

## BY JERRY STORDAHL

Even if we lived in a perfect world, we could never escape the different sizes and lengths of objects and people. I can honestly say, I've never been called, "Shorty," though such a reference would fit many people. Since my arms are fairly long, I find the standard A2 stock on an AR15 to be comfortable enough.....for its intended purpose, but one gentleman maintained, that anybody finding the A2 butt stock comfortable, would

likely be of Simian ancestry.....an anthropoid would be the specific term. Well, I was somewhat puzzled by this assertion, until I read the rest of the information.....the A2 butt stock was designed for the target range.

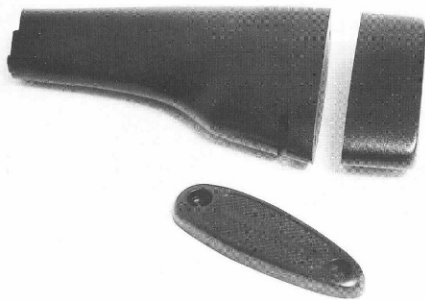
We want our gun stocks to be comfortable. Though comfort is variable, there are other factors to consider in selecting a stock for your weapon. There is utility to consider, and stability, and handling quality.....and a butt stock is supposed to provide all of that

and still more.....it must be somewhat pleasing to the eye. And it must be durable.

The Sully stock embodies all of these attributes, and Greg Sullivan, the designer and Chief Instructor at Defensive Edge Training and Consulting, Inc. has successfully brought the Sully design to the AR specialty market. I think it is a winner, and the quality of the product is superior.

At a shade over eight inches long, the Sully is molded of a tough, solid, black polymer with a finely grained surface texture. According to Greg Sullivan, the urethane material is mixed and poured into a mold. After the urethane sets, the stocks are removed and baked to add durability. A short lower receiver extension or buffer tube is made to the same length as the CAR tube, and a CAR buffer and spring from DPMS are used. DPMS recommends this system for 16 inch barreled AR carbines to avoid cycling problems. An overall length of 34.75 inches for an AR carbine with 16 inch barrel becomes 31.75 inches with a Sully short stock installed.

The stock attaches simply by replacing the A2 tube with the short-



*The Sully stock offers a choice of thick or thin butt plates....easily changed by removing two screws and reinstalling.*

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## "Going Short...Going Sully"

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er CAR length tube and sliding the stock on, then securing the top screw through the rear of the butt plate. A fairly thick screwdriver is required to fit the screw slot, or one can purchase a special bit from Brownell's, stock number 080-430-430 LB Bit. You will need a quarter inch drive magnetic type screwdriver to hold it, and the bottom screw on the butt plate requires a thinner one. I use bit number 445-6 for the bottom screw.

The Sully is the same length as a collapsible butt stock extended to the first notch, which experts have found to be nearly the ideal length for proper fighting stance, balance and ergonomics. The "stance" as viewed from the front is an elbows down, torso forward position, with feet placed for balance and weapon positioned in the ready to fire mode. Those using the "fighting stance" will typically be law enforcement operators wearing body armor. The Sully places the entire AR closer to the body, versus the standard A2, providing slightly greater clearance between the left forearm angle and the large capacity magazines typically used in dynamic situations.

The Sully butt plate has lightly rounded edges and smooth, shallow cross hatching. This makes it somewhat slippery, unlike the A2 with its aggressive nonslip bite on the shoulder, but the Sully is designed for a different task. Rather than being utilized for deliberate fire at the target range, where the A2 is notable, the Sully is better put to use in the rough and tumble world of short range defense, where maneuverability shines. In that scenario, the "smooth" factor is likely an advantage, as snagging the butt end of the carbine is eliminated, no matter what gear you're wearing. The snag free attribute is also a function of the

short length.

At the butt of the stock, the Sully measures 4.865 inches from toe to heel. The butt plate is 1.565 inches wide, and there is a choice between two different thicknesses, both provided with the kit, to enable you to tailor the stock to better fit your dimensions. Initially, the thin butt plate was included with the stock, but Greg Sullivan received feedback from end users requesting a thicker addition. This added length better accommodates the "longer" users of the AR15 family of carbines. The extended butt plate is 1.632 inches thick, while the standard, thin plate measures .456 inches thick. Even with the extended butt plate installed, the carbine retains a handy 33 inch overall length.

