

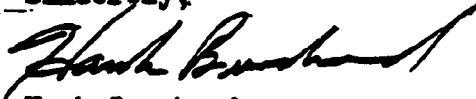
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away for keeps. Because the load we selected is mild (2400 fps) he, like myself, cut his barrel down to improve the swing in brush; this makes the piece unattractive to bench shooters and he wouldn't sell it to anyone else.

All of the above is a damn shame, because otherwise the piece turned out to be what I had hoped: a tough weapon of moderate cost and high accuracy. It shoots 1½" groups at 100 yards even though the barrel has not been glass-bedded; it handles nicely in the field (I have taken two deer with it, both one-shot kills); and it is tough. A friend of mine kicked it out of a pickup truck onto a paved road and then jumped on it without noticeably affecting its accuracy.

My kindly editor had scheduled my piece on the 788, but my field test was so disappointing—and alarming—that he now has reassigned it from the Outdoors to the Consumer section and wants me to write it yesterday. Please let me know as soon as possible what your Product Safety and R&D sections have to say about my fulminations.

Sincerely,



Hank Burchard

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