**REMINGTON MODEL R51 9MM LUGER, $420**

**GUN TESTS GRADE: F**

Though looking as modern as tomorrow, the new 9mm Remington R51 has its roots in a design dating to a century ago by the same fellow who gave us the Pedersen Device. Our tested R51 had a decent trigger and excellent sights. It pointed well and was reliable, apparently unlike most of the handguns. The factory has recalled the entire run.

Like so many other features of the R51, the sights showed lots of thought. The sight picture was outstanding. Both front and rear sights were steel, dovetailed into the slide. The white dots were easy to see. The top-rear edge of the front blade was also rounded to avoid snags.

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**Be sure to read the book before you try to get the R51 apart. The procedure is different, yet simple enough. Unlike the old 380 ACP version, there are no small parts here to get lost. Two 7+1 mags come with it. This was a graceful gun, well thought out. The grip was big enough for most hands to get all the fingers on it.**

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**Overall Length** 6.5 in.  
**Overall Height** 4.6 in.  
**Barrel Length** 3.4 in.  
**Sight Radius** 4.5 in.  
**Front Strap Height** 2.4 in.  
**Back Strap Height** 3.0 in.  
**Weight Unloaded** 22.2 oz.  
**Weight Loaded (8 rds. 124-gr.)** 25.7 oz.  
**Capacity** 7+1  
**Maximum Width** 1.1 in.  
**Grip Thickness (max)** 1.0 in.  
**Grip Circumference (max)** 5.4 in.  
**Frame** Matte Black Aluminum  
**Barrel** Stainless Steel  
**Slide** Matte Black Steel  
**Grip Panels** Checkered Plastic  
**Trigger Pull Weight** 5.3 lbs.  
**Trigger Span** 3.6 in.  
**Warranty** Two-Year Limited  
**Telephone** (800) 243-9700  
**Website** Remington.com  
**Made In** Charlotte, NC

Attractive. All in all, Remington did an excellent job of dehorning this pistol. The front grip strap was beautifully checkered and the grip was big enough for most hands to get all the fingers on it. The only controls on the gun were the grip safety, the trigger, the magazine release, and the slide stop, which was also the key to the odd takedown procedure. The magazine release was ambidextrous, though not easy to get to in a hurry. We would have liked taller buttons.

Here’s a tip: Don’t try to field strip this gun until you read and understand the owner’s manual. We’ve never seen anything like this takedown procedure, except for the Model 51. The first odd thing we noticed was the serrated area around the barrel, which led us to ask ourselves, Why is that there? Then we read the book and understood. In short, you have to grab and hold the barrel while you pull the slide off the gun and the guts out of the slide. Inside we found Remington had upgraded the 51’s fussy loose firing pin and spring. In this new gun they come and go with the breech block. It was also a lot easier to get the gun apart, though the removal and replacement of the barrel and its spring were not exactly exercises in simplicity. The gun went together fairly easily, and we could see no possibility to put it together wrong.

The action of the gun is unusual, to say the least. As the slide is withdrawn, it moves easily for a short distance and then the force needed to move it drastically increases. That’s the breech block hitting the cam. Then the slide moves easily again until near the end of its travel, and then becomes hard to move. The gun features a floating breech block that moves with the outgoing cartridge until the block encounters a delay in the form of a cam that bumps the breech block upward, permitting the block to again move rearward with the slide and withdraw the spent case from the chamber. This cam gives a delayed action that lets the pressure in the barrel drop before the cartridge is pulled out of the chamber. One of