

# THE FIRST SUPPRESSOR BUYER GUIDE

**How to Choose the Right Can, Understand the Process, and Buy with Confidence**

*The premium guide to buying the right suppressor.*

**SuppressorHQ.app**

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"Buying a suppressor doesn't have to be complicated. It just requires knowing the right questions to ask — and asking them in the right order."

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## 01. Welcome

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### What This Guide Is — and How to Use It

Welcome. If you've picked up this guide, you're probably somewhere in the middle: you know you want a suppressor, but you're not sure which one, how to buy it legally, or what you might be missing. That's exactly where this guide begins.

This is not a product catalog. It's not a legal brief. It's a plain-English walkthrough designed to get a first-time suppressor buyer from confused to confident — without wading through forum arguments, outdated regulations, or sales pressure.

Here's what we believe at SuppressorHQ: the right suppressor for you is the one that fits your actual use case, your budget, and the guns you already own. Everything else is noise.

## How to Read This Guide

You can read it straight through, or jump directly to the sections most relevant to you. If you're early in the process, start at Section 01 and work forward. If you've already done some homework and just need to confirm your decision, go straight to the checklist in Section 09.

Each section ends with a brief next step. Follow those prompts and you'll finish this guide with a clear action plan — not just more things to think about.

**CALLOUT — Concierge Tip:** Not sure where to start? SuppressorHQ offers a free buyer concierge. Tell us your host gun, your use case, and your budget, and we'll narrow it down to two or three options worth comparing. No obligation. [SuppressorHQ.app/concierge](https://SuppressorHQ.app/concierge)

## A Note on the Legal Stuff

Suppressors are legal to own in 42 states. Buying one requires completing a federal process through the ATF — it takes patience, but it's not complicated. We'll explain every step in Section 06.

This guide does not provide legal advice. For state-specific questions or trust-related legal details, consult a licensed attorney in your state.

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**Your next step after this section:** Keep reading. Section 02 answers the question everyone asks first — what does a suppressor actually do?

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## 02. What a Suppressor Actually Changes

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### Sound, Recoil, Flash — and What Stays the Same

The biggest misconception about suppressors comes from movies. On screen, they turn a rifle shot into a whisper. In real life, they do something more modest — and more genuinely useful.

A suppressor doesn't silence a firearm. It reduces the sound signature, typically by 20 to 35 decibels, depending on caliber, ammunition, and the suppressor itself. That reduction matters. A lot.

### Sound: What "Hearing Safe" Actually Means

Unsuppressed gunfire from most centerfire rifles and handguns registers between 155 and 175 decibels. Permanent hearing damage can occur above 140 dB with brief exposure. A quality suppressor can bring that number down to the 130–140 dB range with standard ammunition — and as low as the high 110s with

subsonic loads.

"Hearing safe" is the target. It means you can shoot — particularly in self-defense situations or unexpected encounters — without immediate hearing damage, even without plugging in beforehand.

"A suppressor won't make your rifle sound like a library, but it might save your hearing in a moment when you don't have time to put in earplugs."

Suppressors are also significantly more comfortable to shoot with ear protection on. The reduction in blast makes long range sessions more pleasant and allows for better communication with a range partner, hunting guide, or family member.

### **Recoil: A Real — If Secondary — Benefit**

Suppressors add mass to the end of the barrel and, in many designs, redirect gases in a way that reduces felt recoil. The effect varies by platform, but most shooters notice a meaningful reduction in muzzle rise — particularly on faster follow-up shots.

On high-recoil platforms like larger hunting calibers, this can make a real difference in comfort and accuracy over a session. On .22 LR, you'll barely notice.

### **Flash: Suppression as a Practical Tool**

Most suppressors also significantly reduce or eliminate muzzle flash. This matters in low-light conditions — home defense, dawn hunting, or any situation where you need to retain your night vision after the shot. A full-power rifle with a muzzle blast lighting up a dark room is not just loud. It's momentarily blinding.

### **What a Suppressor Doesn't Change**

- Chamber and action noise are still present. Mechanical cycling is audible, especially on semi-automatic actions.
- Supersonic rounds still produce a sonic crack — that's the bullet breaking the sound barrier, not the muzzle, and no suppressor eliminates it.
- Point of impact may shift slightly when you first mount a suppressor. Confirm zero with it on before relying on the setup.
- A suppressor does not make your firearm more legally capable, change its classification, or alter any other legal attribute of the host gun.

