

PRODUCT REVIEW

RUGER GUNSITE SCOUT RIFLE

BY RICHARD LUTZ

DECEMBER 2017

BOLT ACTION RIFLE (.308W)



Fitted with the factory five round steel magazine and lightweight synthetic stock.

The Ruger GSR (c. 2012) is a variant of Paul Mauser's Model 1898 (c. 1898) that uses quick detachable magazines.

In addition to the controlled round feed (CRF) action, it has a side-swing safety to allow a telescopic sight to be mounted low over the action.

CRF bolt action rifles are preferred for dangerous game hunting over push feed (PF) designs like the Remington Model 700 and Tikka T3X as the round is positively controlled by the bolt as it's driven forward out of the magazine, whereas PF designs do not so are prone to failure-to-feed malfunctions as a result of operator error due to injury or an awkward firing position, or environmental contaminants that have entered the loading port or magazine.

PF rifles are also prone to double-feeds as their extractors do not grab a round's base until fully chambered.

The .308W version is best as the 5.56mm variant lacks power and penetration. Reduced recoil .308W loads are available (Remington, etc.).

The noisy muzzle brake fitted to some is best replaced with an A2 style flash hider which will not vent gas downward and throw up dust, dirt or sand if near the ground.

A telescopic sight is needed for long range use but are not a replacement for iron sights which are far more robust and essential for backup use; but as the OEM rear sight prevents the fitting of a telescopic sight over the action where such sights are best mounted it's best replaced with a rail

mounted rear sight like the Tall Weaver Backup from X Sight Systems, or an extended rail like the Ruger Gunsite Scout Rail from the same company which has a built in peep rear sight. The rail can also be used to attach other sighting aids like a red dot sight, tactical light, laser, etc.

The soft rubber recoil pad grabs clothing so is best replaced with an aftermarket pad like NECG's Quick Mount Recoil Pad, or covered with slick faced tape.

The polymer lower (trigger guard/magazine well assembly) is best replaced with a heavy duty metal lower; ideally the Ruger M77/Scout SA Stealth Detachable Mag Bottom Metal from Pacific Tool & Gauge which is more robust and better supports magazines.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Ideal for situations when power and precision are more important than firepower.

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Cleaning Kit

Otis Defender Series 7.62mm. (FG-901-762). [Otis]

Cleaner/Lubricant

Slip 2000 725 / Slip 2000 EWL. [Slip 2000]

Rear Sight

Tall Weaver Backup. [XS Sight Systems]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corporation]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4 Sonic Defenders. [SureFire]

Sound Suppressor

SOCOM762-MINI2. [SureFire]

Sling

Quick Cuff Model M24 US Military Precision Rifle Sling. [Precision Rifle Accessories]



LEUPOLD FX-I 4x28MM RIMFIRE RIFLESCOPE

A simple, compact and robust fixed magnification four power telescopic sight is ideal for general purpose use.

Variable power scopes are inherently more complex, bulkier, heavier, weaker and less durable than fixed power scopes and have a variable eye

relief, thus are best avoided.

Leupold's tough little FX-I 4x28mm Rimfire Rifle Scope (with the Matte finish and Duplex reticle) is ideal but needs its parallax changed from 60 yards to 150 yards for use on a centerfire rifle like the GSR. It is best attached via

Warne Maxima QD Rings (1R7R) that allow one to quickly remove it if damaged or the rifle is to be used at close range where a scope is less than ideal due to the difficulty in quickly finding a moving target in the magnified field of view.

HOT TIP

Get a Ruger 77/22 in .22 LR for small game hunting and low cost target shooting.