

Informing Gunowners
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The New Gun Week

Vol. 46, Issue 1999

August 15, 2011

**Fast & Furious called
'perfect storm of idiocy'**



**Winchester Model 70
big-bore rifles return**

**Perry Pistol, Smallbore
championship results**

Mossberg Tactical Plinkster proves an accurate fun gun

by Larry S. Sterett

Contributing Editor

In the mid 20th Century, O.F. Mossberg & Sons (7 Grasso Ave., North Haven, CT 06473; phone: 203-230-5300; online: Mossberg.com) used to be known for their line of many-featured, great-value-for-the-money line of .22 rimfire rifles. Then came the Model 500 shotgun and the great rimfire rifle line headed down the skids to oblivion. In the past few years, Mossberg has re-introduced a rimfire line. The new rifles are not modernized updates of the once-famous



The front sight assembly on the Tactical 22 is integral with the forearm, but the sling swivel is a separate band free to rotate around the barrel. The visible screw heads indicate locations where the halves of the clamshell AR-15 style housing is held together.

designs of yesteryear, but new designs manufactured not in North Haven, CT, but in Brazil by C.B.C.

In keeping with a modern trend to

of a slightly smaller AR-15. (It actually does resemble the AR-15 more than some of the rimfire AR-15 clones by other manufacturers.)

The black synthetic clamshell style of housing surrounding the basic Plinkster-barreled action appears to be fiberglass filled, with the two parts fastened together by pins and Phillips head screws. The telescoping buttstock assembly is a five-position AR-15 type produced by ATI. The AR-15 type housing is well designed, and appears realistic, but the front sight assembly, forearm, carry handle, magazine well, AR-15 style charging handle, forward bolt assist, and shell deflector, are all integral; faux, but realistic. The Picatinny rail on the carrying handle is a separate piece, measuring 6¼ inches in length and having a dozen slots for attaching Weaver-type mounts for scope, lasers, lights, etc. This rail attaches to the carrying handle the same as with the original AR-15 scope mount bases by a single screw or bolt tightened with a thumb nut. The rail is the tunnel-style permitting the shooter to use the open sights when desired or necessary.

The new Mossberg, which is marked Mossberg Int'l 702 Plinkster on the upper left side of the receiver shell, tips the scales at 5 pounds, 4 ounces, empty, with the 10-round magazine inserted, and the Picatinny rail installed on the carry handle. The test gun measured 37-3/8 inches overall, with the five-position ATI telescoping AR-15 type stock fully extended, and 3-7/8 inches shorter when the stock is fully forward.

The barrel on the test rifle measured 18 inches long, and featured a recessed muzzle with beveled circumference. The front sight assembly is molded integral



Top, Mossberg Model 152 with fold-down forearm tip to serve as forward hand grip. The sling swivels are located on the left side of the buttstock and at the hinge pin. On later production versions of the Model 152 the fold-down grip was not hardwood, but molded of a black synthetic. The detachable box magazine has a 7-round capacity. The middle rifle is the Mossberg 702 Plinkster Tactical 22 with 10-round magazine. The bottom rifle is a 1954 remodeled Mossberg Model 152 with 15-round magazine. The rear sight has been removed and a scope with tip-off mounts installed. (The rear sight can be re-installed after removing the scope, but the front sight cannot, without removing the muzzle brake.)

each 10-13/16 inches long with 27 accessory mount positions—and four sets of a baker's dozen ventilation ports. A barrel band with integral sling loop is positioned between the barrel bands of the front sight assembly. It is free to rotate around the barrel approximately 290 degrees.

The two side rails are attached to the forearm portion via three Phillips-head screws each. The top and bottom rails are integral with the forearm, or rather half of each rail—top and bottom—is molded with each half of the forearm. When the left portion of the clamshell is mated with the right half, the two rail halves come together to form a single top rail and a single bottom rail.

The safety on the Tactical 22 is the same as on the regular 702 Plinkster, a large circular cross-bolt design, with

ejection port are the following four lines: Warning: Before use read owner's / manual for safe operation / Available from Mossberg Int'l, Inc. / PO Box 455, North, CT 06422."

The trigger on the Tactical 22 is well shaped, with a smooth, flat face. (Length of pull on the test gun, with the stock fully extended, measured 14-9/16 inches.) The charging handle is the standard 702 hook-style handle, with a smooth, slightly convex face, and a serrated top surface. (The bolt can be locked in the rear position by pulling the charging handle as far rearward as possible and pushing it inward. To release the bolt the charging handle is pulled outward, hence the serrated top surface to aid in grasping.) It's a bit cramped in this area due to the shell deflector location and the small charging handle.





