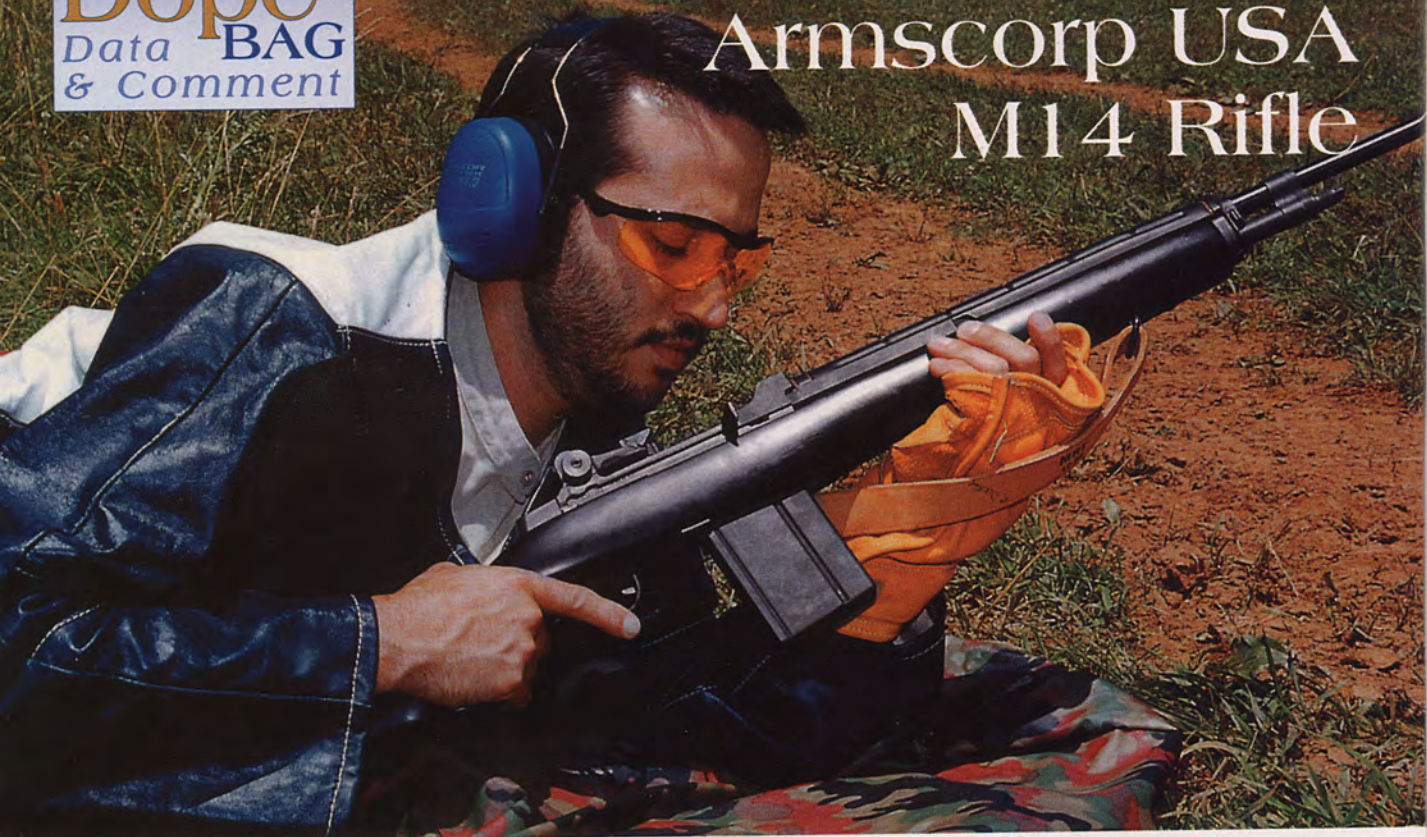


# Armscorp USA M14 Rifle



## ARMSCORP M14

### MANUFACTURER:

Armscorp USA, Inc.  
(Dept. AR), 4424 John  
Ave., Baltimore, MD  
21227; (410) 247-6200;  
www.3wmguns.com/parts  
/armscorp

**CALIBER:** 7.62x51 mm  
NATO (.308 Win.)

**ACTION TYPE:** gas-operated, semi-automatic rifle

**RECEIVER:** CNC-machined investment cast steel

**FINISH:** matte, phosphate

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 44½"

