

Fit between the metal and synthetic stock and fore-end was better than many wood-stocked guns we have recently tested.

The Ruger All-Weather Red Label was patterned with the results shown in the accompanying table and was test-fired on hand-thrown clay targets with Remington field loads and PMC target loads. We also fired the gun on a Sporting Clays course and at released ducks. There were no malfunctions of any kind. Ejection was positive and the targets and ducks hit easily. Unlike all other Ruger Red Label shotguns we have tested previously, the All-Weather's point of impact was very near our point of hold.

But is a stainless shotgun that great an advantage in the field? It could be if you hunt over salt or brackish water where salt spray can rust a gun before your eyes. Aside from cosmetic flaws, rust can also cause mechanical malfunctions. One staffer here recalls a duck hunt years ago when the salt spray was so intense that he could set a shell on the edge of his blind and watch it rust. He missed doubling on a pair of pintails that morning because the surface rust on a shell he just fired locked with the surface rust that had formed inside the chamber and hopelessly seized his pump-action shotgun.

As for its appearance, the Red Label All-Weather's brushed, matte finish doesn't reflect any more light than a highly polished

blued gun. We would have preferred a sand-blasted metal finish to reduce reflection even more. If you're a hard-core waterfowler who hunts in harsh conditions, Ruger has delivered an all weather over-under shotgun rugged enough to handle considerable abuse and nearly anything Mother Nature can dish out.

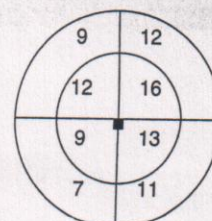
NRD

SHOOTING RESULTS

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.



Modified Tube



Improved Cylinder Tube

■=Point of Hold

Federal No. P128 12-ga.

2 1/2"—1 1/4 oz.—No. 6 lead

Average Pellet count—253

Measured Velocity @3-ft.—1376 f.p.s.

Remaining Energy Per Pellet @40 yds.: 2 ft.-lbs

Recoil: 29.1 ft.-lbs

Total Hits	115 (46%)	Total Hits	89 (35%)
21" Inner Circle	71 (28%)	21" Inner Circle	50 (20%)
30" Outer Ring	44 (18%)	30" Outer Ring	39 (15%)

AMT COMMANDO .40 S&W



The Commando is one of the newest products in AMT's line of M1911-inspired semi-automatic pistols. The pistol is mainly made of stainless steel investment castings and is chambered for the popular .40 S&W cartridge. Size is similar to the Colt Commander.

One of the newest products in AMT's line is an M1911-inspired design mainly made of stainless steel investment castings. Called the "Commando," this model is chambered for the popular .40 S&W cartridge and is quite similar in size to the Colt Commander. This new product has features desired by

Enhanced features include an extended slide stop, oversize thumb safety and improved beavertail grip safety. Sights are by Millett and feature a white dot front blade and a white outline and bar rear.

many shooters such as a wide, smooth trigger with adjustable stop, Millett adjustable sights with three white dots, extended slide stop, oversize thumb safety, full-length recoil spring guide rod and extended magazine release. The magazine well

Dope BAG

is beveled for fast insertion of eight-round stainless steel magazines.

AMT's Commando reminds one of the AMT Skipper (July 1992, p. 66), that emulated the Colt Officer's ACP. The Commando, however, is slightly taller, has an improved beavertail grip safety and wraparound, pebble-textured rubber grips.

As the Commando's operational essentials are typical of the M1911, explanations can be omitted. Nonetheless, field stripping is different from that of standard M1911s because of the full-length recoil spring guide rod. We found the easiest way to field strip the Commando, first ensuring the gun was unloaded and all ammunition was removed from the area, was to remove the magazine, then retract the slide until the slide release lines up with the disassembly notch. Press the slide release out from right to left, and remove the slide assembly from the front of the frame. While controlling the guide rod, tip the rod up and out of the slide assembly then lift the recoil spring plug out from the slide. Rotate the barrel bushing counterclockwise about 20 degrees and lift it from the slide. Pivot the link toward the muzzle, and withdraw the barrel from the front of the slide. Reassembly is in the reverse order.

