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SHARPSHOOTER
McMILLAN
TAC-308

GUN TESTS

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\$5.99



Designed for the professional marksman to

MCMILLAN PRECISION

The TAC-308 is a remarkable platform for the police marksman. The rifle is shown with Leupold Mark 4 scope, OSTI AN/PVS NVD, and Sound Technologies/YHM Imp suppressor.



perform in the harshest of conditions!

TAC-308 RIFLE

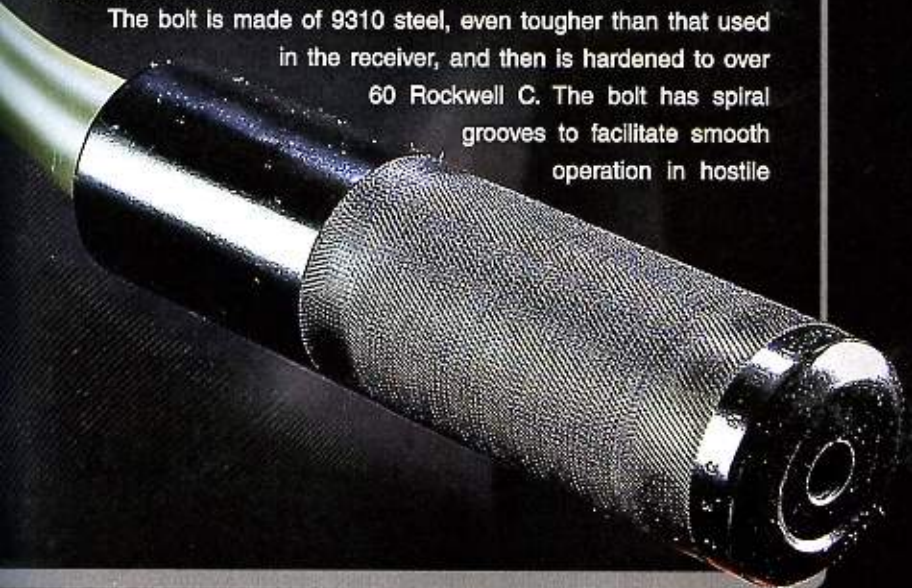
By Charlie Cutshaw • Photos by Doug Richardson

WHEN one thinks of precision tactical rifles, one of the first names that come to mind is McMillan. McMillan has established a well-deserved reputation for manufacturing some of the highest quality and most accurate rifles on the planet.

McMillan manufactures a complete line of rifles for sport shooters, competitive shooters and military or law enforcement marksmen. If a standard McMillan rifle doesn't meet customer requirements, the company will build a rifle that does. All rifles include a McMillan custom pillar-bedded fiberglass stock, a match-grade stainless steel barrel and Remington type trigger, and are finished in DuraCoat, a durable wear-resistant polymer.

The McMillan TAC-308 Tactical Rifle uses their "top of the line" G30 action, built by the company to aerospace standards, with each action CNC-machined from a solid billet. The action material is 17-4 stainless steel, which is tougher and more corrosion resistant than the 4000-series alloy often encountered in firearms. The steel is hardened to 42-43 Rockwell C. The action face is absolutely perpendicular to the bolt axis. General tolerances are held to 0.005 of an inch, while critical components are machined to 0.0005 of an inch. The chamber and barrel threads are cut to critical tolerances and then hand-fitted.

The bolt is made of 9310 steel, even tougher than that used in the receiver, and then is hardened to over 60 Rockwell C. The bolt has spiral grooves to facilitate smooth operation in hostile



McMILLAN TAC-308



The TAC-308 came equipped with a McCann Industries forward rail system to offer even more "real estate" for accessories.



The rifle features a Badger Ordnance trigger housing and a detachable five-round box magazine.

dusty environments Boltways are wire EDM machined rather than broached for cleaner machining, tighter tolerances and smoother feel when the bolt is operated. Bolt lugs are hand-lapped to the receiver to provide equal force and square contact by both lugs. This minimizes side thrust or torque on the action and bedding surfaces. Recoil lugs are surface ground on both sides and pinned to the receiver for a perfectly square match up between the action face and the barrel shank. The bolt face, barrel shank and receiver completely surround the cartridge case head for added strength. The rifle's extractor is a large Sako-style "claw" of McMillan's own design for positive extraction and controlled round feeding. A feature unique to the rifle is dual ejectors. The primary ejector is a Remington-type plunger coupled with a secondary spring-loaded mechanical ejector that rises as the bolt passes over it. The barrel is a 20-inch long match-grade stainless barrel, 1-in-11-inch twist rate and recessed match crown. The muzzle is threaded to accept a sound suppressor.

As might have been expected, the stock was one of McMillan's excellent "A3-5" types, which pillar-beds the action and fully free-floats the barrel. The stock was molded-in green, and came with adjustable butt spacer system, adjustable

SPECIFICATIONS

MCMILLAN TAC-308 PRECISION RIFLE

Caliber: .308 (7.62x51mm) • **Barrel:** 20 inches • **OA Length:** 40.5 inches
Weight: 14.5 lbs (as tested) • **Stock:** A3-5 • **Sights:** None • **Action:** Manual, rotating bolt
Finish: DuraCoat • **Capacity:** 5-shot mag • **Price:** \$5,099

cheekrest and McMillan recoil pad. The pad was aggressively textured to ensure that it stayed in place regardless of conditions. The bottom end of the rifle featured a Badger Ordnance trigger housing with two detachable five-round box magazines.