**BARREL:** 22", (25% with compensator)

**RIFLING:** conventional, four-groove, 1:12" RH twist

**SIGHTS:** blade front, peep rear adjustable for windage and elevation

**MAGAZINE:** detachable, steel, double column, 5-, 10- and 20-round

**TRIGGER:** two-stage, 5½ lbs.-pull

**STOCK:** walnut or synthetic; length of pull, 13½"; drop at heel, 3¼"; drop at comb, 2½"

**WEIGHT:** 9 lbs., 11 ozs.

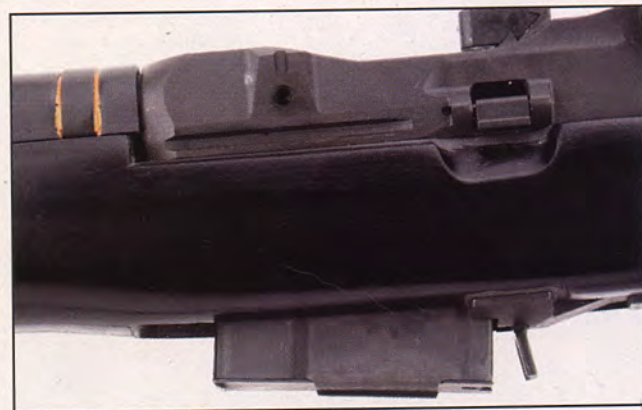
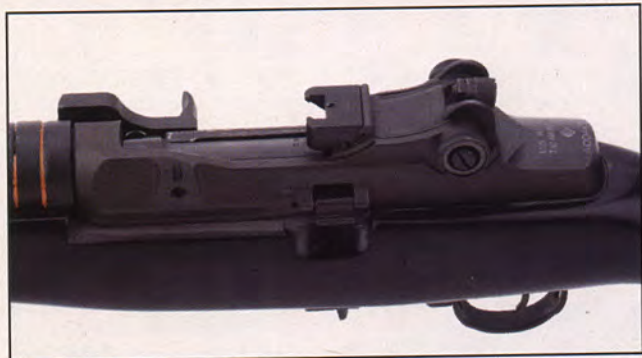
**ACCESSORIES:** one 10- or one 20-round magazine, sling, manual (scope mount base available at extra cost)

### SUGGESTED RETAIL

**PRICE:** \$1,775 (Standard); \$2,695 (National Match); \$3,195 (M21)

Adopted by the U.S. Army in 1957 as the successor service rifle to the U.S. M1 Garand, the M14 was basically an M1 with a detachable magazine and an improved gas system. The M14 was the first U.S. service rifle chambered for the then new 7.62x51 mm NATO cartridge. Four manufacturers made 1,380,358 M14s before production ended only eight years later in 1964. Although its tenure as the standard U.S. Army service rifle was brief, the M14 soldiers on in U.S. military service as the standard service rifle for the U.S. Navy and, in M21 modified form, as a sniper rifle for the U.S. Army. The armed forces of Israel, Taiwan and South Korea have also used the rifle.

Despite its short military career, semi-automatic-only M14 variants, in particular the Springfield M1A, remain favorites of civilian marksman due to their familiar operation, rugged construction, ready availability of parts and moderate recoil. Another factor is that many traditionally inclined shooters prefer a .30-cal. rifle to the more recent .223 Rem.-cal. guns. Indeed, interest in and sales of civilian M14-type models have been increasing of late.



*We found the workmanship, fit and function of the Armscorp USA M14 rifle to be good in every respect. The firm combines a new investment cast receiver with quality G.I. parts in its guns. Armscorp supplies one 20-round magazine and one five-round magazine with each rifle. Both magazines functioned flawlessly. The short magazine (above) looks surprisingly good.*

## SHOOTING RESULTS

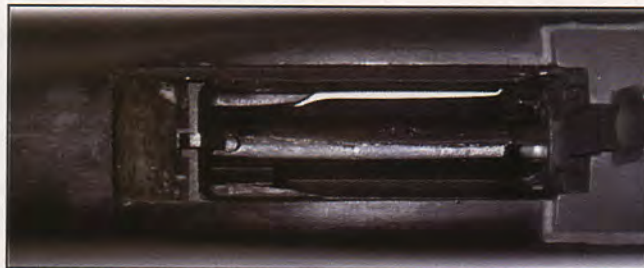
7.62x51 mm Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Recoil (ft.-lbs.)	Smallest (inches)	Largest (inches)	Average (inches)
Federal No. GM308M 168-gr. HPBT	2590 Avg. 19 Sd	2503	11.9	0.89	1.49	1.24
Hornady No. 80973 168-gr. HPBT	2597 Avg. 18 Sd	2516	12.0	1.04	1.26	1.12
Black Hills No. 2546-175-gr. BH308 175 HPBT	2520 Avg. 17 Sd	2467	11.5	1.21	1.45	1.32
Average Extreme Spread:						1.22

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 22" barrel. Range temperature: 63° F. Humidity: 44%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation), HPBT (hollow point boattail).

Armscorp USA is a small manufacturer of civilian, semi-automatic-only M14-type rifles located near Baltimore, Md. The company offers several different models including a Standard Rifle, National Match Rifle and M21 Rifle. All have investment cast steel receivers CNC-machined in-house by Armscorp. Four different types of receivers are offered: standard, match, rear-lugged or double-lugged. They differ in the configuration and location of their recoil lugs. G.I. parts are used for much of the remainder of the standard rifle including the trigger assembly, barrel, sights, magazine and gas system. The M21 rifle is hand-built using National Match parts, a McMillan fiberglass stock and a heavy stainless steel, match-grade Douglas barrel. We received an example of the Standard Rifle with a match-grade receiver for test and evaluation.

