

accuracy and handling weren't as good.

The Howa Lightning was less accurate than the Remington ADL Synthetic, and its group sizes were not as consistent. Its best five-shot groups averaged 2.30 inches at 100 yards with Federal

Premium 150-grain boattail soft points. Groups produced with Remington 125-grain and Winchester 165-grain pointed soft points measured 2.45 inches and 2.90 inches, respectively. This accuracy level just isn't good enough, in our view.

Regardless of the ammunition used, our Lightning's functioning was reliable. The bolt locked and unlocked with only a minor amount of effort, but there was a moderate amount of drag in its back-and-forth movement. The two-position manual safety, located at the right rear of the receiver, and the other controls worked as they should. We felt the Howa had the best trigger of the test, though all of our shooters said it could have been a pound lighter. The pull had no takeup or creep and offered a clean 4-pound release. There was only minuscule overtravel. Like the Winchester Model 70 Black Shadow, the Lightning's internal magazine held five rounds and had a hinged floorplate made of

blued steel. It was easier to unload than the Remington ADL's smaller-capacity fixed magazine, and should be inherently more reliable than a detachable magazine. However, the spring-loaded floorplate catch lever, partially recessed into the front of the alloy trigger guard, moved stiffly and was hard to depress. Weighing 7.5 pounds, the Howa Model 1500 was the heaviest rifle of the test. Its greater weight made felt recoil the mildest, and was partially offset by the gun's comparatively even balance. However, pointing and target acquisition were still relatively sluggish. Most shooters considered the gun to shoulder naturally. The wide forend and pistol grip comfortably filled the shooter's hands and provided ample gripping area.

Savage Model 111F

Our recommendation: Flawed, but still a shooter. This Savage was lightweight, fast handling and accurate. If you can overlook its heavy trigger, we felt this modestly-priced rifle would be a good choice

Savage Model 111F

Retail Price...\$395



Our recommendation: This gun is a great value and a great performer. Buy it.

SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: Two years

METAL FINISH	Blued	STOCK MATERIAL	Synthetic
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	6.5 lbs.	LENGTH OF PULL	13.00 in.
OVERALL LENGTH	42.75 in.	FOREND WIDTH	1.25 in.
BARREL LENGTH	22 in.	GRIP WIDTH	1.50 in.
SIGHT RADIUS	16.25 in.	Magazine Type	Internal
CAPACITY	4 rds.	Floorplate	Steel



The large lever on the right side of the Savage Model 111F's receiver serves as a cocking indicator and assists in releasing the bolt. The manual safety is a three-position slide on the tang.

The Savage Model 111F was one of the two rifles in this test that came with open sights. The black plastic rear sight had two opposing windage adjustment screws and one elevation adjustment screw.

