certainly doesn’t guarantee one a clean kill with the first shot everytime but, like the man says, we try harder.

That a sizeable segment of the American shooting public has a continuing high regard for good single shot rifles, especially those of the falling or dropping block type pioneered over a hun-

*Queen Victoria at Wimbledon. Her Majesty opened first meeting of the National Rifle Association on Wimbledon Common, July 1, 1860.*

dred years ago by Sharps, can be seen in the steady demand for usable actions of this type which can be used as the basis for handsome and accurate varmint rifles, barreled and chambered for modern cartridges. Wilbur Hauck has had a substantial backlog of orders ever since he started building complete rifles based upon his own modern design of falling block action about 10 years ago. My own Hauck, a 219 Donaldson Wasp, has to date been the best rifle I've ever owned

## RUGER RIFLE ELEGANT

This is a beautiful and elegant rifle because Bill Ruger himself knows and appreciates this quality in a firearm. He owns and uses an enviable collection of fine single shots — Sharps, Alexander Henrys, Gibbs Farquharsons, Westley-Richards, Frasers, etc., as well as many magnificent English double rifles. He intends that his own single shot rifle will

*In answer to Barlow's question about the difficulty of pleasing everyone with ideas as to how a gun should look, Bill Ruger had this to say: "Whenever anything great is created, it is the outcome of someone's convictions. The corollary of this would be that an attempt to please the majority can produce only an Edsel." Barlow's opinion is that the Ruger factory is more likely to turn out a rifleman's Bentley than an Edsell*

and it is always the center of interest at a rifle range.

So it was only natural that, as soon as Bill Ruger had a prototype of his new rifle to show and some actions in production to study, I wended my way to Southport, Conn., for a visit. Now, without further delay let me tell you that this new Ruger single shot is a gun lover's gun. Handsome it is on the outside, but it is fascinating on the inside, for the action is something of a design and engineering achievement.

be at home and acceptable as an equal in such distinguished company.

Sharps pioneered the falling block, breech-loading action with external hammer in 1848, not long before the introduction of metallic cartridges, but Scotsman Alexander Henry refined the original concept and built rifles which had greater grace and beauty of line as well as better balance, guns which come up to the shoulder with the natural speed and ease of a good shotgun. Bill Ruger pointed out his appreciation of these virtues in a rifle, and freely acknowledged the influence of Alexander Henry's work upon the appearance of his own rifle. The Farquharson exerted less influence largely because the action is less graceful, appearing with the lever, in profile, rather deep and clumsy — also the esthetic flaw of most Martini pivoting block actions which are, additionally, much too long to look right. However, the lever of the Ruger has the distinguishing Farquharson look about it but it appears more graceful because it seems to lie closer, and in better relation to the receiver.

While it is clear that this Ruger single shot owes much of its light, sleek appearance to the good taste of Alexander Henry and to Bill Ruger's appreciation for the elegance and dignity of the Victorian period, the engineering is strictly 20th century, with no bows to the past other than the retention of the basic concept of the long-established dropping block action.

I was amused and pleased to discover that Bill Ruger shares my sense of re-

vulsion to the sloppy feel of most Mauser type actions when the bolt is opened — it simply rattles around with all the sound and feel of mechanical precision displayed by a piece of scrap iron being shaken around in the bottom of a tin bucket! Sure, such an action is snug and tight when the bolt is closed and ready to fire and, most assuredly, it shoots with enviable accuracy; nevertheless, it doesn't give one the satisfying feeling of handling a piece of precision equipment — which a good single shot does!

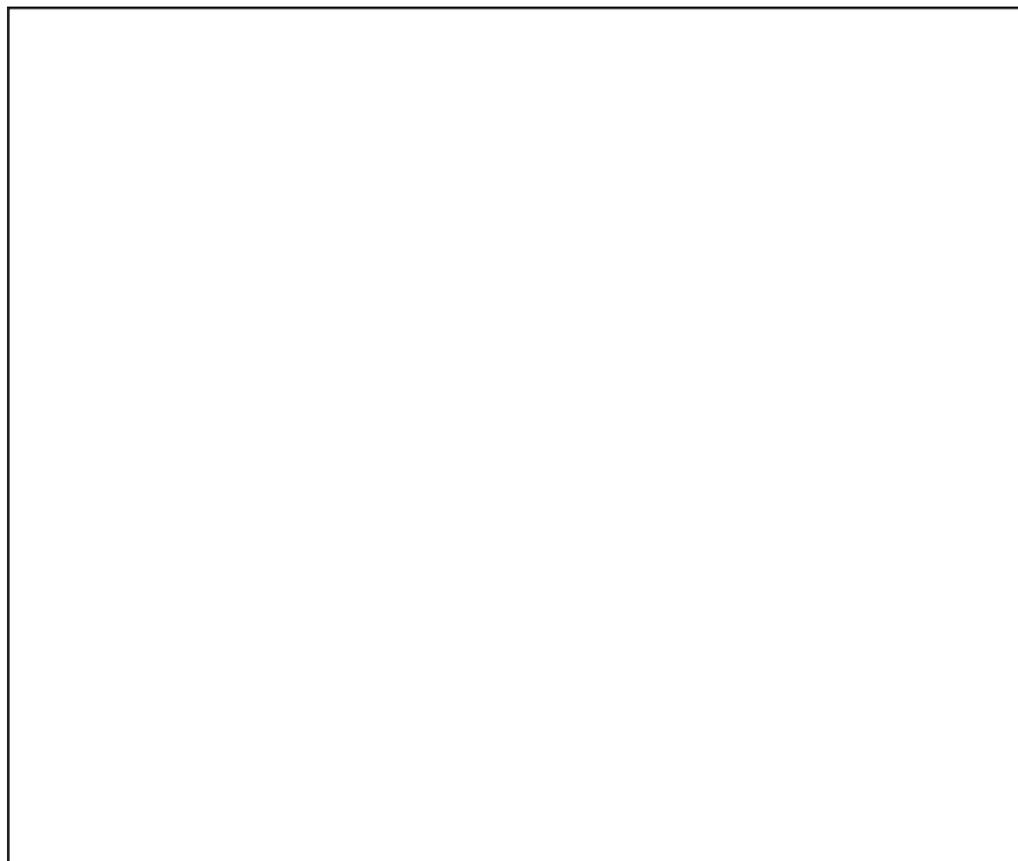
The new Ruger is what is known as a hammerless action (which type came into being on both sides of the Atlantic about 1872), although unseen within that quite small breechblock lives a real hammer. The Ruger breechblock could be held to such compact dimensions because no effort was made to place a mainspring within its confines. The hammerless Sharps-Borchardt required

a breechblock of considerable length to contain its spiral mainspring, as did other somewhat similar actions. The Ruger mainspring is located just forward of the receiver, covered by the fore-end. Actually, one of the early guide lines laid down by Bill Ruger for his design staff to follow set the maximum depth of the action at its present pleasingly slim dimension. However, this edict set a whole series of interlocking problems for Harry Se-fried and Larry Larson, the two Ruger engineers involved in the development of this gun. Both were faced with a situation not far removed from the classic example of impossibility, the Blivet — trying to put 5 pounds into a 2-pound bag! Their goal was not merely to meet Bill Ruger's esthetic requirements of a clean and well-proportioned shape for the receiver and breechblock but, additionally, to provide mechanical refinements not found in earlier falling block actions.

## IMPROVED EXTRACTION-EJECTION

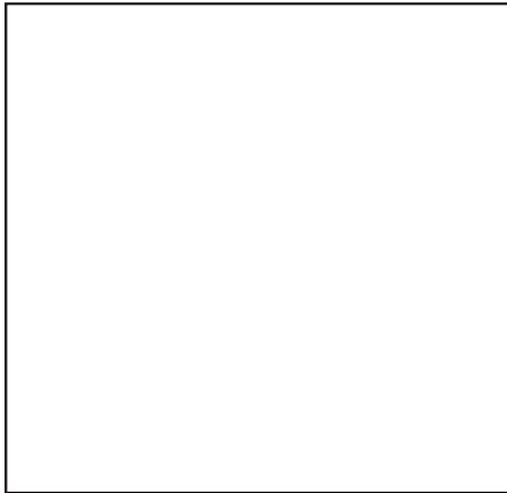
Most important of these improvements had to do with extraction and

ejection. Earlier single shot rifles used only rimmed cases, upon which a simple

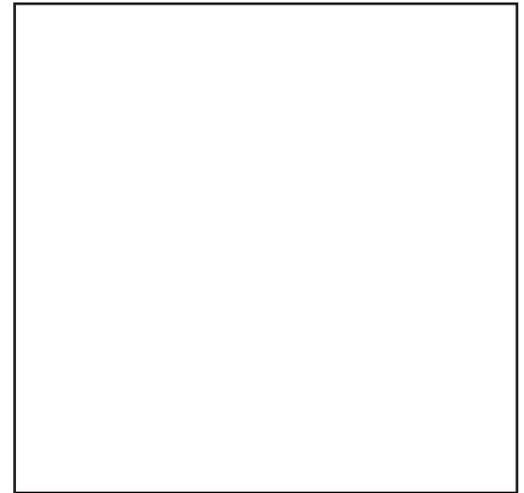


*This view of the sectioned Ruger receiver shows the hammer in fired position, lever closed. The breechblock (not seen here to permit the hammer to be shown) would also be in the upward, closed position. The first 6° movement of the lever starts cocking the hammer, thus allowing the firing pin to retract before the breechblock starts to move downward (with also a 3° slant to the rear).*

**Top Left:** Lever open, hammer cocked, breechblock down, toggle buckled into its recess in receiver wall. lever closed, breechblock raised, hammer cocked. Tip of hammer (cocking indicator) projecting through slot in lever.



**Top Right:** Cam surface (left side of breechblock) moves sideways fast, disengaging it from cartridge extractor groove at end of ejection stroke, permitting fired case to be kicked clear.



extractor of robust size could get a good bite. Yet most classic single shots seemed prone to some extraction difficulties even with black powder cartridges, then getting into even more trouble as pressures rose with the advent of smokeless powders. The English ammunition makers, Kynoch, marketed a number of rimmed versions of popular rimless big game cartridges, specifically intended for single and double rifles, loading them down to lower velocities and pressures. Most people have assumed that this was done only to ease the strain upon a break action double rifle, but extraction difficulties may well have influenced this decision to an even greater extent. It seems odd that it was deemed necessary to have a rimmed, low pressure version of the 375 H&H when the same rifle makers were building similar actions able to stand the bending strain imposed by such horrendous cartridges as the 577 and 600.

As far as the single shot, falling block action is concerned, it is quite as strong as a bolt action and 60 years ago it was probably appreciably stronger than the two-lug bolts of that day. But a bolt action provides powerful initial camming movement capable of extracting all but the most outrageous overloads, while none of the single shot designers of the last century ever arrived at a really good solution to all the problems of getting that fired case out of the chamber.

Even my 240 Apex Holland & Holland falling block (Woodward & Holland Patents), one of the latest designs of the great period of single shot rifles, is a bit lacking in initial extraction power. It functions well with factory cartridges, these a “loaded down” version of the rimless 240 Magnum, but a reloaded cartridge, brought up to 243 velocity with 4350 powder, tends to require so much pushing on the lever that one has a sense of

1. Lever.	7. Ejector roller	15. Ejector cam
1-a. Toggle	8. Ejector roller pin	16. Ejector spring
1-b. Lever arm	9. Hammer strut	17. Receiver extension
2. Hammer	10. Hammer strut spring	18. Sear
3. Breechblock	11. Ejector plunger	19. Safety bar
4. Striker	12. Ejector plunger spring	20. Safety
5. Firing pin	13. Ejector	21. Safety arm
6. Firing pin spring	14. Lever pivot pin	

straining the extractor mechanism. Obviously the makers chambered this gun for the 240 Flanged, rather than for the more useful 240 Magnum, for this very reason.

The toggle (1-a) serves two functions. First, as a connecting piece between the lip of the lever and the lever arm (1-b) which actuates the breechblock; secondly, as a sort of “motion absorber” by folding or buckling in the middle and moving its center section into a recess in the receiver wall, thus arresting the downward movement of the breechblock while allowing the lever to move further downward to provide additional movement of the extractor-

ejector.

The striker (4) is interposed between the hammer (2), and firing pin (5) to permit a shorter hammer to be utilized and to keep the breechblock as small as possible. The firing pin inclines upward at a 5° angle. The striker pin is inserted in a hole in the right side of this breechblock but production models will be fitted from the left side.

The ejector roller (7) imparts a very rapid closing or return movement to the ejector when the breechblock is being closed, but with a minimal amount of friction as it contacts the rear of the ejector.

The hammer strut (9) transmits the thrust of the main spring (10) directly to the lower leg of the hammer, moving only about 0.2" in the process. Re-cocking the main spring is spread over 45°–50° of movement of the lever, so the effort required is small. The end of the strut fits into a slot and recess in the lower leg of the hammer.

The ejector plunger and spring (11 & 12) force the ejector inward (laterally) toward the cartridge head.

The ejector cam (15) is pivoted just forward of the receiver, interposed between the end of the lever and the ejector itself. After the breechblock has moved downward some distance, the lip on the end of the lever impinges on the ejector cam, exerting powerful leverage on the ejector for initial extraction (about 1/32"); then this movement is speeded up and, as the ejector cam goes over "dead center," the spring (16) imparts a powerful and rapid kick to the ejector, through the cam, throwing the cartridge right out of the breech. The movement of the ejector cam after it goes over dead center out-runs the lip of the lever, but if the spring is removed the final movement of the cam and ejector is provided by the final movement of the lever — with the result that the cartridge is merely extracted, not ejected.

The receiver extension or fore-end hanger (17) will be of slightly different shape in production rifles. It carries both the ejector spring (as seen here) and the mainspring and hammer strut along its underside. The adjustment screw for varying the pressure on the barrel is fitted at the forward end.

## NEW ACTION SIMPLE AND STRONG

Not only did Sefried and Larson keep all the mechanism neatly contained within the action and fore-end but they finally worked a minor miracle by pivoting all main components upon *one* pin — upon which the under lever also pivots! Most falling block actions have two or three pins going through the receiver walls, which neither con-

The sear (18) is blocked by the safety when it is in the "on" position, while the safety bar (19) blocks hammer. The safety (20) is a sliding shotgun type, located on the tang.

Ruger's design and development team was determined to provide not only easy and positive *extraction* for all modern cartridges, including such popular magnums as the 7mm Remington and 458 Winchester, but to also provide automatic *ejection* of the fired case as well. To this end they have engineered into the Ruger action exceptionally powerful leverage, both for the initial downward movement of the breechblock and for the first movement of the extractor. When the breechblock has moved down far enough to clear the path of the cartridge the extractor action is speeded up; then, when the case has been withdrawn sufficiently to be moving freely, the force of a small but powerful spring is used to impart a sharp "kick" to the extractor, throwing the empty case clear of the action. This special ejector spring also resides forward of the receiver (and is exposed to view by removing the fore-end) and can be easily disconnected, thus letting those shooters who want to save their brass simply pick the partially extracted case out of the breech rather than off the ground. It took some clever engineering to arrive at a simple and reliable way to move the extractor sideways at the end of its travel, to quickly clear the extractor groove of the case head so as not to interrupt its rearward momentum after imparting the final ejection "kick" to the case.

tributes to the appearance of the rifle nor to the ease of disassembly. Actually, there are two more pins in the action but they're both in the breechblock itself, thus never seen unless the action is dismantled. Even upon maximum downward movement of the lever the Ruger presents an unusually clean and uncluttered appearance, for there are no

connecting bars or levers to the internal mechanism. However, when at full cock, the hammer is partly exposed until the lever is closed.

The first 6-degree movement of the lever retracts the firing pin, before movement of the breechblock commences; the latter then travels downward but with a 3-degree backward slant to quickly reduce rubbing pressure on the cartridge head. This makes the action easier to open than might otherwise be the case. This 3-degree slant also provides some slight camming action as a new cartridge is seated during the final movement of closing the action.

The gratifying minimum of cocking levers, connecting rods and links of various types in the Ruger springs from the basic simplicity of the action design, largely made possible by an ingenious use of multi-purpose shoulders, projections and abutments on the various internal elements of the action, including some formed on the inner walls of the breechblock itself. Such simplicity of design, note well, is often far more difficult to achieve than is a more complex solution to the problems involved. A look at the photographs of the details of a cut-away action will make the operation of the Ruger easier to comprehend.

Much care has gone into the trig-

ger and safety design. No set trigger will be available (which I regret) but easy adjustment of the conventional trigger is provided for *weight of pull* and for *over-travel*. The best possible type of safety is provided — the highly convenient thumb-operated “shotgun” design, mounted on the upper tang, and it blocks *both* sear and hammer. To learn if the hammer is cocked a shooter need only slide his trigger finger just forward of the guard, along the underside of the lever; there a small projection on the cocked hammer protrudes through a narrow slot in the lever for about 1/8-inch, thus can be easily felt or seen.

*Barlow tries out an incomplete work-horse test gun, finds it comfortable to shoot with 7mm Rem. Magnum factory loads. Note the main spring carried by the steel fore-end hanger.*

## 26-INCH BARRELS

The button-rifled barrels for this single shot rifle are being made to Ruger's specifications by an outside supplier, and Bill says these will be available in different weights. The barrel is free floated — there is no contact with the wood of the fore-end, which is carried on a steel hanger welded to the receiver. There is a screw adjustment near the end of this hanger to enable a shooter to apply varying degrees of pressure to the barrel, if desired, when tuning an individual rifle and load. This steel hanger also carries and provides the abutments for the mainspring and the ejector spring.

Bill Ruger, Larry Larson and Harry Sefried talked at some length on the

matter of this rifle being able to provide a hunter with the maximum velocity a magnum cartridge usually delivers, which usually requires a 26-inch barrel, while still keeping the over-all length of the Ruger to a convenient and handy dimension. The short length of the receiver of a falling block rifle renders this possible. In contrast, a bolt action receiver will usually be almost 3 inches longer — to compensate for which many manufacturers are now fitting 22-inch (and even shorter) barrels. This may make for a bolt action rifle of a more desirable total length, but if you want all the greater performance your modern cartridge is capable of deliver-

*Close-up of an A. Henry rifle, this one with the hammer mounted on the right side. More common on Henrys is a left-side hammer.*

ing, this is not the way to get it.

The Ruger will have as standard a 26-inch barrel, delivering the full, advertised velocity of such cartridges as the 264 Win. Mag., the 7mm Rem. Mag. or the 300 Win. Mag., yet will still be handy enough to carry into the mountains on a sheep hunt or after mule deer, anywhere you want the flattest possibly trajectory, the least wind drift and most bullet energy.

Long range big game hunting (as with varminting) demands a scope sight and so this rifle will be without iron sights except perhaps on the really big calibers, or as an option) but will have a gracefully contoured dovetailed ramp atop the breech-end of the barrel to take a strong, simple and inexpensive scope mount.

Now that we already seem to be out West hunting mulies with the Ruger, I'm reminded that a rather famous Westerner is also associated with this single shot project at Ruger's. Len Brownell, renowned as a stock-maker, has come East to take charge of mak-

ing the stocks for these rifles. He was at Ruger's New Hampshire plant for some months prior to the commencement of actual production, training women in the art of checkering (and the way Len does it, it *is* an art) while carving out the prototype stocks himself. Actually, the single shot rifles will be manufactured in their entirety at the New Hampshire factory under Len Brownell's supervision, no rifle to leave the plant until and unless he is satisfied with it in every detail. When I had this meeting at Ruger's Southport factory, production of the single shot had not yet started. The first rifle to the final design, which was for showing to the press at the NRA convention in April, was being constructed in the tool room just outside Bill Ruger's office door. The only model I had an opportunity to shoot was one without sights or fore-end, which was being used on a short indoor range at that time merely to check extraction with normal and proof loads. A few 7mm Rem. Mag. loads fired in this lighter-than-normal, incomplete gun sold me on its comfortable shooting characteristics and the Tightness of the stock design. Bill Ruger ruefully commented that all of his friends and acquaintances wanted to help him design that stock and that he could hardly visit one or another of his shops without being besieged by a gaggle of would-be woodmen, with or without skill! My own opinion of the prototype was that it was perfect for my taste.

## LOST WAX CASTINGS USED

There may be considerable controversy over Ruger's extensive use of "investment" castings in the manufacture of this action, but such criticism will be based largely on the misconception that casting still means the use of cast iron or other materials inferior to modern chrome steels, and that forging (hammering heated metal into the desired shape) produces parts in which the

metal is clearly superior in grain structure as well as strength. In actual fact many forgings, including some used in firearms manufacture, end up with the "grain" formation aligned (as it should *not* be) in the same direction as shear loads will be applied.

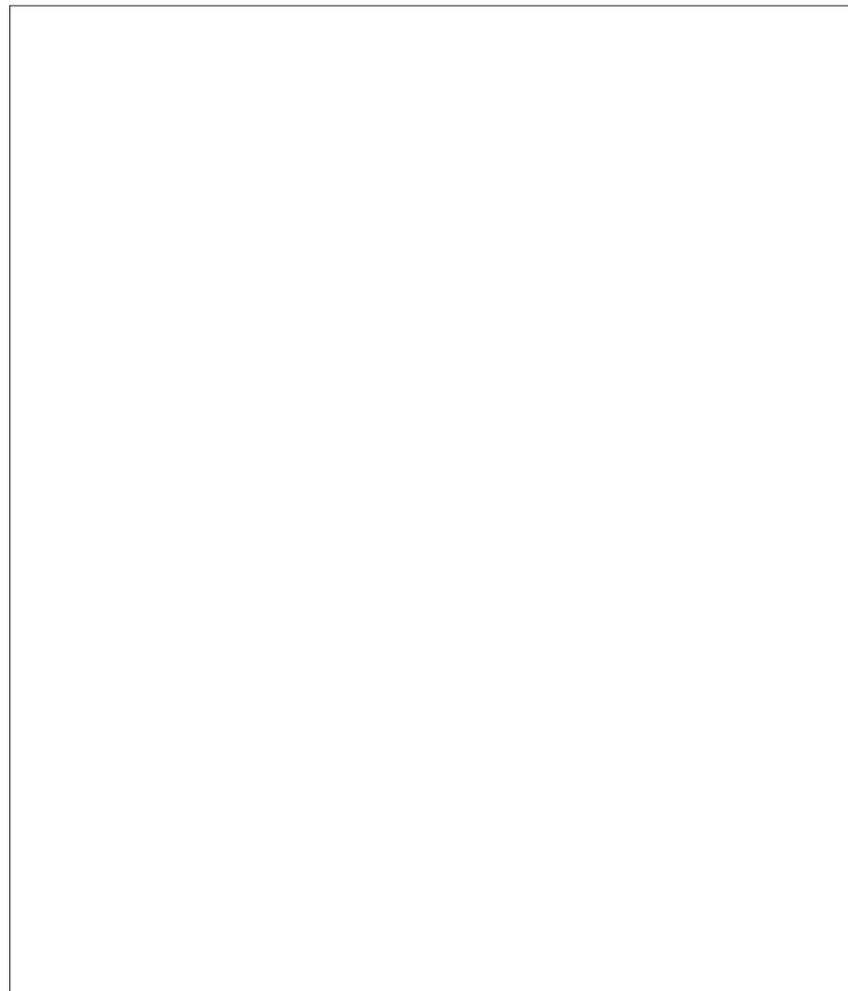
The casting techniques employed by Ruger's (in their own New Hampshire foundry) produce precision castings of

*chrome steel* with a desirable homogeneous grain structure providing admirable strength and wear characteristics. Both the receiver and the breechblock benefit from being made by this investment casting process. If the former had been machined from a forging, considerable metal would have been removed from its rear wall simply to make the necessary cuts elsewhere and so the finished receiver would have been structurally inferior. The breechblock also benefited from being cast, for necessary shoulders, guides, complex cam contours, etc., are accurately cast as integral parts of the internal walls. Most of the moving parts — hammer, lever arm, extractor, etc. — are also beautiful examples of the art of investment casting.

Castings are not used in this gun primarily for economy of production (Bill surmised that many parts could actually be made more cheaply on machine tools) but because it is the best way to do the job in the light of 20th century technology.

Obviously, Ruger's *had* to consider some economies; for if a gun is to sell for under \$300 it cannot carry engraving like a \$3,000 Purdey nor can each internal part be jeweled or "exhibition finished." These are niceties which a customer with plenty of money to lavish upon a gun could deal with to his own satisfaction and taste after buying a standard grade rifle. No doubt some single shot enthusiasts will spend considerable extra money to bring their own Rugers up to the standards of detail finishing found only in expensive English "first" grade guns.

Even produced to sell for only \$280, this new Ruger may very well be the best single shot rifle ever made — it's as elegant and graceful as an Alexander Henry, has a better action than even the famed Farquharson, has a more accurate barrel than could be bored at the time the "clas-



sic" falling block rifles were made, has the advantage of the most modern metals and technology in its manufacture and, perhaps equally important, it is being built in the factory of a man who holds the artistry, engineering and painstaking craftsmanship of the Victorian period in such esteem that this finest product of Sturm, Ruger & Co. will probably be called *The Victorian*. What a bold and yet comforting conceit in this day of nuclear science and moon rocketry! It will help to keep us from getting further out of touch with that Golden Age of guns and hunting. Of course, the era also produced a large variety of remarkable men ... I think time quite possibly slipped a cog somewhere, to our advantage, putting an Eminent Victorian — Bill Ruger — into this computer age!

*A drawing of the final design of the Ruger single shot (top) in the company of the magnificent rifles of the last century which were its inspiration — an Alexander Henry, a Farquharson and a Sharps-Borchardt.*



# THE NEW RUGER DOUBLE ACTION REVOLVER

— A RAPID FIRE

by JOHN T. AMBER

*This article  
was originally  
published in the  
1970 edition of  
Gun Digest.*

**B**ill Ruger introduced his long-rumored, much-anticipated double action revolver at the NRA meeting in Washington early in April of this year.

Made only in 357 Magnum so far — a caliber that could easily account for the great bulk of Ruger sales, even if he never offered it in any others — the new double action is a handsome gun indeed. Externally it doesn't depart

materially from conventional styling — the cylinder holds 6 cartridges, swings out to the left, and the latch release button is just behind the recoil shield on the left side. This release, however, does not slide fore-and-aft, as has long been the custom, but is depressed at its rear edge by the thumb. It's a neat design, unobtrusive, and it won't dig into the thumb of the shooter who holds that member up alongside the receiver.

The inside of the new Ruger — the interior mechanism — is vastly different from any modern revolver. An examination of the frame design gives the first clue to an observant viewer that he's looking at a truly new handgun.

There is no sideplate! The frame shows a solid wall of metal on both sides, thus making the new Ruger an extremely rugged handgun. Without a sideplate there's no temptation here to lure the curious — and often inept and incautious user to explore the works; there are no sideplate screws either to shoot loose, to become lost.

All internal parts enter the Ruger receiver through the top of the bottom.

*The new Ruger DA 357 Magnum revolver weighs 28 ozs., has 4" barrel with 6-groove rifling, 1/8" serrated ramp front sight, matching-width rear notch in frame. Trigger, latch, hammer and top rib are grooved. Ejector rod housing is steel, integral with barrel; ejector-rod head is knurled.*

Harry Sefried — a member of the design team responsible for this latest handgun from Southport — demonstrated at Washington the rapidity and ease with which the trigger unit the lockwork-guard assembly, etc., could be removed and replaced. Harry had *all* of the component parts spread across the table in about 30 seconds, including elements the ordinary owner would rarely — if ever — have to remove. Re-assembly, be it noted, was equally fast.

At no time did Sefried use a screwdriver, either! The checkered walnut grips may be removed with a coin, the one grip screw being so-designed. Once the grips are off the frame, the entire gun may be dismantled by the manipulation of a pin or two and the ready disjoining of various members.

The sample Ruger double action revolvers we handled were finished in a rich-looking blue; both had 4-inch barrels and, as noted, walnut grips nicely checkered.

The grip frame profile is the only area we'd criticize on the new Ruger, and that from a sales standpoint essentially. The backstrap flares out a bit rearward — where it meets the bottom flat of the grip frame — thus any grips fitted will carry this semi-single action style unavoidably. There are those potential buyers who will want, I'm sure, the more rounded grip form, the kind of handle that's more easily pocketable. This is particularly true of those people — law enforcement members generally — who want their revolvers to be as compact as possible. Perhaps Ruger will offer such a frame when the 2-inch barreled guns are made available.

So far we've not had a chance to assess and evaluate the new Ruger D.A., but if we can persuade Bill Ruger to send one here for a brief stay with us, we'll add a report below.

Our chance to look over the new Ruger 357 D.A. revolver came; Ed Nolan shipped No. X2, a toolroom prototype to us for a quick examination and trial — very quick, for we had the gun only 3 days.

*John Amber firing the new Ruger DA 357 Magnum from rest during brief test run.*

Shooting was the first order of the day, done from rest and offhand, and both one- and two-handed. Some 200 rounds were put through our 4-inch barreled X2 with no malfunction of any kind.

Ed Dams and I set up a bench outdoors at the Farm, our target frame initially 20 yards away, then later at 50 yards.

*Ruger DA 357  
Magnum revolver,  
fully disassembled  
except for separation of  
crane and cylinder.*

**A**      **E**

**B**      **F**

**C**      **G**

**D**      **H**

#### **Ruger Double Action Takedown Data**

**A** Before takedown the Ruger DA cylinder is emptied. Note latch position, which is pressed down, not slid, to release crane-cylinder.

**B** A small coin — a penny here — turns the grip screw out, allowing removal of the 2-piece handles.

**C** To remove hammer, cock it and insert small brass pin supplied into hole in bottom of thrust rod (inside mainspring). Now let hammer come forward and mainspring assembly may be lifted out.

**D** Mainspring, thrust rod, keeper comprise assembly; small brass pin aids

takedown.

**E** Hammer pivot pin is L-shaped, removes by pushing from left side of frame, then lifting out.

**F** Trigger may now be lifted out of central slot in frame.

**G** Trigger-guard/hand assembly snaps out of frame bottom. Cylinder bolt, a separate unit, is removable.

**H** Crane-cylinder assembly pulls off forward. Cylinder bolt is pictured above guard.

First shooting was with 38 Special 148-gr. target wadcutters, including Federal, Remington and Sako brands. From rest at the shorter range all groups were one-ragged-hole types, though the Sako loads ran a bit bigger than the other two brands.

Both the Federal and Remington lots had given excellent accuracy previously in other target handguns, and these ten 5-shot groups with the Ruger D.A. were almost as good.

Next, to check point of impact, we fired Super Vel cartridges in 38 Special and 357 Magnum calibers at the 20-yard frame, again using the rest.

The Super Vel 110-gr. loads, in both 38 Special and 357 Magnum, were not especially punishing in this 28-oz. revolver, though there could be no doubt in the shooter's mind that he'd been firing a gun! Point of impact was a little bit lower with both Super Vel loads, and group size ran a mite bigger, too, at the 20-yard range, but all were well within the 10-ring area.

Velocity was not quite up to Super Vel figures — using the new Avtron photo-eye screens, and a 10-foot distance, from the muzzle, we got an average of 1304 for the 38 Special and 1601 for the 357 Magnum. These were only 5-round checks though — there was not enough time — so making allowances for the 4-inch barrel and the 10-foot range, we were probably getting 1350 and 1650 approximately at the muzzle.

Norma 357 loads in the new 158-gr. jacketed SPs, rated 1450 fps at the muzzle, did r'ar back a good bit in the Ruger D.A., understandably, and the gun tended to rotate in the hand under recoil. There was no chronographing done with the Norma loads at this time, but an earlier 10-round test with the Oehler Model 20 and his new photo-eye screens

showed 1422 with a 10-foot instrumental distance.

Accuracy at 50 yards was still best with the Federal and Remington WCs, rest groups going about 3¼ inches average. Both Norma and Super Vel cartridges in 357 Magnum opened up to some 5-5½ inches, not at all bad, I think.

Trigger pull is crisp, weight of pull some 3¼ pounds, and the hammer fall is short and “dead,” no vibration or jarring noted.

After we completed this shooting we disassembled the new Ruger — we didn't want to take it down before, not knowing whether we'd be able to get it back together properly or not!

In fact, stripping down and reassembly was easy and fast, once we'd discovered that a small brass pin (carried in the grip) was to be used in compressing the coil hammer spring.

I won't go into detail here on take-apart procedures — you'll find that information in our captions for the several illustrations. For now, I'll simply repeat that there's nothing tricky about it, and those who know me will agree that if I can take the Ruger down and put it back together then anybody can do it.

The lower rear profile of the grip frame, in our X2 sample, shows a change for the better, in my opinion. It differs from the examples seen at the NRA meeting in being somewhat more rounded, thus permitting a grip form more suited to a police revolver, especially by those peace officers wanting to use the Ruger D.A. as a hide-out arm.

In summary, a fine new addition to the handgun world, a gun that shows novel and enterprising design, a very high degree of ruggedness and reliability, first class performance and simplicity of disassembly. (J T.A.)



# THE MODEL 77 RUGER RIFLE

by DANIEL PETERSON

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*This article was originally published in the 1979 edition of Gun Digest.*

*It wasn't easy, deciding to buck the prevailing trend in gaudy rifles, but Bill Ruger acted with courage and boldness in styling and designing his first bolt action rifle. The dangerous gamble paid off, and the rest, as they say, is history.*

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*Ruger 77 rifle here has round top, standard barrel form. Trim, graceful lines proclaim the classicism of this outstanding Browned design.*

**I**N 1968 STURM, RUGER & Co. introduced a new rifle — basically on a Mauser-type turnbolt action with two forward locking lugs. At that time it hardly seemed likely that the gun world was breathlessly awaiting yet another bolt rifle. Besides the three long-time American favorites — the Winchester M70, Remington's M700 and the Savage 110, there was a host of other commercial bolt actions available from foreign shores, plus thousands of military Mausers, Springfields and Enfields. It was obvious that a newly-hatched bolt rifle had to have a lot going for it to compete successfully. From the start, how-

ever, it was apparent to many riflemen/hunters that Ruger's new rifle had desirable design aspects that set it apart from most of the others.

Like many other young gun nuts, I was devoted to the writings of Jack O'Connor. Anytime an article appeared in *Outdoor Life* about bolt actions you could be sure it would show pictures of and carry comments on those beautifully classic rifles made by Biesen, Milliron, Brownell and others. Most anything made by these craftsmen had the typical classic looks; straight and elegant stocks without Monte Carlo combs or rollover cheekpieces, gracefully sweeping bolt handles and

hand checkering in multi-point or fleur-de-lis patterns. Seeing such rifles made my head swim. I longed for the day I'd own one of them, but I might as well have wished I could fly. I feel sure that such articles by O'Connor and other writers had a certain salutary effect on many riflemen as to what the bolt-action sporter should be, what it should look like.

## THE BROWNELL TOUCH

As popular as the Remington and Winchester bolt actions were at this time, both had “checkered” stocks which, in fact, were not truly checkered — instead the pattern revealed diamonds pressed in *reverse*, the design sunk into the wood by a system of heat and pressure.\* Such stocks were compromises, near-classics, perhaps, if one stretches a point, yet not far from the California school of design. They contained elements not really needed on a stock — Monte Carlo combs, white line spacers at butt, grip and fore-end, the latter plastic tipped, as was the butt-plate usually.

Winchester, since 1965, has produced at least 6 different Model 70 butt-stocks, none very attractive to the rifleman wanting a classic handle. The old M70 had gained its reputation as the “Rifleman’s Rifle” with a simple-lined, well-designed stock, especially in the years before WW II.

The Ruger stock, however, was designed by Lenard Brownell, the famed Wyoming gunmaker, which displayed the epitome of the classic style.

The Ruger Model 77 stock has nothing that isn't needed on a hunting rifle, but no more than that. It is hand checkered in a simple, borderless point pattern which looks and feels good. The finish is of a warm, semi-oil type

that was welcomed by the conservative minded rifleman who had been used to seeing the hard, cold, California style supposedly “in” at that time. In addition the M77 had many features that had previously been available only on true custom rifles. Among these desirable aspects were a (hinged) floorplate-release latch inside the trigger guard bow, a top tang safety, and a barrel — if desired — free of sights or plugged screw holes. The M77's weight, too, was a factor in its appeal. For years the more astute rifleman/hunter had been searching for a handy, lightweight rifle, hefting with scope about 8 pounds. The M77, with scope, could just wriggle under the wire in this department. In total, the M77 resembles, as closely as any production rifle can, costs considered, the style and the mechanics of those eye-appealing custom jobs.

*Author with a morning's bag of crows taken with a Ruger 77 in caliber 22–250 Rem.*

## MAUSER EXTRACTOR

However, another design factor, I believe, helped increase the acceptance of

the M77 when it was introduced. When Winchester designed the post-1964 M70

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\* Frank Pachmayr, head of the Los Angeles shop that bears his name, commented to me in the 1960s that this press-in technique could just as well have used dies that produced raised diamonds, thus closely simulating handcut checkering. Frank was long familiar with such die work, his factory using a wide variety of them in making Pachmayr recoil pads and handgun grips. J.T.A.

*The Ruger 77 rifle  
in round-tp receiver  
form takes all  
popular standard  
scope-mount bases.*

one of the features abandoned — which many writers criticized — was the sturdy Mauser-type wide-claw extractor. Many riflemen, myself included, believe that the broad-arc Mauser extractor is stronger and more reliable than the newer, cheaper-to-manufacture bolt-head type now in use. I know of several such extractors that failed to work. Ruger wisely retained the Mauser extractor in the M77.

All of these factors, then, were a decided plus for the new Ruger bolt rifle. However, I also think that the Ruger came along at precisely the right time to give additional impetus to its popularity.

Initially the M77 was offered in a medium length action only (2.925" magazine length), designed to handle the popular 308-length family of cartridges.

The first four cartridges offered were the 22–250, 243, 6mm and 308. These were followed in 1969 by the 284 Win., the 6.5 Rem. Mag. and the 350 Rem. Mag., though these last three have been since dropped. (They're being sought out by collectors already.) I feel that the idea behind the short action was to put Ruger in something of a monopolistic position, bearing in mind that short actions have always had a dedicated following, as well as the fact that everyone made the standard-length action. However, because of demand, in late 1970 Ruger brought out the long action M77, (3.380" magazine length) calling it the M77 Magnum. It was not a true magnum action, of course, if one compares the Mauser extra-length action, but one designed for 30-06-length cartridges and the belted

*This is a Ruger 77 rifle  
with varmint-type  
barrel, integral scope-  
mount bases and the  
current bolt handle.*

short magnums. This normal-length action was first offered in 30-06, 25-06, 270 and 7mm Rem. Mag. From time to time other cartridges have been offered in both action lengths, as we shall see.

One of the few things disliked aesthetically about the new M77 was its odd-shaped bolt handle. The 1917 Springfield (Enfield) had a similar one. Some writers even compared its form to a dog's hind leg. Functionally it was satisfactory. However, a new style bolt handle was offered in 1970. A marked

improvement, it bore a great resemblance to the old M70's bolt style, having a similar rearward slant and a pear-shaped hollowed-out knob. This is the rarest of M77 bolt handle types. The third and current style, identical to the second type but without the hollow knob, has been used for the past 4 or 5 years. However, in checking with the factory I was told that the old crooked handle is still in production, but I haven't seen a new rifle with this bolt handle in several years.

## VARMINT TYPE APPEARS

In 1971 the varmint type M77 appeared. First offered in 22–250, the M77V had a heavy barrel tapped for varmint-target scope bases. Several other popular varmint calibers appeared in subsequent years.

In 1972 Ruger began the most startling resurrection of supposedly dead cartridges ever recorded in the annals of firearms production. The gun magazines were filled with the announcements of these reintroduced cartridges. Short production runs were made of the 220 Swift, 257 Roberts, and 7×57 Mauser at various times during 1972 and '73 to test the market. These short runs were grabbed off the dealer shelves immediately. Ultimately the Swift, 257 Roberts, 250 Savage, and 7×57 became regular cataloged offerings. Not only were these all excellent, time-tested cartridges, they had all been offered in the pre-64 M70s, another similarity between the two rifles. This quick success clearly demonstrated, I think, that there were many people who desired a commercial 220 Swift or 257 Roberts but were unwilling to pay the steep collector's price for an old M70. Offering the 250 Savage in the M77 was probably the most ideal mating ever made commercially, especially since the short action was used. The 257 Roberts was chambered in the long action, which allowed for shallow seating of the bullet, given adequate throating.

When the M77 first came out one could order (from Ruger) a steel floor-

plate and trigger guard, but only as separate parts. These have never been offered on 77s from the factory with one exception. In 1976 Ruger offered the M77 in a 458 Win. Mag. made with a "Circassian" walnut stock — actually French walnut. This stock, somewhat fuller than the regular stock, I understand, comes with the steel floorplate and trigger guard as standard. These parts, beautifully finished and blued, enhance the beauty of the entire rifle. There is a weight difference, of course — the steel components (minus the guard screws) weigh about 7 ounces as opposed to 3 for the alloy units. As nice as it would be if these were standard items on all M77s, the price would go up, as would the weight. Incidentally, these parts are available from time to time, in long action form only, at about \$20 for both. However, you may have to wait

*Fore-end at right is the old style with narrow top compared with new style at left. Author feels these top ledges would be more functional with less flat surface exposed.*

quite a while since production is quite low on the rifle using them. They are

*not* shown on the parts list in the M77 owner's manual.

## TRIGGER PULLS

Perhaps the greatest complaint against the M77 concerns the trigger pull. Though nominally adjustable for weight of pull, the criticism has been that this adjustment still leaves something to be desired. For a hunting rifle I feel that no complaint whatsoever is justified. At the bench and on varmints, where optimum trigger control is necessary, it is something else. Currently my M77s have Ruger triggers, which I've worked down to 3–3½ lbs. In correspondence with Jim Carmichel he wrote that he'd talked several times with Bill (Ruger) about the quality of the triggers. Jim added, "... I must admit that with a little tinkering the triggers can be adjusted quite nicely. I have heard that some of them resist adjusting but of the three or four I own, all have been adjusted down to about a 2–2½ lb. letoff." However, for those that must have something better, Canjar makes set-type and single-stage replacement triggers.

An unusual design aspect of the original M77, and still incorporated, is the integral-base system for scope mounting. Using the pair of rings supplied by Ruger, no other bases are needed. This not only saves money but eliminates one step, that of mating mount with receiver

a first for an American made production action. I believe it is a most excellent system. The ring bottoms clamp onto the receiver bases via grooves milled into each side. The ring tops attach to the lower rings by using two 6–40 screws on each.\* Two ring heights are available — the standard sets that come with the rifle (Cat. No. D71), and a set ⅛" higher (Cat. No. D71H). I would like a set even lower than standard, for use with straight-tube scopes. Even with the standard rings some scope objective housings touch the barrel, necessitating shims or the use of the higher rings.

