

# DOPE BAG

Dope Bag is compiled by Staff and Contributing Editors: David Andrews, Hugh C. Birnbaum, Bruce N. Canfield, Russ Carpenter, O. Reid Coffield, William C. Davis, Jr., Pete Dickey, Charles Fagg, Robert W. Hunnicutt, Mark A. Keefe, IV, Ron Keysor, Angus Laidlaw, Scott E. Mayer, Charles E. Petty, Robert B. Pomeranz, O.D., Charles R. Suydam and A.W.F. Taylorson.

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## AMT .45 ACP BACK UP PISTOL

**T**HE AMT DAO Back Up (June 1993, p. 55) is a very small and simple .380 ACP pocket pistol that is notable for its trigger-cocking lock and its unusual construction and takedown.

Now AMT has scaled up the concept for those who want a lot more punch with the .45 ACP Back Up. The general outline is the same, but the .45 is put together and comes apart in a more conventional style and has a locked-breech design in place of the .380's blowback operation.

The pivoting trigger retracts and releases the hammer in one long and heavy (17 lbs.) stroke. The trigger bar engages a projection on the hammer. As the trigger nears the end of its travel, the trigger bar tail is

### AMT .45 ACP BACK UP

**MANUFACTURER:** AMT, Dept. AR, 6226 Santos Diaz St., Irwindale, CA 91702  
**MECHANISM TYPE:** recoil-operated semi-automatic pistol  
**CALIBER:** .45 ACP  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 5 1/2"  
**BARREL LENGTH:** 3 1/2"  
**WEIGHT:** 25 ozs.  
**WIDTH:** 1 1/2"  
**HEIGHT:** 4 1/4"  
**MAGAZINE CAPACITY:** 5  
**TRIGGER:** double-action pull, 17 lbs.  
**SIGHTS:** groove in slide top  
**ACCESSORIES:** plastic carrying case, spare magazine  
**PRICE:** \$399.99

cammed downward by the hammer body, releasing the hammer to fly forward, striking the firing pin and igniting the cartridge. The Back Up counts entirely on its hefty trigger pull to prevent accidental discharges. There are no manual, passive firing pin or magazine safeties.

Locking is by the familiar tipping barrel system, but with a groove in the barrel engaging a lug in the slide. In place of the M1911's link is a solid cam surface through which passes a pin that performs the func-



While it resembles the firm's .380 Back Up, the new .45 version has a locked breech and an entirely different takedown than the .380.

tion of the M1911 slide stop. The recoil spring presses against it through the forked end of the spring guide.

The barrel is belled at the muzzle to locate it in its hole in the front of the slide. There is no M1911-style barrel bushing. There also are no sights; a groove in the slide

top aids pointing at defensive ranges.

A window in the top of the barrel breech serves as a loaded chamber indicator by allowing a bit of the cartridge rim to shine through. The extractor is pivoted to the right of the pistol's generously sized ejection port.

The magazine release is located at the bottom of the stainless steel grip frame, and is easy for the thumb to find. The thumb will not find a slide stop. The slide closes after the last round of a magazine, and there is no provision for holding it open manually. Those planning

The barrel is belled at the muzzle to help locate it in the slide. There is no barrel bushing as found in the M1911. There are also no sights; rather a groove.



to shoot the Back Up on a range should equip themselves with a wood block or other expedient device for holding the slide open during cease-fires.

Disassembly is a lot easier than it is for the .380 Back Up. Remove the magazine, ensure the chamber is empty and retract the slide to line up the disassembly pin with its notch in the left side of the slide. Using a brass punch or other non-marring tool, press it out right to left.

Allow the slide/barrel assembly to move forward and off the frame. Then pull the recoil spring and guide out of engagement with the barrel and off. The barrel then can be removed from the slide. Avoid removing the right grip panel, since it retains the trigger bar and its spring.

