

GUN TESTS VALUE GUIDE: HUNTING CARBINES

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
Savage Model 11FL 243 Win., \$419	July 2002	Grade A: Best Buy. The Savage offers a very solid mount and holds up to heat and hard use.
Ruger M77 Frontier 243 Win. MKII, No. 17882, \$800	July 2005	Grade A: Our Pick. If money were no object, we would not hesitate to buy this fast-handling, accurate rifle.
Savage Arms 16FSS 270 WSM No. 17425, \$569	June 2006	Grade A: Best Buy. The 16FSS delivered at least one MOA group with 3 test rounds. Also, we liked the AccuTrigger.
Tikka M595 243 Win., \$615	July 2002	Grade A: Our Pick. You may have to work around the integral mount (which saves money) but its trigger is a treat.
Winchester Model 70 Featherweight 243 Win., \$620	Dec 1998	Grade A: Has enough accuracy, looks good enough to knock your eyes out, handles like a dream.
Remington 700 SPS Youth 243 Win. No. 27475, \$520	July 2005	Grade A: Despite its name, the SPS Youth is a great-shooting gun that's easy to carry. We think it's a bargain.
Browning White Gold Medallion 270 Win., \$855	May 2000	Grade A-: Buy It. The quality of the wood and workmanship made this gun's price seem very reasonable.
Browning A-Bolt II Comp. Striker 270 WSM No. 035012248, \$734	June 2006	Grade A-: The A-Bolt II favored the heaviest loads. Bolt operation remained smooth and fast.
SIG Model SHR 970 270 Win., \$550	May 2000	Grade A-: If you can overlook the stock's profile you'll see the rifle's inner beauty. Interchangeable barrel feature.
Savage Model 16 FSS 7mm-08 Rem., \$556	Sept 2003	Grade B+: Buy It. With a good scope mounted, the Savage became an acceptable rifle, if not an awe-inspiring.
Remington Model 700 BDL 243 Win., \$585	Dec 1998	Grade B+: We prefer dull rifles, but lots of shooters are unhappy unless the rifle glows in the dark.
Browning A-Bolt Micro Hunter 243 Win. No. 035020211, \$684	July 2005	Grade B+: Buy It. Slightly more expensive than the Frontier, this is still an excellent shooter.
Browning BLR 243 Win., \$649	July 2002	Grade B+: Buy It. This is a classy lever-action rifle for those who don't like lever actions.
Ruger KM77RFP MK II 270 WSM No. 17839, \$695	June 2006	Grade B-: Our shooters would have preferred a wider-gripped stock and lighter trigger.
Sako 75 Hunter 270 Win., \$1184	May 2000	Grade B-: Our test rifle shot well; however, we see little need for an 8.2-pound rifle (without sights or ammo).
Remington 700 Titanium 7mm-08 Rem., \$1239	Sept 2003	Grade C: Conditional Buy. You're paying for lightness more than anything here. 4-inch 100-yard accuracy.
Blaser Prestige 7mm-08 Rem., \$2250	Sept 2003	Grade D: Don't Buy. The Blaser kicked hard because of its rock-like butt pad. Had failures to eject.

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