

RIFLES

achieve the surprisingly good accuracy numbers. Break-in for the guns consisted of firing the Remington 80-grain rounds in this sequence: shoot one, then brush/swab/patch; shoot two, brush/swab/patch; shoot three, brush/swab/patch; shoot four brush/swab/patch, then cool down.

Our test shooter, a high-power competitor, used a one-piece Model 500 rifle rest available from <target-shooting.com>, \$250, atop a concrete bench. He also wore a Past Mag Recoil Shield, \$30, even though the recoil from these guns was light. We shot three-shot groups at 100 yards on EZ2C No. 6 targets (<ez2ctargets.com>), \$7.50 per pad of 40 targets.

The test scope affixed to all three guns was a proven older Springfield ART IV 3x9x40, and our shooter shot all the groups on the 3X setting. We used Weaver mounts we purchased from Gander Mountain on the Remington and Browning guns, and we used the supplied Ruger mounts with the Frontier.

Bottom Line: As you can see from the accuracy results nearby, we can confidently recommend you go out and buy any of these rifles. These guns simply shot amazingly well. But we also formed opinions about each gun that may make one more suitable for certain shooters than others:

**Ruger M77 Frontier Rifle .243
M77FRBBZ MKII, No. 17882, \$800**

In addition to the laminated stock and 16.5-inch-long barrel mentioned above, the Ruger M77 Mark II Frontier Rifle came with sling swivel adapters, Ruger scope rings, and a Weaver-style scope base adapter. All of the chamberings for the line are in short-action cartridges: 7mm-08 Rem., .243 Win., .308 Win., and .300 WSM. We shot the .243 in this test.

Our test gun's bolt was stainless steel with a 90-degree bolt lift. The receiver was a heat-treated blued-steel alloy, as was the barrel. The gun's capacity was 4+1, and it didn't come with open sights. The grey laminate stock had a short length of

**RUGER M77 FRONTIER RIFLE .243
M77FRBBZ MKII, NO. 17882, \$800**

● GUN TESTS RECOMMENDS OUR PICK ●

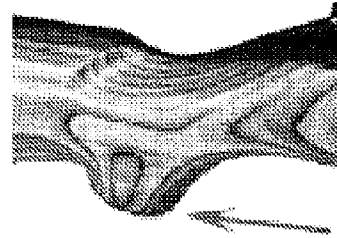
This short, handy rifle would be at home in a scabbard, in the rack of a ranch truck, or on the back of a high-country hunter. We found very few nits to pick on it.



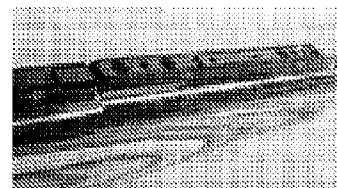
SPECIFICATIONS

OVERALL LENGTH	36.5 IN	CAPACITY	4+1 ROUNDS
BARREL LENGTH	16.5 IN	ACTION MATERIAL	3-JUED STEEL RECEIVER/SS BOLT
SIGHT RADIUS	NA	ACTION TYPE	BOLT
OVERALL HEIGHT (W/SCOPE)	7.8 IN	BARREL	BUILT-UP 6 GROOVE, 1:10 RH
LENGTH OF PULL	12.6 IN	MAGAZINE TYPE	HINGED BOX
DROP @ COVR	0.6 IN	STOCK	LAMINATED HAWKWOOD
DROP @ HEEL	0.6 IN	TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT	6.0 LBS.
DROP @ TOE	5.3 IN	WARRANTY	NONE WRITTEN
PITCH DOWN	1.4 IN	TELEPHONE	(203) 259-7643
WEIGHT (UNLOADED)	6.75 LBS	WEBSITE OR EMAIL	WWW.RUGER.COM

The grey laminate stock was good looking, and probably more stable than the Browning's wood stock. The pistol grip was noticeably shallower than the others, which gave the trigger hand the odd sensation of falling off the grip.



Here's the heart of the Frontier design. The quarter rib allows a forward scope mount, which improves access to the top of the action and keeps the ocular bell of the scope off the shooter's eyebrow. However, recoil was so light in the .243 that we wouldn't be worried about getting cut.



One of the things Ruger continues to do well is supply plenty of tight-fitting mounting hardware. In this case, the supplied rings, which fit directly on the receiver or quarter rib, and a Weaver rail give the shooter plenty of flexibility in terms of what optics he might want to use.