In 1972 the M77 appeared with another receiver profile, this one called the "round top," tapped for all popular commercial mounts, but offered only in the longer action. However, I still prefer the integral-base receiver because I believe it secures the scope in the most positive way. Sales of the two receiver types reflect the same preference by the buying public.

The other important design feature of the M77 is the patented diagonal (slanted) front guard screw. This angled screw not only pulls the barrel-receiver assembly together, it also pulls the recoil lug firmly back against the recoil shoulders of the stock — assuming correct dimensioning. The M77 action is flat bottomed, and I've found the bedding of the action and barrel to be excellent, especially in the action area. In fact, some notable gun authorities feel that the M77 actions are bedded so well that it is one of the few actions that cannot be improved by glass bedding. However, it isn't unusual to find some high spots in the barrel channel, which causes some binding, especially along the sides. This can easily be corrected, though, with some light sanding. I have also found that the wood-

— which often enough introduces problems. Although this system in different forms had been offered on Czech Brno actions and on the Finnish Sakos, it was

*Sectional view of the Model 77 Ruger rifle. Note angled guard screw forward.*

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\* Early-production scope rings were split vertically, unlike the horizontally-divided halves now in use. These original rings were criticized, too, hence the change. I like the older type — I think they're better looking and I've had no trouble with them. J.T.A.

to-metal fit along the edges of the action has, in some rifles, been rather poor. This is especially true at the rear of the tang.

The fore-end's last inch or so beds tightly against the barrel. In examining many M77s I have found their fore-ends exerting, sometimes, as much as 12–15 lbs. of pressure. I regard this as somewhat excessive, but in my experience many such rifles, though untuned, shoot quite well. Of course the accuracy seeker will certainly want to examine the barrel and action for any excessive rubbing. Of the several sporter weight M77s I own and use, all can be relied upon to shoot careful handloads with the right bullet into 1–1½" groups at 100 yards if I do my part.

Varmint weight M77s have achieved a high reputation for accuracy. I've read many reports of M77s in 220 Swifts giving exceptional accuracy. Although my experience has been limited to only one Ruger Swift, it certainly lives up to those findings. My Ruger 22–250 consistently delivers 5 shots at 100 yards into groups of ½- to ¾-MOA. Interestingly, perhaps, my most temperamental M77 is a late model 257 Roberts. After trying nearly every usable powder/bullet combination, this rifle

seems to prefer IMR 4350 teamed with 100-gr. Hornadys.

As in any rifle, we now know, much can be done to maintain high accuracy by judiciously cleaning the barrel regularly and frequently, and by not shooting so fast as to heat the barrel excessively.

In my long-time association with the M77 I have examined and shot many of them. They generally are found with quite straight-grained walnut, but it's quite common to find some nice figure in at least part of the stock. I have, in fact, seen quite a few M77 stocks with rather excep-

*The longer bolt, from a Ruger 77 in caliber 458, has the current bolt handle style. The other bolt shows the earlier type of handle.*

*Ruger 77 rifle, here with integral scope-mount bases.*

*Ruger 77 at right  
has steel trigger  
guard and floorplate  
(sometimes factory  
available at extra cost),  
the rifle at left has  
standard alloy types.*

tional wood figure. One of mine, a 25-06, shows a handsome figure in the butt-stock. Checkering is generally very good, with few runovers, the diamonds sharp and well formed. However, from time to time I've seen checkering that looks as though the checkering tool had dulled, causing the diamonds to be less than sharp and the grooves somewhat cluttered with wood shavings. Blueing has been very good, the

## CHANGES DESIRED

If I could change the M77 there are several things I'd. do. Though there is little fault with the stock, I feel it could be slimmed or narrowed down in the action section and in the fore-end. Older M77 fore-ends were narrower at the top, a treatment that was superior, in my judgment, to the present style. I would also like to see, regardless of cost, the steel floorplate and trigger guard offered on the complete rifle in any caliber and on short and long actions. Finally, I am sure that if Super Grade M77s were of-

## VARIATIONS

A few minor variations in M77s, through the years, have not been design changes. For example, during the early life of the rifle, the rubber butt pads used had rounded edges; the square-cornered

polishing really excellent; in fact the metal finish has been as good as that on many much more expensive rifles. The bolts sometimes operate a bit roughly as they come out of the box, but usually they slick up quickly with use. Several of mine were improved by hand stoning until now they snick in and out delightfully, as well as feeding and ejecting more smoothly.

The M77 has been offered in 3 different barrel weights and lengths. The 22" lightweight or sporter weight is standard except for those calibers needing longer barrels for ballistic reasons. Those cartridges with 24" barrels, other than the varmint models, include the 25-06, 7mm Mag., 300 Mag., 338 Mag. and the 458 Mag. The original short run of 257 Roberts rifles had a 24" tube. I would call the 24" barrel a "medium" weight, since it is far more husky, especially back toward the receiver, than the 22". The varmint weight barrels have all been 24" except for the 26" Swift. Recently Ruger offered a "sporter weight" Swift, with the 24" medium-weight barrel.

One caliber, the 308, was originally offered in sporter weight, then reintroduced in 1976 in the varmint version for silhouette shooting. It is now being made again (1977) in the 22" sporter weight.

ferred there'd be many buyers standing in line, money in hand. Perhaps these could have a larger and fancier checkering pattern, steel floorplates and trigger guards, a steel grip cap replacing the plastic one, and some time spent on slicking up the action. In talking with the Ruger people in New Hampshire, where the M77 is made, they say there has always been difficulty in keeping up production on the M77 as it is now, that being one of the main reasons why a Super Grade has never been offered.

type has been used since then. The dimensions of the checkering pattern have varied slightly, although the pattern itself has not changed. The Ruger people tell me that the size changes minutely when bad

runovers occur, a few additional lines being put in to eliminate these errors. The easiest variation to spot is on the fore-ends, as previously mentioned. Originally the top of the fore-end was about  $\frac{3}{16}$ " wide on each side, whereas the newer style is wider, some  $\frac{5}{16}$ " wide. This wider type suffers, to my way of thinking, in appearance and in practical terms. This wide platform allows snow and rain to accumulate, to run perhaps into the barrel channel. A better treatment would be to show an outside downward curve, letting water/snow run down the stock exterior.

There have also been slight differences in the circumference of the pistol grip; not noticeable to the eye but obvious to the feel and the tape. I have also noticed that earlier M77 extractors were drilled to match up with the hole in the right side of the receiver ring, meant to vent escaping powder gases in the event of a case failure. These holed extractors have not been seen for several years.

Finally, there have been differences in what I call the "ribbing" or the grooves that run lengthwise on receivers with integral scope bases. Sometimes this ribbing is larger and coarser, a result of different mould dimensions, I've heard. A small thing, of course, but interesting for the Ruger collector.

Collecting Ruger 77s? Don't laugh.

Some discontinued calibers are skyrocketing in price, notably the 358 Win., a non-cataloged caliber. A recent issue of Shotgun News advertised one "as new" for \$350. I expect that now, with the 257 Roberts and 250 Savage out of production, their prices will quickly increase as well.

*The three barrel weights offered in M77s. From left — medium, varmint and lightweight.*

*At left, the original Ruger telescope ring; the other is the current style.*

*(Late in 1977, at Remington's seminar for writers and editors, a variant of their M700 centerfire rifle was introduced — the Classic. Simply and functionally designed, the new rifle has no cheekpiece, no Monte Carlo comb, no white spacers, no fore-end tip. There's no grip cap, either, and the bottom of the pistol grip lies close to the stock's toe line, as it should. I don't know what prompted this step, but the Classic 700 is a handsome sporter — and welcome. J.T.A.)*

## CONCLUSIONS

Since the Ruger M77 was introduced in 1968, it has offered the rifleman much that is good. It is, in my opinion, the finest-stocked commercial production rifle ever offered. It gave the conservative, classic-minded rifleman something to cheer about. It combined the proven old with the proven new — plunger ejector and recessed bolt face. It was, I feel, at least partly responsible for the move from pressed checkering to cut checkering on some rifles. Ruger proved that well done hand checkering could be offered on a rifle that was competitively priced. It became a rifle that offered new-generation rifleman calibers, some with

superior ballistics, considered dead by the larger companies. Most of all, Bill Ruger had the courage to bring out a rifle that was, many felt, behind the times. It was without white-line spacers, had no Monte Carlo combs, no “plastic finish.” One of Ruger's old M77 advertisements noted that “not a penny is spent on meaningless ornamentation.” I heartily agree.

Perhaps you wonder what we conservative-minded shooters mean when we refer to a “classic” rifle? According to Mr. Webster “classic” means “of the highest order, correct, refined.” As far as bolt-action rifles are concerned, that definition fits the Ruger M77 perfectly. •

### NOTES ON RUGER M77 BOLT ACTION RIFLES

The following calibers were once offered in the M77 (some were reintroductions), but all have now been discontinued except the 220 Swift and the 280 Remington.

220 Swift	257 Roberts	280 Remington	350 Remington Magnum
250-3000 Savage	6.5 Remington Magnum	284 Winchester	

This list shows the calibers that have been or were commercially offered in M77s. Barrel lengths are in inches.

CALIBERS	77R	77RS	77V	77ST
22-250 Rem.	22	22	24	
220 Swift	24		26	
243 Win.	22	22	24	
6mm Rem.	22	22	24	
250 Sav.	22	22		
257 Rcb.	22 & 24	22 & 24		24
25-06 Rem.	24	24	24	24
6.5 Rem.	22	22		
270 Win.	22	22		22
7.57	22 & 24	22 & 24		24
280 Rem.	22	22		
7mm Rem. Mag.	24	24		24
284 Win.	22	22		
308 Win.	22	22	24	
30-06 Spfg.	22	22		22
300 Win. Mag.	24	24		24
338 Win. Mag.	24	24		24
350 Rem. Mag.	22	22		
358 Win.*	22			
458 Win. Mag.		24		

\*non-cataloged. Ruger factory officials said that one short run of nearly 1000 rifles were assembled in 358 Win.



# 30 YEARS OF GOOD GUN DESIGNS

by KEN WARNER

*The remarkable results of three decades in the market place prompt Gun Digest to present here, in color, the 15 guns of Bill Ruger*

*This article was originally published in the 1980 edition of Gun Digest.*

**I**N THE 30 years just passed, William B. Ruger, Sr., has accomplished a great deal. He set out to make guns of his own design and has become, through those efforts, a most successful capitalist and industrialist.

The most recent consolidated balance sheet of Sturm, Ruger & Company, Incorporated, and its subsidiary shows assets of over \$41,000,000, and an increase in working capital for that single year of over \$5,000,000 against a net income of over \$7,000,000 after taxes. In physical terms, Ruger's company has over 250,000 square feet of manufacturing facilities and employs over 1200 people at locations in Connecticut and New Hampshire.

His company's only problems at the

moment are involved with product liability and, as this is written, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel on that score. That is, an important suit against his company was most recently largely reversed before the Supreme Court of Alaska.

These simple objective measurements of the accomplishments of a man and a company are impressive. Ruger had the advantage of operating in the largest single market for sporting and police firearms in the world; he had the disadvantage that many, many others were there before him, in some cases over a century before him.

The well-known story of the beginning of all this, in a red barn in Southport, Connecticut, with \$50,000 of



borrowed money, need not be repeated. Were we to repeat it, we would simply be saying again that intelligent and determined people can still create in the United States. Such can, in fact, create empires and, though he wouldn't call it such, William B. Ruger has an empire.

It is founded, in this writer's opinion, on sound engineering and imaginative exploitation of traditions. In short, we can now look backwards on 30 years of good gun designs.

It is not enough to create a thing of beauty, or a beautifully machined entirely functional firearm. Such as those — when that is all they have going for them — pop into sight and disappear on an almost yearly basis. It is an absolute requirement for success that the product of all that thought and consideration be easy to make quickly, and carry a considerable profit margin.

This is the United States and the equation remains simple: no profits, no products.

That first Ruger design, the 22 Standard Automatic pistol, has to be a prime example. I know no secrets, I have been told nothing out behind the barn, but it is perfectly obvious that this first commercial design met all the criteria.

Looking at the gun itself, through contemporary eyes, it was and is found to be an entirely functional, solid package, with a great deal of eye appeal. That this gun called "Ruger" had faintly "Luger" lines is doubtless no accident for one thing. Its designer had studied well in modern industry and that the key manufacturing elements were inherent — the welded sheet steel main frame, the principal parts and pieces fitting in a tube, and all the other now well-known characteristics — are the other.

Without any secrets, how does one know it had the profits? Well, it was brought to market originally at \$37.50, and it stayed at \$37.50 for years and years and years while a major corporation grew up around it. As this is written, the Standard sells for \$92.00. Over a 30-year span, its price has risen only slightly more than 200 percent. Compared to

*This is a very early, perhaps the original prototype Single Six revolver, which was destined to become, overnight, a bestseller over a long period of years.*

other manufactured products over that same period, that record is remarkable.

They often tell the story, the factory people, of that first run of 100 Standard Automatics. As they were setting up production facilities, Ruger and his partner — who did none of the work, but was his partner — produced parts and assemblies to "proof" each step of the manufacturing process. On the day they had to write the payroll checks that would wipe out their initial investment, 100 guns were ready for assembly. That meant that 100 orders, and the cash attached to them, could be processed. Sturm, Ruger & Company, Incorporated, never looked back. There was help, of course. Prototypes got glowing reviews in the *American Rifleman*; American shooters were more than ready to give a new design a try; a world which knew it couldn't be done was nonetheless willing to let a couple of young men give it a go. And of course the existence of \$50,000 in available capital can never be discounted.

That first design was a workhorse. It continues today, essentially unchanged, but has given rise to a complete outfit of 22 autoloaders for trail service, plinking, and serious competition.

The next product, the Single Six single-action revolver, tells a great deal about William B. Ruger and about the visionary businessman he is. From his point of view, of course, there was hardly any risk involved. He knew there was a market; I'm quite sure he simply viewed his task as the creation of a profitable design that would hit that market. Others, with products already in the market, had given them up. People went crazy about his design for a frontier-style revolver in 22 rimfire. The gun was cute, entirely functional and if everybody did not want one, so many people did want one that it didn't matter.

Thus, Ruger created another phenomenon that carried its full profit potential and went on unchanged for decades. This one could go farther.

That single-action revolver in modern dress eventually became a full exploitation of the possibilities inherent in the single-action handgun. Ranging from the dainty Bearcat to the massive Super Blackhawk in 44 Magnum and the percussion Old Army, Ruger has left few of the possibilities untouched.

There simply are not any useful revolver cartridges for which Ruger does not furnish a single-action revolver and, while he was at it, he made it work with a couple of semiautomatic pistol cartridges and one military carbine round.

Sturm, Ruger is not now making the Bearcat and the Hawkeye. Ruger himself says that it would not be proper to say they are out of production, even though he is not making any. And he also says that the reasons they are no longer available are pretty simple.

The Hawkeye, Ruger says, literally fell out of the catalog sometime in the Sixties by accident. It was left out of one catalog, and hardly anybody noticed, and it was left out of the next catalog, and so it has continued. Since Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc., is a business

concern, and discovered the lack of this extra product was having no reflection whatever in profits or sales, the sleeping dog was left to snooze.

The Bearcat was a slightly different story. Designs and preparations for the new single action, Ruger's patented revolution in the internal workings of the single-action revolver, were first prepared for the Bearcat. The drawings were all done and it was time to buy the tooling when it struck Ruger himself that perhaps the company did not need the Bearcat. His executives agreed, and so the drawings were all changed and the tooling revamped in order to apply the new model action to the Single Six. Since Ruger did not want to build anything in the single-action line except his new action, the Bearcat was dropped from the catalog, as had been the Hawkeye.

To an outsider, it hardly seems credible that such handsome products could stand or fall on such simple decisions, but that is the case in this case. It is characteristic of the Ruger line and has been ever since there was more than one product. The company can virtually turn on a dime, once a decision is made.

It is this that makes the collector of Ruger firearms an ever-optimistic soul. The permutations and variations will be, in the end, endless. Just the Single Six revolver itself could be a full-time effort for a dedicated fellow. There are a lot of those dedicated fellows and they have had formed for them the Ruger Collectors' Association, Incorporated (P. O. Box 290, Southport CT 06490) and this organization, which has no direct connection with the factory, is itself evidence of an unusual distinction. Few other gunmakers have had, within three decades of inception, an organization devoted to collecting their designs.

There were quite a number of very scarce collectors' items created more or less by accident in the early days of the Sturm, Ruger effort. The first, flat loading gate on the first Single Six marks one highly desirable collector's item; red heraldic eagles on Standard Automatics mark another collector milestone. Alex-

*Ruger's 22 Standard Automatic is a workhorse among the available 22 autoloading pistols. Most remarkably, its suggested retail price has not reached \$100 in a 30-year history.*

*The Single Six began the Ruger exploitation of the single-action design, and by itself, this model is a collector's specialty already. Shown here are blue and stainless models in both 22 Long Rifle and 22 Winchester Rimfire Magnum.*

ander Sturm died suddenly back there at the beginning. HO had designed the eagle and it appeared in red on Ruger firearms. As the sort of dramatic mark of his passing that only a literary history buff would think of, Bill Ruger ordered that the heraldic eagles turn black from that point on.

Concerning that eagle, Bill Ruger is not disposed to discuss it critically. He has been quoted as saying he “supposed it was rather Teutonic” and he is inclined to let the viewer decide whether it is in fact an eagle, which if you consider it heraldically it probably is, or a hawk, which has more commercial value. Whether or not it is an eagle, it is the Ruger trademark and is likely to remain so.

The design trail forks from the single-actions. Unravelling what happened then will be a major task.

By this time, Bill Ruger was in that most enviable of positions. He knew what he wanted to do and he had plenty of money with which to do it. The company was in business with a vengeance; it

was profitable; and he himself was hailed on all sides as one of America's resident geniuses. He could hire good designers; he could have done whatever he wanted to do; he had the energy and — as later events revealed — an untapped number of ideas still to go.

Somewhere in here, it was possible to take Sturm, Ruger and Company, Inc., public and sell shares, which was a successful venture in and of itself; gradually, during this period, were evolved those methods of doing things and doing business that have become since typically Ruger. On his own — without the company money; that is — he was even able during this time to indulge himself to the point of designing and building prototype automobiles.

Bill Ruger has said of Alexander Sturm something like this: “He believed that all human progress stopped somewhere in the 12th Century.” Of Bill Ruger, it is possible to say he believes automobile design reached its pinnacle in the late 1920's. This writer can think of

no other reason why there is a Bentley 1920's touring car in Bill Ruger's garage, a touring car covered — the whole coach — in simulated black leather. That Bentley sits alongside a Ruger — built from wheels up by Ruger, that is — touring car covered in black vinyl (or, doubtless, something much better than vinyl that looks like vinyl) that if it were not named Ruger could be named Bentley USA.

Cars aside, having established Ruger as influence in the sporting handgun market, the next step, commercially, was into shoulder arms. Many ideas were in early ferment, but those that rose to the top at this time were shoulder guns.

Ruger moved into long guns, shoulder arms, with not quite the bold strokes of the 22 Standard Automatic and the single-actions. Still, the thread of tradition and practicality combined was there.

That first shoulder gun was the 44 autoloading carbine, which has had several names over its history, but was conceived to be and built to be a deer hunt-

er's version of World War II's M1 carbine equipped with touches that go farther back in history than World War II. It was and remains a compact fast-moving brush gun. It was and has been chambered only for the 44 Magnum revolver cartridge.

Four years later, its rimfire twin came along, the 10/22. The 44 autoloader undoubtedly paid its own way, but it has not been the runaway success of other Ruger designs. The 10/22, on the other hand, is widely considered to be in the first rank of 22 autoloaders, a position it owes to its very practical handling qualities and its unique and most excellent 10-shot rotary magazine. 10/22's do not bobble, and they shoot very well.

There seems to be a fascination for William B. Ruger, Sr., in some of the details of 19th Century military arms, particularly carbines. He has a penchant for styling the sporting firearms with the barrel bands of yesteryear. The 44 autoloader and 10/22 had those early;

*The solid center of the Ruger accomplishment might well be the return of the centerfire single-action as the sportsman's using sidearm. With his 22 established, Ruger introduced the Blackhawk models, now available in 38-357-9mm, 41 Magnum and 45 Colt-45 ACP, as well as 30 Carbine.*

the Number 3 carbine, developed much later, has this same feature. These are not styling details so much as they are reminiscences, and no outsider will ever be able to tell whether they have a sales purpose or simply a personal purpose.

It is worth saying here that public though the corporation may be, and vast though its enterprises may stretch, William B. Ruger, Sr., retains as much personal influence in his company as Henry Ford ever did in his company or Edwin

*The big one — the Super Blackhawk — replaced a regular Blackhawk in 44 Magnum. Undeniably, the larger grip frame, trigger guard and imposing bulk of the 7½-inch-barrelled Super Blackhawk makes the 44 Magnum cartridge easier to handle in it than any other available factory arm.*

Land in his. Apart from being the boss, personified, Bill Ruger has been right so many times about what the gun public will like and buy that literally no one is in a position to argue with him. There can be discussions and there often are, but in such matters of taste there can be no argument. Therefore, some things happen the way they happen because, as factory people say, "That's the way Bill wants it."

The rifle story at Ruger continued through the Sixties and the outstanding development, the full and complete exploitation of Ruger's sense of tradition and appreciation of the fine arms of the past, is the Ruger No. 1 single shot rifle.

There will one day be whole books written about this single model. There have already been reams of praise, some of it appearing in this very journal, on the elegant conception the gun really is. No one has pointed it out, but one advantage of a single shot rifle is the simplicity with which a manufacturer can make one for almost anybody's need or taste.

From the beginning, Bill Ruger gave his No. 1 several stock designs, several barrel contours, several appeals to several markets. There is the heavy-barrel model, all suited up for deliberate shooting; simultaneously, with the selection of a slimmer forearm and shorter and lighter barrels, a quick-response sort of sporter was possible; and with heavy barrels, recoil pads and heavy calibers, the No. 1 becomes an elephant gun.

Through all these changes, in any guise, the No. 1 remains a handsome specimen of a firearm. There just isn't anything wrong with any of its lines in any of the possible combinations. And there were possible combinations almost beyond measure. As this is written, Ruger chambers one version or another of the No. 1 for 14 different cartridges. Without any research whatever, this writer can think of several cartridges not on that list for which the No. 1 has been chambered in the past, including 222 Remington and 308 Winchester.

All was not tea and crumpets with the introduction of the Ruger No. 1. The

*The Hawkeye (top) fell out of the catalog, but not because it didn't work. In 256 Winchester, the unique single shot pistol could do the job. The Bearcat (below) eventually became also a Super Bearcat, but even the heavier version did not make business sense in the Ruger sales picture.*

American Rifleman Technical Staff, for instance, reported a great deal of vertical stringing in its shooting of several Ruger rifles. Early production was apparently somewhat temperamental in this regard. That NRA's Technical Staff worked only with 10-shot groups, as opposed to almost everyone else working with 3-shot and 5-shot groups, probably contributed to this mild controversy. Some writers grumbled a bit about a need for follow-up shots in some kinds of game hunting as well. Certainly, there were early Ruger No. 1's capable of firing those desirable "bumblebee" groups. This writer saw one such, in 308 Winchester, repeatedly do so at the Fairfax Rod & Gun Club in Virginia early on. That particular rifle's happy owner would sit there through most of a hot morning, happily chuckling to himself, as he punched out tight groups with virtually any load he cared to concoct.

Over the long run, the sporting world went Ruger's way. There is little doubt that the friendly nature of the Ruger No. 1 — it carries very well and handles very positively — contributed to virtually every writer's finding some need or use for a Ruger No. 1 in his own armory.

Of course, many found the No. 1 the ideal wildcatting rig. It was simpler, somehow, to fit a Ruger No. 1 up with a new barrel, or rechamber it, or whatever, than it was to fool around with other styles of rifles.

All of those factors, rooted in the solid good looks of the gun itself, made the No. 1 go. Any number of following single-shot designs will owe their even-

tual success, if any, to the trail blazed by this Ruger-styled, handsomely manufactured 19th Century rifle.

Having re-established the single shot rifle in the United States virtually single-handedly, Ruger filled in behind his own design with a simpler and cheaper model he called the No. 3 Carbine. While it has offered nothing like the variation of the No. 1, it, too, has been available in car-

*The Old Army, first in blue and then in stainless, swiftly became the darling of the black powder sixgunner. In muzzle-loading matches for revolvers, it is the gun to beat on the line, and the stainless model is regarded as the muzzle-loading outdoorsman's best choice in a sidearm.*

tridges other than those for which it is currently chambered.

Like the No. 1, the No. 3 is a friendly gun in the hand. It is light, short and more than sufficiently accurate. It more than sufficiently kicks, too, in its heavier calibers, but that is not a function of the design. No 6-pound 45-70 has ever been really comfortable on the shoulder.

From the long view, it might be useful to observe that the No. 1 rifle and the No. 3 carbine introductions mark the end of a period when Ruger was depending on the wellsprings of tradition in America to form the basis for his designs. Certainly, up through that point, every Ruger product had, visually and practically, an easily discerned, indeed transparent, tie to some valid facet of the past.

The Standard Automatic, although aimed at the biggest-selling piece of the handgun market, nevertheless fulfilled the Colt Woodsman role and looked a little bit like a Luger. The single-actions, one and all, trace themselves to one or another great gun of America's past.

Even the Hawkeye, from this standpoint, was an innovative treatment of an existing firearm, much as both Colt and Smith & Wesson had provided six decades earlier with their revolvers. The 44 and 22 carbines had their visual link with history; the No. 1 and No. 3 rifles were direct recreations of what William B. Ruger (B., by the way, stands for Bannerman) considered the absolute best of the 19th Century.

Now, the design basis changed.

The next gun was the M-77 bolt-action sporting rifle. This design cuts its own trail, even in its wood work. Much is made in the catalog of the "classic standards" of the Ruger M-77 rifle's stock. However, this stock does not recreate any factory stock of the past, but rather is carried out on what once were the private lines of the best custom stockmakers of North America. In fact, one of the best custom stockmakers of North America was in charge of the stocking program in Ruger's New Hampshire plant.

Before the M-77, Ruger was largely finding holes in the market place and

developing sound firearms to fill them. He was very successful at this. With the M-77, he went head-to-head with an entire industry. Virtually everybody makes a bolt-action centerfire sporting rifle, which means two things — a lot of bolt-action sporting rifles are sold, and it is a very competitive field.

Ruger put together a number of distinctive design features, including built-in scope mounting bases, a diagonal bedding system, even a most unique bolt handle at the beginning. The shotgun-style tang safety and trigger guard release for the magazine floorplate are both styled in what had hitherto been custom fashion.

The Ruger ability to turn on a dime was shortly demonstrated. When people objected to the flat bolt handle, it was changed. When people began to comment that the integral scope mounting system did not permit them full freedom to exploit their own desires, Ruger offered what is called the round top receiver. This makes the design unique in catalog offerings in this country. There is the integral base receiver in two lengths, magnum and short stroke, and for those who demand it, there is a round top receiver in magnum length only. Surely this circumstance alone, with its attendant inventory problems for all involved, is evidence of a desire to meet the market where it is, not where it ought to be.

That posture is reinforced by the fact that in the M-77, Ruger has demonstrated a willingness to please. Short runs of this rifle have been manufactured in such calibers as 250 Savage and 257 Roberts, as much as anything because they were nice ideas someone would buy.

There would be no way to prove the contention about to be made, but this writer is convinced that it is so: Those who know and own really good custom rifles and, to a degree, those gun writers who actually go to the tough woods from time to time, are great users of the Ruger M-77. Known to this writer is one fellow who owns 30 or 40 high-grade Browning rifles, and at least 30 high-grade custom rifles, including several by Jerry Fisher, Clayton Nelson, Ralph Bone and others

of that top level, who also makes a tough hunt in Alaska every year. His hunting rifles are a pair of M-77s — one in 338 Winchester Magnum and one in 7mm Remington Magnum.

This fellow, who is accustomed to shooting and handling the very best of current riflemaking, and who has no money reason not to use any other commercial firearm, or indeed any of his custom arms, prefers to use the Rugers. He does this because, as he says, they come closest — in a gun he can drop down the mountain if he wants — to what the best custom-makers provide.

Another friend, a fellow who spent a deal of time as a guide in Alaska and who shoots — or used to — an unconscionable amount of centerfire ammunition every year, is another Ruger user. “They work; they feel good; they are pretty light; I can afford to scratch them,” is his terse explanation of his choice of sporting arm on any occasion when he is just hunting for himself with nothing to write about or test.

Having established a presence in the sporting rifle market across the board, while staying well away from such diffi-

cult markets as the lever-action trade and the highpower autoloaders, Ruger moved again to where the going got tough.

In handguns, the solid U.S. market is the police market for medium double-action revolvers. That is where Ruger went, with the development of the Ruger Security Six, a most advanced double-action revolver design.

It was, of course, a 357 Magnum revolver. For crazy police purchasers, the gun is also available in 38 Special only, and a number of 9mm Luger examples have been made for overseas sale and military uses. Mostly, though, the Ruger Security Six is a 357, and nothing about its design or modification is allowed to ignore the fact that it is a full house gun.

At the same time, there are practical limitations on a service revolver meant to be carried in the leather day-in and day-out. The pure fact of the matter is that if you get much beyond 36 ounces, it really doesn't matter how great the gun is; it is too heavy. Curiously enough, very few combinations of the Ruger Security Six reach much over 36 ounces in weight, and those that do have 6-inch barrels or extra-heavy barrels.

*Now it's the Redhawk,  
the 44 Magnum  
double-action revolver  
long rumored. At 52  
ounces, and shown  
here as a factory  
prototype, the big gun  
has new guts, but the  
proven Security Six  
exterior, scaled up.*

*Going straight at the police market with a 38-357 4-inch revolver provides a long row to hoe, but Ruger's Security Six revolvers are well into it by now. Shown is the stainless 4-inch and the blued 2½-inch. The design works in all its varieties.*

In the ten years since Ruger introduced its double-action revolver, a wide variety of model variations have been produced, as might be expected. Again, the designs went where the market was. At about 35 ounces with a 4-inch barrel, the Security Six lends itself nicely to all the standard variations on the theme.

Early on there was the Speed Six, the first of which were actually dehorned — that is, had spurless hammers. The combination in this gun of a round butt,

smooth exterior and 4-inch, or 2¾-inch, barrels made a full-size 357 revolver as near a pocket gun as could be. In the other direction, a 6-inch barrel made a good uniform gun and, after a while, the 4-inch heavy barrel model became a favorite holster gun.

Ruger's double-action was shortly available in stainless steel, which added to its utility for policemen and outdoorsmen. The gun is available in both fixed-sight and adjustable sight models,

again illustration of a willingness to go where the action is.

Company literature is fond of saying that the Security Six represents “the first fundamental improvement in double-action revolver design in more than a half-century.” Certainly, the quick field

stripping, the genuinely solid frame, the forged barrel unit all do add up to an advanced revolver.

Out there where the going is tough, the gun has had considerable success in providing at least a challenge to earlier trademarks which have had the police market sewed up for the best part of a century. The design and the gun have earned their solid shooting success.

There is a peculiar form of sport called Practical Police Competition. This is largely an exercise in seeing how quickly and cleanly police officers who like to shoot can deliver wadcutter rounds to a variety of targets in a variety of conditions at several different ranges. PPC has become a hardware-oriented sport, and it is customary to build special revolvers with which to compete. One week before this writing, a successful PPC gunsmith told me that his latest two such revolvers weighed 64 ounces — each. To make a 38 or 357 revolver weigh 64 ounces takes some doing.

Of course, Colt Pythons and Smith Masterpiece guns got a lot of the early play. Now, they tell me, PPC competitors are starting to use Rugers. One reason, they say, is that they shoot a lot, these fellows, and even though they use mild loads, their guns have to be built to stand a lot of shooting and a lot of snapping. Reports are that the rugged Ruger design stands up to this sort of treatment better than the others.

In the real world, where guns are sold hundreds at a time to police departments, Ruger is making inroads on what was long thought to be the private property of Colt or Smith & Wesson. This is a long row to hoe, but the fact that almost every time the other companies bid on a police job, they have to bid against Ruger is strong indication that nothing is certain in this world.

With sportsmen and the police market well served, apparently Bill Ruger thought it was time to take a shot at the military market. The next development was the Ruger Mini-14, a semi-automatic 223 rifle. The gun is reminiscent of the Garand in exterior styling, but is not much larger than an M1 carbine.

*Ruger's first shoulder arm was the 44 autoloading carbine, designed for Eastern deer-hunters and admirably suited to that job. The gun has never, in Ruger terms, been a bestseller, but it has a solid place in the catalog and in retail stores.*

*The Ruger 10/22 autoloader has had several sorts of stocks and styling, but has always been a solid and reliable 22 rifle. Its unique rotary magazine is a marvel of mechanical certainty, making the gun a first choice for many.*

*With the Ruger No. 3 carbine, William B. Ruger's love affair with 19th Century military details, such as the forearm band, was once again nostalgically demonstrated. The gun uses the No. 1 action, provides single-shot certainty at lower cost.*

It has become the most popular rough-and-ready varmint gun out west, and is becoming a most popular police gun. At the factory one can find some astounding variations of the Ruger Mini-14, particularly in its full-automatic assault rifle character. It is done up with folding stock and short barrel and in full infantry small arms fashion, bayonet included. There are flash hiders and 30-round magazines and the full paraphernalia of the upto-date military kit.

One Ruger executive, who travels the world in search of sales, has a couple of pets of this nature. He is fully licensed and authorized to have such equipment, of course, but it is nonetheless startling to see a fellow in a business suit with a walnut-and-Parkerized-steel paratrooper's dreamgun. That particular Mini-14 has, as they say, all the goodies — full automatic change lever, flash hider, folding stock, heavy-duty web sling, pistol grip, 30-round magazine. Those features add up to — in these troubled times across the seas — the highest fashion in friendly persuasion.

The point is that the Mini-14's design would stand all of those modifications and more besides. There are doubtless Mini-14's around prepared to fulfill the BAR role in a rifle squad; someone, somewhere is probably fitting them with noise suppressors and sniperscopes for sniping and night raids; certainly, there are people outside the factory immensely concerned with accurizing and wildcatting the Mini-14. The gun has been as

much through the mill as any gun can without going through a major war and has not come up short.

With all those products digested, Ruger has gone back to the sportsmen with an over-under shotgun, possibly the most highly regarded new introduction in a shotgun in a couple of decades. The 20-gauge gun deserves the praise, being quite the handsomest boxlock over-under on the market. Production has not at this writing caught up nearly with demand, but that notwithstanding, Ruger has introduced a 12-gauge version this year. It can be expected that it will be some time before the 12 is in anything but a back-ordered position.

At this writing Ruger has made only a small dent in the shotgun field. They have a saying in the Ruger plant that "we are learning to make" whatever gun is newly at hand. They now believe they have learned to make shotguns. That means, if past experience is any criterion, that Ruger may soon commence to make shotguns faster than anyone believes they can.

That is the common thread of all of that industrial endeavor at Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. In the beginnings, hardly anyone was welcome inside the doors of the Ruger manufacturing facility. The company was making extensive use of investment castings, and of every other new industrial technique that promised speed and precision.

These days, the secrets are no longer top secrets and anyone who does get the chance to walk through the plant could

*The stunning visual simplicity and traditional beauty of the Ruger No. 1 rifle made it a fast runner from its introduction. As did the originals, the single-shot offers conformations to suit any purpose. Shown here are a standard No. 1S and a No. 1 Tropical — an elephant killer.*

undoubtedly uncover any number of innovations. There are details that might constitute a competitive advantage for someone who saw them, various modes of drilling revolver cylinders, welding shotgun barrel ribs and the like.

Those are not important.

What is important is the speed with which these plants seem to be able to make any of the kinds of guns they make. The cost of tooling is apparently not an outsize factor in Ruger planning if that tooling will make it happen fast.

Make no mistake that fast equals sloppy. Recently, I had the chance to watch a man broaching the cut at the bottom of the Ruger double-action revolver frame into which the trigger guard fits. I don't suppose it took 20 seconds per piece,

and that is a fair-sized cut. The matching contour on the trigger guard is cut with a computer-operated mill. What the computer does I do not know, but the human operator of the broach gauged every tenth piece or so.

The people in charge of the factory think they really know how to make double-action revolvers now. They are looking forward to the next one, the Ruger Redhawk, which is an outsized relative of the Security Six in 44 Magnum. They are moving up to its introduction at break-neck speed and to a degree it is devil take the hindmost in the factory. That is, barrel men try very hard to beat parts people, for instance, and then say "Ours is ready; where's your stuff?" All concerned feel there just are no big problems in conjunction with making double-action revolvers and they do not believe that, once they have decided exactly which double-action 44 revolver they will build, there is going to be any problem in timely delivery thereof.

Anyone who has a current Ruger catalog or has been watching the company advertising knows that Ruger sells something that is not a gun — the Ruger Practical Holster. Behind that one, there is quite a tale.

First, of course, the Ruger Practical Holster is by no means the first non-gun to wear the Ruger name. Before the firearms company got started, Ruger had plans to make — and did make — hand-tools, notably a hand drill, one, naturally, with a pistol grip. That all went by the boards, of course, after the Standard Automatic became a success.

No, the Ruger Practical Holster hangs from a different hook. The holster itself is a no-nonsense cover-up piece of leather, made by Bianchi for Ruger, designed safely to hide a single-action revolver, especially those single-action revolvers which Ruger now calls "old-style." By "old-style," Ruger means a gun that functions in the same manner that single-action revolvers have functioned since before 1851. The original Colt model of 1873, a gun which served as a sidearm in the U.S. Army over several tough decades, was never, over

that whole period, carried by anyone who knew what he was doing in any fashion but with the hammer down on an empty chamber. The simple fact is that given the basic layout of the gun, a live round under the hammer in carrying position is not a good idea. If the gun is dropped or the hammer struck a hard blow, the lockwork can malfunction and the gun fire.

That really ought to be news to no one, given the age of the design and the widespread use of the design. However, we live in a new world, a world where everyone is responsible for everyone else, or so the courts are holding. In the product liability business, the old-style single-action is itself a liability, or so it may prove for Ruger. It is no secret that the company has been sued by people who hurt themselves through the agency of a Ruger revolver. In the climate of the times, that is enough, in many courts.

This creates a remarkable number of problems for industrial management of all kinds, and has done so for the management of Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. At the moment, the Alaska Supreme Court has found that the one enormous award made to a claimant was excessive. Hopefully, that is the turning of a tide, but whether the tide turns or not, the Ruger Practical Holster remains in evidence. Ruger does not intend for people to be hurt while using its products and has

*Departing from tradition and enhancing it at the same time, the Model 77, shown here in varmint and standard persuasions, hit the right chord among those U.S. riflemen who like classic American styling of the best custom gunsmith persuasion in an economical and reliable bolt-action sporting arm.*

*The action, immaculately conceived and manufactured, is the core of Ruger's Red Label 20-gauge, the firm's first shotgun. It was, rightly, possibly the best-received new design in shotguns in decades and production has not yet caught up with demand.*

**Top Left:** *Military arms were William B. Ruger's first design objectives. The Mini-14, shown here as a sporter, is well on the way to realizing that dream. Aside from those plain citizens who responded to the early ad slogan "The most expensive plinker on the market," foreign governments and police organizations have put the Mini-14 in several design combinations, including full-automatic versions, into heavy production.*

**Top Right:** *Now there will be a 12-gauge Ruger shotgun, and it is likely that the conventional model shown here will be made the standard. The other model is also a contender at the Ruger factory and its "bar-in-wood" styling makes it a handsome eye-catcher indeed. Eventually, Bill Ruger says, that model will also be produced.*

taken the route of providing an entirely suitable and safe holster as one means of avoiding this.

The Ruger Redhawk will be the 15th Ruger design to reach acceptance in the market place. Most of them — indeed, all of them — are photographed here. These days Bill Ruger points out that he doesn't draw anymore, and that a staff is there to do the designing. In the literal sense, that is true, but if you have seen him approving one detail after another while in the factory, you have to believe the designs of Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc., are still the brainchildren of William B. Ruger, Sr.

There is nothing iconoclastic in what one has to think of as a typical Ruger design. The man is an historian, and he can trace the threads of mechanical design as well as anyone. He innovates, but he innovates to get a more solid version of what went before, not something new for the sake of newness. The Standard Automatic was just a different way to build a gun that felt and acted like the best of previous such guns. That, in fact, is a description of every Ruger design. Each is a profitable version that incorporates the best characteristics of the good guns that have gone before.

When it is necessary to come up with something new in order to solve a particular problem, William B. Ruger, Sr., has been able to do it. Making the single-action lockwork a coil-spring powered system was an improvement; then redesigning it completely to get away from its shortcomings constituted genuine innovation. The very, very simple lockwork and timing mechanisms of the Security Six revolver are made to seem somewhat complicated by the greatly improved and simplified lockwork of the Ruger Redhawk. The safety interlocks and transfers of the forces within the Ruger Red Label shotgun make it at least as safe as any shotgun ever built. The list of similarly important features is too long to give here, but those who know Ruger guns will see the point very clearly indeed.

There have been 30 years of good gun designs, considered from any point of view anyone interested in firearms cares to take. They have now stood the test of time and the test of shooting, and the designs have made the company prosperous and William B. Ruger, Sr., very properly, rich.

Ruger guns work. That is the first and the best thing one can say about any good gun.



# SHOOTING RUGER'S REDHAWK

Nothing so simple as scaling up the Security Six – Ruger has come up with a whole new revolver in 44 Magnum

by KEN WARNER

**I**TS ENORMOUS. The Ruger Redhawk is here and it's big. The new double-action Ruger design in 44 Magnum offers lots to talk about, but the first impression is: It is a *very* large revolver.

The statistics bear that out. The stainless steel toolroom sample we shot weighed 52 ounces with a 7½-inch barrel. It sports the biggest double-action revolver cylinder now made, something Bill Ruger is finally convinced is a fit container for the very serious 44 Magnum round.

I once built a revolver to be bulky and heavy. I rebarreled and changed the cylinders in a Model 1917 Colt and wound up with a 53-oz. 357 Magnum, for what reason I don't remember except I thought that's what I needed. I liked the gun and I've always thought its size very impressive. It is not nearly as impressive as this new Redhawk.

The styling of the new gun is quite in line with the Security Six revolvers. The size of the cylinder dictates change,

of course, since the essential dimensions at the back end remain fairly constant, designed to fit the human hand. There are differences, but Security Six shooters won't find them very distracting.

At the moment, there are two versions of the Redhawk planned. As with other models, Ruger feels that a manufacturer stands his best chance of showing a profit by providing, within his limits, something for everyone.

The gun we've shot will be the "standard" Redhawk. It has a 7½-inch forged barrel, with integral barrel rib and cylinder pin protection. It is quite handsome.

The other model will be called the round barrel model, probably because it has a round barrel. There is no rib here, nor will there be an enclosure for the cylinder pin, but rather a stud welded to the barrel. It will be blue.

