

Savage Model 111F

Retail Price...\$395



Our recommendation: This gun is a great value and a great performer. Buy it.

The large lever on the right side of the Savage Model 111F's receiver serves as a cocking indicator and assists in releasing the bolt. The manual safety is a three-position slide on the tang.

SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: Two years

METAL FINISH	Blued	STOCK MATERIAL	Synthetic
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	6.5 lbs.	LENGTH OF PULL	13.00 in.
OVERALL LENGTH	42.75 in.	FOREND WIDTH	1.25 in.
BARREL LENGTH	22 in.	GRIP WIDTH	1.50 in.
SIGHT RADIUS	16.25 in.	Magazine Type	Internal
CAPACITY	4 rds.	Floorplate	Steel



thereof. The checkering looked good and worked well. The rifle felt very solid and comfortable. The stock was fitted with a hard black-rubber recoil pad and sling swivel studs. The free-floated barrel was fitted with the BOSS brake system that is supposed to allow the shooter to dial in the best vibratory characteristics for best accuracy, while reducing recoil in the bargain. We didn't have time to test this thoroughly, but it did cut felt recoil. However, it sure made the gun louder (it actually blew paint off our test bench), did nothing for the clean lines of this rifle, and we think the average shooter could well do without it shooting .30-06 loads.

The magazine of the A-Bolt bears special mention. Pressing the button in front of the trigger guard drops the floorplate, and secured to it by spring and clip is the detachable magazine containing your loaded rounds. To remove the magazine and its contents, lift at the bullet end and it slips right out of the rifle. This is nearly as handy as the Beretta's totally dropping box. The trigger guard and the magazine

floorplate are made of aluminum alloy. The magazine itself is steel.

The bolt head of the A-Bolt is recessed, and contains a plunger-type ejector and spring-loaded extractor reminiscent of the post-'64 Winchester Model 70. The bolt body rides in a three-ribbed sleeve that guides the bolt and aids in its smooth feel. The sleeve is finished in what appears to be satin chrome. The bolt system worked well, and ejection was positive. The bolt was quite slick after we oiled it, and with three lugs it required only 60 degrees of lift to open. The effort needed to cock the bolt was slightly heavier than that required for a 90-degree bolt, but was quite acceptable. The angled bolt handle helps direct the hand's effort to lift the bolt handle, but some of our shooters would have preferred a checkered handle. There was a cocking indicator at the rear of the bolt, right above the exceptional shotgun-style safety, centered on top of the tang. The safety locked the bolt closed, and it couldn't be put on unless the rifle was cocked. The trigger itself was a 3/8-inch wide,

heavily serrated, gold-colored unit of non-steel. The trigger is user-adjustable for pull weight, but we left it alone. The pull was magically clean at 3.4 pounds, had no creep, and just a touch of over-travel, all in all an excellent trigger.

We rated the overall fit and finish of the A-Bolt excellent. The metal was matte black, nicely matching the stock. The magazine holds four rounds; it'll actually hold five, but you can't get the bolt to close over five rounds. Therefore the capacity is four plus one, and you ought never to hunt with a round chambered, so that makes this a four-shooter. We put the 12x Leupold onto it with Weaver bases and, at the range, discovered that the fine trigger pull let us shoot consistent groups. The Federal 150-grain Hi-Shok did the best, averaging 1.25 inches. The Nitrex averaged 2 inches, and our handload went into an average of 1.25 inches. We are quite sure that increased testing with the BOSS system would result in superior accuracy with all loads. We tried a few different positions with the Nitrex loads, and at one setting we got a group of 1.2 inches, where the previous group at another setting had been 2.8 inches. If nothing else the BOSS system encourages test shooting, and the hunter who does so will ultimately know his rifle very well. This rifle felt very good during our shooting tests except for the extremely loud noise from the muzzle brake. Recoil was very much cut down over the heavier Mato, but the loudness was painful even through good ear protectors. We would like the rifle better without the BOSS on it, assuming it still gave reasonable accuracy.

Savage Model 111F

Our recommendation: As we noted in May, this Savage was lightweight, fast handling and

continued on page 20