

manual safety at the right rear of the bolt, worked positively. We were pleasantly surprised that the Black Shadow's magazine had a hinged floorplate made of steel. Modestly-priced bolt-action rifles usually have a fixed floorplate or a hinged floorplate made of an aluminum alloy. We prefer the durability of steel. Top-loading the Ranger's five-round magazine didn't present any problems. Unloading the magazine was a fast and simple matter of depressing the button-shaped floorplate catch at the front of the alloy trigger guard. Although this Winchester was the longest rifle of the test, it was the second-lightest. This afforded good muzzle stability and reasonably quick target acquisition. Most shooters liked this rifle's 13.75-inch length of pull, which was longer than the others. The straight comb afforded a comfortable cheek-to-stock fit. Although the pistol grip felt slim, it and the tapered forend provided a solid grasp. Felt recoil was the second-heaviest of the test, but it wasn't punishing. A few of our shooters thought the Winchester was too plain looking, but the majority felt its nearly all-black finish was suitable for hunting. Excluding the bolt's white body, all metal parts had a matte blue/black finish. The synthetic stock was a lighter grayish-black in color and had cleanly molded checkering on the forend and grip. Overall, this rifle's workmanship was above average.

Remington Model 700 ADL Synthetic

Our Recommendation: Disappointing. The ADL Synthetic lacked the accuracy most hunters need.

This Remington Model 700 ADL's best groups, 2.25 inches at 100 yards, were obtained using Federal Premium 150-grain boat-

Remington 700 ADL Synthetic

Retail Price...\$425

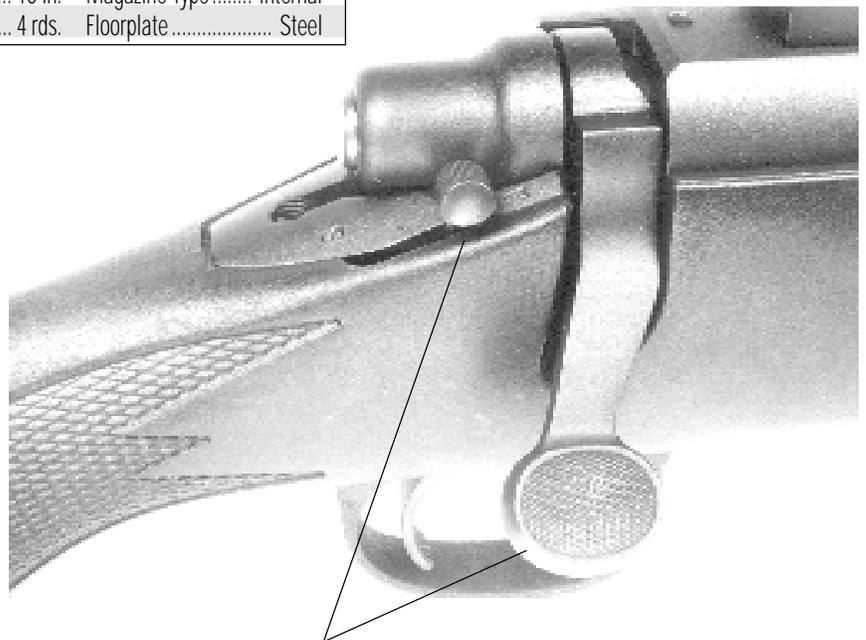


SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: No Written

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|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| METAL FINISH | Blued | STOCK MATERIAL | Synthetic |
| WEIGHT (EMPTY) | 7.38 lbs. | LENGTH OF PULL | 13.25 in. |
| OVERALL LENGTH | 42.75 in. | FOREND WIDTH | 1.63 in. |
| BARREL LENGTH | 22 in. | GRIP WIDTH | 1.33 in. |
| SIGHT RADIUS | 16 in. | MAGAZINE TYPE | Internal |
| CAPACITY | 4 rds. | FLOORPLATE | Steel |

Our recommendation: Less accurate than the Winchester and the Savage. Don't bother.



Like all Remington Model 700s, the ADL Synthetic's manual safety is a two-position lever behind the bolt on the right rear of the receiver. The bolt knob is flattened.

The Remington Model 700 ADL Synthetic's bolt release is a very small tab at the top inside of the trigger guard. The alloy trigger guard has a sandblasted black finish.



tail soft points. Remington 125-grain pointed soft points came in a very close second with 2.28-inch groups. Winchester 165-grain pointed soft points produced 2.67-inch groups. In our view, these

groups needed to be at least an inch smaller across the board.

We noted other shortcomings as well. Our shooters considered the bolt release at the top inside of the alloy trigger guard to be