



Win a **FREE**

AIRFORCE CONDOR .22, 4-16X SCOPE

AND BENCHMADE KNIFE

GUNS MAGAZINE

GUNS[®]

MAGAZINE

\$4.95
OUTSIDE U.S.
\$7.95
JUNE
2010

DYNAMITE DEFENSIVE DUO

SIGSAUER[®]

1911 .45 ACP
P238 .380 ACP

TACTICAL DREAM
ROBAR SR60
.308 Win Pg 18

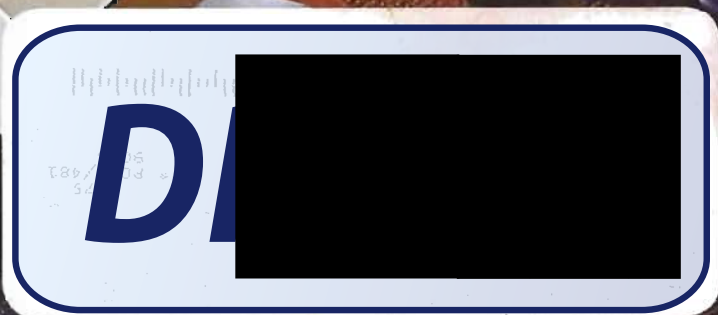
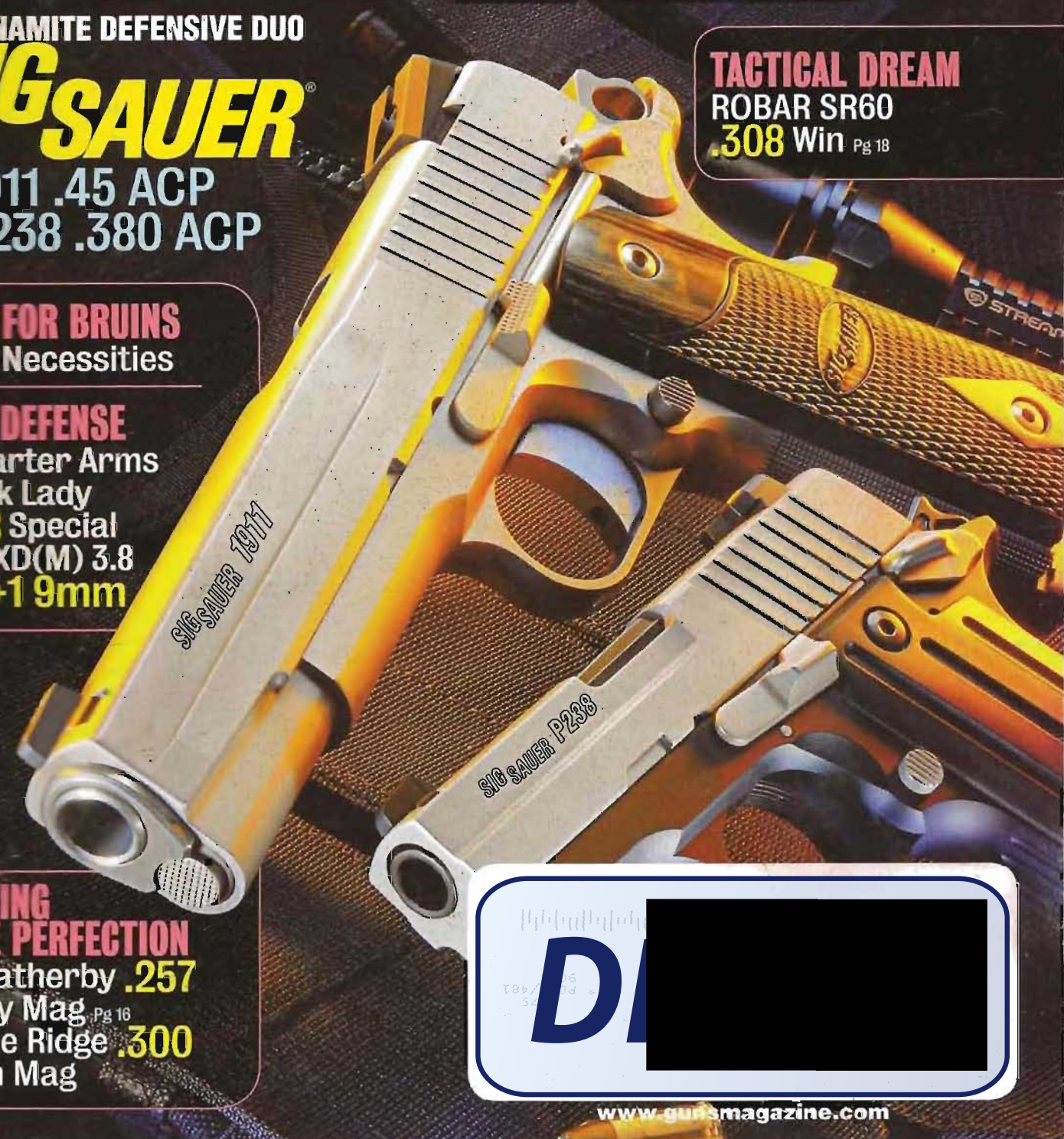
RUIN FOR BRUINS
Bear Necessities

