

AR-15

BUSHMASTER ACR PISTOL

FOLD IT

FoldAR'S TINY AR
PG. 132



↑
TRIJICON MRO



3

POUND
RAT ROD
HOW LOW IS TOO LOW?



MORE

INDUSTRY INSIGHT:

- ALEXANDER ARMS GRENDAL PISTOL
- SIG TANGO6T 1-6X
- .224 VALKYRIE: SECRETS REVEALED
- .300 BLK: DEFINITIVE REPORT
- LARUE'S \$80 MBT-2S TRIGGER
- HORNADY FRONTIER AMMO

USA/CANADA \$9.99
DISPLAY UNTIL 11/4/2019

A REAL

GUNFIGHTER



SPECIAL OPS TACTICAL'S "BOB KELLER" SIGNATURE RIFLE YOU CAN STAKE YOUR LIFE ON.

BY SEAN UTLEY



HAVE YOU EVER ANALYZED A FOOTBALL PLAY FROM your La-Z-Boy or, in our world, become enthralled by a firearm, only to start finding flaws after the honeymoon phase? It's called Monday morning quarterbacking. We've all done it at one time or another, so don't feel bad.

But that got me thinking (and my inner quarterback going). What would I create if I could design and manufacture an AR? Not just a one-off wonder for myself, but one for the masses.

Before you run off and do your own "what if" AR, check out Special Ops Tactical's (SOT) solid answer to the above question. They have an AR called the "Bob Keller" Signature Rifle. It's got a lot of greatness onboard, with innovation to help the shooter. It looks good, has a solid build quality and the proper components. It may just be what we've all been looking for.

The "Bob Keller" Signature Rifle is a serious step up from the first SOT rifle that I reviewed. It's nice to see that they are continually upping their game.

WHO'S BOB?

The first and most obvious question is, "Who is Bob [Robert] Keller, and why should we care?" Well, Bob Keller is an elite warrior with a special operations pedigree and tons of experience



The quality went into the rifle before Keller would put his name on it. The rifle had to be a gunfighter.

"BOB KELLER" SIGNATURE RIFLE

Type	Direct-impingement, semiautomatic
Cartridge	5.56 NATO
Capacity	20, 30 rds.
Barrel	Siphon AGP 14.8 in. (SBR), 16.8 in. (pinned); 1:7-in. twist
Overall Length	43 in.
Weight	6 lbs., 1.6 oz
Handguard	SOT Firestorm 14-in. M-LOK
Stock	Magpul CTR
Finish	Tiger-stripe Cerakote
Trigger	Mil-Spec; CMC flat blade (upgrade), 3.8 lbs.
Grip	Magpul MIAD
Muzzle Device	SOT Inferno muzzlebrake
MSRP	\$1,400 (black), \$1,675 (tiger stripe)
Manufacturer	Special Ops Tactical specialopstactical.com



amassed from deployments into hostile areas over his tenure. Go to the SOT website; there's a link to an article about Keller. It's quite a story.

My discussions with Keller were telling. He is a gunfighter in the truest sense. I recognized the seriousness of his words and the matter-of-fact nature in which he discussed this topic. Not in a boastful way, of course, but instead in a manner that revealed he's been down a road and learned things along the way. He has a desire to teach other professionals and civilians alike how to do it well and right, and he does this through his training company, Gamut Solutions.

I asked Keller how he came to be involved with SOT. He told me the relationship stemmed from meeting Garrett Potter, owner of SOT, and talking shop.

THE SIPHON BARREL

Inspired by Keller, SOT has crafted an elite rifle that not only looks cool but incorporates many

innovative features. One of the slickest is what the company calls the "Siphon" system.

The Siphon system features a 14.8 to 16.04-inch barrel with a rifle-length gas system that funnels gas through an angled gas port (AGP). Angling the barrel's gas port 42 degrees off the inside of the barrel, and with the opening facing rearward toward the chamber, results in changes to how the recoil is distributed, creating a different feel when shooting. The gases pass through the angle and into the gas port where they make a 90-degree turn down the gas tube.

According to Potter, the Siphon AGP started from the company's quest to make the shortest possible 5.56x45 barrel, which was 5.9 inches.

Of course, difficulties came with pressures and dwell time due to the short barrel, and increasing port size was not the answer. The solution came when they angled the gas port.

According to Potter, the "gain" in dwell time and pressure is significant and ample enough



SOT's Firestorm M-LOK handguard graces the front of the rifle, with a Magpul CTR stock complementing the build.

A REAL GUNFIGHTER

to run with 100-percent reliability and possibly more so over a traditional straight port. He told me that the angled port is longer and taps into higher pressures that are closer to the chamber. Gas ports are smaller, too, because of where the port picks up pressure. All this translates into a softer, flatter-shooting gun.

