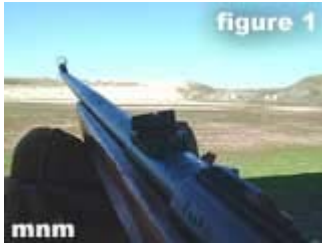




Click on any of the images below to see a larger version of the image.



Like most shooters, I grew up shooting twenty-two (.22LR) rifles.

My first rifle was a Ruger 10/22.

Twenty-two rifles are fun, cheap, and a really great way to learn

how to handle firearms.

The same 10/22 that I learned how to shoot with is now scoped with a bull barrel. I can knock out a hole, the size of a quarter - all day long at 50 yards. It is ridiculously accurate and has no noticeable recoil when shooting. I don't shoot it very much because it supplies minimal challenge.

When I was in the military they started us out on an M16 that was converted to shoot the .22LR rimfire cartridge. This is a very common practice in the military forces around the world. Soldiers are introduced to the principles of handling military firearms without the cost and recoil associated with shooting full powered military cartridges.



I have been interested in getting a bolt action twenty-two rifle and it seemed natural for me to look at some of the military trainers available on the surplus market. I started doing research on the internet for a potential subject and

came upon an ad on the [Southern Ohio Gun International \(SOG\)](http://www.southernohiogun.com) website for a Romanian .22 Trainer for only \$59.

The Romanian Model 1969 Trainer is a detachable magazine fed, bolt-action, military trainer. My rifle was manufactured in 1976. Because of this fact the little trainer is not eligible for Curio and Relic (C&R) status.

Excerpt from C&R Regulations

As set out in the regulations (27 CFR 178.11), curios or relics include firearms which are of special interest to collectors by reason of some quality other than is associated with firearms intended for sporting use or as offensive or defensive weapons. To be recognized as curios or relics, firearms must fall within one of the following categories:

1.) *Firearms which were manufactured at least 50 years prior to the current date, but not including replicas thereof;*

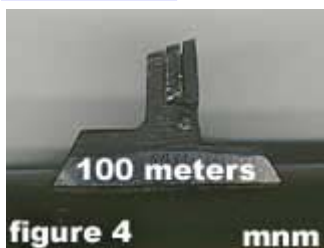
You could wait another 25+ years to get one or have one ordered for you by a valid Federal Firearms License (FFL) holder. This will add \$20 to \$40 to the cost of the rifle.

From what I have read on the [message boards](#), the Romanian Trainer seems to have a dedicated following. Besides the message boards there is not an abundance of information on the rifle, either in print or on the internet.

The overall workmanship on the rifle is indicative of communist bloc manufacturing style - a little rough around the edges, but very functional.

At first, my rifle did not feed any .22 caliber ammo very well. After tweaking the magazine a little and properly cleaning the bolt and rifle, it worked just fine.

Note: The bolt on this rifle is not easy to [disassemble or reassemble!](#)



The rifle's sights present a typical Mauser style sight picture and the rear sights are easy enough to operate.

Three preset tangents can easily be flipped between 100, 50, and 25 meter distances (*as shown in figures 4, 5, and 6*).



The blueing is military grade and the wood has a lacquer style finish.



I picked a nice sunny February day to go to the range. The only good thing for a firearm collector

in California is that, pretty much year round, you get a lot more shooting days than snow bound states.

With a 22 1/4 inch barrel, I expected pretty good accuracy and was not disappointed. There was no noticeable recoil and the trigger pull was very military like, yet - **not bad**.



The length of the rear stock made it easy to handle and shoot. I fired off two magazines at 50 yards and grouped fairly well (as shown in **figure 8**).

I am interested in mounting a scope and giving it another go at the range. The Romanian seems to have some sort of integral scope mount cut into the top of the receiver. It appears to be too small. None of the scope rings from any of my other twenty-two rifles would fit. I may just drill and tap to mount a scope.

This would be a great rifle for a youngster who is looking into getting into military surplus rifles or maybe just has a desire to learn how to shoot.

Not a lot of money for a plinker or rabbit gun.

jlM;)

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