

# SILENT STUNNER

## DIY BUILD SHEET FOR A FOLD-AND-SHOOT, 300 BLK FRANKENSTEIN

**M**y goal was to build a suppressed rifle for clandestine transport that was as short as possible without sacrificing terminal ballistics and suppressor performance. I wanted a gun that I can put in a short case that does not look like a gun case and that can easily negotiate the tight confines of an automobile, hallways, doorways, etc. I did not want to use a miniature suppressor, as the sound reduction is minimalized. Nor did I want to compromise with an ultra-short barrel since the length reduction reduces velocity and decreases terminal performance.

The obvious choice of caliber was 300 Blackout since it is designed to attain full velocity in a 9-inch barrel. My suppressor choice was LMT's new VBS300. It is an 8-inch, over-the-barrel design that shrouds 3 inches of the barrel. To reduce the stock length, I went with Dead Foot Arms' folding stock adapter. When folded, it adds just 2.5 inches to the receiver and can be fired when folded if time is critical.

Before picking the handguard length, I needed to finalize the barrel length. I chose a 9.5-inch barrel from DEZ Arms. I would have preferred a 9-inch, but I wanted to make sure

that there was enough clearance against the handguard. With the suppressor covering 3 inches, the exposed barrel is just under 6.5 inches long. With that dimension determined, I ordered a 5.75-inch handguard along with billet receivers from Special Ops Tactical.

This is my second build with Special Ops Tactical components. I was very pleased with the quality, fit and finish of the first. Special Ops Tactical engineers, designs and manufactures products from raw materials including receivers, free-float rail systems, muzzle brakes, barrels and other components. The company also assembles complete rifles, pistols, uppers and lower receivers from its own components. Special Ops Tactical just moved and expanded to a new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility.

### THE DEVILISH DETAILS

CNC machined from 7075 T6 billet, the receivers can be finished with Type III Class II black anodizing, Cerakote and battle worn finishes. The lower features an integrated, machined triggerguard, reinforced buffer tube area, flared magazine well and upper tension screw. The upper features M4 feed ramps, machined engraved "T" numbers,

[ BY DAVID KENIK ]







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With a DEZ Tactical Arms barrel, nickel boron BCG from Ballistic Advantage and other top-quality parts, the quiet build was a not-so-roaring success.



enhanced shell deflector and increased wall thickness for added rigidity.

The Special Ops Tactical Disintegrator handguard is a machined, one-piece extrusion. CNC cut from 6061-T6 aircraft-grade aluminum, it features a free-float, anti-rotation design with M-Lok attachment points and QD sling sockets. The receivers and handguard for this article were finished in battle-worn bronze, which looks great against the black components.

The DEZ Arms barrel is made from 4150 CMV (chrome-moly vanadium) steel and features a six-groove, 1:8 twist, M4-cut barrel extension, lapped bore and polished chamber. DEZ Arms uses the pulled-button rifling process, which leaves a smooth, bright finish

inside the barrel. The process produces bore and groove dimensions that are very consistent, and the barrels are very accurate. The barrel is hardened to 26-33 RC, giving it a long life. Exterior features include detailed contouring and rich, dark black manganese phosphate finish. Fluting options include straight flute or spiral.

DEZ Tactical Arms, Inc. has been manufacturing and selling its custom, Wisconsin-made rifles since 2012. The customer can choose the parts and have a custom rifle built and backed by a lifetime warranty. Most of the components on every rifle are manufactured by DEZ, which results in higher quality and tighter tolerances.

## SILENCE, PLEASE!

LMT's VBS300 suppressor was designed by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and licensed by LMT. It is touted as "the only design to simultaneously mitigate blowback, flash, sound pressure and extreme thermal buildup." Manufactured in-house of Inconel and stainless steel, the VBS300 is full-auto rated. It passes SOCOM's SURG high performance stress test and is designed to minimize point of impact shift, reduce cyclic rate increase and maintain a lower surface temperature than its competition.

The VBS300 accomplishes all that by employing the company's Virtual Baffle System technology. Not being able to explain it any better myself, here are the words right from Michael Neff, LMT's director of engineering: "At the core of the LMT suppressor's performance is what is termed a virtual baffle. This phenomenon occurs when high pressure propellant gasses exit the muzzle of the barrel, aft of the projectile, to create a disk of compressed gasses within the baffle's geometry. This feature is tuned to provide optimal effectiveness at blocking propellant gasses from flowing through the bore line of the suppressor. Gasses are subsequently forced to flow through a coaxial chamber along the suppressor outer shell. This concept is a major advancement in suppressor design technology, making the benefits identified...possible."

