

# RUGER Mark II .22LR GETS SUPPRESSED



# In Project Snuffy Ruger rimfire goes on diet and gets deadly quiet!

By Dan Goodwin

**M**y version of middle-age crisis has not led me to fork over \$20,000 for a new Harley and head west with a nubile 20-year-old sorority girl named Sloan riding behind me. As a pillar

of the law enforcement community, such thoughts never cross my mind. I was forced to borrow imagery from a co-worker's close attempt to overhaul his own life.

I do, however, dally with thoughts of firearms oddities and dream projects. Such are closer to reality in terms of disposable income and my waning personal beauty. And that's how Project Snuffy had its genesis.

SRO Capt. Barry Hendrixson fires Project Snuffy with his personally owned AAC Pilot Suppressor affixed. This shot captures the action halfway through the weapon's cycle.



frequently go through armory overhauls as they try in vain to get their addiction under control and become the domestic dudes their wives command. Or they're cashing out in order to get a Harley. Either equals cheap guns. All of these phenomena occurred in the same week a while back.

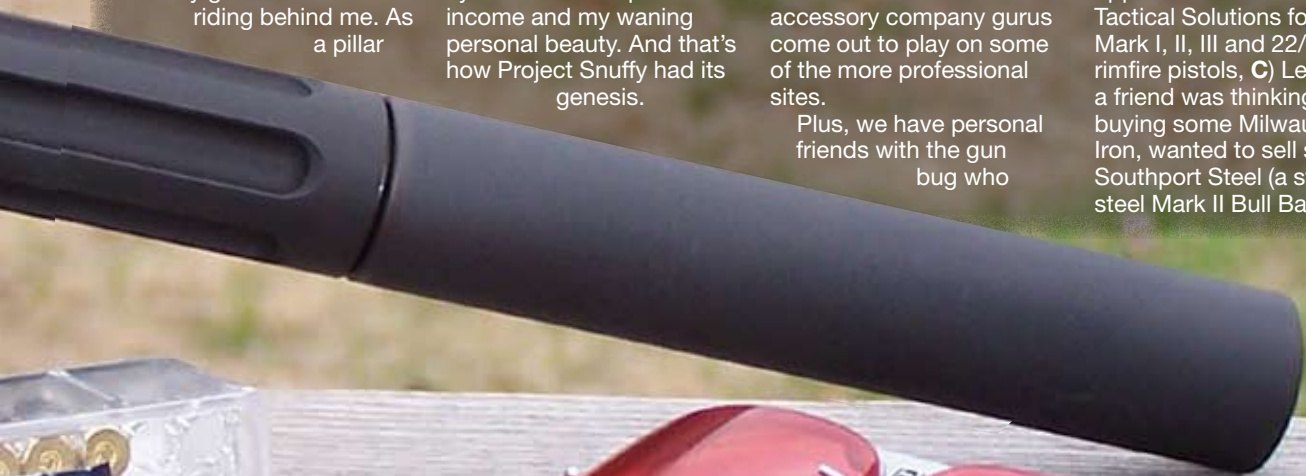
## Gun Details

So, in less than seven days, I: **A)** Made an online acquaintance with a good guy named Jason DuVal who works for one of the best companies producing laser weapon products, Crimson Trace, **B)** Read an article about the Pac-Lite upper receivers made by Tactical Solutions for Ruger Mark I, II, III and 22/45 rimfire pistols, **C)** Learned a friend was thinking about buying some Milwaukee Iron, wanted to sell some Southport Steel (a stainless steel Mark II Bull Barrel) to

Many of us gun writers are stone gun fanciers and spend much down time having idle thoughts and drooling over gun magazines.

We also spend time in a variety of online sites chatting about firearms-related fun with like-minded, otherwise normal adults. Even real-life firearms and accessory company gurus come out to play on some of the more professional sites.

Plus, we have personal friends with the gun bug who



Combine a Ruger Mark II Bull Barrel, Pac-Lite barrel receiver, CTC Lasergrip, AAC Pilot suppressor and CCI Subsonic Hollowpoints with a safe backstop for some fun.

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The combination of commercial off-the-shelf items turned a good Ruger into a great lightweight .22 sureshot for business and pleasure shooting that is ready to be suppressed for specific missions.

help swing the note and, **D**) Made the acquaintance of a professional photographer who ran a weapons-related website and was in tight with a suppressor manufacturing company called Advanced Armament.

Since one of the Pac-Lite options was a 4.5-inch upper receiver with a threaded end, I decided what a man

with a driver's license for 30 years really needed was a super-light, suppressed .22 pistol equipped with a high-end laser sight system.

As any good gun fanatic knows, a snappy name for a project gun is a prerequisite, so my ballistic-happy inner child and I decided the system would be named Project Snuffy.



A major upgrade for Project Snuffy is the addition of the Crimson Trace LG-203 Lasergrip.