**CALLOUT — What Matters Most:** The biggest real-world benefit of a suppressor is protecting your hearing — yours, your family's, your training partners', and anyone nearby. That benefit is available on every shot, with every caliber. Everything else is a bonus.

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**Your next step after this section:** Now that you know what a suppressor actually does, Section 03 walks through the five decisions that will determine which one is right for you.

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## 03. The 5 Decisions That Matter Most

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### Caliber, Use Case, Weight, Mounting, and Budget

Buying a suppressor is a long-term decision. Once you file the paperwork and pay the \$200 tax stamp, you'll likely keep this can for years — possibly decades. Getting these five decisions right from the beginning will save you money, frustration, and a very long wait for the wrong product.

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#### Decision 1: Caliber

What are you suppressing, and what caliber does it shoot?

Every suppressor is rated for specific calibers. Most are designed around a primary caliber — 9mm, .30 caliber, 5.56/.223, .22 LR — and may be rated for additional calibers above or below that size.

A .30-caliber suppressor, for example, will handle everything from 5.56 up to .300 Win Mag (within its rating). A 9mm suppressor will cover 9mm, .380, and usually .45 ACP with the right endcap.

**Key principle:** Size up when in doubt. A larger-bore suppressor used on a smaller-bore host is usually fine. Running a smaller-bore suppressor on a host it wasn't designed for can damage or destroy the can.

**CALLOUT — Concierge Tip:** If you own multiple guns you want to suppress, a multi-caliber suppressor may be your best value. Tell our concierge what you're working with and we'll show you where one can do the work of two or three.

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#### Decision 2: Use Case

What are you actually going to use this suppressor for?

Be honest here. The right answer isn't "everything." It's the thing you'll actually do most often. Common use cases include:

- **Home defense / defensive handgun:** Priority is reliability, short overall length, and subsonic performance.
- **Hunting — rimfire:** Low weight matters. You're carrying it in the field. .22 LR performance is the priority.
- **Hunting — centerfire:** Durability with hunting calibers, field-rugged design, compatibility with standard hunting rounds.

- **Precision rifle:** Accuracy is paramount. You need consistent point of impact, and you may care more about external diameter than weight.
  - **AR-15 / 5.56 range use:** Durability under sustained fire, heat management, full-auto rating if applicable.
  - **Suppressed host — .300 BLK:** This caliber was built for suppressor use. Subsonic loads plus a .30-cal can produce some of the best suppression available in a rifle platform.
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### Decision 3: Weight

Weight is underrated by first-time buyers and overrated by experienced ones — until they're hiking two miles to a tree stand.

Heavier suppressors tend to offer better sound reduction and greater durability. Lighter suppressors are easier to carry and put less strain on your barrel threads and action.

For range use: weight matters less. For hunting or field carry: weight matters a lot. Know which one you're doing.

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### Decision 4: Mounting System

How does the suppressor attach to your firearm?

**Direct thread:** The suppressor screws directly onto a threaded barrel. Simple, reliable, and the most common for pistols and many rifles. Requires a thread protector when not in use.

**Quick-detach (QD):** A muzzle device (usually a flash hider or muzzle brake) stays on the gun permanently. The suppressor attaches and detaches rapidly without tools. Better for shooters who move the suppressor between platforms.

**Fixed mount:** Some suppressors are welded, pinned, or permanently attached. Less common for civilian use.

"If you plan to run one suppressor across multiple hosts, quick-detach is almost always the right answer. If you have one gun and one can, direct thread is cleaner."

Mounting also affects point-of-impact shift and cant. A quality mount matters as much as the suppressor body itself.

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### Decision 5: Budget

Budget in suppressors has two components: the suppressor price itself, and the \$200 federal tax stamp (which is the same regardless of what you spend on the can).

