



**The trigger is from Accuracy Speaks.** Well known target rifle builder and AR15 pioneer, Derrick Martin, designed this trigger to be a simple solution to a better trigger. It's essentially a conventional AR15 trigger made to exacting tolerances. Derrick greatly improved sear and hammer engagement at no reliability or complexity expense. It's the first aftermarket trigger I would consider for such a rifle. It's also the **only** aftermarket trigger I would consider for such a rifle. It dropped in at 3.5 pounds of extra-clean pull and has no adjustment screws, extra parts, or the like to change or fail. Installed properly, it's there for keeps.

great for rifles that see use as practical-style competition guns, and a shooter is handicapping himself if he doesn't have the quick tricks installed for that game.

Snags and excessive weight should be eliminated where possible. I don't think that 30-round magazines have a place on a defensive rifle just because they are bigger and add size to a common snag area. The 20-round boxes hold plenty of cartridges and also extend far enough to be pulled out if necessary.

No sling. Unless someone needs to use a sling as a carrying strap it will get in the way and, like the extended doodads, can trip up access and operation of the rifle, or the operator, big time. One more time, this rifle, and its intent, is not for a soldier or lawman.

### **MOVING FURNITURE**

After handling rifles in confined spaces, you'll find that it's really the front end, not the back end, that makes the difference in maneuverability. When the rifle is in hand, even a full-size A2 stock honestly won't get in the way of anything you need to negotiate around, under, or through. Transport is a different story. Then the shorter back end becomes noticeable. Get an A1 if length is a factor. The A1 is a little better than a half-inch shorter.

Collapsible stocks are only good because they collapse.

I wanted this rifle to be short for this last reason, and was nervous about that for a while. Reason is that



**Here's a Brownell's Modular Gas Block.** Three of the four mounting rails go on or come off. It's very well made and works great when there's clearance to install it. It went on my rifle, minus the rail add-ons. Since the DPMS Mangonel front sight has two height positions, one for gas block mounting and one for forend tube mounting, using the sight's gas block detent made it work fine with my extra-height upper receiver rail. Otherwise, Yankee Hill makes a 0.500-height riser to step up a clamp-on front sight for anyone using an extra-tall upper.

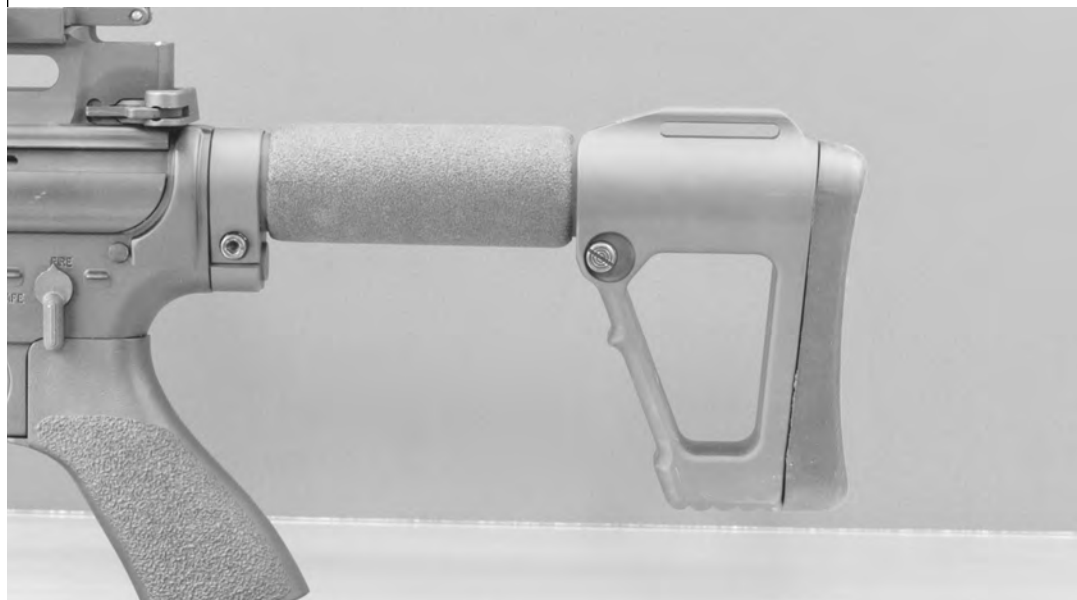
the well-known CAR collapsible stock configuration may be the worst handle yet put on a rifle. It's terribly uncomfortable in the shoulder, it's too short, it's weak, and when you put your face on it you're looking at the charging handle rather than at the sights. Other than that, it's a peach.

I picked the Socom "boom tube" stock for a whopping lot of reasons. It's über-strong and that's a thing worth thinking. Standard-form CAR collapsibles are not as strong as an A2-style stock assembly and, as said, that makes them a tad amount fragile. I've heard both ways whether the resin or aluminum varieties are better. I do know that the rifle flat quits working if the receiver extension tube gets bent or

broken. The extension tube is built in to the Socom and it's thicker-walled. This thicker wall also makes it bigger around and that makes it fit your face better. Along with the little cheekpiece cover and the immeasurably better designed buttplate, this stock puts my eye much more nearly in line with the center of my sight when I shoulder the rifle. That's one answer to where fast and good first shots come from. Plus, it just plain fits. It makes a carbine seem like a rifle, and that, here, is good.s

The stock on a carry gun should be a little short, compared to what might more ideally function firing at the range. This helps prevent the heel of the stock from hitting the armpit when the stock is brought up

**This is a Socom “boom tube” stock.** It’s way on better than any collapsible AR15 stock I’ve seen. It’s extremely strong and far more comfortable than garden-variety collapsibles. For me it has exactly the right length (a little shorter fully extended) for snag- and contortion-free shoulder mount. The cheekpiece portion of the tube is more comfortable also. The toothed portion on the stock toe works as a hammer that can, so they claim, smash glass and such. Check carrier overrun on this one, though, if you add anything that can decrease the capacity for free travel inside the extension tube, such as a CWS. It is a little shorter here. This stock is actually very comfortable.



I put a Tangodown BG-16 grip on it because I didn’t want a competition-style handle like what’s on my target rifles but did want something better to hold, and it has a moisture-sealed area to store batteries. A Sierra Precision grip will also work well for many.



**The upper is a DPMS Side Charge.** The bolt and carrier are part of the upper receiver package. A modification on the left side of the carrier has to be there to engage the side charging apparatus. Disassembly is just the same as usual. Even though I tend to use the t-handle at the range, the “rack back” lever on the left-hand side works great if you need to operate the action with your shooting hand kept in place. The rail is 0.500 inches higher, and combined with the stock I chose, and the sight, and, mostly, the head position I’ve habituated, I get a straight look-through when I shoulder the rifle. That’s where first-shot speed comes from. Now. Do not reach across the top of the rifle and operate this lever with the right hand. It will hurt you. It hurt me.

to the shoulder. You should be able to bring the stock straight up onto the front of the shoulder rather than having to push it out and then bring it back. “A little short” shouldn’t be a problem using one of the collapsible stocks.

There’s more about this rifle type elsewhere in the book, and optical sights come to mind first. Until you get there, or in case you did and need it freshened up, do not get an optical sight that is not expensive. My most sincere and hard to swallow, I realize, advice on

this is do not get an optical sight unless it is a very good optical sight. Very good ones are those that work all the time, don’t become irreparably damaged following a routine knock on wood or worse, and hold up all the way across the shooting course you determine is necessary. No sight should ever handicap shooting; they should always enhance it. Think hard, and try many, before choosing anything beyond irons. There are a few, and a very few, that will do all that. They are all expensive.