

# “...Til I can make it on my own.”

— The Beatles

IF YOU'RE JUST JOINING US—THIS IS PART THREE IN A SERIES OF BUILDING AN AR-15 FROM THE GROUND UP IN 2024 RUGER. WE STARTED WITH CALIBER SELECTION, MOVED TO PARTS IDENTIFICATION AND NOW WE ARE SOURCING ALL THE GOODIES WE NEED FOR THE BUILD. I HOPE YOU ENJOY!

—ANDREA BOGARD

## Part III:

We came, we shopped, we conquered. Who likes shopping? Ironically, not me. My husband, on the other hand, LOVES to shop. You know what I did? I gave him a shopping list. Kind of like selecting the “perfect” avocado at the market, finding AR parts requires a delicate touch and some patience.

I picked out my proverbial “must haves” - a Proof Research barrel, a Seekins lower and a Trigger Tech trigger. Think picking your favorite cheeses and meats for a charcuterie board and leaving the miscellaneous grapes and nuts until last. Who really eats grapes on a charcuterie board? Please send me an email if you do! I'd love to find out your “why?”

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I also sourced my Offhand Gear handguard and matching Picatinny rail (seriously – sexiest AR parts on the market). Did I mention? Offhand Gear is a woman owned, woman run small business. Check out [www.offhandgear.com](http://www.offhandgear.com) as well as their amazing IG feed! You might find yourself building an AR just so you can get one of these handguards!

I digress. I knew the parts I wanted, but lacked the time and shopping interest to actually go looking for the more difficult to find items. Finding AR parts in stock is about as challenging as sourcing ammo at the moment.

So, I gave my husband a shopping list and he proceeded to get on every “notify when in stock” email list out there for the various parts and pieces I needed. The amazing thing? I ended up with every single part on the list. It was pretty magical when all the packages started rolling in. Not so magical when I had to start paying him back...

I now have every component I need in my possession except my Proof Research barrel. The

diagram we are referencing below is missing that piece, so keep that in mind as you check it out. Let's walk through the parts and pieces we do have. In our next installment, we will walk through how they all go together to make an AR-15!

**1. MagPul Stock** – this was definitely a critical purchase. If you're a shotgunner, “gunfit” is something talked about constantly. The impact of stock dimensions and eye alignment as correlated to effective target engagement is a huge topic of discussion. With the MagPul PRS Gen3 Precision Adjustable stock, I know I can get the length of pull, drop, cast and pitch adjustments I need to achieve maximum efficacy behind the gun. I will be putting an optic on it, so this will also help me get appropriate eye relief. *\*Pictured with carbine adapter as delivered. Rifle adapter included in package will be installed prior to assembly.*

**2. Rifle Buffer Tube** – this piece attaches to the lower and houses the buffer and spring, simultaneously supporting the butt stock.

**3. Buffer and Buffer Spring** – these two separate pieces fit inside the rifle buffer tube described above. They combine to facilitate the cycling of the action.

**4. Ergo Ambidextrous Grip** – a grip is incredibly important. It's got to be comfortable and fit your hand. I ordered six different ones before deciding on this one. It fit my hand, cradled my fingers and placed my trigger finger and thumb in the correct location for my shooting style and hand size.

**5. Eisenach Arms Side Charge Upper** – this is the upper receiver. It houses the bolt carrier



group (BCG) and supports the barrel and handguard. *Side note: I can't say enough great things about the customer service experience with Eisenach Arms. Owned by two brothers dedicated to bringing products to the AR market, their focus is quality and client satisfaction.*

**6. Eisenach Arms Side Charge Bolt Carrier** – the side charge version proved even more difficult to find than traditional AR uppers. Eisenach not only had the upper, bolt carrier and bolt I needed in stock, they shipped it out to me within 24 hours.

**7. Seekins Lower** – remember when we talked about lowers in the last installment? Well, this is what it looks like. I wanted a trigger guard that could accommodate a glove if need be, but that wasn't over-sized. This one looks perfect! Important note: this is the serialized part of the build.

**8. Trigger Tech 2-stage Trigger** – A trigger can make or break a build. Travel, creep, sloppy engagement and other deficiencies all impact accuracy and shooting enjoyment. This unit is adjustable from 1.5-4 lbs and is easy to install.

**9. Mag** – pictured is a 10-round P-Mag.

**10. Eisenach Arms Bolt** – this is the bolt from Eisenach Arms that is designed to function with their precision bolt carrier and upper.

**11. Eisenach Arms Bolt Carrier Pin Set** – this includes firing pin, bolt cam pin and retaining pin.

**12. Barrel Nut** – this came from Off Hand Gear and is made to fit their custom handguards. It will secure my Proof Research Barrel (not pictured) to the Eisenach Arms side charge upper and allow attachment of the Off Hand Gear free float handguard.

**13. Seekins Precision Builders Kit** – remember when we talked about a stripped vs. assembled lower? I opted for a stripped lower and needed to acquire a kit with all the hardware, pins, etc... This is what it looks like.

**14. CMMG Rifle Length Gas Tube** – this is one of those parts that's super important, but is kind of like shopping for grapes for a charcuterie board. You need them, but they're not as exciting as prosciutto or smoked gouda.

**15. Seekins Adjustable Gas Block** – this is that little thing that enables you to tune your AR like

an instrument to function exactly the way you want. Pretty cool, huh?

**16. Off Hand Gear Hand Guard** – Ahhhhhh... isn't she pretty? This is a 15-inch hand guard from Off Hand Gear in their Fleur D 'Lis Scroll pattern. It has Java Gun Candy finish. How gorgeous is that?

**17. Picatinny Rail** – function meets fabulous with this Gun Candy finished Pic rail to be mounted on my Off Hand Gear handguard. I ordered it in 4 1/2 inch length, but it's available in a range of sizes to accommodate your specific attachment needs.

**\*Not pictured** – my Proof Research barrel in .204 Ruger. It will be 20 inches of carbon wrapped accurate perfection.

We've got our parts and pieces, now, we assemble!!!! Check back in our next installment for how we put this pile of parts together. Psst... It's not as confusing as it looks.

In the meantime, happy shooting, and thanks for following along as we "Make It On (Our Own!)" Cheers! ■

**#pewpew**

