

Our Winchester Model 70 Synthetic Heavy Varmint test gun was the priciest gun in the test at \$764. The classic stock design, similar to the Remington's, also included pillar bedding and a full-length aluminum block, machine-cut to fit the receiver, and built into the stock. Winchester calls this the Pillar Plus Accu Block bedding system, and it includes glass bedding around the front and rear stock screw area of the receiver. The charcoal-grey composite stock had a 2.5-inch beavertail forend with a flat bottom. This improves stability and repeatability on the rest, where free recoil is important. This means the gun sits free in the rest and is allowed to recoil on its own when firing. Under ideal recoil conditions, the gun will move straight back with minimal disturbance in the sight picture. The flat forend keeps the gun upright during recoil, and after the shot, the shooter simply pushes the gun forward into the rest, where a stop on the Ransom Rest ensures the gun starts in the same position.

The Winchester's overall accuracy groups averaged 0.49 inches with four test ammunitions. This overall group average was 0.07 inch better than the Remington's tally. Our best group average with this test gun came with PMC's 55-grain HPBT bullet: 0.38 inches.

The Winchester's two-tone metal finish made this a good-looking firearm. A satin stainless steel finish on the gun's 26-inch free-floated barrel contrasted nicely with the blued receiver. At 10 pounds 4 ounces, this was the heaviest of the test guns. A 0.87-inch-thick muzzle diameter accounted for the extra weight.

Compared to the other guns, the Winchester's trigger pull was disappointing. It broke crisply at 4.5 to 4.75 pounds and showed a little creep. This trigger is somewhat adjustable, but it will have to be broken down and honed to get a lighter, smoother pull. The receiver

## Winchester Model 70 Synthetic HV

Price.....\$764



### SPECIFICATIONS

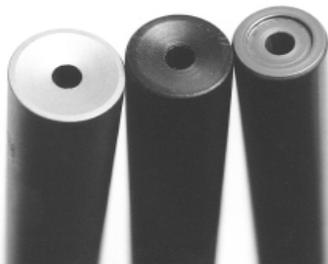
Warranty: 1 Year

FINISH .....	Satin St. & Blued	ACTION TYPE .....	Bolt
WEIGHT (EMPTY) ....	10 lbs. 4 oz.	TRIGGER PULL WT. ....	4.5 lbs.
OVERALL LENGTH .....	45.75 in.	MAGAZINE CAPACITY .....	6
BARREL LENGTH .....	26 in.	STOCK MATERIAL .....	Composite
RIFLING TWIST .....	1-in-9	STOCK LOP .....	13 in.
FREE-FLOATED BARREL .....	Yes	STOCK DROP @ COMB ...	1.25 in.
RINGS INCLUDED .....	No	STOCK DROP @ HEEL .....	1.5 in.

**Our recommendation: The best accuracy in the test, due largely to an aluminum bedding block. Needs trigger work, however.**



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*At 10 pounds 4 ounces, this was the heaviest of the test guns. A 0.87-inch-thick muzzle diameter (far left) accounted for the extra weight. The Remington barrel is shown center, and the Ruger is at right.*



*The Winchester's trigger broke crisply at 4.5 to 4.75 pounds and showed a little creep. To adjust this trigger, the pieces would have to be broken down and honed to get a lighter, smoother pull. That's a job for a gunsmith.*

is drilled and tapped and accepted Weaver bases and rings.

### Tikka Continental Varmint Rifle

**Our recommendation: Worth a look. This \$694 gun shot under an inch with most ammo brands,**

**but it wasn't as accurate as the others with the brand/lots we shot. However, its interesting features might offset the accuracy disparity.**

The Tikka's overall accuracy groups averaged 0.96 inch, with three of the four test ammunitions