

The **SAS II UR** from **BUL Armory** is a solid, viable option for the high speed shooting of the Open division.



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REVIEW

BUL SAS II UR

FOR OPEN DIVISION

BY ARON BRIGHT, A51967

The SAS II UR Open gun from the BUL Armory was introduced in the March/April issue of the USPSA magazine. It had just arrived and we had barely become acquainted, but now, having fired the gun a few times and used it in an indoor match, it is possible to speak with some authority on the gun. The SAS II UR from BUL Armory is a solid, viable option for the high speed shooting of the Open division.

The grip is polymer with an undercut trigger guard, and aggressive checkering on the sides of the grip panels. The front



and back straps are also textured with a finer grain of checkering. The gun is easy to hold onto while firing and doesn't slide around in the hands. The SAS II magazine well that resides at the bottom of the grip makes it easy to hit the hole during reloads. The magazine well slopes nicely down and outward from the grip, and allows for large hands to get to the grip without feeling cramped.

The magazine release is extended and textured, making it easy to access in a hurry, but it does not gouge into the palm of the hand while shooting. The thumb safety is ambidextrous and has a guard on both sides to prevent riding against the slide. The slide release is in the traditional place, and has a bit of checkering as well to make it very useable.

The frame of this pistol is short, which helps to keep the overall weight of the gun down. The scope mount, also made by BUL Armory, is attached by a set of three screws just in front of the trigger guard and includes a thumb rest for the left thumb.

A Nikko Stirling Diamond Pro T4 optic arrived in place on this gun; the dot sits directly above the ejection port and is protected by the baseplate of the scope mount. In all of the shooting that we did, the scope mount did not create any malfunctions that sometimes occur with Open guns. The gun ran fine.

The slide is equipped with a slide racker that sits just behind the scope mount, and is turned upward at nearly a 45-degree angle. The slide racker's size and design made it very user-friendly. The slide is lightened significantly on both sides and the top of the slide. In front of the scope mount, the slide has four large ports that allow the gold-colored barrel to be visible and exposes the SAS II label on the barrel. The gold-colored compensator has four ports, and the slide-to-compensator fit is excellent. This is a fine looking, well-constructed gun.

The trigger press is light and crisp and needs no further attention from a gunsmith to be competitive. The reset



DOUBLE ALPHA ACADEMY PRODUCTS

By Jake Martens, A52987

DOUBLE ALPHA ACADEMY products have long dominated the competition market with innovative products all over the world. That is their goal and their passion, to develop and innovate new advanced shooting accessories for the competition shooter. The Race Master Holster has been one of the top choices for Limited and Open shooters in USPSA since its introduction. After years of trend-setting benchmarks in the competitive holster industry, DAA kicked it up a notch with the launch of the Alpha-X Holster. With new upgrades and refinements that create a fresh new look, there are several performance upgrades. The new Alpha-X has body rail height adjustment, a new ball joint and lock-up mechanism, detachable belt hanger, and interchangeable color logo inlays. The Alpha-X takes the same insert block as the Race Master, so you can easily upgrade to the Alpha-X by ordering the holster without the block, making it more affordable.

Out of the box, the holster was very easy to mount to the DAA Premium belt, which again has been a top choice of competitors worldwide. The Premium belt mixes the extreme rigidity of the Competition belt model but offers the higher quality and look of Pro models. It is the best of both worlds. Once we got the holster mounted, we added Alpha-X magazine pouches. These are also an evolution of the Race Master pouches. Never one to sit back and relax, DAA is already working on a new version of these pouches – the Alpha-XI should be available very soon.

With everything in place, we worked through some dry fire practice with the new Alpha-X holster and BUL Open gun to get used to how quickly you can present the firearm on the draw. Both Aron and I are used to tradition-style Kydex holsters for our Limited Division guns, so it took a few draws to get comfortable with the race holster. Once we worked through some drills and started getting used to the Alpha-X holster, we felt a lot more comfortable with it. Add to it that, the DAA belt stiffness kept the holster in place with no movement when grabbing the gun from the holster, which made it that much better for the draw.