The reason for the round-barrel configuration is quite simple. With it, Ruger will be able to offer a 10-inch model for silhouette shooters and hunters, and

*This article was originally published in the 1980 edition of Gun Digest.*

a shorter barrel for other uses, without undue production problem. Personally, I think a 5-inch barrel would be ideal, but the betting right now is that it will be 6 inches.

Shooting the new gun is fun. It still provides all the fuss anyone could want, but experienced Magnum shooters will find it easy for repeat shots in either single-action or double-action modes. We didn't fool around "testing" a toolroom job, but you don't have to eat a whole egg to find out whether or not it tastes good. This one tasted good.

The insides of this gun fascinate William B. Ruger, Sr. He and his engineers have worked out new ways to move the power around inside, going so far in one case that they think they may get some free extra work out of the parts, notably including a spring which works in both directions.

The locking is complex on the one hand and simple on the other. There are both front end and rear end locks for the cylinder, the unlocking action up front made possible by some rather involved camming operating through the cylinder pin. It is ingenious.

In shooting, it also works like a charm. The double-action pull is remarkable; manual cocking is slick. The lock-work in at least the sample shot provides

*Toolroom sample of the other Redhawk-to-be shows round barrel, but will be blued steel. Bob Tibbets is a Ruger designer who worked on the Redhawk.*

*The Ruger Redhawk uses modern coil springs design instead of old fashioned leaf springs that are found in most modern revolvers. The revolvers also used a single spring for both the hammer and the trigger, and this meant that the force required to pull the trigger was higher than similar offerings from other manufacturers, and there was no way to adjust or correct this as it was inherent in the single-spring design.[*

a level double-action pull weight almost all the way through to firing. There is no stackup of force, nor does it load up at the beginning and taper off. This one went straight through.

Any further discussion of these intricacies is going to require a genuine expert sitting down with gun in hand and writing the description from direct examination. It does, in fact, seem to work just like Bill Ruger says it will.

He likes the insides; the outside fascinates me. This is a most impressive firearm. I want one.

*This is a happy Bill Ruger with a good gun in his hand on a fine morning.*



# RUGER'S 22 AUTO: THE FIRST 50 YEARS

by DON FINDLEY

*This article  
was originally  
published in the  
1998 edition of  
Gun Digest.*

**A**CTUALLY, IT ALL started more than sixty years ago because of a young boy's fascination with firearms and what made them work. And later came a young man's desire to design firearms, and his discovery of machine tools and what could be accomplished with them. All this led him to design and produce a 22 rimfire pistol. His was not a copy of someone else's ideas, but an original concept for a semi-automatic blowback pistol. This young man was William Batterman Ruger, who filed the first patent for his pistol design on November 5, 1946.

Ruger and partner-friend Alexander McCormack Sturm formed Sturm, Ruger & Co. in January of 1949. Ruger had a working prototype of his 22 pistol; Sturm had \$50,000 to invest. The two set up shop in a small wood frame building at 75 Station Street, Southport, Connecticut. Equipment was set in place, a small ad was placed in the American Rifleman magazine and, as they say, the rest is history.

A four-man crew, including Alex and Bill, began to produce components for the new pistol. The red grip panel medallions were actually hand-painted. Maga-

*Standard Automatic  
Ruger Pistol with  
original boxes, papers  
and Railway Express  
tag, serial number  
0194. Shipped  
October 6, 1949  
— first shipment.*

zines were converted High Standard HD Militarys. The grip frame was two metal stampings welded at the seams. Receivers were stock tubing with the 4 3/4-inch barrel screwed in, then machined for the ejector port, dovetail and such. A cylindrical breech bolt, which many believe to be Ruger's most accomplished design, fit therein. Pins were incorporated in the grip frame to pivot or retain trigger, hammer and safety, which locked the sear as well as the bolt for added safety. There was a hardened-steel main pin for connecting and fastening the receiver to the grip frame.

By August, a number of parts were machined, but it was October before enough components were produced to complete 655 pistols. Guns were polished and blued. Grip panels were black hard rubber with a medallion carrying the "eagle" logo designed by Sturm in the left panel.

Orders from the ad placed in the American Rifleman magazine were overwhelming. Checks and inquiries came in by the hundreds. Before the first gun was shipped, Ruger placed another ad in the Rifleman apologizing for anticipated delays in shipping guns to individuals who had sent in their \$37.50 for the Ruger pistol. The checks had been put away until shipments were ready.

In the very week the last of the original \$50,000 was paid out, 100 pistols were assembled and ready for shipment. The checks were cashed and Ruger has never had to go into debt to operate since. The first shipment was October 6, 1949. Guns were shipped via Railway Express in a small wooden shipping box known as a "salt cod" box. These boxes were produced by an outside contractor at a cost of 25¢ each.

Over 1100 pistols were produced and shipped that first year. With a favorable review in the NRA's "Dope Bag" and many gun orders yet to be filled, Sturm, Ruger & Co. was off and running. Ruger's design was a success, and so was the new company.

The next year, 1950, was a year of transition for the Ruger pistol. Minor

changes were incorporated, either to speed production or to improve on the pistol, or both. A new and improved bolt was designed and patented. And plans were made to offer a "target barrel receiver assembly" with target sights for use with the original pistol's grip frame. That idea was abandoned for a new complete target model.

Several prototypes of the new model were assembled in 1950 using Standard model frames and receivers with target barrels and micro rear sights installed. These were numbered X1 through X32. No target pistols were shipped, but over 9000 Standard pistols were manufactured and shipped in 1950.

The first of the new target models were shipped in 1951. These guns sported 6 7/8-inch tapered barrels with micro rear sights and blade front sights. The trigger was also improved. The new target pistol was called the Mark I and priced at \$57.50.

Prior to the introduction of the Mark I, the Ruger pistol was referred to by Sturm, Ruger and the press as the

*Enlarged here, this is the first Sturm, Ruger & Co. advertisement as it appeared in the August 1949 American Rifleman magazine.*

*Juilian Hatcher published a favorable report on the new Ruger pistol in the "Dope Bag" page in the November 1949 issue of American Rifleman magazine. The two pistols tested for this report were number 7 (top and number 0045. (Marlow photo)*

*Workers at the old Station Street factory, making final checks before testfiring Mark I pistols.*

"standard model"; henceforth, the Standard Auto.

With production running smooth and sales still steady, Ruger went off on a hunting trip to Quebec. He returned to find his partner in the hospital in serious condition with hepatitis. Days later, November 13, 1951, Alex Sturm was dead. In memory of his friend and partner, Ruger changed the grip medallion logo from red to black. Approximately 25,500 pistols had been shipped at this time.

Production continued, of course, with Bill Ruger to run the company alone. A new model of the Mark I was introduced in 1952 with a heavy, tapered 5 ¼-inch barrel. A muzzlebrake was offered in 1954. As an alternative to the 4 ¾-inch Standard Auto, a 6-inch version was added to the line in 1954 at the same price as the original model.

The Mark I with 6 ⅞-inch barrel was chosen by the U.S. military as a training weapon in 1956, and 4600 Mark I target pistols were shipped to the U.S. Ordnance Department that year. These guns were marked U.S. on the receiver. Shipments to the government continued in smaller quantities through the summer of 1963.

The small plant on Station Street was soon too small to handle the activity of dozens of employees, materials coming in, and guns going out.

Ruger had expanded his firearm line with single-action revolvers starting in 1953 and was now working on a 44 carbine rifle. As guns were manufactured, they were shipped. There was never a surplus or stock of firearms waiting to be sold — the supply never met the demand. Sturm, Ruger moved to a larger plant in 1959, still in Southport. The next year that facility was again expanded by half.

A 5 ½-inch bull barrel Mark I was introduced in 1963. Custom pistolsmiths had offered this after-market conversion for years with much success. This latest model was long awaited by both the serious target shooter as well as the occasional plinker. Walnut grips were offered a couple of years later, checkered for the Standard Auto and checkered with

*Standard Auto number 3, the first firearm marketed by Sturm, Ruger & Co. — summer, 1949. Serial number was hand-stamped. Originally owned by a factory employee. (Marlow photo)*

thumbrest for the Mark I.

By 1977, Ruger employed over 1000 people. On the company's 30th anniversary (1979), the 1,000,000th Ruger 22 auto pistol was produced. To commemorate thirty years of continuous firearms design and manufacture, Ruger planned to offer a stainless commemorative pistol. Unforeseen problems arose in producing the Standard Auto in stainless. Produc-

tion was slower with the change in metals, and the project ran into later years. The stainless pistols were ready to go by

*This single sheet introduced the 22/45 in 1992, in a style not quite so understated as such ads once looked.*

*This prototype Mark I is number X13, generated during 1949 and 1950.*

*Standard Auto number 10003 is one of only a few Ruger 22 pistols chrome-plated at the factory. Original owner of this one was Justin Sturm, Alex Sturm's father.*

*The last pistol produced in the original Standard and Mark I series in December, 1981, was this Mark I, number 80344.*

*One of four Standard Auto pistols engraved and gold inlaid by Ray Viramontez for Ruger in celebration of the production of 1,000,000 22 automatic pistols, 1979. The 1,000,000th pistol was donated to the International Shooter Development Fund, auctioned in 1980 for \$27,200.*

(Marlow photos)

*The last 22 semi-automatic Ruger pistol, a civilian government target model, produced in Southport, Connecticut. Pistols manufactured after this serial number — 217-61259 — originate from Prescott, Arizona. (Marlow photo)*

*Ruger Armamex number R1054 in the factory collection. All markings applied in Mexico. Left side: "RUGER-CAL .22 L.R.-ARMAMEX, MEXICO"; right side: "Hecho EN MEXICO".*

*Letter from Alex Sturm, along with pencil drawings for a possible logo for Gun DIGEST, to Milton Klein, then publisher of Gun DIGEST. Sturm was an accomplished easel painter, writer and heraldry expert.*

mid-1981. They were offered in 1982 in a limited run of 5000 pistols. They were, officially, the “1 of 5,000” Signature Model. They were stainless with a stainless magazine. Special markings include “1 of 5,000” and a likeness of the maker’s signature, “William B. Ruger.” Grip panel medallions are red for the first time since Sturm’s death, just for this special run. Guns were packaged in a red cardboard box inside a wood replica of the original “salt cod” box.

The Ruger auto pistol line had been the cornerstone for Sturm, Ruger & Co. since 1949. Sales had risen from just over 1100 pistols in that year to over 50,000 per year by 1981. Ruger discontinued production of the Standard Auto and the Mark I in late 1981. The replacement would be a redesigned version, the Mark II. Advertising began for the new Mark II in January of 1982, and pistols were on sale that same year.

The new Mark II featured a redesigned grip frame that included a mechanism to hold the bolt open after the last shot, a modified safety and a new ten-shot magazine. The most noticeable change was the scallop machined at the rear of each side of the receiver to enable the shooter to get a more positive grip on the bolt. The 1982 Ruger catalog showed four

different models — two target models and two with fixed sights. Barrel lengths were 4 ¾ and 6 inches for the fixed-sight guns, and 6 ⅞- and 5 ½-inch bull barrel for the target pistols, polished and blued with grip panels of black plastic or wood.

Stainless pistols were soon to follow. New barrel lengths were also added, a 10 ½-inch bull, a tapered 5 ¼-incher as well. A 6 ⅞-inch bull barrel model was perfected in 1984 for test trials for a new government training pistol. Tests were positive, and several thousand units were produced and shipped that year. All were marked U.S. over the chamber before shipment. Tests were so positive on the government pistols that a civilian model was offered.

In July of 1991, all manufacturing operations at the Southport plant were terminated. The last pistol to come off the line in Southport, after forty-two years of continuous production, was a stainless civilian government model, number 217-61259. Pistols produced after this date and serial number would originate in Ruger’s new plant in Prescott, Arizona. Models to come out of Prescott would include the new 22/45, a 22 auto pistol with the grip frame modified to simulate the feel of the old 45 Colt 1911. The grip frame is injection-moulded of carbon

**Table 1: 22 Auto Pistol Variations**

Model/Barrel Length	Serial No. Range	Date	Remarks	Value NRA Ex. Cond.
Standard Auto/4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	1-34000 [numbers 0661 to 1999 not produced]	1949-1951	Red logo medallion in left grip panel.	\$300+
Mark I target/6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	15000-16999 25000-25250	1951	Red logo medallion in left grip panel. Micro rear sight.	\$450
Mark I target/5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	27600-29999 73290-75600	1952-1957	Micro rear sight.	\$500
Standard Auto/4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "-6"	R1000-R1250	Mid-1950s	Standard model components imported to Armamex, S.A., Mexico. Pistols assembled, roll-marked and marketed in Mexico.	\$1200
Mark I target/6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "	76000-79999 150000-1950000 301300-305800 328200-329200	1956-1968	"U.S." stamped on receiver. Not all pistols in these serial ranges "U.S." stamped. Check with factory for verification.	\$300+
Standard Auto/4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "-6" Mark I target/6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "- 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " bull	13-54600-14-10500	1976	All Ruger firearms produced in 1976 marked "MADE IN THE 200th YEAR OF AMERICAN LIBERTY."	\$25 over retail
Standard Auto/4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "	17-00000-17-05000	1982	Red logo medallion in right grip panel. "1 of 5000" marked on right side of barrel; "William B. Ruger" signature on left side of receiver. Special packaging.	\$450
Mark II target/6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " bull	210-00001- 210-18000	1984-1985	"U.S." stamped on receiver. Less than twenty in private collections.	\$1000

Values are for NRA excellent condition. Prototypes and one-of-a-kind pistols have been excluded purposely. "S" and "D" marked guns, for seconds and duplicate serial numbers, have also been omitted. These pistols are difficult to date and verify; check with Sturm, Ruger for verification. Production figures as well as shipping dates are approximate. Add 20 percent to the value of earlier pieces and 10 percent to late models for original boxes and papers. I have known of first-year-production autos in mint condition with the original cardboard and "salt cod" boxes and papers to bring over \$2000. Values are based on average recorded sales figures and are intended as a guide only.

*Standard Auto number 1130 was the only Ruger 22 auto produced between number 0661 to 1999. The others never happened.*

fiber-reinforced DuPont Zytel. A new stainless “slab-sided” target pistol, with scope rings and integral bases, was also designed in Prescott.

As in the early days, Bill Ruger remains head of the company he cofounded. Ruger is still involved in about every aspect of his company. Employee numbers have grown from four men in 1949 to an estimated 2000 today. Some workers from the ‘50s still remain on Ruger’s staff, as well as some sons and daughters of other workers. If you worked for Ru-

ger, your child had a more-than-good chance at employment there as he or she entered the workplace.

Sturm, Ruger & Co. has facilities in three states. Firearms produced range from the 22 auto pistol to shotguns, rifles and numerous other handguns, to casting plants that not only cast parts for Ruger’s needs but outside orders also. All this began fifty years ago in the frame building on Station Street with two young men and a dream. I look forward to the next fifty years.

### **COLLECTING THE RUGER 22 SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL**

The Ruger Collectors’ Association, Inc., was formed in 1975 by a small group of individuals interested in collecting Ruger firearms. Valid collectors’ information about Ruger arms and their variations was almost nonexistent. New variations were being discovered. The scarce and desirable models were being faked regularly. Legitimate variations (1975) numbered around two hundred in only a few years.

With the rise in Ruger collecting, books were published with detailed information on nearly every phase of collecting from long guns to handguns, and memorabilia to accessories. The Ruger collector/“historian” may have overlooked a great source for a wealth of information already published in old magazines, in factory advertising, and the like. Since the early years, Bill Ruger has had an excellent relationship with the guys who write the articles about the guns. One can get a sense from the articles, especially in the ‘50s and ‘60s, that these authors knew the man and were familiar with his products.



# THE GOOD OLD DAYS: 60 YEARS OF SIXGUNS

by JOHN TAFFIN

### RUGER BUILDS A SIX-GUN DYNASTY

*This article was originally published in the 2006 edition of Gun Digest.*

*Bill Ruger combined the success of the Mark I and the inspiration of the Colt Single Action in the design of the first Ruger single action, the Single-Six.*

The decade of the 1950s was the greatest period of six-gun development in the 20th century. Not only did Smith & Wesson introduce the Model 1950 Target and Military, the Highway Patrolman, the 1955 Target, the Combat Magnum and the 44 Magnum; and Colt the 357 Python and the return of the Single Action Army; but a whole new source of six-guns arrived on the scene.

In 1949 Sturm, Ruger started business on a small scale with an inexpensive

22 semi-automatic; during the 1950s the company would become a powerful force in the industry. The 22 Mark I from Ruger had been a great success and with so many people asking for the return of a single-action six-gun, Bill Ruger built upon his success with the 22 auto by offering the Single-Six in 1953.

The Single-Six maintained the same size and shape in the grip frame as the old Single Action Army, while the frame itself was downsized commensurate with the 22 Long Rifle cartridge for which the revolver was chambered. In addition to these features, Ruger modernized the action by using all coil springs. The stage was now set for Ruger's entrance into the big-bore six-gun market. In 1955, Bill Ruger took the basic Single-Six, enlarged the frame to Colt Single Action size, flat-topped the frame, added an adjustable rear sight matched with a ramp-style front sight, and the result was the 357 Blackhawk.

The 357 Blackhawk was eagerly accepted for the nearly indestructible, powerful, outdoorsman's six-gun it was. It was promised in 44 Special and 45 Colt soon, however as we related in the section on Smith & Wesson, the most powerful cartridge since 1935—the 357

Magnum—was about to be pushed aside by the advent of the 44 Magnum. Ruger's plans changed as far as chambering the Blackhawk in 44 Special, and instead the frame and cylinder were enlarged to become the 44 Magnum Blackhawk. By 1956, I had all three Ruger single actions: a 5 ½-inch 22 Single-Six, a 4 ⅝-inch 357 Blackhawk, and a 6 ½-inch 44 Magnum Blackhawk. If neither Ruger nor I had ever advanced past this point I still would have been in pretty good shape for the balance of my six-gunnin' life. However, no gun company has the option of staying the same. They either go forward, or slide back. Ruger went forward.

In 1959, Ruger improved their 44 Flat-Top Blackhawk. The barrel length was standardized at 7-½ inches, an un-fluted cylinder was fitted, protective ears were placed around the rear sight, and an all-steel dragoon-style grip frame with a square-back trigger guard replaced the Colt-style alloy grip frame. The extra weight and larger grip frame helped reduce felt recoil and the new Super Blackhawk was well on its way to becoming the number one six-gun among handgun hunters. The standard 44 Blackhawk would last until 1963, when it was dropped from production. The normal barrel length on the standard 44 was 6-½ inches; however, approximately 1000 each were made with 7 ½- and 10-inch barrels.

In 1963 another change was made. The Flat-Top 357 Magnum became the Old Model following the introduction of a grip frame allowing more room between the front strap and the back of the trigger guard, and protective ears around the rear sight as found on the Super Blackhawk. During the 1960s and early 1970s the 357 Magnum, built around a Colt Single Action-sized frame and cylinder, was joined by three other Blackhawks using the same size frame as the Super Blackhawk. The 41 Magnum arrived in 1965, the 30 Carbine in 1968 and the 45 Colt in 1971. This was the first time the 30 Carbine was offered in a revolver, and for the first time shooters had a 45

*During the 2nd and 3rd Generation Colt Single Action Army production, the standard barrel lengths were 4-¾, 5-½, and 7-½ inches; the 12-inch Buntline Special is no longer cataloged.*

*The 357 Flat-Top was offered in the standard barrel lengths of 4-⅝ and 6-½ inches, with the 10-inch version being very rare.*

Colt revolver capable of handling heavier loads than the Colt Single Action Army. It wasn't long before a 45 Colt load using a 300-grain bullet at 1200 fps became

*The Flat-Top 357 Blackhawks (left), were produced from 1955-1962; the Old Models (right), from 1963-1972.*

*A new era of single-action six-guns for the outdoorsman began in 1955 with the Ruger 357 Blackhawk.*



*The New Model (left) is safe to carry fully loaded with the hammer down; the Colt Single Action, Great Western, and three-screw Ruger MUST only be carried with the hammer down on an empty chamber.*

standard fodder for the 45 Colt, turning it into a true hunting handgun.

Since 1836 all single-action six-guns have shared the same basic action and, especially in the case of cartridge-firing revolvers beginning in the early 1870s, were only safe to carry with the hammer down on an empty chamber. This includes all Colt Single Actions, Great Westerns and Ruger three-screw models made prior to 1973. Ruger modernized the action of the single-action six-gun in 1953, and then 20 years later made

it much safer. The New Model Rugers introduced the transfer bar safety that allowed safe carrying of a fully loaded single action, as the hammer did not contact the firing pin when it was in the down position. With the advent of the New Model, the three screws in the right side of the Ruger mainframe were replaced by two pins, the Colt Single Action-sized frame of the 357 Blackhawk was dropped, and all New Model Blackhawks and the Super Blackhawk shared the same large frame size.

By the late 1970s, long-range silhouette was the number one handgun sport, and special revolvers were offered by several companies to meet the long-range requirements of silhouette shooters. In 1979, Ruger's 44 Magnum Super Blackhawk with a 10 1/2-inch barrel was found on firing lines all over the country; my wife and I used a pair of 10 1/2-inch 44 Super Blackhawks for several years. Four years later, the Super Blackhawk, including the 10 1/2-inch version, arrived in stainless steel and, if anything, has proven to be even more accurate than the blued version. Today both blue and stainless steel Super Blackhawks are available with 4 5/8-, 5 1/2-, 7 1/2- and 10 1/2-inch barrels—and they are very popular with hunters and outdoorsmen.

In 1982, one of the finest long-range revolvers ever produced came from Ruger, designed especially for silhouette shooters. The standard 357 Magnum cartridge case was lengthened by 0.30-



*Ruger's Bisley Model (top) uses a modification of the hammer, trigger, and grip frame of the original Colt Bisley.*

inch and the result was the 357 Maximum. Ruger's blued Super Blackhawk frame and cylinder were lengthened to accommodate the new cartridge and the combination proved exceptionally accurate. Unfortunately, some writers and shooters who did not understand the concept destroyed the project. The 357 Maximum was made to shoot 180- and 200-grain bullets at the same speed as the 158-grain 357 Magnum. When used this way the Maximum worked fine.

However, it did not work well with lighter bullets at high speeds, with one of the problems being flame-cutting on the bottom of the top strap. This did not happen with the heavier bullets. This revolver should still be in production.

*A classic single-action hunting handgun is the Ruger Super Blackhawk 44 Magnum.*

*A classic single-action hunting handgun is the Ruger Super Blackhawk 44 Magnum.*

*3233) The Old Model Blackhawks were offered in (counterclockwise from top right) 357 Magnum, 41 Magnum, 45 Colt, and 30 Carbine. The latter was offered only with a 7 1/2-inch barrel.*

*Two of the finest long-range six-guns, both with 10 1/2-inch barrels, from Ruger are the 357 Maximum and the stainless steel 44 Magnum. Custom stocks by BluMagnum.*

*One of most popular revolvers with both cowboy action shooters and outdoorsmen is the Ruger Vaquero, here in 45 Colt and stainless steel with leather by The Leather Arsenal.*

Many shooters, me included, did not care for the Super Blackhawk grip frame. For me it accentuates recoil as the angle is wrong and the square-back trigger guard raps my knuckle. Ruger looked at the Colt Bisley grip frame and Elmer Keith's #5SAA modification that combined the backstrap of the Bisley with the trigger guard of the Single Action Army and came up with their own design—which is probably better than either of the other two. The backstrap rides high in the back, and not quite as high behind the trigger guard on the Colt Bisley and does an excellent job of taming felt recoil. The Bisley Model, except for special runs

ordered by Ruger distributors, has only been offered in a blued 7 1/2-inch version in 44 Magnum, 45 Colt, 357 Magnum and 41 Magnum; the latter currently out of production.

In 1959 Ruger developed the Super Blackhawk as the best six-gun for handgun hunters. In 2002 Ruger went several steps farther. The standard 7 1/2-inch stainless steel Super Blackhawk was given a heavy ribbed barrel that accepted Ruger scope rings and the back of the square-back trigger guard was rounded off, the result being the Hunter Model. With its nearly instant removal or installation of the scope it is the number one hunting handgun bargain on the market today. It was improved in 2003 with the introduction of the Bisley Hunter Model; the same six-gun with a Bisley grip frame, hammer and trigger.

By the late 1980s and early 1990s, the number one handgun shooting sport in the country was cowboy action shooting, which required firearms made prior to 1899 or replicas thereof. In 1993 Ruger took their standard Blackhawk, removed the adjustable sights, rounded off the top of the mainframe, added Colt Single Action-style sights, and cowboy action shooters had the Vaquero. Its sales have exceeded all expectations and it is now the single-action six-gun most seen at cowboy action matches.

The Vaquero has been offered in both blue and stainless steel in 45 Colt, 44 Magnum, 357 Magnum and 44-40 with 4 5/8-, 5 1/2- and 7 1/2-inch barrels, however every barrel length has not been available in every caliber. A Bisley Vaquero is also offered with the two shorter barrel lengths, in 45 Colt, 44 Magnum, and 357 Magnum. The Vaquero is not only popular with cowboy action shooters but—especially in stainless steel and chambered in 45 Colt or 44 Magnum—has found a real home with those who spend a lot of time outdoors. Sights are filed-in to hit point of aim with a particular load, then the sights are never touched again.

In 1972 Ruger took another path with their first double-action revolver,



the 357 Magnum Security-Six, and in 1985, the GP100 in 357 Magnum replaced the Security Six. Both revolvers have subsequently been made in other chamberings and other versions. The action of the GP100 differs from the Security Six, as does the grip frame, as it has none. Instead, the GP100 uses a grip frame stud, which the grip wraps around. Between the introductions of the Security Six and the GP100 came the movie *Dirty Harry*. Clint Eastwood's portrayal of the 44 Magnum-carrying San Francisco detective in the early 1970s created a tremendous demand for 44 Magnum revolvers that Smith & Wesson could not meet—even when running their factory to capacity. Ruger looked at the situation and decided to build a 44 Magnum double-action revolver.

In 1980, the extremely strong, six-shot Ruger Redhawk chambered in 44 Magnum arrived. “Extremely strong” means it will probably handle heavier loads and handle them longer than the Super Blackhawk. It has been offered in both blued and stainless steel versions with 5 ½- and 7 ½-inch barrels and in 357 Magnum, 41 Magnum, and 45 Colt—in addition to the original 44 Magnum. It remains today only in 45 Colt and 44 Magnum, and in scope-ready models.

Seven years later Ruger introduced their second true big-bore double-action revolver, the Super Redhawk, using the grip frame stud of the GP100. The Super Redhawk is all stainless steel and scope-ready, with the choice of either a 7 ½- or 9 ½-inch barrel. It is unique among revolvers in that it has an extended frame that surrounds approximately three inches of the barrel. The Super Redhawk concept is definitely “function over form” as it is not a particularly attractive revolver. It is, however, very strong and very accurate.

The original chambering in 1987 was 44 Magnum. It is now also offered in both 454 Casull and 480 Ruger. The latter two chamberings are easily distinguished from the 44 Magnum

*Ruger offers both the Super Redhawk and the Redhawk scope-ready for the handgun hunter.*

*Single-action handgun hunters now have a choice of the Bisley Model Hunter and the Super Blackhawk Hunter, both scope-ready.*

model since, instead of a satin-brush stainless steel finish, they exhibit the Target Gray finish, which is achieved by using a different grade of stainless steel to accommodate the higher-pressure cartridges.

Ruger has been offering big-bore six-guns for half a century. They are virtually indestructible when handled with reasonable care, and will last longer than a lifetime.



# RUGER'S CHARMING CHARGER

Sooner or later, It had to happen; a handgun built on the legendary 10/22 action

by DAVE WORKMAN

*This article was originally published in the 2009 edition of Gun Digest.*

Perhaps it was inevitable. Eventually, considering the phenomenal popularity of the Ruger 10/22 semiautomatic rimfire rifle, somebody at Ruger was going to take that remarkable action and design a handgun around it.

It has finally happened, and the result is a terrific sporting pistol that seems to have been designed primarily for target shooters, but should have a long career as a small game handgun, provided there is one important addition to the basic design. I'll discuss that momentarily.

Ruger's 10/22 pistol is dubbed the Charger, and it certainly is that. Allow me to guarantee one thing right up front to get it out of the way before moving on the meat of this review: The Charger is a fun gun, and you will not be able to resist the urge to slap in an after-market 25-round Butler Creek banana clip and hose down a target with this new pistol. Get it out of your system right away and then sit down for some serious shooting that could ultimately put high scores

on your record at the range, and maybe some tasty meat in the pot.

My younger son, Josh, got involved in this evaluation and he went through two 25-round magazines quicker than I could load up a couple of factory 10-rounders. Before the evaluation was over, he wanted to do it again and again, causing me to conclude that the Charger lives up to the somewhat appropriate observation that one of my shooting buddies once had about the Ruger 10/22: "It's a lead hose." It is nothing to go through a 500-round brick of rimfire ammunition in one sitting with a Ruger semi-auto rifle, and I confess, it's just as easy with the Charger.

The Charger seems to have been well thought out; that is, it's a gun that was a long-time coming, and I have to believe that part of the reason is because Ruger designers wanted to make sure they delivered a pistol that is practical, functional and lives up to a sterling reputation.

With a 10-inch tapered barrel that

comes clean (no sights) from the factory, the Charger is fitted with a handsome gray laminate hardwood pistol grip stock that will appear radical to some, and well-designed by others. It has a wide forend with a QD sling swivel stud that was installed only for mounting the telescoping bipod that comes as part of the package. There is a palm swell on both sides of the pistol grip, a rather pronounced “beavertail” at the rear and an ample flare at the base. Perhaps not surprisingly, there is no checkering anywhere on this stock, though one might suggest it for the truly precision shooters to maintain a constant grip. One other thing to note about the laminated stock was that the barrel does not exactly float; instead having contact with the wood for about two inches out from the receiver. After that, the wood falls away from the barrel dramatically.

Empty and without the bipod attached, the Charger weighs 3 ½ pounds and it is 19 ¼ inches overall. It is because of that size and weight that there is literally no recoil when shooting this pistol. Ruger supplies a zippered gun rug/case that can be folded out and used as a shooting pad. This gun rug does not have carrying handles for some inexplicable reason, but it is roomy enough to house the Charger with bipod attached. It’s also washable, so if you get it dirty, toss it in the laundry to clean it up.

Because it is built around the 10/22 action, the Charger will accept any rotary magazine made for the popular rifle (in January 2008, Ruger announced that it had shipped the 5 millionth Ruger 10/22). It is quite possibly the most successful rimfire self-loader on the map, and certainly the most successful model with a rotary magazine.

My test gun (Serial # 490-01057) has a tough-looking black matte finish on the barrel and receiver, and it came from the factory with a Weaver-type base mounted on top finished to match the receiver. I quickly slapped on a Bushnell Elite 3200 long eye-relief 2-6x32mm pistol scope that is finished in handsome matte silver, and the contrast between scope, black Weaver Lever-Lock

rings and the matte finish of the gun was stunning. I have used this scope on other handguns, typically big bores with plenty of recoil and this model has never faltered. If it can handle that kind of punishment, I figured correctly that putting it on the Charger was not going to create a problem.

The only significant difference between the 10/22 rifle action and that found on the Charger is the magazine release. On the pistol, the release is a small lever that projects downward at the rear of the magazine well, while on the rifle (mine, at least ) there is a simple button to press. During the shooting sessions, I discovered that inserting the magazine seemed to require pressing this release lever.

As on all 10/22 models I’ve ever fired, the bolt does not remain open after the last shot, and when one locks the bolt back, it requires that a small lever behind the magazine and situated next to the release be depressed. I was especially impressed with the way the Charger’s grip seemed to fit my average-size hand, and the trigger let-off was crisp with no discernible creep.

What disappointed me about the Charger is something that can be remedied in about five minutes: It needs a rear QD sling swivel stud so that it may be carried on a sling for hunting. I don’t care that Ruger’s initial intent may have

*Ruger supplies a fully-zippered gun case with each Charger pistol. It’s made from rugged nylon, unzips to fold out, and is machine-washable.*

*A single screw in front of the magazine well holds everything in place.*

*Siblings: The Ruger 10/22 rifle has been around for many years, and the new Charger is a chip off that old block!*

*Author liked that hand-filling pistol grip with its flared base and palm swell.*

been to produce a very accurate pistol for target shooting from a bench, which the Charger surely is, but I do care that the designers of a gun with this one's inherent attributes somehow overlooked the hunting application. I'll give them the benefit of doubt here. It might just be that they were so busy making sure the Charger delivers the goods on all other levels that they simply forgot a lot of characters like myself just might want to bonk a bunny or a bushytail.

Where I live out in the West, this pistol would be considered well-designed for shooting grouse or rabbits in the head. In the Southeast or Midwest, I can see some enterprising squirrel or raccoon hunter filling his bag with this pistol, too.

I'll toss this out just to be able to say I did it: There is one other temptation that must be resisted like a date with a tax assessor: Under no circumstances should anyone pop the Charger's barreled action out of the stock and stick it into an aftermarket rifle stock, especially one of those with a folding butt. Do that and you are breaking the law.

But on the other hand, at some future

date, I can see folks at Ramline or Butler Creek perhaps coming up with an aftermarket stock for the Charger. I would be particularly interested in a synthetic replacement stock if I owned this pistol, because in my native Pacific Northwest, the monsoon climate through the winter would not harm a synthetic stock at all.

The Charger's barrel, cut with a 1:16-inch rifling twist, has a slightly recessed target-style crown, and I suspect this contributes to the pistol's accuracy. Once I got the scope adjusted, the Charger began delivering little tiny groups at 15 and 25 yards that convinced me of the gun's longer-range capabilities. I'd bet a patient shooter will be able to knock over metal rams and chickens, and punch other targets be they paper or live tissue, way out there at 75 and 100 yards, particularly when using something like Federal Match ammo.

With a variety of ammunition, the Charger never skipped a beat. I can say this with some certainty that my gun isn't an anomaly, but a typical sample because I've lost count of the number of rounds that have gone down the tube of

*It may not seem like the most comfortable rest, but lean against a wide tree trunk, and you can have a very steady rest on a knee with the Ruger Charger. Workman says that target shooters better not get too possessive, because small game hunters are going to want this gun in the field!*

*Goofy stance or not, the younger Workman demonstrates he's got some marksmanship in his blood.*

my Ruger 10/22 rifle without benefit of a cleaning patch, and I have a pal who has had three of them and burned through thousands of rounds and never cleaned them once.

That kind of service speaks volumes for the durability and reliability of the Ruger Charger's proven 10/22 action. I have never seen one of these actions fail, and that covers a lot of years, and a hell of a lot of ammunition under some awful conditions.

And speaking of ammunition, did I find a perfect cartridge for this pistol? Nope. I have a rather healthy supply of 22 Long Rifle ammunition from Federal, Winchester, Remington and CCI, and nothing malfunctioned. From subsonic to hyper velocity rounds, that faithful Ruger 10/22 action will digest them all.

For a smallbore precision metallic target shooter, the Ruger Charger is top-notch, and it is certainly in the price range of most shooters with an MSRP of \$369.50 at this writing. Once I had

the crosshairs adjusted in the Elite 3200 scope, it shot very consistent groups. It strikes me that the Charger could give certain single-shot 22-caliber pistols a real run for their money in a metallic silhouette match, with the advantage of not having to shift position for each subsequent shot, the problem with having to reload every time you press the trigger.

My advice is to get a couple of spare rotary magazines for the Charger and a few bricks of ammunition because you're going to need them!

<b>Charger Pistol</b>	
<b>Specifications:</b>	
<b>Manufacturer:</b>	Sturm, Ruger, Inc., 200 Ruger Road, Dept. GD, Prescott, AZ 86301; (520) 541-8820; <a href="http://www.ruger.com">www.ruger.com</a>
<b>Action:</b>	Semi-Automatic
<b>Barrel Length:</b>	10 Inches, 1:16-Inch Twist
<b>Magazine:</b>	10 Rounds
<b>OAL:</b>	19-1/4 Inches
<b>MSRP:</b>	<b>\$369.50</b>



### POWER & GRACE:

# THE RUGER SUPER BLACKHAWK TURNS 50

by DON FINDLEY

photos by CHRIS DUNCAN PHOTOGRAPHY

*This article was originally published in the 2010 edition of Gun Digest.*

*Every half-century or so, a new revolver comes along that changes everything. Ruger's Super Blackhawk is one of them.*

Remington Arms designed and perfected the .44 Magnum cartridge in the early to mid-1950s. Smith and Wesson produced the double action revolver to deliver it. S&W introduced their .44 Magnum double action revolver, later known as the Model 29, in 1956. That same year Sturm, Ruger & Co. produced the first single action in .44 Magnum, the Ruger Blackhawk.

The Ruger .44 Blackhawk was built around a cast chrome-moly steel cylinder frame and a one-piece aluminum grip frame. Unbreakable, high-quality music wire coil springs were incorporated throughout. An adjustable Micro rear sight was set flush in the heavy flattop frame. The front sight was a ramp style with an  $\frac{1}{8}$ "-wide blade.

The .44 Blackhawk was offered only with a 6- $\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel. The grip frame was anodized black; steel parts were polished and blued. Grip panels were varnished American walnut. The fluted cylinder had a six-round capacity. Empty weight

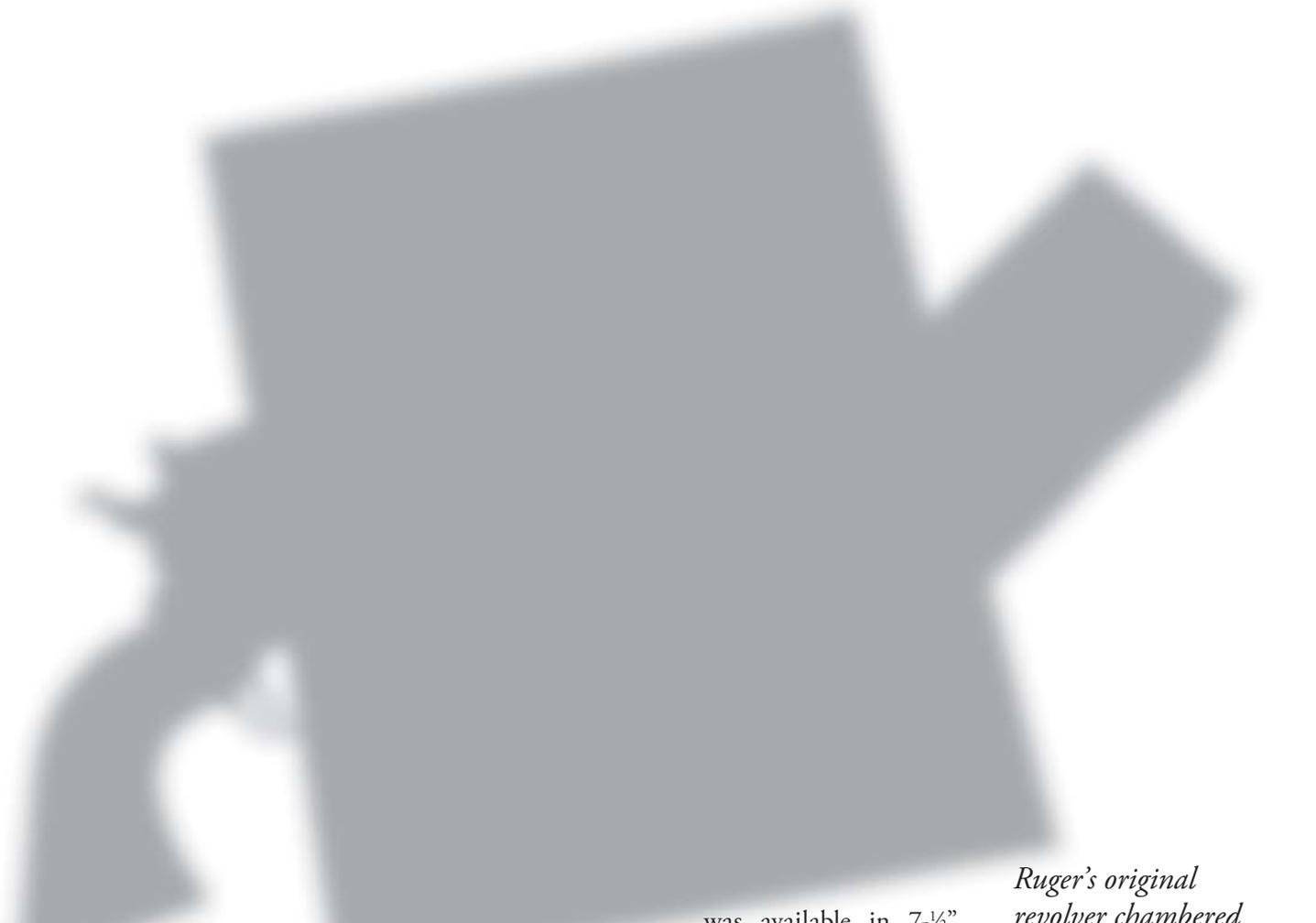
was 40 oz. and the retail price was \$96.00. The .44 "Flattop," as it was referred to, was a phenomenal success. Production could not keep up with demand.

Some arms "experts" complained that the .44 Blackhawk's grip frame was too small for the .44 Magnum's heavy recoil and that more room was needed for the trigger finger. Some said the gun was too light in weight; maybe a steel grip frame and a longer barrel for a better balance? By the summer of 1958, Sturm, Ruger answered some of their critics by offering the .44 Blackhawk in two additional barrel lengths, a 7- $\frac{1}{2}$ " (catalog code BKH47) and 10" (BKH40), along with the standard 6- $\frac{1}{2}$ " (BKH46).

Enter the Super Blackhawk

Sturm, Ruger & Company moved their manufacturing

operation from the small, wood-frame shop at 29 Station Street, Southport, Connecticut, in 1959 to an all-new modern facility at Number 1 Lacey Place (still in Southport). Ruger's first new



product produced at the new factory was an improved .44 Magnum single action revolver, designed for “maximum shooter comfort”: the Super Blackhawk. Like the original Flattop, the new Super Magnum was constructed of chrome molybdenum steel. New features included integral ribs designed to protect the adjustable rear sight as well as to strengthen the cylinder frame; a wide serrated target style trigger; and a wide-spur, low-profile, serrated hammer. The square-back, steel trigger guard, contoured to help control recoil, was a dragoon style with a little added room for the trigger finger. The six round cylinder was non-fluted.

The Super Blackhawk’s front sight was a ramp style with an eighth inch-matted blade. The rear sight was a Micro with an adjustable click screw for windage and elevation. Grip panels were varnished walnut with the Ruger logo medallion set in each panel. The Super Blackhawk (factory catalog code S47)

was available in 7-½” barrel length only. The revolver’s finish was polished blue and its overall weight was a heft 48 oz. polished and blued. Retail price was \$120.00. The Super Blackhawk came packaged in a cloth-lined, fitted mahogany case with brass hardware; serial numbers began at number 1. In the Super Blackhawk, Ruger had created a magnificent revolver engineered to better handle the powerful .44 Magnum, a gun whose graceful lines and perfect balance made the it a single action that set the standard for future arms makers to follow. The Ruger Super Blackhawk was truly a combination of power and grace.