The Commando was test-fired with a variety of factory ammunition and we experienced several malfunctions. After about 70 rounds had been fired, the slide seized up half out of battery and had to be hammered closed. After disassembling the pistol and thoroughly cleaning all parts, we attempted to reassemble just the slide on the frame, which proved impossible. Close examination revealed that the rear of the guide rod had peened ridges up on the front surface of the frame where the guide rails end. The ridges were knocked off with a file and



Improvements on current-production Commandos include a washer-shaped buffer on the full-length guide rod, a modified recoil spring plug and a new Wolff recoil spring. The new parts greatly improved the functioning and reliability of our test pistol.

shooting resumed. Ten rounds later, the slide stuck again—this time because the link pin walked out of place and was binding in the frame. Further, the U-shaped flange at the rear of the guide rod had become bent, which adversely affected the pistol's functioning.

A second AMT Commando was requested to complete the test. This gun included needed design improvements in the form of a washer-shaped buffer on the guide rod, modified recoil spring plug and a new Wolff recoil spring. Further, the Millett white-dot rear sight was replaced by a white-outline one. Manufacturer representatives advised that the modifications would prevent the battering we experienced, and that overlubrication on our part appears to have contributed to the malfunctions. The new gun, with current-production modifications, was fired for accuracy with the results shown in the



An adjustable stop is incorporated into the stainless steel AMT Commando's smooth, wide trigger blade. An extended, checkered magazine release is yet another of the pistol's enhanced features.

SHOOTING RESULTS

.40 S&W Cartridge	Vel. @15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Recoil (ft.-lbs.)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
Federal No. P40HS4 135-gr. H-S	1121 Avg. 31 Sd	377	4.0	1.82	3.60	2.46
Hornady No. 9136 180-gr. XTP	915 Avg. 17 Sd	334	4.5	1.98	3.29	2.96
Win. No. X40SWSTHP 155-gr. STHP	1133 Avg. 23 Sd	442	5.6	2.32	3.11	2.65
Average Extreme Spread:						2.69

Measured average muzzle velocity for 10 rounds from a 4 1/4" barrel. Range temperature: 50° F. Humidity: 22%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yds. from a Ransom Rest. Abbreviations: H-S (Hydra-Shok), Sd (Standard Deviation), STHP (Silver Tip Hollow-Point), XTP (Extreme Terminal Performance)

AMT COMMANDO

MANUFACTURER: Galena Industries, Inc. (Dept. AR), 3551 Mayer Ave., Sturgis, SD 57785; (605) 423-4105
CALIBER: .40 S&W
ACTION TYPE: short recoil-operated, semi-automatic pistol
CONSTRUCTION: stainless steel
FINISH: natural satin stainless steel
MAGAZINE: eight-round, single-stack, stainless steel
OVERALL LENGTH: 7 1/4"
BARREL: 4 1/4", stainless steel
RIFLING: conventional, six-groove, RH-twist
WIDTH: 1 1/2"
HEIGHT: 5 1/2"
WEIGHT EMPTY: 2 lbs., 5 ozs.
SIGHTS: click-adjustable Millett rear with white outline, white dot, ramped iron
TRIGGER: smooth, single-stage, 4 1/2-lb. pull
STOCKS: one-piece, wraparound, pebble-texture, black rubber
ACCESSORIES: hard plastic storage box
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$425

accompanying table and function fired extensively. Of more than 300 rounds fired, 200 of which were consecutive without cleaning, there were no malfunctions. Recoil was modest, though snappy, and trigger pull was typical of a production single-action semi-automatic with about 1/16" take-up.

Though we experienced problems with the first gun, the second one worked without incident. Those here who handled the AMT Commando liked the way it felt. The gun points naturally, and its operation is familiar to most shooters. Accuracy was quite acceptable for such a pistol. The finish of the Commando, however, needs some work. Casting seams and even some slight voids were evident on the gun's surface.

If the corrective measures that worked for our second test gun hold true to all Commandos, and given a little more attention to detail, the AMT Commando from Galena Industries would make a fine carry gun for those who like the M1911-type design, but are looking for something a little different.

NRD

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN • January 2000