

DOPE BAG

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AMT AUTOMAG V PISTOL

SINCE the introduction of IMI's Desert Eagle chambered for the .50 AE cartridge (November 1992, p. 50), a number of makers have rushed to provide guns for the massive rebated rim cartridge. Arcadia Machine & Tool's Automag V is the newest entrant into the "bigger is better" autoloader class.

The recoil-operated Automag V holds few surprises for those familiar with the 10 mm Auto or .45 Win. Mag. Automag IV (September 1991, p. 67). The two, both having a rough stippled satin finish except for the bright stainless sides of the slide, are indistinguishable at a glance, and the Automag V was mistaken for its .45 Win. Mag. cousin by more than one casual onlooker.

AMT AUTOMAG V

MANUFACTURER: Arcadia Machine & Tool, Dept. AR, 6226 Santos Diaz St., Irwindale, CA 91702
MECHANISM TYPE: recoil-operated semi-automatic pistol
CALIBER: .50 Action Express
OVERALL LENGTH: 10 1/2"
BARREL LENGTH: 6 1/2"
WEIGHT: 50 ozs.
WIDTH: 1 1/4"
HEIGHT: 5 1/4"
MAGAZINE CAPACITY: 5
RIFLING: 1:19" RH twist
TRIGGER: single-stage, 3 1/2 lbs. pull
SIGHTS: Patridge front; elevation and windage adjustable rear
ACCESSORIES: spare magazine, carrying case
PRICE: \$899.99

Like its predecessor, the Automag V combines features from a variety of design sources. Its Government Model-style barrel bushing snugs up against an outward tapering barrel section. A full-length recoil spring guide plug is employed rather than the recoil spring plug familiar to M1911 owners.



AMT's Automag V puts the California firm in the .50 cal. pistol market. The new gun is almost indistinguishable from the 10 mm or .45 Win. Mag. Automag IV.

The heavy rectangular block at the breech locks against the slide, mimicking the locking system used in Glock and SIG pistols. During recoil, the barrel and slide move rearward for a short distance until a cam slide track moving against the slide stop pin pulls the barrel down and out of engagement with the slide.

The slide is then free to complete its rearward movement, ejecting the spent casing and returning to battery.

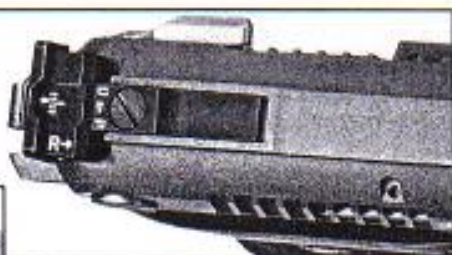
The safety is a half-drum that prevents the hammer from impacting the firing pin. The three-dot sights are adjustable for windage and elevation.



after stripping a fresh cartridge from the magazine.

The barrel has two .18" ports (called vents by AMT) cut on each side of its top at the one and 11 o'clock positions. Corresponding .72" oval slots are cut on either side of the slide rib.

The single-stage, single-action pivoting trigger activates a bar that runs under the horizontally ribbed, plastic right grip panel



that pulls the sear forward, allowing the hammer to fall. The disconnecter is a protrusion on the trigger bar that extends into a cut in the right rear of the slide when in battery. The extractor is a pivoting hook on the right side of the slide behind the ejection port.

The firing-pin-blocking safety, mounted

on the left rear of the slide, is a rotating half-drum that blocks the hammer from falling on the firing pin when depressed.

Sights consist of a Patridge front and a windage and elevation adjustable rear with a three-dot treatment.

The Automag V was fired for accuracy, with results shown in the accompanying table, and function-fired with Samson fac-

tory ammunition and handloads using Speer jacketed soft-points and IMI-supplied cases.

While function-firing with the Samson ammunition, we experienced one double, and suspect this may have been due to the fingers of the left hand being slid into the trigger guard during recoil. We were unable to induce another

in the more than 100 rounds fired afterwards.

Though recoil was stiff with factory ammunition, we found the Speer-topped handloads no more punishing than many .45 ACP loadings.

The ported barrel did seem to reduce perceived recoil and increase muzzle flash; both were thought to be less dramatic than that of the L.A.R. Grizzly 50 (April 1994, p. 54) recently tested here.

The Automag V, despite



Holes in the barrel line up with ports in the Automag V's slide to allow gas to escape before the bullet exits the barrel. This system proved effective in reducing felt recoil.



the size of the cartridge, was surprisingly pleasant to shoot. It offers those bent on owning a .50 AE a more economical choice than previous offerings, one that delivers more than acceptable accuracy. SRP

ACCURACY RESULTS

Five Consecutive 5-Shot Groups at 25 Yds.
Fired From Outer's Pistol Perch

.50 AE Cartridge	Vel. @15' (f.p.s.)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
Samson No. 50-60D 300-gr. JSP	1268 Avg. 29 Sd	1.50	3.92	2.61
IMI case, OCI350 primer, 36.0 grs. AA1680, 325-gr. Speer JHP	978 Avg. 17 Sd	1.87	2.34	2.08
Average Extreme Spread				2.35

Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation), AA1680 (Accurate Arms powder), JHP (jacketed hollow-point), JSP (jacketed soft-point)

BROWNING GOLD HUNTER



Browning started the Gold line of semi-auto shotguns with the 10-ga. Gold Semi-Auto, but now has introduced 12- and 20-ga. guns that will be of more interest to most of us. While the 10-ga. was Japanese-made, the smaller bores are made in Europe.

WHEN we reviewed Browning's 10-ga. Gold Semi-Auto (December 1993, p. 46), we wrote that 12- and 20-ga. versions would soon follow. Most readers probably assumed these would simply be smaller renditions of the 10-ga. These are made in Japan by Miroku, the source of other Browning shotguns like the BPS pump.

Now the smaller bores are here, and being sold under the name Gold Hunter. But they are made by FN in Belgium (and assembled at FN's Portugal plant), and differ in several ways from their bigger sibling.

The basic operating system remains the same; a gas-operated short-stroke piston lifted from the old Winchester Super-X Model 1. While this is a departure from the Browning tradition of recoil-operated guns

BROWNING GOLD

MANUFACTURER: Fabrique Nationale Herstal SA, Parc Industriel des Hauts Sarts, 3e Ave., 4040 Herstal, Belgium
IMPORTER: Browning, Dept. AF, One Browning Pl., Morgan, Utah 84060
MECHANISM TYPE: gas-operated semi-automatic shotgun
GAUGE: 12, 3" (tested), 20, 3"
OVERALL LENGTH: 48 1/2"
BARREL LENGTH: 28"
WEIGHT: 7 1/2 lbs.
MAGAZINE CAPACITY: 4
TRIGGER: single-stage, 7 1/2 lbs. pull
STOCK: European walnut; length of pull, 14 1/2"; drop at heel, 2 1/2"; drop at comb, 1 1/2"
ACCESSORIES: choke tubes, spanner
PRICE: \$687.95

like the Auto-5, Double Automatic and A-500R, it is simply a fact that the Remington 1100 has made gas operation the standard in the minds of many U.S. shotgunners.

The short-stroke piston is a system well-proven in guns like the M1 Carbine and the SKS. On firing, gas passes out two ports in the bottom of the barrel to press rearward on the piston. That part travels only about 5/16" rearward, transferring its energy to the bolt carrier, before a crosspin in the carrier intercepts a hook at the rear of the bolt head. This pulls it out of engagement with the barrel extension, allowing the bolt assembly to recoil and eject the shell.

This system has the advantage of a lower recoiling mass than a long-stroke piston,