General ranges:

- **Entry-level (\$300–\$500 + \$200 tax stamp):** Functional and legal. You'll give up some sound reduction, durability, or finish quality. Good for casual rimfire use.
- **Mid-range (\$500–\$900 + \$200 tax stamp):** The sweet spot for most first-time buyers. Strong performance, good durability, name-brand reliability.
- **Premium (\$900–\$1,500+ + \$200 tax stamp):** Best-in-class materials (typically titanium or Inconel internals), maximum sound reduction, and often the lightest weight for a given performance level.

**CALLOUT — Common Mistake:** Budgeting for the suppressor but forgetting the tax stamp, the threaded barrel (if your host doesn't already have one), and the mount. Total cost of a suppressed setup is always higher than the suppressor price alone. Plan for it.

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**Your next step after this section:** You know what you're optimizing for. Section 04 covers the five most common ways first-time buyers get it wrong — so you don't have to learn these lessons yourself.

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## 04. First Suppressor Mistakes to Avoid

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### The Five Ways Buyers Get It Wrong

Every first-time suppressor buyer has a learning curve. The good news: the most common mistakes are well documented, easy to understand, and completely avoidable.

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#### Mistake 1: Buying for a Caliber Instead of a Use Case

"I shoot 9mm, so I'll buy a 9mm suppressor."

That logic feels right, but it skips the more important question: what will you actually be doing with this suppressor?

A competition shooter who wants to run suppressed at the range has different needs than someone buying for home defense. A hunter who wants to reduce noise for his partners has different needs than someone who wants the quietest possible subsonic experience.

Caliber is a constraint, not a strategy. Start with use case, then figure out which caliber suppressor fits it.

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## Mistake 2: Not Confirming Barrel Thread Pitch

Your host firearm needs a threaded barrel to accept a suppressor. But "threaded" isn't enough — the thread pitch has to match.

Common U.S. thread pitches:

- **1/2×28:** Most common for .22 LR, 5.56/.223, and 9mm
- **5/8×24:** Most common for .30-caliber rifles
- **M13.5×1 LH:** Common on some H&K pistols
- **M14×1 LH:** Common on some European pistols

Buying a suppressor before confirming your barrel's thread pitch — and whether it even has threads — is a very avoidable way to delay your build. Check first.

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## Mistake 3: Ignoring Wait Times

As of this writing, the ATF Form 4 approval process for individual buyers typically takes several months. (Wait times fluctuate — check current community reports for the latest.) Trust applications may process at a different rate.

Some buyers order without understanding that the suppressor will sit at the dealer for months before they can take possession. Plan for this. The wait is real, but it's manageable once you set expectations correctly.

"The hardest part of buying a suppressor is waiting. The easiest thing you can do is start the paperwork sooner."

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## Mistake 4: Choosing Registration Type Without Thinking It Through

Registering as an individual is simpler upfront but limits who can use the suppressor. Registering through an NFA trust adds a step but gives you flexibility.

We cover this fully in Section 05. The short version: if you ever want a spouse, family member, or co-owner to use the suppressor without you present, a trust is worth the extra step.

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## Mistake 5: Buying the Cheapest Option Without Understanding the Trade-offs

Entry-level suppressors work. But they often use baffles and materials that can't handle sustained fire, are harder to clean, or degrade faster under high-temperature conditions.

If your primary use is casual .22 plinking, an entry-level can may serve you perfectly well for years. If you're buying a suppressor for a centerfire rifle you shoot regularly, spending a little more for better construction isn't extravagance — it's durability.

Know what you're giving up when you buy cheap, so the decision is intentional rather than accidental.

**CALLOUT — Common Mistake:** Never buy a suppressor rated for a caliber smaller than what you intend to shoot. Running a 5.56 can on a .30-caliber host can destroy the suppressor and create a dangerous situation. Always match the rating to the round or go larger.

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**Your next step after this section:** Avoid those five mistakes and you're already ahead of most first-time buyers. Section 05 explains the trust vs. individual decision — one of the most commonly misunderstood choices in the process.

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## 05. Trust vs. Individual

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### How Registration Works and Which Path Fits You

When you buy a suppressor (or any NFA item), you have to register it with the federal government. That registration is tied to a legal owner. You have two primary options: you can register as an individual, or you can register through an NFA gun trust.

Both are legal. Both are common. The right choice depends on how you plan to use the suppressor.

