

RIFLES

tween the Micro and the Frontier are the longer barrel (20 inches, free floated and glass bedded at the recoil lug and rear of receiver) and the satin-finished walnut stock.

The Browning's bolt has a 60-degree throw, and its bolt utilizes a non-rotating bolt sleeve that runs the entire length of the bolt. When unlocked, three guide ribs on the bolt sleeve align with the three locking lugs to allow the bolt to slide smoothly. The A-Bolt fed very smoothly, in our view.

The chrome-plated trigger scar offered a crisp trigger pull that's screw adjustable. Our trigger broke at a range of weights from a low of 3.5 pounds to 4.75 pounds, for an average of 3.75 pounds, slightly lower than the factory's claimed 4 pounds. The safety was a top-tang, thumb-operated unit, which we easily actuated with the thumb of the shooting hand. The hinged floorplate with detachable box magazine makes it simple and fast to load a spare magazine. The gun holds three in magazine, one in chamber. The receiver was drilled and tapped for the installation of scope mounts, and the forearm included Michaels post-type swivel studs, but no swivels.

The stock's LOP was a near-standard 13.3 inches, with a drop at the comb of 0.6 inch. Overall, the gun measured 41.5 inches in length and weighed 6.25 pounds unloaded.

The Micro doesn't seem long when laid alongside the Frontier, and it's lighter and had better overall ballistic performance, recording the highest velocities across the board. On the accuracy side, we would call the Browning a half-inch gun.

Remington 700 SPS Youth 243 Win. No. 27475, \$520

This was unquestionably the least expensive gun in the test, especially when real dollars were considered. At Carter's Country in Houston, a major retailer, we found both the Micro Hunter and SPS Youth in stock, for \$650 and \$400 respectively. We would have to have ordered the Ruger Frontier, and it would have

BROWNING A-BOLT II MICRO HUNTER .243 WIN NO. 035020211, \$684

● GUN TESTS RECOMMENDS BUY IT ●

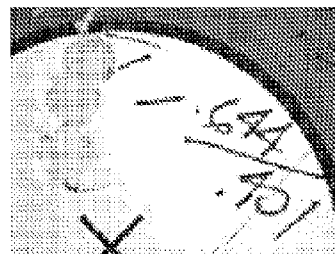
The second of three winners in this test. It showed consistent accuracy with all test ammos, looked good, felt slim, and handled fast. What's not to like?



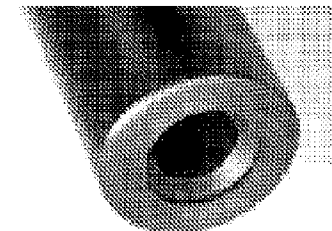
SPECIFICATIONS

OVERALL LENGTH.....	41.5 IN.	CAPACITY.....	3-7 ROUNDS
BARREL LENGTH.....	20 IN.	ACTION MATERIAL.....	BLUED STEEL
SIGHT RADIUS.....	NA	ACTION TYPE.....	BOLT
OVERALL HEIGHT (w/SCOPE).....	10.5 IN.	BARREL.....	BLUED STEEL/11 CR-H
LENGTH OF PULL.....	3.3 IN.	MAGAZINE TYPE.....	HINGED DETACHABLE BOX
D-OF @ COVR.....	0.6 IN.	STOCK.....	SATIN FINISH WALNUT
D-OF @ HEAD.....	0.5 IN.	TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT.....	3.75 LB.
D-OF @ TOE.....	5.3 IN.	WARRANTY.....	NONE WRITTEN
PITCH (DOWN).....	0.7 IN.	TELEPHONE.....	(801) 876-2711
WEIGHT (UNLOADED).....	6.25 LBS.	WEBSITE OR EMAIL.....	WWW.BROWNING.COM

Here's the kind of accuracy we were getting out of the Micro Hunter. This three-shot group measured 0.644 inch outside edge to outside edge, and only 0.401 center to center with the inexpensive 80-grain break-in ammo from Remington.



One of the niceties on the Browning was the recessed muzzle crown. That will likely keep the rifling from getting dinged. Another plus was the gun's adjustable trigger. It obviously worked fine out of the box, but if we owned the gun, we might dial it down to 3.5 pounds.



There are subtle differences in the way these guns handled, but one noticeable one was the radius on the Browning's grip. It had a more downward turn (arrow) than the Ruger, and offered a better grip surface because of that angle and the wood checkering.

