

receiver was drilled and tapped for 6-48 scope-base holes. It had the obligatory little hole-plugging screws, but no scope bases.

Think on this for a moment: A manufacturer ships a rifle with no iron sights, onto which you must install a scope in order to shoot it. Then the maker puts the little plug screws in, which you must remove before you or your gunsmith can install the scope mount. The scope mount is not provided, nor does Beretta (nor Browning) suggest any sort of mount whatsoever. We suggest this common technique of shipping rifles is obsolete, as Ruger has learned (its gunship with integral mounts). Hunting rifles need scope mounts. Contrast this with another expensive rifle we're testing for an upcoming report, the Blaser 93. This rifle came with a scope mount and rings, and all the wrenches needed to install everything. All we had to do was attach the parts to the rifle, pick up our scope and drop it into the mount, tighten everything, and we were ready to go. Likewise, a less expensive CZ rifle came with useful iron sights, plus stout integral scope-mount bases and rings. Some rifle makers seem to have the right idea. For the asking price, Beretta USA can well afford to put a set of bases and rings into the box so the new buyer can at least shoot his rifle when he gets it home. The omission of these parts is unacceptable, in our view.

We phoned Beretta and inquired about scope mounts, and were told the only mounts that fit the rifle were Beretta's own, made for them by TNT (Talley). This wasn't true, because the action had essentially the same contours as the pre-'64 Model 70 Winchester, and inexpensive Weaver bases fit it. A set of Weaver rings and bases retails for less than \$30. We tried a set of Leupold Detacho mounts that came off a pre-'64 M70 and they worked. The Talley bases and rings retail for \$89.50, and they, or at least the

## Beretta Mato .30-06

Price.....\$1,660



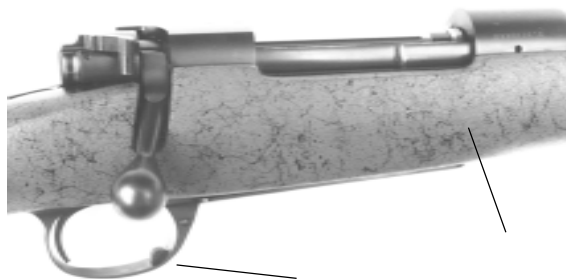
### SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: 1 Year

FINISH .....	Matte Blued	STOCK MATERIAL .....	SYNTHETIC
WEIGHT .....	7.75 lbs.	STOCK LOP .....	13.4 in.
OVERALL LENGTH .....	44.5 in.	GRIP WIDTH .....	1.3 in.
BARREL LENGTH .....	24 in.	FOREND WIDTH .....	1.8 in.
ACTION TYPE .....	Bolt	MAGAZINE ..	INTERNAL DETACHABLE
MAGAZINE CAPACITY .....	4	TRIGGER PULL WT. ....	5.5 lbs.

**Our recommendation: Way too much money for what it delivers. Don't buy it.**

The Mato came with two detachable magazines, a fluted bolt with full-length extractor, nice bluing and an attractive and durable stock, among other accessories. This rifle looks a lot like the Dakota or Winchester M70.



The Mato's magazine release is at the front of the steel trigger guard. The stock had a bedding block and a textured synthetic surface.

Weavers, should have been in that fancy hard case.

Although the original Mauser 98 rifle design (on which the Model 70, Dakota and Beretta are based) mandated loading the chamber from the magazine, the Beretta Mato permitted dropping a round into the feedway and closing the bolt over that round. This worked well, we thought.

The magazine held four rounds. Both magazines were easily removed or reattached to the rifle, and they were securely held in

place. The trigger guard and floorplate were steel, the magazine follower of plastic, and the mag box was made of non-magnetic metal that looked and felt like stainless steel.

We installed our test Leupold 12x scope in the Leupold Detacho rings and bases and repaired to the range with Federal Classic 150-grain Hi-Shok and Speer Nitrex 165-grain/Grand Slam loads, and one of our favorite handloads with 168-grain Sierra MatchKing bullets. Our shooting indicated that the Mato is