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### Registering as an Individual

The simplest path. You fill out the ATF Form 4, submit your fingerprints, submit a passport-style photo, pay the \$200 tax stamp, and wait for approval. Once approved, the suppressor is registered to you — one person.

#### Advantages:

- Straightforward process
- No trust document required
- Fewer steps upfront

#### Limitations:

- Only you can legally possess the suppressor
- If your spouse, family member, or any other person wants to use or store the suppressor, you must be physically present

- Cannot add other legal users later without re-registering (which isn't possible — NFA items can only be transferred, not re-registered by the same owner under a different entity)
  - Transferring after death requires a full NFA transfer process, which can be slow and complex for heirs
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## Registering Through an NFA Gun Trust

A gun trust is a legal entity — specifically designed for NFA items — that owns the suppressor. You (and anyone else you name as a "trustee") are authorized to possess and use the suppressor.

### Advantages:

- Multiple people can legally possess and use the suppressor without you present
- Great for households where a spouse or family member might need access
- Easier to pass on to heirs — the trust continues after the grantor's death
- Can hold multiple NFA items under one trust

### Considerations:

- Requires a trust document — this can be done through online services or an attorney
- Each trustee named in the trust may need to submit fingerprints and photos, depending on the form type
- Slightly more paperwork upfront

"If you're single with no plans to share the suppressor, individual registration is fine. If you have a household, a trust is almost always worth the small extra effort."

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## Which One Is Right for You?

| Scenario | Recommended Path | |---|---| | Single owner, no plans to share | Individual | | Married, want spouse to have access | Trust | | Multiple co-owners or family members | Trust | | Estate planning concerns | Trust | | Owning multiple NFA items | Trust | | Simplest possible process | Individual |

**CALLOUT — Concierge Tip:** Online NFA trust services like Silencer Shop's trust or other established providers can generate a compliant gun trust for a modest fee. You don't need a local attorney, though consulting one for estate planning purposes is never a bad idea. Ask our concierge if you need a recommendation.

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**Your next step after this section:** You've decided how you'll register. Section 06 walks through the full buying process from start to finish — no mystery, no jargon.

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## 06. How the Buying Process Works

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### A Plain-English Walkthrough

The NFA purchase process has a reputation for being complicated. It's not complicated — it's just slow. Once you understand the steps, the process is predictable and manageable.

Here's how it works from start to finish.

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#### Step 1: Find Your Suppressor

Start with the decisions from Section 03 — caliber, use case, weight, mounting, and budget. Research suppressors that fit your criteria. SuppressorHQ's curated picks and comparison tools are a good place to start.

Once you've identified a model, locate it at a licensed dealer or online retailer.

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#### Step 2: Purchase Through a Licensed Dealer

You cannot buy a suppressor directly and take it home the same day. Suppressors must transfer through a Class III / SOT-licensed Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL/SOT dealer). If you find a suppressor online, the dealer ships it to your local FFL dealer. You pay the dealer's transfer fee (typically \$20–\$75).

If you find it at a local dealer with inventory on hand, you can start the paperwork right there.

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#### Step 3: Complete ATF Form 4

This is the federal application to transfer an NFA item. You'll fill it out at your dealer or online (through dealers that use systems like Silencer Shop's kiosk or digital filing).

The Form 4 asks for:

- Your personal information (or trust information)
- Description of the NFA item (make, model, caliber, serial number)
- Law enforcement notification (CLEO notification — no longer requires sign-off; just notification in most jurisdictions)
- Fingerprints and photo (individual registrations)

Your dealer handles most of this paperwork. Your job is to show up, provide accurate information, and sign where indicated.

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## Step 4: Pay the \$200 Tax Stamp

The \$200 federal tax is paid when you submit the Form 4. This goes directly to the ATF. It does not go to your dealer. It is non-refundable regardless of the outcome of your application.

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## Step 5: Wait for Approval

After submission, the ATF reviews your application. This is where the wait happens. Processing times vary and have historically ranged from a few months to over a year depending on application volume and filing method.

**E-File (electronic) submissions tend to process faster than paper submissions.** If your dealer supports e-filing, use it.

Check current wait time estimates at community resources like NFATracker or similar sites. Your dealer may also provide updates.

During the wait, the suppressor stays at the dealer's shop. You don't take possession until your Form 4 is approved.

