



Representing the new standard in medium- to long-range sniper and hunting rifles, the BBG Tactical (above) and BBG Olympic Hunter (below) bolt guns blend quality materials and machining perfection to deliver unparalleled accuracy and repeatability.



## Blackheart International Raises The Bar For Long-Range Hunting And Law Enforcement/Military Sniper Rifles

Accuracy can be defined in many ways, depending on who's doing the talking. The folks at Blackheart International, whose credentials include years of Special Forces sniper operations, as well as gunsmithing service for the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, understand that accuracy is all about precise, unwavering repeatability. And the only way to achieve that ultimate standard in firearm performance is with superior materials integrated with superior, purpose-driven engineering.

Working on the premise that superior bolt gun accuracy does not have to be limited to military sniper units or high-end competitive shooters, Blackheart International recently set out to develop a bolt gun program that would deliver on all the key elements of a sniper/long-range hunting centerfire rifle: high-quality components, exacting machining standards, durability and practical ergonomic features. The result was two stellar-performing firearms: the BBG Olympic Hunter, the new leader in long-range big game hunting performance, and the BBG Tactical, designed specifically for military and law enforcement sniper applications.

### BBG Olympic Hunter

Designed from a fresh sheet using only the finest components and treated to engineering standards that far surpass those of factory and most custom-built rifles, the BBG Olympic Hunter delivers the core competencies of the ultimate long-range hunting rifle—precise, repeatable point of impact, minimal mechanical action, durability, simple operation, reliability, portability and shooter comfort in field or bench environments.

Key to the BBG Olympic Hunter

is its 24-inch stainless steel Kreiger barrel. The barrel stock is first cryogenically stress-relieved to ensure a straight bore axis during repeated firing sessions, and allow for a cleaner, stress-free rifling cut. The rifling is then cut using the single-point cut process, which has been proven to maintain optimal land/groove uniformity during the rifling process.

Attention to details and precision tolerances further separate the BBG Olympic Hunter from the pack. The muzzle, for example, is cut with an 11° target (concave) crown to within 0.0002-in. concentricity with the bore. High-speed photography has shown a target crown of 11° to be most similar to the natural trajectory of gasses escaping the muzzle behind a bullet. The 0.0002-in. concentricity of the crown to the bore ensures the gas escapes uniformly, and no gas-induced "wobble" is introduced as the bullet exits the barrel.

The precision machining process is also evident towards the breech, which is chambered in the all-new .223 Blackheart, .300 Magnum Blackheart, .308 Blackheart, or .338 Magnum Blackheart. As with the crown, the chamber is machined to 0.0002-in. concentricity with the bore so that, from breech to muzzle, all tolerances are exact to the bore's axis. As for the Blackheart chamber, it's a proprietary design with a bench rest shooting heritage that delivers the highest possible accuracy while maintaining compatibility with standard factory ammunition.

Veteran bench shooters know that the bane of any perfect round is the occasional "flyer." These errant shots are often due to variables introduced by movement between the barrel and receiver. The BBG Olympic Hunter's barrel features

a Spirallock thread design (used by NASA) which more effectively seizes the joint between the barrel and receiver as compared to conventional "V" threads, and better distributes clamping force along the full length of the barrel thread (not just the first few threads, as is the case with most barrels). Keeping the receiver rigid to the barrel significantly reduces the chance of throwing a shot.

Speaking of the receiver, it's CNC machined from stainless steel with a chamfered port for easy cartridge insertion and removal. The bolt is spiral-fluted and treated to an Armoloy industrial hard chrome-style coating for smooth operation and galling prevention. Also constructed of stainless steel is the Jewell trigger, set at a smooth 2.5 pounds. Its increased mechanical leverage and decreased friction give it a serious advantage over other trigger systems on the market. An additional "business end" feature includes a hinged floor plate machined from aluminum billet.

The BBG Olympic Hunter's precision-machined barreled action assembly attaches to a robust, ergonomic wood stock. A prominent cheek riser and butt stock hook for non-shooting hand support reveal the stock's tactical DNA. An integrated bipod, which collapses discreetly inside the forend for easy carry and deployment (prevents hang-ups on clothing and pack straps, unlike conventional, exterior-mounted bipods), certifies the rifle's hunting credentials.

Another important feature of the stock is the aluminum V-block bedding. This is designed to add even more rigidity to the system and promote long-term accuracy. Additionally, the free-float barrel eliminates any barrel-to-stock contact which can negatively influence accuracy.

Finally, the action is topped with a Picatiny rail, to which can be added Leupold's premium VX-III 3.5-10x40 scope fitted with durable flip-up Alumina scope caps, or the scope of your choice. Simply mount your preferred sling to the standard sling swivel studs and the BBG Olympic Hunter is ready for your next extreme big game adventure.

### BBG Tactical

Representing a logical improvement over the U.S. Army M24 and USMC M40A2 sniper rifle systems, the BBG Tactical blends precision machining, mission modularity and maximum portability in a medium- to long-range sniper system.

