

# Springfield, Inc. M1A Scout Rifle

*With its handy length, quick target acquisition, self-loading speed and rugged, proven design, the Springfield, Inc., M1A Scout Rifle might well serve as a police patrol or ranch rifle and proves that this classic design is worth adapting to new roles.*

Springfield, Inc.'s M1A rifle—the commercial, semi-automatic-only version of the select-fire U.S. M14—was first introduced in *The American Rifleman* 26 years ago (March 1974, p. 36). Today, the benchmark of the Geneseo, Ill., firm is still going strong having long since displaced the M1 Garand in highpower competition only to be surpassed in recent years by civilian derivatives of the AR-15/M16.

Like the first M1As, today's rifles begin with investment cast receivers onto which a mixture of vintage U.S. G.I. M14 and commercial parts is assembled. Buyers can choose from various grades of rifles with different stock materials and configurations, barrels and sights, to fashion their M1As into service-grade clones or match-winning thoroughbreds. Fit and finish is consistent with both Springfield's reputation for quality and with service-type rifles in general.

The M1A Scout rifle, perhaps the most significant model variation to date, taps into the current market demand for a breed originally postulated by Col. Jeff

Cooper and epitomized in the Steyr-produced .308 Win. bolt-action Scout rifle he endorsed. While Springfield's adaptation of the concept to the M1A was not difficult—requiring only a shorter barrel and clamp-on optic mount—the result is something Col. Cooper might argue suffered a bit in translation. Cooper's weight limit for such

Adequate space exists between the barrel and the rifle's operating rod to install the mount and still allow clearance for cycling of the action. The mount's top is milled with cross slots to accept Weaver-style rings. Our Scout sample came with an Aimpoint Comp XD unit that mounts with a single, wide aluminum ring. The company also markets its-

own 2x20 mm Scout Scope, with a reticle that features tapered crosshairs terminating near a "floating" central dot, along with conventional 1" aluminum rings with top-mounted pinch bolts.

Staffers accustomed to the standard



*The muzzle stabilizer's profile allows mounting of a standard front sight. It also makes the rifle legal in California.*

a rifle was established at "three kilos," or 6.6 lbs., while the Springfield weighs in at 9 lbs. Of course, Springfield, Inc., is betting that what its Scout lacks in lightness is more than made up for in ruggedness, familiarity and its autoloading design.

Many of the M1A's features are readily adaptable to the Scout role. Aside from the facility for a forward-mounted optical sight, the Scout rifle differs from its Standard M1A counterpart only through an abbreviated barrel—18" rather than the standard 22"—and through a proprietary muzzle stabilizer design whose profile approximates that of the original M14 flash suppressor and allows mounting of a standard military front sight. (The stabilizer also makes M1A Scout rifles legal in California under that state's law restricting the possession of semi-automatic rifles equipped with flash suppressors.)

Key to the conversion is a machined aluminum mount that clamps onto the military-profile barrel with six Allen-head screws.

## M1A SCOUT RIFLE

**MANUFACTURER:** Springfield, Inc. (Dept. AR), 420 W. Main St., Geneseo, IL; (309) 944-5631

**ACTION TYPE:** gas-operated, rotating bolt, semi-automatic, center-fire rifle

**RECEIVER:** investment cast steel

**CALIBER:** .308 Win.

**FINISH:** matte black phosphated

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 44½"

**BARREL:** 18" chrome moly

**RIFLING:** conventional; 1:11" RH twist

**WEIGHT:** 9 lbs.

**MAGAZINE:** detachable, staggered-column 10-round capacity box

**SIGHTS:** post front; aperture rear adjustable for windage and elevation

**TRIGGER:** two-stage, 5½-lb. pull

**STOCK:** G.I. fiberglass with textured black epoxy finish; length of pull, 13½"; drop at heel, 1¾"; drop at comb, 1¼"

**ACCESSORIES:** U.S. military field manual; optional \$45 stock modification for QD sling swivel stud for mounting Harris bipod (\$72)