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## Step 6: Approval — Pick Up Your Suppressor

When the ATF approves your Form 4, you receive a stamped copy of the form. Bring that stamped form to your dealer. They verify it and hand over your suppressor.

Keep your stamped Form 4 — or a high-quality digital copy — accessible whenever you transport or use your suppressor. You may be asked to produce it.

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## Step 7: Use It — and Keep the Paperwork

Your suppressor is now legally yours. Mount it, use it, and enjoy it.

Keep your stamped Form 4 in a safe but accessible place. Many owners keep a photo on their phone and the original in a safe. Do not lose it.

**CALLOUT — What Matters Most:** The wait is the most frustrating part of the process — but it's also the part you have the least control over. Start the process as early as possible. Once your application is submitted and your \$200 is paid, the only thing left to do is wait.

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## The Process at a Glance

1. Choose your suppressor

2. Purchase through a licensed FFL/SOT dealer
  3. Complete ATF Form 4
  4. Pay the \$200 tax stamp
  5. Wait for ATF approval
  6. Pick up your suppressor with stamped Form 4
  7. Keep your paperwork
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**Your next step after this section:** Now that you understand the process, Section 07 helps you choose the right suppressor for your specific use case.

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## 07. Choosing by Use Case

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### Home Defense, Hunting, 5.56, .300 BLK, Rimfire, and More

The right suppressor depends entirely on what you're doing with it. This section breaks down the most common first-time buyer use cases and what to prioritize in each.

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#### Home Defense

##### Priority list:

1. Reliability — no baffle strikes, no point-of-impact issues, zero malfunctions
2. Length — shorter overall means easier to maneuver in tight spaces
3. Subsonic performance — 147gr 9mm or 220gr .300 BLK are commonly used loads
4. Night-vision compatibility — flash reduction is a real benefit in low-light conditions

**What to look for:** A compact pistol suppressor for handguns (9mm is the most common choice), or a short .30-caliber can for a suppressed AR or SBR. Fast-attach mounting is worth considering if you store the host without the suppressor.

**What to skip:** Unnecessary weight or length. In a home defense context, you want the setup fast and maneuverable.

**CALLOUT — Common Mistake:** Don't assume your carry ammunition is suppressor-friendly. Many defensive loads are supersonic and will still produce a significant report even through a quality suppressor. For the quietest home defense setup, use subsonic ammunition and confirm function before relying on the setup.

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## Rimfire — .22 LR

The most popular first suppressor category in the United States — and for good reason.

### Priority list:

1. Easy cleaning — rimfire is dirty; your suppressor will need regular maintenance
2. Low cost-per-round to enjoy the setup
3. Low weight for carry or field use
4. Hearing-safe performance without subsonic ammo (many .22 LR loads are naturally subsonic)

**What to look for:** A user-serviceable (disassemble-able) .22 LR suppressor with aluminum or titanium construction. Look for one with a full-auto rating if you're running a semi-auto pistol with a fast cyclic rate.

**What to skip:** Sealed "solvent-trap" style cans that can't be disassembled. Rimfire residue accumulates fast and is corrosive. You'll need to clean it.

"A .22 suppressor is often the best way to introduce new shooters to suppressed shooting. Low recoil, low noise, low cost. It checks every box."

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## Hunting — Rimfire Small Game

Similar needs to range .22 LR use, but with added field considerations.

### Priority list:

1. Weight — you're carrying it
2. Durability — field environments are harsh
3. Size — long suppressors are awkward in dense cover

**What to look for:** A titanium-bodied rimfire suppressor that keeps weight under 5 ounces. Look for a compact profile.

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## Hunting — Centerfire

### Priority list:

1. Sound reduction — protecting hunting partners' hearing is the primary use case
2. Caliber compatibility — must be rated for your hunting round
3. Field durability — can't fail in rain, cold, or dust
4. Point-of-impact shift — confirm zero with suppressor on before season

**What to look for:** A monocoire or multi-baffle .30-caliber suppressor rated for your hunting caliber. If you hunt multiple calibers, a multi-caliber .30-cal can cover everything from 6.5 CM to .300 Win Mag.

**CALLOUT — Concierge Tip:** Many hunting states have nuanced regulations around suppressor use in the field. Confirm your state's hunting regulations before your first suppressed hunt.

