

Gun Collectors News

NEW MEXICO GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION MARCH / APRIL 2014

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NMGCA
Membership Dues:

Annual renewal for
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\$30.00.
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Part Two:

Building Your Own M-14

By Ron Smith

The second major decision that must be made in building your own M-14 is: what mission do you want this rifle to perform? Presently, there are three main barrel lengths that are made for the M-14 platform: the standard 22", 18" scout/squad, or the 16" SOCOM. If you are only looking at owning one M-14, I would recommend the 18" barrel. These can give the shooter accurate fire out to 6-700 yards. The 16" barrel will give you consistent shots between 4-500 yards, and the 22" barrel out to 1000 yards.

The next question to answer is what barrel weight and contour do you want to go with. Here are the three basic choices, and they are offered in each barrel length: standard profile, medium heavy, and the full heavy barrel. Then there is the option of chrome lined or National Match (NM). The last decision in selecting a barrel is the manufacturer. In the 22" USGI profile, there were many: TRW, Winchester, Springfield Armory, H&R, Saco-Lowell, and SGW. The US civilian market includes Criterion, Smith Enterprise Inc, Douglas, Wilson, Krieger, Hart, and Obermeyer. The barrel alone can run anywhere from \$300 to \$1000. Most US barrels are marked by their manufacturers, while the Chinese are not. Again, Springfield Armory, Inc.

(SAI) keeps their parts productions secret.

When deciding what the mission and configuration of your rifle is to be, research must be done to make sure which barrel contour will fit into the stock platform you choose. Some stock options will not accept a heavy barrel, while others are more conducive to them.

This brings us to the next variation for selection: stocks. Originally, the M-14 had two basic choices: the standard rifle stock in either wood or fiberglass. There was also a pistol grip wood stock made for the M-14E2, and a number of these have recently hit the market. The 1960's fiberglass stock is still considered the sturdiest overall, though not the prettiest. But with today's painting options, these ugly grayish-purple stocks can

sport almost any design conceivable. Wood stocks are either walnut, birch, or beech. Again, the older wooden stocks are preferred since they have aged for 50 years: making them more dense, thus stronger.

The M-14 configurations we are currently seeing in our desert wars are known as the EBR (Enhance Battle Rifle) and the DMR (Designated Marksman Rifle). There are a



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number of stock options or add-ons to replicate the EBR. They are made by Troy Industries, J Allen Enterprises (JAE), Sage {see pic #1 & 2}, and Vltor. Each of these manufacturers offer different variations within their product

line. There is also a few with folding stocks. Stock prices start at \$100 and can range over \$1900. Quad or mono rails can be added anytime along the way. Bipods and optics are also options that can be added or upgraded

anytime. See page one and above.

If you have been doing the math in these first two articles, just purchasing a good receiver, barrel and stock can put your investment (high end) over \$3000. And there are still another 50 parts to go. Getting to this point - half your work is done. Buying a truly custom firearm is not cheap, but for some it's a goal. Wilson Combat, Les Baer, or Nighthawk 1911s can easily range in the \$3000s, and that is a league one can play.

Our last article (Part III) will discuss parts, selection, and National Match upgrades.



Second Place Display Award "Arms of Finland 1939 to 1945".



Best Educational Display Award "Hand-Made Custom Knives".

THIS IS A DISPLAY PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH

US Navy Sea Cadet Corps cadets presenting the colors at the opening of the March gun show.



Third Place Display Award "Whitney Revolvers".

First Place Display Award "The Luger Pistol in its Most Elegant Form, The Luger Carbine".



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2014 SHOW CALENDAR GUN SHOWS

June 7th and 8th October 4th and 5th

Albuquerque Old West & Military Collectible Show:

August 9 & 10

General Membership Meetings*

April 23

July 23 October 22

*General Membership Meetings are free and open to the public. The General Membership Meetings for 2014 will be held at the Quality Inn and Suites, 25 Hotel Circle (close to Lomas and Eubank).

Special Table Rate For New Vendors

The NMGCA is again offering new vendors a special table rate for 2014 shows. If you have never been an NMGCA show vendor (or haven't been a vendor in at least in the last 10 years) you are invited to take advantage of our "New Vendor" table rate.

The NMGCA is offering one discount table to new vendors at the introductory rate of \$25.00 for our March, June, or October Gun Shows or the August Old West and Military Collectible Show. (Additional tables would be at the normal member or non-member rates per table.)

Contact us at newmexicogca@aol.com or call us at 505-262-1350. You can also reach us by mail at P.O. Box 13687, Albuquerque, NM 87193. We look forward to hearing from you.