The rifle's core is shared with the BBG Olympic Hunter, utilizing the same high machining standards applied to the cryogenically stress-relieved Kreiger barrel, action centerline and receiver/bolt fitment. Although the BBG Tactical is also chambered in .223 Blackheart, .300 Magnum Blackheart, .308 Blackheart and .338 Magnum Blackheart for optimal accuracy, the headspace is set at SAAMI minimum to accept both factory and SAAMI-spec ammunition.

Beyond the superior accuracy and high standard of machining in the rifle's barrel/receiver assembly, what makes the BBG Tactical the ideal weapon system for military and law enforcement sniper duty is the TACMOD sniper chassis system.

The rationale for the development of the TACMOD system was the need for a complete medium- to long-range sniper platform that could be carried by parachute/air assault, SOF and SWAT personnel in a smaller package without compromising system integrity, repeatable accuracy or durability.

The chassis has a removable, round, free-float forend two inches in diameter that is designed to allow for shooter adjustment of the included M1913 rails at the 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions. The chassis folds behind the pistol grip to the left and locks, allowing unimpeded operation of the bolt handle and fire controls for immediate use in the compact configuration.

The pistol grip is interchangeable with any M16/M4 style grip, while the butt stock is fully adjustable for length-of-pull and cheek height for precise shooter fitment. The butt stock is also interchangeable with any M16/M4 or M110 stock to multiply its various combat uses. In sum, the goal was to provide a modular platform that can be installed, configured for missions, and serviced at the user level while maintaining zero.

Made of aircraft-grade 7075 T6 aluminum for light weight and strength, and hard-coat anodized for finish durability, the TACMOD chassis is also engineered to use low rings and bases for optic day sight mounting so as to keep the optic as low to the bore as possible. The system can also adapt any night vision or low-light optical sighting devices, and comes with the premium NightForce 5.5x22-50 NSX scope with the NP-R2 reticle.

In short, the BBG Tactical rifle delivers ultimate shooting accuracy, consistency and modularity in the most challenging mission environments.

# OPERATORS

## Proper Weapons Application Begins With Understanding Design Intent

by RITTER KREUZ

Supposedly the Samurai used to say that "any member of the warrior class who is not familiar with the various properties of his weapons must be considered uncultivated." How true, for understanding the origin and intricacies of a weapon's design and how this relates to the operating characteristics goes far beyond trivia. It translates directly to the proper application of that weapon within its limitations.

To a seasoned ear, for example, the staccato burst of a PKM that is firing at too high a cyclic rate is akin to the sound of fingernails on a chalkboard. "More is not better" in this case, although amateurs persist in believing that a high volume of fire alone will win the day in a firefight. Not understanding the purpose of a gas regulator in this instance, and blithely running a clean weapon at its maximum cyclic rate, is not only ignorant, but places excessive stress on the operating machinery. This practice overheats the barrel quicker, burns up your ammo faster and reduces controllability which further leads to an inaccurate cone of fire delivered to the target (particularly if the weapon is not being fired off of a well-stabilized tripod—but that is a subject for another time).

The gas regulator should not be a mystery, and anyone using a weapon so-equipped should have an intimate appreciation for it. This is especially true since our armed forces have had two superb gas-regulated machine guns at their disposal for years now (the M240 GPMG & M249 SAW series, both designs coming out

of Fabrique Nationale). Hopefully fewer people will remain ignorant about their inherent utility. As an aside, it is amazing to think that the United States fought and won two World Wars without a single machine gun or assault rifle in our inventory that had a readily adjustable gas regulator.

Another design feature that seems to be all the rage is the gas tappet system or, in contemporary parlance, the "piston gun." The lack of appreciation for historical design and engineering genius continues here—particularly when manufacturers capitalize on these tried-and-true designs by introducing them as "new" without paying homage to the original. Wow...it only took about 50 years to address all the inherent inefficiencies of the non-regulated gas-direct system of the AR15/M16 rifles (in reference to design enhancements to M4-style assault rifles the answer is "yes," there are gas regulators for those, too, and we're seeing them reintroduced on certain platforms).

So, there you have two major enhancements to the operating system of a rifle that is becoming one of the most ubiquitous in the world, and both of these features trace back 50 years ago to the genius of a man who was the apprentice of JMB himself—Dieudonne Saive, the man who designed the superlative FN-FAL.

Cultivate yourselves, members of the warrior class, for if the M4 is now becoming the Free World's left arm, you have to know the right arm that came before it!

## Forget The Fads Procurement Professionals Beware The "Hype Bandwagon"

by CHRISTIAN CARLSON  
MIMIR, LLC

Over the last couple of years there has been a disturbing new trend in the industry called "fad purchasing." Everywhere you look, consumers gravitate towards the hot ticket items, purchasing them without regard to quality or price. Using the word "fad" in this phenomenon relates to the companies themselves, after a fashion. They are producing items so quickly and poorly that they are doomed to fade away. Nevertheless, the public continues to support this quick-to-market strategy and buys the junk these companies put forward, regardless of their actual field-performance quality.

