

AR-15

SPRINGFIELD SAINT VICTOR .308



LEUPOLD MARK 5 HD
2-10x30mm

TOP

10!

BILL WILSON'S
FAVORITE
CARTRIDGES

25,000 ROUNDS

RIFLESPEED GAS CONTROLS ARE BUILT TO LAST

SMALL FRAME, BIG IMPACT

RUGER'S SFAR IN .308



- /// GEISSELE 6mm ARC
- /// MEAN BEARING DELAY PCC
- /// UINTAH .224 VALKYRIE
- /// DIY ULTRALIGHT AR

UPPR-15

TURN YOUR AR INTO A
BOLT GUN WITH UINTAH
PRECISION'S UPPER.

BY MARK FINGAR



UPR-15



Precision machining makes for a tight fit with your favorite lower receiver.

The barrel comes with a 1/2-28 threaded muzzle and a thread protector to prevent any damage.

MANY AR USERS TWEAK AND UPGRADE THEIR RIFLES IN a never-ending quest for “bolt-gun accuracy.” Uintah Precision offers a direct solution for those folks: a dedicated bolt-action upper receiver that fits on any standard AR lower. This is the Uintah UPR-15. The first time I looked at a UPR-15, I was intrigued. The good folks from Duchesne, Utah, put solid engineering and design into this upper. Out of the box, it easily dropped into one of my favorite lowers like an old shoe.

The upper I tested was chambered in .224 Valkyrie. The first thing I noticed was how gently it fed cartridges from a variety of magazines. Overall, it was much gentler than a gas-operated feed. Ejection was smooth, with cartridges neatly piling up to my right.

As the bolt travels to the rear, pressure from the buffer spring provides a cushiony feel, so I removed the buffer assembly. I liked it better without the spring, especially as the bolt moves



UPR-15

Cartridge	.223 Wylde, .224 Valkyrie (tested), 6mm ARC, .300 BLK, 6.5 Grendel
Material	Billet 6061-T6 aluminum, Type 3 hard coat anodized
Barrel Length	22 in.
Overall Length	29 in.
Weight	5.5 lbs.
MSRP	\$1,250
Manufacturer	Uintah Precision uintahprecision.com

forward to snag a round from the magazine. The bolt catch can also still be used to secure the bolt back in place, making it handy at the range when the range officer needs to inspect your chamber. The three-lug bolt features a wide extractor face paired with a robust ejector pin. Cartridges

extract with authority when the bolt is brought back quickly. The top of the bolt body has a centered divot that aligns with a spring-loaded ball that is captive inside the top of the receiver. This clever feature gives a positive lock when the bolt is in battery. The bolt is machined from a single piece of 4140 chromium-molybdenum alloy steel, heat treated to Rockwell hardness of 45. To say it's built like a tank is an understatement.

A tactile bolt handle makes for quick follow-up shots with positive control.

The bolt handle rides level to the horizon when cycled, clearing any optic you'll use. When locked, the handle protrudes about an inch and a half from the receiver. This low-profile angle avoids grief while trekking through brush. Removing the bolt for maintenance is as easy as breaking open the receivers and sliding it to the rear.



UPR-15

Breakdown for cleaning is as simple as removing the upper and taking out the bolt.



Uintah guarantees 1 MOA or better when used with match grade ammunition.

The 22-inch, 416R, stainless-steel barrel measures .810 inches in diameter with a muzzle thread of 1/2-28. The 1:7-inch twist with 3R groove rifling profile is a great formula for success with a wide range of bullets. A recessed crown and knurled thread protector keep these delicate areas from getting damaged. The barrel is finished in black Cerakote, providing low glare and corrosion resistance and making it a nice hunting tool.



The 15-inch handguard provides plenty of M-LOK slots for any accessory you may have. The handguard locks up solid with the CNC-machined receiver that is reinforced in critical areas. Lefthanded receivers and bolts are also available for you southpaws. I added a QD bipod, a Leupold VX-6HD 4-24X, and headed to the range.

SHOOTING IMPRESSIONS

Uintah guarantees their uppers will shoot under 1 MOA with match ammo. I'm happy to report it does much better than that. Using Federal 80.5-grain Gold Medal Berger ammunition at 100 yards, I was able to shoot several 5-round groups that measured under .75 inch, the best being .60 inch. Recoil was comparable to the same-caliber bolt action. This platform would make a great varmint and predator rifle.

I admit that I actually reached up for the charging handle more than once. Old habits die hard. Overall, the bolt's movement was understandably bumpier than a traditional bolt-action rifle, but that's the penalty of marrying it to a standard AR lower with its clunky trigger group that must be pushed out of the way. Once I got a few rounds off, it all became white noise and I enjoyed the experience. Using a familiar AR lower with a bolt-action upper was certainly worth it. I'm sure you have a favorite lower that might be begging for bolt-action goodness. You'll probably like it as much as I do. 🦋