The introduction of the new single action came in a factory letter dated August 19, 1959, to all Ruger distributors: “It is with genuine great pride that we announce the introduction of the Super Blackhawk revolver, the largest and most luxurious single action revolver ever made. Projected availability date; early October, 1959.”

*Ruger’s original revolver chambered for the powerful .44 Magnum, the Ruger Blackhawk (“Flattop”) with a box of Remington 1956 production ammunition.*



*First year  
production (1959)  
Super Blackhawk,  
the essence of  
power and grace.*

Gun writers had nothing but praise for the new Super Blackhawk. Captain Leo Milligan of Shooting Times and Country Magazine wrote, "The .44 Magnum Super Blackhawk incorporates the best features of every sixgun made since 1836." (Samuel Colt patented his first revolver in 1836.) Elmer Keith, the undisputed dean of single action shooters, wrote, "This is just about what I have wanted and worked for 40 years now in a single action and is by far the finest single action sixgun ever produced."

Though Ruger did not set out to manufacture their new revolver in varying configurations, a different variation was produced the first year, much to the delight of collectors. An estimated 300 guns were assembled with a longer grip frame,  $\frac{3}{16}$ " longer than the frame standard for the Super Blackhawk. In collectors circles these guns are known as "Long Frame Supers." These longer frame guns range from the very

first guns produced to the highest serial number recorded at serial number 3111. The longer frames were randomly installed and are mixed with Super Blackhawks with standard frames. For example, serial number 9 has a long frame, while number 10 was shipped with the standard frame. The grip panels on these long frame guns were stamped, on the back, with the letter "C." The longer frames were hand-fitted to the gun. Grip panels were also hand-fitted to individual frames (these grips will interchange from one long frame to another but in some cases the fit is less than perfect from one gun to another). The production of these few Super Blackhawks with longer frames was no doubt purely unintentional and as of today no one has come up with an official explanation for their existence. One can only speculate.

In a factory letter dated December 8, 1960, sales manager E.P. Nolan sent this notice: "The factory that constructed the mahogany cases was destroyed by fire. Super Blackhawks will now be packaged in a very fine paperboard case. To offset

the difference between boxes, the new suggested retail price is now \$116.00." The paperboard case was replaced by a red and black, two-piece box before the end of 1961. At about this time the finish was changed from the standard blued finish to a high polish "deep" blue. Earlier Supers had a more "dull" blue similar to the Ruger Flattops.

*Super Blackhawk as shipped with original two-piece, red and black box, 1970.*

*Front cover of the 28th Anniversary Edition, 1974 Gun Digest with artwork by James M. Triggs. Ruger's New Model Super Blackhawk with a cut-away drawing to illustrate safety features of Ruger's new line of single action revolvers.*

*One of the features of Ruger's new Super Blackhawk was a Micro sight with integral ribs, 1959.*

*Ruger's new .44 Magnum came with a wide spur, a serrated hammer . . .*

*. . . and a wide serrated target style trigger, 1959.*

By the end of 1962 the .44 Ruger single action was offered only in the Super Blackhawk. Ruger had discontinued the Flattop in both .357 and .44 Magnum. The walnut grip panels were now oil finished, and an unmarked aluminum sight replaced the Micro sight. The ejector rod housing was also changed from steel to black anodized aluminum.

Approximately 600 Super Blackhawks were shipped with 6-½" barrels (instead of the standard 7-½") in 1966. What happened was this: a number of .44-caliber barrel blanks were cut to 6-½" inches by mistake by a machinist who mistook them for blanks for the Blackhawk in .41 Magnum caliber. Instead of scrapping the barrels, Ruger installed them in Super Blackhawks and marketed them through Ruger distributors. These guns were never listed in Ruger's advertisements or catalogs.

## **THE BRASS FRAME SUPER BLACKHAWK**

The Super Blackhawk was listed in distributor price sheets, beginning in January of 1965, with your choice of a steel or solid brass grip frame. Catalog code for the brass frame Super was S47B. The retail price at that time was still \$116.00 in either brass or steel. If you wanted to install a brass grip frame on your Ruger single action, the brass grip frame (catalog code BRG) was offered as an accessory under "component parts" for \$20.00. Some fitting was required.

Although the S47B was listed in 1965, none was shipped until 1968, and only a small number was produced. They were dropped from factory price sheets by January of 1968. In a factory letter dated May 22, 1968, E.P. Nolan answered a customer's inquiry related to the availability of the Super Blackhawk with a brass grip frame in this manner: "Because of the demand for regular production items we were obligated, for simplicity reasons, to drop the S47B from our line." Because these guns were produced in such a small number (esti-

*Long Frame Super  
Blackhawk serial  
number 588, one  
of approximately  
300, 1959.*

frame was installed by  
the Factory and is not  
after-market.

*Super Blackhawk with  
factory-installed brass  
grip frame, 1972.*

The brass frame Super was  
produced again in 1972. Various  
other Ruger Blackhawks, along with  
the Old Army, were also produced in  
1972 with factory-installed brass frames  
at an additional cost of \$20.00 per gun  
(the cost of a Super Blackhawk was the  
same as one with a steel frame). Only the  
Old Army was listed in Ruger's advertis-  
ing as offered with the factory-installed  
brass frame. Production numbers, as in  
1968, were low in all models.

mated at fewer  
than 100) they  
are extremely  
rare. Before you pay serious money for  
a S47B, check with Sturm, Ruger's re-  
cord department to verify that the brass

## THE NEW MODEL SUPER BLACKHAWK

At Sturm, Ruger & Company, as  
a design is advanced from the drawing  
board to the "tool room" and eventually  
to the field for testing, efforts to improve  
the product never cease, often times even  
after the product goes into production.  
Starting in 1965 and continuing into  
1966, in an effort to create a safer hand-  
gun, designers at Ruger worked to in-  
corporate a "hammer drop proof safety"  
into their single actions. They were not  
able to come up with a practical design.  
In the late 1960s they renewed their ef-  
forts. These renewed efforts evolved into  
a totally new concept that eventually be-  
came the basis for Ruger's "New Model"  
single action.

In 1973 Ruger made firearm design  
history. Sturm, Ruger & Company in-  
troduced a line of single action revolv-  
ers that could safely be carried with all  
six chambers loaded, the Ruger New  
Model. For over 100 years, standard  
practice had been to carry your single  
action six-shooter safely with only five  
chambers loaded and the hammer rest-  
ing over the sixth empty chamber. The  
New Model eliminated this requirement.  
As the hammer is cocked on the Ruger  
New Model single action, a transfer bar  
comes into position between the firing  
pin and the hammer. The transfer bar  
system eliminates the possibility of an  
accidental discharge, even if the gun is

*Super Blackhawk with  
a high polish, deep  
blue finish, 1962.*

*One of 600 Super  
Blackhawks shipped  
with a 6-½ inch  
barrel, 1966.*

dropped. To rotate the cylinder, simply open the loading gate. When the gate is open the hammer cannot be cocked. When the hammer is cocked the gate cannot be opened, making an accidental discharge, while loading or unloading, virtually impossible.

Serial numbers for the New Model Super Blackhawk, factory code S47N, began at number 81-00000. The feel and balance were the same as on the older Super Blackhawks. The finish and quality remained the same. Gone, from the left side of the cylinder frame, were the familiar three-screw heads; replaced

by two hardened pivot pins. The New Model Ruger single action is the result of a brilliant concept and advanced engineering. In a 1973 new products review, American Rifleman magazine declared, "It is the best-designed and safest single action revolver to date."

2009 celebrates 50 years of continuous production for the Super Blackhawk. The New Model Super Blackhawk is now available in barrel lengths from 4 ⅝" to 10 ½" in both blued and stainless steel. The Super Blackhawk, in either the old or New Model, remains the essence of power and grace.

# Ruger Single-Action Grip Frames

By Bill Hamm

*Reprinted from the Gun Digest Book of  
Ruger Revolvers and with permission from  
the website [www.gunblast.com](http://www.gunblast.com).*

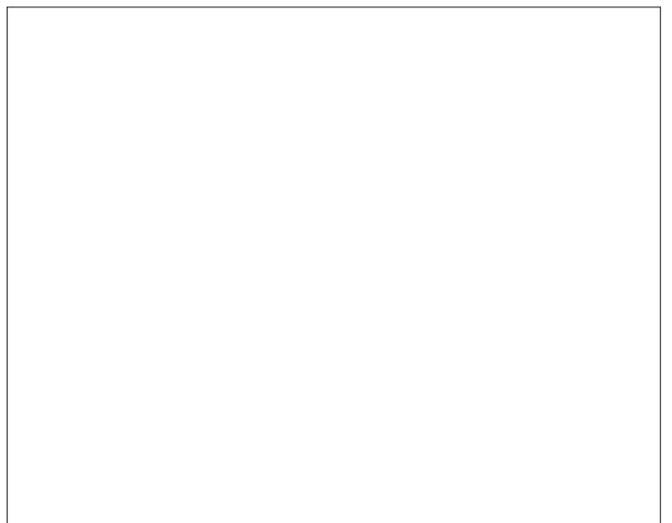
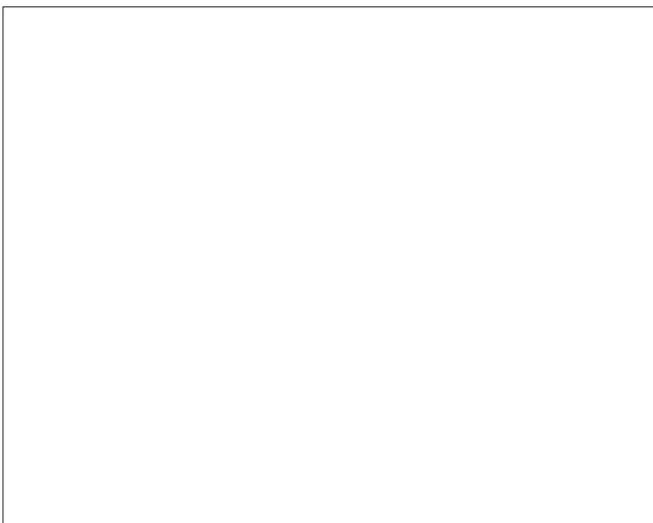
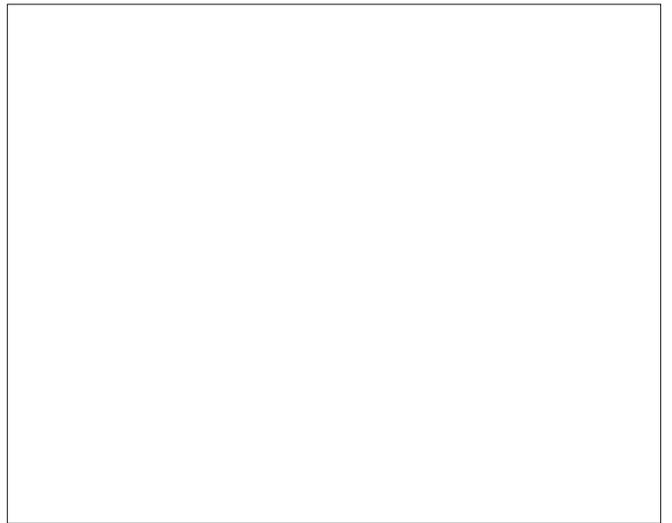
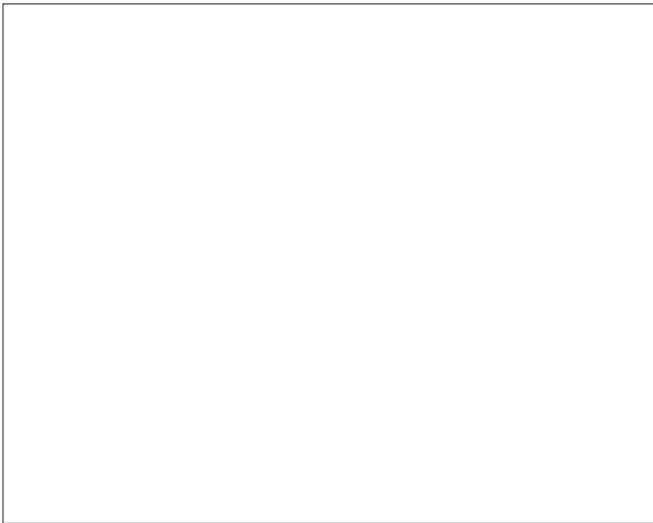
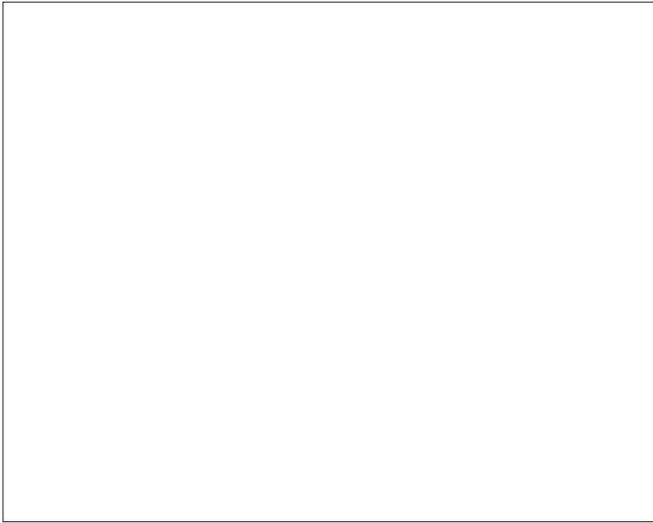
Introduced	Type / Marking	Frame Material/ Finish	Grip Panels	Production Status
1953	Ruger's first frame was the XR3. It was introduced on the Single-Six, same size as Colt SAA, marked "XR3." Had the maker, "Alcoa" on the frames. Also used on .357 and .44 "Flattop" Blackhawks.	Aluminum alloy, black anodized; aluminum alloy natural polished on most engraved Single-Sixes.	Black checkered hard rubber, varnished walnut, rosewood, available as an accessory stag and ivory. Above had black Ruger eagles. Also some experimental plastics, without medallions.	Discontinued 1962.
1958	Bearcat grip frame is integral to cylinder frame, early frames were marked "Alcoa" (Although normally hard to read) and have a PR-1 mark. The triggerguard is a separate part.	Aluminum alloy grip frame, black anodized. Triggerguards are brass anodized with a few black finish.	Resin-impregnated rosewood without medallions. Oil-filled walnut with silver/ aluminum medallions containing an impressed Ruger eagle.	Discontinued 1970.
1959	Super Blackhawk "Dragoon" style with square back triggerguard; no marking, some observed with a letter such as an "A"; about 300 early frames were ¼" longer than the standard frame, known today as "long frames."	Steel/blued.	Varnished walnut, oil-filled walnut with black Ruger eagle medallions. Beginning about mid-1971, the medallions were changed to a flat silver eagle.	Discontinued 1973.
1962/1963	Redesigned and replaced the original 1953 XR3 frame, marked "XR3-RED," also had the maker, "Alcoa," on early frames. Used on Single-Six, Super Single-Six, Blackhawk, Hawkeye, Old Army. Hawkeye frame had wider trigger slot to accommodate Super Blackhawk trigger.	Aluminum alloy, black anodized.	Varnished walnut, oil-filled walnut with black Ruger eagle medallions. Beginning about mid-1971, the medallions were changed to a flat silver eagle.	Discontinued 1972/73 (except for Old Army which was discontinued about 1985 when replaced with steel).
1966	Super Blackhawk Brass "Dragoon" style with square back triggerguard. Same dimensions as 1959 Super Blackhawk. Marked "MR-3DB." Initially for Super Blackhawks, then shipped on various Blackhawks, majority in 1972.	Brass.	Oil-filled walnut with black Ruger eagle medallions or the later flat silver eagle.	Discontinued 1972/73. In catalog for the Old Army until 1975.
1971	Super Bearcat, same dimensions as original 1958 Bearcat. No mark observed.	Steel, blued.	Oil-filled walnut with silver/ aluminum medallions containing an impressed Ruger eagle.	Discontinued 1974.

Introduced	Type / Marking	Frame Material/ Finish	Grip Panels	Production Status
1972/1973	Redesign of the Old Model 1962/63 XR3-RED for the New Model to accommodate new trigger spring and safety transfer bar. Same dimensions as Old Model XR3-RED. Marked XRN-3RED on black anodized and blued steel, KXR3 on stainless (began with Super Single-Sixes in 1974). Used on New Model Single-Six, Super Single-Six, Blackhawk, Vaquero, and 4 5/8- and 5 1/2-inch barrel Super Blackhawks.	Aluminum alloy, black anodized; steel, blued; stainless steel.	Oil-filled walnut, gonzalo alves, rosewood, and simulated ivory, all with the raised silver with black background Ruger eagle. Also simulated ivory with scrimshaw black eagle on Sheriff and other special models. In January 2003, cocobolo grips with the silver Ruger eagle but a red background are seen on the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Single-Six commemorative revolvers.	Current production.
1972/1973	Redesigned the Old Model 1959 Super Blackhawk "Dragoon" to accommodate new trigger spring and new safety transfer bar, same dimensions as Old Model, no mark observed. New Model Super Blackhawk, .357 Maximum.	Steel, blued; stainless steel.	Oil-filled walnut, gonzalo alves, and rosewood. Raised silver with black background Ruger eagle medallions.	Current production.
1975	1962/1963 XR3-RED frame produced in stainless steel for Old Army, marked KXR3. Introduced steel in 1985 for blued Old Army. Has wide trigger slot.	Stainless steel; steel, blued	Oil-filled walnut, rosewood, and simulated ivory. Raised silver with black background Ruger eagle medallions.	Current production.
1986	Bisley, a modified Colt Bisley style of a longer grip frame; no major mark observed. Used on Bisley and Bisley Vaquero.	Steel, blued; stainless steel.	Oil-filled walnut, gonzalo alves, rosewood, and simulated ivory. Raised silver Ruger eagle medallions.	Current production.
1992	New Model Super Blackhawk "Hunter" with round triggerguard, same grip panel size as standard Super Blackhawk, marked KHRN.	Stainless steel.	Green and silver, black and silver laminated wood. Raised silver with black background Ruger eagle medallions.	Discontinued 1994 but reintroduced 2002 – current production.
1993	New Model Bearcat, same panel size as Old Model Bearcat and Super Bearcat, no major mark.	Steel, blued; stainless steel.	Oil-filled walnut, rosewood. Some early guns may have the old style oil-filled walnut panels and flat silver/aluminum impressed Ruger eagle medallions. Most have rosewood panels and smaller raised silver with black background Ruger eagle medallions.	Discontinued 1994 but reintroduced in 1996 – current production.

Introduced	Type / Marking	Frame Material/ Finish	Grip Panels	Production Status
2001	XRN-3RED "short" frame, about ¼-inch shorter than standard 1972/73 XRN-3RED. Single-Six .32s w/ Vaquero sights, stainless frame marked KXR3 like standard stainless frame.	Steel, blued; stainless steel.	Rosewood, simulated ivory. Raised silver with black background Ruger eagle medallions.	Current production.
2001/2002	Bird's Head on large and small frame Bird's Head Vaquero and fixed "Vaquero style" sight .32 H&Rs.	Steel, blued; stainless steel.	Black Micarta, simulated ivory. Raised silver with black background Ruger eagle medallions.	Current production.
2004/2005	The NEW XR3 style grip frame is very similar to the original Ruger Single-Action, Colt SAA style, introduced in 1953. The grip panel locator pin is in a slightly different location from the original, primarily due to the new internal safety lock mechanism. These frames are found on the smaller cylinder-framed "New" Vaquero (2004) and the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary .357 Blackhawk "Flattop" (2005). They are also found on the larger cylinder-framed 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary .44 "Flattop" (2006).	Steel/blued or stainless. The interior design accommodates the new internal safety lock mechanism.	"New" Vaquero – Black hard rubber checkered panels with the Ruger trademark eagle logo molded into the panel. 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Blackhawk "Flattops" – Black hard rubber checkered panels with the old style post 1966 – 1971 "fat neck" trademark black eagle on silver medallions.	Current production.

*Three Ruger Single Action Revolvers -Top: Early Ruger Blackhawk Flattop Single Action Revolver; Middle: Ruger New Model Super Blackhawk Single Action Revolver; Bottom: Ruger New Model Blackhawk Single Action Revolver.*

Photo Courtesy Rock Island Auction Company



Sketches courtesy Bill Hamm and Boge Quinn



All grip frames overlaid.

I am not alone in my opinion and admiration of Ruger's interpretation of the Bisley grip frame. In *Big Bore Sixguns*, John Taffin states, "In reality, the Bisley grip frame is the most comfortable grip frame for shooting heavy loads ever offered by either Colt's or Ruger. A vast improvement over the original Bisley, it is not the same as that found on the old Colt, because it does not come up as high behind the triggerguard. Ruger's original answer to handle heavy recoil, the Super Blackhawk grip frame, is especially punishing to me with heavy loads, as it solidly and painfully raps my knuckle and the top of my trigger finger."

There is another grip frame option worth looking into, and I believe it is the best compromise when seeking both comfort and control, when high levels of recoil are present. Gunsmith Jack Huntington modifies the various plow handle grips to include the XR3, XR3-RED, and the Dragoon style (Super Blackhawk) that recontours the grip, giving it more length and a more vertical profile similar to the Bisley. I think, personally, that this is the best of both worlds. It offers the same control the Bisley is famous for, yet provides a much greater level of comfort. The cost of the conversion, including

# SERIAL NUMBER & CALIBER HISTORY

## REVOLVERS

The chart shows the approximate first serial number shipped for the indicated year. The number should be used as a point of reference only. It is not necessarily the very first serial number shipped, but it can be used to determine the approximate year your Ruger firearm was shipped.

Ruger does not produce firearms in serial number

order. There are occasions when blocks of serial numbers have been manufactured out of sequence, sometimes years later. Also, within a model family the same serial number prefix may be used to produce a variety of different models, all in the same block of serial numbers. & in some cases, models may be stored for a length of time before they are shipped.

GP100	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
170-00001	1986
170-18081	1987
170-40819	1988
171-33130	1989
172-00859	1990
172-30612	1991
172-49299	1992
172-73459	1993
173-10032	1994
173-32506	1995
173-55795	1996
173-69135	1997
173-86751	1998
173-98541	1999
174-14075	2000
174-30948	2001
174-54400	2002
174-62013	2003
174-73415	2004
174-94092	2005
175-07470	2006
175-23438	2007
175-38226	2008
175-58296	2009
175-83537	2010
176-07061	2011
176-30507	2012
176-51462	2013

NEW MODEL SINGLE-SIX - SSM MANUFACTURED FROM 1984 - 2006	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
650-00001	1984

NEW MODEL SINGLE-SIX - SSM MANUFACTURED FROM 1984 - 2006	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
650-03481	1985
650-16439	1986
650-27060	1987
650-28890	1988
650-29669	1989
650-30215	1990
650-30985	1991
650-32462	1992
650-33400	1993
650-33512	1994
650-34217	2000
650-35319	2001
650-38741	2002
650-50112	2003
650-55027	2004
650-55567	2005
650-55576	2006

NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK - S32X SPECIAL MODEL	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
610-00001	1988

INCLUDES BISLEY MODELS & 50TH ANNIVERSARY MODEL	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
32-33639	1974
32-66489	1975

<b>INCLUDES BISLEY MODELS &amp; 50TH ANNIVERSARY MODEL</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
33-03854	1976
33-51451	1977
34-06008	1978
34-59110	1979
35-07904	1980
35-55902	1981
35-93851	1982
36-22705	1983
36-39399	1984
36-66388	1985
36-73330	1986
36-82139	1987
36-95212	1988
37-01082	1989
37-09149	1990
37-17217	1991
37-20595	1992
37-24885	1993
37-30015	1994
37-35815	1995
37-39105	1996
37-48501	1997
37-53908	1998
37-59304	1999
37-63438	2000
37-68506	2001
37-73673	2002
37-76050	2003
37-78003	2004
37-82021 & 520-00001*	2005
37-85022 & 520-09778	2006
37-89462	2007
37-93245	2008
37-96392	2009
38-00675	2010
38-07433	2011
38-15393	2012
38-22039	2013

\*50th Anniversary Model

<b>NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK - .44 MAGNUM 50TH. ANNIVERSARY MODEL</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
89-00501 & 870-00001	2006
870-13259	2007
870-15247	2008

<b>NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK - .45 INCLUDES BISLEY MODELS</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
46-03651	1974
46-11051	1975
46-19874	1976
46-30801	1977
46-41751	1978
46-43201	1979
46-52451	1980
46-63651	1981
46-85751	1982
46-88051	1983
46-98221	1984
47-03176	1985
47-06112	1986
47-15050	1987
47-26050	1988
47-30119	1989
47-32217	1990
47-38759	1991
47-43043	1992
47-52283	1993
47-59626	1994
47-62976	1995
47-66505	1996
47-70733	1997
47-88409	1998
47-91414	1999
47-99407	2000
48-04339	2001
48-09409	2002
48-14893	2003
48-16019	2004
48-22469	2005
48-26785	2006

<b>NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK - .45</b> INCLUDES BISLEY MODELS	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
48-31524	2007
48-35156	2008
48-38821	2009
48-43772	2010
48-47435	2011
48-53421	2012
48-56911	2013

<b>NEW MODEL SUPER BLACKHAWK HUNTER</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
88-00001	1992
88-04710	1993
88-08812	1994
88-10732	2001
88-11563	2002
88-12769	2003
88-18280	2004
88-21015	2005
88-27817	2006
88-29253	2007
88-30846	2008
88-32067	2009
88-33035	2010
88-35954	2011
88-38281	2012
88-43016	2013

<b>NEW BEARCAT</b> INCLUDES 50TH ANNIVERSARY MODEL	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
93-00001	1993
93-00505	1994
93-00914	1995
93-01997	1996
93-04135	1997
93-09667	1998
93-14909	1999
93-18292	2000
93-19299	2001

<b>NEW BEARCAT</b> INCLUDES 50TH ANNIVERSARY MODEL	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
93-20630	2002
93-22218	2003
93-24078	2004
93-31220	2005
93-35949	2006
93-38307	2007
93-40968 & SBC-00001*	2008
93-43459	2009
93-46872	2010
93-50022	2011
93-53521	2012
93-57998	2013

\* 50th Anniversary Model

<b>OLD ARMY CAP &amp; BALL - STAINLESS</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1975 TO 2008	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
1	1975
145-00001	1976
145-01204	1977
145-07934	1978
145-15890	1979
145-20194	1980
145-24880	1981
145-33428	1982
145-46522	1983
145-50008	1984
145-51681	1985
145-52645	1986
145-55577	1987
145-57569	1988
145-60386	1989
145-63537	1990
145-65870	1991
145-66177	1992
145-66292	1993

**OLD ARMY CAP & BALL  
- STAINLESS**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1975 TO 2008

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
145-70614 & 148-00504	1994
145-74645 & 148-01310	1995
145-80534 & 148-03084	1996
145-87525 & 148-04467	1997
145-88998 & 148-06385	1998
145-90793 & 148-06823	1999
145-92200 & 148-07285	2000
145-92762 & 148-07895	2001
145-93406 & 148-08025	2002
145-94109 & 148-08404	2003
145-94812 & 148-09305	2004
145-95380 & 148-10546	2005
145-95673 & 148-11409	2006
145-96199 & 148-11785	2007
145-96352 & 148-12112	2008

**OLD MODEL SINGLE-SIX  
- ST&ARD MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1953 TO 1973

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
1	1953
50	1954
10734	1955

**OLD MODEL SINGLE-SIX  
- ST&ARD MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1953 TO 1973

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
31857	1956
55346	1957
88245	1958
122480	1959
151189	1960
171403	1961
187367	1962
20-00001	1969
20-39803	1970
20-77705	1971
21-16995	1972
21-53819	1973

**OLD MODEL SINGLE-SIX  
- ALUMINUM MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1956 TO 1959

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
200001	1956
203787	1957
209565	1958
212367	1959

**OLD MODEL SUPER SINGLE-SIX**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1964 TO 1972

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
500001	1964
502608	1965
517860	1966
528826	1967
547679	1968
566735	1969
60-13852	1970
60-52410	1971
60-81278	1972

<b>OLD MODEL BLACKHAWK - .357 CALIBER</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1955 TO 1973	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
1	1968
50-00001	1969
50-05980	1970
50-13531	1971
50-19180	1972
50-22983	1973

<b>OLD MODEL BLACKHAWK - .44 CALIBER</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1956 TO 1962	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
1	1956
741	1957
5996	1958
14258	1959
22232	1960
26680	1961
28515	1962

<b>OLD MODEL SUPER BLACKHAWK - .44 CALIBER</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1959 TO 1973	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
1	1959
1521	1960
6222	1961
7659	1962
11089	1963
14492	1964
18629	1965
22308	1966
26448	1967
33350	1968
80-00001	1969
80-13363	1970
80-27910	1971
80-41701	1972
80-57651	1973

<b>REDHAWK</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
500-00001	1980
500-03611	1981
500-19388	1982
500-50567	1983
500-90245	1984
501-30534	1985
501-78855	1986
501-80232	1987
502-24545	1988
502-49301	1989
502-73151	1990
502-77177	1991
502-85090	1992
502-89051	1993
502-96855	1994
503-02775	1995
503-09164	1996
503-18834	1997
503-21458	1998
503-26013	1999
503-31340	2000
503-33857	2001
503-37107	2002
503-41075	2003
503-44765	2004
503-45028	2005
503-46657	2006
503-48424	2007
503-54372	2008
503-58233	2009
503-60727	2010
503-62052	2011
503-63809	2012
503-65138	2013

<b>SP101</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
570-00001	1989
570-38900	1990
570-59251	1991
570-89156	1992
571-10044	1993
571-61034	1994
571-94054	1995

<b>SP101</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
572-28006	1996
572-44498	1997
572-61001	1998
572-75429	1999
572-85141	2000
572-96421	2001
573-09909	2002
573-25857	2003
573-28019	2004
573-39006	2005
573-48693	2006
573-59868	2007
573-72039	2008
573-94733	2009
574-29035	2010
574-57595	2011
574-85448	2012
575-10044	2013

<b>VAQUERO</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1993 TO 2005 INCLUDES BILEY-VAQUERO MODELS	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
55-00001	1993
55-10037	1994
55-51006	1995
56-01218	1996
56-30005	1997
56-72004	1998
56-98838	1999
57-52004	2000
57-82791	2001
58-01006	2002
58-31543	2003
58-50474	2004
58-91296	2005

<b>NEW VAQUERO</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 2005 TO PRESENT	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
510-00001	2005

<b>NEW VAQUERO</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 2005 TO PRESENT	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
510-09854	2006
510-39169	2007
510-58667	2008
510-71681	2009
510-86236	2010
511-03919	2011
511-17942	2012
511-38702	2013

<b>LCR - .38 SPECIAL +P</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
540-00001	2009
540-54144	2010
541-21086	2011
541-63535	2012
542-15416	2013

<b>LCR - .357 MAGNUM</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
545-01000	2010
546-05323	2011
546-26401	2012
546-54412	2013

<b>LCR - .22 LR &amp; 22 WMFR</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
548-00501	2011
548-03435	2012
548-19179	2013

<b>NEW MODEL SINGLE-SIX</b> COLORADO SENTENNIAL SPECIAL MODEL	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
76-00001	1976

<b>NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK - .30 CARBINE</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
51-02629	1974
51-05293	1975
51-07169	1976
51-10260	1977
51-12751	1978
51-14066	1979
51-18652	1980
51-22408	1981
51-26197	1982
51-29276	1983
51-31564	1984
51-31260	1985
51-30927	1986
51-31631	1987
51-32660	1988
51-33186	1989
51-34204	1990
51-35161	1991
51-35525	1992
51-36300	1993
51-36654	1997
51-37781	1998
51-38190	1999
51-39225	2000
51-39684	2001
51-40260	2002
51-41011	2003
51-41531	2004
51-41829	2005
51-41928	2006
51-42338	2007
51-42714	2008
51-43143	2009
51-43559	2010
51-44008	2011
51-44279	2012
51-45133	2013

<b>NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK - .357 MAXIMUM MANUFACTURED FROM 1982 TO 1984</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
600-00001	1982

<b>NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK - .357 MAXIMUM MANUFACTURED FROM 1982 TO 1984</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
600-00550	1983
600-07734	1984

<b>NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK - S3840 SPECIAL MODEL</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
611-00001	1990

<b>NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK - .41 MAGNUM INCLUDES BISLEY MODELS</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
41-01845	1974
41-04914	1975
41-07462	1976
41-12333	1977
41-17490	1978
41-18701	1979
41-28751	1980
*46-63651	1981
*46-85751	1982
*46-88051	1983
*46-98221	1984
*47-03176	1985
*47-06112	1986
*47-15050	1987
*47-26050	1988
*47-30119	1989
*47-32217	1990
*47-38759	1991
*47-43043	1992
*47-52283	1993
*47-59626	1994
*47-62976	1995
*47-66505	1996
*47-70733	1997
*47-88409	1998

**NEW MODEL BLACKHAWK  
- .41 MAGNUM**  
INCLUDES BISLEY MODELS

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
*47-91414	1999
*47-99407	2000
*48-04339	2001
*48-09409	2002
*48-14893	2003
*48-16019	2004
*48-22469	2005
*48-26785	2006
*48-31472	2007
*48-35125	2008
*48-38821	2009
*48-43772	2010
*48-47435	2011
*48-53421	2012
*48-56911	2013

*\*.41 Cal. Blackhawk Serial Numbers rollmarked with  
.45 Cal. Blackhawk Revolvers beginning in 1981*

**NEW MODEL  
SUPER BLACKHAWK**  
INCLUDES BISLEY MODELS  
& 50TH ANNIVERSARY MODEL

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
81-12401	1974
81-32451	1975
81-61051	1976
81-93201	1977
82-27551	1978
82-82146	1979
83-41251	1980
83-90986	1981
84-43801	1982
84-77993	1983
84-98349	1984
85-03813	1985
85-43060	1986
85-65531	1987
85-85102	1988
85-92143	1989
86-15257	1990

**NEW MODEL  
SUPER BLACKHAWK**  
INCLUDES BISLEY MODELS  
& 50TH ANNIVERSARY MODEL

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
86-35272	1991
86-42411	1992
86-51210	1993
86-64126	1994
86-70153	1995
86-77973	1996
86-95500	1997
87-09291	1998
87-18051	1999
87-29057	2000
87-37797	2001
87-46479	2002
87-54202	2003
87-57021	2004
87-60801	2005
87-64181	2006
87-69092	2007
87-72368	2008
87-76669 & SB-00001*	2009
87-81642	2010
87-87786	2011
88-38281 **	2012
88-43016	2013

**OLD ARMY CAP & BALL - BLUED**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1972 TO 2008

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
140-00001	1972
140-04259	1973
140-13723	1974
140-20404	1975
140-26251	1976
140-30204	1977
140-34506	1978
140-39651	1979
140-44201	1980
140-46573	1981

<b>OLD ARMY CAP &amp; BALL - BLUED</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1972 TO 2008	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
*145-33428	1982
*145-46522	1983
*145-50008	1984
*145-51681	1985
*145-52645	1986
*145-55577	1987
*145-57569	1988
*145-60386	1989
*145-63537	1990
*145-65870	1991
*145-66177	1992
*145-66292	1993
*145-70614 & 148-00504	1994
*145-74645 & 148-01310	1995
*145-80534 & 148-03084	1996
*145-87525 & 148-04467	1997
*145-88998 & 148-06385	1998
*145-90793 & 148-06823	1999
*145-92200 & 148-07285	2000
*145-92762 & 148-07895	2001
*145-93406 & 148-08025	2002
*145-94109 & 148-08404	2003
*145-94812 & 148-09305	2004
*145-95380 & 148-10546	2005
*145-95673 & 148-11409	2006
*145-96199 & 148-11785	2007
*145-96352 & 148-12112	2008

*\*Blued Old Army Serial Numbers rollmarked with Stainless Old Army Revolvers beginning in 1982*

<b>OLD ARMY CAP &amp; BALL - STAINLESS</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1975 TO 2008	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
1	1975
145-00001	1976
145-01204	1977
145-07934	1978
145-15890	1979
145-20194	1980
145-24880	1981
145-33428	1982
145-46522	1983
145-50008	1984
145-51681	1985
145-52645	1986
145-55577	1987
145-57569	1988
145-60386	1989
145-63537	1990
145-65870	1991
145-66177	1992
145-66292	1993
145-70614 & 148-00504	1994
145-74645 & 148-01310	1995
145-80534 & 148-03084	1996
145-87525 & 148-04467	1997
145-88998 & 148-06385	1998
145-90793 & 148-06823	1999
145-92200 & 148-07285	2000
145-92762 & 148-07895	2001
145-93406 & 148-08025	2002
145-94109 & 148-08404	2003
145-94812 & 148-09305	2004
145-95380 & 148-10546	2005
145-95673 & 148-11409	2006
145-96199 & 148-11785	2007

**OLD ARMY CAP & BALL  
- STAINLESS**

MANUFACTURED FROM  
1975 TO 2008

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
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145-96352 & 148-12112	2008
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**OLD MODEL SINGLE-SIX  
- MAGNUM MODEL**

MANUFACTURED FROM  
1959 TO 1969

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
----------------------------	-----------------------

300001	1959
305543	1960
318696	1961
331116	1962
351442	1963
380392	1964
409921	1965
434541	1966
475650	1967
490279	1968
824407	1969

**OLD MODEL BLACKHAWK  
- .30 CALIBER**

MANUFACTURED FROM  
1968 TO 1973

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
----------------------------	-----------------------

1	1968
50-00001	1969
50-05980	1970
50-13531	1971
50-19180	1972
50-22983	1973

**OLD MODEL BLACKHAWK  
- .41 CALIBER**

MANUFACTURED FROM  
1965 TO 1973

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
----------------------------	-----------------------

1	1965
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**OLD MODEL BLACKHAWK  
- .41 CALIBER**

MANUFACTURED FROM  
1965 TO 1973

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
----------------------------	-----------------------

3820	1966
6781	1967
12272	1968
40-00001	1969
40-03451	1970
40-13852	1971
40-18305	1972
40-22301	1973

**OLD MODEL BLACKHAWK  
- .45 CALIBER**

MANUFACTURED FROM  
1971 TO 1973

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
----------------------------	-----------------------

45-00001	1971
45-13201	1972
45-21804	1973

**OLD MODEL SUPER BEARCAT  
& SUPER BEARCAT**

MANUFACTURED FROM  
1958 TO 1974

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
----------------------------	-----------------------

1	1958
F483	1959
X454	1960
5600	1961
17468	1962
23688	1963
35373	1964
53805	1965
65810	1966
80330	1967
93810	1968
112456	1969
90-09801	1970
91-00051	1971
91-25001	1972
91-46701	1973
91-62904	1974

**SECURITY-SIX, SPEED-SIX,  
SERVICE SIX**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1972 TO 1988

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
150-00001	1972
150-35383	1973
150-64961	1974
151-21780	1975
151-76180	1976
152-61012	1977
153-60425	1978
154-63332	1979
155-76844	1980
156-94383	1981
158-12020	1982
159-45126	1983
159-81307	1984
160-58768	1985
161-80082	1986
161-84833	1987
162-39887	1988

**SINGLE-TEN**

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
810-00001	2011
810-07949	2012
810-13747	2013

**SINGLE-NINE**

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
815-00001	2012
815-04983	2013

**SP101 - .22 LR**

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
577-01000	2010
577-01139	2011
577-04044	2012
577-10123	2013

**SUPER REDHAWK**  
INCLUDES ALASKAN MODELS

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
550-00001	1987
550-05951	1988
550-23061	1989
550-47261	1990
550-58827	1991
550-62620	1992
550-74392	1993
550-88134	1994
550-99595	1995
551-09843	1996
551-22942	1997
551-30917	1998
551-38084	1999
551-53891	2000
551-73507	2001
552-01030	2002
552-12573	2003
552-22750	2004
552-37253 & 530-00001*	2005
552-42483 & 530-02033*	2006
552-47337 & 530-09757*	2007
552-52826 & 530-15949*	2008
552-55552 & 530-17136*	2009
552-57877 & 530-18526*	2010
552-61608 & 530-20506*	2011
552-65260 & 530-24096*	2012
552-68941 & 530-27570*	2013

*\*Alaskan models*

# SERIAL NUMBER & CALIBER HISTORY

## PISTOLS

The chart shows the approximate first serial number shipped for the indicated year. The number should be used as a point of reference only. It is not necessarily the very first serial number shipped, but it can be used to determine the approximate year your Ruger firearm was shipped.

Ruger does not produce firearms in serial number order. There are occasions when blocks of serial num-

bers have been manufactured out of sequence, sometimes years later. Also, within a model family the same serial number prefix may be used to produce a variety of different models, all in the same block of serial numbers. & in some cases, models may be stored for a length of time before they are shipped.

