

AMT .22 MAGNUM HUNTER



The AMT Magnum Hunter offers good accuracy, rugged design and the power of the .22WMRF cartridge in weather-resistant stainless steel, and would be a good choice for small-game hunting with the addition of a rifle scope such as the Simmon's 2-10X above.

FOR years the .22 Long Rifle cartridge has been popular among small-game hunters, particularly in the heavily-populated East. The introduction in 1959 of the .22 WMRF (Winchester Magnum Rimfire)—with 600-700 f.p.s more velocity and over two times more energy than .22 Long Rifle high-velocity loadings—enabled hunters humanely to take larger animals such as fox, ground-

hog and raccoon, and to take smaller animals at longer ranges. The .22 Magnum Hunter from AMT (Arcadia Machine and Tool) marries the advantages of stainless-steel construction and semi-auto function to the ballistic superiority of the .22 WMRF.

With the exception of its wood stock, the .22 Magnum Hunter is made almost completely of stainless steel. Both barrel and action are machined from solid 416 stainless bar stock. Other internal parts are machined, stamped or cast from various grades of stainless, with the exception of the hammer, sear and trigger bar cam, which are made from hardened tool steel.

The Magnum Hunter sports a 20½" button-rifled free-floated barrel in a heavy profile measuring .750" at the muzzle. The crown is recessed, target-style.

At first glance, the Magnum Hunter's black, pebble-grain high-comb stock seems to be synthetic, but is painted hardwood fitted with stainless steel sling swivels and a grooved plastic buttplate. AMT is currently working on a new synthetic stock for its Magnum Hunters, and will offer a program allowing owners of wood-stocked Hunters to purchase the synthetic one at reasonable cost.

The Magnum Hunter's tubular receiver contains the bolt, hammer and hammer spring, and is drilled and tapped for scope mounts. The hammer, a hollowed-out cylinder with grooves for sear and safety engagement, sits directly behind the bolt. When a round is fired, the hammer is impelled rearward by the bolt, compressing its spring against the nylon-buffered

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MANUFACTURER: Arcadia Machine & Tool, Inc., Dept. AR, 6226 Santos Diaz St., Irwindale, CA 91702

MECHANISM TYPE: semi-automatic rimfire rifle

CALIBER: .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire

OVERALL LENGTH: 41½"

BARREL LENGTH: 20½"

WEIGHT: 6 lbs., 9 ozs.

MAGAZINE CAPACITY: 10

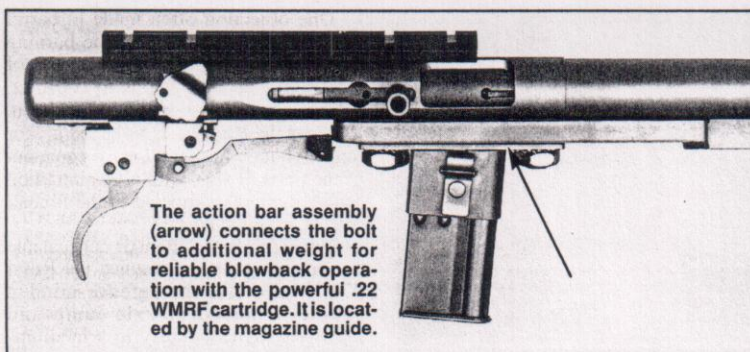
RIFLING: 6-groove, RH twist

TRIGGER: single-stage, 4 lbs. pull

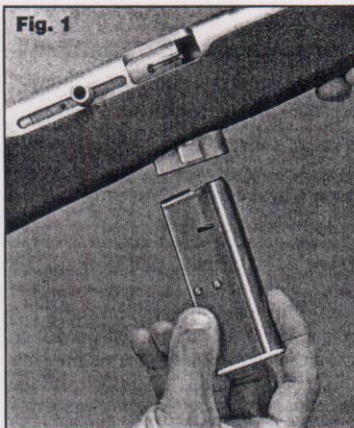
SIGHTS: none supplied; receiver drilled and tapped for scope bases

STOCK: black-painted hardwood; length of pull, 13½"; drop at heel, 1½"; drop at comb, 1½"

PRICE: \$449



The action bar assembly (arrow) connects the bolt to additional weight for reliable blowback operation with the powerful .22 WMRF cartridge. It is located by the magazine guide.



To disassemble the Magnum Hunter, first remove the magazine from the action and ensure that the chamber is empty (Fig. 1). Next, turn out the takedown screws (Fig. 2) and pull the action upward out of the stock.

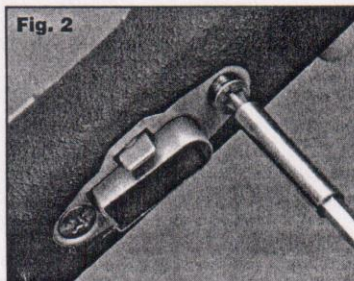




Fig. 3

Loosen the receiver end cap set screw and remove the end cap, buffer and hammer spring (Fig. 3). Slide the hammer and bolt out of the receiver (Fig. 4). Turn out the two hex nuts on the underside of the receiver that retain the magazine guide, and remove it. Free the nose of the action bar guide from the detent in the forward action screw stud and remove both the guide and its spring (Fig. 5). Finally, lift the action bar free of the receiver (Fig. 6).

threaded retaining cap and engaging the lip of the sear, which holds the hammer to the rear.

