

Ruger Mini-14

A Miniature Reminder Of The Greatest Infantry Rifle Ever!



Introduced in 1974, Ruger's Mini-14 caught the eye of everyone who had grown to love the M1 Garand and its evolution into the M-14.

General George S Patton called the M1 Garand "The greatest battle implement ever devised".

Mini-14 Design

Designed by L. James Sullivan[3] and William B. Ruger, the rifle employs an investment cast, heat-treated receiver and a version of the Garand locking mechanism with a self-cleaning, fixed-piston gas system. The Mini-14 product page [4] describes it as a "simple, rugged Garand-style breechbolt locking system, with a fixed-piston gas system and self-cleaning, moving gas cylinder." [1][5] The rifle is available in stainless or blued finish with hardwood, synthetic, or laminated stocks and an 18.5-inch (470 mm) barrel. Target models are currently available only in .223 Remington are not chambered to fire the 5.56x45mm NATO round. They also come with a 22-inch (560 mm) heavy barrel and either a laminated wood or Hogue overmolded synthetic stock.[6] Most Mini-14s have a classic sporter appearance, in contrast to comparable autoloading rifles such as the AK-47 and M16 rifle.

Production versions

Initial rifles were produced with a complex, exposed bolt hold open device, with no button for manual engagement. Stocks were somewhat angular and heat shields were made of

wood. These rifles, with serial number prefixes before 181, were tooled and redesigned with a new stock, new bolt hold-open mechanism, and other small changes.

In 2003, Ruger again overhauled the design and the production process to improve accuracy and update the styling while at the same time reducing production costs. The new models, marketed as Ranch Rifles, are based on the previous Ranch models, with integral scope bases. These new models use a modified gas system designed to reduce barrel vibration, and new iron sights. These changes combined with tighter tolerances result in greater potential accuracy.

History

The Mini-14 was first introduced in 1974 by Ruger. Mini-14 is derived from the military M14 rifle implying a miniature version of the M14. Ruger used the M14 as a model for the new rifle while incorporating numerous innovations and cost-saving engineering changes. The Mini-14 proved popular with small-game hunters, ranchers, law enforcement, security personnel and target shooters. It competes with other rifles like the comparably-priced Kel-Tec SU-16 and numerous inexpensive AR-15 variants.

Variants

Ruger Mini-14/F30GB semi-automatic rifle is completely original Ruger issue featuring: pistol grip, folding stock, 30rd magazine(s), bayonet lug,

threaded barrel, flash hider. The Mini-14/20GB featured a flash suppressor and a bayonet lug. A "Target Rifle" version with a heavy barrel, adjustable harmonic dampener and target stock was introduced in 2006. While never adopted by the U.S. military, both civilian and military Mini-14 variants are popular with many police departments as an affordable medium-range patrol rifle to fill the gap between short-range weapons (handguns and shotguns) and sniper rifles.

The rear sight on standard models was an aperture sight with large protective wings, and there were no integral scope bases. The "Ranch Rifle" variant has scope bases integrated into the receiver, and an ejector that ejects the spent cartridge case at a lower angle to avoid hitting a low-mounted scope. The original Ranch Rifle rear sight was a folding-type aperture, which would fit under a scope.

Ruger made design alterations to the Mini-14 in 2005 altering the receiver, rear and front sights. All new Mini-14s are built with integral scope bases, non-folding ghost ring aperture rear sight and a winged front sight similar to that used on the Ruger Police Carbine.

In 2008 Ruger introduced a National Rifle Association model, with a shorter 16.25-inch (413 mm) barrel, polymer stock and two 20-round magazines.

AC-556

The AC-556 is a selective-fire version of the Mini-14 marketed for military and law enforcement use. The design incorporates a selector on the right/rear of the receiver to select either semi-automatic, 3-round burst, or full-automatic fire modes; the manual safety at the front of the trigger guard operates the same as a standard Mini-14. The front sight is winged and incorporates a bayonet lug. The 13-inch (330 mm) or 18-inch (460 mm) barrel incorporates a flash suppressor. A folding stock was used on the AC-556F and AC-556K. The rifle came equipped with 20-round magazines and a 30-round version was available for a time. The AC-556 is currently produced, marketed and sold both in the United States and abroad.

Other calibers

Some early Mini-14 rifles were chambered in the .222 Remington cartridge. Since the .223 Remington is dimensionally equivalent to the 5.56x45mm, civilian firearms chambered in that caliber are highly restricted in countries that restrict or prohibit firearms that chamber military cartridges (such as Mexico). By chambering the Mini-14 in the similar, but not interchangeable, .222 Remington caliber, the Mini-14 could be sold in those countries.

In 1987, Ruger began production of the Mini Thirty, which is chambered for the Russian 7.62x39mm cartridge, used in the SKS and AK-47, as many states prohibit hunting of deer with calibers smaller than 6 mm (.243 in). The 7.62x39 mm has similar ballistics to the well-known .30-30 Winchester. The Mini Thirty was only available as a Ranch Rifle, with integral scope base. Current production Mini Thirtys are similar to Mini-14's except for caliber.

In 2007, Ruger announced the Mini-6.8 utilizing the commercial 6.8 mm Remington SPC cartridge that has been growing steadily in popularity.

A larger version of the Mini-14, called the XGI, was developed by Ruger in .308 Winchester and .243 Winchester. Although it was advertised in 1985, it

never entered production due to continued accuracy and functioning problems.

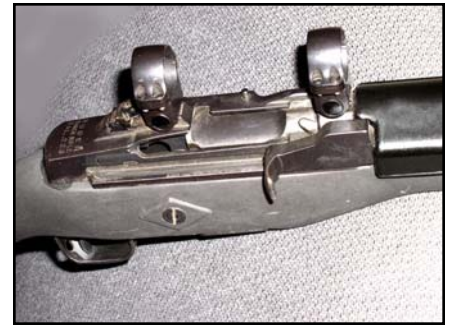
The main (and great) feature of the



Mini-14 Ranch rifle is the scope mounts, which are machined into the receiver. Easy off and on, the mounting arrangement maintains original accuracy.



Another nice feature of the Mini-14 Ranch rifle is the scope rings are included. The protruding tab interfaces with a mating notch in the receiver to lock the scope from fore/aft movement. The screwdriver slot in the attachment nuts is large enough that a large coin such as a quarter can be used to remove and attach the scope.



The photo above shows the scope rings mounted on the receiver. This scope mounting feature allows the Mini-14 Ranch Rifle to serve for varmint hunting duty.

Through the years, the Mini-14 rifle probably has had more after-market products available than any rifle.



Various flash-hiders are available in both blued and stainless steel. They slide on, around the front sight and secure by a longer roll-pin. Some even direct muzzle gasses forward to reduce recoil.

One of the best after-market products worth considering is the addition of a Nylon filled, synthetic stock, such as the one by Ram-Line, shown below.

To read and/or download an owner's manual goto:

<http://www.ruger.com/products/manuals/mini.pdf>