<b>22/45</b> MANUFACTURED 1992 TO 2005	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
220-00001	1992
220-18560	1993
220-36335	1994
220-47798	1995
220-72978	1996
220-84948	1997
220-88030	1998
*222-36510	1999
*223-42679	2000
*224-21283	2001
*224-82446	2002
*225-18909	2003
*225-60111	2004
*226-10003	2005

<b>22/45 MARK III HUNTER</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 2006 TO 2011	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
270-00001	2006
270-08881	2007
270-11872	2008
270-18317	2009
270-68620	2010
271-46528	2011

<b>HAWKEYE SINGLE-SHOT</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1963 TO 1964	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
1	1963

<b>HAWKEYE SINGLE-SHOT</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1963 TO 1964	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
3104	1964

<b>LC9</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
320-00000	2010
320-09186	2011
321-54694	2012
323-21430	2013

<b>MARK I</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1949 TO 1982	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
1	1949
2416	1950
11597	1951
32905	1952
49019	1953
68958	1954
97358	1955
115523	1956
128244	1957
148222	1958
169400	1959
179712	1960
194484	1961
217767	1962
239621	1963
250296	1964
276308	1965

<b>MARK I</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1949 TO 1982	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
406740	1966
436226	1967
463239	1968
10-00001	1969
10-38890	1970
10-75016	1971
11-26288	1972
11-72924	1973
12-22449	1974
12-81988	1975
13-48646	1976
13-99097	1977
14-69121	1978
15-36233	1979
16-06785	1980
16-82837	1981
17-70981	1982

<b>MARK III HUNTER</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
229-00001	2004
229-02837	2005
229-18943	2006
229-31028	2007
229-39607	2008
229-58247	2009
* 229-74140 & 270-68620	2010
* 271-46528	2011
* 272-40161	2012
* 273-23285	2013

<b>P345D</b> - <b>DECOCKER MODEL</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 2004 to 2009	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
664-00001	2004
664-06000	2005

<b>P345D</b> - <b>DECOCKER MODEL</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 2004 to 2009	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
664-39099	2006
664-51835	2007
664-67678	2008
664-76397	2009

<b>P89DAO</b> - <b>DOUBLE-ACTION ONLY</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1993 to 2004	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
304-88013	1993
307-58873	1994
309-89047	1995
310-53882	1996
310-79465	1997
312-13397	1998
312-71930	1999
313-62765	2000
314-26003	2001
314-85982	2002
315-12033	2003
315-29067	2004

<b>P90D</b> - <b>DECOCKER MODEL</b> MANUFACTURED FROM 1991 to 2009	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
660-00001	1991
660-27550	1992
660-52347	1993
660-85009	1994
661-09482	1995
661-36515	1996
661-46965	1997
661-68542	1998
661-92011	1999
662-06709	2000

<b>P90D - DECOCKER MODEL MANUFACTURED FROM 1991 to 2009</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
662-24097	2001
662-36744	2002
662-45757	2003
*662-47565 & 663-51677	2004
663-58465	2005
663-75075	2006
663-80464	2007
663-85383	2008
663-88454	2009

<b>P94D - DECOCKER MODEL MANUFACTURED FROM 1994 to 2004</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
308-00001	1994
308-35863	1995
308-42293	1996
308-48740	1997
308-54130	1998
308-57003	1999
308-62138	2000
308-64130	2001
308-65104	2002
308-66174	2003
308-67188	2004

<b>P91DAO - DOUBLE-ACTION ONLY MANUFACTURED FROM 1992 to 1994</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
340-00001	1992
340-11615	1993
340-28342	1994

<b>P944 - MANUAL SAFETY MODEL MANUFACTURED FROM 1995 to 2010</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
340-43992	1995
340-58794	1996
340-62983	1997
340-66586	1998
340-80998	1999
340-92554	2000
341-07905	2001
341-20000	2002
341-31195	2003
341-33848	2004
341-35248	2005
341-45199	2006
341-51105	2007
341-56996	2008
341-59178	2009
341-66370	2010

<b>P93DAO - DOUBLE-ACTION ONLY MANUFACTURED FROM 1994 to 2004</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
306-00300	1994
306-05509	1995
306-15438	1996
306-16507	1997
306-17892	1998
306-20804	1999
306-21155	2000
306-21734	2001
306-23200	2002
306-24400	2003
306-25259	2004

<b>P944DAO - DOUBLE-ACTION ONLY MANUFACTURED FROM 1995 to 2004</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
340-43992	1995

<b>P944DAO - DOUBLE-ACTION ONLY MANUFACTURED FROM 1995 to 2004</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
340-58794	1996
340-62983	1997
340-66586	1998
340-80998	1999
340-92554	2000
341-07905	2001
341-20000	2002
341-31195	2003
341-33848	2004

<b>P95D - DECOCKER MODEL MANUFACTURED FROM 1996 to 2005</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
311-00001	1996
311-51033	1997
*312-13397	1998
*312-71930	1999
*313-62765	2000
*314-26003	2001
*314-85982	2002
*315-12033	2003
*315-29067	2004
*315-47464	2005

<b>P95DPR -DECOCKER MODEL MANUFACTURED FROM 1995 TO 2009</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
316-00001	2005
316-10141	2006
316-16622	2007
316-50587	2008
316-78139	2009

<b>P97D - DECOCKER MODEL MANUFACTURED FROM 1999 to 2004</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
663-00001	1999
663-15241	2000
663-28837	2001
663-41508	2002
663-47174	2003
663-53761	2004

<b>SR1911</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
670-00000	2011
670-10831	2012
670-53719	2013

<b>SR22</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
360-00000	2012
361-61804	2013

<b>SR45</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
380-00000	2013

<b>SR9</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
330-00000	2007
330-12387	2008
330-46283	2009
331-01365	2010
331-21626	2011
331-44819	2012
331-82340	2013

<b>22/45 MARK III</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
228-00001	2004

22/45 MARK III	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
228-00448	2005
228-22462	2006
228-32612	2007
228-61274	2008
*228-83423 & 270-18317	2009
*270-68620	2010
*271-46528	2011
*272-40161	2012
*273-23285	2013

22/45 LITE	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
390-01950	2012
390-27655	2013

22 CHARGER PISTOL MANUFACTURED FROM 2008 TO 2013	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
490-00001	2008
490-30204	2009
490-38600	2010
490-39965	2011
490-41970	2012
490-46686	2013

LC-380	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
* 322-79000	2012
323-21430	2013

LCP	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
370-00000	2008
371-08832	2009
373-09422	2010
375-66217	2011

LCP	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
377-38050	2012
370018421	2013

MARK II MANUFACTURED FROM 1982 TO 2005	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
18-00001	1982
18-50048	1983
19-31711	1984
211-13150	1985
212-08560	1986
212-91364	1987
213-90898	1988
214-85593	1989
215-61938	1990
216-68349	1991
217-48014 & 218-00001	1992
219-37950 & 218-05550	1993
219-90370 & 218-26000	1994
221-20943 & 218-45600	1995
221-36504 & 218-59250	1996
221-55005 & 218-68650	1997
221-95002 & 218-95440	1998
222-36510	1999
223-42679	2000
224-21283	2001
224-82446	2002
225-18909	2003
225-60111	2004
225-84467	2005

MARK III	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
227-00001	2004

<b>MARK III</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
227-00545	2005
227-32050	2006
227-43436	2007
227-71436	2008
*227-98588 & 270-18317	2009
*270-68620	2010
*271-46528	2011
*272-40161	2012
*273-23285	2013

<b>P345 - MANUAL SAFETY MODEL</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
664-00001	2004
664-06000	2005
664-39099	2006
664-51835	2007
664-67678	2008
664-76397	2009
664-90823	2010
664-96658	2011
665-04875	2012

<b>P85 / P85 MKII MANUFACTURED FROM 1987 to 1992</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
300-00001	1987
300-02509	1988
300-33209	1989
301-34818	1990
302-27586	1991
303-65769	1992

<b>P89D - DECOCKER MODEL MANUFACTURED FROM 1993 to 2009</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
304-88013	1993

<b>P89D - DECOCKER MODEL MANUFACTURED FROM 1993 to 2009</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
307-58873	1994
309-89047	1995
310-53882	1996
310-79465	1997
312-13397	1998
312-71930	1999
313-62765	2000
314-26003	2001
314-85982	2002
315-12033	2003
315-29067	2004
315-53386	2005
315-78882	2006
315-91160	2007
316-50732	2008
316-78139	2009

<b>P90 - MANUAL SAFETY MODEL MANUFACTURED FROM 1991 to 2010</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
660-00001	1991
660-27550	1992
660-52347	1993
660-85009	1994
661-09482	1995
661-36515	1996
661-46965	1997
661-68542	1998
661-92011	1999
662-06709	2000
662-24097	2001
662-36744	2002
*662-45757 & 663-51676	2003
*663-53761	2004
*663-58465	2005
*663-75075	2006
*663-80464	2007
*663-85383	2008

**P90  
- MANUAL SAFETY MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1991 to 2010

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
*663-88454	2009
*663-92911	2010

**P91D - DECOCKER MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1992 to 1994

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
340-00001	1992
340-11615	1993
340-28342	1994

**P93D  
- DECOCKER MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1994 to 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
306-00300	1994
306-05509	1995
306-15438	1996
306-16507	1997
306-17892	1998
306-20804	1999
306-21155	2000
306-21734	2001
306-23200	2002
306-24400	2003
306-25259	2004

**P94 - MANUAL SAFETY MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1994 to 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
308-00001	1994
308-35863	1995

**P94 - MANUAL SAFETY MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1994 to 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
308-42293	1996
308-48740	1997
308-54130	1998
308-57003	1999
308-62138	2000
308-64130	2001
308-65104	2002
308-66174	2003
308-67188	2004

**P94DAO - DOUBLE-ACTION ONLY**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1994 to 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
308-00001	1994
308-35863	1995
308-42293	1996
308-48740	1997
308-54130	1998
308-57003	1999
308-62138	2000
308-64130	2001
308-65104	2002
308-66174	2003
308-67188	2004

**P944D - DECOCKER MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1995 to 2009

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
340-43992	1995
340-58794	1996
340-62983	1997
340-66586	1998
340-80998	1999
340-92554	2000
341-07905	2001

**P944D - DECOCKER MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1995 to 2009

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
341-20000	2002
341-31195	2003
341-33848	2004
341-35248	2005
341-45199	2006
341-51105	2007
341-56996	2008
341-59178	2009

**P95 - MANUAL SAFETY MODEL**  
MANUFACTURED FROM 2001 to 2005

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
*314-26003	2001
*314-85982	2002
*315-12033	2003
*315-29067	2004
*315-47464	2005

**P95DAO - DOUBLE-ACTION ONLY**  
MANUFACTURED FROM 1996 to 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
311-00001	1996
311-51033	1997
*312-13397	1998
*312-71930	1999
*313-62765	2000
*314-26003	2001
*314-85982	2002
*315-12033	2003
*315-29067	2004
*315-47464	2005

**P95PR - MANUAL SAFETY MODEL**

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
316-00001	2005

**P95PR - MANUAL SAFETY MODEL**

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
316-10271	2006
316-16622	2007
316-50587	2008
316-78139	2009
317-24378	2010
317-63391	2011
318-07733	2012
318-60136	2013

**P97DAO - DOUBLE-ACTION ONLY**  
MANUFACTURED FROM 1999 to 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
663-00001	1999
663-15241	2000
663-28837	2001
663-41508	2002
663-47174	2003
663-53761	2004

**SR40**

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
342-00000	2010
342-09200	2011
342-29954	2012
342-50730	2013

**SR40C**

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
343-00000	2011
343-25473	2012
343-61661	2013

**SR9C**

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
332-00000	2010
332-46410	2011
333-09856	2012
333-74840	2013

# SERIAL NUMBER & CALIBER HISTORY

## RIFLES

The chart shows the approximate first serial number shipped for the indicated year. The number should be used as a point of reference only. It is not necessarily the very first serial number shipped, but it can be used to determine the approximate year your Ruger firearm was shipped.

Ruger does not produce firearms in serial number order. There are occasions when blocks of serial num-

bers have been manufactured out of sequence, sometimes years later. Also, within a model family the same serial number prefix may be used to produce a variety of different models, all in the same block of serial numbers. & in some cases, models may be stored for a length of time before they are shipped.

10/22	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
1	1964
453	1965
22906	1966
77384	1967
131304	1968
186076	1969
110-20100	1970
110-64595	1971
111-16200	1972
111-95550	1973
113-04149	1974
114-17146	1975
115-32735	1976
116-25017	1977
117-36100	1978
118-42599	1979
119-59923	1980
121-03969	1981
122-74713	1982
123-72025	1983
124-80623	1984
126-47192	1985
127-68583	1986
128-38014	1987
129-20927	1988
230-25136	1989
232-10200	1990
233-58183	1991
234-83684	1992
236-75045	1993
238-72514	1994
240-92928	1995
243-44458	1996
245-74954	1997
247-34572	1998

10/22	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
249-06699	1999
251-04888	2000
251-99500	2001
253-29539	2002
253-94026	2003
255-00301	2004
257-03392	2005
258-91827	2006
259-99957	2007
351-45548	2008
353-24238	2009
355-57739	2010
357-11886	2011
359-35112	2012
822-42506	2013

77/22 HORNET	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
720-00001	1994
720-08716	1995
720-19496	1996
720-37163	1997
720-42990	1998
720-48115	1999
720-54956	2000
720-60137	2001
720-64080	2002
720-68115	2003
720-72009	2004
720-73554	2005
720-74294	2006
720-74928	2007
720-76072	2008

<b>77/22 HORNET</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
720-76823	2009
720-77836	2010
720-78867	2011
720-79765	2012
720-81088	2013

<b>77/357</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
740-17000	2011
740-23092	2012
740-27662	2013

<b>77/44</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
740-00001	1997
740-04427	1998
740-07196	1999
740-09310	2000
740-11429	2001
740-12037	2002
740-12592	2003
740-12741	2004
740-12833	2005
*740-13109	2009
740-14555	2010
740-18652	2011
740-23092	2012
740-27662	2013

<b>GUIDE GUN</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
711-63000	2013

<b>GUNSITE SCOUT</b>	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
680-00000	2010
680-00744	2011
680-11509	2012
680-29406	2013

<b>M77</b> MANUFACTURED 1968 TO 1984	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
1	1968
1912	1969
70-14532	1970
70-23555	1971
70-45045	1972
70-67406	1973
70-87509	1974
71-28501	1975
71-75101	1976
72-38101	1977
73-05351	1978
73-92701	1979
74-65901	1980
75-42703	1981
75-97690	1982
77-50834	1983
77-68636	1984

<b>M77 MARK II DELUXE/EXPRESS</b> MANUFACTURED 1992 TO 2010	
<b>BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>YEAR OF PRODUCTION</b>
760-00501	1992
760-00539	1993
760-00644	1994
760-00675	1995
760-00740	1996
760-00814	1997
760-00912	1998
760-00964	1999
760-01384	2000
760-01417	2001
760-01492	2002

**M77 MARK II MAGNUM**  
MANUFACTURED 1992 TO 2010

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
750-00205	1992
750-00359	1993
750-00394	1994
750-00616	1995
750-00841	1996
750-00964	1997
750-01124	1998
750-02065	1999
750-02368	2000
750-02791	2001
750-03249	2002
750-03408	2003
750-03633	2004
750-04570	2005
750-05100	2006
750-06606	2007
750-07251	2008
750-07326	2009
750-08020	2010

**MINI-14 RANCH**  
MANUFACTURED 1982 TO 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
187-00001	1982
187-02611	1983
187-13218	1984
187-27226	1985
187-50919	1986
187-59308	1987
187-70033	1988
187-84127	1989
188-01157	1990
188-30499	1991
188-50902	1992
188-66901	1993
188-71086	1994
188-85981	1995
195-06037	1996

**MINI-14 RANCH**  
MANUFACTURED 1982 TO 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
195-27761	1997
195-44221	1998
195-63542	1999
196-06325	2000
196-44553	2001
196-80982	2002
196-99207	2003
197-12180	2004

**MINI-14 RANCH**  
MANUFACTURED 2005 TO PRESENT

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
580-00001	2005
580-15286	2006
580-32382	2007
580-50951	2008
* 580-76276 & 581-00000	2009
* 581-48753	2010
* 581-71056	2011
* 581-95645	2012
* 582-29041	2013

**MINI THIRTY**  
MANUFACTURED 2005 TO PRESENT

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
581-01002	2006
581-05892	2007
581-06747	2008
581-11910	2009
581-48753	2010
581-71056	2011
581-95645	2012
582-29041	2013

<b>MODEL 96 - 96/44</b> MANUFACTURED 1996 TO 2007	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
640-00202	1996
640-00455	1997
640-12976	1998
640-13991	1999
640-18150	2000
640-20231	2001
640-21822	2002
640-22173	2003
640-22747	2004
640-22885	2005
640-23233	2006
640-23399	2007

<b>NO. 3</b> MANUFACTURED 1973 TO 1986	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
130-50000	1973
130-51170	1974
130-54210	1975
130-55139	1976
130-60511	1977
130-65671	1978
130-70344	1979
*132-01360	1980
*132-07159	1981
*132-25986	1982
*132-34077	1983
*132-39043	1984
*132-54434	1985
*132-73032	1986

<b>RUGER AMERICAN RIFLE</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
690-00000	2012
690-89113	2013

<b>RUGER AMERICAN RIFLE</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
830-00000	2013

<b>RUGER PC9 CARBINE - 9MM</b> MANUFACTURED 1996 TO 2006	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
470-00201	1996
470-04391	1997
470-08629	1998
470-10202	1999
470-13346	2000
470-14646	2001
470-16583	2002
470-17812	2003
470-19137	2004
470-20031	2005
470-20442	2006

<b>RUGER PC4 CARBINE - 40 CALIBER</b> MANUFACTURED 1996 TO 2006	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
480-00001	1997
480-05146	1998
480-07919	1999
480-09073	2000
480-11017	2001
480-11895	2002
480-12540	2003
480-13727	2004
480-15124	2005
480-15671	2006

<b>10/22 MAGNUM</b> MANUFACTURED 1998 TO 2006	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
290-00201	1998

**10/22 MAGNUM**  
MANUFACTURED 1998 TO 2006

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
290-04128	1999
290-28414	2000
290-26039	2001
290-30526	2002
290-39916	2003
290-43040	2004
290-44129	2005
290-45656	2006

**44 CARBINE**  
MANUFACTURED 1961 TO 1974

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
1	1961
1339	1962
65061	1963
85111	1964
94131	1965
104345	1966
113049	1967
126443	1968
133089	1969
100-08901	1970
100-20629	1971
100-31220	1972
100-41326	1973
100-50238	1974

**44 CARBINE**  
MANUFACTURED 1975 TO 1985

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
102-04751	1975
102-16701	1976
102-33708	1977
102-50001	1978
102-61388	1979

**44 CARBINE**  
MANUFACTURED 1975 TO 1985

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
102-77350	1980
102-90046	1981
103-01400	1982
103-08524	1983
103-11110	1984
103-13722	1985

**77/22 & 77/17**

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
700-00001	1984
700-20951	1985
700-36350	1986
700-47010	1987
700-65369	1988
700-72100	1989
700-84304	1990
701-05515	1991
701-32515	1992
701-36115	1993
701-65008	1994
701-79398	1995
701-84556	1996
702-05922	1997
702-20977	1998
702-30611	1999
702-41435	2000
702-51245	2001
*702-57678	2002
702-75693	2003
703-02373	2004
703-16019	2005
703-42747	2006
703-48189	2007
703-51112	2008
703-54982	2009
703-57966	2010
703-63048	2011
703-65596	2012
703-69821	2013

<b>77/50</b> MANUFACTURED 1997 TO 2004	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
730-00001	1997
730-03684	1998
730-11101	1999
730-12316	2000
730-14917	2001
730-16308	2002
730-16563	2003
730-16784	2004

<b>DEERFIELD</b> MANUFACTURED 2000 TO 2006	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
630-00001	2000
630-04076	2001
630-12094	2002
630-13210	2003
630-16248	2004
630-17421	2005
630-17441	2006

<b>HAWKEYE RIFLE</b>	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
710-00501	2006
710-05872	2007
710-45077	2008
710-74957	2009
711-02401	2010
711-27837	2011
711-45233	2012
711-63000	2013

<b>M77</b> MANUFACTURED 1985 TO 1992	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
79-78671	1985
770-12293	1986
770-31006	1987

<b>M77</b> MANUFACTURED 1985 TO 1992	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
771-32711	1988
771-94356	1989
772-67360	1990
773-20200	1991
773-27997	1992

<b>M77 MARK II</b> INCLUDING FRONTIER MODELS	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
780-00001	1989
780-07233	1990
780-27295	1991
780-76042	1992
781-31006	1993
782-10882	1994
782-98974	1995
783-82870	1996
784-58815	1997
785-33908	1998
786-20546	1999
787-23261	2000
788-05481	2001
789-02344	2002
789-50100	2003
790-00443	2004
791-02388	2005
791-79575	2006
792-11623	2007
792-34744	2008
792-43846	2009
792-45548	2010
792-46770	2011
792-47775	2012
792-48644	2013

<b>MINI-14</b> MANUFACTURED 1974 TO 1977	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
180-00001	1974
180-05101	1975

**MINI-14**  
MANUFACTURED 1974 TO 1977

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
180-28282	1976
180-59251	1977

**MINI-14**  
MANUFACTURED 1978 TO 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
181-07488	1978
181-48351	1979
181-84879	1980
182-45601	1981
183-03581	1982
183-40455	1983
184-17175	1984
184-26063	1985
184-95448	1986
185-14140	1987
185-50455	1988
185-56556	1989
185-81009	1990
186-05029	1991
186-18250	1992
186-20065	1993
186-31116	1994
186-42502	1995
186-58133	1996
186-66855	1997
186-81445	1998
186-87432	1999
*196-06325	2000
*196-44553	2001
*196-80982	2002
*196-99207	2003
*197-12180	2004

**MINI THIRTY**  
MANUFACTURED 1986 TO 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
186-00501	1986

**MINI THIRTY**  
MANUFACTURED 1986 TO 2004

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
189-00001	1987
189-15143	1988
189-17652	1989
189-25005	1990
189-38805	1991
189-51041	1992
189-52528	1993
189-59348	1994
189-65480	1995
189-75697	1996
189-82126	1997
189-84971	1998
189-89313	1999
189-96162	2000
*196-06325	2001
*196-44553	2002
*196-99207	2003
*197-12180	2004

**MODEL 96**  
**- 96/22 & 96/17**  
MANUFACTURED 1996 TO 2009

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
620-00527	1996
620-20700	1997
620-24224	1998
620-34000	1999
620-35753	2000
620-37397	2001
620-38042	2002
620-42297	2003
620-46013	2004
620-49169	2005
620-55578	2007
620-56728	2008
620-57522	2009

NO. 1	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
1	1967
2231	1968
5885	1969
130-00001	1970
130-01681	1971
130-03843	1972
130-04859	1973
130-05203	1974
130-12779	1975
130-17490	1976
130-40795	1977
131-19270	1978
131-46676	1979
132-01360	1980
132-07159	1981
132-25986	1982
132-34077	1983
132-39043	1984
132-54434	1985
132-73032	1986
132-76167	1987
132-79519	1988
132-83110	1989
132-87029	1990
132-92985	1991
132-95719	1992
132-99165	1993
133-13007	1994
133-22067	1995
133-29051	1996
133-36393	1997
133-47014	1998
133-54089	1999
133-69291	2000
133-77839	2001
133-88974	2002

NO. 1	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
133-92276	2003
134-00011	2004
134-07100	2005
134-15411	2006
134-19170	2007
134-22930	2008
134-24861	2009
134-27798	2010
134-32639	2011
134-36488	2012
134-37131	2013

SR-22 RIFLE	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
280-00500	2009
280-09913	2010
280-18264	2011
280-24599	2012
280-29824	2013

SR-556	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
590-00001	2009
590-13980	2010
590-21304	2011
590-29994	2012
590-39732	2013

SR-762	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
560-00000	2013

# SERIAL NUMBER & CALIBER HISTORY

## SHOTGUNS

The chart shows the approximate first serial number shipped for the indicated year. The number should be used as a point of reference only. It is not necessarily the very first serial number shipped, but it can be used to determine the approximate year your Ruger firearm was shipped. Ruger does not produce firearms in serial number order. There are occasions when blocks of se-

rial numbers have been manufactured out of sequence, sometimes years later. Also, within a model family the same serial number prefix may be used to produce a variety of different models, all in the same block of serial numbers. & in some cases, models may be stored for a length of time before they are shipped.

RED LABEL OVER & UNDER SHOTGUN	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
412-00000	2013

RED LABEL OVER & UNDER 12 GAUGE SHOTGUN MANUFACTURED FROM 1982 TO 1994	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
410-00001	1982
410-01798	1983
410-02005	1984
410-02259	1985
410-13523	1986
410-20357	1987
410-28802	1988
410-31103	1989
410-38277	1990
410-47506	1991
410-49785	1992
410-54176	1993
410-66047	1994

RED LABEL OVER & UNDER 20 GAUGE SHOTGUN MANUFACTURED FROM 1978 TO 1995	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
400-00001	1978
400-01853	1979
400-09852	1980
400-22235	1981

RED LABEL OVER & UNDER 20 GAUGE SHOTGUN MANUFACTURED FROM 1978 TO 1995	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
400-28112	1982
400-32690	1983
400-38820	1984
400-39749	1985
400-40924	1986
400-42027	1987
400-43521	1988
400-44182	1989
400-48177	1990
400-52607	1991
400-54366	1992
400-55323	1993
400-58931	1994
400-61534	1995

RED LABEL OVER & UNDER 28 GAUGE SHOTGUN MANUFACTURED FROM 1995 TO 2011	
BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
420-00201	1995
420-01042	1996
420-03941	1997
420-07473	1998
420-10930	1999
420-13321	2000
420-15666	2001
420-16440	2002
420-17872	2003

**RED LABEL OVER & UNDER  
28 GAUGE SHOTGUN**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1995 TO 2011

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
420-19188	2004
420-20126	2005
420-20607	2006
420-22181	2007
420-22301	2008
420-22485	2009
420-22607	2010
420-22871	2011

**RED LABEL OVER & UNDER  
20 GAUGE SHOTGUN**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1996 TO 2011

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
401-03040	1996
401-05372	1997
401-08012	1998
401-12116	1999
401-18012	2000
401-23025	2001
401-26006	2002
401-28207	2003
401-29268	2004
401-31815	2005
401-35442	2006
401-36530	2007
401-37552	2008
401-37584	2009
401-38102	2010
401-38528	2011

**GOLD LABEL SIDE BY SIDE**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
2004 TO 2006

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
460-00001	2004
460-01379	2005
460-03361	2006

**RED LABEL OVER & UNDER  
12 GAUGE SHOTGUN**  
MANUFACTURED FROM  
1995 TO 2011

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
411-03016	1995
411-06754	1996
411-12775	1997
411-19741	1998
411-28409	1999
411-40058	2000
411-51003	2001
411-57027	2002
411-61740	2003
411-63036	2004
411-69378	2005
411-76134	2006
411-79534	2007
411-79879	2008
411-80221	2009
411-80577	2010
411-81210	2011

**TRAP SHOTGUN 12 GAUGE**  
MANUFACTURED 2001

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
440-00001	2001

**WOODSIDE SHOTGUN  
12 GAUGE**  
MANUFACTURED 1995 TO 2002

BEGINNING SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF PRODUCTION
430-00001	1995
430-00708	1996
430-01719	1997
430-02215	1998
430-02466	1999
430-02623	2000
430-02711	2001
430-02845	2002

# INDEX OF SERIAL NUMBERS BY MODEL AND PAGE NUMBER

## REVOLVERS

GP100 .....	232
NM Single Six .....	232
NM Blackhawk.....	233, 238
New Bearcat .....	234
NM Super BH Hunter .....	234
Old Army Cap & Ball.....	234, 239
OM Single Six.....	235, 241
OM Blackhawk.....	236, 241
OM Super Blackhawk .....	236
Redhawk .....	236
SP101 .....	236, 242
Vaquero .....	237
New Vaquero .....	237
LCR.....	237
NM Super Blackhawk .....	239
OM Super Bearcat .....	241
Security Six Series .....	242
Single Nine, Ten .....	242
Super Redhawk .....	242

## PISTOLS

22/45.....	243, 247
Hawkeye Pistol .....	243
LC9.....	243
Standard Mod. Mk. 1 .....	243
Mark II.....	247
Mark III.....	243, 247
P345.....	244, 248
P85.....	248
P89, P90 .....	244, 248
P91, P93, P94, P944 .....	245, 249

P95, P97.....	246, 250
SR1911 .....	246
SR22, SR45, SR9.....	246
SR40, SR40C, SR9C.....	250
LCP, LC380 .....	247
22 Charger .....	247

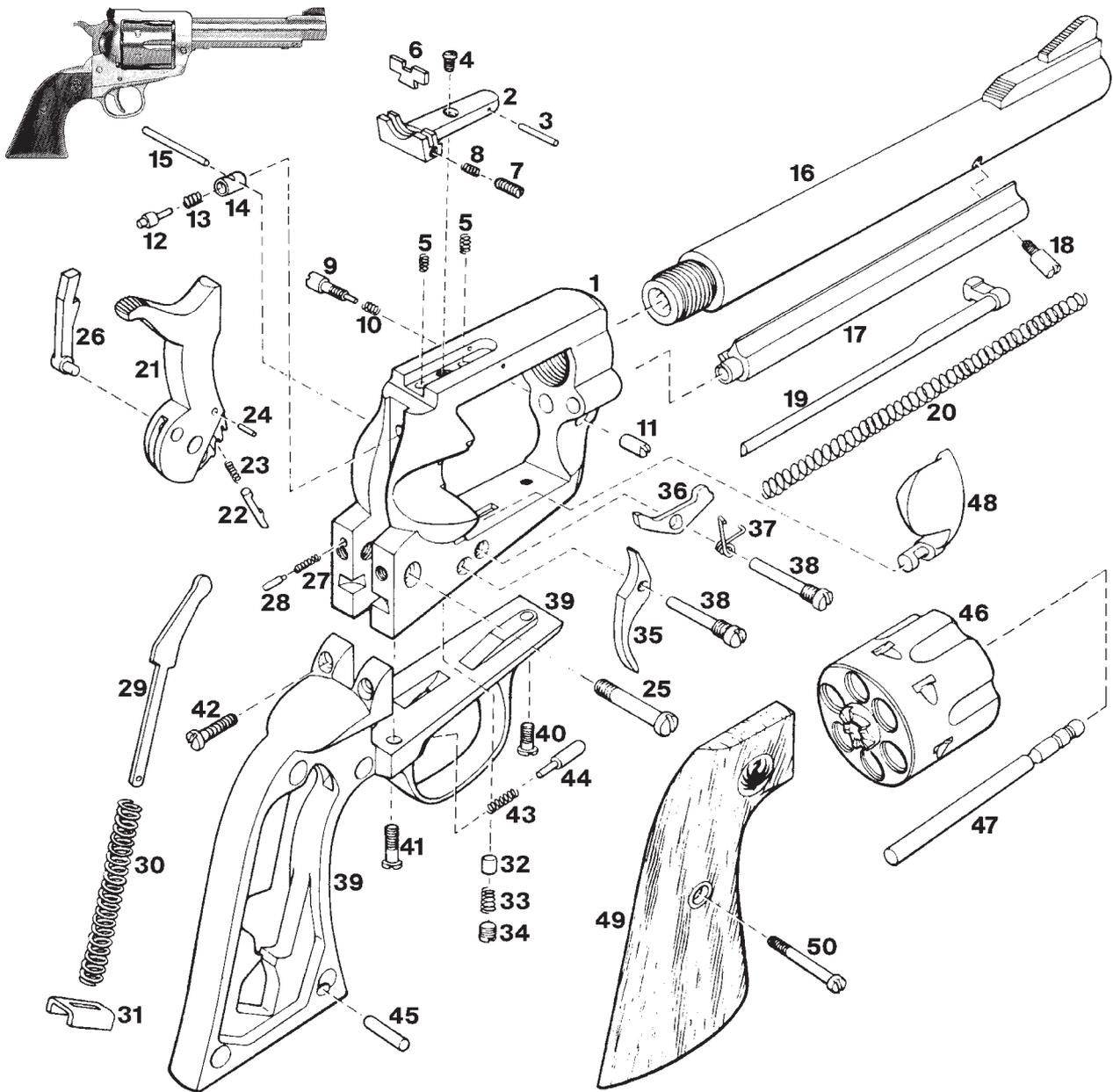
## RIFLES

10/22.....	251, 255
77/22 Hornet.....	251
77/357, 77/44 .....	252
77/22, 77/17 .....	255
77/50.....	256
Guide Gun.....	252
Gunsite Scout.....	252
M77, M77 Mark II .....	252, 256
Mini-14, Mini Thirty.....	253, 257
No. 1 .....	256
No. 3 .....	254
Model 96.....	254, 257
American Rifle .....	254
PC9, PC4 Carbine .....	254
44 Carbine.....	255
Deerfield .....	256
Hawkeye Rifle .....	256
SR22, SR556, SR762.....	258

## SHOTGUNS

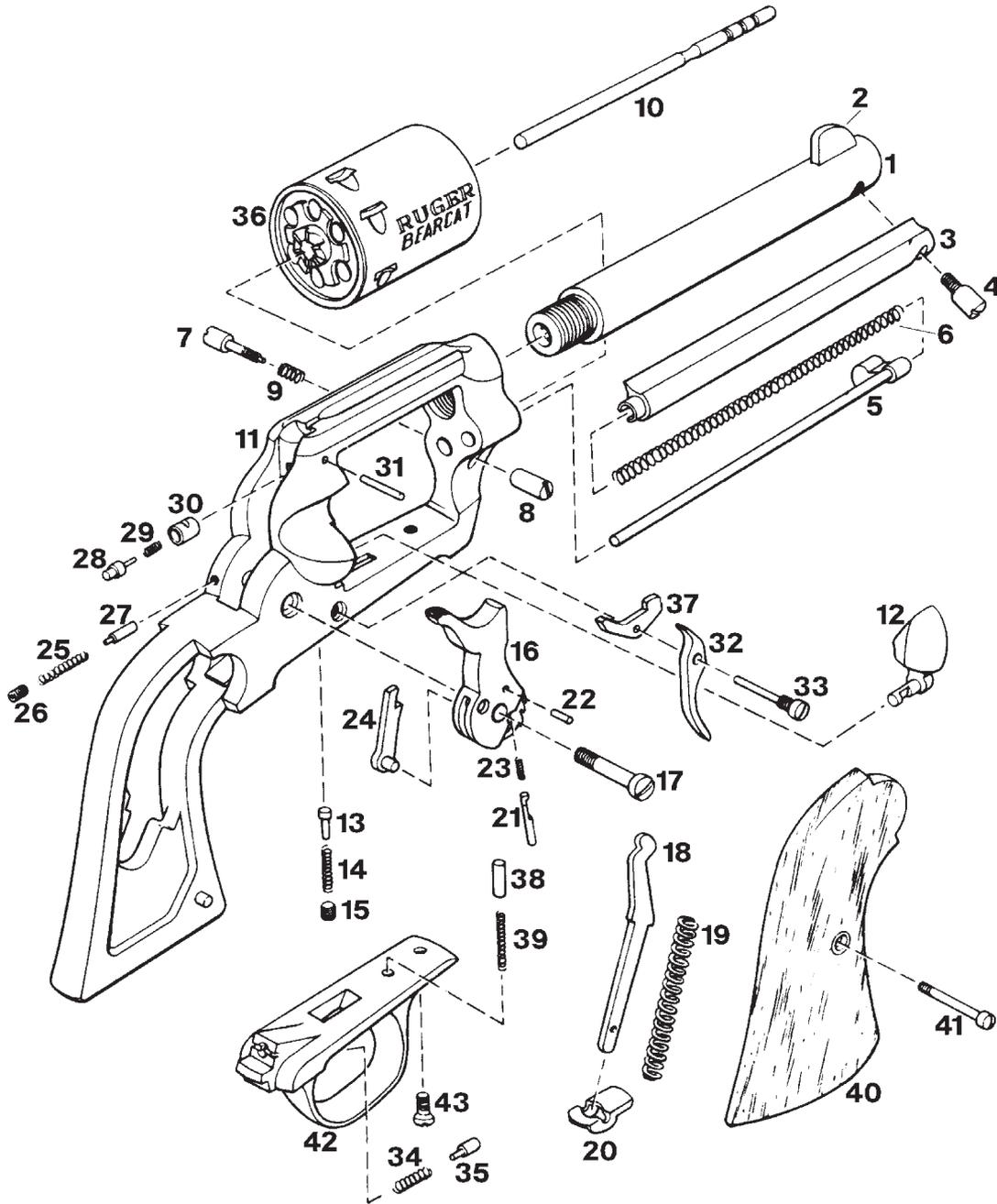
Red Label O/U.....	259, 260
Gold Label SxS .....	260
Woodside .....	260
Trap Model.....	260

# 44 Magnum Blackhawk Revolver



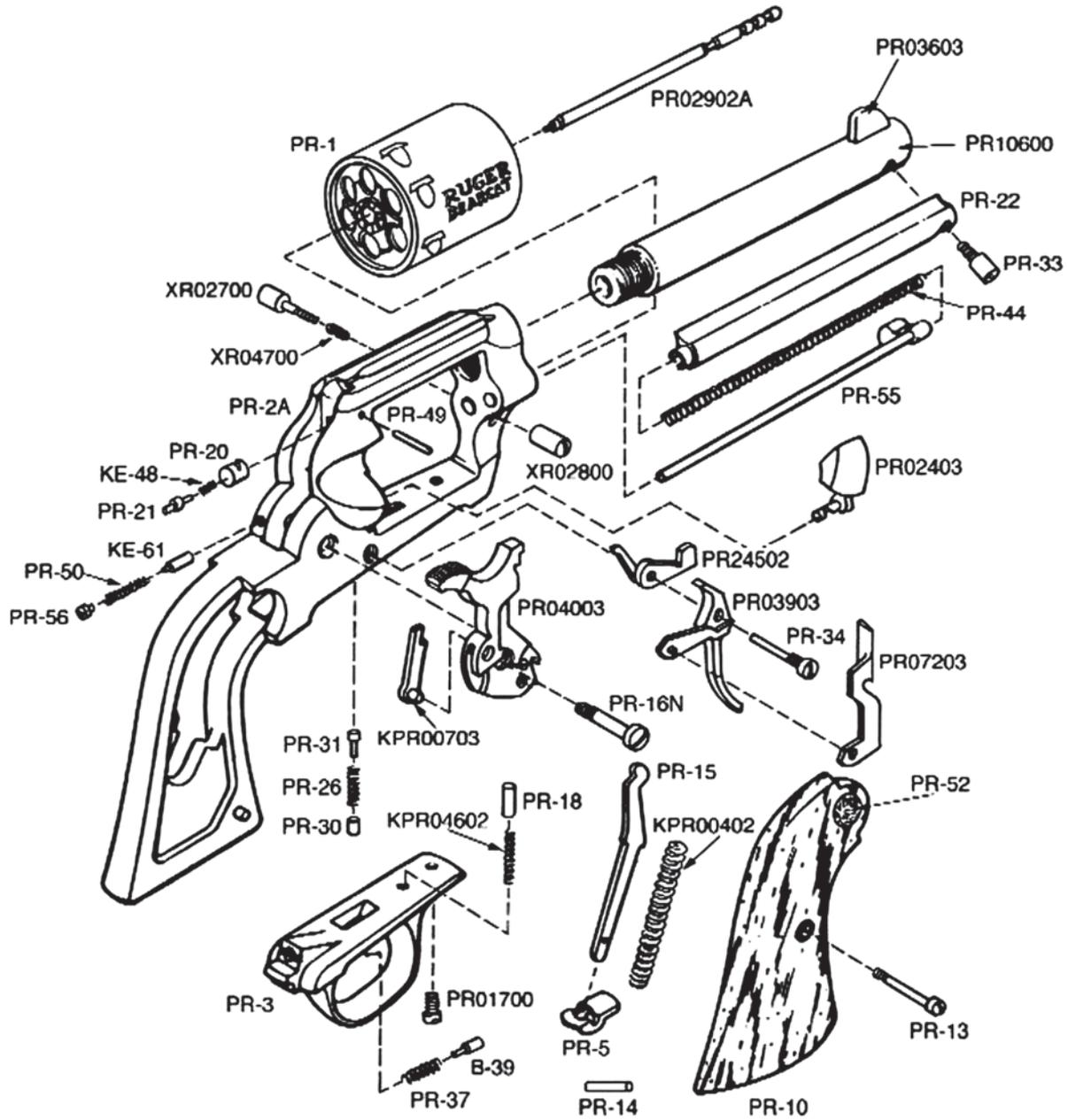
- |    |                              |    |                              |    |                                |
|----|------------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1  | Cylinder Frame               | 18 | Ejector Housing Screw        | 35 | Trigger                        |
| 2  | Rear Sight                   | 19 | Ejector Rod Assembly         | 36 | Cylinder Latch                 |
| 3  | Rear Sight Pivot Pin         | 20 | Ejector Spring               | 37 | Cylinder Latch Spring          |
| 4  | Rear Sight Elevation Screw   | 21 | Hammer                       | 38 | Trigger and Latch Pivot Screws |
| 5  | Rear Sight Elevation Springs | 22 | Hammer Plunger               | 39 | Grip Frame                     |
| 6  | Rear Sight Leaf              | 23 | Hammer Plunger Spring        | 40 | Front Grip Frame Screw         |
| 7  | Rear Sight Leaf Screw        | 24 | Hammer Plunger Retaining Pin | 41 | Lower Grip Frame Screws        |
| 8  | Rear Sight Leaf Spring       | 25 | Hammer Pivot Screw           | 42 | Rear Grip Frame Screws         |
| 9  | Base Pin Latch               | 26 | Pawl                         | 43 | Trigger Spring                 |
| 10 | Base Pin Latch Spring        | 27 | Pawl Spring                  | 44 | Trigger Spring Plunger         |
| 11 | Base Pin Latch Nut           | 28 | Pawl Spring Plunger          | 45 | Grip Pin                       |
| 12 | Firing Pin                   | 29 | Hammer Strut                 | 46 | Cylinder                       |
| 13 | Firing Pin Spring            | 30 | Mainspring                   | 47 | Base Pin                       |
| 14 | Recoil Plate                 | 31 | Mainspring Seat              | 48 | Gate                           |
| 15 | Recoil Plate Retaining Pin   | 32 | Gate Detent Plunger          | 49 | Grip Panels                    |
| 16 | Barrel                       | 33 | Gate Detent Plunger Spring   | 50 | Grip Screw                     |
| 17 | Ejector Housing              | 34 | Gate Detent Plunger Screw    |    |                                |

# Bearcat 22 Revolver



- |    |                       |    |                           |    |                        |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1  | Barrel                | 16 | Hammer                    | 31 | Recoil Plate Cross Pin |
| 2  | Front Sight           | 17 | Hammer Pivot              | 32 | Trigger                |
| 3  | Ejector Housing       | 18 | Hammer Strut              | 33 | Trigger Pivot          |
| 4  | Ejector Housing Screw | 19 | Hammer Spring             | 34 | Trigger Spring         |
| 5  | Ejector Rod Assembly  | 20 | Hammer Spring Seat        | 35 | Trigger Spring Plunger |
| 6  | Ejector Spring        | 21 | Hammer Plunger            | 36 | Cylinder               |
| 7  | Base Pin Latch Body   | 22 | Hammer Plunger Pin        | 37 | Cylinder Latch         |
| 8  | Base Pin Latch Nut    | 23 | Hammer Plunger Spring     | 38 | Cylinder Latch Plunger |
| 9  | Base Pin Latch Spring | 24 | Pawl                      | 39 | Cylinder Latch Spring  |
| 10 | Base Pin              | 25 | Pawl Spring               | 40 | Grip Panel             |
| 11 | Frame                 | 26 | Pawl Screw                | 41 | Grip Panel Screw       |
| 12 | Gate Assembly         | 27 | Pawl Spring Plunger       | 42 | Trigger Guard          |
| 13 | Gate Detent Plunger   | 28 | Firing Pin                | 43 | Trigger Guard Screw    |
| 14 | Gate Detent Spring    | 29 | Firing Pin Rebound Spring |    |                        |
| 15 | Gate Retaining Screw  | 30 | Recoil Plate              |    |                        |

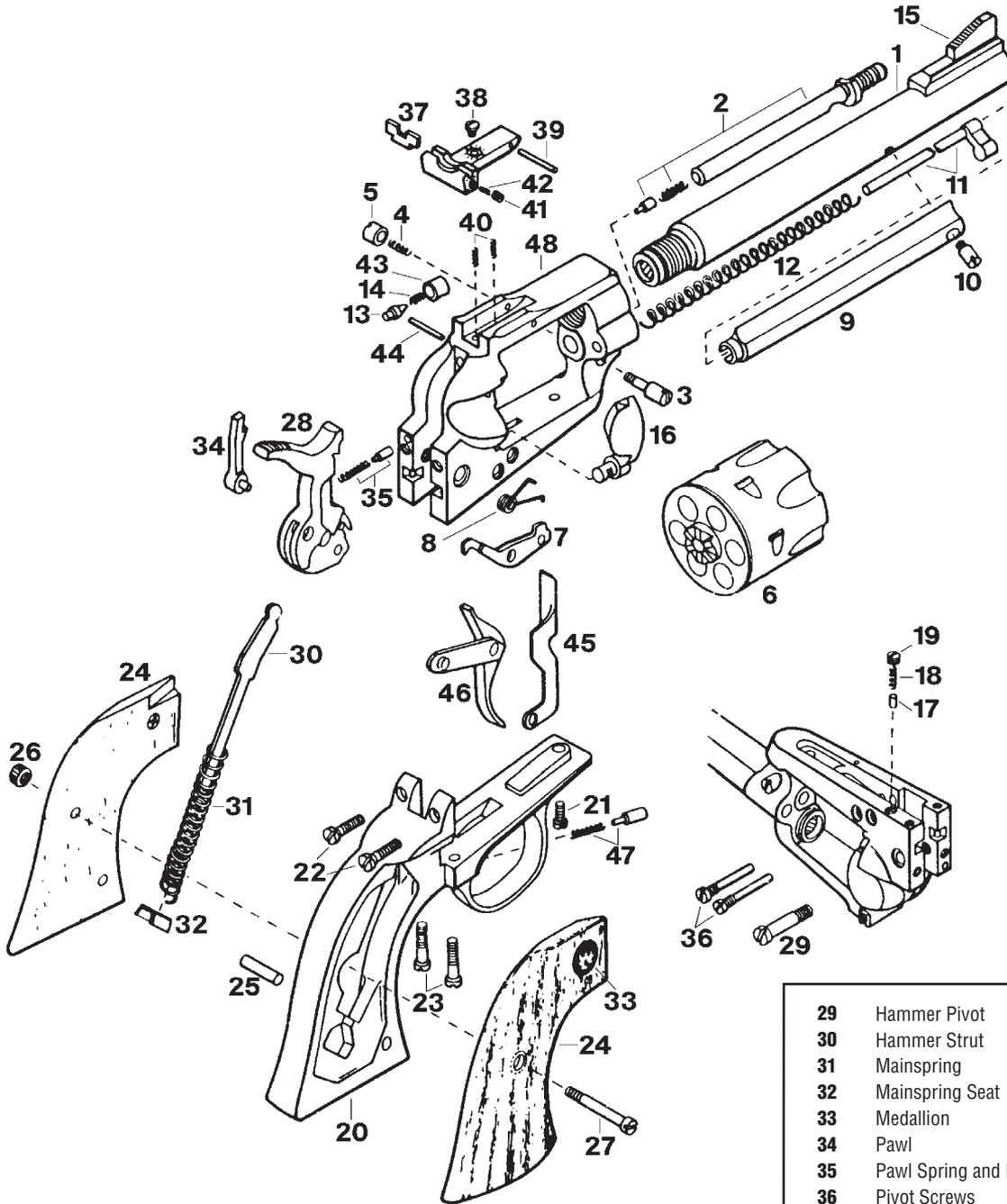
# New Bearcat



<b>PR10600</b>	* Barrel	<b>PR03603</b>	Front Sight	<b>KE-61</b>	Pawl Plunger
<b>PR02902A</b>	* Base Pin Assembly	<b>PR02403</b>	Gate	<b>PR-50</b>	Pawl Plunger Spring
<b>XR02700</b>	Base Pin Latch Body	<b>PR-31</b>	Gate Plunger	<b>PR-56</b>	Pawl Spring Retaining Screw
<b>XR02800</b>	Base Pin Latch Nut	<b>PR-26</b>	Gate Plunger Spring	<b>PR-20</b>	Recoil Plate
<b>XR04700</b>	Base Pin Latch Spring	<b>PR-30</b>	Gate Spring Retaining Screw	<b>PR-49</b>	Recoil Plate Cross Pin
<b>PR-1</b>	* Cylinder - .22 L.R.	<b>PR-10</b>	Grip Panels (2)	<b>PR07203</b>	* Transfer Bar
<b>PR24502</b>	* Cylinder Latch Assembly	<b>PR-14</b>	Grip Panel Dowel	<b>PR03903</b>	* Trigger
<b>KPR04602</b>	* Cylinder Latch Spring	<b>PR-52</b>	Grip Panel Medallion (2)	<b>PR-3</b>	Trigger Guard
<b>PR-18</b>	Cylinder Latch Spring Plunger	<b>XR01900</b>	Grip Panel Screw	<b>PR01700</b>	Trigger Guard Screw A, Front
<b>PR-22</b>	Ejector Housing	<b>PR04003</b>	* Hammer	<b>PR-34</b>	Trigger Pivot Screw
<b>PR-33</b>	Ejector Housing Screw	<b>PR-16N</b>	Hammer Pivot Pin	<b>PR-37</b>	* Trigger Spring
<b>PR-55</b>	Ejector Rod Assembly	<b>PR-15</b>	Hammer Strut	<b>B-39</b>	Trigger Spring Plunger
<b>PR-44</b>	Ejector Rod Spring	<b>KPR00402</b>	Mainspring		
<b>PR-21</b>	Firing Pin	<b>PR-5</b>	Mainspring Seat		
<b>KE-48</b>	Firing Pin Rebound Spring	<b>KPR00703</b>	* Pawl		

\* Parts so marked must be factory fitted.

