

AMT Lightning 25/.22 Rifle



AMT's Lightning 25/.22 rifle combines the familiar action of the Ruger 10/22 rifle with some of the aftermarket accessories rimfire fans like.



The magazine is the Eaton single-column 25-rounder, but the manufacturer says Ruger and aftermarket magazines will function well.

Specifications
AMT LIGHTNING 25/.22 RIFLE
 Manufactured by: Arcadia Machine and Tool, Inc., Covina, Calif. 91722
 Mechanism type: blowback semi-automatic
 Caliber: .22 Long Rifle
 Overall length: 37½" (stock open), 28½" (stock folded)
 Barrel length: 17½"
 Weight: 6 lbs., 13 ozs.
 Sights: blade front, drift-adjustable rear, receiver grooved for scope mounting
 Trigger: single-stage, 3½ lbs.
 Stock: fiberglass with folding buttstock and ventilated recoil pad
 Accessories: nylon-covered carrying case
 Price: \$260



The folding stock is opened with a firm pinching action on the latch. Some users didn't find this operation easy to learn.

The folding stainless buttstock terminates in a ventilated rubber recoil pad, and its top rail is covered in clear plastic. Several users found the operation of the buttstock's latch a bit tricky to learn, but it releases quickly and easily when the proper technique is used.

The 25/.22 was fired for accuracy with a Weaver K22 scope (see accompanying table) and function-fired with Federal, Remington, Swartclip and Winchester ammunition. The manufacturer's instructions state that the rifle may fail to function perfectly with certain ammunition types, and this was the case with Federal Hi-Power and Swartclip standard velocity, which yielded failures to feed and smokestack jams, respectively. Remington High Velocity, Remington Target and Winchester Super-Max ammunitions all functioned without stoppages, even when the rifle was held at the hip and the trigger "fanned" for very rapid fire.

The 25/.22 is hardly a typical hunting or target rifle, yet its dramatic appearance piqued the interest even of some jaded NRA staffers. Fans of unconventional rimfire plinking guns may find it attractive for utility use.

Few rifles have spawned more aftermarket accessories than those of the Ruger line. The Mini-14 or 10/22 owner can customize his rifle at any level from the prosaic to the bizarre, courtesy of the many small manufacturers who specialize in Ruger accessories.

Now Arcadia Machine & Tool Co. (AMT) enables rimfire riflemen to cut out the middleman with its Lightning 25/.22 rifle, a faithful reproduction of Ruger's evergreen 10/22 rifle, but in stainless steel and with some aftermarket styling.

The 25/.22's operation is identical to the 10/22's. The safety, bolt lock and other features are identical. But in place of the Ruger's 10-shot rotary magazine, the AMT uses an Eaton 25-shot single-column magazine. One side of the magazine is made of clear plastic to make it easy to keep track of the rounds loaded. AMT claims that the 25/.22 will also work with standard Ruger magazines and with large-capacity aftermarket units like the Mitchell 50/22, Ram-Line, etc.

The 25/.22's stock is made of matte-finished black fiberglass which contrasts pleasantly with the all-stainless steel receiver, barrel and barrel band. The well-proportioned and checkered pistol grip is big enough for large-handed users, yet is not too large for those of small stature.

ACCURACY RESULTS

Five Consecutive 10-Shot Groups At 50 Yds.

.22 Long Rifle Cartridge	Vel. @15' (f.p.s.)	Smallest (ins.)	Largest (ins.)	Average (ins.)
Federal Hi Power	1189 Avg. 24 Sd	.72	2.61	2.03
Remington High Velocity	1206 Avg. 15 Sd	2.27	4.77	3.28
Winchester Super Max	1414 Avg. 32 Sd	2.00	3.14	2.57
Average Extreme Spread				2.62

O
 dus
 pris
 in S
 ble
 ma
 T
 line
 into
 by I
 T
 NR
 a n
 Eur
 trad
 whi
 Che
 bor
 sha
 T
 side
 ble-
 a th
 ing
 side
 are
 I
 tion
 ably
 upp
 The
 the
 A
 une
 stiff

 S
 com
 him
 for
 back
 N
 offe
 glas
 pop
 T
 lens
 case
 avai
 ship
 of t
 E
 a st
 a hi
 use
 shac
 sun.
 JUL