

THE

7 THINGS

EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW
BEFORE BUYING A SILENCER



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



AMTAC

SUPPRESSORS

INTRODUCTION

Believe it or not, there's more to choosing the right suppressor than just the caliber or decibel rating.

As with nearly everything in the firearms industry, a quick search will provide you with an overwhelming amount of information about suppressors. What's more, while some of it comes from knowledgeable individuals, far too much has been created and dispersed by people with too much time on their hands and little understanding of suppressor technology.

With that in mind, we created this short guide to highlight and explain key considerations to help you find the right suppressor for you. First, understand that nothing you read (here or anywhere else) is a hard-and-fast rule, there are exceptions to everything, but using the tips and tools below will help you choose the right tool for the job.



1

STOP TRYING TO FIND

“THE BEST” SUPPRESSOR

So, who makes the best suppressor?

The answer is: no one.

That might sound odd coming from a suppressor company that prides itself on the quality, innovation and performance of its product. But the fact is that every suppressor has its own advantages and drawbacks. There really is no best design or best brand, just the best design and brand for you.

A QD brake-attached, end-mount suppressor may be perfect for you, but it may be a terrible choice for someone who should be running a direct-thread, over-barrel model (we'll explain why later). You need to find the suppressor that fits your needs, and it varies from shooter to shooter. So stop trying to find the best suppressor on the market and start figuring out what your own unique needs are.

BONUS TIP:

Many silencers can be used with multiple calibers. For example, if you're looking at a silencer for your AR-15 but also have a .30 caliber rifle, you might consider a .30 caliber for use on both guns. For just the cost of an inexpensive thread adapter and a slight dB increase, you could enjoy your suppressor on multiple guns instead of just one.



2

DIRECT THREAD VS QUICK DISCONNECT

“Quick Disconnect” is a bit of a misnomer.

QUICK DISCONNECT

Some QD designs are actually not very fast to attach, and some direct-threads can be very quick. It is important to note that because suppressors get extremely hot after even moderate use, they must be allowed to cool before being removed no matter the attachment system. So purchasing a QD attachment isn't going to save you that much time in disassembling and getting on your way.

What a QD attachment does provide the user is the ability to use a flash hider or muzzle brake when shooting unsuppressed. Most people who buy a suppressor rarely shoot without it, but there are circumstances where it may be handy. QD designs also tend to do a better job staying tight during rapid or full-auto fire, but the use of a conical lock washer can mitigate this problem on a direct-thread can.

DIRECT THREAD

Because a direct-thread suppressor mounts to your barrel without an intermediate connection, they tend to be more accurate than QD suppressors, making the screw-on option a favorite in the precision rifle community. Direct-thread suppressors also provide a more consistent return to zero, and they tend to have less point-of-impact shift than QD designs.



3

FIND THE SOUND THAT SUITS YOUR EARS

What's in a decibel?

Without getting too far into the weeds on a very complicated subject, we'll try to talk briefly about dB ratings. Suppressors are rated by their decibel reduction (intensity), which is different than perceived sound (loudness). While these two factors are related, when intensity increases by a factor of 10, loudness only doubles.

Measuring sound is much different than measuring something like weight—it's not as uniform of a metric. Ammunition, barrel length, action, temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, altitude, the surface you're standing on and the objects around you all have an impact on both measured and perceived sound.

To make matters even more confusing, sometimes a suppressor

can even sound louder or quieter than what the numbers say. In practice, people often report that one suppressor sounds quieter than another, even though it rates several decibels higher. The reason for this is that our ears perceive sound very differently than a microphone.

In addition, there are plenty of ways numbers can be skewed during testing and still be within the Mil standard. So what can you trust? **Trust your own ears.**

Shoot the suppressor you plan to buy, do it next to other suppressors you are considering, and then use the quality of sound as one of the many determining factors when choosing your next can.



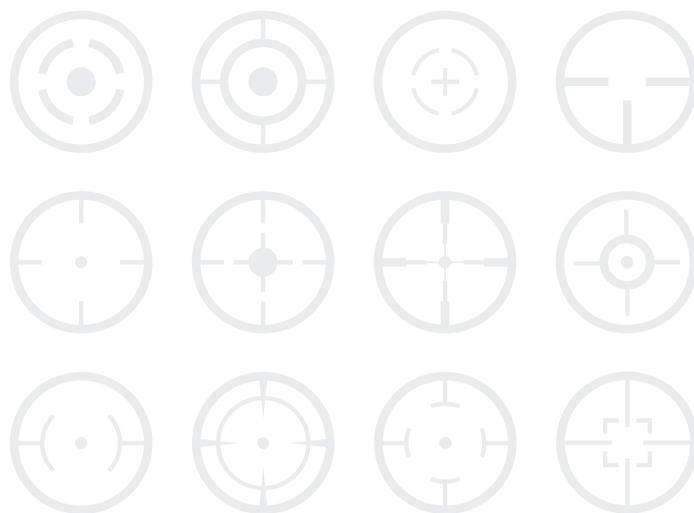
4

POI SHIFT AND RETURN TO ZERO

How suppressors change trajectory:

Point of Impact Shift (the difference between where your bullet impacts when shooting suppressed vs. unsuppressed) has more to do with your rifle than your suppressor. The longer and skinnier a barrel is, the more impact shift you're likely to experience. A good suppressor will provide a consistent impact shift, so you know exactly what that change will be and can adjust accordingly.

A good suppressor should also provide a consistent return to zero. If you remove the suppressor and then re-attach it, your rounds should land in exactly the same place. When you're comparing brands or models, shoot suppressed and unsuppressed to get an idea of deviation from one group to the next.



5

SIZE MATTERS

LONGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER.

Consider overall length.

If only noise mattered, all suppressors would be three feet long and nine inches in diameter and your gun would be really quiet. However, a suppressor has to hang off the end of the pistol or rifle that you carry, so compromises must be made.

All things being equal, longer suppressors tend to be quieter, but they have their drawbacks.

If you get a 10" SBR and purchase an 8" suppressor for it, you're right back to an 18" rifle. Sure, it's quiet, but you just lost all of the maneuverability you gained by paying Uncle Sam \$200 to cut down your barrel.

Consider the overall length of your system with and without your suppressor, then decide what you're comfortable with.



6

GAS BLOWBACK

That gas has to go somewhere.

Anyone who has fired a rifle with a suppressor will tell you that gas blowback is a serious disadvantage, especially during rapid fire. In addition to getting on your face and in your eyes, the gas also fouls your action and can lead to increased bolt rate, which may cause malfunctions and premature wear. Gas blowback can be reduced with the use of an adjustable gas block, but you can only reduce the gas so much before your rifle will no longer run without a suppressor.

Different suppressors produce varying levels of blowback. To shoot comfortably—and get the most out of your investment—make blowback a part of the equation as you compare and test during the purchase process.

BONUS TIP:

Blowback is really only an issue with gas-operated guns, so bolt-gun operators need not worry. But if you are running a suppressed AR or other gas-operated gun with an end-mount suppressor and want to reduce excessive blowback, there are a few companies that make adjustable gas blocks as well as modified charging handles to reduce blowback issues.



7

OVER-BARREL VS

END-MOUNT SUPPRESSORS

Choose your flavor.

Over-barrel suppressors reduce both the added length and gas blowback created by end-mount suppressors. The over-barrel chamber provides additional sound suppression (which lets you get away with a very short baffle stack in front of your barrel) and it also gives the rearward-traveling gases somewhere to go other than into your action.

However, all things being equal, if you have an 8" suppressor that fits 4" back over your barrel, it will not be as quiet as an 8" suppressor that extends entirely forward of your barrel. Ultimately, over-barrel suppressors are designed for shooters who want a shorter rifle with less gas blowback and better handling, while end-barrel suppressors may be better for shooters who want a bit more sound suppression at the expense of added length and increased gas blowback. This is another tradeoff to consider given your personal situation and weapon system.

OVER-BARREL EXAMPLE

9.7" OVERALL SUPPRESSOR LENGTH

6" OVER-BARREL LENGTH

3.7" POST-BARREL LENGTH



A FINAL NOTE

Think **Big Picture.**

Don't just chase the numbers when buying a suppressor. Think about the practical application of what you're buying.

Do you need to be able to attach it quickly? What if it's so short that you don't need to remove it in the first place? Is it more important for your suppressor to be lightweight or is durability the priority? Do you want to keep your rifle as compact as possible, or is overall length less of an issue? Do you need it simply to be hearing safe, so you can talk to your spotter? Is the tradeoff of a few decibels in favor of more maneuverability worth it in your situation? Or does your rifle need to be as silent as possible, regardless of any other factor?

Everyone's needs are different. Know what your options are and buy the suppressor that matches your own needs.





PRECISION ENGINEERED SILENCE

For more than 35 years, Advance Manufacturing Technology has been a leader in precision manufacturing with customers including the Department of Defense, Bell, ATK, Northrop Grumman, and SpaceX. Advance Manufacturing Tactical (AMTAC) was born in that same state-of-the-art facility by some of the most experienced engineers, machinists and shooters in the game. AMTAC builds suppressors to meet the needs of the most demanding users—durability, accuracy, and innovative designs that integrate seamlessly into your weapon system.

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