

# AR-15

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# PUMP AR

AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURER  
SCSA OFFERS THE 50-STATE-LEGAL  
TAIPAN X.

BY AARON BERGER

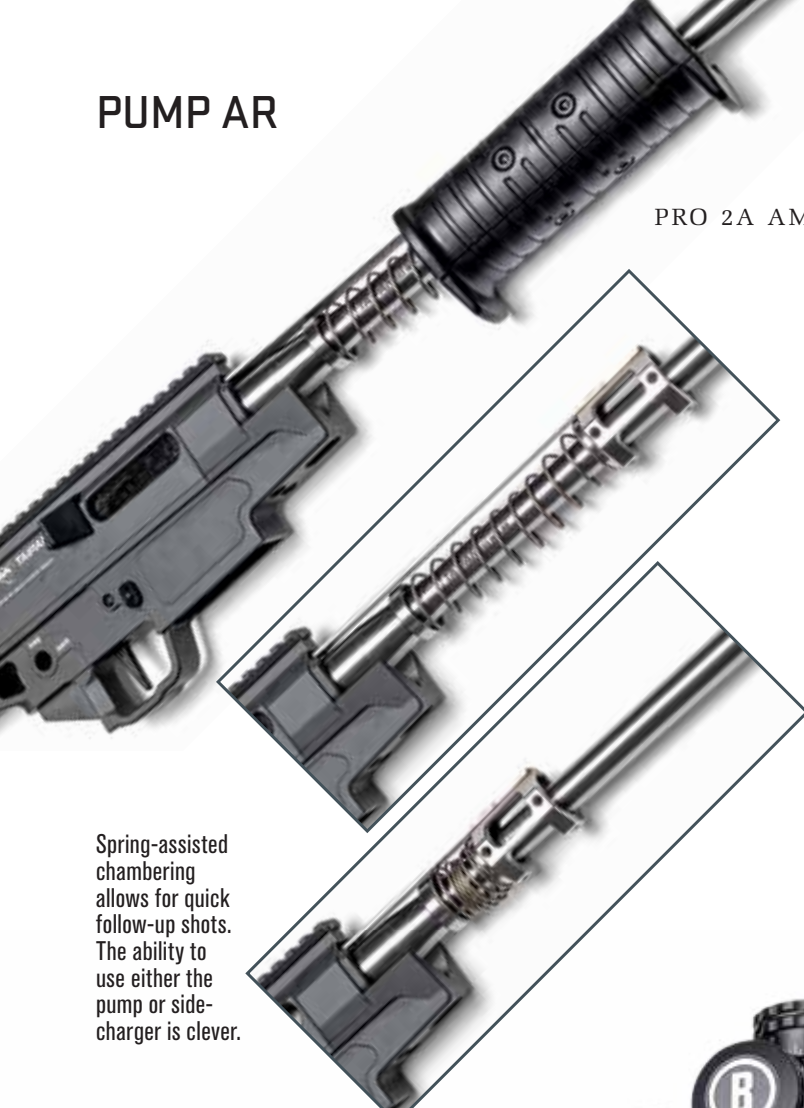
# PUMP AR

PRO 2A AMERICANS IN STATES THROUGHOUT THE country have been gut punched with antigun legislation, making it harder to own AR-15-pattern firearms. The Taipan X, however, aims to change that. By swapping the semiauto components with a manual pump/straight-pull action, the Taipan X is 50-state legal. In addition, the design complies with even stricter gun laws in Australia where the gun is manufactured by Southern Cross Small Arms (SCSA).

The action in this firearm has some tricks up its sleeve. The first of these is the spring under the handguard, which spirals around the barrel. This spring compresses as the action is pumped rearwards. When the pump is released, it slams the action shut. While the spring-assisted chambering does help to ensure proper lockup while working the pump, it is much more effective when utilized as a second way of manipulating the action.

When looking at the left side of the rifle, you'll note that there is a slot cut into the receiver. This inlet allows the attachment of a free-spinning

Spring-assisted chambering allows for quick follow-up shots. The ability to use either the pump or side-charger is clever.



handle, effectively giving the user a straight-pull, bolt-action rifle. When shooting from any position that would engage a bipod, the straight-pull bolt is infinitely easier to use, and this is where the spring assist shines. When shooting prone off a bipod, simply pull the bolt to the rear, let go, and another round is ready. It's the fastest way to make follow-up shots.

## MULTI-USE

For testing, I started at 100 yards and shot off a bench with a Bushnell 4.5-18X optic. The Taipan X weighs 7 pounds and produced consistent 1.5-MOA groups at 100 yards with heavier 69- and 75-grain projectiles. The trigger had an average pull weight of 6.5 pounds. However, it had no takeup and only a slight bit of creep. The design makes it one of the better single-stage, mil-spec-feeling triggers I've used. For those that want a lighter trigger, third-party offerings are available.