The rear sight assembly somewhat resembles the regular A-2 type of AR-15 rear sight, but what appear to be the charging handle and the bolt assist are non-functional, molded to provide the appearance of the originals. The cross-bolt safety can be seen peeking through the cut out section of the housing just forward of the trigger guard.

produce look-alike rifles (rifles which to the uninformed appear to be something they are not) the latest Mossberg rimfire is the Tactical 22. Based on the original C.B.C. autoloading rimfire design introduced to the US market a decade or so ago, the new Tactical 22 is really the 702 Plinkster autoloader housed in a synthetic shell to provide the appearance

with the forearm assembly, and houses an AR-15-type post. The rear sight is an A-2 type, screw adjustable for windage and elevation. (Sight radius on the test gun measured 20¼ inches.)

The forearm portion of the clamshell AR-15 type housing measures 12-1/8 inches in length, and features four Picatinny rail sections—

raised concentric ridges on each end to reduce finger slippage. (The AR-15 clamshell housing is cut away on both sides so the safety can be operated.) Pushed to the right the safety is "on," and pushed to the left placing the rifle in the "fire" mode, exposing a red-colored band around the left end of the safety bolt. (There is no AR-15 style safety lever on the left side.)

The magazine release on the regular 702 Plinkster is located behind the detachable box magazine, just forward of the front trigger guard bow. Since region is covered by the faux magazine well housing of the AR-15 shell, an ambidextrous thumb-operated lever release has been located on the faux magazine well. Pushing downward on the lever from either side will release the magazine.

Visible markings on the Tactical 22 include the serial number on the left side of the rifle receiver and visible through a cut-out on the AR-15 shell. Below the serial number, the left side of what would be the magazine well portion of the lower receiver area, in raised lettering, appears ".22 Caliber Long Rifle Only/ Made in Brazil by CBC Model 702." On the right side, below the "bolt assist area" is found "Imported by Mossberg International, Inc. North Haven, CT." Below the

The Tactical 22 is available in four versions, for under \$300. Two come with fixed buttstocks, and two with the telescoping buttstock. One of each version—fixed stock and telescoping—come with 10-round detachable box magazines, and the others are supplied with 25-round magazines. (The versions with the 25-round magazines, housed in a faux AR-15 magazine housing gives the Tactical 22 a more realistic appearance.) The test rifle featured a standard 702 Plinkster 10-round magazine with Long Rifle Only stamped on the floorplate. (This magazine features a synthetic follower, which holds the breech bolt open when the magazine is empty.) There are three inspection slots on the left side of the magazine allowing the cartridges to be seen—the number left determined, etc.—and a nub on the right side prevents the magazine from being inserted into the rifle backward, should anyone be so inclined.

Following the inspection, and a cleaning of the rifle bore, the Tactical 22 was taken to a range with an assortment of .22 Long Rifle ammunition, including Remington Standard Velocity 22 Target, Remington/Eley Match EPS with waxed bullets, Winchester M.22 with black,

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Baltimore PD bulletin cautions officers of 'armed' bumper stickers

Pro-gun website AmmoLand.com obtained and posted a Baltimore City Police (BPD) bulletin warning officers to use caution during traffic stops of cars that display the sticker of a 2nd Amendment rights group, and the news is sparking controversy among gun advocates.

The BPD "Intelligence Bulletin," which was initially posted by AmmoLand.com, warns officers that a decal created by a company called "Legally Concealed" affixed to a car could indicate the driver might be carrying a concealed weapon. The sticker is distributed by legallyconcealed.org, a group that advocates for the rights of people to carry concealed weapons.

"While the individual who is displaying the symbol may not be armed, the presence of the symbol provides an early warning indicator that you MAY be about to encounter an armed individual,"

the bulletin cautions city police officers in bold red type.

Baltimore Police Department spokesman Anthony Guglielmi confirmed that the bulletin was authentic.

The website characterizes the bulletin as "profiling" gunowners, a charge that elicited a response from city police spokesman Jim Green:

"I certainly disagree with your characterization of 'profiling.'" Green told the website. "Clearly the bulletin is informational and does not remotely suggest a suppression of Constitutional rights. In fact, as you are aware, many law enforcement personnel are members of the NRA or affiliated organizations.

"As you are also aware, traffic stops are the single most dangerous encounter for law enforcement.... The presence of a decal is NOT justification in itself for a traffic stop."



The telescoping ATI buttstock on the Tactical 22. (Note the stud for a detachable sling swivel near the toe of the butt.) The stock, as shown, is in the second position, out of the possible five.

Mossberg reclaims lost ground in accurate .22 rimfire arena

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copper-plated bullets, Winchester Super-X Dynapoint and Super-X Power Point, PMC Scoremaster and Sidewinder, CCI Velocitor, and Federal Classic High Velocity with copper-plated bullets. Firing was done from the bench on the 1000-inch range, with the left forearm resting on a sandbag and the left hand grasping the rifle forend. The buttstock was extended and shouldered in the normal manner. Three-shot groups were fired for size, and the magazine was loaded with nine rounds.