# Blackhawk and Super Blackhawk Revolver



- 1 Barrel
- 2 Base Pin Assembly
- 3 Base Pin Latch
- 4 Base Pin Latch Spring
- 5 Base Pin Nut
- 6 Cylinder
- 7 Cylinder Latch
- 8 Cylinder Latch Spring
- 9 Ejector Housing
- 10 Ejector Housing Screw
- 11 Ejector Rod Assembly
- 12 Ejector Spring
- 13 Firing Pin
- 14 Firing Pin Rebound Spring

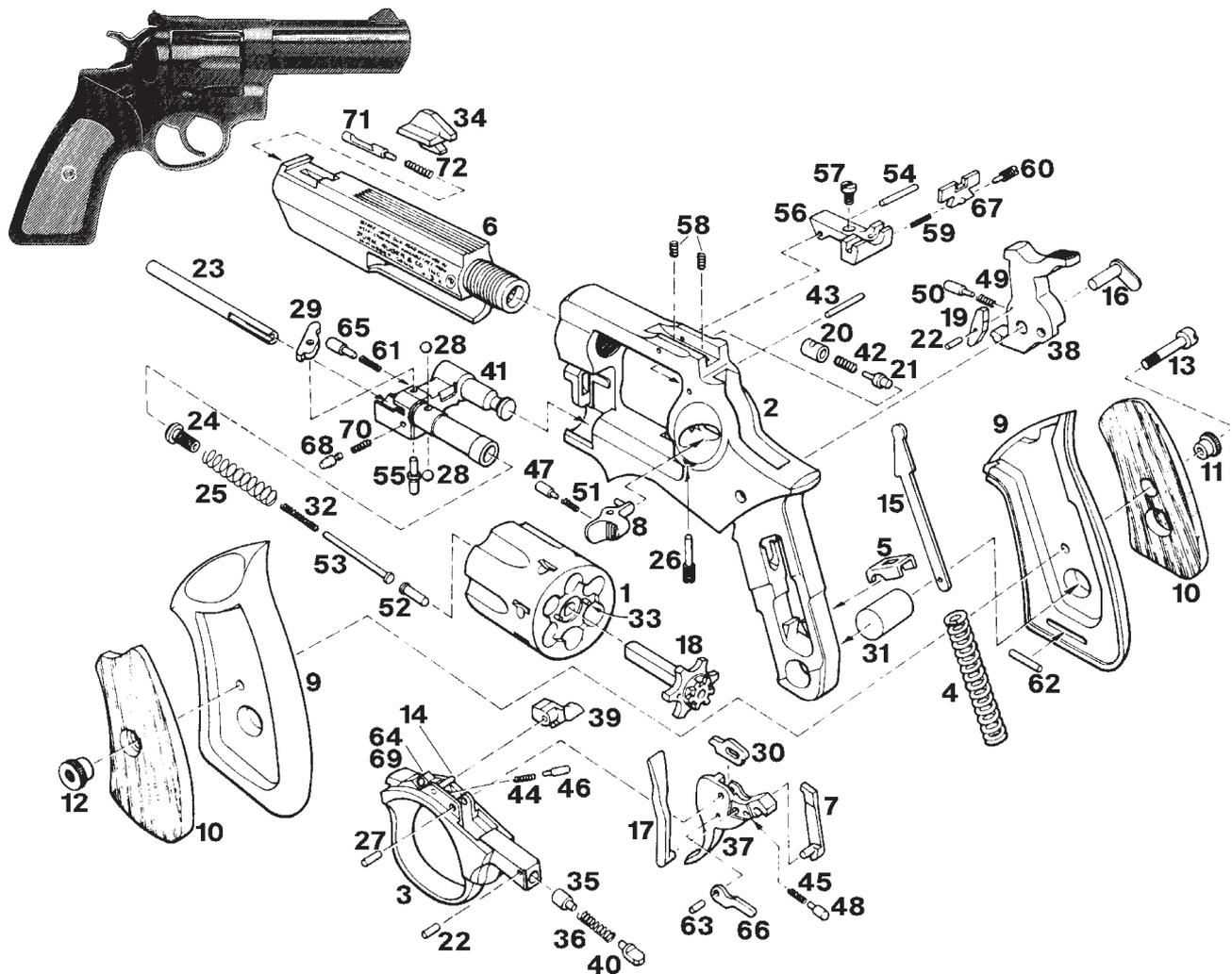
- 15 Front Sight
- 16 Gate Assembly
- 17 Gate Detent Plunger
- 18 Gate Detent Spring
- 19 Gate Spring Screw
- 20 Grip Frame
- 21 Grip Frame Screw, Front
- 22 Grip Frame Screws, Back
- 23 Grip Frame Screws, Bottom
- 24 Grip Panels
- 25 Grip Panel Dowel
- 26 Grip Panel Ferrule, Left
- 27 Grip Panel Screw
- 28 Hammer

- 29 Hammer Pivot
- 30 Hammer Strut
- 31 Mainspring
- 32 Mainspring Seat
- 33 Medallion
- 34 Pawl
- 35 Pawl Spring and Plunger
- 36 Pivot Screws
- 37 Rear Sight Blade
- 38 Rear Sight Elevation Screw
- 39 Rear Sight Pivot Pin
- 40 Rear Sight Springs
- 41 Rear Sight Windage Adjusting<R>Screw
- 42 Rear Sight Windage Spring
- 43 Recoil Plate
- 44 Recoil Plate Cross Pin
- 45 Transfer Bar
- 46 Trigger
- 47 Trigger Spring and Plunger
- 48 Frame

**Parts Not Shown**

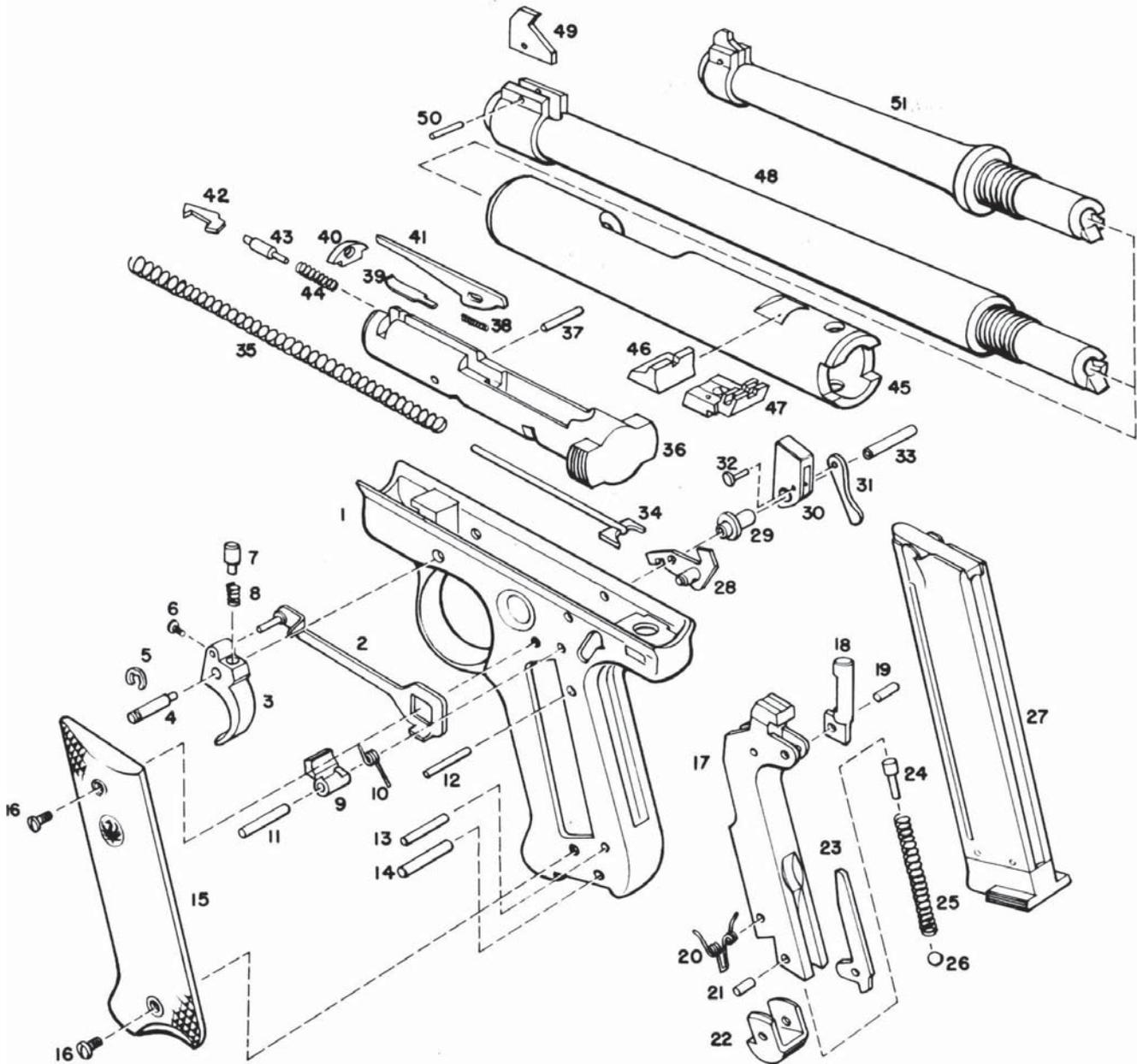
Grip Panel Ferrule, Right

# GP-100 Revolver



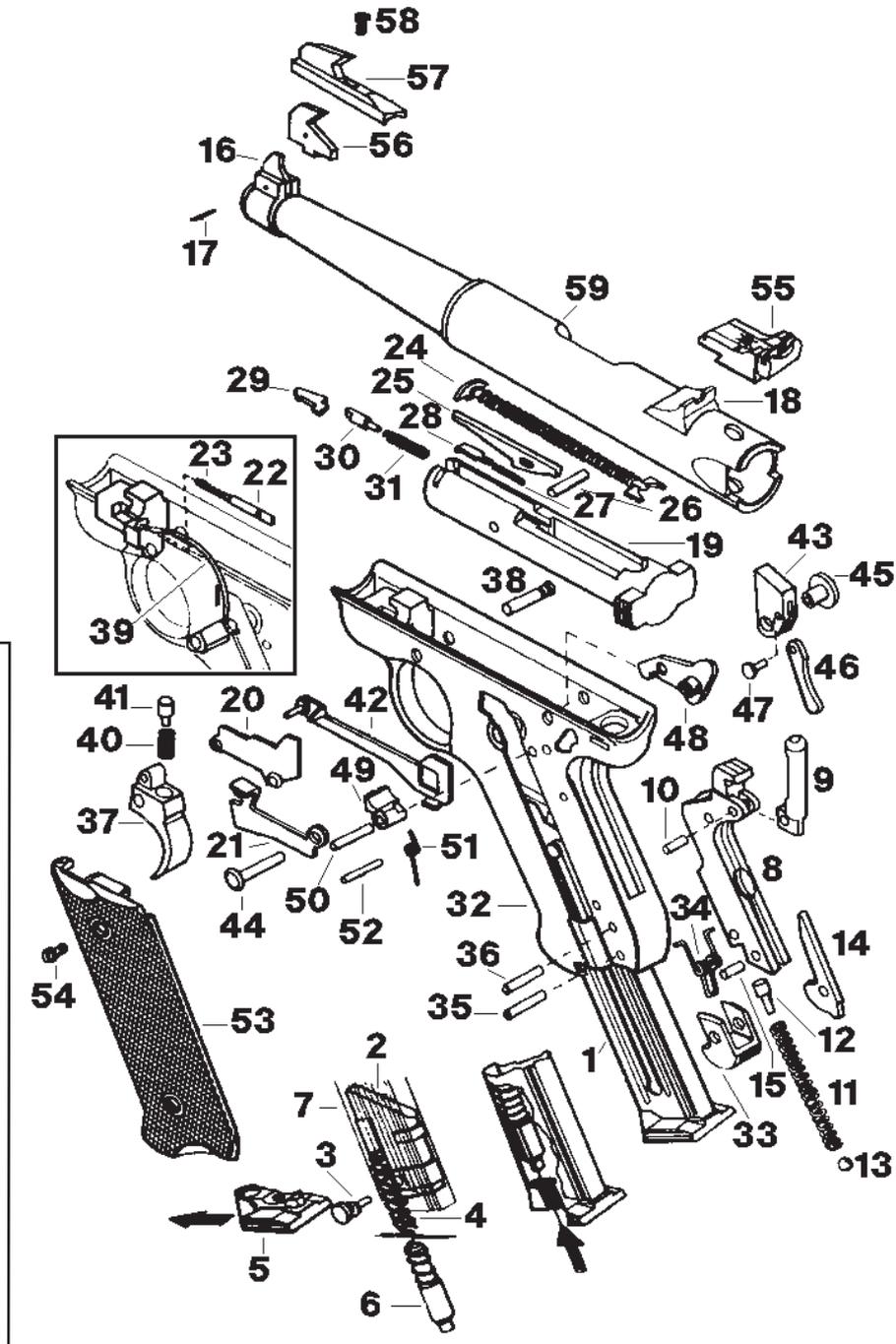
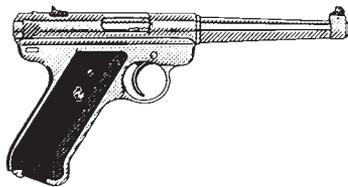
1	Cylinder	25	Ejector Spring	49	Hammer Dog Spring
2	Frame	26	Crane Latch Pivot	50	Hammer Dog Spring Plunger
3	Trigger Guard	27	Trigger Pivot Pin	51	Crane Latch Spring
4	Mainspring	28	Cylinder Retaining Balls	52	Center Pin Lock
5	Mainspring Seat	29	Front Latch	53	Center Pin Rod
6	Barrel	30	Trigger Plunger	54	Rear Sight Cross Pin
7	Pawl	31	Grip Panel Locator	55	Front Latch Pivot Pin
8	Crane Latch	32	Center Pin Spring	56	Rear Sight Base
9	Grip Panels	33	Ejector Alignment Pins	57	Rear Sight Elevation Screw
10	Panel Inserts	34	Front Sight	58	Rear Sight Elevation Springs
11	Grip Ferrule, Right	35	Trigger Link Plunger	59	Rear Sight Windage Spring
12	Grip Ferrule, Left	36	Trigger Guard Latch Spring	60	Rear Sight Windage Adjustment Screw
13	Grip Panel Screw	37	Trigger	61	Front Latch Spring
14	Cylinder Latch Pivot	38	Hammer	62	Disassembly Pin
15	Hammer Strut	39	Cylinder Latch	63	Trigger Link Pin
16	Hammer Pivot Assembly	40	Trigger Guard Latch	64	Crane Pivot Lock Plunger
17	Transfer Bar	41	Crane and Crane Pivot Assembly	65	Front Latch Spring Plunger
18	Ejector	42	Firing Pin Rebound Spring	66	Trigger Link
19	Hammer Dog	43	Recoil Plate Cross Pin	67	Rear Sight Blade
20	Recoil Plate	44	Cylinder Latch Spring	68	Front Latch Pivot Lock
21	Firing Pin	45	Pawl Plunger Spring	69	Crane Pivot Lock Spring
22	Hammer Dog Pivot Pin and Trigger Guard Latch Pin	46	Cylinder Latch Plunger	70	Front Latch Pivot Lock Spring
23	Ejector Rod	47	Crane Latch Spring Plunger	71	Front Sight Plunger
24	Ejector Retainer	48	Pawl Plunger	72	Front Sight Plunger Spring

# Mark I and Standard Auto



1	Frame	14	Magazine Catch Pivot Pin	27	Magazine Assembly	40	Recoil Spring Support
2	Disconnecter	15	Grips (left hand shown)	28	Safety Catch	41	Firing Pin
3	Trigger	16	Grip Screws (4)	29	Hammer Bushing	42	Extractor
4	Trigger Pin	17	Mainspring Housing	30	Hammer	43	Extractor Plunger
5	Trigger Pin Lock Washer	18	Bolt Stop Pin	31	Hammer Strut	44	Extractor Spring
6	Trigger Stop Screw (Mk 1)	19	Bolt Stop Pivot Pin	32	Hammer Strut Pin	45	Receiver
7	Trigger Spring Plunger	20	Magazine Catch Spring	33	Hammer Pivot Pin	46	Rear Sight (standard)
8	Trigger Spring	21	Housing Latch Pivot Pin	34	Recoil Spring Gide	47	Micro Rear Sight (Mk 1)
9	Sear	22	Magazine Catch	35	Recoil Spring	48	Barrel (Mk 1)
10	Sear Spring	23	Housing Latch	36	Bolt	49	Front Sight Blade (Mk 1)
11	Sear Pivot Pin	24	Mainspring Plunger	37	Firing Pin Stop	50	Front Sight Pin (Mk 1)
12	Sear Spring Stop Pin	25	Mainspring	38	Rebound Spring	51	Barrel Assembly (standard)
13	Magazine Catch Stop Pin	26	Detent Ball	39	Rebound Spring Support		

# Mark II Standard and Target Auto



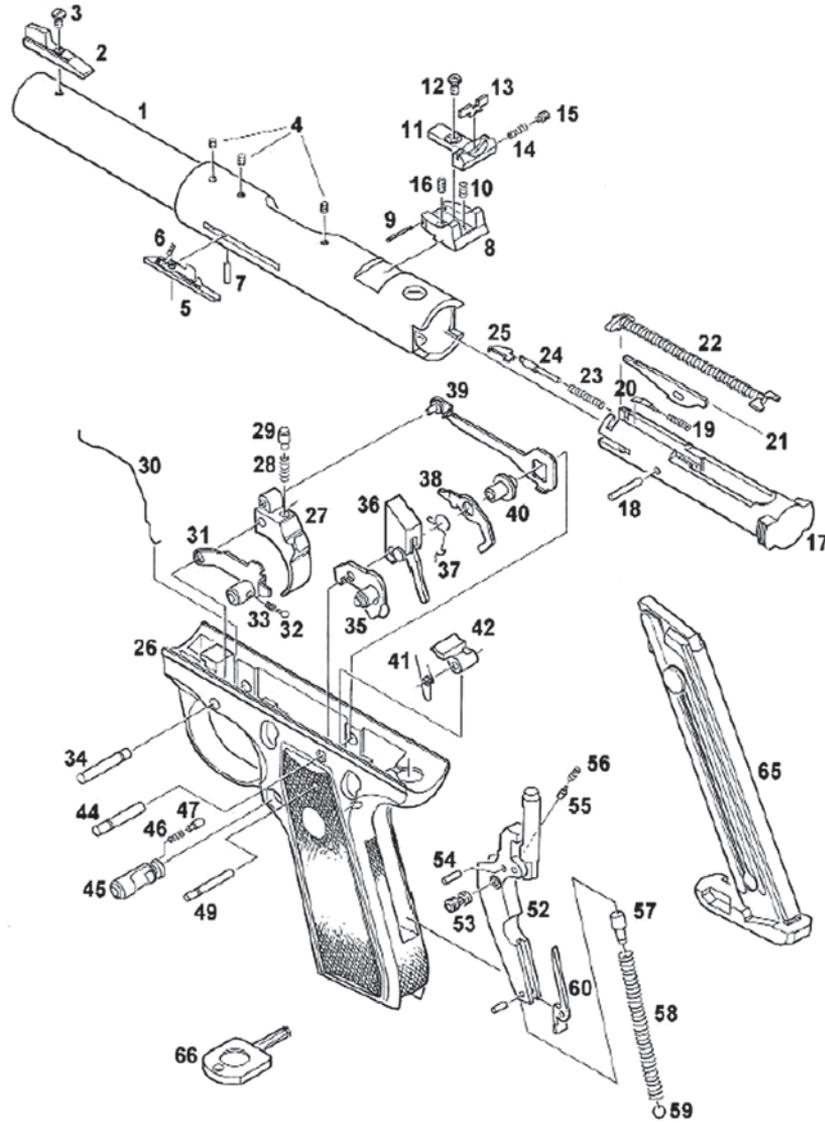
- 1 Magazine, Complete
- 2 Magazine Follower
- 3 Magazine Follower Button
- 4 Magazine Spring
- 5 Magazine Block (Bottom)
- 6 Magazine Block Retaining Plunger
- 7 Magazine Body
- 8 Mainspring Housing
- 9 Bolt Stop Pin
- 10 Bolt Stop Pivot Pin
- 11 Mainspring
- 12 Mainspring Plunger
- 13 Detent Ball
- 14 Housing Latch
- 15 Housing Latch Pivot
- 16 Front Sight Blade
- 17 Front Sight Pin
- 18 Rear Sight (Standard Model)
- 19 Bolt
- 20 Bolt Stop Assembly
- 21 Bolt Stop Thumb-Piece
- 22 Bolt Stop Plunger
- 23 Bolt Stop Plunger Spring
- 24 Recoil Spring Assembly
- 25 Firing Pin
- 26 Firing Pin Stop
- 27 Rebound Spring
- 28 Rebound Spring Support
- 29 Extractor
- 30 Extractor Plunger
- 31 Extractor Spring
- 32 Grip Frame with Trigger Guard
- 33 Magazine Latch
- 34 Magazine Latch Spring
- 35 Magazine Latch Pin
- 36 Magazine Latch Stop Pin
- 37 Trigger

- 38 Trigger Pivot
- 39 Trigger Pivot Retainer
- 40 Trigger Spring
- 41 Trigger Spring Plunger
- 42 Disconnecter
- 43 Hammer
- 44 Hammer Pivot
- 45 Hammer Bushing
- 46 Hammer Strut
- 47 Hammer Strut Pin
- 48 Safety
- 49 Sear
- 50 Sear Pivot

- 51 Sear Spring
- 52 Sear Spring Stop Pin
- 53 Grip Panels
- 54 Grip Panel Screws
- 55 Adjustable Rear Sight, Target
- 56 Front Sight Blade, Target
- 57 Ramp Front Sight, Target
- 58 Ramp Front Sight Screw, Target
- 59 Barrel

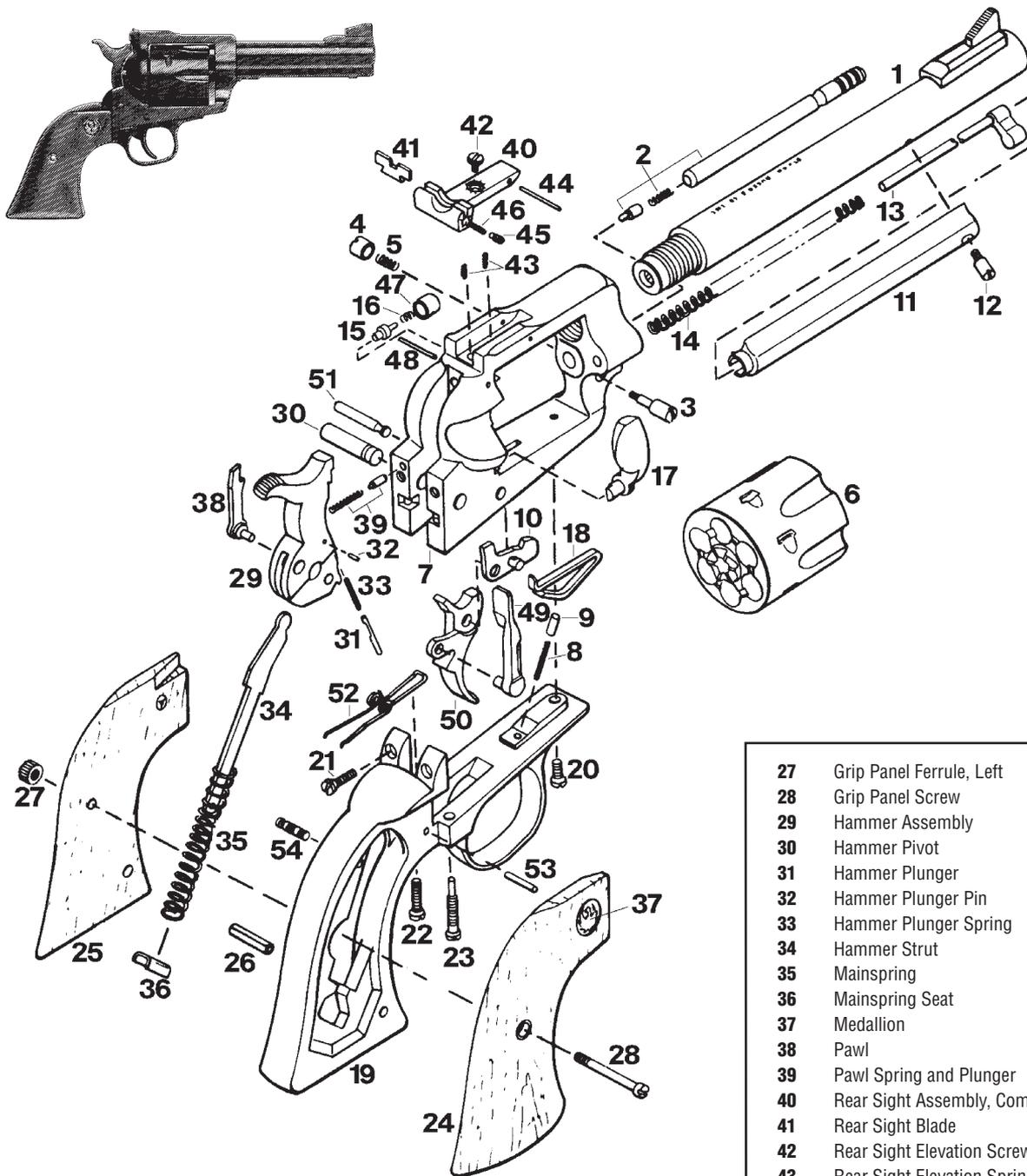
**Parts Not Shown**  
 Medallion  
 Trigger with Overstop Travel

# Mark III 2245 Pistol

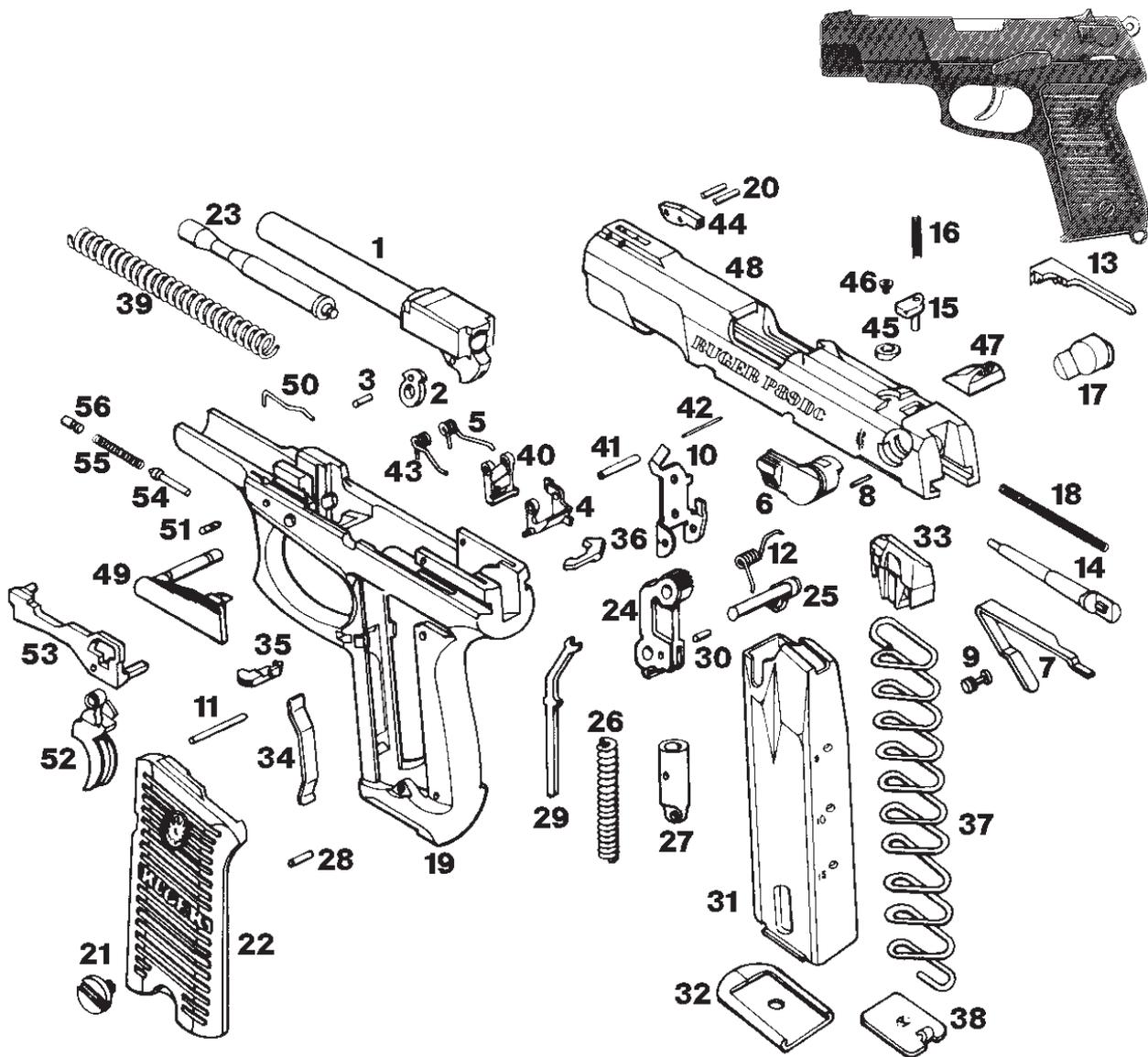


1	* Barrel/Receiver Assembly	19	Rebound Spring	37	Magazine Disconnecter Spring	55	Lock Detent Plunger Spring
2	Front Sight	20	Rebound Spring Support	38	Magazine Disconnecter	56	Lock Detent Plunger Spring
3	Front Sight Screw	21	Firing Pin	39	* Disconnecter Assembly	57	Hammer Spring Plunger
4	Barrel/Receiver Filler Screws (3)	22	Recoil Spring Assembly	40	Hammer Bushing	58	Hammer Spring
5	Loaded Chamber Indicator	23	Extractor Spring	41	Sear Spring	59	Mainspring Housing Detent Ball
6	Loaded Chamber Indicator Spring	24	Extractor Plunger	42	Sear	60	Mainspring Housing Latch
7	Loaded Chamber Indicator Pin	25	Extractor	43	Bolt Stop Thumbpiece	61	Mainspring Housing Latch Pin
8	Rear Sight Body	26	* Grip Frame with Trigger Guard	44	Hammer Pivot Pin	62	Grip Frame Fillers
9	Rear Sight Pivot Pin	27	* Trigger	45	Magazine Latch	63	Grip Panels
10	Rear Sight Elevation Spring	28	Trigger Spring	46	Magazine Latch Spring	64	Grip Panel Screw (2)
11	Rear Sight Base	29	Trigger Spring Plunger	47	Magazine Latch Spring Plunger	65	Magazine, Complete (10-round)
12	Rear Sight Base Set Screw	30	Trigger Pivot Retainer	48	Magazine Latch Screw	66	Internal Lock Key
13	Rear Sight Blade	31	Bolt Stop Assembly	49	Sear Pivot Pin	67	Scope Mount Base, Weaver Style
14	Rear Sight Windage Spring	32	Bolt Stop Plunger	50	Sear Spring Stop Pin	68	Scope Base Screws (3)
15	Rear Sight Windage Adjustment Screw	33	Bolt Stop Plunger Spring	51	Magazine Latch Pin (2)		
16	Rear Sight Elevation Screw	34	Trigger Pivot Pin	52	Mainspring Housing Assembly		
17	Bolt, Only	35	* Safety Assembly, Complete	53	Lock Pin		
18	Firing Pin Stop	36	* Hammer Assembly, Complete	54	Spring Back-up Pin	*	Parts so marked must be factory fitted.

