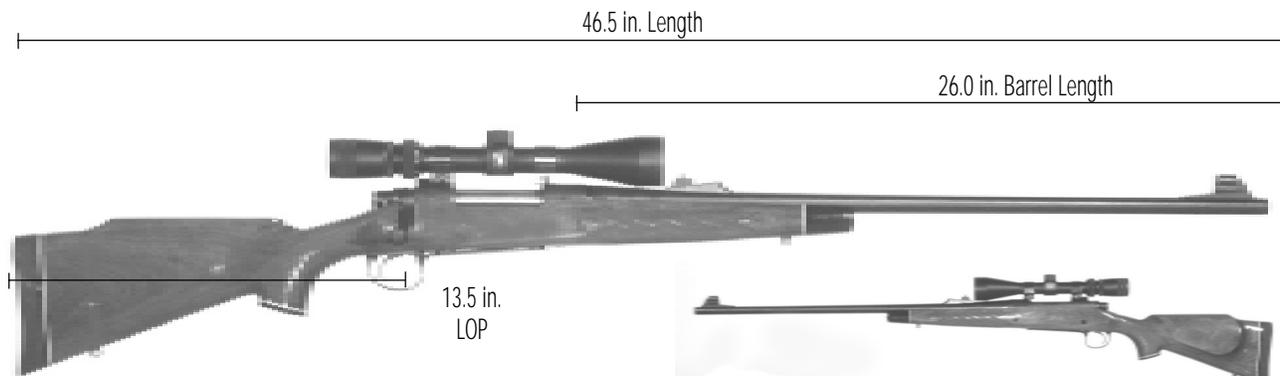


700 BDL CUSTOM DELUXE REMINGTON (with enhanced engraving)

Price.....\$600



Our recommendation: This is a low-cost, good-looking alternative to high-performance .30-caliber rifles, but be prepared for some recoil.



This rifle features nicely done skip-line checkering, Remington's clean lines, and that big trigger guard, which all add up to an affordable and good-looking, powerful rifle.

SPECIFICATIONS

WARRANTY	One Year	MAGAZINE TYPE	Box
STOCK	Fiberglass	MAGAZINE FLOORPLATE	Alum
FINISH	Glossy	ACTION TYPE	Bolt
WEIGHT	9.0 lbs.	TRIGGER PULL	4.8 lbs.
MAGAZINE CAPACITY	3		



Engraving? Not quite. It's stamped into the aluminum floorplate, but it looks pretty good.

This \$600 rifle is a real looker, with its pseudo-engraved action and floorplate, wrap-around forend checkering, and clean lines.

Remington's website compares their new .300 Ultra with the .300 Weatherby, but uses a lower velocity for the Weatherby than we measured. We think the .300 Ultra Mag will sell well to those who want a lot more performance than the .30-06 without going to a larger bore diameter.

Dakota was, we believe, the first company to utilize the .404 Jeffery case as the basis for a line of proprietary unbelted magnums, one of them the hot .300 Dakota tested here. The fact that it was a good idea is evident from Remington's use of the same Jeffery case for their .300 Ultra Mag. The .404 Jeffery case has a base diameter essentially equal to the outside of the belt on belted magnum

cases. This means that for a given length, a Jeffery-based case holds more powder than a belted case.

More than providing extra power, the Jeffery-type case feeds more smoothly because there's no belt to get in the way. Headspace is achieved on the case shoulder, just as with a .30-06 or .308. There is really no reason not to use big cases without belts, as John Rigby knew back at the turn of the century when he brought out his .416 Rigby. We wonder why it took so long for a major U.S. company to follow suit.

The 700 BDL Custom Deluxe Remington had nothing new for diligent readers of GUN TESTS. Basic features of our test rifle included a recessed-head bolt with Remington's little extractor, bolt-plunger ejector, slick bolt movement, and a trigger pull that broke at 4¾ pounds. Remington puts

a large trigger guard on their rifles, which we like. It gives room for fat fingers or for gloved use, but if you wear gloves to shoot your rifle, be extremely careful. You might not feel the trigger, and get an unwanted shot.

The stock had excellent cut checkering in a multi-point, skip-line pattern. It looked good and worked well. The black rubber buttpad was offset with a white-line spacer, as were the pistol grip cap and the black forend tip. Two sling swivel studs were fitted. We've come to like Remington's "engraving." If it can be achieved as inexpensively as Remington does it, why not have it on the rifle? As the finish wears, the rifle looks better. A rifle without engraving can look pretty bad as it ages.

The glossy stock finish was evenly applied over the rather plain wood. The forend was free-floated from the