

During the winters of Northern Tier states (or farther north), the one-piece bolt and bolt handle of the MR-30 PG's action is substantially stronger. The strongest possible bolt handle is a significant asset when a cartridge or spent case becomes frozen in a weapon's chamber, and a boot or makeshift bludgeon must be used rotate the bolt handle to break the frozen case free and bring the rifle back into action. The Nesika Bay's one-piece bolt and handle is especially tough at very cold temperatures when metal gets surprisingly brittle. My wife, for example, has shattered so many lug wrenches during Fairbanks, Alaska winters that I've lost count. They broke like they were made of glass. Likewise with rifles, I've seen several handles shear off two-piece rifle bolt and handle systems when operating in extreme cold. The MR-700 conversion does not alleviate this problem, but the MR-30 PG does.

The final comparison must be accuracy. In my experience, the MR-30 Professional Grade rifle consistently delivers sub-1/4 MOA five-shot groups in my hands, even when chambered for the .300 Winchester Short Magnum rather than the .308. The MR-700 conversion could deliver similar accuracy for three rounds, but not five. That said, the upgrade's five-round accuracy still improved significantly and three-round groups shrank to less than half the size of the same rifle before the conversion.

Bottom Line

As those in the trade might say, D&L's upgrade to the Remington M700P is a darned good "stick." It solves almost all of the reliability, user-friendliness, and accuracy issues that the M700P can happen in the hands of an armed professional. That said, D&L's formidable MR-30 PG does deliver better accuracy and reliability than Lauck's Remington upgrade. The MR-30 PG would be my choice of the two, if the budget permits. That said, I can recommend the MR-700 system with enthusiasm for the budget minded end-user.

Performance: D&L's MR-700 .308

	<u>3-shots</u>	<u>5-shots</u>
Best Group	0.22	0.51
Worst Group	0.25	0.64
Average	0.25	0.59

Black Hills 168-grain HPBT match ammo was used in this study. Accuracy was measured in inches from 100 yards. Data represent the average of the maximum center-to-center spread of ten groups. All 3-round groups averaged 0.25-inch except best group; this uncanny consistency is a tribute to Lauck's upgrade and to Black Hills Ammunition. With all 5-round groups, the fifth round was always a flier outside the main grouping, adding circa 0.2 MOA to the group's overall size.

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