# New Model Blackhawk Revolver

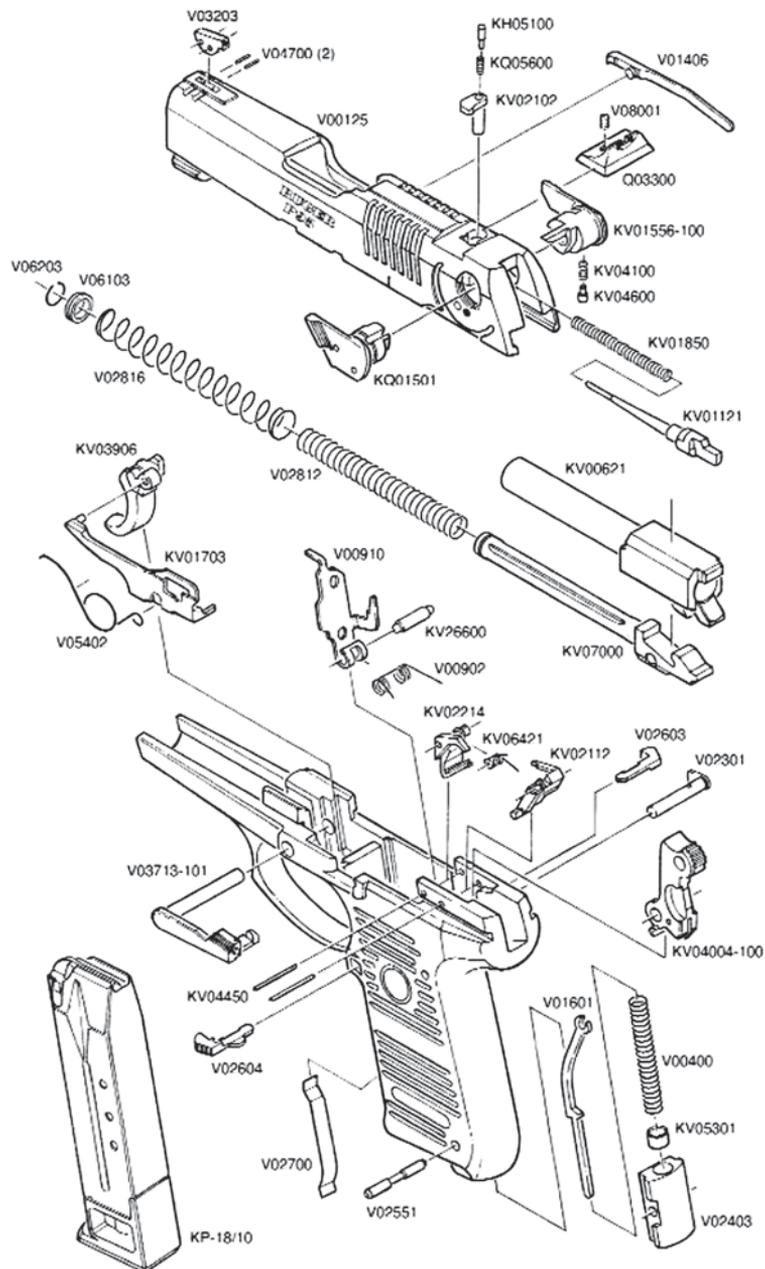


- |    |                               |    |                                 |                        |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | Barrel                        | 14 | Ejector Rod Spring              | 27                     | Grip Panel Ferrule, Left            |
| 2  | Base Pin Assembly             | 15 | Firing Pin                      | 28                     | Grip Panel Screw                    |
| 3  | Base Pin Latch                | 16 | Firing Pin Rebound Spring       | 29                     | Hammer Assembly                     |
| 4  | Base Pin Latch Nut            | 17 | Gate                            | 30                     | Hammer Pivot                        |
| 5  | Base Pin Latch Spring         | 18 | Gate Detent Spring and Retainer | 31                     | Hammer Plunger                      |
| 6  | Cylinder                      | 19 | Grip Frame                      | 32                     | Hammer Plunger Pin                  |
| 7  | Cylinder Frame                | 20 | Grip Frame Screw, Front         | 33                     | Hammer Plunger Spring               |
| 8  | Cylinder Latch Spring         | 21 | Grip Frame Screw, Back          | 34                     | Hammer Strut                        |
| 9  | Cylinder Latch Spring Plunger | 22 | Grip Frame Screw, Bottom        | 35                     | Mainspring                          |
| 10 | Cylinder Latch                | 23 | Grip Frame Screw and Pivot Lock | 36                     | Mainspring Seat                     |
| 11 | Ejector Housing               | 24 | Grip Panel, Right               | 37                     | Medallion                           |
| 12 | Ejector Housing Screw         | 25 | Grip Panel, Left                | 38                     | Pawl                                |
| 13 | Ejector Rod Assembly          | 26 | Grip Panel Dowel                | 39                     | Pawl Spring and Plunger             |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 40                     | Rear Sight Assembly, Complete       |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 41                     | Rear Sight Blade                    |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 42                     | Rear Sight Elevation Screw          |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 43                     | Rear Sight Elevation Springs        |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 44                     | Rear Sight Pivot Pin                |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 45                     | Rear Sight Windage Adjustment Screw |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 46                     | Rear Sight Windage Spring           |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 47                     | Recoil Plate                        |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 48                     | Recoil Plate Cross Pin              |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 49                     | Transfer Bar                        |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 50                     | Trigger                             |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 51                     | Trigger Pivot                       |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 52                     | Trigger Spring                      |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 53                     | Trigger Spring Pin                  |
|    |                               |    |                                 | 54                     | Trigger Spring Retaining Pin        |
|    |                               |    |                                 | <b>Parts Not Shown</b> |                                     |
|    |                               |    |                                 |                        | Grip Panel Ferrule, Right           |



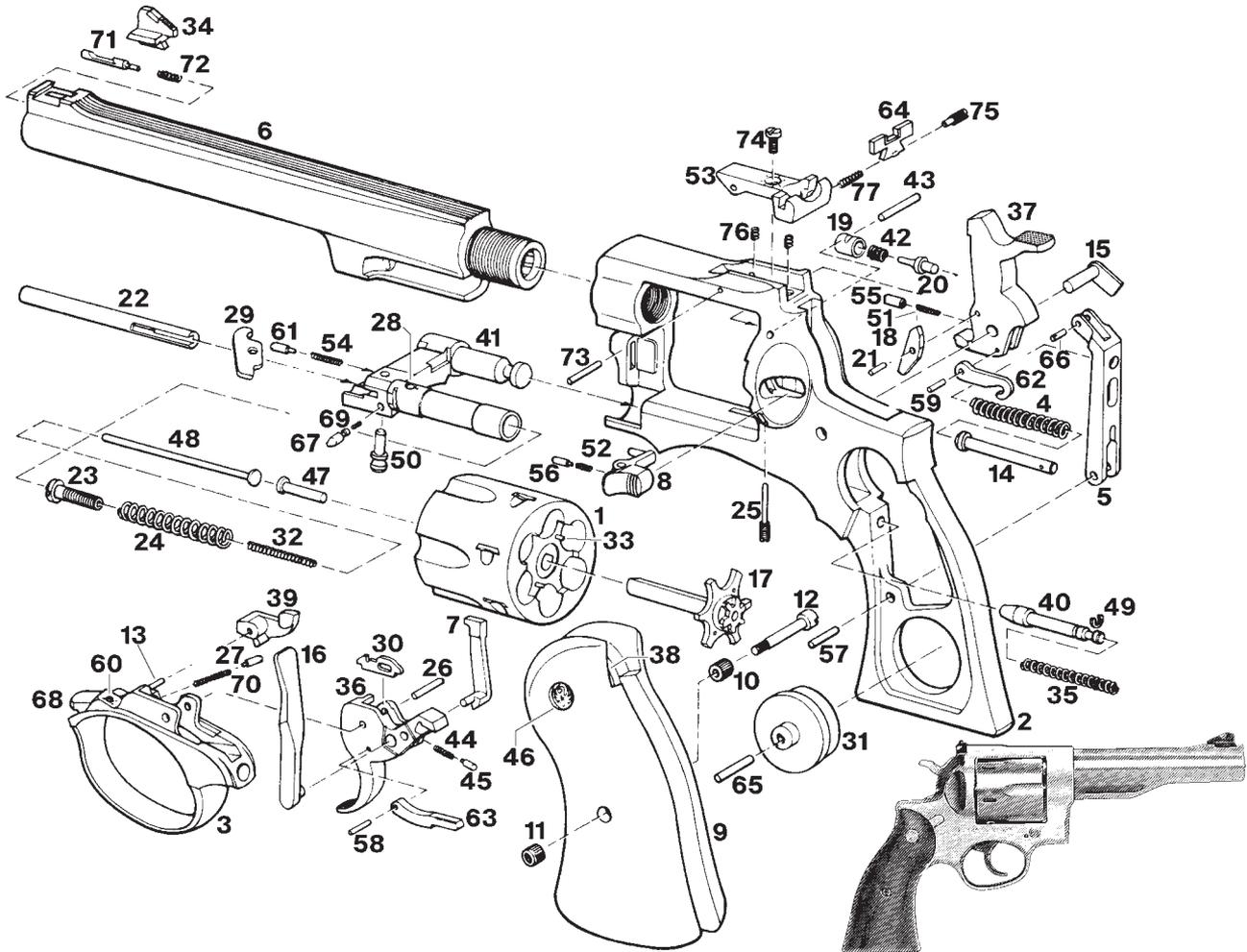
1	Barrel	21	Grip Panel Screws	41	Sear Pivot Bearing
2	Barrel Link	22	Grip Panel, Left	42	Sear Pivot Pin
3	Barrel Link Pin	23	Guide Rod Assembly	43	Sear Spring
4	Blocker Lever	24	Hammer	44	Sight, Front
5	Blocker Lever Spring	25	Hammer Pivot Assembly	45	Sight Lock
6	Decocker Lever	26	Hammer Spring	46	Sight Lock Screw
7	Decocker Lever Spring	27	Hammer Spring Seat	47	Sight, Rear
8	Decocker Lever Spring Pin	28	Hammer Spring Seat Pin	48	Slide
9	Decocker Lever Spring Retainer	29	Hammer Strut	49	Slide Stop
10	Ejector	30	Hammer Strut Pin	50	Slide Stop Spring
11	Ejector Pin	31	Magazine Body	51	Slide Stop Spring Retainer
12	Ejector Spring	32	Magazine Floorplate	52	Trigger
13	Extractor	33	Magazine Follower	53	Trigger Bar
14	Firing Pin	34	Magazine Latch Spring	54	Trigger Bar Plunger
15	Firing Pin Block	35	Magazine Latch, Left	55	Trigger Bar Plunger Spring
16	Firing Pin Block Spring	36	Magazine Latch, Right	56	Trigger Bar Spring Retainer
17	Firing Pin Stop	37	Magazine Spring		
18	Firing Pin Spring	38	Magazine Spring Seat		
19	Frame	39	Recoil Spring		
20	Front Sight Cross Pins	40	Sear		
				<b>Parts Not Shown</b>	
					Grip Panel, Right

# P95 Pistol



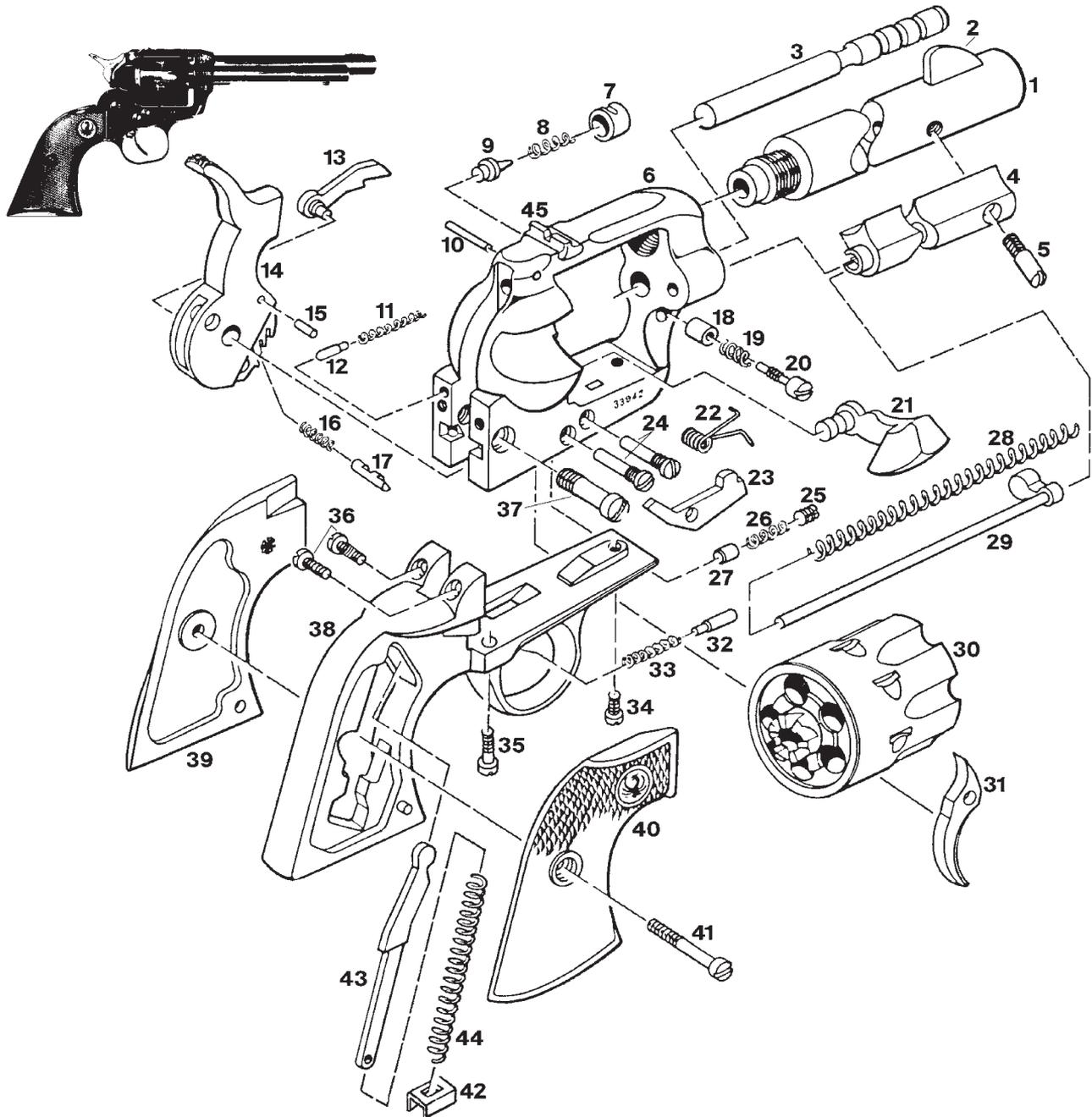
<b>KV00621</b>	* Barrel	<b>V02301</b>	Hammer Pivot Pin	<b>V06103</b>	Recoil Spring Collar
<b>KV02112</b>	* Blocker lever	<b>V00400</b>	Hammer Spring	<b>V06203</b>	Recoil Spring Collar Retainer
<b>KV07000</b>	Camblock	<b>V02403</b>	Hammer Spring Seat	<b>KQ01501</b>	Safety, Left
<b>V00910</b>	Ejector		Hammer Spring Detent	<b>KV01556-100</b>	Safety Assembly, Right
<b>KV26600</b>	Ejector Pivot Assembly	<b>V02551</b>	Hammer Spring Seat Pin	<b>KV04600</b>	Safety Detent Plunger
<b>V00902</b>	Ejector Spring	<b>V01601</b>	Hammer Strut	<b>KV04100</b>	Safety Detent Plunger Spring
<b>V01406</b>	* Extractor	<b>KP-18/10</b>	Mgazine, Complete (10-shot capacity)	<b>KV02214</b>	* Sear
<b>KV01121</b>	Firing Pin			<b>KV04450</b>	Sear Pivot Pins (2)
<b>KV02102</b>	* Firing Pin Block	<b>V02604</b>	Magazine Latch, Left	<b>KV06421</b>	Sear Spring
<b>KQ05600</b>	Firing Pin Block Spring	<b>V02603</b>	Magazine Latch, Right	<b>V00125</b>	* Slide
<b>KH05100</b>	Firing Pin Plunger	<b>V02700</b>	Magazine Latch Spring	<b>V03701-101</b>	Slide Stop Assembly
<b>KV01850</b>	Firing Pin Spring	<b>Q03300</b>	Rear Sight	<b>KV03906</b>	Trigger
<b>V03203</b>	Front Sight	<b>V08001</b>	Rear Sight Lock Screw	<b>KV01703</b>	* Trigger Bar
<b>V04700</b>	Front Sight Cross Pin (2)	<b>V02812</b>	Recoil Spring, Inner	<b>V05402</b>	Trigger Bar Spring
<b>KV04004-100</b>	* Hammer Assembly	<b>V02816</b>	Recoil Spring, Outer		
				<b>*</b>	Parts so marked must be factory fitted.

# Redhawk Revolver



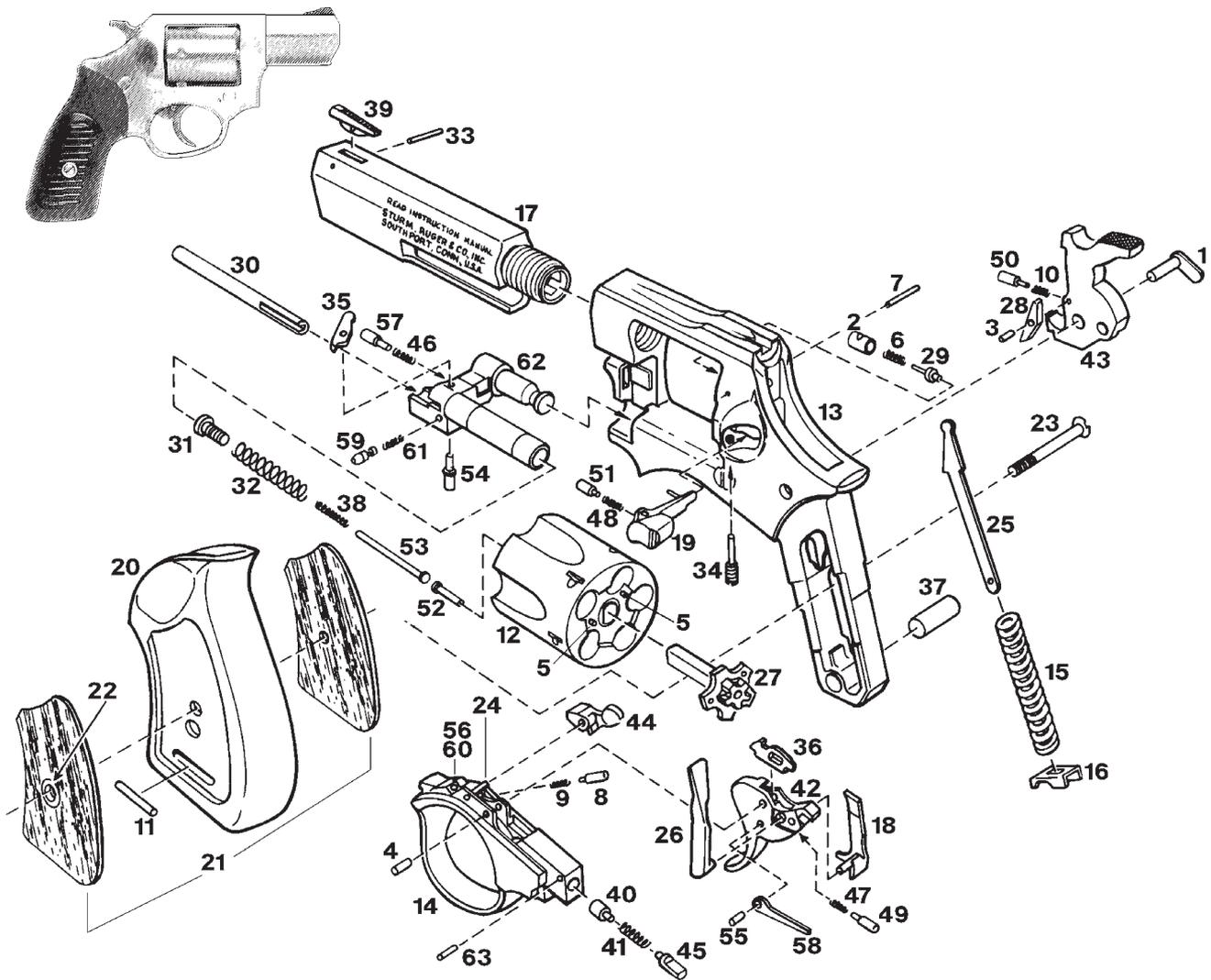
- |    |                           |    |                                    |    |                              |
|----|---------------------------|----|------------------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1  | Cylinder                  | 27 | Cylinder Latch Plunger             | 52 | Crane Latch Spring           |
| 2  | Frame                     | 28 | Cylinder Retaining Balls           | 53 | Rear Sight Base              |
| 3  | Trigger Guard             | 29 | Front Latch                        | 54 | Front Latch Spring           |
| 4  | Mainspring                | 30 | Trigger Plunger                    | 55 | Hammer Dog Spring Plunger    |
| 5  | Mainspring Lever          | 31 | Grip Panel Locator                 | 56 | Crane Latch Spring Plunger   |
| 6  | Barrel                    | 32 | Center Pin Spring                  | 57 | Lever Pivot Pin              |
| 7  | Pawl                      | 33 | Ejector Alignment Pins             | 58 | Trigger Cross Pin            |
| 8  | Crane Latch               | 34 | Front Sight                        | 59 | Hammer Cross Pins            |
| 9  | Grip Panels               | 35 | Trigger Guard Latch Spring         | 60 | Crane Pivot Lock Plunger     |
| 10 | Grip Panel Ferrule, Right | 36 | Trigger                            | 61 | Front Latch Spring Plunger   |
| 11 | Grip Panel Ferrule, Left  | 37 | Hammer                             | 62 | Hammer Link                  |
| 12 | Grip Panel Screw          | 38 | Grip Panel Boss                    | 63 | Trigger Link                 |
| 13 | Cylinder Latch Pivot      | 39 | Cylinder Latch                     | 64 | Rear Sight Blade             |
| 14 | Mainspring Strut          | 40 | Trigger Guard Latch                | 65 | Disassembly Pin              |
| 15 | Hammer Pivot Assembly     | 41 | Crane and Crane/Pivot Assembly     | 66 | Mainspring Lever Cross Pin   |
| 16 | Transfer Bar              | 42 | Firing Pin Rebound Spring          | 67 | Front Latch Pivot Lock       |
| 17 | Ejector                   | 43 | Recoil Plate Cross Pin             | 68 | Crane Pivot Spring           |
| 18 | Hammer Dog                | 44 | Pawl Plunger Spring                | 69 | Front Latch Pivot Spring     |
| 19 | Recoil Plate              | 45 | Pawl Plunger                       | 70 | Cylinder Latch Spring        |
| 20 | Firing Pin                | 46 | Grip Medallions                    | 71 | Front Sight Plunger          |
| 21 | Hammer Dog Pivot Pin      | 47 | Center Pin Lock                    | 72 | Front Sight Plunger Spring   |
| 22 | Ejector Rod               | 48 | Center Pin Rod                     | 73 | Rear Sight Pivot Pin         |
| 23 | Ejector Retainer          | 49 | Trigger Guard Latch Retaining Ring | 74 | Rear Sight Elevation Screw   |
| 24 | Ejector Spring            | 50 | Front Latch Pivot Pin              | 75 | Rear Sight Windage Screw     |
| 25 | Crane Latch Pivot         | 51 | Hammer Dog Spring                  | 76 | Rear Sight Elevation Springs |
| 26 | Trigger Pivot Pin         |    |                                    | 77 | Rear Sight Windage Spring    |

# Old Model Single-Six Revolver



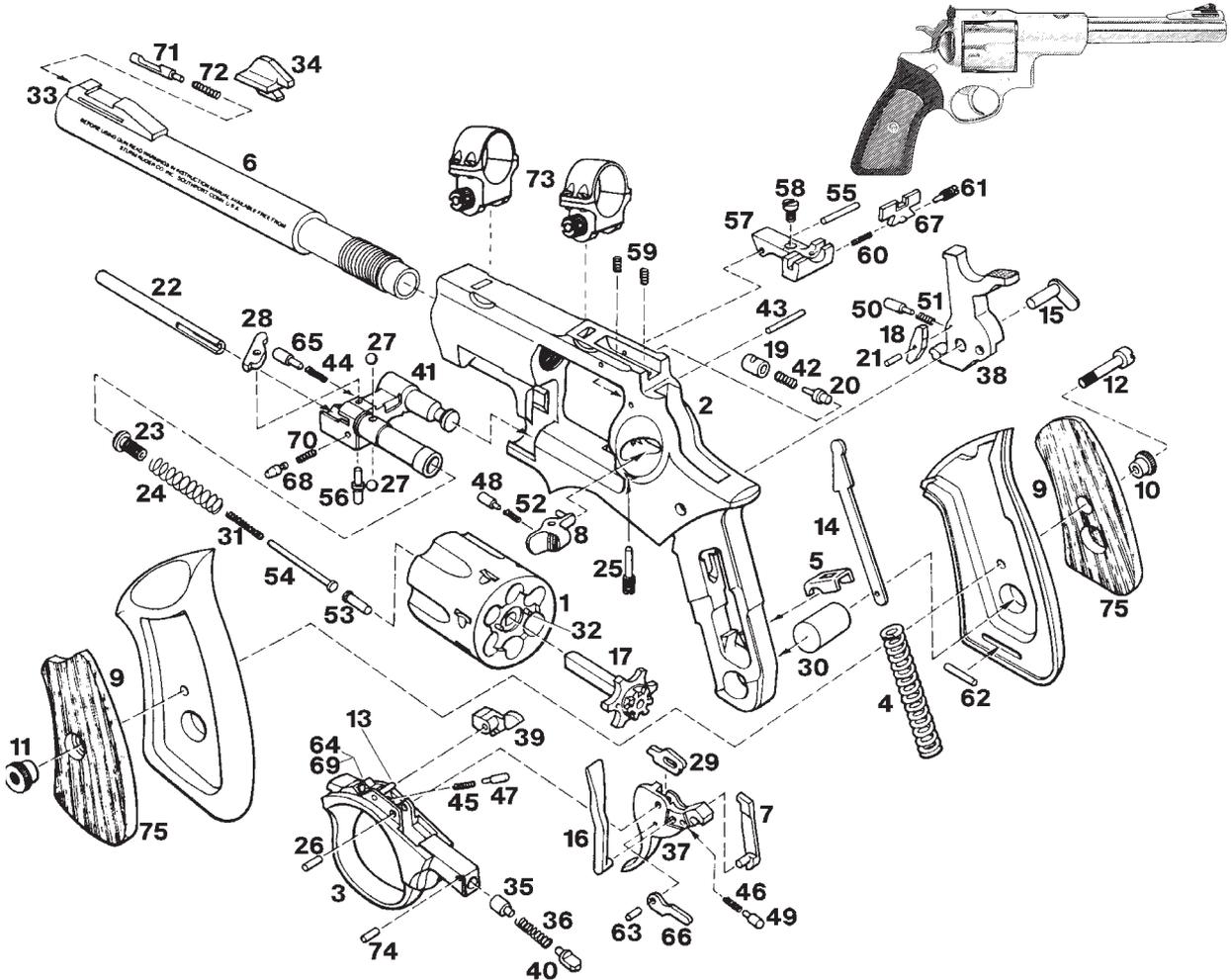
- |    |                       |    |                           |    |                         |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | Barrel                | 16 | Hammer Plunger Spring     | 31 | Trigger                 |
| 2  | Front Sight           | 17 | Hammer Plunger            | 32 | Trigger Plunger         |
| 3  | Base Pin              | 18 | Base Pin Nut              | 33 | Trigger Spring          |
| 4  | Ejector Housing       | 19 | Base Pin Nut Latch Spring | 34 | Grip Frame Screw, Front |
| 5  | Ejector Housing Screw | 20 | Base Pin Latch            | 35 | Grip Frame Screw, Lower |
| 6  | Cylinder Frame        | 21 | Gate Assembly (Contoured) | 36 | Grip Frame Screws, Rear |
| 7  | Recoil Plate          | 22 | Cylinder Latch Spring     | 37 | Hammer Pivot Screw      |
| 8  | Rebound Spring        | 23 | Cylinder Latch            | 38 | Grip Frame              |
| 9  | Firing Pin            | 24 | Pivot Screws              | 39 | Grip Panel, Left        |
| 10 | Recoil Plate Pin      | 25 | Gate Spring Screw         | 40 | Grip Panel, Right       |
| 11 | Pawl Spring           | 26 | Gate Detent Spring        | 41 | Grip Panel Screw        |
| 12 | Pawl Plunger          | 27 | Gate Detent Plunger       | 42 | Mainspring Seat         |
| 13 | Pawl                  | 28 | Ejector Spring            | 43 | Hammer Strut            |
| 14 | Hammer                | 29 | Ejector Rod Assembly      | 44 | Mainspring              |
| 15 | Hammer Plunger Pin    | 30 | Cylinder                  | 45 | Rear Sight              |

# SP-101 Revolver

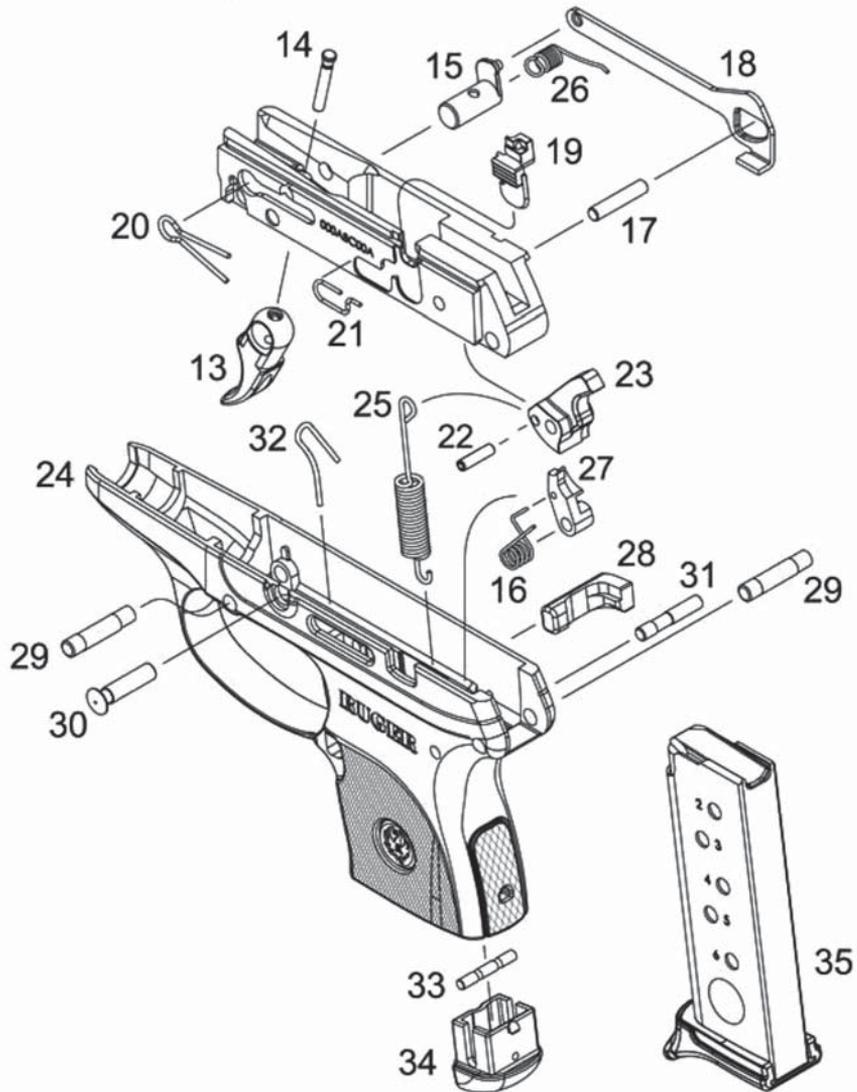
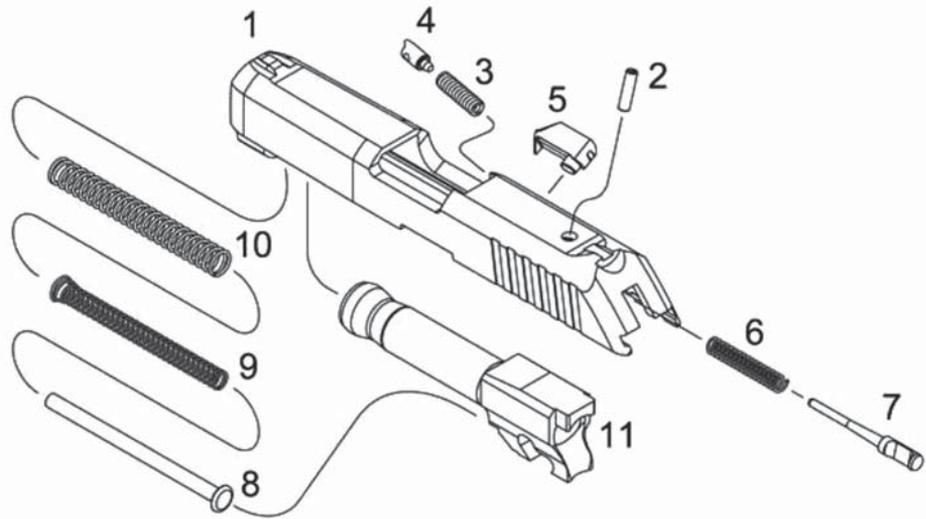


- |    |                           |    |                            |    |                                |
|----|---------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1  | Hammer Pivot Assembly     | 23 | Grip Panel Screw           | 45 | Trigger Guard Latch            |
| 2  | Recoil Plate              | 24 | Cylinder Latch Pivot       | 46 | Pawl Plunger Spring            |
| 3  | Hammer Dog Pivot Pin      | 25 | Hammer Strut               | 47 | Front Latch Spring             |
| 4  | Trigger Pivot Pin         | 26 | Transfer Bar               | 48 | Cylinder Latch Spring          |
| 5  | Ejector Alignment Pins    | 27 | Ejector                    | 49 | Pawl Plunger                   |
| 6  | Firing Pin Rebound Spring | 28 | Hammer Dog                 | 50 | Hammer Dog Spring Plunger      |
| 7  | Recoil Plate Cross Pin    | 29 | Firing Pin                 | 51 | Crane Latch Spring Plunger     |
| 8  | Cylinder Latch Plunger    | 30 | Ejector Rod                | 52 | Center Pin Lock                |
| 9  | Crane Latch Spring        | 31 | Ejector Retainer           | 53 | Center Pin Rod                 |
| 10 | Hammer Dog Spring         | 32 | Ejector Spring             | 54 | Front Latch Pivot Pin          |
| 11 | Disassembly Pin           | 33 | Front Sight Cross Pin      | 55 | Trigger Link Pin               |
| 12 | Cylinder                  | 34 | Crane Latch Pivot          | 56 | Crane Pivot Lock Plunger       |
| 13 | Frame                     | 35 | Front Latch                | 57 | Front Latch Spring Plunger     |
| 14 | Trigger Guard             | 36 | Trigger Plunger            | 58 | Trigger Link                   |
| 15 | Mainspring                | 37 | Grip Panel Locator         | 59 | Front Latch Pivot Lock         |
| 16 | Mainspring Seat           | 38 | Center Pin Spring          | 60 | Crane Pivot Lock Spring        |
| 17 | Barrel                    | 39 | Front Sight                | 61 | Front Latch Pivot Spring       |
| 18 | Pawl                      | 40 | Trigger Link Plunger       | 62 | Crane and Crane Pivot Assembly |
| 19 | Crane Latch               | 41 | Trigger Guard Latch Spring | 63 | Trigger Guard Latch Pin        |
| 20 | Pistol Grip               | 42 | Trigger                    |    |                                |
| 21 | Pistol Grip Insert        | 43 | Hammer                     |    |                                |
| 22 | Ferrule                   | 44 | Cylinder Latch             |    |                                |
- Parts Not Shown**  
Safety Disc

# Super Redhawk Revolver

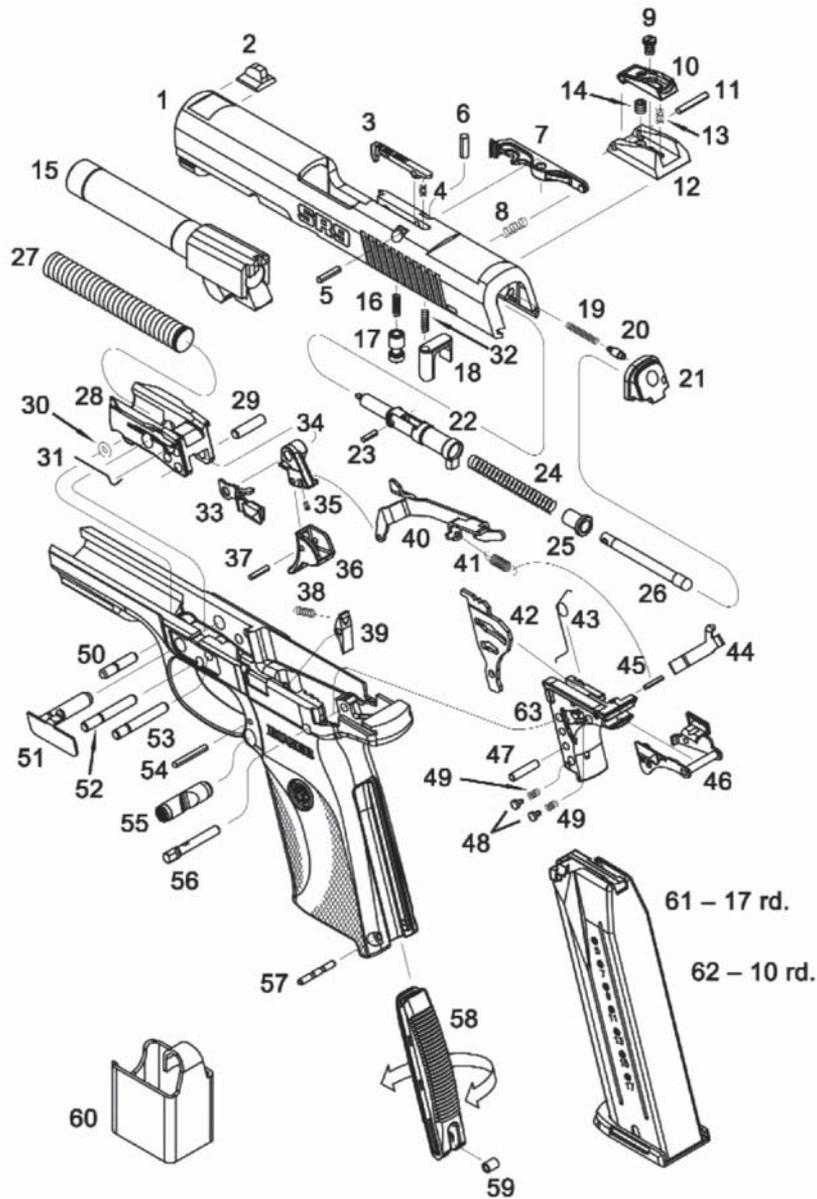


1	Cylinder	27	Cylinder Retaining Balls	53	Center Pin Lock
2	Frame	28	Front Latch	54	Center Pin Rod
3	Trigger Guard	29	Trigger Plunger	55	Rear Sight Cross Pin
4	Mainspring	30	Grip Panel Locator	56	Front Latch Pivot Pin
5	Mainspring Seat	31	Center Pin Spring	57	Rear Sight Base
6	Barrel	32	Ejector Alignment Pins	58	Rear Sight Elevation Screw
7	Pawl	33	Front Sight Base	59	Rear Sight Elevation Springs
8	Crane Latch	34	Front Sight	60	Rear Sight Windage Spring
9	Grip Panels/Panel Insert	35	Trigger Link Plunger	61	Rear Sight Windage Adjustment Screw
10	Grip Ferrule, Right	36	Trigger Guard Latch Spring	62	Disassembly Pin
11	Grip Ferrule, Left	37	Trigger	63	Trigger Link Pin
12	Grip Panel Screw	38	Hammer	64	Crane Pivot Lock Plunger
13	Cylinder Latch Pivot	39	Cylinder Latch	65	Front Latch Spring Plunger
14	Hammer Strut	40	Trigger Guard Latch	66	Trigger Link
15	Hammer Pivot Assembly	41	Crane and Crane Pivot Assembly	67	Rear Sight Blade
16	Transfer Bar	42	Firing Pin Rebound Spring	68	Front Latch Pivot Lock
17	Ejector	43	Recoil Plate Cross Pin	69	Crane Pivot Lock Spring
18	Hammer Dog	44	Cylinder Latch Spring	70	Front Latch Pivot Lock Spring
19	Recoil Plate	45	Front Latch Spring	71	Front Sight Plunger
20	Firing Pin	46	Pawl Plunger Spring	72	Front Sight Plunger Spring
21	Hammer Dog Pivot Pin	47	Cylinder Latch Plunger	73	Scope Rings
22	Ejector Rod	48	Crane Latch Plunger	74	Trigger Guard Latch Pin
23	Ejector Retainer	49	Pawl Plunger	75	Grips
24	Ejector Spring	50	Hammer Dog Plunger		
25	Crane Latch Pivot	51	Hammer Dog Spring		
26	Trigger Pivot Pin	52	Crane Latch Button Spring		



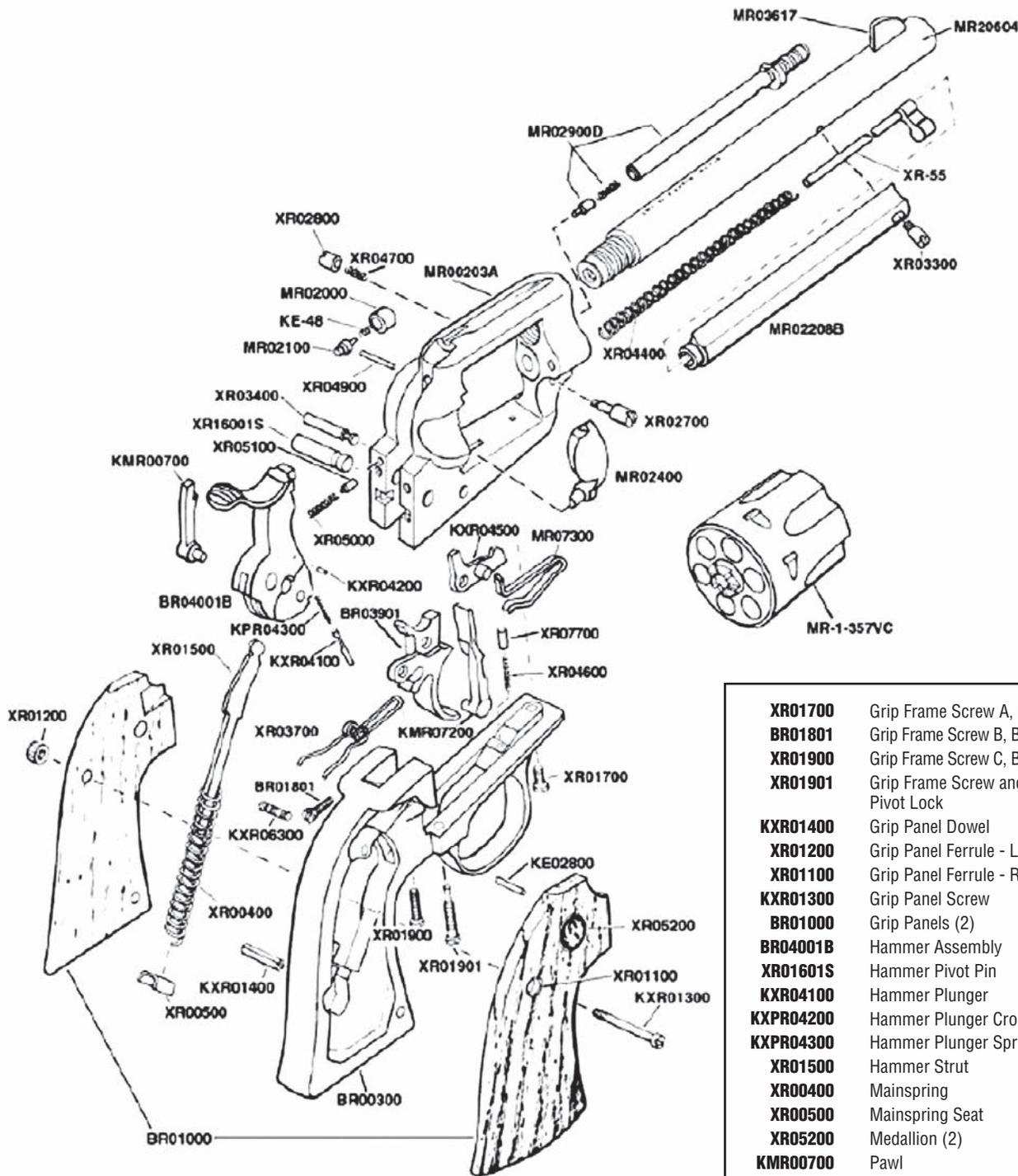
- 1 \* Slide
  - 2 Firing Pin Retainer
  - 3 Extractor Spring
  - 4 Extractor Plunger
  - 5 Extractor
  - 6 Firing Pin Spring
  - 7 Firing Pin
  - 8 Guide Rod
  - 9 Recoil Spring, Inner
  - 10 Recoil Spring, Outer
  - 11 \* Barrel
  - 12 Frame Insert
  - 13 Trigger
  - 14 Trigger Pin
  - 15 Trigger Pivot
  - 16 Hammer Catch Spring
  - 17 Hammer Pivot Pin
  - 18 Trigger Bar
  - 19 Hold Open
  - 20 Takedown Pin Detent
  - 21 Hold Open Detent
  - 22 Hammer Spring Retainer Pin
  - 23 Hammer
  - 24 Frame
  - 25 Hammer Spring
  - 26 Trigger Spring
  - 27 Hammer Catch
  - 28 Magazine Latch Catch
  - 29 Frame Insert Pin (2)
  - 30 Takedown Pin
  - 31 Hammer Catch Pin
  - 32 Magazine Latch Spring
  - 33 Hammer Spring Seat Pin
  - 34 Hammer Spring Seat
  - 35 Magazine, Complete
- \* Parts so marked must be factory fitted.

