

# The Gunwerks Magnus Muzzleloader System



WHERE PRIMITIVE PROCESS MEETS MODERN  
PRECISION BY ANDREA BOGARD

When I first heard about the Gunwerks Magnus Muzzleloader, a sub-MOA muzzleloader to 500 yards, my first impression was “wow!” I don’t know about you, but the word “muzzleloader” brings to mind Gone with the Wind plot lines, muskets and Civil War mid-terms.

Let’s explore the 45-cal Gunwerks Magnus Muzzleloader System!

For those that follow along, you know how much I LOVE gun delivery days. It’s so exciting to get those beautiful cardboard boxes shielding the magical hard cases of fun. I love it. It’s like Christmas, ballistically speaking.

I got the SKB case out and flipped open the clasps. A side note about SKB cases – if you fly much with long guns, you learn very quickly that a high-quality case is imperative for adventure success. The SKB cases are ultra user-friendly. The padlock holes accommodate the non-TSA locks comfortably (this is important—read the regulations on [TSA.gov](http://TSA.gov)) and the empty weight is slightly lighter than other leading brands currently on the market for comparable sizes. This is critical purchasing information when you’re hauling your body weight in gear and guns through the airport.

The case is open. I don’t know about you, but I always take a moment of silence when I open a gun case. It’s about respect, perception and openness. Think of it like telling your kids, “if your mouth is moving—you’re not listening.”

A gun will tell you a lot if you stop to listen. I stared down at the open case and waited. Here’s what I came away with.

The engineering is beautiful. From the





recessed ram rod assembly to the in-letted sling swivel ports, every detail has been carefully curated.

The pistol grip crisply radiused, but smoothly finished.

The carbon fiber stock smooth and velvety to the touch.

It appears solid, yet stream-lined.

The overall impression? It looks like a precision bolt rifle, with a twist.

Let's talk about that. This muzzleloader is built on a Remington-patterned proprietary Gunwerks action with a Trigger Tech Primary trigger group and two-position Remington style safety. The ergonomically friendly bolt cycles with a smooth, eloquent throw.

After verifying the chamber was empty, I pulled it up, dialed the scope down to its lowest power and focused out my kitchen window at a tree in the yard. The Leupold Mark V 3.6-18 x 44 Front Focal Plane scope brought the branches into tack sharp focus. This clarity was quickly offset by my arms starting to shake. The system reviewed with scope, bi-pod and ramrod weighed in at 11 pounds, 8 ounces. *This may not be your first choice for a long stalk, but is definitely a go-to for a long shot.*

Let's talk mechanics. Muzzleloaders can have a certain mystique, an intimidation factor even. A muzzleloader is basically a firearm that doesn't use a traditionally assembled cartridge or shell. You need to load the powder, projectile and primer individually. Let's put it together!

The Gunwerks Magnus Muzzleloader uses 100 grains by weight, not volume (this is extremely important) of BlackHorn 209 powder (considered a super-magnum charge). The



measured charge is poured into an un-primed barrel from the muzzle end. This is step one in the loading process.

The projectile is a 285-grain PowerBelt ELR (Extended Long Range) Aerotip bullet in 45-caliber. The bullet is inserted, base first (pointy end up), in the muzzle end of the barrel after the powder has been poured in. This is the second step in the loading process. But wait, there's a part two to this! Going back to how much it looks like a precision rifle, you may or may not have missed the sleek, two-piece ramrod assembly nestled discreetly in the carbon fiber fore-end. With a twist, swoosh and snap, they are removed and put together. Now you're ready to press the projectile down on top of the powder you just poured in. Press firmly.

Withdraw the ram rod and set aside. At this





combine to create an extremely shootable ensemble. The clean, crisp trigger broke at 3.5 pounds. I squinted to see my 100-yard target. It wasn't recoil or muzzle rise that caused me to lose sight of the bullseye, it was the brief smoky haze inherent to a muzzleloader. Pretty cool. I felt like I had just experienced a "Back to the Future" type moment. A few more shots downrange yielded a strong, sub-MOA group.

