

REMINGTON 700 SPS YOUTH .243 WIN. NO. 27475, \$520

● GUN TESTS RECOMMENDS: BEST BUY ●

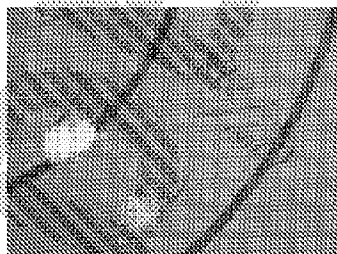
It's difficult to fault this gun in any way: It would be a durable, hard-living addition to any hunting camp, would be resistant to the elements, and would be easy to carry, all at a great price.



SPECIFICATIONS

OVERALL LENGTH.....	38.6 in.	CAPACITY.....	441 rounds
BARREL LENGTH.....	23 in.	ACTION MATERIAL.....	BLUED MATTE STEEL
SIGHT RADIUS.....	NA	ACTION TYPE.....	Bolt
OVERALL HEIGHT (w/SCOPE).....	3.4 in.	BARREL.....	BLUED MATTE STEEL AT 1084
LENGTH OF PULL.....	12.4 in.	MAGAZINE TYPE.....	Hinged Floorplate Box
DROP @ CMs.....	1.125 in.	STOCK.....	BLACK SYNTHETIC
DROP @ Hips.....	1.375 in.	TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT.....	4.3 lbs.
DROP @ Toe.....	3.4 in.	WARRANTY.....	TWO-YEAR LIMITED
PITCH (DOWN).....	0.75 in.	TELEPHONE.....	(800) 243-9700
WEIGHT UNLOADED.....	6.75 lbs.	WEBSIDE EMAIL.....	WWW.REMINGTON.COM

Here's a representative sampling of how the SPS Youth shot. The outside edges are 0.872 inch apart, and center to center, the group measures only 0.629 inch. This puts this bargain-price gun on par with some of the best tactical rifles we've tested.



cost \$617, all without sales taxes. Thus SPS was \$250 cheaper than the Browning and \$217 cheaper than the Ruger.

The stock's LOP was 12.4 inches, with a drop at the comb of 4.12 inches. This allowed shooters with fuller faces to see into the scope a little more easily than on the Micro. Overall, the gun measured 38.6 inches in length and weighed 6.75 pounds unloaded.

Oddly, the Youth version gun was a better overall matchup to the Ruger than anything else in the Remington line we could find. Its dimensions are an inch shorter in the butt than a regular M700 (12.4 inches LOP) and it weighs 6.75 pounds, the same as the Ruger. But it has a 20-inch

barrel. In fact, it looked like a prop from the movie, "Honey, I shrunk the tactical gun."

It also shot like a tactical gun with Federal's 85-grain bullets, with 0.52-inch groups, slightly better than the Browning and Ruger. It apparently didn't like the heavier bullets as well, but bottom line, it shot everything we fed it into sub-1-inch groups. We'll have to check the archives, but we couldn't recall having three guns shoot all sub-MOA in any test, including vastly more expensive tactical rifles.

Each Model 700 SPS is fit with a newly designed, more ergonomic synthetic stock featuring the R3 recoil pad. This very soft pad put the other two guns to shame, and it

made a huge difference in shooter comfort. The carbon-steel barrel was matte-blued and drilled and tapped for scope mounts, which in our test were a Weaver 48500 Matte 35M top-mount base in front and a 48501 36M rear base. Bases and rings added about \$30 to the gun's cost. The carbon-steel barrel came without sights, and the receiver was drilled and tapped for scope mounts. All exterior metalwork featured a matte blued finish. The gun had a hinged floor plate magazine and swivel studs.

The gun's barrel wasn't free floated like the Browning's, and of course its cosmetics weren't up to the level of the other guns.

The trigger sear broke at a range of weights from a low of 4.25 pounds to 4.5 pounds, with an average of 4.3 pounds. The safety was a top-right-tang, thumb-operated push-lever, which we could reach with the thumb of the shooting hand, though it forced our grip on the gun to change somewhat.

Gun Tests Recommends

☆☆☆☆ Ruger M77 Frontier Rifle .243 M77FRBZ MKII, No. 17882, \$800. **Our Pick.** If money were no object, we would not hesitate to buy this fast-handling, accurate rifle. We liked some aspects of its forward-mount concept enough to pick it over the Micro.

☆☆☆☆ Browning A-Bolt Micro Hunter .243 Win. No. 035020211, \$684. **Buy It.** Slightly more expensive than the Frontier, this is still an excellent shooter. If traditional cosmetics are important to you, then choose it ahead of the Frontier.

☆☆☆☆ Remington 700 SPS Youth .243 Win. No. 27475, \$520. **Best Buy.** The literal dark horse in this test, the SPS Youth doesn't dwarf the Frontier. It outshot each of the other guns with one ammunition. We now see why our sheep-hunting friend liked his so much: Despite its name, the SPS Youth is a great-shooting gun that's easy to carry. We think it's a bargain for nearly any shooter, youth or adult. **GT**