

to a muzzle OD of 0.730 inches. All metal on our test gun was stainless steel with a matte target grey finish overall. The laminated hardwood stock had a nonglare satin finish and very good wood-to-metal fit, but no checkering at the grip or on the forend.

The barrel was set slightly to the left in the stock channel, but was free floated with no bedding. Pillar bedding is needed with this wood stock, in our opinion. Temperature and humidity can quickly affect wood and cause movement of the action within the stock. The stock's 13.5-inch length of pull included a 0.5-inch-thick black-rubber buttpad. Quick-detachable swivel studs are included. The fore-end has a 2.5-inch-wide beavertail bottom with a slight curve that worked very well in our rifle rest. The gun measured 46 inches in overall length and weighed 10 pounds without scope or rings. Ruger's integral scope-mounting system made adding a Leupold 36X scope easy and saved us the additional cost of bases and rings.

A three-position rear tang safety was smooth and easy to work with the right thumb. The safety will lock the bolt and trigger when in the rear position. The middle position allows the bolt to open while the trigger remains locked.

Remington 700VS Varmint Synthetic

Our recommendation: This gun was superbly accurate, but it lacked a flat forend, which is a great help when shooting off a bench.

Our \$705 Remington 700VS Varmint Synthetic test gun came outfitted with a dark-textured DuPont Kevlar composite stock. The classic straight-stock design included a machined one-piece aluminum frame, milled to fit the bottom of the receiver. This metal-to-metal design, strengthened with pillar-style action screws, made this stock weather-resistant and reliable. However, glass bedding

Ruger KM77VT MKII Target Rifle

Price.....\$718



SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: No written

FINISH	Satin Gray	ACTION TYPE	Bolt
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	10 lbs.	TRIGGER PULL WT.	4 lbs.
OVERALL LENGTH	46 in.	MAGAZINE CAPACITY	4
BARREL LENGTH	26 in.	STOCK MAT. ..	Lam. Hardwood
RIFLING TWIST	1-in-12	STOCK LOP	13.75 in.
FREE-FLOATED BARREL	Yes	STOCK DROP @ COMB	1.5 in.
RINGS INCLUDED	Yes	STOCK DROP @ HEEL	1.75 in.

Our recommendation: Buy it. With the right ammo, it shoots under half an inch.



Three of the test ammunitions shot in the Ruger produced half-inch-or-smaller average groups at 100 yards. The best: PMC's 55-grain bullets.



The gun's trigger was adjustable, so we dropped the trigger-pull weight to 2 pounds. This feature gave the Ruger a leg up on the other guns.



The Ruger's forend (right) has a 2.5-inch-wide beavertail bottom with a slight curve that worked very well in our rifle rest. The Winchester (left) had a similar design. The Remington's front profile was more rounded, which meant it didn't sit flat on the rest.