



RATING SCALE



OVERALL SCORE: 4.75

Enhanced SBR

APF Armory

apfarmory.com

Individual Score 4.66

Tested by a police officer from Pennsylvania

Tester 1 of 4

The APF Enhanced LE SBR rifle has a very tight tolerance billet upper and lower receiver, with a built-in flared magwell and matching profile for a nice fit with the T-marked APF handguard. It came with Magpul Gen 3 BUIS, stock, grip and one 30-round Gen 2 magazine. It has a 10.5" barrel with an adjustable gas block and carbine-length gas system. It featured a Geissele two-stage trigger, an ambidextrous safety, a large Breek Arms Warhammer charging handle, a B5 Systems buffer endplate, an H2 buffer, an oversized trigger guard and an ambidextrous bolt release.

The rifle was set up with a Romeo 4T on a 1.92" Sclarworks T2 mount, and the A2 flash hider that came with it was swapped for a Surefire ProComp I had lying around. Once the muzzle device from Yankee Hill Machine Co. arrived, the ProComp was swapped again, and the rifle was run with a YHM Fat Cat for the remainder of testing.

During the test period, I shot approximately 1,500 rounds — 500 rounds unsuppressed and 1,000 suppressed. There was no break-in period, and the rifle required minimal maintenance beyond regular cleaning of the BCG and relubrication.

The gun balanced and runs flawlessly both with and without a suppressor. The recoil impulse was fast and light, which kept the rifle on target with little to no effort. No parts came loose or needed adjusting. The flared magwell makes mag changes quicker and easier without being oversized or causing any snag points.

Now for the not-so-great things I noticed during the evaluation. The ambidextrous bolt catch release is next to impossible to manipulate with my right index finger. When

running the rifle left-handed (weak/off hand for me), I can use the right-side ambidextrous bolt release with my right thumb, in the same method a right-handed individual manipulates the standard bolt release with their left-hand thumb after a reload, with no problem.

The second issue I found during a reload drill, although this may just be the way I reload magazines, and therefore may have no bearing. During my reload procedure, I begin to lift the muzzle of the gun in an upward direction while ejecting the mag, and then turn the gun toward my left hip, where the reload is coming from. During these reloads, I found a few times that it did not eject the magazine while the gun was in a horizontal position; the magazine would clear the magazine catch but not drop free, causing me to tap the old mag with a fresh one to knock it loose or else strip in the new magazine before completing the reload. I tested this with several magazines, including Magpul Gen 2 and 3 (one with a +5 baseplate, and one 20rd mag), Lancer L5-AWM (one with a +6 baseplate), Okay Industries aluminum mags with Magpul followers, and Colt mags both 30rd GI and 20rd straight body. During these tests, I found that the aluminum magazines would drop free at just about any angle, whereas the polymer-style mags would stick. Back at the armory, a quick check with calipers showed that the polymer mags were shorter front to back by approximately .01-.03". A feeler gauge was used against the magwell while a magazine was seated, and it also showed approximately the same size difference as the calipers. The magwell was polished with ultra-fine emery cloth and WD-40, and the problem appeared to stop.

Overall, I am very impressed with the quality of the rifle and its handling. The two issues I discovered could be due to the way I train or attempt to use the gear, and do not hinder the gun's performance, as others using the gun either did not use the ambi bolt release or were left-handed and could use it as it was likely designed. No one else encountered the magazine failing to drop free. I would highly recommend this gun for duty/patrol use without any hesitation.

Individual Score 4.81

Tested by a member from Louisiana

Tester 2 of 4

The APF-15 platform presents a slightly heavier profile than some comparable rifles, but its weight is well distributed, resulting in a balanced and stable feel during operation. This balance contributes to smooth handling, especially during rapid target transitions or extended training sessions. The weight of the weapon over time can affect someone who does not have sufficient shoulder strength when using the straight arm C-clamp method.

In the live-fire evaluations, the weapon performed exceptionally well. It cycled smoothly, delivering consistent and controlled recoil with each round. Even through multiple consecutive magazine runs, which were approximately 900 rounds at a time, the rifle showed no signs of malfunction or hesitation. These durations occurred at several points throughout the process. Notably, it managed heat efficiently, remaining stable, reliable and comfortable to handle despite sustained firing. I utilized multiple manufacturers and grains in the .223 calibers. The bulk of the rounds utilized were Winchester Ranger 55 Grain Ballistic Silver Tip.

Overall, the platform demonstrates strong build quality, dependable function and excellent thermal performance.

Individual Score 4.72

Tested by a member from Nebraska

Tester 3 of 4

The Enhanced Short Barreled Rifle from APF armory has been a pleasure to review, albeit a little frustrating. First impression out of the box is that the rifle is well put together, with little wobble between the upper and lower receiver. The accuracy is more than acceptable, and I was

getting consistent groups of less than 1 MOA at 50 yards with both duty and training ammunition. The trigger on the rifle is exquisite, as you would expect from a Geissele SSA 2-Stage trigger. The rifle was well-tuned out of the box and produced tight groups from the first-round shot.