Two things are readily apparent upon examining the Armscorp M14 rifle for the first time. The first is the heft of the empty rifle, which weighs 9-lb., 11-ozs. The second is the workmanship, fit and finish of the machined steel receiver and real walnut stock. This is truly a rifle made the old fashioned way with machined steel and walnut—no exotic alloys or polymer parts here.

Those intimately acquainted with the Garand and the military M14 will feel right at home with the Armscorp M14. The selective fire switch and mount have been deleted from the right rear of the receiver as has the cutout on the stock. Due to misguided legislation, the bayonet lug on the bottom of the front sight assembly has been deleted as well. Other than those changes, the rifle remains essentially as issued. Out-of-the-box, it comes with one pre-ban, 20-round G.I. magazine and one post-ban, five-round magazine.



Additional 20-round magazines can be purchased separately from Armscorp as well as from a wide variety of other sources.

Operation, assembly and disassembly procedures for the Armscorp M14 rifle are identical to military models except for those absent parts associated with the selective-fire operation. The rifle can be quickly and easily disassembled for routine cleaning and maintenance. In the unlikely event of a broken part, commonly available surplus G.I. parts should serve nicely.

The Armscorp M14 has a 0.190" threaded hole with a small notch above it on the receiver's left side flat intended for use with most M1A/M14 scope mounts. This hole/notch system serves to quickly and easily mount an ingenious billet steel scope mount base of Armscorp's design on the rifle. To install the mount, the clip charger guide is first removed by loosening its set screw and drifting it off the dovetail on the receiver. The scope mount has a matching groove that slides into the dovetail and a captive bolt that threads into the hole on the receiver to secure the assembly firmly in place. With the mounting screws treated with Loctite, the mount holds the scope solidly over the iron sights, which remain fully useable. Armscorp offers the scope mount base as an extra-cost option. We received one with the test rifle.

To test the solidity of the Armscorp system, we installed the base on our test rifle and then

mounted a 3-9x40 mm Weaver Grand Slam scope. The base itself weighs about 14 ozs. That, together with the added weight of the scope rings and scope pushed the all-up weight of the rifle to well over 12 lbs. We then "fired the square" to test the ability of the mount to hold a solid group. As our fifth group was right on top of our first, we were able to verify the solidity of the mount. As the mount holds the scope over the existing iron sights, an additional pad on the stock's comb was necessary to properly position the shooter's head. For this purpose, we used a well-made, velcro-on unit from Blackhawk.

We function tested the Armscorp M14 with two different brands of military 7.62x51 mm M80 Ball and two different brands of commercial ball ammunition in .308 Win. caliber. We experienced no malfunctions of any type. After breaking in the rifle with ball ammunition, we subjected it to a well-deserved cleaning then switched to match-grade .308 Win. ammunition with 168-gr. HPBT bullets to test accuracy. We elected not to use the scope and mount for the accuracy tests. The Armscorp M14 delivered very good accuracy for a standard rifle. The results of these tests are summarized in the accompanying table.

In shooting the Armscorp M14 rifle, it quickly becomes apparent why it is so popular among target shooters. Despite being chambered for a relatively powerful cartridge, perceived

*Armscorp CNC-machined receivers in-house from investment castings. G.I. parts are used for the remainder of the rifle, including the sights, barrel, gas system and stock.*

recoil is moderate, being more of a sudden push rather than a bucking jolt. This is due to a combination of weight, stock design and gas operation. Combined, these attributes make shooting the M14 well an easy proposition. The shooter can concentrate on sight alignment and hold rather than bracing for heavy recoil. At 600 yds., the M14 competitor yields nothing while the average AR-15 shooter is scrambling.

We found that the trigger on our test sample broke crisply at 5½ lbs. with very little take-up after approximately 1/4" of slack, which is appropriate to a rifle of this type.

For competition, M14 shooters will prefer the 20-round magazine as its base can be used as a palm rest when shooting offhand. Highpower match rules also call for one magazine change in 20-shot rapid-fire events, thus requiring two 20-round magazines. We found the short five-round magazine supplied with the rifle handy and easy to insert and remove despite its uncommon length. It also looks surprisingly at home when inserted in the rifle.

All this CNC-machined steel, walnut and hand fitting are not only old technology, they are expensive by modern standards. This is why an Armscorp M14 standard rifle carries a suggested retail price of \$1,775. But modern military-style rifles made from exotic alloys and synthetics cost as much or more, and, besides, the Armscorp M14 is a classic the likes of which we do not see very often these days.

*Some reasons M14-style rifles remain popular are the familiar operation, moderate recoil and the availability of spare parts.*

