

# SPORTS AFIELD

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL OUTDOOR MAGAZINE

**MULE  
DEER**  
HIGH & LOW

*Into Africa*  
for **GIANT ELAND**

\$6.99US \$8.99CAN



## The Ultimate Mountain Rifle

*Lazzeroni's new lightweight rifle/cartridge combo is unmatched in performance.*



*Lazzeroni's new Global Hunter may be the ultimate performance rifle.*

**W**hen I opened the gun case, my first thoughts were of Formula One, F-16 fighter jets, and NASCAR. That's because performance—high performance—is the name of the game for Lazzeroni's new Model 2005 Global Hunter, which is chambered in Lazzeroni's top-performing proprietary cartridges. All you have to do is look at it and you see a rig designed to be the ultimate for any hunter who demands the biggest, fastest, hardest-hitting firepower on the market today.

At first glance, the rifle appears similar to its predecessor, the Model 2000. The biggest difference is in the weight. Look closer, and you can see the changes that were incorporated without sacrificing any of the Model 2000's best attributes. The diamond-fluted bolt shaft is the most visible change. But there's more: a lightweight titanium firing pin not only reduces weight from its steel predecessor, it gives the Global Hunter a nearly instantaneous lock time. A fluted barrel reduces weight and helps dissipate heat.

If there was ever a rifle/cartridge combination that needs a muzzle brake, the Global Hunter is it. A Vais brake is incorporated on the muzzle but it is done so that it is not obtrusive or oversized as some brakes are. It actually looks good. It is also detachable; if the shooter wants it removed, it can be done easily, and a protective thread cap can be installed. When the

thread cap is properly fitted you have to look hard to see if the barrel is made to accept a muzzle brake—just another example of quality workmanship.

The stock not only looks good with its black textured finish, but it feels good when you put it to your shoulder. Designed with classic lines, it has a graphite/fiberglass construction that not only reduces the weight but gives it the rigidity needed for accuracy. Aluminum pillars are also incorporated to ensure proper action alignment.

A high-grade alloy is used for the one-piece floorplate/trigger guard assembly. The magazine box, with steel follower, holds three rounds. (The rifle I tested was chambered in 7.82 (.308) Warbird.) Despite the size of the cartridge, the three-round magazine does not make the rifle look thick in the middle. It's another example of great design work.

The metals used in the rifle are stainless steel, titanium, and high-strength alloy. All metal parts are coated with corrosion-proof gray matte NP3 finish. This finish not only makes the rifle impervious to the elements but has enough lubricity that a minimum amount of lubricant is needed to make it function flawlessly.

You have to take the rifle apart to see that no expense was spared in producing the rifle. An adjustable Jewell trigger hangs from the bottom of the receiver. As every shooter knows, if the maximum performance of a rifle is to be achieved, you have to have a reliable trigger that breaks consistently without a lot of movement and overtravel. The Jewell trigger does just that. Maybe that's the reason for its popularity with competition shooters.

My test rifle was equipped with a Schmidt-Bender 3-12x42 variable with

a Mil-dot reticle mounted on a two-piece base system. It was a perfect rifle/scope combination, considering the capabilities of the cartridge it is chambered for.

Naturally, don't look for the 2005 Global Hunter to be chambered in any cartridge other than those designed by John Lazzeroni. A few years ago, John set a goal of developing cartridges that would obtain the maximum performance for most of the popular bore sizes. With cartridges named Scramjet (.257), Firebird (7mm), Warbird (.308), Titan (.338), and Meteor (.416), he has accomplished this: Each is at the top of the list for performance in its caliber.

It should also be noted that Lazzeroni has also developed a line of short magnums that equal or exceed the standard magnum performance. The Lazzeroni short magnums were actually developed before Winchester and Remington brought their own versions to market—only the lack of publicity kept the shooting/hunting public from knowing about them. If you are a short-action fan you might contact Lazzeroni and get the performance data for the Spitfire (.243), Phantom (.264), Tomahawk (7mm), Patriot (.308), and Galaxy (.338).

Even though standard bullets from almost any manufacturer can be used by the reloader, maximum performance can only be reached by using LazerHead (which look a lot like Barnes TripleShok), Sierra HPBT, or Swift A-Frame bullets custom-made for Lazzeroni. These bullets are produced slightly undersize so a special plate-on lubricant can be applied. This lubricant is not moly or anything like it—it's a special lubricant developed for space flight. It will not rub off on your hands, and it leaves no residue or fouling in your barrel like other lubricant coatings used to reduce friction.

When I took the rifle to the range, I was surprised by a couple of things. First, the recoil was less than expected. I attribute that to the very efficient Vais muzzle brake and a well-designed stock with a high-tech Limbsaver recoil pad.

Second, the noise from the muzzle brake was not as loud and objectionable as that from others on the market. There was no doubt when the trigger was pulled that the rifle had fired, but the sound was not offensive enough to make other shooters at the range dive for cover.

The new 2005 Global Hunter chambered for the 7.82 (.308) Warbird shot very well. I tested three factory loads. A 150-grain LazerHead loaded with IMR 7828 and a Federal 215 primer produced 3,800 fps from a 28-inch barrel. The 168-grain Sierra HPBT with Alliant Reloader 19 powder and Federal 215 primer went downrange in excess of 3,500 fps out of a 28-inch barrel. This was also the most accurate load I tested. The third load was a 180-grain Swift A-Frame with Alliant Reloader 25 powder and a Federal 215 primer. With the 28-inch barrel, this load screamed downrange at 3,600 fps.

The factory loadings produced three-shot groups of less than an inch, some closer to half an inch, at 100 yards. Also of interest was that each of the three bullet weights had nearly the same point of impact. That doesn't

happen too often with bullet weights varying from 150 to 180 grains.

Check the back of most reloading manuals, and you will discover that the foot-pounds of energy produced by the Warbird are awesome. The 180-grain Swift A-Frame load develops over 5,000 foot-pounds at the muzzle. Just to give you an idea, this load in the Warbird develops more energy at 500 yards than the .30-30 does at the muzzle with a bullet that is lighter by 10 grains.

For those interested in maximum performance, the 2005 Global Hunter is a must-see. The quality of the rifle and its components are excellent, and the ammunition is as reliable and consistent as any on the market. John Lazzeroni is a diehard perfectionist shooter/hunter whose dream was to build the ultimate hunting rig. Those who use his rifles and ammunition would agree he has accomplished it.

With a retail price of \$5,900, the Global Hunter is not cheap, but like most things, you get what you pay for. Contact Lazzeroni Arms Company: 888/492-7248; lazzeroni.com. 