According to SOT, the Siphon decreases recoil 8 to 20 percent over a standard 90-degree design. This design worked so well on the extremely short barrels, SOT applied it to their longer barrels used on the Keller rifle.



From the Nitrided bolt carrier group to the stylized retaining pins and the SOT Inferno muzzlebrake, this SOT rifle is top notch.



OTHER GOODIES

This will sound cliché, but the “Bob Keller” Signature Rifle is feature-packed. It’s got so much good stuff on it that the end user will be pleased as punch for a long time. The patent-pending Siphon AGP barrel is 4150 chrome moly steel with a nitride treatment inside and out.

Our test gun came with a nonpinned SOT Inferno muzzlebrake, which makes it a short-barreled rifle (SBR). (You may want to get the pinned version to avoid paperwork and the tax stamp.) The length will finish out at 16.8 inches. Besides its rifle-length gas system, the barrel has a 1:7-inch twist, a 11-degree target crown and nickel-boron-treated M4 extended feed ramps.

The forged receiver set is extremely well done, with excellent fit and finish throughout the entire rifle. It looks and feels top tier. SOT’s 14-inch Firestorm M-LOK handguard is attached and is free-floated, of course. It’s nice and slim with rail sections on top where you need them. The middle area on top of the handguard is slick and free of rail sections.

Inside is a nitrided M16 bolt carrier group with a properly staked key and a shot-peened, magnetic-particle-inspected bolt, finished with the same nitride treatment. Magpul goodies finish out the components with a MIAD grip, CTR stock and MOE triggerguard. The rifle is available in black or an incredible-looking tiger-stripe finish, as shown on our test sample.

NOT A GIMMICK

So what does the rifle’s namesake think of the gun? “I’m not a big equipment kind of guy. I’m a gunfighter,” said Keller. “I told Garrett that I thought this system was a gimmick, and then I shot it and couldn’t believe it.”

Keller proceeded to tell me how flat the gun shoots and how he and many others couldn’t get over how it didn’t move off target. “This is a rifle that I would trust my life with,” said Keller.

He was serious, too, and that’s the kind of endorsement that brings confidence to shooters. The Signature Rifle features all the stuff Keller believes is necessary in a good, true gunfighting platform – no fluff or unnecessary extras.

“I like them light and slick,” Keller told me, and the SOT is just that. When you pick it up, you’ll be amazed by the lightweight and balanced feel. It



For a custom gunfighter like the Keller Signature, you get a ton of performance for a bit more cost than more standard ARs.

feels like confidence and capability. I immediately loved the feel of the SBR with its 14.8-inch barrel.

It was obvious that there was something different on the first pull of the trigger; the gun went *bang* but did hardly anything else. Saying it shot smoothly is like saying the bullet moved fast—it's an understatement. You must shoot it to really understand and appreciate it.

ROUNDS DOWN RANGE

The Keller Signature will coddle you with smooth recoil impulses and prod you to shoot faster and faster. It's hard to know how much difference the muzzlebrake is making, although even the best brakes can't transform a gun in this manner. This sample had a CNC flat-blade trigger that broke cleanly and consistently at 3.8 pounds.

I set up the Keller in two optic configurations. An Aimpoint CompM4 and a Nightforce NX8 1-8x24mm F1 scope, which I used for accuracy testing. Although it's not high magnification for 100-yard accuracy, I felt it represents a more realistic option for the Keller, and we can assume that with more magnification, tighter groups can be achieved.

With the bipod attached, shooting this gun was extremely enjoyable. The best group came from SIG Sauer's 77-grain Elite Match Grade OTM at .51 inches with a five-shot-group average of .9 inches.

PERFORMANCE

SIG Sauer 77-gr. Elite Match OTM	Remington 77-gr. MatchKing BTHP	Gorilla 77-gr. SMK
Velocity (fps)		
2,360	2,456	2,564
Standard Deviation		
11	32	19
Extreme Spread		
29	72	43
Best Group (in.)		
.51	1.01	1.61
Average Group (in.)		
.89	1.1	1.78

Accuracy is the average of five five-shot groups at 100 yards. Velocity is the average of 10 rounds measured by a chronograph 12 feet from the muzzle.

The SOT "Bob Keller" Signature Rifle is a prime example of the high quality attainable by any manufacturer if they put their minds to it. Innovation can be tough, but it's not impossible, and SOT has shown that here.

It is fitting to have a quality fighting rifle don the name and the endorsement of a true warrior protector. You'd be hard-pressed to complain your way out of this one. It's got the goods. 🌟