

Remington Model 700 Varmint Synthetic Price.....\$705



Our recommendation: Another great shooter with a good trigger than can get better. The forend shape was a liability in our eyes, however.

SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: 1 Year

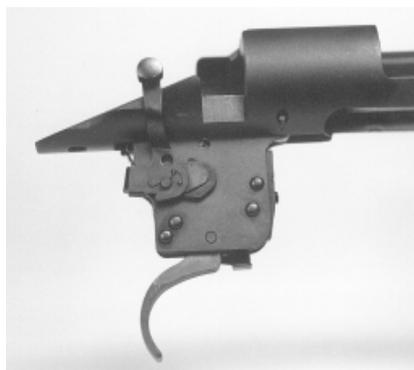
FINISH	Matte Black	ACTION TYPE	Bolt
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	9 lbs. 10 oz.	TRIGGER PULL Wt.	4.75 lbs.
OVERALL LENGTH	46 in.	MAGAZINE CAPACITY	6
BARREL LENGTH	26 in.	STOCK	Composite/Kevlar
RIFLING TWIST	1-in-12	STOCK LOP	13.5 in.
FREE-FLOATED BARREL	Yes	STOCK DROP @ COMB.....	1.5 in.
RINGS INCLUDED	No	STOCK DROP @ HEEL	1.5 in.



PMC's 55-grain HPBT shot well across the board, notching best of test 0.38-inch groups in the Winchester, 0.47-inch groups in the Remington 700 (above), 0.42-inch groups in the Ruger, and 0.64-inch groups in the Tikka.



Accuracy secret: Built-in bedding blocks in the Winchester (left) and Remington (center). The Ruger (right) lacked one.



Accuracy secret, part II: Trigger adjustability helps the shooter shoot well; but allow a pro to rework the Remington trigger.

around the receiver and screws might improve accuracy further.

The most important performance feature on the Remington was its superb accuracy. The 700VS averaged 0.56-inch-groups across four test ammunitions—remarkable considering the variation in brands and bullet styles. Our best group average (0.43 inches) with this test gun came with the Hornady V-Max 55-grain bullet.

The gun's trigger broke crisply at 4.75 to 5 pounds and showed very little overtravel. To make the trigger more suitable for benchrest shooting, we adjusted it down to 2 pounds and could have gone lower. The gun measured 46 inches in overall length, 26 inches of which was in the barrel. The receiver was drilled and tapped and worked well with Weaver bases and rings, which we supplied. The gun weighed 9 pounds 10 ounces without a scope.

Metal on the barrel and the receiver's metal were blued steel with a black matte finish. The muzzle diameter was 0.61 inches; the barrel widened as it moved toward the receiver.

The 700VS's forend bottom was 1.75 inches wide and rounded, which was a little harder to settle into our rifle rest. The stock's length of pull measured 13.5 inches. There was no checkering on the gun, nor was it needed. The synthetic stock produced a sufficient grip surface. The butt had a 0.25-inch-thick black-rubber pad. Sling swivel studs were standard, but we found that removing the front stud worked better when shooting off a rest.

GUN TESTS Recommends

We can only wonder how well fine-tuned reloads would shoot in these guns. Though the Winchester shot the best overall, a close reading of the accuracy data shows that with the right ammo, each gun shot groups right at 0.50-inch averages. In our experience, this is unusual. Often, the best gun in a test will outshoot the others with nearly ev-