The Remington-style trigger broke at an average pull weight of 2.7 pounds with zero creep or overtravel. The scope base has a 20 MOA bevel for long-range engagements, although the average law enforcement precision tactical rifle engagement is only 51 yards, per FBI data. In fact, out of 219 engagements in over 20 years of analyzing details of every LE precision tactical rifle engagement available, the American Sniper Association (ASA)

could document only two that exceeded 100 yards – one was at 187 yards and the other a verified shot at 225 yards.

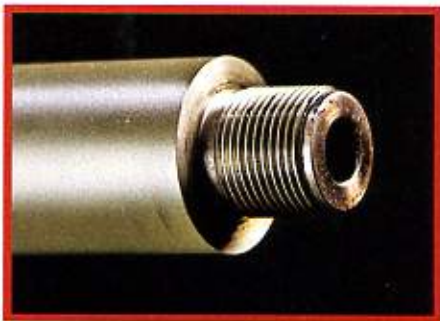
ACCESSORIES

The rifle came essentially "ready to go," but I replaced the factory scope with an optional Leupold Mark IV 4.5-14x scope with Horus Vision H25 reticle. The rifle also was equipped with a Harris bipod and MIL-STD-1913 rails on top and both sides of the forend to allow mounting accessories and state of the art night vision optics, such as the AN/PVS-22.

We used a Leupold 12-40x60mm spotting scope with the same H25 reticle in



All McMillan barrels are premium, hand-lapped, match-grade stainless steel, capable of delivering exceptional performance.



A removable cap protects the rifle's threaded muzzle (shown) that can accept a variety of suppressors or muzzle brakes.

McMILLAN TAC-308



The TAC-308's features a McMillan A3-5 stock, which pillar beds the action and is fully adjustable.



The buttstock offers a fully adjustable buttpad and cheek rest.

PERFORMANCE

MCMILLAN TAC-308 PRECISION RIFLE .308

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Black Hills 168 BTHP	2,701	0.75
Extreme Shock 168 BTHP	2,638	0.55
Hornady 168 TAP	2,724	0.48
Remington 168 BTHP	2,685	0.62

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per second (fps) by PACT Chronograph, and accuracy in inches for average of two 5-shot groups from 100 yards



conjunction with our testing. The matching reticles make second shot corrections a snap because the shooter and spotter can call their shots with absolute precision. Another recent Leupold product is the company's RX series of digital laser rangefinders (LRF) that deliver the rifleman the exact ballistic distance to his target, regardless of slope. In particular, I tried out Leupold's new 9x32mm RXB IV laser rangefinding binoculars. It is waterproof, nitrogen filled

and has an effective range of 10 yards/meters to 1,500 yards/meters—depending on target size and reflectivity.

Finally, a suppressor is highly desirable, especially at night because suppressors not only reduce noise, but flash. During daylight, the noise reduction makes identifying the source of the shot more difficult while at night, flash elimination enhances the effectiveness of night vision optics. For a suppressor, I (*Please turn to page 101*)

McMILLAN TAC-308

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chose a Sound Technologies "Imp." Decibel reduction is claimed to be approximately 31 decibels when the Imp is used with full-power ammunition.

RANGE TIME

Shooting the rifle only confirmed McMillan's excellent reputation. In all the rifles we have tested over the years, not one has performed with such consistent accuracy with all types of ammunition. The test gun was essentially a half-minute of

For more information:

McMillan Firearms Manufacturing, LLC

623-582-9635
mcmillanusa.com

Leupold

800-538-7653
leupold.com

Yankee Hill Machine (Sound Technologies)

877-892-6533
yhm.net

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”

angle rifle, no matter what ammunition we used. At the end, the bore was becoming fouled because I had shot nearly 100 rounds through the rifle without cleaning it. Had I cleaned the rifle as I usually do, it probably would have delivered even better accuracy. Needless to say, there were no malfunctions of any sort.

I was curious as to the repeatability of accuracy with and without the Imp installed, so I also test fired the rifle using the same ammunition with and without the Imp in place and found that there was only about ½-MOA change in bullet strike during the testing. There is nothing without some trade-off though, and while the Imp is much smaller and lighter than many

cans of similar effectiveness, the Imp is not intended for rapid fire use and the instructions that accompanied the Imp specifically cautioned against using the Imp in rapid fire scenarios due to heat buildup.

FINAL NOTES

Completely equipped with scope and bipod, the rifle retails at nearly \$8,000. Without accessories, the rifle sells for \$5,099. Although this may sound expensive, I have tested rifles that cost more but did not deliver the overall performance of the McMillan. In short, the McMillan TAC-308 is a rifleman's rifle, and at the price I consider it a bargain. ■