

GUN TESTS REPORT CARD



**Browning BPS No. 012211813 3-inch
20 Gauge, \$566
GUN TESTS GRADE: A**

While some of the great pumps of days gone by haven't seen production for some time, such as the Model 97 and Model 12, there is still more than enough room for quality steel and walnut in today's market. While \$500 to \$800 has little hope of getting you anything too good in a stackbarrel, it should still get you a slide-action that instills both pride of ownership and tremendous utility. One gun in this test, Browning's BPS, does just that. It is hard to believe that Browning could have anything on the market that is under-rated or overlooked. Well, we believe it now, and we think a lot of people have been missing one of the jewels in the marketplace that sings "quality and value" to us with every pull of the trigger. We like guns that shoot where we look, and guns that fold doves with authority. We were surprised at the number of shooters who said that the "BPS was obviously the most expensive gun," when it is actually the most affordable. We happily award the BPS an A, and our testers would buy this shotgun.



**Remington Model 870 Wingmaster No. 26947
3-inch 20 Gauge, \$773
GUN TESTS GRADE: C**

In our opinion, Remington let Express-type thinking leak through and contaminate the Wingmaster nameplate—a big step down. You might think it hard to fault a gun as legendary as the 870 Wingmaster. Well, we had no trouble with this example. The fundamental platform remains solid, but when the retail price of a pump-action shotgun breaks the \$750 threshold, we expect to see something for it. High-luster blue and walnut is a big part of what we are paying for. When the wood does not match, when the buttstock has finish flaws, we have to wonder where the quality controls and brand name we thought we were paying for has gone to? To get this gun "right," we'd have to remove the center bead and fill it in, perhaps add a bead change to the muzzle, replace the forearm and buttstock, and add a recoil pad while we are at it. That, in our view, is way too far to go on a premium product, particularly when we have a better-built gun in the BPS right along side of it without these issues, at a greater than \$200 lower MSR price point. As a result, we think it deserves and gets a "C."

**Ithaca Model 37 Featherlight 3-inch
20 Gauge, \$859
GUN TESTS GRADE: C**



We understand that the current Ithaca is a very young company, just a year old, and has aggressive plans for the future. We also understand that new companies formed from acquisitions invariably have a few inherited issues. It can take many years to forge a good reputation, and comparatively few to destroy it. We think that Ithaca has the potential to build the best pumps on the market, while still being small enough to be able to accommodate custom stock dimensions, wood upgrades, and other embellishments. You're only as good as your last effort, though, and we believe Ithaca needs to turn a very critical eye to what they are doing right now. Shooting where they are pointed is a vital component of a quality scattergun.