Check out the Double Alpha Academy and Alpha Dynamics USA website to see all of the selection of competition gear and accessories. ■

of the trigger is short and very positive. This gun was very accurate, and the trigger is a reason why that is the case. Both Jake and I were able to achieve head shots at 25 yards with this pistol on the range. The gun performed well; it was soft-shooting and accurate while shooting at speed.

The first live-fire test of the SAS II was at the March 11 indoor match at Parabellum. We were using 124 grain 9mm major ammo from Eley, and Everglades 124 grain and 147 grain ammo for this match and for the other live fire testing that we did. Prior to this match I had done some test firing and light shooting using regular factory 115 grain ammo. The gun cycled and functioned just fine with factory ammo not designed for Open guns, and it performed well with the 9mm major ammo.

Parabellum matches include two flights of shooting, so both Jake and I were able to shoot the gun in the same match and not have to swap holster and gear back and forth. None of the other top Open shooters in the area were present at the match that night, so we did not have a good measurement against top competition. I was able to achieve the victory in the three-stage match, with

Jake coming in second at 88 percent. Open guns and race holsters are not things in either Jake's or my wheelhouse; red dot optics are like a foreign language for me as well. Jake shoots a considerable amount in Carry Optics so he at least had that going for him.

The first stage was a 16-shot course of fire with a couple of shooting positions, while the second stage was shot from two positions and required 13 rounds to complete. Jake and I each had a stage win and both of us took to this gun like a couple of ducks to water, as it was fun and easy to shoot. The dot and holster had no adverse effects on either of us.

Stage three was the classifier Can You Count, which brought a couple of reloads under pressure into the mix. I managed the stage win with a hit factor of 11.00, securing the match win for the Open division. I was pleasantly surprised by how well the shooting went that evening, because I was so far out of my comfort zone. BUL Armory deserves credit for producing a quality gun.

The SAS II UR was put on the shelf while we tested the BUL Armory Limited gun, but it was not forgotten. Jake and I met up at the Riley Conservation Club to give the gun another workout and see if the first impression was an accurate

one. For this shooting, we were using steel USPSA targets so that we did not have to paste targets, which made for an efficient session. On this occasion Jake pasted as many targets as I did, making this a unique experience.

The first test was a three-target array at 10 yards distance, spaced three feet apart. It was simply a matter of grip it and rip it. Jake cranked out three runs with times of 3.22, 2.85 and 2.82 seconds, with all of his shots being hits. My times were 2.56, 2.44 and 2.41 seconds without a miss.

We used the same array of targets for El Prez. Jake's three runs were completed with all of the hits in times of 6.08, 5.60 and 5.31 seconds. He seemed to be warming up as we moved along. My times on El Prez were 6.46, 6.18 and 6.54 seconds with all the hits.

The next array was the familiar Near to Far setup that we always use. We had four targets at distances of nine, 12, 18 and 25 yards. The width of the array from left to right measured 12 yards. Jake put times on the board of 3.94, 3.39 and 3.38 seconds with a miss. He also had a smoking fast run of 3.07 seconds; however, lead and steel did not collide very much on that run. My times were 3.57, 3.74, 3.81 and 3.84 seconds.



AMMO FOR THE BUL SAS II UR

TESTING EVERGLADES AMMO AND ELEY

By Jake Martens, A52987

THE AMMUNITION to test the BUL UR Open gun came from Everglades Ammo and Eley, loaded to 9mm major power factor specifications. Stephen and David Bender started Everglades Ammo in their garage in 2009 to keep themselves and their friends shooting, and the initial response to their webstore was outstanding. They knew that there was a market for competitively priced reloading products. They source their selection of reloading components with an eye for consistent quality; they strive for top quality components at a great price and great service. Based in Naples, Florida, their mission is "To provide high quality ammunition and components to the local market and through mail order." With a website listing loaded ammo, brass, bullets, powders and primers as well as equipment and accessories, reloaders and competitors looking for top quality ammo will have one-stop shopping. We ran both major power factor offerings, the 124gr jhp and the 147gr jhp; both runs were very accurate out of the BUL and ran flawlessly in both the factory magazines and the MBX magazines that were used.

