



Sabre Defence Industries sets itself apart in the assault rifle market by manufacturing critical components of its weapons in-house.

Ready, Aim, Shoot

DAY AT THE RANGE PROVES CONSISTENCY OF SABRE DEFENCE'S ASSAULT RIFLES

By Jason West

It's good to be part of a team. In this case, I'm referring to the fact that *GX* is published by a company called Iostudio, which has a wide range of clients. One day, as I was wandering through the office, I noticed a designer working with a photo of a particularly cool looking rifle.

I paused to inquire, "Whatcha got there?"

"New rifle from Sabre Defence," the designer says. "I'm working on their catalog for next year." I whistled admiringly, "I'd love to get my hands on that."

"Why don't you call David? I'm sure he'd be happy to take you to the range."

What followed was a lot of excited whooping and hollering and a phone call to David Power, sales and marketing director for Sabre Defence.

Sabre Defence Industries is an international company that manufactures gun barrels (.50 caliber, 7.62 mm minigun and others) for the U.S. military as well as top grade assault rifles (AR) for law enforcement and civilian use. Sabre sets itself apart in the AR market by manufacturing the



The PMR (Precision Marksman Rifle) ships with an attached bipod, tactical scope and Magpul PRS stock.

critical components of its weapons in-house, allowing for tighter tolerances, which result in a more consistent, reliable and accurate weapon. Make no mistake, Sabre rifles aren't cheap, but you get what you pay for.

It was a rainy day at the range, but our spirits were still high as David broke out two new additions to the Sabre line of products: the Competition Extreme and the PMR (Precision Marksman Rifle). The two weapons had just been assembled that morning—there's nothing like that new rifle smell. (Okay, so they don't *really* have a smell, but they should!)

First up was the PMR. Now this was a sweet piece of hardware: It ships with an attached bipod, tactical scope and Magpul PRS stock. It's lighter than most precision rifles, but Sabre's specially designed Gill-Brake keeps barrel rise to a minimum, allowing for increased consistency during rapid fire. Out of the box, it needed only a minimum of adjusting to

get it sighted in. I settled in beside the weapon and prepared to take some shots.

Now just to clear up any misapprehensions: I grew up shooting, I love shooting, but I'm pretty bad at it. I've always been more of a "spray and pray" kind of guy—too much time in video games, I suppose. I sighted in on a "woodchuck" target (about 4 by 8 inches) at 50 yards. With that scope, it looked like the varmint was sitting on the end of the rifle. All 14 rounds went straight into the little critter. I shook my head; it was clearly the weapon, not the shooter. David told me to take some shots at the same-sized critter at 100 yards. I laughed. Without the optics, I could barely

see the thing at that distance. The thought of hitting is was a joke. Twelve of 14 rounds hit him, including one perfect bull. All I can say about the PMR is if it can let a joker like me shoot like that, I can only imagine what it's capable of in the hands of professionals.

Next up was the Competition Extreme (CE). Picking up this rifle, I could truly feel the difference that Sabre's exacting standards produce.



The CE comes with mounted holographic sites and iron sights mounted at a 45-degree angle.

I've fired the M-4 and M-16 and a lot of civilian versions of those weapons but, other than the few times I've handled custom-built competition rifles, this was the most solid, tight-feeling AR I had ever used. You truly can feel the difference in the quality of the materials when you handle these weapons. When

I commented on what a pleasure it was to handle, David said that was the company's goal "to produce precision made, custom-built rifles in a production environment. Off the shelf, it's a complete package; all you have to do is zero the sites."

The CE comes with mounted holographic sites (which, again, needed only the slightest adjustment to sight in), and mounted at about a 45-degree angle from the holographic sites were traditional iron sites. By simply lifting your arm, David explained, you could roll smoothly from the holographic to the iron sites and back. I have a hard enough time with one set of sites, so the thought of trying to change sites mid-shoot sounded like a nightmare. But the year and a half that Sabre spent tweaking on the design had paid off. With only a minute's practice, the motion was smooth and comfortable. Reacquiring the target after the move was remarkably easy. I have to confess, I'm still not entirely sure why I would want to do this; apparently it's related to competition shooting, but as usual, I accept that people far more qualified than I am have come up with something that's just too clever for me to grasp.

All too soon our time was up, and I stared longingly as David put the weapons away. If, like me, you'd love to lay your hands on one of these ballistic masterpieces, you'd better start saving. The CE retails for around \$2,500, and the PMR comes in at a hefty \$3,599, but they

are worth every penny. (Sabre does offer a full line of products in a wide range of prices—all of them top-notch.) Or they would be if I could scrape together that many pennies, but as Ferris Bueller says, "It is sooooo choice. If you have the means I highly recommend picking one up." **GX**