

D&L Professional PERIMETER CARBINE

5.56mm

**EXTREMELY HIGH-PRECISION
DOWNRANGE DOMINATOR
WITH SUB-MOA ACCURACY!**

BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

Even without its winter plumage, D&L's Professional Perimeter Carbine would stand out in a crowd. Many of its features are unique to D&L Sports, including its aluminum stock, free-floating, ventilated handguard, and muzzle brake/flash suppressor. The scope tested with the rifle was a Leupold 3-9x42mm.



Using four mounting bolts, D&L's receiver scope base is extremely secure, as is its eight-bolt handguard and 60-screw 30mm scope rings.

Quite

alive and well, the old slogan "buyer beware" pertains to, well, everything we buy. A life-long, daily risk management drill, you ask? You bet, and firearms are certainly no exception. Take the AR-15 platform, but don't try to count all the clones or you may hurt your eyes, as they can run the gamut of the good, bad and the ugly. Did you hear about the small quantity

of aftermarket ARs last year that were equipped with bolts made in Turkey? Except for the bolts, the guns were fine. Sure, you can cut corners, but not at the corner of "bolt and carrier." When you do, a big accident is waiting to happen. Case in point, an accident occurred while in the hands of a police officer who was the (short-lived) proud owner of the new AR clone. Fortunately, God was at the range when all six lugs sheered off, allowing the bolt to blow rearward without rotating. The upper receiver was destroyed and all other upper parts, except the barrel, were ready

for a dirt nap. The lower suffered no damage and, most importantly, the police officer suffered only a face speckled by tiny aluminum shards, with his glasses saving his eyes. Yes, you can get what you pay for, but sometimes it's worth less than the asking price. When compared with some, the AR-15-type rifle is a highly technical rifle; not only in design, but also in the mil-spec requirements assuring that it is made of the finest materials to the highest quality control. It isn't rocket science, but it is vital to the operation and safety of rifle and operator.

Don't misunderstand, most AR-15 type rifles on the market are of good quality and will last for many thousands of rounds. Good rifles will probably cost more than those not as good. One company that produces fantastic custom-grade AR-platform rifles well worth their prices is D&L Sports. Owned and operated by longtime custom gunsmith Dave Lauck, D&L Sports is one of many sources for a special order AR. I've been testing and evaluating their AR-type rifles and other firearms for over 25 years and they are impressive. Whether they make them or buy them, most custom shops use top-

quality components in their firearms. If they didn't, they wouldn't be in business very long. The components D&L manufactures, or has manufactured to their specifications, are designed and thoroughly tested by Dave Lauck. They work and they're rugged. They may or may not be for you, as everyone has personal preferences, but they're well worth checking into. Having received several D&L Sports ARs to test and evaluate over the years, there is little that is new about them to me. Small parts and ancillary components may have changed, but the basic rifle is essentially the same as the first one I

tested more than a decade ago. Let's have a look at the latest, D&L's Professional Perimeter Carbine (PPC). **Gun Details** First, let's take a quick look at what's really critical in a good AR. The upper and lower receivers must be made to mil-spec in terms of material, which is 7075-T6 aircraft-grade aluminum alloy properly hardcoat anodized. While dimensions are also vital, not all are mil-spec, such as those rifles from LMT, Vltor, etc., and these latter may be even preferable to standard military specifica-

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tions. Fire control groups (i.e., the trigger groups) also must be of the highest quality in terms of safety and reliability.

All things considered, however, the most critical components of any AR platform are the barrel and its extension, bolt and bolt carrier, and these are generally the most expensive. If the quality of a barrel is mediocre, usually only accuracy and perhaps reliability may suffer. If the quality



D&L Sports' muzzle brake has two side ports and one on top. Recoil was negligible and no dust kicked up from the ground when firing from the prone position.

of the bolt or carrier is in question, as the anecdote above illustrates, safety becomes the issue.

The vast majority of commercial AR-platform rifles and components on the market are either mil-spec or close enough to it to be perfectly safe. Their prices may or may not reflect how good they are. For example, some companies who do a volume of business can and do offer a high-quality AR-type rifle at an affordable price. Where custom or special-purpose rifles are concerned, however, things are different.

This is where custom-grade ARs from D&L Sports come in. As a matter of standard practice, D&L Sports uses Krieger match barrels almost exclusively. There are other barrel makers whose barrels are just as good as Krieger barrels, but whether one is better than another becomes arguable. I have other contempo-



Built to endure harsh usage, D&L's aluminum AR buttstock comes with two waterproof storage tubes. They also make an adjustable length-of-pull version.

rary barrels that shoot on the same level as Krieger barrels and I have some that do not. I bought a D&L Sports .223 AR heavy Krieger barrel 20 years ago. It shot around 0.5 MOA from day one and still does, so I've kept it, but D&L can supply the barrel of one's choice.

When it comes to bolt groups, D&L uses the best components available. These parts aren't rocket science, but they're also not cheap, and the same goes for fire control components. D&L

Sports makes its own free-floating rail handguards, muzzle brakes, stock systems and has some other components made to its specifications. Except for pistol grips and some standard components, the rifle is pretty much D&L Sports, and the name is prominent on it.

