

The Hunting & Shooting Buyers' Guide

# On Target

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Defensive Handguns

**Kahr**  
GW45

**AR**  
Report

Smith & Wesson  
M&P15VTAC

9 Staff Favorite  
**Brush**  
Guns

- ◆ Savage Mo. 10FCM Scout
- ◆ Mossberg 464
- ◆ Stag Arms Mo. 7 Hunter
- ◆ Traditions Outfitter
- ◆ Remington 7600 Carbine
- ◆ Marlin 1895 SBL
- ◆ Ruger M77 Compact Magnum
- ◆ Browning BAR ShortTrac Stalker
- ◆ Howa/Hogue Ranchland Compact

This Magazine

COMPLIMENTS OF

Your Local Gun Shop

I'VE TAKEN A NUMBER of Howa bolt-action rifles afield in the past few years, and they've never disappointed. Featuring Howa's time-proven M-1500 action with a forged steel receiver, these rock-solid rifles are accurate, dependable . . . and affordable.

Howa rifles are made in Japan by Howa Machinery, Ltd., in the same factory and with the same tooling used to produce the Weatherby Vanguard rifle. In fact, Howa M-1500s are identical to Weatherby Vanguards in every respect.

I recently tested the Howa/Hogue Ranchland Compact Rifle. The action is a vanilla Howa M-1500, with a forged, one-piece bolt with twin locking lugs and a recessed face, M-16 style extractor and 3-position safety. The barrel is just 20 inches long—a handy length for carrying in a saddle scabbard or inside the rear-window rack of a pickup truck. The hammer-forged Howa barrel is precision rifled for accuracy, while the trigger is adjustable for

sear engagement and pull weight. The test rifle's trigger required 4.2 pounds of pressure, but it broke so crisply and cleanly that I didn't bother adjusting the pull weight. If the rifle were mine, however, I'd dial the trigger down to an even three pounds.

The thing that gives the Howa/Hogue Ranchland Compact its compound name is its Hogue Overmolded stock. This stock features a fiberglass-reinforced frame with bedding pillars for the action, and the barrel is completely free-floated within the stock. The rubberized outer surface features no-slip cobblestone pebbling on the pistol grip and fore-end, and the pistol grip sports an ambidextrous palm swell. The result is a soft-feeling surface that isn't affected by cleaning oils or solvents, and won't harden with age. It feels good in the hands and against the cheek, and a thick Hogue recoil pad caps the butt—a feature much appreciated for sending heavier caliber

bullets. The rifle's 40.25" overall length and 7.0-pound empty weight make it a handy package to lug around. Length of pull is 13-7/8 inches.

Available in six short-action calibers—.204 Ruger, .22-250 Rem., .223 Rem., .243 Win., 7mm-08 Rem. and .308 Win.—with black, OD Green or Coyote Sand colored Hogue Overmolded stocks, the Ranchland Compact retails for a very reasonable \$479. Legacy Sports also offers the rifle in the same six chamberings, and the same three stock colors, as combo packages paired with a Nikko-Stirling Nighteater 3-10x42mm scope, EGW one-piece base and scope rings, all priced at \$599. A Desert Sand camo version of the combo package is also available for \$699. See the Howa/Hogue Ranchland Compact rifles and combos at your firearms retailer, or contact **Legacy Sports International**, Dept. OT; Tel.: (775) 828-0555; Web: [www.legacysports.com](http://www.legacysports.com)

THE COMPACT DIMENSIONS OF THE RANCLAND SECURITY RIFLE MAKE IT AN IDEAL BACK-COUNTRY/BRUSH RIFLE.

THE HOGUE RUBBER OVERMOLDED BUTTSTOCK GETS A SPECIAL RANCLAND INSIGNIA.



THE FORGED MODEL 1500 ACTION FEATURES A HINGED FLOORPLATE. AN EGW ONE-PIECE BASE (ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH LEGACY SPORTS) WAS USED TO MOUNT WEAVER'S NEW 2-10X42 SUPER SLAM SCOPE.

