

# Mossberg Shockwave or Remington Tac-14?

## Introduction

What makes these two weapons so different from other shotguns, and why is everyone talking about them?

Well, for one, they're not shotguns. And for another, they're both exceptional firearms that are a blast to use. They're both very similar in style and purpose, so we'll examine both the Mossberg Shockwave and the Remington Tac-14 to see what all the fuss is about and if either is better than the other.

## Let's Talk Stocks

What's the big deal with both of these weapons and their stocks, anyway? If you've paid any attention at all to the gun market in the recent past, you've probably seen these two weapons discussed in relation to their special classification status. Let me explain.

U.S. law is very strict about what it considers to be certain types of firearms. This is to prevent anyone from taking an unnecessarily-large weapon into spaces they shouldn't, but occasionally it produces funny quirks like this one. You see, both the Mossberg Shockwave and the Remington Tacc-14 are not considered to be shotguns under U.S. law because they're not fired from the shoulder with a shoulder stock.

The barrels of both weapons also extend over 26 inches, preventing them from being classified as "concealable". But neither can they be fired from the shoulder, as any other rifle could be. What this does is prevents them from being classified in the "AOW" category for firearms, with AOW standing for "any other weapon." In short, both of these exceptional firearms cannot be truly classified by the federal government.

Alright, you might ask. So what?

So how would you like to own a short-barrel not-shotgun that doesn't require extensive NFA checking, filing, and paperwork, and to own it without a hefty additional tax fee that's required by anyone owning regular shotguns? Oh, and how would you like to own it without having to wait for weeks or months?

You bet you do.

These weapons allow for personal defense without the regulation-related drawbacks or hurdles to jump through. And although they're not true shotguns like a standard model, both firearms will put in plenty of work when you need. They're excellent burglar deterrents or ideal for defending your property.

Now that I've piqued your interest, which of the two is the best, you might ask? Let's break down both shotguns (firearms) and see what each brings to the table. The Mossberg beat Remington to the market by a few months, so we'll start with their firearm first.

## [The Mossberg Shockwave](#)

Let's begin with the specifications and get those out of the way. The Mossberg Shockwave measures 26.5 inches in length and weighs about 5.25 lbs. This keeps it light and nimble as you aim; the lack of stock keeps its size in check so you can use this in close quarters if necessary. It's a 12-gauge weapon and the barrel alone is 14 inches long. Total magazine capacity is 6: 1 in the chamber and 5 in reserve.

Now let's start talking shop. The Mossberg's recoil is very vertical and it kicks just like its NFA-regulated cousins. However, skilled shooters will be able to take this momentum and use it to feed their pump, as this is a classic pump-action weapon. Since you don't have the benefit of a sturdy stock to brace against your shoulder, controlling this kick is paramount and will take some practice before you really get a handle on the weapon's "feel".

However, assisting with recoil and comfort is the Mossberg's grip, the Shockwave Raptor grip. This is where the rather-creative name for the firearm comes from. This pistol-style grip isn't just an excuse for a cool name; it's specifically designed to minimize recoil from the powerful kick the Mossberg produces when it's fired. It's shaped and molded to fit into your hand and transfer kinetic energy efficiently up your arm, rather than blasting back into your wrist all at once.

Let's move on. The sight on the weapon is a typical bead sight that isn't fancy but gets the job done. It's screwed into the actual barrel itself rather than mounted on a small base. You may wish to invest in a more accurate sight if you plan on attempting long-range work with the Mossberg.

When it comes to reloading, the Mossberg is built for smooth pump-action and reliable reload. It's got dual extractors and twin action bars to ensure that each time you need to evacuate a round from the chamber, it pops out smoothly and cleanly. Reloading is quick and crisp, just as it should be. The elevator, which lifts a fresh round into the chamber, is standard-issue for this type of weapon and intended to be resistant to jamming.

Now let's talk accuracy. In general, this weapon is going to be suited for close-quarters action, due to its lack of stock for stability and its other design aspects. Under 50 meters, you'll find that the Shockwave is accurate and puts in damage where you want it the most. However, as soon as you start trying to inch past 50 meters the weapon's accuracy drops sharply. You can still hit targets up to 100 meters but your results are going to suffer greatly.

