

### **Knight Shadow KS606C .50 Caliber , \$250**

#### **GUN TESTS GRADE: D**

Sadly, the unreliable Shadow is simply a failure. We wouldn't buy this rifle, and it earns a "D." In this comparison, the Omega that was a revolution in 2002 is, in this configuration, an outstanding rifle and an outstanding value. We can't say the same for the Shadow.

### **Thompson Omega Z5 .50 Caliber Blued**

#### **Composite No. 8898, \$310**

#### **GUN TESTS GRADE: A**

Based on its trigger, accuracy, reliability, ease of use, and overall build quality the Thompson Omega Z5 richly deserves and gets an "A." It is an amazingly competent muzzleloader at an amazingly good price point.

We often get a few complaints about using "MSRP" here, but we need to set a baseline. If Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Prices are meaningless, then we need to address that complaint to the specific manufacturers—as they are the ones that set them. In any case, to be topical, our survey of big-box stores found the Omega Z5 at around \$310 not including any rebates or other promotions—though there is a 2008 T/C \$50 rebate apparently in force for 4th quarter 2008 of \$50, knocking the price down to \$260 or so. What the future pricing may be, of course, is both speculative and out of our control.

*Written and photographed by Randy Wakeman, using evaluations from GUN TESTS team testers. **GT***