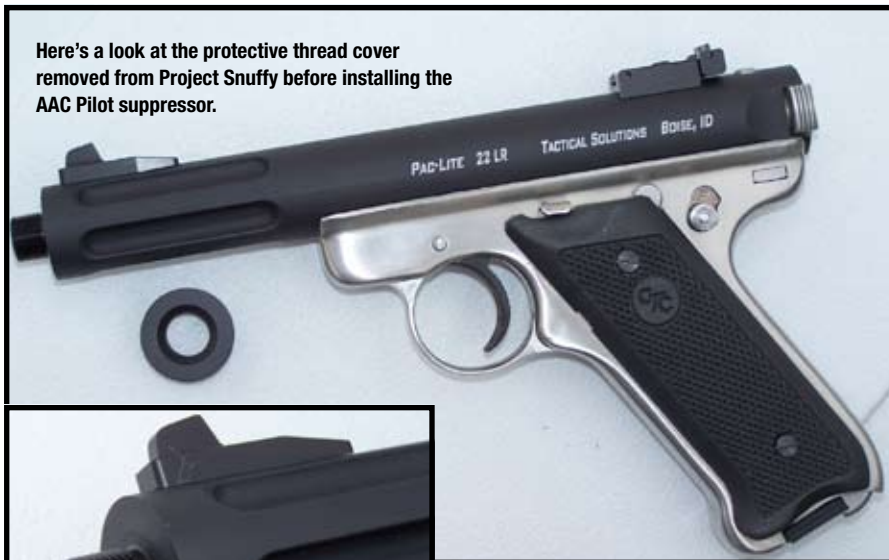
Everything I needed to effectively turn a nice but hefty target pistol into a whisper-quiet, feather-light .22-caliber night fighter was available commercial off the shelf (COTS).

First, my buddy handed over his lightly-used 5.5-inch stainless Mark II Bull Barrel for a sum that was a bit less than half of the manufacturer's suggested retail price.

DuVal shipped me a CTC Lasergrip Model LG-203. This is the model

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Here's a look at the protective thread cover removed from Project Snuffy before installing the AAC Pilot suppressor.



Here's a close-up look at the threaded end of the Tactical Solutions Pac-Lite 4.5" barrel. The unit is threaded at 1/2x28 tpi.



The Pilot .22LR suppressor for AAC proved a good piece of kit that renders any .22 rimfire a smooth and quiet operational tool.

that will fit onto any Ruger rimfire frame manufactured since 1949. (Manufacturer's note: CTC will be replacing this Lasergrip with an upgrade that will feature front activation with a rubber overmolded grip.)

Finally, I called another gun company good guy, Dan Person of Tactical Solutions, and soon I had a matte-black 4.5-inch Pac-Lite with a threaded end barrel extending out the end of its aircraft 6061-T6 aluminum receiver. The weight on this puppy was a delightful 8.2 ounces.

The conversion from stodgy Connecticut paper puncher into a svelte, new age hushpuppy took about 15 minutes because I'm a far better writer than gun wrencher. But it came together fast enough and the change was astonishing in its handling characteristics.

Don't get me wrong, I've owned a blued, 5.5-inch Mark I Bull Barrel since I got the manager of the Beale AFB Rod & Gun Club to order it from J&G Sales

back in 1979. That good old pistol has been a faithful companion in the field and killed close to 32,000 empty soft drink and adult beverage cans at ranges and creek banks across America.

I even used it once to back down an emotionally disturbed and dangerous fellow veteran who'd escaped from a VA hospital and was trying to break into my apartment in 1984. My big pistols were at my parents' home 30 miles away; in this case, mere presence of a "mouse gun" was all that was needed.

But the ol' girl has never been a partner you want to carry a lot, due to its hefty weight. To my way of thinking, a 42-ounce pistol ought to be capable of spitting out 10 or more bullets of .40 or larger caliber, rather than 10 rounds of .22.

All that changed in the 15-minute transformation on my old gun's near-identical Mark II stainless twin.

The half-pound Pac-Lite receiver instantly rendered the Ruger into a 29.4-ounce packing delight. That's a 12.6-ounce reduction in trail weight!

The CTC Lasergrip overhaul was as simple as unscrewing the original grips, inserting the included batteries and screwing the new grips on.

### Shooting Impressions

I drove to the family acreage and shot the pistol using both iron sights and the CTC LG-203's laser aimer.

Tactical Solutions' own iron sights came atop the wispy Pac-Lite upper and grouped my favorite (and cheapest) ammo into about half an inch at 10 yards. But after getting the CTC laser dialed in, I was surprised to find I actually planted the rounds closer together at the same distance; an unmeasured ragged hole that struck right on top

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of the dot at 10 yards. Call it Minute of Tear Duct at practical engagement ranges.

The project was coming along as planned, except I didn't yet have the means to make Snuffy quiet.

