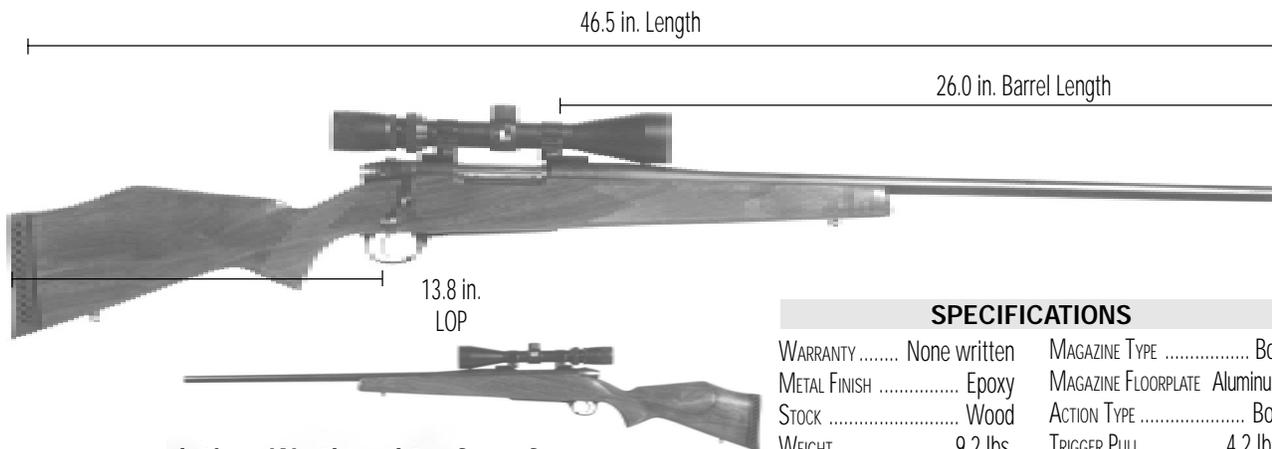


WEATHERBY MARK V SPORTER .300 WEATHERBY

Price.....\$949



SPECIFICATIONS

WARRANTY	None written	MAGAZINE TYPE	Box
METAL FINISH	Epoxy	MAGAZINE FLOORPLATE	Aluminum
STOCK	Wood	ACTION TYPE	Bolt
WEIGHT	9.2 lbs.	TRIGGER PULL	4.2 lbs.
MAGAZINE CAPACITY	3		

Our recommendation: We thought a few of the details could have been handled better, but this was a sound rifle.

That big head on the end of the bolt serves to shield the shooter



from escaping gas. We thought Weatherby's checkering left something to be desired.

Racy lines, the three holes in the bolt, and the hard, glossy finish help identify the Weatherby Mark V at a glance.



The trigger guard and floorplate are aluminum.

feed perfectly. This fellow's time is actually worth \$50 an hour, so he spends thousands of dollars of his time on \$500 rifles to turn them into \$550 rifles. It's a hobby that doesn't make a lot of sense to us.

With the Dakota Sporter, all that development work has been done. This rifle needs nothing. It's complete, all ready to go. More important, because it is a fine rifle it will appreciate in value at a higher rate than the ordinary rifle. A \$500 rifle will be worth about \$500 in a decade, but fine rifles like the Dakota have historically increased greatly in value with time. That's why the price of such a thing is more than justified, and that doesn't even include the great joy of owning and shooting it along the way.

Weatherby Mark V Sporter .300 Weatherby

Our recommendation: Buy it. Its accuracy was the best of the lot, but we thought a few of the details

could have been done better, but in all it was a sound rifle.

Our first impression of the Mark V was obtained the same day as our first impression of the Remington 700 BDL in .300 Ultra Mag. It was that the \$600 Remington was a better-looking rifle than the \$949 Weatherby.

This impression was obtained from a long glance at each of them standing side by side in the harsh light of day. The proof of how well they worked and shot remained to be seen. However, the sparse checkering of the Weatherby Mark V, the clumsy feel of the stock forend, the mediocre figure of the wood, and some marring of the blued finish on the barrel would require some pretty doggoned good shooting and handling qualities to offset its higher cost.

Oddly, there was no manual or other paperwork in the box. The rifle had no iron sights, nor were there rings in the package. We bought a set of Weaver bases and installed a 3-9x Artemis scope.

The 26-inch barrel was quite slender, tapering quite rapidly but smoothly from an inch in front of the action. Its diameter at the bore was 0.6 inch, and the stock was cast off about a quarter inch. The weight of the rifle was mostly between the hands, and this, together with the cast off, gave the rifle a lively feel that belied its weight of 7.9 pounds without scope. The scope brought the test weight up to 9.2 pounds. The trigger pull was crisp and clean, breaking at 4¹/₄ pounds. The overtravel was taken up by what felt like a heavy spring, and we liked that.

Weatherby put a trestle-style rubber buttpad onto the rifle, and while you may not like the look of such a pad, this one did a good job of reducing felt recoil. There was no white line spacer. The higher-grade Deluxe version of the Mark V Weatherby has this feature here and on its contrasting grip cap and forend tip, if you want it.

The stock had a glossy epoxy fin-