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- WASHINGTON'S CROSSING TODAY
- HELD SNIPING AT 40 KNOTS
- TORTURING SAINT VICTOR
- SAVAGE & LMT VALKYRIES
- PATRIOT'S NEW REVOLUTION
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ATHLON PUBLICATIONS



# A NEW REVOLUTION

POF-USA PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS  
TO MAKE THIS SLEEK  
DIRECT-IMPINGEMENT VERSION



When people talk about innovation in the AR market, it's generally met with an eye roll and expectations of a new color scheme or laser-engraved dragons.

But that isn't the case when the folks in white lab coats emerge from the secret development bunker at Patriot Ordnance Factory, or POF-USA. Well, OK, they aren't wearing white lab coats, nor do they have a secret bunker, but the imagery is what's important because what they developed might as well be from such a scene. And it all started with POF-USA's owner, Frank DeSomma, saying, "It's time for a revolution."

## LIGHTWEIGHT UPRISING

POF-USA absolutely changed the game when it released the original Revolution in .308 Winchester/7.62mm NATO. For those still unaware of this masterpiece, let me bring you up to speed. At first glance, the Revolution looks like almost any rifle in POF-USA's lineup. If it was sitting beside one of the company's other ARs, you'd be hard-pressed to tell the difference. But then there's the magazine well. It draws your eye because something isn't right with this 5.56mm gun. Upon closer inspection, you'll realize that this isn't a standard 5.56mm. Instead, it packs much larger rounds. Yes, it is

that close in appearance and size to a standard AR-15.

The idea of a lightweight AR in a larger caliber isn't new, but while most companies race to reduce weight by just skeletonizing parts or chopping length, the Revolution was designed and built from the ground up. The entire gun is smaller than any AR-10-style rifle out there, and dramatically so. The Revolution features many standard 5.56mm parts, such as the charging handle, bolt carrier and buffer. In the front half, you'll find AR-15 parts like the heat-sink barrel nut, handguard and five-position gas piston operating system. The barrel extension, bolt



assembly and receivers are the exact same size as those on an AR-15.

This rifle was an immediate hit in the firearms world. In quick succession, it won Industry Choice and Golden Bullseye awards as well as a *Ballistic's Best Editor's Choice* award last year. For many companies, this success would be an excuse to sit back and smile. But POF-USA isn't your average company.

### INSIDE THE REVOLUTION

As you would expect from POF-USA, the new direct-impingement (DI) version of the Revolution is a tack driver. It features a match-grade, 16.5-inch, nitride heat-treated barrel with a 1-in-10-inch twist rate. The muzzle also has 5/8x24-tpi threading, and POF-USA includes a triple-port muzzle brake. The rifle comes with the popular nine-position-adjustable Dictator gas block, which allows you

to tune the gun for suppressor use, your ammunition and conditions.

One feature I really like about the Revolution DI is that it comes with POF-USA's E<sup>2</sup> dual-extraction technology. This proprietary design consists of four small channels cut into the walls of the chamber, allowing a small amount of gas pressure to push against the neck of the spent case. This pressure assists in extraction by breaking the seal between the chamber and case as well as pushing the spent case to the rear as the extractor is pulled to the rear. This removes a tremendous amount of work that would otherwise be left to the extractor alone. A rifle at this level is as much an investment as it is a purpose-driven tool. Having design features that help extend the life of your purchase is the sign of a good company.

POF-USA's trigger choice is solid as well. The Revolution DI uses a

4.5-pound drop-in trigger with KNS Precision anti-walk pins. This is a great trigger with a forward design that naturally guides the tip of your finger to the same resting place for a precise, smooth, consistent trigger pull every single time. The other controls—including the safety, bolt release and magazine release—are ambidextrous as well. Finally, in terms of furniture, the gun sports a 14.5-inch, free-floating M-LOK handguard with four integral QD sling points as well as a Mission First Tactical (MFT) grip and stock.

### NEVER OUTGUNNED

Frank DeSomma's idea behind the development of the Revolution is what I will call "ballistic overmatch." In the battle of the guns, the two main players are the AR-15 and the AK-47. Power-wise, the 5.56mm of the AR-15 doesn't have as much mojo as the 7.62x39mm, and Frank knows it. He shared with me that his goal is to provide people a lightweight platform that's ballistically superior to the AK, thus providing a ballistic overmatch. His ultimate dream was to develop a .30-caliber platform that was as close to the same size as an AR-15 as possible, and he succeeded.