Finished in "snowy" Cerakote camouflage, this D&L precision rifle came without open sights but included a Leupold 3-9x42mm optic. At the muzzle was D&L's own combination muzzle brake/flash suppressor, which proved very effective in diminishing felt recoil. Rigidly attached to D&L's long barrel nut was D&L's "Super-duty" handguard. This full-length round, ventilated handguard covers the low gas block and the test gun came with a Harris bipod mounted on it. The handguard also came with full-length threaded mounting holes at three, six, nine, and twelve o'clock positions.

As mentioned, D&L Sports furnishes Krieger stainless steel match barrels, and the 16-inch barrel on this rifle was no exception. With a match 5.56mm chamber, the rifle will shoot any make of .223 or 5.56x45mm NATO ammunition, and its perfectly headspaced bolt helps ensure
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DAVE LAUCK: 2012 APG PISTOLSMITH OF THE YEAR

BY DAVID BAHDE

Dave Lauck has been awarded the American Pistolsmith's Guild 2012 award for Pistolsmith of the Year. With all the attention his superb tactical rifles garner, it is easy to forget he has been building some of the finest 1911 pistols you can acquire for many years. Having built custom pistols for the likes of President Bush and General Tommy Franks, his pistols are amongst the finest ever crafted. His Presentation Quality 1911 built for Colonel Jeff Cooper currently sits in the Buffalo Bill Historical Center Museum.

The Lauck lineage of custom firearms builders can be traced as far back as the 18th Century. Dave has been continuing in that tradition with over 30 years of experience



**Dave Lauck
accepts the
American
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in special purpose firearms. With over 25 years as a law enforcement officer, including SWAT, he is not only a great gunsmith but an experienced operator with decades of experience applying his skill. As a competitor he has won numerous awards and builds one of the finest tactical carbines on the market. Many of his firearms have taken shooters to championships and records in any number of competitions.

The APG Pistolsmith of the Year award is amongst the most prestigious available to custom pistol smiths. As the 2012 winner Dave Lauck joins a very exclusive club of the best pistol builders around. Please join us in congratulating Dave Lauck for a job well done, and our appreciation for his long and dedicated service to the firearms community.

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the finest accuracy. On top of the flattop upper receiver was D&L's Mil-Std-1913 Picatinny rail sleeve that extended forward some 3 inches. Mounted on this were two heavy-duty 30mm rings and the Leupold rifle scope.

The lower receiver of our sample held only one surprise and that was D&L's



D&L's own proprietary 5.56mm magazines feature non-tilt followers and super-strong baseplates.

custom trigger that had a crisp letoff at 4 pounds. With a Hogue Finger-Groove AR-15 Pistol Grip, the rifle also came with D&L's improved 25-round magazine, which has a non-tilt follower and super-strong baseplate.

Last but not least was D&L's own buttstock. A departure from all other stocks, this one comes with a soft polymer cover on the main tube and an alloy butt with sling mounts and two smaller-diameter tubes extending forward with the upper one connecting to the rear of the receiver. A variety of accessories can be stored in these tubes. This stock is also available in an adjustable version.

Shooting Impressions

It's difficult to get tired of great accuracy, but with D&L's rifles, it's almost possible. Twenty years ago, Dave Lauck shipped me a sample rifle that he claimed



This U.S. Marine loved the D&L PPC and the SureFire 60-round mag shown here. He will soon deploy and wishes he could take both with him.

would shoot 0.25-inch groups at 100 yards. I couldn't get 0.25 inches, but I did achieve 0.38 inches. Admittedly, my eyes were better back then, and I was only able to come in slightly under 0.75 inches with this latest D&L sample. However, when I found a sample target in the case, it measured 0.56 inches, so I felt pretty good with what I was able to do with it. Full metal jacket .223 ammunition didn't do quite as well, averaging around 1.5 inches, but that's not bad for this load.

The short of it is that no malfunctions occurred and all five-shot, 100-yard groups came in under 1 inch. In addition to D&L's magazine, we tested the new SureFire 60-round, four-tier magazine, and what a wonderful piece of gear it is. This magazine, though twice as wide as a standard 30-round magazine, is only about a half-inch longer. SureFire also offers a 100-round version that extends another 4 inches, but I have not tested that model yet. I would hope to see these SureFire magazines in the M4s of our troops soon. Some D&L Sports precision rifles in their hands wouldn't be a bad idea, either.

If you're interested in an extremely high-precision AR-type rifle made of the best materials and components, check out what D&L Sports has to offer. **SW**

SPECIFICATIONS:

D&L PROFESSIONAL PERIMETER CARBINE 5.56MM

CALIBER:	5.56mm
BARREL:	16 inches
OA LENGTH:	35 inches
WEIGHT:	8 pounds (empty)
STOCK:	D&L aluminum
SIGHTS:	None
ACTION:	Semi-auto, direct impingement
FINISH:	Cerakote
MSRP:	N/A



PERFORMANCE:

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Black Hills 55 JHP	2,977	0.51
Federal 55 JSP	2,983	0.46
Remington 55 FMJ	2,971	1.32
Winchester 50 JSP	3,287	0.62



Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per second (fps) by ProChrony chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best three 5-shot groups at 100 yards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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928-636-1726, dlsports.com

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