After a brief sojourn in the world of gun manufacturing, I'd returned to the law enforcement fold with a pretty hefty reduction in salary. That made acquiring an AAC Pilot model suppressor a distant proposition, not only due to the price of the unit, but the \$200 transfer fee necessary to register this National Firearms Act-controlled product.

But karma struck again when I saw a co-worker exhibiting a Walther P22 with what appeared to be a threaded barrel to another friend in the Sheriff's Office parking lot. Sidling up like any self-respecting gun junkie would, I spied a suppressor nestled inside a custom carrying case along with a box of CCI Subsonic Hollowpoint loads. The inscription on the can said AAC and Pilot.

After recovering from my dizzy spell, I asked the young captain if he might let a brother screw his Pilot onto a purpose-built low light suppressed weapon system. He not only agreed, but posed for a picture or two while firing into a safe backstop.

Advanced Armament's website says the 5.2-inch long Pilot offers a sound reduction of -41 decibels (dB). I know for sure that it weighs the stated 3 ounces, bringing the curb weight of Project Snuffy up to 32.4 ounces, about 10 ounces less than the stock Ruger Bull Barrel.

Not having access to the array of equipment needed to accurately measure the decibel level of Project Snuffy, suffice it to say that with the suppressor on, it sounds like a Crosman pellet rifle with about five pumps on it. Without the suppressor on it, it is ear-splitting loud.

We were able to put the level of suppression to the ultimate test, backyard plinking with neighbors no more than 100 feet away. Again, this firing was done with soft-dirt backstop safety monitors.

As we shredded a few soft drink cans and fired some groups using only the CTC Lasergrip, it was clear that if they did notice we were plinking they assumed we were using a BB gun (a usual occurrence at my house).

My highly unscientific conclusion: Project Snuffy is more than quiet enough for its intended missions.

## Mission Specific

For my purposes, when I finally obtain my own AAC Pilot it'll be used



After setting point of aim/point of impact at 10 yards with the CTC Lasergrip, author fired three rounds into this tight cluster at this distance with the suppressor installed.



Author's son enjoyed working on a squirrel target with Project Snuffy off the back deck.

interchangeably on Snuffy and a Ruger 10/22 that I plan to also equip with a Tactical Solutions threaded barrel.

Far more rounds are fired by police officers in my area destroying car-injured deer, coyote and other critters than are fired in gunfights, thankfully.

Having knocked off a crippled deer or two in my time, I know well that gunfire attracts the horrified attention of a public that frequently misinterprets these merciful killings as the murder of a Walt Disney character.

Noise-free euthanasia would be better, and might even save some paperwork, depending on department policy, by using a personal firearm rather than an issued one.

The other mission is revenge-oriented. Not revenge against people, but against the hundreds of squirrels that have mocked me while I sat in tree-stands waiting for non-injured deer to wander by.

It is axiomatic that when I go squirrel hunting, the tasty rodents are in short supply, yet when on the deer stand the woods teem with gray and fox squirrel that often approach within 5 to 10 yards.

Carrying a .22 rifle with relatively quiet CB caps is a notion I've entertained but never done because of the administrative problems of carrying two long guns into the woods. A .22 hand-

gun with any load is simply too loud.

Guess what? With Snuffy at hand, putting the cute red dot on a squirrel's head and dropping the makings of some Brunswick stew will become SOP for my deer hunts!

While I'm not currently in a narcotics unit where it would be handy to have a suppressed .22 to knock out lights or flatten car tires, there are a lot of those teams around who might find a similar setup quite useful.

While perusing CTC's website, I noticed the LG-203 has a National Stock Number (NSN# 5855-01-466-5212) and is also available in an infrared beam version. So it's quite likely suppressed Rugers are currently deployed in defense of our nation's freedom.

I can't think of better kit with which to go quietly spelunking or urban exploring in Southwest Asia these days.

With our nation's special operations warriors already burdened by a plethora of gear, I would imagine some smart Jedi has already experimented with a setup similar to Project Snuffy to lighten his load.

## Final Notes

If you've been toying with the idea of getting into Class III ownership, a suppressor is an ideal way to start.

I've found the combination of Ruger Mark II, Crimson Trace Lasergrip, Tactical Solutions Pac-Lite upper, and Advanced Armament Pilot suppressor to be a quite satisfactory gun project that will provide years of service and much shooting fun for me and members of my family.

All these products are highly recommended. I'm currently considering putting a 3-inch Pac-Lite on my '79 Mark I Bull Barrel for a non-suppressed packing semi-auto kit gun. Of course, the 2007 Harleys have just been introduced ...

### For more information contact:

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#### CrimsonTrace

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Beaverton, OR 97008; 800-442-2406;  
www.crimsontrace.com/gwle

#### Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc.

200 Ruger Rd., Dept CH, Prescott, AZ  
86301; 928-778-6555; www.ruger.com

#### Tactical Solutions

P.O. Box 170126, Dept CH, Boise, ID 83717;  
866-333-9901; www.tacticalsol.com