

GA Precision .243 Review

Anyone who has been around any tactical rifle forums or sniper competitions know the name GA Precision and it's great reputation for turning out very accurate, tough and functional rifles with excellent fit and finish. They do all this in a timely manner also. Mine was no exception. George and Co has done work for me before on my .308, which they rebarreled and installed a Badger DM system on so I was definitely planning on using them again when I decided I wanted a new competition rifle.

First the action, I was planning on using a Remington 700 action for my new build but after not being able to find a donor action for less than \$450 I decided to go a different direction with a custom action from GA Precision with their GAP7000 action. The GAP7000 has the same basic dimensions and receiver hole dimensions as a Rem 700 so it would work in the USMC M40A1 stock, more on that later, I was planning on using. The GAP7000 however has a few advantages over the Rem 700. First the receiver itself is made true so there's no need to fix it. Also the ejection port is just that, a port, and not a huge area cut out of the receiver which is bridged by the scope base as the Rem 700 is. This makes the GAP7000 stiffer which we all know is a good thing in an action. Also the GAP7000 has a side bolt release so no need to be sticking your finger in the trigger area unless you are going to fire the rifle. The bolt is spherically grooved and also comes with an extended knurled bolt knob which is easy to grab when working the bolt. Finally the GAP7000 comes with a 20 MOA mount attached centerline to the receiver with 8-40 screws. The mount height is designed to be able to use standard height rings, .825", with up to a 50mm objective. All these features for \$750 is a good deal. Well worth it in my book when you figure you are getting a better action with many upgrades over the \$450 Rem 700 action.

Next was the stock. I like the McMillan HTG/M40A1 stock style and my .308 has worn one for years so when I was able to get one of the turn in USMC M40A1 stocks for \$200 from a Snipers Hide member I jumped on it. As I said the GAP7000 action has the same basic dimensions as the Rem 700 so I knew GAP wouldn't have a problem fitting the action in my stock. Besides where else will you find a McMillan stock for \$200? Also being a Jarhead, the old smear pattern stock had the USMC appeal to it so choosing it was a no brainer.

The heart of any good rifle is the barrel and I decided to go with a Schneider 5P barrel after hearing how well they have worked in the 6mm caliber for both George and Shannon Kay. I went with a #7 profile as I like a heavier barrel for balance, stiffness and to have some weight for recoil reduction. The barrel was 27" long to get the most velocity out of my rounds but not be too long so that it couldn't be handled efficiently at sniper competitions. The twist I chose was the 1 in 7.5" twist to make sure that the heavier bullets were stabilized. The barrel hasn't disappointed and gives good velocities and great accuracy over long strings of shots, upwards of 200 rounds.

For bottom metal I went with the only choice at the time for a sniper comp rifle, the Badger DM. After having one on my .308 I knew I needed it on this rifle. It makes

reloads much easier and allows for up to 10 shots without having to reload. Another advantage is that the .243 uses the same magazines as the .308 so I could use all the same mags.

Tim Roberts, Moon, at GA Precision took all these parts and put them together into a very accurate and reliable rifle. As far as groups the rifle easily shoots sub ½ MOA for 5 round groups at 100 and 300 yards, which are the only yardages I have actually shot groups per se. I received the rifle in early 2007 and after some rushed load development with the help of Shannon and George the rifle made it's debut at the 2007 Snipers Hide Cup in March where I was able to place 4th. I again used the rifle at ASC in May and again took 4th. But in June at Tac Pro the stars were aligned and I took 1st place.

All in all I couldn't be happier with this rifle and all the work I've had done at GA Precision. I would highly recommend them for any of your precision rifle needs.