The human body is flexible, able to mold itself around any reasonable stock length, but that of course means compromise.....and the wrong size may jeopardize performance. The bottom line is, the carbine is a launching platform to send projectiles down range at target or enemy or varmint, and that platform should ideally fit the user. Long armed shooters can use a shorter stock without too much

discomfort, but shorter people have difficulty using a stock with excessive length.

Short is quick. Short is maneuverable and easily handled when distances are close and dangerous. Whether you are law enforcement clearing a building or a civilian protecting your business, family, or home, the compact size of a Sully equipped AR carbine offers versatility. Most of the time a shooter desiring a handier rifle, just decreases the barrel length, however on the AR.....shorter is just as easy as adding a Sully.

Traditionally, gaining a compact AR meant going with a collapsible butt stock in the carbine configuration. Until the '94 ban on such "dangerous" attributes is allowed to sunset, shooters are required to pin any otherwise collapsible style stocks, but there are other reasons to choose a short, fixed stock over the collapsible. One is comfort. The Sully will allow the shooter a more comfortable shooting position, simply because it provides a broader area for the cheek, plus it will place the cheek weld slightly higher than a collapsible stock can. A consistent

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*This Sully/AR is shown with the extended or thick butt plate installed.*

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ly system to employ, while allowing versatility of use. There are fine three point slings available, and there are excellent single point slings on the market, but so far the regular A2 sling has served my rural needs. It works well as a carrying strap with the Sully/AR transported muzzle down on the left shoulder, often referred to as "African carry." The carbine is easily swung into firing position from this carry mode, using the left hand on the forearm/handguards, but if I were expecting to need the carbine.....it would be in my hands. Don't let the addition of a sling make you lazy. This method of carry also facilitates transitioning to your handgun, if the pistol is carried on the right side.

If you are toting a carbine, there are only a few scenarios where a transition to the handgun would be required. Your AR has just malfunctioned and cannot be cleared, or you're out of ammo, or you have been wounded and are unable to handle the carbine. You immediately draw your handgun.....or you have been caught in a position where you cannot deploy your carbine from the slung position, so you instantly draw your sidearm. If danger is imminent, the carbine should be in your hands.

Sling choice can be as controversial as arguments over one brand of truck versus another. A prospective purchaser should evaluate the intended usage of the sling, prior to deciding on a specific type. Will you be running with the weapon? Will you be climbing ladders or trees or vaulting fences with your weapon? Will you be outdoors or entering buildings? Answering these questions can help determine the best sling for your own use.

The three point and single point designs encompass your torso with the strap, while the regular A2 just hangs neatly on the shoulder. Again,

choices should be determined by the intended use. I consider the single point slings desirable, but these are more "mission specific" than a regular A2 carry strap. The single point allows nearly "instant" deployment of the handgun, simply by dropping the carbine and letting it hang while drawing and sighting the pistol. For my uses, the A2 is adequate.

The sum of any additions to the AR system must be reliability, and that should be the major consideration in selecting components and accessories to "enhance" the carbine. The gadget field is vast. Companies have quietly saturated the market with choices, due to the widespread popularity of the AR platform, both in law enforcement circles and citizen's homes. Subscribing to the K.I.S.S. principle is wise. It pays to do the research, prior to laying down the cash, so your final purchase does what you really want it to do. Streamlining the weapon is key.

By sticking to a few simple and basic rules, the AR will run well. Just keep the rifle clean. Keep the rifle lubed. Use good G.I. magazines.

Always carry a spare, loaded magazine. And use good ammunition. Adopt the K.I.S.S. principle.....keep it simple, Shorty. The Sully short stock offers a durable and high quality way to enhance the handling of your carbine.

Defensive Edge provides specialized training for law enforcement, the military, security agencies, and also for law abiding citizens. They offer three levels of instruction for each type of firearm; handgun, carbine/rifle, and shotgun. In addition, the company offers armorer and instructor courses for the M16/AR15 weapons platform.....so.....do you need to go short? Go ahead.....go Sully!

Vendor listed below.

Defensive Edge Training And Consulting, Inc.

P.O. Box 682

Anoka, MN 55303

phone: (763) 712-0123

website: [www.defensive-edge.net](http://www.defensive-edge.net)



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