The bolt is a stainless steel cylinder containing a spring-loaded inertia-type firing pin and, at the breech end, a .070"-wide claw extractor tensioned by a plunger and coil spring. A blade welded into the left wall of the action and riding in a slot in the bolt body ejects spent cases and also serves as a bolt guide. Projecting from the right side of the bolt is a knurled cocking lever, which is also used to hold the rifle's bolt open.

To shooters accustomed to .22 Long Rifle semi-auto rifles, the AMT's action might seem like overkill, but the design was necessitated by the power of the .22 WMRF cartridge. Instead of mounting the recoil spring inside the cylindrical action body, behind the bolt, the Magnum Hunter's spring pushes against what AMT calls an "action bar," similar to the forward portion of the bolt on Winchester Models 1905, 1907 and 1910 self-loading rifles. This 8"-long assembly consists of a single piece of stainless steel approximately .350" wide by .090" thick, bent into a U-shape and welded, at its free ends, to a 2½"-long steel

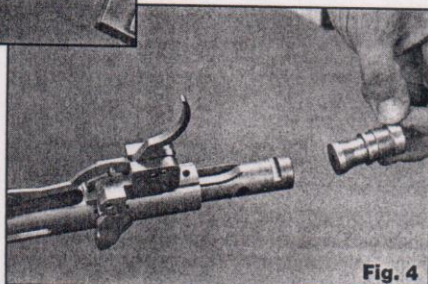


Fig. 4

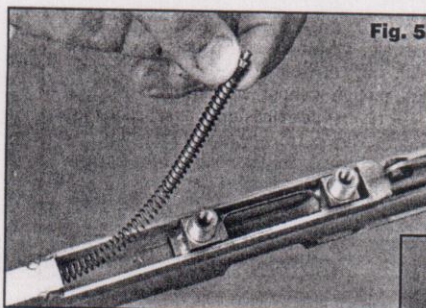


Fig. 5

block. At the rear of the action bar is a tongue that engages a corresponding groove cut in the belly of the bolt. This arrangement ensures that the bolt and action bar move as one unit.

Welded to the underside of the receiver, immediately before and behind the magazine opening, are two studs. The two parallel rails of

the action bar fit closely against the studs and slide around them. The forward end of the recoil spring and guide rod sit in a blind hole in the action bar's steel block, while the rear end bears against the forwardmost stud.

When the bolt and action bar are driven rearward upon firing, the recoil spring is compressed between the front of the bar and the stud. The action bar is held tightly to the receiver by the magazine guide, whose mounting plate

retains the action bar rails in position under the action.

Extraction is aided by an interesting engineering trick. In a .22 WMRF blow-back-operated arm, pressure can cause the case to adhere to the chamber walls, impeding extraction. In the Magnum Hunter, gas is vented from a hole just forward of the case mouth back to a spot about halfway along the length of the chamber. The gas bled into the chamber equalizes the pressure outside the case, which leads to easier extraction. This same principle has been used with success on military arms such as the G3 and FAMAS service rifles.

The "safe" and "fire" positions for the thumb safety are etched on the receiver. A red dot on the safety piece is also visible when the gun is in the "fire" mode.

We fired the AMT Magnum Hunter for accuracy with the results listed in the accompanying table, and function-fired it with CCI, Federal, Remington and Winchester .22 WMRF ammunition.

There were three failures to feed, which occurred when the lower edge of the bolt overrode the rim of a cartridge being chambered, resulting in the cartridge going only partway up the feed ramp before being crushed in the middle by the forward-moving bolt. We also found that the magazine would not be retained by its catch unless it was forcefully pushed into the magazine guide.

While we liked the Magnum Hunter's

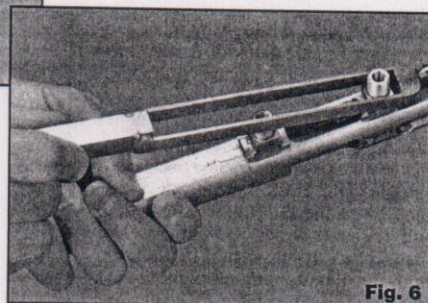


Fig. 6

ACCURACY RESULTS

.22 WMRF Cartridge	Vel. @15' (f.p.s.)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
CCI 0023 Maxi Mag	1705 Avg. 49 Sd	1.31	2.59	2.13
Federal .22 WMRF FMJ	1832 Avg. 23 Sd	1.26	1.48	1.35
Win. X22WMR .22 WMRF JHP	1833 Avg. 20 Sd	.88	1.61	1.19
Average Extreme Spread				1.57
Five consecutive 10-shot groups from 50 yds., fired from sandbags. Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation), WMRF (Winchester Magnum Rimfire), FMJ (full metal jacket), Win. (Winchester), JHP (jacketed hollow-point)				

rugged design and stainless-steel construction, there were several complaints. At the top of the list was the position of the magazine, which is not only esthetically unappealing but also interferes with the support hand in offhand shooting. A rotary or tubular magazine would seem to be the solution. Also, the gun's trigger pull, though not particularly heavy, was somewhat long and creepy. We also found the safety location inconvenient.

For those who want a rugged, accurate stainless-steel .22 WMRF semi-auto, and don't mind the gun's eccentricities, the AMT .22 Magnum Hunter deserves a close look.

DRD