

PRODUCT REVIEW

M4 CARBINE

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M4 CARBINE - SELF-LOADING SERVICE RIFLE (5.56x45MM)



FN 15 Military Collector M4

The M4 Carbine (c. 1994) is a variant of Eugene Stoner's AR-15 (c. 1957), the most prolific assault rifle in the West due to its combination of reliability, ergonomics and use of the flat shooting but light recoiling 5.56x45mm round.

The AR-15 rifle was adopted by the US Army in 1967 as the M16A1 Rifle. The M16A2 was adopted in 1986 while the M16A4 was adopted in 1998. The shorter and lighter M4 Carbine was adopted in 1994 and is now the standard issue service rifle of the US Army.

We recommend the M4 Carbine as they are widely used by soldiers and police. Semi-automatic variants are readily available in the US, such as the FN 15 Military Collector M4 (14.7" barrel with an A2 flash hider pinned and welded to it).

As the US has a minimum 16" barrel rule for rifles that are

not registered with the federal government, many such rifles have flash hiders pinned and welded to their barrels to get their length up to 16".

We recommend you replace the standard flash hider with a SureFire SOCOM Closed Tine Flash Hider that also serves as a mount for SureFire sound suppressor. It won't allow the use of a standard bayonet, but one can be modified to fit.

Avoid variants with barrels shorter than 14.5" as they are less reliable with more muzzle blast/flash and inferior ballistics, thus unsuited to scopes with bullet drop compensation (BDC) reticules as used in Trijicon ACOGs.

A flattop receiver is best so you can readily mount a wide variety of optical sights at the correct height so they are in line with your eye with your cheek on the stock so you can

use them efficiently.

A non-magnifying reflex sight like the Aimpoint Micro H-1 red dot sight (RDS) or Trijicon RMR is ideal for close quarters battle (CQB) and is best accompanied by a white light like SureFire's M300C Compact LED Scout Light.

BCM's BCMGUNFIGHTER Charging Handle is best fitted as it is much stronger than the standard charging handle.

Keep it clean and use plenty of lubricant and high quality magazines (e.g., G.I. mags with a Magpul follower). Twenty round magazines are less likely to snag on clothing or cover than the 30 round variety and are more reliable.

In addition to spare parts (notably a firing pin), it is also desirable to have a spare bolt-carrier group (BCG) if your rifle's BCG is damaged and cannot be readily repaired.

TRIJICON 3x24 COMPACT ACOG (TA47)



This compact, light but tough 3x telescopic sight is ideal for use on assault rifles and is best attached via a quick detach mount.

The Crosshair Ballistic Reticule is the most versatile reticule. Tritium is used to illuminate the reticle in low light environments, while the fiber optic tube on top boosts the illumination in bright light. An RMR reflex sight can be fitted on top of this scope.



RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Handbook

M16/M4 Handbook.
[Blackheart International]

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book.
[Blackheart International]

Cleaning Kit

PRO-PACK AR15 / Bio-CLP Gun Oil.
[Real Avid / G96 Products]

Field Maintenance Tool

Field Survivor 1.
[Samson Mfg. Corp.]

Spare Parts Kit

AR-15 M4E1 Field Repair Kit.
[Aero Precision]

Illuminated Front Sight

TFO AR-15 Style Front Sight.
[TRUGLO]

Front Sight Tool

AR15 Front Sight Adjuster Tool.
[Real Avid]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom 223 Rem Snap Caps.
[Lyman Products Corporation]

Sling

Tactical Sling AR15/M16.
[Eagle Industries]

HOT TIP

Training magazines can suffer metal fatigue to their springs so don't use them for combat.