The mission of the Gunwerks muzzleloader was not to be a paper punching princess, though. It is a highly-sophisticated hunting focused instrument in a primitive platform. Let's go hunt!

Here in Northern Michigan, we have a short muzzleloader season, followed by a late antlerless firearm season that is private land only. I took to the woods to see what I could find. I prefer a spot and stalk type hunt vs. a blind. That's great with

point, we know we're going to do some shooting so I'd leave it out. If you were in the field and taking off on a stalk, you'd take it apart and replace in the foreend. A side note here: magnificent engineering and tight tolerances can sometimes be a double-edged sword. Replacing the two-piece ram rod the first couple of times takes a delicate touch and some finesse to get it lined up just right. It's kind of like putting arrow shafts back in those little honeycomb display boards at the archery shop.

We have our powder and our projectile. Now we just need our primer. Many muzzleloaders utilize a 209 primer typically found in shotgun shells. This is then dropped into a port or hole in the action of the muzzleloader to await a firing pin strike and subsequent powder ignition.

Here's where Gunwerks takes it to a whole new level of technical excellence. Utilizing Remington Ultimate Muzzleloader pre-primed brass, Gunwerks streamlines and supercharges the priming process. Simply drop the primed brass into the action, slide the bolt home and you're ready to go. The two-position safety gives you the familiarity of your favorite bolt gun with the primal satisfaction of a muzzleloader.

We're ready to shoot! Depending on your form and shooting mechanics, a 285-grain projectile pushed by the powder/primer combination described above can be somewhat cringe-worthy. Here's where Gunwerks once again brings to the fore-front their engineering capabilities.

Do you remember that 11 plus pounds we talked about a little while ago? Solid weight, superb balance and a well-crafted muzzle brake



my scoped 8 pound 6.5 Creedmoor, but a bit more of a chore with an 11 1/2 pound muzzleloader. Add a carbon fiber tripod and pack of hunting necessities and we're talking some decent weight.

After days in the woods in snow, rain and cold, the Gunwerks Magnus Muzzleloader over a shoulder, I had no deer on the ground, but had developed a healthy appreciation for the essence and experience of a primitive firearm. My woods stalks were different somehow. There was a kinship to men and women of decades before pursuing game for pure sustenance.

For those of you in "optics-free" hunt areas, this package includes a custom calibrated front and rear iron sight system. I have to hit for a brief moment on the Pelican micro case the assembly comes in. Seriously adorable.

The rear sight unit is a peep with a calibrated elevation dial, just like your scope. Read that again. Just. Like. Your. Scope. But irons! The front sight assembly is a well-engineered adjustable globe style sight. Both front and rear offer interchangeable apertures. The system under review had a post and dot presentation.

The Gunwerks Magnus Muzzleloader System is the bridge between primal pursuit and precision performance. From the precision features of a carbon wrapped barrel, custom action, high-quality projectile and top-grade optic to a custom ballistic turret, it truly is the whole package. We know it can successfully hold sub-MOA groups to 500 yards. But, do we know, in the moment what to dial/where to hold to make the whole package come together?

That's where the Revic BR4 comes in. This is a cutting-edge ballistic rangefinder that comes programmed with all the DOPE you need to successfully acquire and engage targets and game with your Gunwerks Magnus Muzzleloader System. Simply range your target, push the button and look for the numbers on the internal screen. Dial your turret accordingly and the rest is on you, the shooter. Want to learn more about the *Revic BR4*? Check it out on Gunwerks' website, under rangefinder products for more information!

The Gunwerks Magnus Muzzleloader System is a beautifully designed and elegantly executed example of a modern twist on a primitive hunting tool. You can "extend your season and your range" all while reconnecting with that inner-plaid clad hunter of days past. Check out [www.gunwerks.com](http://www.gunwerks.com) to build your own Gunwerks Muzzleloader System! ■