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## AR-15 / 5.56 Range Use

### Priority list:

1. Durability under sustained fire — ARs can run hot and fast
2. Full-auto rating — even if you don't have an automatic host, a full-auto rating indicates durability
3. Heat management — baffle material and construction affect longevity under volume fire
4. Back-pressure — some suppressors increase bolt carrier group velocity; a buffer or adjustable gas block may be needed

**What to look for:** A 5.56-rated suppressor with a stainless or Inconel baffle stack, full-auto rated. Look for direct-thread or QD options based on your mounting preference.

**What to skip:** Entry-level aluminum baffles if you're running more than 200 rounds per session at a regular pace.

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## .300 Blackout — The Suppressor-Optimized Caliber

.300 BLK was specifically designed with suppressor use in mind. Subsonic loads (220gr) offer some of the best suppression available in a rifle-platform can — measurably quieter than .22 LR in many setups.

### Priority list:

1. Subsonic load compatibility — your suppressor should be tuned for 220gr subs
2. Reliability — .300 BLK with a suppressor can increase back-pressure on the gas system
3. Caliber compatibility — a .30-cal suppressor rated for 7.62/.308 will handle .300 BLK comfortably

**What to look for:** Any quality .30-caliber suppressor rated to handle at least 7.62×51. The caliber is forgiving of suppressor selection — focus on durability and mount quality.

".300 Blackout suppressed with subsonic loads is as close as you'll get to the movie version of a suppressor — in the real world. It's genuinely and impressively quiet."

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## Precision Rifle

### Priority list:

1. Accuracy — the suppressor must not introduce significant POI shift or inconsistency
2. Concentricity — the bore must be perfectly aligned to avoid baffle strikes
3. Point-of-impact tracking — some shooters test POI on, POI off to establish data
4. Weight and balance — a heavy can will change the barrel harmonics and balance of a precision rifle

**What to look for:** A suppressor with a reputation for accuracy and concentricity. Titanium or carbon-fiber-wrapped cans keep weight down without sacrificing durability. Look for brands with documented accuracy testing.

**What to skip:** Quick-detach mounts on precision applications unless they have a strong reputation for zero retention. Every variance in the mount is a variance in zero.

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**Your next step after this section:** Section 08 puts all of these use cases side-by-side in a quick-reference table.

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## 08. Quick Comparison Table

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### Priorities at a Glance

Use this table to quickly cross-reference your use case against what matters most. This is a simplified reference — the full decision involves the nuance from Section 03 and Section 07.

| Use Case | Top Priority | Caliber | Weight Sensitivity | Cleaning Needs | Budget Range | |---|---|---|---|---|---|  
| Home Defense (Handgun) | Reliability + compact size | 9mm / .45 ACP | Low-Medium | Low | \$400-\$900 | |  
Rimfire Range (.22 LR) | Serviceable design | .22 LR | Low | High | \$300-\$650 | | Small Game Hunting |  
Lightweight + durable | .22 LR / .17 HMR | High | Medium | \$350-\$700 | | Centerfire Hunting | Sound  
reduction + durability | .30 cal (multi) | Medium | Low | \$600-\$1,200 | | AR-15 / 5.56 Range | Heat tolerance  
+ durability | 5.56 / .223 | Low | Medium | \$500-\$1,100 | | .300 BLK Suppressed Host | Subsonic performance  
| .30 cal | Low-Medium | Medium | \$600-\$1,100 | | Precision Rifle | Accuracy + concentricity | .30 cal / 6.5 CM  
| Medium-High | Low | \$700-\$1,500 | | Multi-Caliber / Multi-Host | Versatility + mount system | .30 cal  
(multi) | Medium | Low-Medium | \$700-\$1,200 |

**CALLOUT — What Matters Most:** No suppressor scores highest in every category. The buyer who tries to find the best suppressor at every dimension usually ends up with a can that's mediocre across the board. Pick your top two priorities and optimize for those.

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**Your next step after this section:** Section 09 is your final pre-purchase checklist. Go through every item before you hand over a dollar.

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## 09. First-Time Buyer Checklist

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### Everything to Confirm Before You Buy

Run through this checklist before you complete your purchase. Every item here represents something a first-time buyer has gotten wrong at least once. Don't be that buyer.