In the past, most people would extensively research gear and guns before spending their hard-earned money. Some buyers would either wait until they saved up enough cash to purchase the item they wanted, or they would make certain acceptable "price vs. feature" compromises. In other words, consumer behavior was driven by needs, features and price. Either way, you knew what you were getting and you generally knew what to expect from a product's performance and how long it would continue to perform as required. This method of spending carries over to most consumers markets, all of which are scalable to costs.

Look at several of the more popular forums that discuss guns and gear and you will see people acting like swooning teenagers when a vendor releases a new product. It seems that many consumers feel a greater sense of purpose using a product simply because an iconic brand is stamped on the item. Brand loyalty can only explain this behavior to a certain degree.

Today's consumer rush to pur-

chase a company emblem rather than focus on product features has reached seemingly epidemic proportions, which is blinding to the layman's eye. While it is a common marketing practice to leverage a company brand name to maximize revenue, too often it comes at the expense of quality and thorough research and development. Many companies applying this approach have achieved an "iconic brand status" with a ritual-like consumer following—never mind real-world performance. Many companies simply produce items to make a buck, no matter how good it is, and attitude purchases have replaced consumer research.

Unfortunately, the hurry-to-market mentality has some manufacturers shipping products they know are not complete or do not live up to certain standards. Yes, they may be a suitable interim solution, but they will continue to sell it until they finish an item and then sell it to you again. They'll slap a "New!" label on it and gin up a buzz the following year based on...well, not much improvement at all. This evolving approach can have detrimental effects on a company's reputation. If product quality suffers too much, they risk being equated with the "Made in China" label.

Another problem is the "legacy fallacy." Certain individuals may have been around for a while and possibly accomplished something in the past, but that does not mean that their word is gospel and everyone should blindly follow their advice when making a purchase. Often subject-matter experts of the past serve as endorsers to create a cult-like-following for products invented way past the expert's prime or their level of expertise. It is preposterous when someone endorses everything from slings, gloves, pants, guns and the like in order to make a buck—and equally preposterous for consumers to buy into the nonsense. I find it hard to believe that there was a whole lot of development that the "expert" applied to the product, so it is unconceivable why they would align their name or company to it. Still, people spend their hard-earned dollars on whatever junk or idea such endorsers put forward.

Sorting the gems from the junk is no easy task. For example, I know I cannot trust everything on the Internet. There was a time when you could get some good, unadulterated opinions on the Web about an item to support your decision-making process. Peer-user evaluations used to be unbiased, and bad quality was exposed through hyper-critical reviews that almost bordered on slanderous. Today, many Internet reviews are as subjective as those of the aforementioned endorsers. I fear that the day of gun and gear evaluations being fairly and objectively has gone by the wayside, to be replaced with a misguided industry keen on leading lemmings to empty their wallets on substandard products.

Let's hope that in the near future some of these fad-promoting companies realize that the market will eventually retaliate, forcing them to become more accountable to their customers.

### BASIC SPECIFICATIONS BBG Olympic Hunter

Caliber:	.223 Blackheart .300 Magnum Blackheart .308 Blackheart .338 Magnum Blackheart
Action:	BHI custom bolt
Capacity:	5-round internal mag
Barrel:	Kreiger stainless steel
Barrel Length:	24 inches
Trigger:	Jewell stainless steel
Trigger Pull:	2.5 pounds
Stock:	wood, aluminum bedding block, integral bipod
Receiver Finish:	satin stainless steel
Scope Mount:	Picatiny rail
Scope:	Leupold VX-III 3.5-10x40

### BASIC SPECIFICATIONS BBG Tactical

Caliber:	.223 Blackheart .300 Magnum Blackheart .308 Blackheart .338 Magnum Blackheart
Action:	BHI custom bolt
Capacity:	5-round magazine or optional, 10-round magazine
Barrel:	Kreiger stainless steel
Barrel Length:	24 inches
Trigger:	Jewell stainless steel
Trigger Pull:	1 pound
Stock:	TACMOD chassis system
Receiver Finish:	satin stainless steel
Scope Mount:	Picatiny rail
Scope:	NightForce 5.5-22x50 NXS w/NP-R2 reticle

## BARBOUR PRINTING

### Design, Printing and Business Services

- NEWSLETTERS •
- PAMPHLETS •
- GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT •
- BUSINESS CARDS •
- LETTERHEAD •
- BLACK & WHITE COPIES •
- FULL COLOR COPIES •
- COLOR AND B&W PHOTOGRAPHS •  
(From Pictures or Digital Media)
- LAMINATING •
- BINDING •
- RAFFLE TICKETS •
- DOCUMENT SCANNING •

113 Church Street, Philippi, WV 26416  
Phone (304) 457-2222 • Fax (304) 457-2235