

## Browning A-Bolt Composite Stalker

Price.....\$640



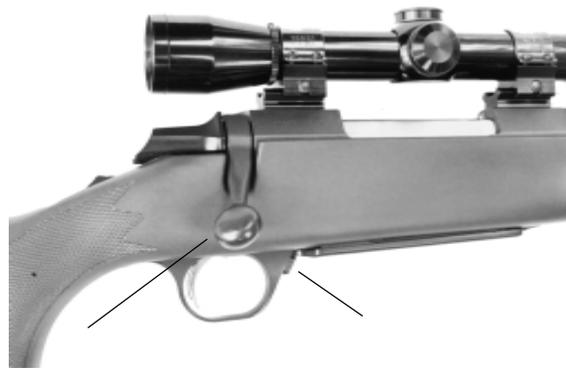
### SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: 1 Year

FINISH .....	Matte Blued	STOCK MATERIAL .....	SYNTHETIC
WEIGHT .....	7.28 lbs.	STOCK LOP .....	13.8 in.
OVERALL LENGTH .....	43.0 in.	GRIP WIDTH .....	1.4 in.
BARREL LEN. w/o BOSS ..	20 in.	FOREND WIDTH .....	1.5 in.
ACTION TYPE .....	Bolt	MAGAZINE ..	INTERNAL DETACHABLE
MAGAZINE CAPACITY .....	4	TRIGGER PULL WT. ....	3.4 lbs.

**Our recommendation: Worth the money. Positives: 60-degree bolt lift, smooth operation, superb trigger, decent accuracy.**

Note the angled bolt head, to give a bit more leverage when opening the 60-degree bolt. We really liked the tang safety. Trigger guard and floorplate were of aluminum alloy. The release button is outside the trigger guard.



The Browning's magazine is easily detached from the floorplate. The rifle had very clean lines, good finish, and adequate performance. We liked it.



indeed overpriced, because it didn't shoot worth a damn. Our smallest three-shot group (3/4-inch) came from a handloaded Sierra MatchKing 168-grain bullet, yet these carefully assembled match-quality loads averaged only 1.4 inches. The best average three-shot group with commercial loads was 1.3 inches with Federal's Hi-Shok ammo. The Mato hated the fine

Nitrex ammunition with its premium Grand Slam bullets, giving average groups of 2.4 inches. Thinking we had a problem somewhere we rechecked everything and fired more groups, but the gun didn't shoot any better.

The Beretta Mato is also offered with a fancy Claro walnut stock at \$2,300. The wood-clad Mato is a nice-looking rifle, which is worth

something, but in a mediocre-shooting plastic stock, this Winchester Model 70 (or Dakota) clone has few distinguishing features.

After we tested the Mato, we called Gabriele dePlano, product marketing manager at Beretta USA, and asked why they didn't include a set of rings with the gun. He informed us that we had been told in error that only one set of rings would fit the gun, and that in fact any set that would fit a pre-'64 Winchester Model 70 would work with the Mato. He said they considered including a set of rings/bases, but couldn't come up with just the right ones. The powers there couldn't agree on 1-inch or 30mm rings, for one thing. Then, for a high-grade rifle they couldn't see giving the buyer inexpensive mounts, and didn't want to increase the cost an additional \$100 or so by providing extremely high-grade mounts. However, dePlano told us they will mount any scope in whatever mounts the customer wants, when he orders the gun. Our suggestion: Omit the hard case (which isn't good enough to survive a lifetime of abuse, in our judgment) and instead provide the TNT rings and bases. It'd be a wash on cost.

### Browning A-Bolt Composite Stalker with BOSS

**Our recommendation: At \$640 this Japanese-made rifle is a more intelligent buy than the Beretta. You get adequate rifle for your money, a good-looking and solid unit with a bolt lift of only 60 degrees, a smooth bolt, superb trigger, and decent accuracy. We loved the safety, right on top of the wrist and, overall, we liked the A-Bolt a lot.**

This rifle's plain-finished black stock (fiberglass/graphite composite) had a palm (or Wundhammer) swell on the right side of the pistol grip. It was of classic form, with no cheekpiece. The stock felt great for right handers, and the lefties had no problems with the swell, or lack