## LET IT FOLD

The biggest reduction in overall length was accomplished with Deadfoot Arms' folding stock adapter. With stock folded, overall length is reduced from 32.5



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**PERFORMANCE**

**SPECIAL OPS TACTICAL BUILD**

SUPERSONIC LOAD	VELOCITY ▼	ACCURACY ┌ AVERAGE BEST ┐	
		Black Hills 125 OTM	1,930
Sig Sauer 125	1,957	0.60	0.375
SUBSONIC LOAD	VELOCITY ▼	ACCURACY ┌ AVERAGE BEST ┐	
		Black Hills 220 OTM	981
Hornady 208 AMAX	986	0.50	0.375
Sig Sauer 220	944	0.95	0.750

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

inches to just 25, including the suppressor. The best part is that the rifle can be fired with the stock folded.

The folding stock adapter uses Deadfoot Arms' shortened cycle system in which the springs do not extend into the buffer tube. This is the key to enabling the rifle to be fired when folded. In addition to the hinge itself, the adapter includes Deadfoot's M16-style bolt carrier group coated in TB-41 ION Bond DLC (diamond-like coating), plunger, recoil spring and two buffer springs. The blue spring is standard strength and the red is light. There is also a black spring available for 9mm usage. The systems are available to fold to either side. While folded, the stock is held by friction so manual unlocking is not needed to unfold it. The system is designed to allow easy access to the fire control group with the stock or brace in the folding configuration, while also providing clearance to the forward assist and ejection port.

Due to the spring and plunger design, separating the receivers equipped with a Deadfoot Arms folding stock adapter is different than the standard AR15's manual of arms. Before separating the upper, the adapter's endcap must be unscrewed and removed, which releases

the plunger and recoil springs. While different than the standard AR, it is very simple and fast.

For the pistol brace, I chose Deadfoot Arms' G-Rex Telescoping Tailhook Brace that was designed for use with the folding adapter. The primary reason for my decision is its short length of only 5.5 inches, which mates well with the folding adapter that extends 2.5 inches from the receiver. The length of the two together measures just 8 inches. Rather than a rubber cuff that you insert your arm into, the G-Rex uses Deadfoot's aluminum Tailhook brace, which folds down to support the underside of the arm for one-handed shooting. I find this system more comfortable and ergonomic than the rubber cuff. The tube length is adjustable by nearly 3 inches with five positions and offers a button-free deployment. Just pull and go. A stop can be installed to a predetermined length, but I found it fits me best at the shortest position. The telescoping tube does not work with standard AR buffer systems.

**FINISHING TOUCHES**

The last major components were the bolt carrier group and sights. I installed a nickel boron BCG from Ballistic



← The author utilized a Deadfoot Arms folding stock adapter in the build, allowing the stock to easily fold over for a total length of only 25 inches.



Once all the components are gathered, putting all the pieces together to make an AR-15-style rifle is a simple project if you've done it a time—or 10—before, and minimal tools are needed. Make sure you pay attention to detail, however, as it's easy to daydream about perfect function, half-inch groups and stellar competition runs before the build is even completed.

Advantage. Its primary feature is that burnt carbon wipes right off. It works so well that I will never use one without nickel boron again.

My sight of choice is Aimpoint's CompM5. Aimpoint's reliability, durability and battery life can't be beat. The M5 offers the M4's legendary long battery life in a micro form. The M5 could be mistaken for a micro save for its slightly longer length and AAA battery tube.

Notable smaller components include a Bravo Company Gunfighter charging handle, caliber-marked dust cover from customardustcover.com, Radial Weapons' Talon selector, enhanced magazine release and MOE-K2 rubber overmold grip. The K2 offers a more vertical grip angle, which improves comfort and control on short LOP rifles that bring the primary hand in closer to the shooter's body. I really like Magpul's rubber over-

mold because it's easier to grasp when sweaty and is more comfortable to hold than plastic.

### PARTING SHOTS

Overall, the build turned out to be exactly what I wanted. I did numerous shoot-while-moving drills along with multiple target engagements. The gun functioned perfectly with numerous brands of ammo. At 1.9 pounds, the LMT VBS suppressor did add noticeable weight to the front end of the gun, but full suppression and diminutive length is more valuable to me than the concern over weight. The fit and finish of the Special Ops Tactical components were perfect, and the accuracy of the DEZ Arms barrel was excellent. If optimum performance in a compact package is on your radar, the LMT VBS suppressor and Deadfoot Arms folding adapter are highly recommended. 🎯

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Looking for more DIY AR building content?** Athlon Outdoors is proud to present its latest video series called Project AR Giveaway with host Sean Utley. Watch as Utley builds an awesome lightweight AR using Aero Precision parts, as well as parts from other manufacturers such as Rise Armament and Midwest Industries. Check out tactical-life.com/projectAR-1 for more information.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION



**AIMPOINT**  
aimpoint.us

**BALLISTIC ADVANTAGE**  
ballisticadvantage.com

**BRAVO COMPANY**  
bravocompanyusa.com

**CUSTOM DUST COVER**  
customardustcover.com

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