SELF DEFENSE

- Charter Arms Pink Lady .38 Special
- SA XD(M) 3.8 19+1 9mm

HUNTING RIFLE PERFECTION

- Weatherby .257 Why Mag Pg 16
- Blue Ridge .300 Win Mag



OUT *of the* BOX™

• JOHN TAFFIN •

CONCEALED CARRY FIREPOWER

Springfield Armory XD(M) 3.8 19+1 9mm.

My first two Springfield Armory XDs are chambered in .45 ACP and .45 GAP. Even though I now embrace the 9mm, all of my original polymer-framed pistols from all five companies were also chambered in .45 ACP and .45 GAP. It's pretty obvious I was tainted by all those early .45 vs. 9mm articles. I had the requisite Browning and then the little Smith & Wesson 9mms, but only in the past few years have I taken up polymer 9mms. My third and latest choice is the Springfield Armory XD(M) 3.8. The "M" not only stands for a match-grade barrel but also what Springfield calls the "M Factor," a long list of new features, which we will examine shortly. The "3.8" is the actual barrel length of just over 3-3/4".

All of us, at least those of us who have tried a large assortment of sixguns and semi-autos, have experienced those simply not feeling right in the hand while others just seem to nestle in as if they were custom-made for our particular hand. Feeling is highly subjective, but this XD(M) feels like my hand was measured and then the grip made accordingly. The trigger is easy to reach and all three fingers wrap comfortably around the grip frame. Some of the user friendly features include a portion hollowed out where the back of the triggerguard and the top of the frontstrap meet making a comfortable resting place for the top of the middle finger. On both sides of the

grip frame we find a dished out area for the thumb while the slide contains what Springfield calls Mega Grasp serrations. These are found both front and rear and provide a very positive gripping surface for working the slide.

The frontstrap also has positive serrations which wrap around both sides and the backstrap also has these same serrations. They are large and provide a positive gripping surface without being painful. Three different sized backstraps are provided for individual fitting. The magazine release is ambidextrous, easy to reach, and magazines release easily. For those who prefer to place a finger of the offhand in front of the triggerguard



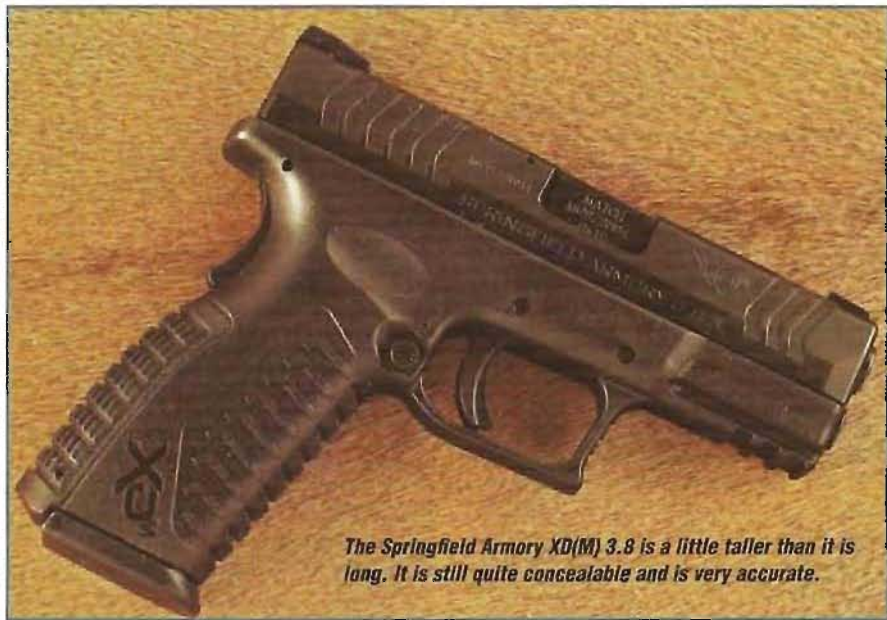
Test targets fired with the Springfield Armory 9mm XD(M) showed it is quite accurate with a wide variety of loads at the combat distance of 10 yards.

this is also serrated and squared off. On the bottom of the frame in front of the triggerguard we find a triple position rail system for the attachment of a light or laser.