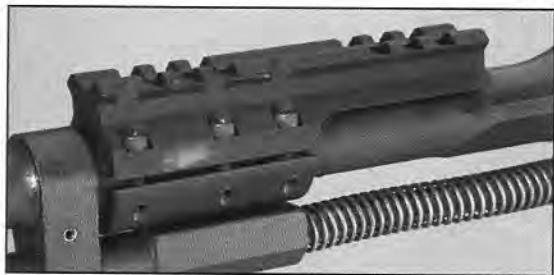
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,830 with Aimpoint Comp XD sight (tested); \$1,644 with Springfield 2x20 mm scope; \$1,499 (rifle with 10-round magazine and iron sights)

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" at least since 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

**WARNING:** Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.

## SHOOTING RESULTS

.308 Win. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
Hornady 8096 168-gr. HPBT	2465 Avg. 16 Sd	10.7	1.88	4.88	3.85
Federal GM308M2 175-gr. HPBT	2382 Avg. 16 Sd	11.7	3.50	5.25	4.25
Winchester S308M 168-gr. HPBT	2492 Avg. 30 Sd	12.1	2.75	4.25	3.13
Average Extreme Spread:					3.74
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from an 18" barrel. Range temperature: 66° F. Humidity: 32%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag rest. Abbreviations: Sd (standard deviation), HPBT (hollow point boattail).					



Key to the M1A's Scout configuration is an aluminum mount that clamps onto the barrel with six Allen-head screws. A gap allows adequate clearance between the mount and the rifle's reciprocating operating rod.

M1A found the Scout's length a welcome boon to handling—especially in a .308-cal. rifle of such robust construction. It proved very convenient when mounting for the kind of fast, instinctive shots for which the forward-mounted sighting system was conceived.

We fired the Scout rifle at 100 yds. using the supplied Aimpoint Comp XD whose 3 m.o.a. dot is intended to allow quick hits on short- to medium-range targets rather than ultra-tight groups on paper. The unit's placement well forward of the rifle's action keeps its optics clear of ejecting cartridge cases. Shooting results, using three brands of match-grade ammunition, are found in the accompanying table.

The Springfield Scout rifle's utilitarian fiberglass stock is actually a refurbished G.I. unit originally made under government contract for the M14 program. The company modernizes it by filling in the original fire control selector shaft cut-out near the right rear of the receiver and follows with an all-over coat of crinkle-finish black paint. The stock's business-like

*Our test rifle came with a rugged Aimpoint XD sight with a 3 m.o.a. dot well suited for fast, instinctive firing.*

appearance is capped off with a ribbed, non-slip rubber recoil pad fastened with standard M14-type hardware.

The Springfield M1A Scout rifle, while considerably heavier than a comparably equipped .223-cal. carbine, offers the advantage of extra downrange energy provided by the .308 Win. cartridge. It also offers the advantage over turnbolt-type Scout rifle systems of not requiring manual manipulation the action between shots, which may contribute to increased opportunities to concentrate on the target. With its handy length, quick sight acquisition, speed of operation, rugged design and acceptable accuracy, the rifle may well find niches with police patrol officers, ranchers and other shooters desiring a ready, rugged, powerful carbine. The M1A Scout proves that a classic design is worth adapting to new roles.

NRB

## Baikal IZH27EM Over-Under



Shooters on a budget may want to look at Baikal's IZH27 over-under shotgun. Although it comes loaded with many deluxe features such as a gold-plated, single-selective trigger, selective automatic ejectors, ventilated rib, rubber recoil pad and chrome-lined, hammer-forged barrels, the manufacturer's suggested retail price is considerably less than that of many pumps or semi-automatics.

Spending \$1,300 or more to purchase an over-under shotgun remains a tough family decision for most shooters. One's tastes may lean toward an over-under, but most budgets dictate a pump-action or semi-automatic instead. Enter European American Armory, importers of the Russian-made Baikal over-under series of shotguns. With the Russian ruble at historic lows, Russian shotguns

offer genuine value at attractive prices.

First, it must be made clear that the new Baikal shotguns bear no relation to older models of Russian shotguns imported in earlier years. Gone is the indifferent workmanship, poor finish, out-of-date styling and overweight design. Today's Baikal shotguns are modern designs offering the features and handling American shooters expect from a good quality over-under. And

Baikal guns are backed with a one-year parts and labor warranty and a 30-day warranty on the wood. We received a Baikal IZH27 in 20 ga. for test and evaluation.

Picking up the IZH27 for the first time, one cannot help but notice standard equipment includes all the features shooters expect in an over-under shotgun. They include a gold-plated, single selective trigger; selective automatic ejectors; ventilated