We did not change out springs when shooting the gun; the difference between the heavier bullet and lighter was noticeable, but would come down to personal choice. The loaded ammo was very consistent oal of 1.141 for the 124gr and 1.147 for the 147gr ammo.

EVERGLADES AMMO / BUL SAS II UR CHRONO RESULTS

Everglades 124gr

1364 | 1338 | 1359 | 1366 | 1361 | **PF=168.3**

Everglades 147gr

1145 | 1142 | 1146 | 1160 | 1146 | **PF=168.7**



Eley is not new to ammunition manufacturing, having been established in 1828 by William and Charles Eley. Their ammunition has countless Olympic wins with their rimfire and shotgun ammo. In 2012 they started to expand their operations from their state of the art facilities in England and



opened a facility in Winters, Texas. Late in 2019, Eley launched their 38super comp line of competition ammunition aimed at the action pistol market. They also started working on 9mm Major ammo as well. After meeting with the Eley team during SHOT Show, we arranged to test the new 9mm major loaded ammunition. When your company is known for producing some of the most accurate rimfire ammunition on the planet, you are going to spend a lot of time ensuring your centerfire handgun ammo is going to live up to that reputation as well. Loaded with 124gr fmj bullets at 1.160 oal, this ammunition ran perfectly through the BUL Open gun.

ELEY AMMUNITION / BUL SAS II UR CHRONO RESULTS

Eley 124gr

1397 | 1399 | 1394 | 1393 | 1390 | **PF=172.9**



As you can see, the feet per second is very consistent and the 10 rounds pulled and measured all came out to 1.160 -1.162 oal. The BUL has no popple holes in the barrel and just a three port comp, so the hotter Eley ammo was noticeable; however, the dot tracked perfectly with each shot with the factory recoil spring, and ran without any issue in the gun with both the factory and MBX magazines.

While some people like the time spent reloading ammo, I am not one of them. It is great that there are two new players in the 9mm major ammunition market that are making very high quality competition built rounds for use in USPSA events.

As of this article release, the listed ammunition is not on the Certified Ammunition Program. ■



We shot a couple of 16-round stages, using the same four targets but shot from different positions around a section of wall with a port in the middle. The first “stage” required moving to the left and engaging two targets around the left side of the wall, then moving to the port and engaging two more targets. The targets were at the same distances as the “Near to Far” array. The close targets were engaged first and the far targets were engaged through the port. We both moved to the port and engaged the 25-yard target first. Coming into position and hitting the 25-yard target was a challenge, but we were both able to do it without a single miss. Jake recorded times of 8.47 and 7.73 seconds. My times were 9.82 and 9.35 seconds. We had not painted the steel at this point and there was some debate about the quality of points, but that is all I am going to say about that. What was clear was that this gun from BUL Armory was able to perform very well in a number of tests for two guys whose game is not in the Open division. We wondered what this gun would be like in the hands of a talented Open shooter.

We also shot a drill that required four rounds fired on two targets, and then a mandatory reload and four more rounds on the same two targets. My notes did not include the distance to the targets, but we did not have to remove any bullet splatter from our hands, chest or face with pliers, so I think we were at around 10 yards. Jake’s runs were 5.41 and 4.94 seconds; mine were 5.93 and 5.96 seconds.

The last exercise was the Bill Drill, six rounds from surrender at seven yards on a paper target this time. Jake managed runs of 2.28, 2.14 and 2.27 seconds. My runs were a very frustrating 2.44, 2.26 and 2.62 seconds.

The BUL Armory is producing quality pistols and should be given strong consideration by anyone looking to jump into the Open division. The BUL Armory guns that we tested were good-looking guns that performed very well. Check out the full selection of BUL Armory firearms at GP Arms (www.gparms.com). ■