

From the Vault:

The Making of the AR500 NEXT GEN



At Big Horn Armory, we've always believed in pushing the boundaries of what's possible in big-bore firearms. The [AR500 NEXT GEN](#) is no exception. Born from customer demand and a drive to innovate, this rifle represents the next step in the evolution of our AR500 platform, delivering even more versatility and power to shooters who demand the best.

The idea behind the AR500 NEXT GEN was straightforward: our customers wanted a platform that didn't require a proprietary lower, making it easier to integrate into their existing AR10 setups. We listened and delivered. The NEXT GEN series allows users to purchase an [AR500 NEXT GEN upper receiver](#) and install it on a standard DPMS pattern AR10 lower receiver. This change removes the need for a dedicated lower and provides more flexibility to those who already own an AR10 lower and want to experience the power of the 500 Auto Max cartridge.

However, adapting the design came with challenges. The biggest hurdle was modifying the magazine. The original proprietary AR500 lower had an integrated feed ramp, which we had to replicate in a new way. The solution? A polymer insert for the ASC SR25 magazine that recreates the necessary feed ramp without requiring changes to the lower. This single addition was the key to unlocking the potential of the NEXT GEN series while maintaining the parts interchangeability that AR enthusiasts appreciate.

Trial and error played a significant role in fine-tuning the specifications. Customer feedback was instrumental in guiding our decisions, especially regarding the demand for complete uppers that could be paired with existing lowers. Many of our customers live in states with restrictions on purchasing new AR platform rifles, making the option to upgrade their current rifles without requiring a full firearm purchase an attractive solution.



The heart of the AR500 NEXT GEN remains the 500 Auto Max cartridge. This round continues to set our platform apart as the most powerful cartridge available in a standard AR rifle. Designed for big-bore enthusiasts, hunters, and those who need sheer stopping power, the 500 Auto Max ensures that the AR500 NEXT GEN

is capable of taking down the toughest game or stopping threats that other rifles simply can't handle.

Manufacturing the NEXT GEN required precision and innovation. We made slight modifications to the barrel extension to enhance feeding reliability, ensuring that the rifle could handle a variety of bullet profiles. Months of rigorous testing followed. We ran countless rounds through the platform, experimenting with different bullet designs to perfect feeding consistency. Interestingly, even slight variations in bullet ogive made a noticeable difference, and only through extensive testing were we able to refine the rifle's ability to handle different projectiles with reliability.

So, what is the AR500 NEXT GEN's primary use case? Just like our original AR500, it's built for those who need extreme stopping power—whether for hunting dangerous game or defending against large threats. If you need to stop a charging animal or a marauding vehicle, this is the rifle for the job. As the most powerful standard AR platform rifle available, it stands in a class of its own.



Looking ahead, we're continuing to explore enhancements to the NEXT GEN series. Higher-capacity magazines are in development, and we've made progress in

getting them to function reliably, though they're not quite ready for mass production. Additionally, a [pistol version of the AR500 NEXT GEN](#) is on the horizon, further expanding the options for those who want compact power in the same formidable caliber.

At the end of the day, the AR500 NEXT GEN is more than just an evolution—it's a revolution in big-bore firepower. Designed with adaptability, reliability, and sheer stopping power in mind, it embodies everything Big Horn Armory stands for. Whether you're a hunter, a defender, or simply someone who appreciates the raw capability of an expertly crafted firearm, the AR500 NEXT GEN delivers. This is the rifle that changes the game.



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