Safety features in the grip frame include a grip safety which must be depressed before the XD will fire and a safety trigger which Springfield Armory says has the shortest travel of any currently available, as well as a shorter reset for faster follow-up shots. Trigger pull measures out at 8 pounds, although it seems lighter, and I had no problem shooting excellent groups with this 9mm.

Sights

Much of the credit for this must go to the excellent sights. These are low profile, easy-to-see square notch rear sight matched up with a post front sight and are of the white 3-dot style. The rear sight has no sharp edges and sets low in the slide. Both sights are mounted in a dovetail for ease of windage correction. In addition to the two safety features mentioned there



The Springfield Armory XD(M) 3.8 is a little taller than it is long. It is still quite concealable and is very accurate.

9MM FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
BLACK HILLS 115 JHP	1,108	3/4
BUFFALO BORE 115 JHP +P	1,262	1
BUFFALO BORE 124 JHP+P	1,259	1
CCI BLAZER 124 TMJ	1,039	7/8
CCI BLAZER 124 JHP	1,047	1-1/8
FEDERAL 115 HI-SHOK JHP	1,104	3/4
FEDERAL 124 FMJ	1,009	5/8
HORNADY 115 XTP JHP	1,029	1
HORNADY 124 XTP JHP	1,113	1-1/4
HORNADY 90 XTP JHP	1,298	5/8
REMINGTON 147 JHP SUBSONIC	977	1
SPEER GOLD DOT 115 JHP	1,068	7/8
WINCHESTER 147 SILVERTIP JHP	953	7/8

Notes: Chronograph set at 10' from muzzle.
Groups are five shots at a self-defense distance of 10 yards.

is also a cocking indicator at the back of the slide below the rear sight and a loaded chamber indicator at the back of the ejection port.

The XD(M) 3.8 9mm comes standard in a large sturdy lockable polymer case with many extras in addition to this fine pistol. Magazine capacity is 19 rounds and Springfield Armory supplies two extra magazines as standard equipment allowing a total of 58 rounds to be carried easily. I can't imagine a civilian scenario where this many rounds would be needed but better too many than too few.

Holster Included

To facilitate concealed carry, a polymer paddle holster with an adjustable tension screw is provided along with a polymer belt case holding two extra magazines which is also tension adjustable. Loading 19 rounds in the magazine with a strong spring is not an easy chore. Springfield takes some of the discomfort out of this by also providing a magazine loader. With .45s I can get by without help of the loader, but switching to the smaller 9mms and a high capacity magazine wreaks havoc on my fingers during long shooting sessions.

The 9mm XD(M) is designed as a highly efficient self-defense pistol not a long-range target pistol so all loads



The Springfield Armory XD(M) 3.8 comes with a match-grade barrel, hence the (M) in the name.

XD(M) 3.8	
MAKER: SPRINGFIELD ARMORY 420 WEST MAIN STREET GENESEO, IL 61254 (309) 944-5631 WWW.SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM	
ACTION TYPE:	Semi-auto
CALIBER:	9mm (tested), .40 S&W
CAPACITY:	19 + 1
BARREL LENGTH:	3.8"
OVERALL LENGTH:	7"
WEIGHT:	27.5"
FINISH:	Black polymer frame, black slide
SIGHTS:	Fixed 3-dot
GRIPS:	Integral polymer
PRICE:	\$697 (\$763 stainless steel slide)

were test-fired at an across a long room self-defense distance of 10 yards. The XD(M) not only shot well with 13 different factory offerings it also performed absolutely flawlessly with every round feeding perfectly. Total results are in the accompanying chart, however I would point out the +P loads from Buffalo Bore. If there was ever any doubt about the adequacy of a 9mm it is dispelled by their 1,260 fps loads! This is with 115- and 124-grain bullets and Hornady's 90-grain JHP clocks out and even faster at 1,300 fps and puts them all in one hole. Yes, I definitely feel adequately armed with this Springfield Armory XD.

I like the 9mm. There, I said it and I don't regret it! It took me a while to embrace the 9mm as I grew up reading gun magazines which regularly carried the almost required ".45 ACP vs. 9mm" article. As our infamous former vice president has said "The debate is over" and the 9mm is an excellent choice for self defense. The Springfield Armory XD(M) is right at the top of the list for dependability and accuracy.

GUNS

MAX STRENGTH

10/22 Enhancement!

No prescription required.

This could be your Ruger 10/22!™
The Archangel Target Stock ARS Conversion System makes it easy.
No gunsmithing required.



MODEL:
AATS1022

rifle scope, rings, mount, & magazine not included.



ARCHANGEL
(ARS) ADVANCED RIFMIRE SYSTEM
562.861.9554
ArchangelManufacturing.com

*Rifle not included. Ruger & 10/22 are registered trademarks of Sturm Ruger