Overall, you don't want to treat the Mossberg Shockwave as a regular shotgun, since it isn't. Instead, it's a rather unique, specialized tool meant for short-range engagements or work and which gives you the relative power of a shotgun in a smaller, compact package that dips beneath some federal red tape. I like to think of it as a tier above a pistol, but a step below a true rifle. It's an excellent piece, altogether.

## [The Remington Tac-14](#)

Now let's move on to the competition, the Remington Model 870 Tac-14. This weapon takes several design cues from the Mossberg and adds some Remington spins on top, making for a similar-yet-individual weapon.

Its overall length is 26.3 inches, and its barrel is 14 inches long. This makes it barely a hair shorter than the Mossberg but keeps them at the same barrel length. It weighs a little more, about 5.6 lbs. Just like the Mossberg, the Remington is a 12-gauge weapon and it holds 5 in its magazine, 1 of those being chambered.

Visually, the Remington looks a bit more modern than the Mossberg, although neither are particularly old-fashioned. The Remington appears very “tactical”; it’s got a smooth black finish and sleeker angles that bring government agents, special ops, and movie-esque maneuvers to mind.

But how does it feel to use? For starters, the pump is silky smooth and chambering new rounds is so easy that it feels as natural as firing the weapon itself. It's got a few great attachment points so those of you who like to put a personal twist on your firearm or enjoy customizing will find the Remington more forgiving for those kinds of things than the Mossberg.

In fact, the Remington’s pump-action is quick and clean enough that rapid-firing with the weapon is a delight. Just make sure that you hold the weapon steady and control the recoil, as the smoothness of the reloading may fool you into thinking your next shot will be softer than it actually is going to be.

The trigger on the Remington feels great; there’s just a bit of give before it breaks and fires. There’s also a push-button safety, but it might be a bit tricky for left-handed shooters to push.

This weapon also uses a bird’s head-shaped, Shockwave Raptor grip. Again, this special pistol-style grip reduces the considerable recoil you can expect from a weapon of this size and type. The kick is quite vertical, just like the Mossberg’s, and there isn’t much of a noticeable difference between the two weapons in this attribute.

When it comes to sights, the Remington has a bead sight that is bolted to a small base at the end of the barrel. This feature may help some acquire greater accuracy, but overall this not-a-shotgun has similar results as the Mossberg. Under 50 feet, the weapon will hit its targets with greater accuracy the closer you are. Anything over 50 feet is basically guessing and hoping some of your shot will hit your target.

The Remington, thanks to its small size and compact power, is a great firearm for home defense or close-quarters shooting. However, it won’t keep up with the range and power of a standard, stock-equipped shotgun.

## Comparison

So which is better?

There are more similarities than there are real differences, I’m afraid. The Mossberg has a slightly-higher count for its magazine size (6 for the Mossberg and 5 for the Remington), and it tends to fire its pattern just a little tighter than the Remington. However, the Remington both pumps its shells more smoothly than the Mossberg and its shot tends to follow its sight a little closer at comparative ranges.

One minor difference is the fore strap, in that the Mossberg has one and the Remington does not. This may be a minor feature in the end, but every little detail counts when you’re picking between two exceptional firearms. However, remember that the Remington’s pump allows for modification whereas the Mossberg’s does not, at least out of the box.

Overall, the two weapons are too close for me to call one the clear winner. They’re both great in the central categories which matter to shotguns, or maybe this new category, “not-shotguns”. They both perform accurately at ranges below 50 feet, they both have vertical recoil and grips which mitigate it, and they’re both very, very fun to use.

Maybe instead of choosing, just buy both and have some fun with them? You may find that you prefer one or the other, but from my point of view the decision largely comes down to personal preference and style choice.

### Final Thoughts

I hope we get to see more innovating firearm designs like these two pieces in the future. They represent a niche in the gun market which is easy to forget exists, considering the overlap pistols and regular shotguns already present. Nevertheless, these “not-shotguns” are fantastic weapons that should be experienced by anyone who loves to put shot down the range.