

# Ruger American Gen 2 in 6.5 Creedmoor



By Andrea Bogard

**“To be versatile is to be capable.” Clint Eastwood**

If guns had slogans, this one would belong to the Ruger American Gen 2 in 6.5 Creedmoor. With great custom features in an off-the-rack price point, Ruger brought the ultimate do-most rifle to the market with the Gen 2. Let’s look at what makes this rifle one of the most versatile options available today!

What does it mean to be versatile? I’m a passionate bird hunter and proud owner of a highly mediocre bird dog named Moose. Moose is a pointing lab and was purchased on the premise of his versatility. In theory, he would have the pointing capacity of a setter or pointer and the traditional retrieving abilities for which labs are known. The term “versatile gun dog” is used to describe dogs that play multiple sports, so to speak. Upland, waterfowl, etc....

Mr. Moose’s mediocrity is entirely my fault. His counter-surfing abilities, however, are next level! His versatile characteristics include things like sleeping just as well in the middle of my King-sized bed as he does on my leather couch. To be fair, he points occasionally, retrieves consistently and has the most beautiful lab smile you’ve ever seen.

In the case of the Gen 2, you get all the versatility with none of the drawbacks like missing cookies off the counter or sand in your sheets. Before we dive into that, let’s take a look at some specs for this fantastic little package:

## Specifications

- Caliber – 6.5 Creedmoor
- 20-inch barrel
- 1:8 twist
- Threaded 5/8"-24
- Three position tang safety
- 6.5 pounds – overall weight
- Cerakote coating on barrel, factory muzzle brake, receiver and bolt handle
- Adjustable length of pull – 12 inches – 13.75 inches
- Fluted barrel (spiral pattern)
- Overall length – 41.25 inches
- Proprietary adjustable trigger
- Splatter finish composite finish stock
- One piece bolt with a three-lug design
- Three round capacity
- MSRP – \$729.00

## Features

There are a lot of steel/composite bolt guns out there in this marvelously common caliber. So, what makes this one so special? Let’s start at the back and work our way up.

The butt pad. There are certain things in life where “soft and squishy” is a positive – donuts, fresh bread and chubby babies. Abs, not so much. We can add recoil pads to the positive list, however. The recoil pad on the Gen 2 is soft and squishy but has very solid structural integrity for maximum reduction in felt recoil.

The pad is contoured to allow for comfortable placement in the pocket with a somewhat exaggerated toe.

This can be slightly uncomfortable in certain positions with prolonged shooting if you are a woman with a moderate-sized chest. I plan on grinding the toe of the recoil pad to a more comfortable fit for my build.

Continuing, this is where the custom features start – the spacers. The proprietary stock design incorporates spacers that can take the length of pull from 13.75 inches down to 12 inches in various increments.

Next, the comb. On [Shop.Ruger.com](http://Shop.Ruger.com), one can purchase a variety of comb heights to accommodate different facial structures and optics systems. Both comb and spacer adjustments are simple user-performed modifications with minimal skill and tools required.

Working our way up, we have the 3-position tang safety. This is a more subtle, but equally important, feature distinguishing the Gen 1 from the Gen 2. This is a feature that helps prevent unintentional bolt opening while enabling loading with the safety on.

The trigger is a Ruger Marksman Adjustable trigger. The adjustment range is 3-5 pounds and is user-performed. The trigger is satisfactory for a factory trigger but could use some cleaning up to get a high level of crispness.

The rifle is equipped with an AI style mag that holds three rounds of 6.5 Creedmoor. The mag release is located somewhat awkwardly just forward of the trigger guard and begs to be compromised. While functional, it is the only component on the Ruger American Gen 2 that diverged from the otherwise fantastic engineering.

On the top side of the gray Cerakote coated receiver is a six-inch long Picatinny scope base. The 20-inch spiral fluted barrel extends out and is capped with a radial muzzle brake. For purposes of the review, I paired the rifle with Medium Leupold rings and a Leupold VX-5 HD in 3-15x44. Thanks to the comb and spacer inserts, proper eye relief and alignment were easily achieved.

The one-piece stock is equipped with a grooved and contoured forend that fits multiple hand sizes and shapes with comfort and consistency. Ruger's Patented Power Bedding system enhances accuracy by free floating the barrel and positively orienting the receiver.

We have a feel for the features; let's look at function!

### Range Time

I had the opportunity to explore the Ruger American Gen 2 at the FTW Ranch in Barksdale, Texas. This meant time spent with some of the finest shooting instructors in the world on one of the most well-appointed ranges in the country. I was able to take the Gen 2 from 100 to

1000 yards with comfort, confidence and consistency. The ammo used was Hornady 140 grain ELDM in 6.5 Creedmoor. Groups were sub-MOA to 700 yards, spreading out somewhat past that.

Several hundred rounds and four days later, my shoulder felt fine, my cheek was un-marked and my confidence through the roof. The Gen 2 was comfortable to shoot, ergonomic to be behind and fun to spend time with! The only issue encountered was a rub mark on my upper chest from the pronounced toe on the recoil pad when shooting prone for long periods of time.

### Time Afield

I also had the chance to hunt both Texas and Michigan with the Gen 2 in tow. The first thing I noticed the first time afield was how easy and comfortable it was to carry through the woods! With a stock that fit my shorter length of pull, the short action of the 6.5 Creedmoor and the 20-inch fluted barrel, both weight and overall length were marvelously manageable.

The sling swivel studs were conveniently inletted into the buttstock and affixed to the forend. The rifle balanced well when slinging and carried. Many sits and stalks later, I was able to get a nice Michigan white-tailed doe on the ground. The Hornady 140-grain ELDM penetrated the heart from a distance of 150 yards and left a large off-side exit hole. No sauteed heart was consumed on this particular hunt....

Versatility. That's where we started. I want to look at just how versatile this rifle can be. I have a 9-year-old son who is slender and of average height for his age. He has some interest in shooting and hunting, and I want to put him behind a gun that will be both comfortable and successful for him.

I feel confident that with the factory

available stock/comb adjustments he can achieve a good fit with proper eye alignment and relief. But that's step one.

Step two – curate a load that is accurate, low recoil and effective for our given objective: a white tail deer at 200 yards or less for my 9-year-old son this fall. With the help of my beautiful blue friend, I am going to take you on a journey through .264 land and we can experience together the options, opportunities and versatility offered by this very special round.

In our next installment, we will use the Dillon Precision RL550C to assemble a variety of loads that fit our goals and needs. Stay tuned and follow along as we evaluate components and assemble that "just right" fun seed for this fantastic little gun.

For more information on the Ruger American Gen 2, check out [Ruger.com](http://Ruger.com)!

