

# Suppressors – Pair Your

By Andrea Bogard

Not too many years ago, suppressors were topics that whispered around the edges of the gun world. Today, shooting suppressed is about as common as a muzzle brake. What is it about suppression that is so alluring? And, if you decide to open the wardrobe door of suppressor life, what do you buy and why? (The “how” is a whole new topic).

You’ve made the decision. You want to get a can because you can! But, what to get? The suppressor world is as intricate and option rich as bullets and powders. The power is in the nuance. The same is true for suppressors. Here is a breakdown of purpose and performance objectives.

First off, how does a suppressor work? For many, myself included, suppressors were an exotic and mysterious appendage screwed to the end of your gun that somehow made shooting a near transcendental experience. Like the Magic 8 Ball, there’s something mystical inside that makes it do what it does.

When a gun is fired, the corresponding noise is caused by the hot, high-pressure gasses leaving the muzzle at high speed and colliding with the ambient air. A suppressor basically takes all that hot, high-pressure gas for a scenic detour to cool off before exiting the muzzle.

This scenic detour consists of a series of baffles (flat or cone-shaped), chambers and pathways inside the suppressor. There is a vast array of styles and combinations of the above that impact performance and final decibel reduction.

Suppressors are made of materials like aluminum, steel, titanium and assorted alloys. When selecting the can that’s right for you, several components need to be evaluated, including material. Let’s take a look at some of the metrics to consider when looking to add suppression to your shooting world!

**Purpose:** What do you want to accomplish with your suppressor?

This is a more complicated question than some would think. A suppressor not only reduces noise significantly, but it also impacts felt recoil. The effects are generally (depending on the suppressor/gun/load combo) similar to a muzzle brake on a comparable set up. The differences lie in the weight addition of the suppressor and the significant noise reduction for both shooter and bystanders, however.

So, what do you want to do with your suppressor? We are going to break this down into a few different categories.

**1. One gun/one can/one load.** This user is looking to purchase a single can that will stay on one gun. All DOPE will be figured using the same ammo, optic and suppressor.

**2. One can/All the guns!** This user is looking for a

can to take on a grand tour of their gun vault. They will have DOPE charts for the suppressor when paired with each gun.

**3. All the cans/All the guns!** This user operates under a “more is better” mindset. Kind of like Pringles, once you have one, it’s tough to stop....

We’ve got our basic categories. How to select?!

Suppressors are purpose-built components that need to be selected with the same care and consideration as barrels, actions, powder, optics or bullet constructs.