Unfortunately, the rifle is listed on APF's website for \$2,399, and I cannot in good conscience recommend it at that price point. For that price, for a bare rifle (plus flip-up irons, which work perfectly), I expect this rifle to be flawless, and that is just not the case. When I first received the rifle, I noticed that the pistol grip angle felt weird. After holding it for a while, I noticed that the top rear portion of the grip does not fully mate to the lower receiver. This created a gap between the two, throwing the grip off. I can't consistently manipulate the safety from the strong side of this rifle as a right-handed shooter. The ambidextrous side of the safety gets caught on my trigger finger, and I have to significantly alter my grip to consistently manipulate the safety. As a result, I ended up manipulating the ambidextrous side of the safety with my strong hand thumb, like you would shoot a MP5. I'm still not sure where the issue lies, and if it is quality control on Magpul's end or APF's end. The gap mentioned above is not present in their online photos. I verified that the grip screw was correctly threaded and that



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it was completely tightened. The rest of the grip seemed to line up as designed, but it's almost like the grip stop line that runs horizontally at the top of the pistol grip was printed too low. Again, I'm not certain. I wish I could add photos to demonstrate the gap.

Additionally, the rifle's controls are extremely tough. The bolt catch/release is noticeably tougher to activate than any other AR-15 I've ever handled. Even with lubricant and several hundred manipulations of the mechanism, neither dry-fire nor 1v1 reload drills seemed to help with the problem. On the ejection port side of the rifle, APF has a bolt release built into the receiver that is supposed to be actuated by the trigger finger to send the bolt forward. It's a great idea I haven't seen on another rifle, but it's completely unusable because of the resistance. Again, even after lubrication and several hundred repetitions to loosen it up, neither I nor any of my colleagues can get the release to work as designed with just one finger, with any consistency.

Lastly, when cleaning the rifle, I broke down the BCG. The firing pin retaining pin would not seat when I put the rifle back together. Another pin slid in just fine. The tension on the open side of the pin opened it up just enough that it wouldn't seat through the second hole.

Ultimately, with a rifle at this price point, I expect perfection. The APF Armory Enhanced SBR does not come close to meeting that criteria. Will I carry it? Sure. My department doesn't let us carry our own personal rifles, and this is the closest thing I have access to that I can customize. Would I carry it over my 11.5 BCM if I had the choice? Absolutely not. For about half the price, departments can get a battle-proven rifle from a tried and tested manufacturer. I don't know if this rifle is just a lemon, but if it was cherry-picked for a review, then this cherry is too sour to eat.

Individual Score 4.82

Tested by a member from California

Tester 4 of 4

I recently evaluated the new APF Armory Enhanced 5.56 10.5-inch SBR (LE Model), a compact, duty-grade, and highly reliable close-quarters weapon system built with the end user in mind. This updated platform features a 10.5" chrome-lined barrel, pinned carbine-length adjustable gas system, Geissele SSA two-stage trigger, M16 phosphate BCG, Magpul MBUS flip-up sights, Magpul SL-S six-position stock and Magpul MOE K2 grip. The receivers are similarly refined, incorporating ambidextrous controls and a 9" M-LOK Enhanced handguard. Thanks to its short overall length, the rifle excels in vehicle-based operations, interior work, and tactical environments where rapid movement and confined spaces dominate.

While the platform performed well overall, a few design choices were less favorable. The ambidextrous safety lever felt obstructive; a shorter support-side lever would be preferable. The trigger guard, "while intended to accommodate thick winter gloves," looks awkward, though it's easy enough to replace. The ambidextrous bolt-lock release was the most significant drawback; it remained stiff and difficult to actuate, even after extended use. The concept is solid, but in practice, it's too hard to engage using the trigger finger alone.

During testing, I put nearly 1,000 rounds through the rifle across multiple stress scenarios. It ran flawlessly with no malfunctions, and cooling times were impressively quick. Muzzle blast was noticeable at times, which is expected from a short-barreled rifle with a standard birdcage muzzle brake. I did not test it suppressed, but there's little reason to believe performance would suffer.

Overall, the APF Enhanced 5.56 10.5" SBR is a compelling choice for specialized law-enforcement applications where compactness, durability and close-quarters reliability outweigh the ballistic trade-offs of a shorter barrel. It's well-suited for SWAT, tactical teams and vehicle-deployed officers, though somewhat less ideal for general patrol duties that may require longer-range engagements. For agencies willing to navigate NFA requirements and invest in a premium, duty-ready SBR, APF's latest offering stands out as a capable and well-engineered platform.