Reassembly is in reverse order. Start the pin into the frame with the slide forward to align the barrel and spring guide. Then retract the slide to align the pin and notch and press the pin home.

Following the policy we applied to the .380 Back Up, we dispensed with our usual 25-yd. testing in favor of the sort of close-range shooting for which the Back Up is designed. We just stepped off 10 yds. and fired on the B-27 police silhouette target.



Functioning was generally good, even with 185-gr. wadcutter ammunition. We found that the long, heavy trigger pull often did tend to pull groups away from the center.

Given the Back Up's 25-oz. weight (compared to 39 ozs. for the M1911), we expected thumping recoil, but we found it wasn't bad. You wouldn't care to shoot a

National Match Course with it, but it certainly is no worse than many other compact defensive pistols and revolvers.

The trigger pull was another thing entirely. Its weight helped pull groups 4-6" right of center when we fired right-handed. When firing left-handed, they went to the opposite side a similar distance. Shots impacted a bit low with 185-gr. ammunition; elevation was about right with 230-gr. loads.

Functioning was generally good, even, to our surprise, with 185-gr. wadcutter target ammunition. There were a couple of failures to eject caused by the extractor slipping off the cartridge rim and a few instances where the slide failed to close on the top round of a magazine. These were easily corrected by pressing on the slide rear.

The sighting groove was effective in deliberate firing, but it would be tough to find when drawing the pistol from concealment, or in semi-darkness. Firing in those situations will have to be by instinct.

The horrendous trigger pull means the Back Up is hardly fun to shoot for deliberate aiming at paper targets, but it is well suited for the face-to-face confrontations its name implies.

## SAVAGE MODEL 116FSAK RIFLE



The Savage Model 116FSAK rifle is equipped with the firm's Adjustable Muzzle Brake that allows the user to close off the holes when heavy muzzle blast and report need to be avoided, as in hunting.

**M**UZZLE brakes have become a popular accessory for high power rifles, especially the magnums. Their drawback, of course, is increased muzzle blast that can, in the case of big boomers like the .416s, be quite painful, both to the shooter and to bystanders.

Many prefer to hunt without hearing protection, the better to hear moving game, and for them the shattering report of a compensated magnum rifle is clearly a danger. Weatherby, for one, has addressed this concern by supplying its brakes with a tool for removal and a knurled ring for protecting the muzzle threads.

Savage now has taken that idea a step further with its Adjustable Muzzle Brake for

the 110-series bolt-action rifles. Despite the name, the AMB is an on-off proposition; the shooter cannot regulate the amount of gas released from the brake.

Inner and outer sleeves each are pierced by 33 holes; when the outer sleeve is aligned with the inner, gas can escape. When turned by hand a fraction of a revolution against a detent, the holes are out of alignment, blocking gas exit.

The unit, except for a knurled surface at the base, is the same diameter as the barrel, so makes no unsightly Cutts Compensator-like bulge. The instructions address no provision for removal, and suggest only periodic cleaning with bore cleaner.

The Model 116 FSAK's other claim to

### SAVAGE 116FSAK

**MANUFACTURER:** Savage Arms, Dept.

AR, Springdale Rd., Westfield, MA 01085

**MECHANISM TYPE:** bolt-action rifle

**CALIBER:** 7 mm Rem. Mag. (tested), .270

Win., .30-'06, .300 Win. Mag., .338 Win.

Mag.

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 42 3/4"

**BARREL LENGTH:** 22"

**WEIGHT:** 7 lbs., 7 ozs.

**MAGAZINE CAPACITY:** 4 (3 magnum

calibers)

**RIFLING:** six-groove, 1-9/16" RH twist

**TRIGGER:** single-stage, 4 3/8 lbs. pull

**STOCK:** injection-molded plastic; length of

pull, 13 3/4"; drop at heel, 1 1/2"; drop at

comb, 1 1/2"

**ACCESSORIES:** trigger lock, scope mounts

and rings

**PRICE:** \$581