# SR9 Pistol



<b>1</b>	* Slide	<b>17</b>	Striker Blocker	<b>34</b>	Trigger, Inner	<b>50</b>	Camblock Pin, Front
<b>2</b>	Front Sight	<b>18</b>	Magazine Disconnect	<b>35</b>	Trigger, Inner Spring	<b>51</b>	Takedown Pin Assembly
<b>3</b>	Loaded Chamber Indicator	<b>19</b>	Striker Cover Spring	<b>36</b>	Trigger, Outer	<b>52</b>	Camblock Pin, Lower
<b>4</b>	Loaded Chamber Indicator Spring	<b>20</b>	Striker Cover Plunger	<b>37</b>	Trigger, Outer Pin	<b>53</b>	Camblock Pin, Upper
<b>5</b>	Loaded Chamber Indicator Pin	<b>21</b>	Striker Cover	<b>38</b>	Magazine Latch Spring	<b>54</b>	Magazine Latch Pivot Pin
<b>6</b>	Extractor Pivot Pin	<b>22</b>	Striker	<b>39</b>	Magazine Latch	<b>55</b>	Magazine Latch Thumbpiece
<b>7</b>	Extractor	<b>23</b>	Striker Cross Pin	<b>40</b>	Trigger Bar	<b>56</b>	Fire Control Housing Pin
<b>8</b>	Extractor Spring	<b>24</b>	Striker Spring	<b>41</b>	Trigger Bar Spring	<b>57</b>	Backstrap Pin
<b>9</b>	Rear Sight Elevation Screw	<b>25</b>	Striker Spring Cup	<b>42</b>	Ejector	<b>58</b>	Backstrap Insert
<b>10</b>	Rear Sight Leaf	<b>26</b>	Striker Shaft	<b>43</b>	Trigger Bar Lift Spring	<b>59</b>	Backstrap Bushing
<b>11</b>	Rear Sight Pivot Pin	<b>27</b>	Guide Rod Assembly	<b>44</b>	Trigger Bar Reset	<b>60</b>	Magazine Loading Tool
<b>12</b>	Rear Sight Base	<b>28</b>	Camblock	<b>45</b>	Trigger Bar Spring Mounting Pin	<b>61</b>	Magazine - 17-round
<b>13</b>	Rear Sight Elevation Spring	<b>29</b>	Trigger Pivot Pin	<b>46</b>	Thumb Safety Assembly	<b>62</b>	Magazine - 10-round
<b>14</b>	Rear Sight Lock Screw	<b>30</b>	Camblock Pin, Front Retainer	<b>47</b>	Ejector Pivot Pin	<b>63</b>	Fire Control Housing
<b>15</b>	* Barrel – 9mm	<b>31</b>	Camblock Pin Retainer	<b>48</b>	Safety Detent Plunger	<b>*</b>	Parts so marked must be factory fitted.
<b>16</b>	Striker Blocker Spring	<b>32</b>	Magazine Disconnect Spring	<b>49</b>	Safety Detent Spring		
		<b>33</b>	Slide Stop Lever Assembly				

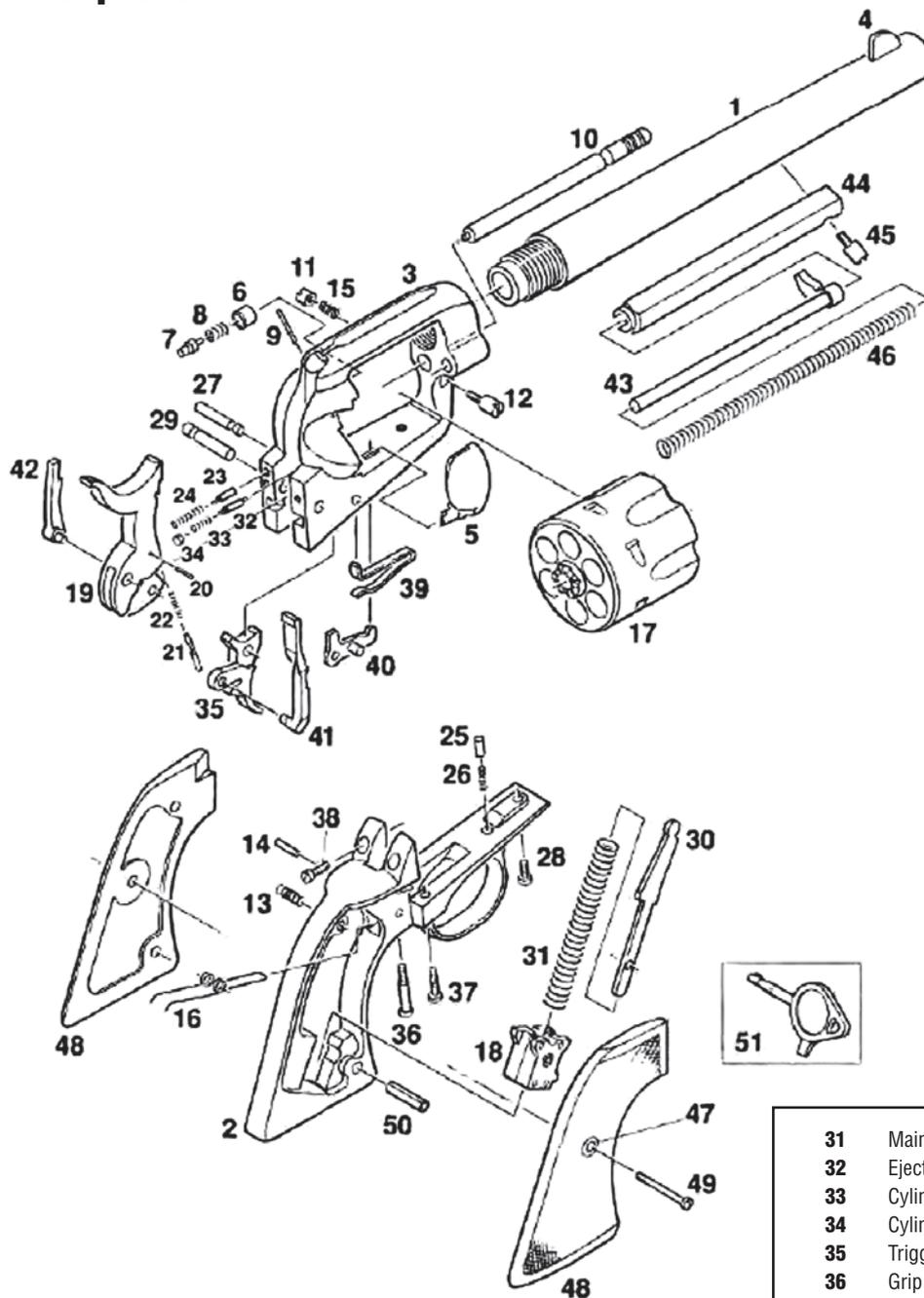
# Bisley Vaquero Old Style



- XR01700** Grip Frame Screw A, Front
- BR01801** Grip Frame Screw B, Back (2)
- XR01900** Grip Frame Screw C, Bottom
- XR01901** Grip Frame Screw and Pivot Lock
- KXR01400** Grip Panel Dowel
- XR01200** Grip Panel Ferrule - Left
- XR01100** Grip Panel Ferrule - Right
- KXR01300** Grip Panel Screw
- BR01000** Grip Panels (2)
- BR04001B** Hammer Assembly
- XR01601S** Hammer Pivot Pin
- KXR04100** Hammer Plunger
- KXPR04200** Hammer Plunger Cross Pin
- KXPR04300** Hammer Plunger Spring
- XR01500** Hammer Strut
- XR00400** Mainspring
- XR00500** Mainspring Seat
- XR05200** Medallion (2)
- KMR00700** Pawl
- XR05000** Pawl Spring
- XR05100** Pawl Spring Plunger
- MR02000** Recoil Plate
- XR04900** Recoil Plate Cross Pin
- KMR07200** Transfer Bar
- BR03901** Trigger
- XR03400** Trigger Pivot Pin
- XR03700** Trigger Spring
- KE02800** Trigger Spring Pivot Pin
- KXR06300** Trigger Spring Retaining Pin
- \*** Parts so marked must be factory fitted.

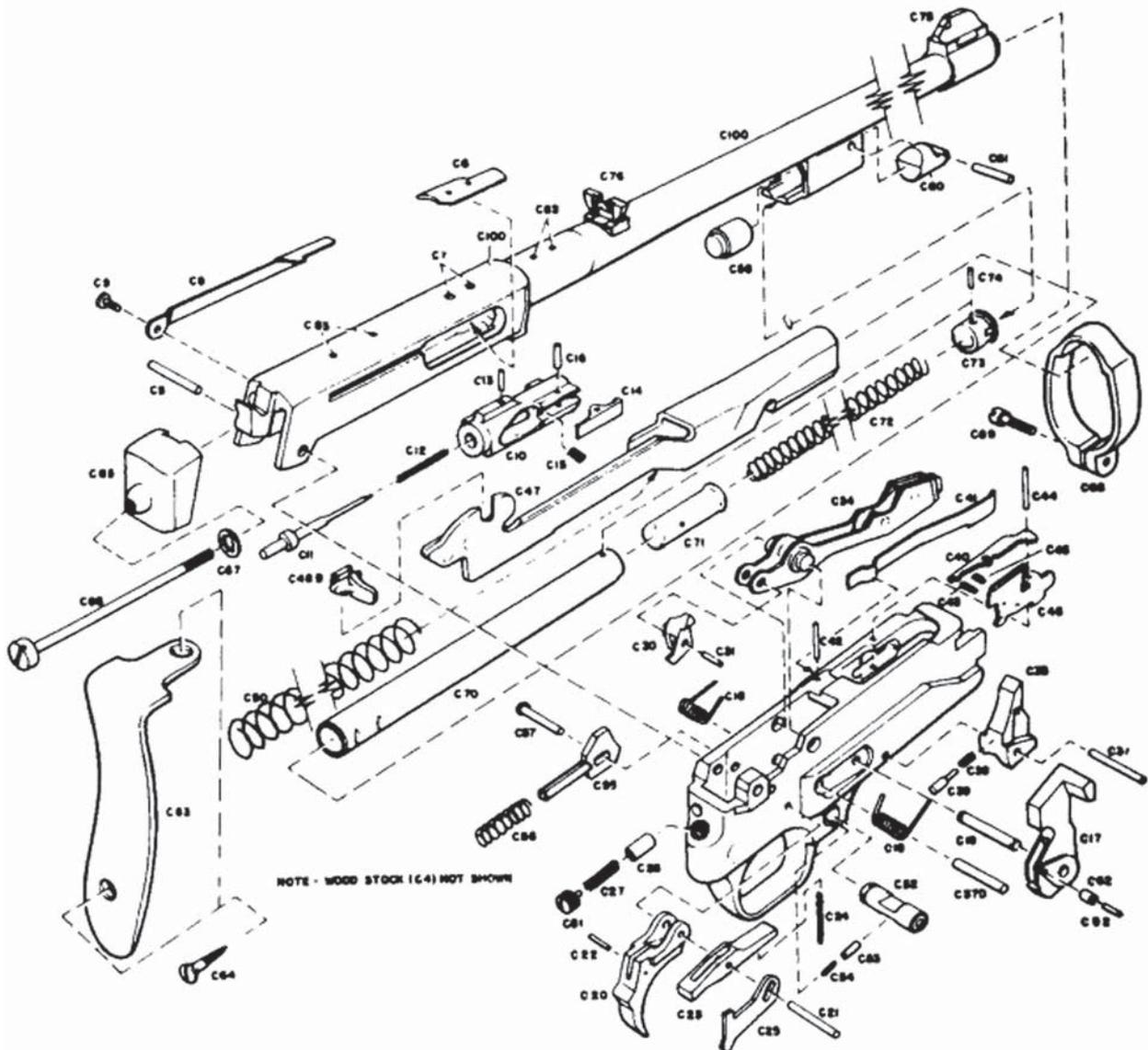
- MR20604** \* Barrel, 5 1/2" - .357 cal.
- MR02900D** Base Pin Assembly
- XR02700** Base Pin Latch Body
- XR02800** Base Pin Latch Nut
- XR04700** Base Pin Latch Spring
- MR-1-357VC** \* Cylinder - .357 cal.
- KXR04500** Cylinder Latch Assembly
- XR04600** Cylinder Latch Spring
- XR07700** Cylinder Latch Spring Plunger
- MR02208B** Ejector Housing, Steel
- XR03300** Ejector Housing Screw
- XR04400** Ejector Housing Spring
- XR-55** Ejector Rod Assembly
- MR02100** Firing Pin
- KE-48** Firing Pin Rebound Spring
- MR00203A** Frame
- MR03617** Front Sight Blade - .357 cal.
- MR02400** Gate
- MR07300** Gate Detent Spring
- BR00300** Grip Frame

# New Vaquero



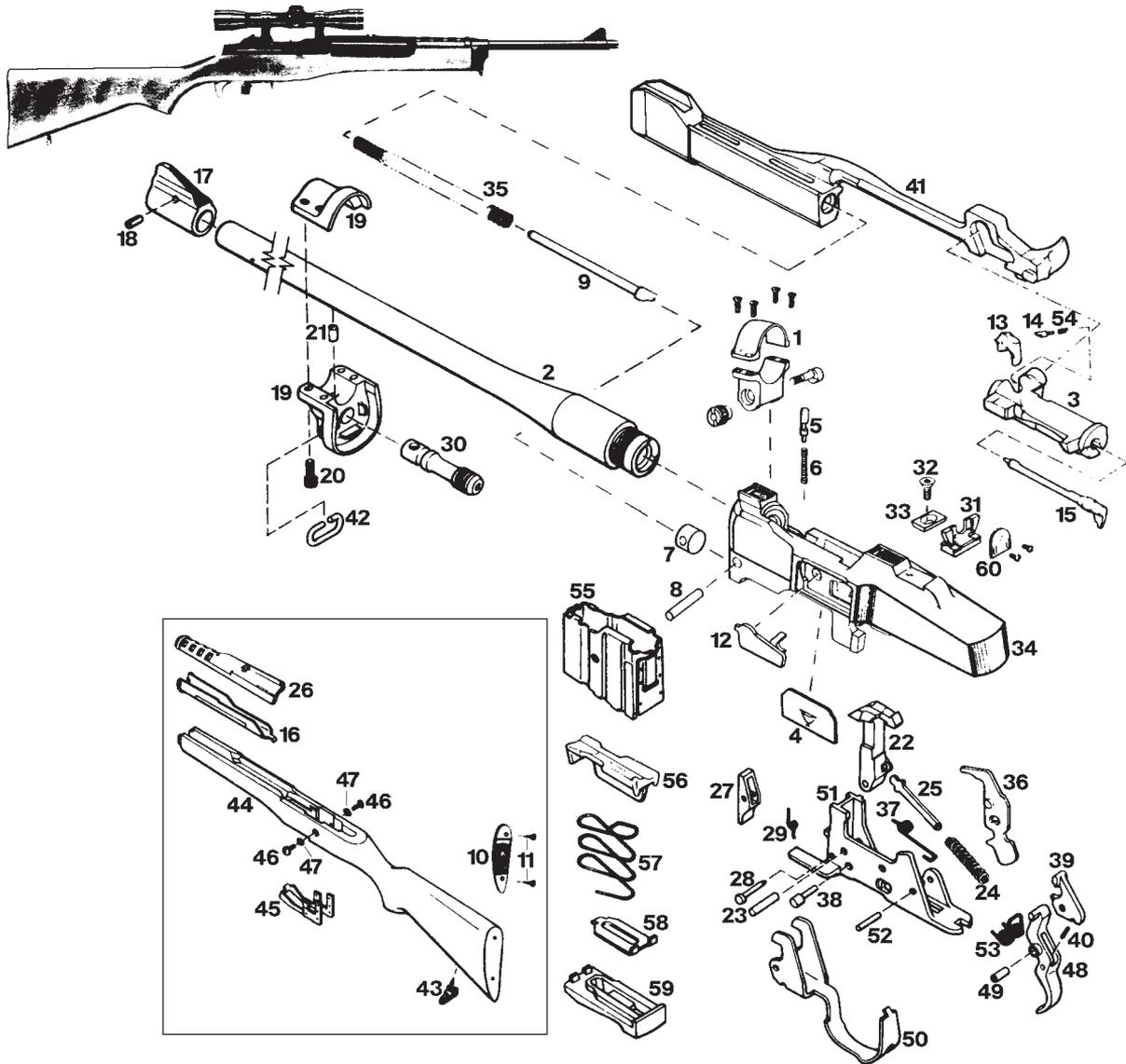
- |    |                              |    |                               |    |   |
|----|------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|---|
| 1  | * Barrel                     | 16 | Trigger Spring                | 31 | Mainspring                              |
| 2  | Grip Frame                   | 17 | * Cylinder                    | 32 | Ejector Alignment Pawl                  |
| 3  | Cylinder Frame               | 18 | Internal Lock Assembly        | 33 | Cylinder Rotation Stop Spring           |
| 4  | Front Sight Blade            | 19 | Hammer, Only                  | 34 | Cylinder Rotation Stop Screw            |
| 5  | Loading Gate                 | 20 | Hammer Plunger Cross Pin      | 35 | Trigger                                 |
| 6  | Recoil Plate                 | 21 | Hammer Plunger                | 36 | Grip Frame Screw and Pivot Lock         |
| 7  | Firing Pin                   | 22 | Hammer Plunger Spring         | 37 | Grip Frame Screw-C, Bottom              |
| 8  | Firing Pin Rebound Spring    | 23 | Pawl Spring Plunger           | 38 | Grip Frame Screw-B, Back (2)            |
| 9  | Recoil Plate Cross Pin       | 24 | Pawl Spring                   | 39 | Gate Detent Spring                      |
| 10 | Base Pin Assembly            | 25 | Cylinder Latch Spring Plunger | 40 | Cylinder Latch Assembly                 |
| 11 | Base Pin Latch Nut           | 26 | Cylinder Latch Spring         | 41 | Transfer Bar                            |
| 12 | Base Pin Latch Body          | 27 | Trigger Pivot Pin             | 42 | Pawl                                    |
| 13 | Trigger Spring Retaining Pin | 28 | Grip Frame Screw-A, Front     | 43 | Ejector Rod Assembly                    |
| 14 | Trigger Spring Pivot Pin     | 29 | Hammer Pivot Pin              | 44 | Ejector Housing                         |
| 15 | Base Pin Latch Spring        | 30 | Hammer Strut                  | 45 | Ejector Housing Screw                   |
|    |                              |    |                               | 46 | Ejector Housing Spring                  |
|    |                              |    |                               | 47 | Grip Panel Ferrule (2)                  |
|    |                              |    |                               | 48 | Grip Panels (2)                         |
|    |                              |    |                               | 49 | Grip Panel Screw                        |
|    |                              |    |                               | 50 | Grip Panel Dowel                        |
|    |                              |    |                               | 51 | Internal Lock Key                       |
|    |                              |    |                               | *  | Parts so marked must be factory fitted. |

# .44 Magnum Carbine 1961-1974



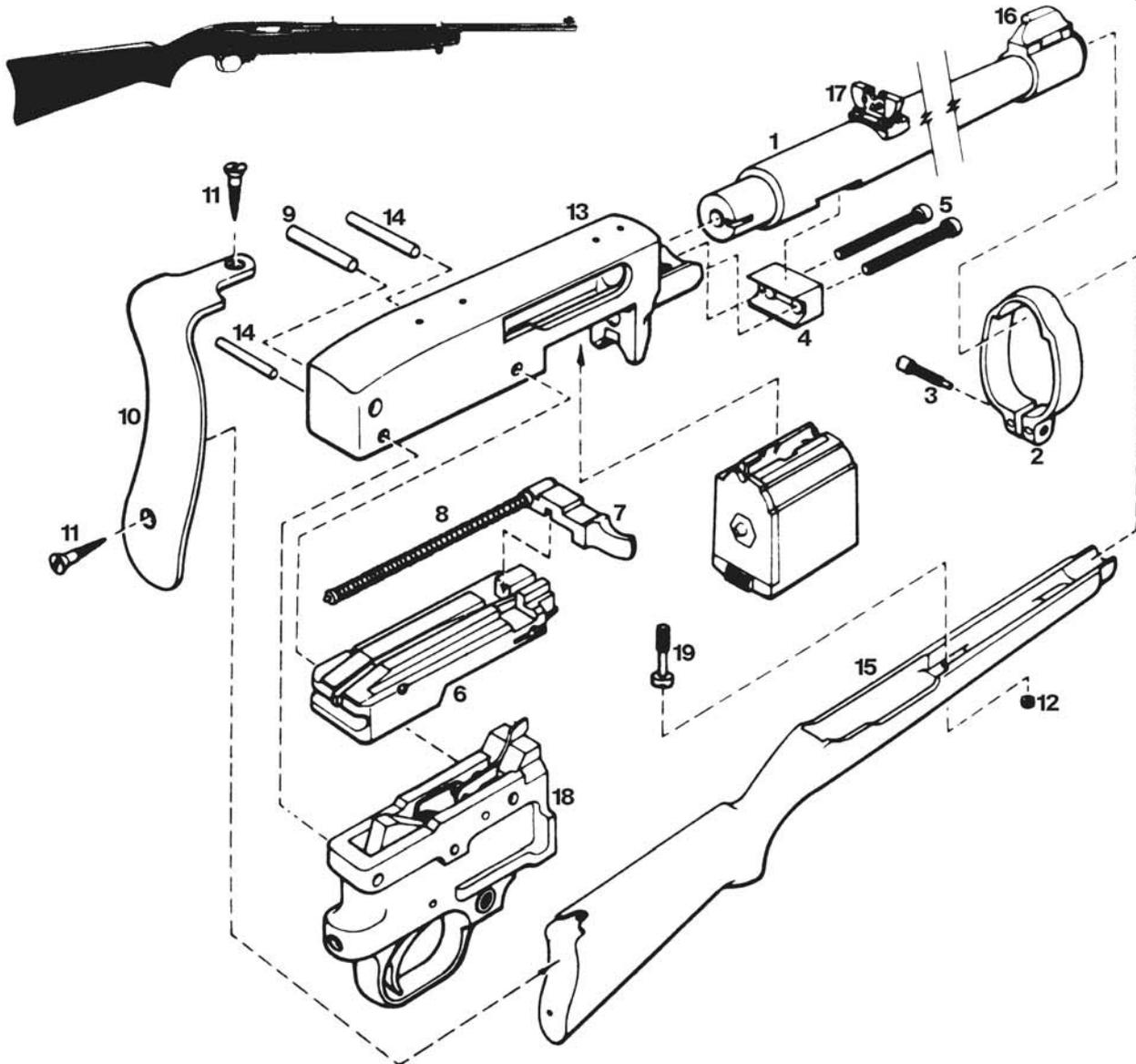
<b>C-105</b> Barrel Band Assembly (Carbine Stock)	<b>C-9</b> Ejector Screw	<b>C-38</b> Lifter Latch Spring	<b>C-54</b> Safety Detent Plunger Spring
<b>C-10</b> Bolt (Only)	<b>C-14</b> Extractor	<b>C-39</b> Lifter Latch Plunger	<b>C-83</b> Scope Base Hole Filler Screw
<b>C-10A</b> Bolt Assembly	<b>C-15</b> Extractor Spring	<b>C-55</b> Lifter Cam	<b>C-23</b> Sear
<b>C-63</b> Butt Plate, Carbine	<b>C-16</b> Extractor Pivot Pin	<b>C-56</b> Lifter Cam Spring	<b>C-24</b> Sear Spring
<b>C-64</b> Butt Plate, Screw (2)	<b>C-45</b> Flapper	<b>C-57</b> Lifter Cam Pin	<b>C-47</b> Slide Assembly
<b>C-6</b> Cartridge Guide Plate	<b>C-46</b> Flapper Spring	<b>C-103</b> Magazine Assembly, Complete	<b>C-48-B</b> Slide Handle
<b>C-7</b> Cartridge Guide Plate Screw	<b>C-11</b> Firing Pin	<b>C-71</b> Magazine Follower	<b>C-50</b> Slide Spring
<b>C-40</b> Cartridge Stop	<b>C-12</b> Firing Pin Retaining Spring	<b>C-58</b> Piston	<b>C-77</b> Sling Swivel (Front, Carbine)
<b>C-41</b> Cartridge Stop Flat Spring	<b>C-13</b> Firing Pin Retaining Pin	<b>C-60</b> Piston Block Plug	<b>C-78</b> Sling Swivel (Rear, for all stocks)
<b>C-42</b> Cartridge Stop Flat Spring Retaining Pin	<b>C-17</b> Hammer, including Roller	<b>C-61</b> Piston Block Plug Retaining Pin (Inner and Outer)	<b>C-102R</b> Stock Assembly, Carbine, Complete
<b>C-43</b> Cartridge Stop Coil Spring	<b>C-18</b> Hammer Springs (right and left)	<b>C-5</b> Receiver Cross Pin	<b>NC-101</b> Trigger Guard Assembly, Complete
<b>C-44</b> Cartridge Stop Pivot Pin	<b>C-37-D</b> Hammer Spring Retaining Pin	<b>C-76</b> Rear Sight	<b>NC-2</b> Trigger Guard Only
<b>C-25</b> Disconnecter	<b>C-19</b> Hammer Pivot Pin	<b>C-76R</b> Rear Sight, Receiver (Williams)	<b>C-20</b> Trigger (includes Cross Pin C-22)
<b>C-26</b> Disconnecter Plunger	<b>C-34</b> Lifter Assembly	<b>C-65</b> Recoil Block	<b>C-21</b> Trigger Pivot Pin
<b>C-27</b> Disconnecter Plunger Spring	<b>C-30</b> Lifter Dog	<b>C-66</b> Recoil Block Bolt	
<b>C-81</b> Disconnecter Plunger Spring Screw	<b>C-31</b> Lifter Dog Pivot Pin	<b>C-67</b> Recoil Block Bolt Washer	
<b>C-8</b> Ejector	<b>C-35</b> Lifter Latch	<b>C-52</b> Safety	
	<b>C-37</b> Lifter Latch Pivot Pin	<b>C-53</b> Safety Detent Plunger	

# Mini-14 Ranch Autoloading Rifle



- |    |                                     |    |                               |    |                                  |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| 1  | Scope Rings                         | 21 | Gas Port Bushing              | 41 | Slide Assembly                   |
| 2  | Barrel                              | 22 | Hammer                        | 42 | Sling Swivel, Front              |
| 3  | Bolt                                | 23 | Hammer Pivot Pin              | 43 | Sling Swivel Assembly, Rear      |
| 4  | Bolt Lock Cover Plate               | 24 | Hammer Spring                 | 44 | Stock                            |
| 5  | Bolt Lock Plunger                   | 25 | Hammer Strut                  | 45 | Stock Reinforcement              |
| 6  | Bolt Lock Plunger Spring            | 26 | Handguard Assembly            | 46 | Stock Reinforcement Screws       |
| 7  | Buffer Bushing                      | 27 | Magazine Latch                | 47 | Stock Reinforcement Lock Washers |
| 8  | Buffer Cross Pin                    | 28 | Magazine Latch Pivot Pin      | 48 | Trigger                          |
| 9  | Buffer Guide Rod                    | 29 | Magazine Latch Spring         | 49 | Trigger Bushing                  |
| 10 | Buttplate                           | 30 | Piston (Gas Pipe)             | 50 | Trigger Guard                    |
| 11 | Buttplate Screws                    | 31 | Rear Sight Assembly           | 51 | Trigger Housing                  |
| 12 | Ejector Bolt Stop                   | 32 | Rear Sight Windage Lock Screw | 52 | Trigger Pivot Pin                |
| 13 | Extractor                           | 33 | Rear Sight Windage Lock       | 53 | Trigger Spring                   |
| 14 | Extractor Plunger                   | 34 | Receiver                      | 54 | Extractor Spring                 |
| 15 | Firing Pin                          | 35 | Recoil Spring                 | 55 | Magazine Box                     |
| 16 | Forend Liner and Stock Cap Assembly | 36 | Safety Assembly               | 56 | Magazine Follower                |
| 17 | Front Sight                         | 37 | Safety Detent Spring          | 57 | Magazine Spring                  |
| 18 | Front Sight Cross Pin               | 38 | Safety Spring Retaining Pin   | 58 | Magazine Spring Retainer         |
| 19 | Gas Block, Top and Bottom           | 39 | Secondary Sear                | 59 | Magazine Floorplate              |
| 20 | Gas Block Screws                    | 40 | Secondary Sear Spring         | 60 | Rear Sight Peep and Screws       |

# Model 10/22 Autoloading Rifle



- 1 Barrel
- 2 Barrel Band
- 3 Barrel Band Screw
- 4 Barrel Retainer
- 5 Barrel Retainer Screws
- 6 Bolt Assembly
- 7 Bolt Handle
- 8 Guide Rod and Recoil Spring Assembly
- 9 Bolt Stop Pin
- 10 Buttplate
- 11 Buttplate Screws
- 12 Stock Escutcheon
- 13 Receiver
- 14 Receiver Cross Pins
- 15 Stock
- 16 Front Sight Bead
- 17 Open Rear Sight
- 18 Trigger Guard Assembly
- 19 Takedown Screw

### Parts Not Shown

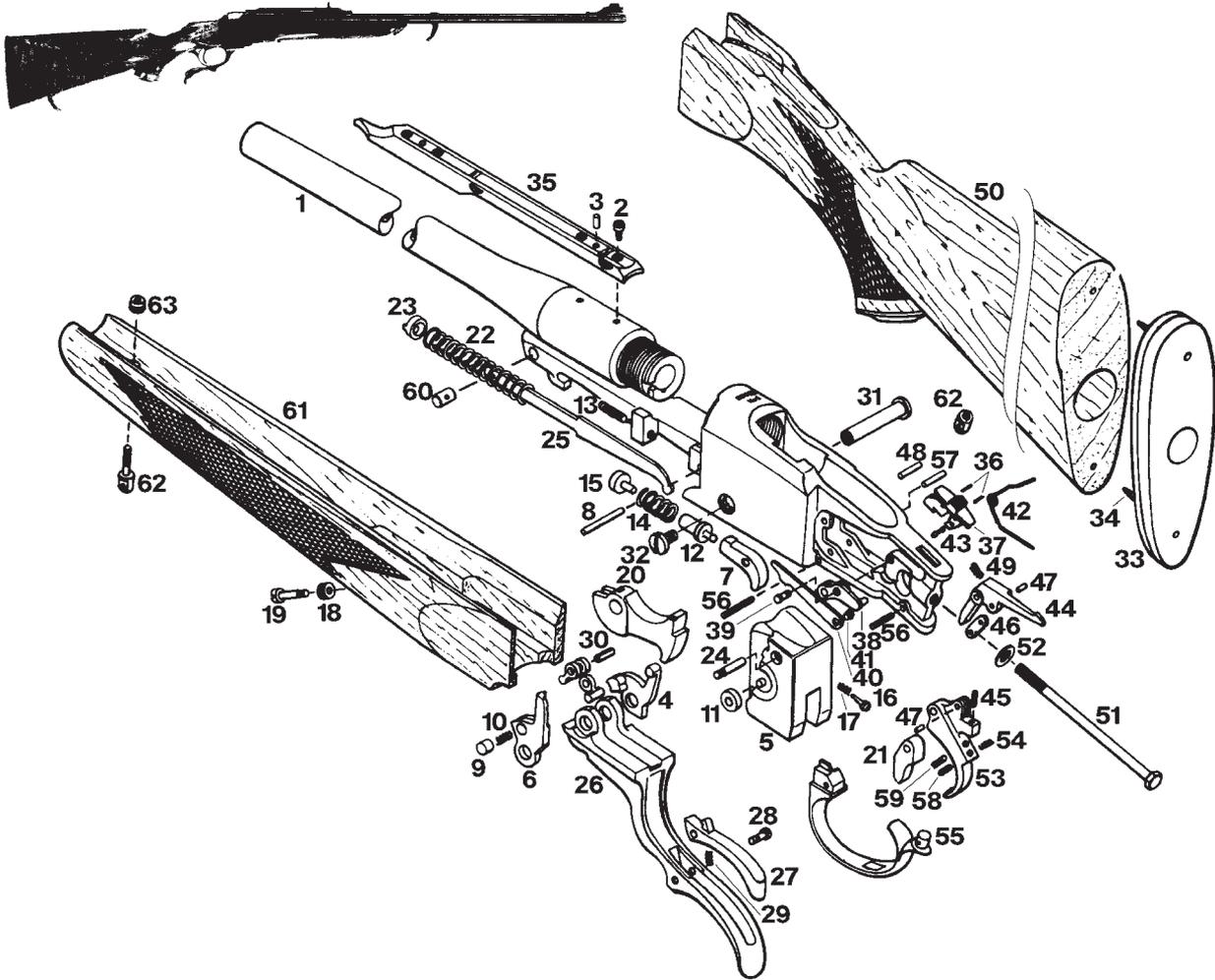
- Bolt Lock
- Bolt Lock Spring
- Disconnecter
- Disconnecter Pivot Pin
- Ejector
- Ejector Pins
- Extractor
- Extractor Plunger
- Extractor Spring
- Firing Pin
- Firing Pin Rebound Spring
- Firing Pin Stop Pin
- Hammer
- Hammer Bushings
- Hammer Pivot Pin

- Hammer Spring
- Hammer Strut
- Hammer Strut Washer
- Magazine Assembly
- Magazine Cap
- Magazine Cap Nut
- Magazine Latch
- Magazine Latch Pivot Pin
- Magazine Latch Plunger
- Magazine Latch Plunger Spring
- Magazine Rotor
- Magazine Rotor Spring
- Magazine Screw
- Magazine Shell
- Magazine Throat





# No. 1 Single Shot Rifle

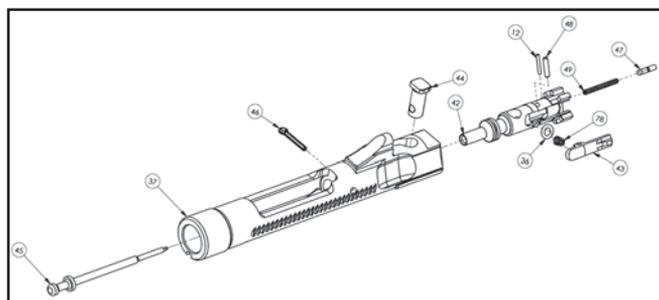
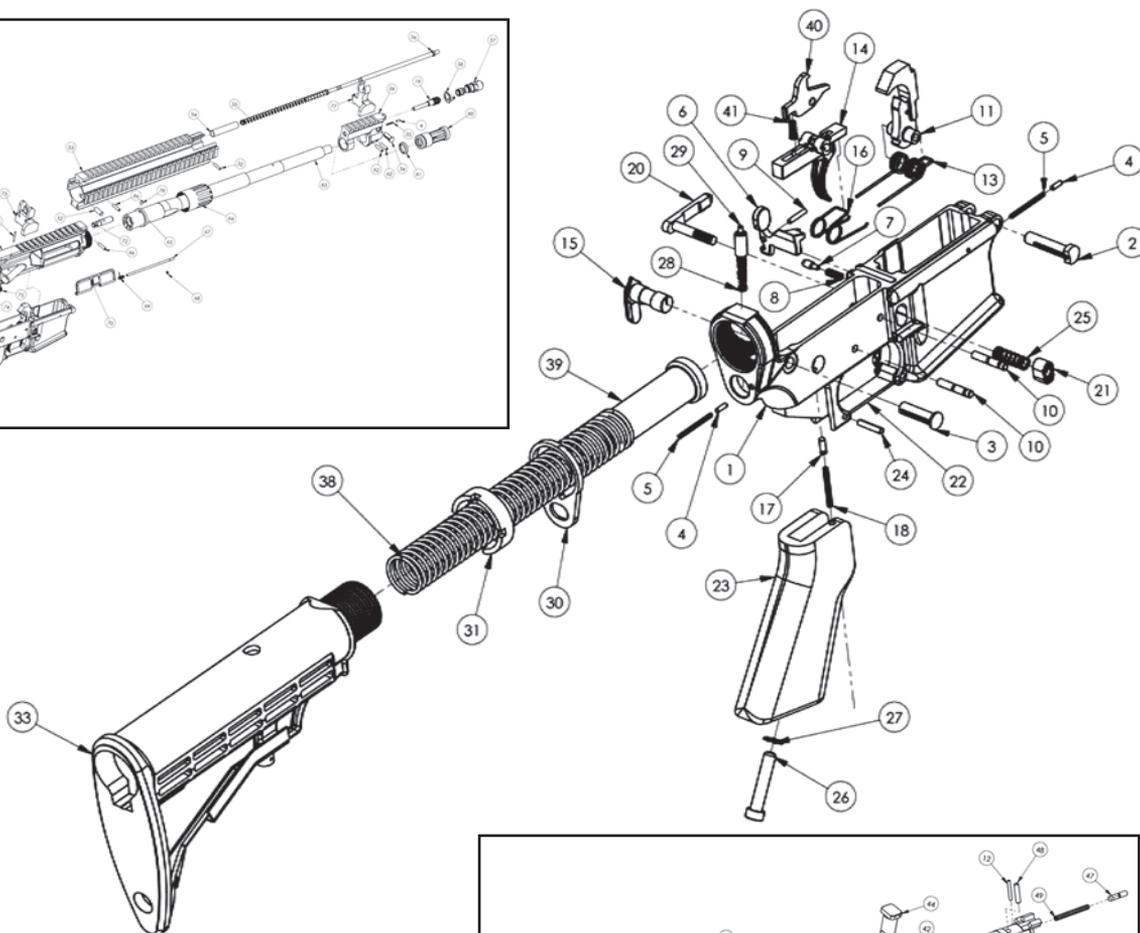
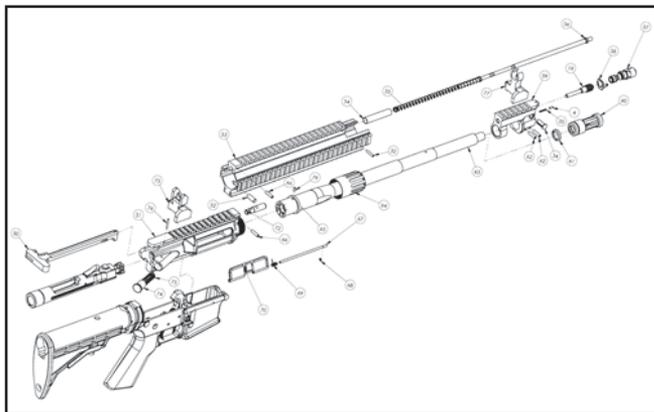


- 1 Barrel
- 2 Barrel Rib Screws
- 3 Barrel Rib Dowels
- 4 Breechblock Arm
- 5 Breechblock
- 6 Ejector
- 7 Ejector Cam
- 8 Ejector Cam Pivot Pin
- 9 Ejector Plunger
- 10 Ejector Plunger Spring
- 11 Ejector Roller
- 12 Ejector Strut
- 13 Ejector Strut Adjusting Screw
- 14 Ejector Strut Spring
- 15 Ejector Strut Swivel
- 16 Firing Pin
- 17 Firing Pin Spring
- 18 Forend Escutcheon
- 19 Forend Takedown Screw
- 20 Hammer
- 21 Hammer Transfer Block
- 22 Hammer Spring
- 23 Hammer Spring Retaining Washer
- 24 Hammer Transfer Block Pivot Pin
- 25 Hammer Strut
- 26 Lever

- 27 Lever Latch
- 28 Lever Latch Pivot Pin
- 29 Lever Latch Spring
- 30 Lever Link and Pin Assemblies
- 31 Lever Pivot Pin
- 32 Lever Pivot Screw
- 33 Recoil Pad
- 34 Recoil Pad Screws
- 35 Rib
- 36 Roll Pins for Safety Thumb-Piece
- 37 Safety
- 38 Safety Arm
- 39 Safety Arm Pivot Pin
- 40 Safety Bar
- 41 Safety Bar Pivot Pin
- 42 Safety Detent Spring
- 43 Safety Detent Spring Pin
- 44 Sear
- 45 Sear Adjustment Screw
- 46 Sear Link
- 47 Sear Link Pins
- 48 Sear Pivot Pin
- 49 Sear Spring
- 50 Buttstock
- 51 Stock Bolt
- 52 Stock Bolt Washer

- 53 Trigger
  - 54 Trigger Adjustment Spring
  - 55 Trigger Guard
  - 56 Trigger Guard Retaining Pins
  - 57 Trigger Pivot Pin
  - 58 Trigger Spring Adjustment Screw
  - 59 Trigger Stop Screw
  - 60 Forend Takedown Nut
  - 61 Forend
  - 62 Sling Swivel Screws
  - 63 Sling Swivel Escutcheon
- Parts Not Shown**
- Front Sight Base
  - Front Sight Base Set Screw
  - Front Sight Blade
  - Front Sight Plunger Spring
  - Front Sight Retaining Plunger
  - Lever Pilot Groove Pin
  - Medallion
  - Pistol Grip Cap
  - Pistol Grip Cap Screw
  - Rear Sight

# SR556 Rifle



<b>1</b>	* Receiver, Lower	<b>22</b>	Trigger Guard Assembly	<b>42</b>	Bolt	<b>63</b>	* Barrel
<b>2</b>	Pivot Pin	<b>23</b>	Pistol Grip	<b>43</b>	Extractor	<b>64</b>	Barrel Nut Fixed Barrel
<b>3</b>	Take Down Pin	<b>24</b>	Trigger Guard Roll Pin	<b>44</b>	Cam Pin	<b>65</b>	* Barrel Extension
<b>4</b>	Take Down Dentent	<b>25</b>	Magazine Catch Spring	<b>45</b>	Firing Pin	<b>66</b>	Upper Receiver/Handguard Roll Pin
<b>5</b>	Take Down Dentent Spring	<b>26</b>	Pistol Grip Screw	<b>46</b>	Bolt Carrier Cotter Pin	<b>67</b>	Ejection Port Cover Rod
<b>6</b>	Bolt Catch	<b>27</b>	Grip Screw Washer	<b>47</b>	Ejector	<b>68</b>	Ejection Port Cover Retaining Clip
<b>7</b>	Bolt Catch Plunger	<b>28</b>	Buffer Retainer Spring	<b>48</b>	Extractor Pin	<b>69</b>	Ejection Port Cover Spring
<b>8</b>	Bolt Catch Plunger Spring	<b>29</b>	Buffer Retainer Plunger	<b>49</b>	Ejector Spring	<b>70</b>	Ejection Port Cover
<b>9</b>	Bolt Catch Roll Pin	<b>30</b>	Receiver Endplate	<b>50</b>	Charging Handle Assembly	<b>72</b>	Bushing Rear
<b>10</b>	Trigger/Hammer Pin	<b>31</b>	Receiver Extension Nut	<b>51</b>	Receiver, Upper	<b>73</b>	Rear Sight - Flip-Up Battle
<b>11</b>	Hammer Assembly	<b>32</b>	Retainer Pin	<b>52</b>	Handguard Pin	<b>74</b>	Forward Assist Assembly
<b>12</b>	Ejector Retainer Spring	<b>33</b>	Stock Assembly - 6-position adjustable assembly	<b>53</b>	Handguard Quad Rail	<b>75</b>	Forward Assist Spring
<b>13</b>	Hammer Spring	<b>34</b>	Regulator Pin	<b>54</b>	Front Bushing	<b>76</b>	Forward Assist Retainer Pin
<b>14</b>	Trigger	<b>35</b>	Regulator Pin Spring	<b>55</b>	Transfer Rod Spring	<b>77</b>	Front Flip-Up Battle Sight Assembly
<b>15</b>	Selector Switch	<b>36</b>	Extractor O-Ring	<b>56</b>	Transfer Rod	<b>78</b>	Extractor Spring
<b>16</b>	Trigger Spring	<b>37</b>	Bolt Carrier	<b>57</b>	Regulator	<b>79</b>	Barrel extension Pin
<b>17</b>	Selector Detent	<b>38</b>	Buffer Spring	<b>58</b>	Regulator Detent		
<b>18</b>	Selector Detent Spring	<b>39</b>	Buffer	<b>59</b>	* Gas Block		
<b>19</b>	Piston	<b>40</b>	Disconnecter	<b>60</b>	Flash Hider		
<b>20</b>	Magazine Catch	<b>41</b>	Disconnecter Spring - Semi-Auto	<b>61</b>	Crush Washer		
<b>21</b>	Magazine Catch Button			<b>62</b>	Gas Block Solid Pins (2)		
							* Parts so marked must be factory fitted.





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Jerry Lee has been the editor of some of the leading magazines in the firearms industry, including *Guns*, *Petersen's Handguns* and *Rifle Shooter*, as well as the annual volumes of *Gun Digest* and *Standard Catalog of Firearms* for the past several years.

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