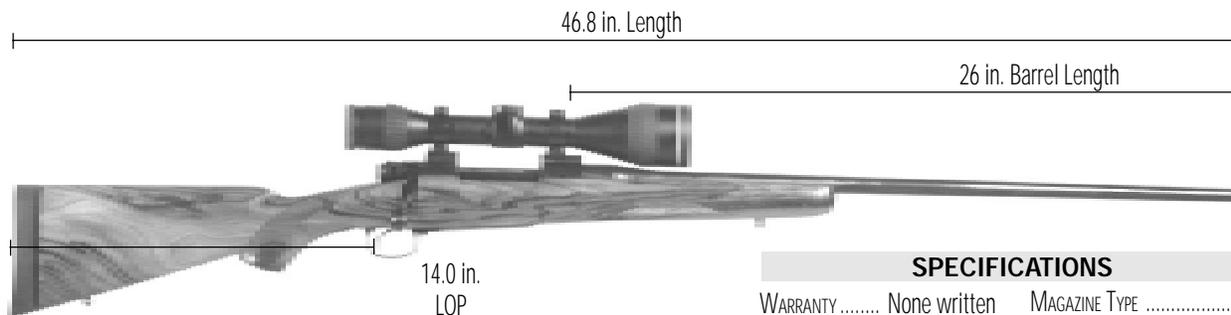


## DAKOTA CLASSIC SPORTER MODEL 76 .300 DAKOTA

Price.....\$4,395



**Our recommendation: Beautiful to behold, a joy to shoot. This rifle won our hearts.**

### SPECIFICATIONS

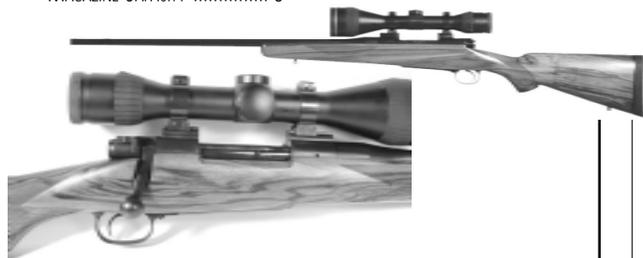
WARRANTY .....	None written	MAGAZINE TYPE .....	Box
STOCK .....	Wood	MAGAZINE FLOORPLATE .....	Steel
FINISH .....	Oil	ACTION TYPE .....	Bolt
WEIGHT .....	9.2 lbs.	TRIGGER PULL .....	3.0 lbs.
MAGAZINE CAPACITY .....	3		



*When a rifle looks this good, it's icing on the cake when it performs as well as it looks. This one averaged less than one-inch groups, and was very slick and smooth.*



*A skeleton ring of steel enclosed perfect checkering on the pistol grip cap.*



*We thought that big 30mm, 3.5-14x scope with 50mm objective was ideal for the Dakota. Note how the light runs up the wrist to the action.*

Weatherby Mark V Sporter in .300 Weatherby.

All of our rifles had wood stocks, none more lovely than the Dakota's. All had 26-inch barrels, to make the most of their increased chamber capacities. The Remington and Weatherby had cheekpieces and Monte Carlo-style stocks while the Dakota was, per its description, classic shaped. The Remington had iron sights fitted, while the other two had neither iron sights nor holes to mount them.

The Dakota came with a fine, extra-cost, 3.5-14x Leupold scope mounted in Talley rings. The rifle was fully sighted-in with ammunition that was custom loaded for that specific rifle. You can't get more proprietary than that. We installed the (Czechoslovakian) 3-9x Artemis scope onto the Remington and Weatherby in turn, and proceeded with our evaluation.

### Dakota Classic Sporter Model 76 .300 Dakota

**Our recommendation: Buy it. This**

was one fantastic rifle, very accurate, reliable, smooth, gorgeous, and well worth every penny of its cost, in our opinion. If you want one of the best bolt-action sporters in the world, one built right here in the U.S., buy a Dakota.

Total beauty, superb wood and first-class metal work delight the eye that beholds this gun. We feel this rifle exemplifies how a bolt-action rifle ought to look. That was our first impression of the \$4,395 (not including scope) Dakota Sporter, and it proved to be entirely accurate.

The base price of the Dakota Sporter is \$3,195. This one had upgraded wood, Talley bases and rings, and a skeleton-type grip cap. These brought the price up an additional \$1,000 or so, and only you the purchaser can decide if they're worth it. One spends a great deal more time looking at a rifle than shooting it, so it makes sense for it to be attractive. Talley rings and bases are among the very finest in the industry, and if

you're spending serious money for a special rifle, it makes little sense to put anything but the best onto it. The grip cap, we felt, added significantly to the overall look of the rifle.

Built around Dakota's proprietary action that closely copies the pre-'64 Winchester Model 70, this rifle had controlled feed and positive ejection, both features handed down from early Mauser designs. The Dakota was essentially a finely built custom-made rifle that anyone would be proud to own.

Dakota's upgraded wood was California English walnut of a golden-honey color with black streaks and swirls that delighted the eye. It had perfect grain through the grip and into the forend. Such wood has never been cheap. The wood was perfectly filled, and the hand-cut checkering was extremely well done in a pattern that blended with the contours of the stock. The oil-type finish brought out all the wood had to offer, which was plenty. No extraneous forend tip