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#### Before You Choose a Suppressor

- I have identified my primary use case (home defense, hunting, range, etc.)
  - I know the caliber of my host firearm
  - I have confirmed that suppressors are legal in my state
  - I have confirmed that the suppressor is legal to use for hunting in my state (if applicable)
  - I understand the difference between hearing safe and silent
  - I have a realistic budget that includes the tax stamp, any mount, and any barrel work
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#### Before You Choose a Registration Path

- I have decided whether to register as an individual or through a trust
  - If using a trust, I have set up or located a compliant NFA gun trust document
  - I understand that a trust allows named co-trustees to possess the suppressor without me present
  - I understand that an individual registration means only I can legally possess the suppressor
- 

#### Before You Buy

- My host firearm has a threaded barrel (or I have a plan to get one)
  - I have confirmed the thread pitch on my barrel
  - I have confirmed the suppressor's thread pitch matches, or I have the correct adapter
  - The suppressor I'm buying is rated for the caliber I intend to shoot
  - I have selected a licensed FFL/SOT dealer for the transfer
  - I understand my dealer's transfer fee
  - I understand that I will not take possession of the suppressor until the Form 4 is approved
  - I have realistic expectations about the wait time
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## Before You Take Possession

- I have received the stamped Form 4 from the ATF
  - I have made a digital backup of my stamped Form 4
  - I have stored the original in a secure location
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## After You Take Possession

- I have mounted the suppressor and confirmed zero at the range before relying on the setup
  - I understand my suppressor's cleaning requirements and schedule
  - I carry or have accessible access to my stamped Form 4 when transporting or using the suppressor
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**CALLOUT — Concierge Tip:** If you're unsure about any item on this checklist, our buyer concierge can walk you through it. We'll answer your specific questions about your host gun, your state, and your setup — at no charge. [SuppressorHQ.app/concierge](https://SuppressorHQ.app/concierge)

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**Your next step after this section:** You're ready. Section 10 tells you exactly what to do next.

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## 10. Your Next Step

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### Quiz, Concierge, Newsletter, and Curated Picks

You've done the work. You understand what a suppressor actually does, what decisions matter, and how the process works. You know which registration path fits your situation, and you've run through the checklist.

Now it's time to move from prepared to decided.

Here are four ways SuppressorHQ can help you take the next step:

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### Option 1: Take the Suppressor Selector Quiz

Answer five quick questions about your use case, host firearm, and budget. We'll match you to two or three suppressor models worth considering — with a brief explanation of why each one fits.

No sign-up required. No email gate. Just answers.

[SuppressorHQ.app/quiz](https://SuppressorHQ.app/quiz)

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## Option 2: Talk to Our Buyer Concierge

If you want a real conversation — or your situation is more complex than a quiz can handle — our concierge team is here. Tell us what you're working with and we'll help you narrow it down.

We're buyers and shooters ourselves. We don't earn commission on specific brands. Our job is to get you into the right suppressor for your situation.

[SuppressorHQ.app/concierge](https://SuppressorHQ.app/concierge)

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## Option 3: Browse Our Curated Picks

We've reviewed and ranked suppressors by use case — not by marketing budget. Our curated picks include top performers for home defense, rimfire, hunting, and centerfire rifle, with honest assessments of the trade-offs.

[SuppressorHQ.app/picks](https://SuppressorHQ.app/picks)

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## Option 4: Subscribe to the SuppressorHQ Newsletter

We publish honest suppressor reviews, process updates (including current ATF wait times), and new product announcements — without the sales pressure. One email per week. Unsubscribe any time.

[SuppressorHQ.app/newsletter](https://SuppressorHQ.app/newsletter)

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"The best suppressor is the one you actually buy, sized right for the gun you actually own, registered the right way for your household. This guide exists to help you get there."

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## Thank You for Reading

We built this guide because first-time suppressor buyers deserve better than forum rabbit holes and dealer pressure. We hope it gave you exactly what it promised: a clear path from curious to confident.

When you're ready, we're here.

[SuppressorHQ.app](https://SuppressorHQ.app)

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*SuppressorHQ.app | The premium guide to buying the right suppressor.*