The bulk of the firing was done using the first three loads listed—Remington 22 Target, Eley Match EPS, and Winchester M.22, starting with the open sights. With open sights the smallest group measured 9/16-inch, center-to-center, and was obtained using the Remington/Eley Match EPS round. The next smallest group, measuring 10/16-inch, center-to-center, was obtained using the Winchester M.22 round. Most of the groups were triangular in shape, or in a slight straight line. (The Eley EPS load produced the smallest group using the open sights; it also produced a couple of stovepipes, but not on the same string. The waxed coating on the bullet might have had some bearing, as this was the only load with this type of lubrication.)

After installing a 2x6X Mil-Dot scope on the AR-15 style carrying handle mount base, the accuracy/functioning tests continued with the scope set at 6X. Several magazines of the three initial loads were used first, with the other loads being introduced later. With the scope installed, the smallest three-shot group measured 5/16-inch, and was obtained using the Winchester M.22 load. The PMC Scoremaster load did almost as well with one 6/16-inch group. Most of the groups measured under an inch in size, center-to-center, regardless of the brand, and those measuring over an inch can be attributed to shooter error or lighting conditions.

Other than the two stovepipes mentioned, no problems were encountered with feeding from the magazine, or ejection of the fired cases. (Depending on the cartridge brand and the load, the fired brass is scattered all over the landscape several paces to the right of the firing line.) The Mossberg Tactical 22 is a fun gun to shoot. The rear sight (A-2 type) is adjustable, and it works well, as does the cross-bolt safety. The magazine release is not exactly the one this

shooter would prefer, but it could be worse. The rifle is accurate enough for plinking, but it might be best to stick with one or two brands of ammunition, staying away from cartridges with heavy bullet lubrication or velocities lower than standard. The high mounted scope doesn't permit solid cheek contact with the buttstock tube, which is a detriment to tight groups, but the open sights can be used with the scope installed; the mount base is the "see-through" type.

The Tactical 22 was accurate enough for plinking with all the loads tried, but it was decided to put several magazines loaded with nine different loads through it rapid fire to determine just what group size might be possible. The nine cartridges were loaded into the magazine each time in no particular order, and then fired as fast as the trigger could be squeezed. The smallest nine-shot group measured 1-5/16 inches, center-to-center, or smaller than some modern wristwatch dials. None of the groups measured over two inches and most were under 1 1/2 inches.

Out of curiosity, the old Mossberg Model 152 with original sights, and 152/M1 with Weaver B-4 scope and its slightly fogged lens, were tried on the 1,000-inch range, using some of the same ammunition. The 152 magazine was loaded six rounds at a time (7-round magazine) and the 152/M1 was loaded with a dozen rounds. The smallest three-shot group produced with the Model 152 measured 7/8-inch, center-to-center, using the Remington/Eley Match EPS load, although the Winchester M.22 load produced several inch groups. Groups using the fold-down forend as a grip produced slightly larger groups. The 152/M1 with its fogged scope didn't produce much smaller groups, with the best two each measuring 11/16-inch, obtained using the Federal Classic High Velocity and the Winchester M.22 loads. (Both rifles, nested on sandbags would no doubt produce smaller groups, but they simply verified the new Brazilian rifle bearing the Mossberg name can shoot with the original Mossberg-manufactured rifles. True, the originals were steel and hardwood rifles and felt solid in the hands. The latest is steel, alloys, and synthetics, and feels that way, but what else is new? The Mossberg Tactical 22 is still a fun gun for plinking, especially with issue open sights.



Right side of the Mossberg Tactical 22 receiver housing, the magazine follower visible in the ejection mount rail attached to the carry handle. The magazine side of the magazine well and the cross-bolt safety cut-out portion of the clamshell housing.

Man linked to Seattle dies in San Francisco

A bizarre case spanning two states left more questions than answers, and two people dead, with police in Seattle and San Francisco trying to connect the dots.

Three days after a 19-year-old Seattle teen, Tanaya Gilbert, was shot dead by a gunman while sitting in a car with two other teens in the city's Central District, a man sought as a "person of interest" in that case was killed in a shootout with San Francisco police. An autopsy revealed that 19-year-old Kenneth Harding died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

However, the gun Harding, a recently-paroled convicted felon, used was not recovered by police at the scene. Someone apparently grabbed it, and a different pistol that was recovered by police later thanks to an informant, was of a different caliber.

Harding traded shots with San Francisco police after he was approached on the platform of a rapid transit station as police were doing a routine fare check. He allegedly ran and began firing at police over his

But Harding caused by gun police informant caliber pistol.

Meanwhile, reportedly detectives between 5 in mid-July.

A video of San Francisco a striped, entirely grabbed beside Harding.

San Francisco Harding wound to be reported, accidental.

Harding ington State Bay Coroner Washington had serve convicted, commercial old Seattle.

Gilbert July 13, 2011