

# Ruger SR-556



Some of the features of Ruger's new SR-556 rifle: Ruger's trademark on the A) receiver and B) bolt. C) Duane thought the safety lever was a bit "mushy," but attributed it to his test rifle being an early production sample. D) Optional slip-on handguards are manufactured for Ruger by Troy Industries, as are other select components of the SR-556. E) Ruger supplies two 30-round MagPul PMAGS with the SR-556. F) The bottom line? Ruger's SR-556 is capable of sub-minute-of-angle accuracy with factory ammunition.



yards, of the eight .223 loads tested, four went sub-MOA. In reverse order of group size, in fourth place the Black Hills 69-grain Sierra MatchKing HP posted a group of one inch even. In third, the Hornady 75-grain TAP FPD (stands for "Tactical Application Police" and "For Personal Defense") posted 0.8". In second place, also from Hornady, the 55-grain TAP went into 0.6". Finally, in first place, the Black Hills 68-grain Match HP came in at 0.5". I found that particularly impressive since this is not expensive ammo, it's part of Black Hills' line of affordable "blue box" reloads. So, a half-MOA at 100 yards from a totally stock, out-of-the-box AR-15 with Black Hills blue-box HPs. Works for me.

Was the SR-556's piston system more reliable than a standard gas system? Many people complain about the AR-15 gas system blowing powder residue and brass fouling back into the action; however, I have never had this cause me any actual functional problems. In the limited amount of

when in place. Finally, the three pieces of rail on top of the rifle were not perfectly aligned – there was a definite step between each piece of rail and the next. AR-15 shooters, if they want to reposition a scope/red dot/etc. on the rail, have a tendency to loosen the mount just enough to give a slip fit, and then run it along the rail. You can't do that on my test sample, when the mount hits the intersection of a new rail piece it stops – you have to totally remove the mount from the rail then reinstall. This is not a huge problem, but a minor irritation.

**"Half-MOA from an out-of-the-box AR-15 works for me."  
- Duane Thomas**

shooting I did while testing the SR-556 for this article, it proved flawlessly cycle reliable. At the same time, I would expect no less from a standard AR-15 of good quality. I did notice that the forend didn't get nearly as hot, especially on top, as I'm used to when firing an AR-15. This makes sense – you no longer have a tube filled with hot gases running just under the top of the handguard. This may well be the best thing about piston-driven AR-15s. The other best things about the SR-556 in particular were its adjustable gas system combined with absolutely superb accuracy.

When I got to the range, however, those minor flaws became a lot less important seeming. As Jack O'Connor said, "Only accurate rifles are interesting." The Ruger SR-556 proved to be a very interesting rifle indeed. In accuracy testing, which consisted of the traditional three-shot groups at 100