Moving over to the 25-yard bays, I swapped the optic for a Bushnell TRS-26 and shot defensive drills. Swinging between targets, the gun balanced a bit heavy in the rear. Personally, I preferred this, as it kept fatigue off my pumping arm. Running an El Prez drill revealed that not every magazine played well with the Taipan X. There were no feeding issues, but some magazines did not drop free when released. Others wouldn't insert or had to be tapped in and muscled out.



I was left scratching my head when the included Magpul magazine worked fine, but mine wouldn't lock into the gun. Comparing them side by side, it seems the second-generation magazines have extra material on the magazine body where the follower would normally engage the last round bolt hold-open. This prevents interfacing with a tab in the magwell that normally keep mags from being over inserted. The tab can easily be removed, and after I had done so, the magazines worked flawlessly.

Though the Taipan X's trigger shares the same hole size and position of this Rise trigger, the Taipan X would require a second hole in the lower receiver to properly lock in an AR trigger.

Left: Note the circled areas on the back of the magazine. The gen 2 (top) magazine has material the gen 3 (bottom) does not.

Below: What appears to be an over-insertion tab can easily be removed to use a wider variety of magazines.



# PUMP AR

The panels that attach to operate the pump-action can easily be removed.



After running drills, I swapped back to the 4.5-18X scope and moved to the 300-yard range. I removed the panels that engaged the pump-action so I could shoot from a bagged position without uprooting the gun from the bag, certainly a bonus made possible by the multi-action setup.

While testing at the range, the Taipan X's flexibility to fill multiple roles wasn't lost. Want to hunt pigs off a tripod? Add an ARCA-Swiss plate to the section between the handguard and magwell. As for home defense, QD slots for slings and M-LOK slots for weaponlights built into the frame didn't leave me wanting. Some might consider 5 rounds of 12 gauge their ideal setup, but pumping through a magazine of 5.56 has its advantages. I can even imagine this gun being used as a ranch rifle or truck gun. With a Cerakote finish that cleans up easily, adjustable comb height, and the multiple spacers that are included to adjust the length of pull, this Taipan X offers a lot out of the box.

Speaking of last round bolt hold-open, the Taipan X sort of has one. After the last shot is fired, the magazine follower prevents the action from closing. However, when the magazine is released, the spring-assist slams the action closed before another mag can be inserted. Though there is a cross-bolt lock under the rear of the 1913 rail that will lock the bolt back, having to fully pump the action back and use the trigger hand to lock the bolt rearward was a bit awkward.



The BCG operates similarly to a traditional AR-15, though pump cycling is done via the action bar, which interfaces with the top of the carrier.



## TAIPAN X

<b>Type</b>	Pump-action repeater
<b>Cartridge</b>	5.56 NATO
<b>Finish</b>	Cerakote Gray
<b>Barrel Length</b>	16.5 in.
<b>Muzzle</b>	1/2x28 threaded
<b>Overall Length</b>	34.75 in.
<b>Weight</b>	7 lbs.
<b>Capacity</b>	10+1 rds.
<b>Safety</b>	Ambi manual safety
<b>MSRP</b>	\$1,299
<b>Importer</b>	Legacy Sports International legacysports.com

The forward most bolts attach the handguard to the lower receiver. They are also the mounting points for optional accessories.



Adjustability of the stock and comb allow the shooter to sit in just the right spot behind the scope.

### SUMMARY

Considering the gun's legality in 50 states (at the time of writing) coupled with a multitude of common AR compatible parts, this gun is intriguing. The Taipan X offers a one-of-a-kind shooting experience. The 5.56 is capable of taking down deer or even black bears inside of 400 yards as well as making follow-up shots faster with its spring-assist system. I could see using the Taipan X in the future as a competition, hunting, and home-defense rifle in states that don't allow standard AR-15s. \*

### TAKEDOWN

Disassembly of the pump chassis does require tools. The front four bolts between the magwell and the handguard and one behind the grip are removed by a hex key to separate the upper and lower sections and to get to the bolt carrier. The firing pin can be swapped with any standard AR. However, the cam pin, bolt, and carrier are unique to the Taipan system. The barrel and pump mechanism are proprietary, too, but there is room for customization.

Since I was already stripping it down, I decided to see what portions of the Taipan X worked with aftermarket AR parts. I put on an ODIN Works magazine release and safety selector as well as a B5 Type 22 grip. Due to the shape of the receiver above the grip, it should be noted that grips with an extended tang (such as the B5 Type 23 grip) won't attach to the firearm. Happily, the safety selector works in both the 45-degree short throw and full 90-degree throw configurations as does the magazine release.



The Taipan X's ability to work with common AR-15 upgrades will make any owner pleased.