Unlike the AR-10s that fill the marketplace, the Revolution DI isn't just a precision or long-range gun. While it maintains these characteristics, it's also designed as a primary-carry fighting rifle. From engagements at bad-breath distances to targets half a mile away, the Revolution DI is designed to handle it all.

A trip to the range would allow me to test this design premise and

Because the Revolution DI carries like a 5.56mm AR-15, the author tested it with a Leupold scope suitable for a variety of tasks, not just long-range precision.

see if the Revolution DI could indeed be a new big brother to the AR-15. The testing would include both precision work and closer drills to evaluate the rifle's ability to end a fight in a hurry. With the gun being designed as a multi-use platform, I packed along a variety of ammo ranging from 155 grains on up to 175 grains. I also installed an optic that could serve well in both roles: the Leupold 1-6x20mm Mark 6. While this isn't exactly a long-range scope, its 6X magnification served me well at the testing distances.

To measure the Revolution DI's inherent accuracy, I used a support bag with a sand sock positioned at the rear. After warming the barrel up, I shot five-round groups at 100 yards. I was pleased to find that all of my groups were under an inch, with Federal's 175-grain Gold Medal Match rounds creating the smallest group at exactly half an inch.

### SPEC BOX

## POF-USA REVOLUTION DI

CALIBER:	7.62mm NATO
BARREL:	16.5 inches
OA LENGTH:	34 inches
WEIGHT:	6.81 pounds (empty)
STOCK:	MFT Battlelink Minimalist
SIGHTS:	None
ACTION:	Direct impingement semi-auto
FINISH:	Matte black
CAPACITY:	20+1
MSRP:	\$2,570

### PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Black Hills 155 TMK	2,688	0.80
Federal 175 Gold Medal Match	2,325	0.50
Hornady 168 Match BTHP	2,318	0.81

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.



**"THE REVOLUTION DI IS A WORLD-CLASS FIGHTING RIFLE THAT PERFORMED AS PROMISED."**

But the true test in my mind would be whether the Revolution DI would perform like the AR-15s I've shot for so many years. So the next part of the evaluation focused on the gun's ability to launch .308 rounds without being too pushy and slowing me down while engaging targets at pace. And what I found surprised me. In fact, I shot the string three times after the initial test to confirm my times and hits. I was able to run the Revolution DI on a set of six steel targets at various distances in almost the same amount of time that I needed with a 5.56mm. In the end, the average time difference was less than one-tenth of a second. The accuracy was on par, if not better, as each target received a double-tap before I moved on. In short, the gun is fast, and it manages .308 rounds very well.

The push I felt was smooth, and the muzzle brake definitely contributed my quick run times. The rifle is also almost humorously light, coming in at only 6.81 pounds unloaded. The Revolution DI was actually lighter than the 5.56mm gun I brought along to the range. This makes the recoil management even more interesting. When it came time to push the gun out to longer distances, the Revolution DI's lightweight nature did slow me down just a touch. While the muzzle brake is spectacular, the laws of physics still apply. Shooting a 10-inch plate at 800 yards was an easy task with the Revolution DI, but the recoil and muzzle flip were noticeable. But bear in mind that I was running the gun at speed on targets almost half a mile away. Every gun moves while firing. If



you run a bolt gun as heavy as a pickup truck, you just won't notice it as much.

The Revolution DI is a world-class fighting rifle that performed as promised. And in my humble opinion, it's the rifle of the future for anyone serious about fighting with a long gun. The military and law enforcement communities would be well served by taking a hard look at the Revolution DI, not to mention law-abiding citizens who want extra power without the extra bulk. The Revolution is here, and it's being led by POF-USA. For more information, visit [pof-usa.com](http://pof-usa.com).

**Editor's Note:** *The first episode of our new video series Sweat, Lead & Steel: Stories of Greatness in the Gun Industry, made in partnership with our flagship publication, Ballistic, features POF-USA's founder, Frank DeSomma. Check it out online at [tactical-life.com/pof-steel](http://tactical-life.com/pof-steel).*