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Piranha looks razor sharp



AR-15s, built the Teutonic way

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Two years ago the Schmeisser company was formed, carrying forward one of the most famous names in infantry weapon design. The company specialises in highly engineered and modified versions of the popular AR-15 assault rifle family, including the M4 (pictured) and M16.

Based at Krefeld, Schmeisser offers a variety of AR-15 variants, including the M4 carbine, M16A3 and M16 DMR (designated marksman rifle). Ruggedness, smart design and durability are the company's watchwords, employing superior quality German forgings in the manufacture of the weapons. Aluminium parts are drop-forged from T705T6 stock, while steel parts are hammer-forged from Thyssen Krupp steel.

Schmeisser offers a range of advanced modifications to the proven design. Just being introduced is the remarkable Solid series, which employs a number of upgrades to answer shortcomings with other M4 and M16 models. Principal among these is the fragility of the weapon in terms of the forward hinge and aft butt joint, which often break under the kind of heavy punishment to which an assault rifle is frequently subjected.

Schmeisser's new fixtures not only greatly strengthen the weapon, but also allow the barrel to be cleaned without having to re-zero the weapon every time, a notable drawback of the original design and a real burden on the soldier, especially when operating in sandy conditions.

The Solid series is available either as a new weapon, or as a retrofit kit for existing weapons. It has aroused significant interest from many quarters, especially in the special forces world, which appreciates the extreme ruggedness of the modifications.

Schmeisser has also devised a simple yet highly effective safety device for training. Painted orange and mimicking a magazine in both size and weight, the device is locked by key into the gun, rendering it impossible to load or fire a round but leaving much of the operation workable to allow realistic training in complete safety. The locking device can also be used with a bracket for secure wall mounting, or with a security cable.



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