

## **Ruger MKIII6 Standard .22 LR, \$342**

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

Our first few groups with Remington Yellow Jacket HPs were just over an inch, with casual shooting. Then we got serious, and got one at 0.75 inch. With CCI's Mini Mags, the groups were just as small. Best was 0.6 inch for five shots. With Federal's fine Gold Medal target stuff we got a nice tight half-inch group, best of this test. The groups were just to the left of center, and just right for elevation.

With a small tap on the rear sight to drift it to the right, the gun shot perfectly to its sights, and close enough with all ammo tried that we could not see much point in having adjustable sights. With these, there's nothing to break. The Ruger had no problems, with two exceptions. One was the new bolt ears pinching us from time to time. The second problem was a big one. We had the devil of a time prying this fine handgun out of our shooters' hands and going on to the next gun.



## **Beretta U22 Neos 4.5-Inch .22 LR, \$250**

### **GUN TESTS GRADE: C-**

As noted, there were absolutely no problems with feed or function with the Neos. The trigger was actually pretty good, breaking cleanly at 4.2 pounds. We came to like the easy takedown procedure, which doesn't require you to hold the button when putting it back together. It ratchets in that direction. We even got somewhat used to the odd, slanted grip, but we couldn't live with the lack of accuracy. Compared to the other two, accuracy was pretty bad. Is it worth your time to

shoot and clean and lead-lap the barrel while saving \$100 over the cost of either of the other two, in the hope that accuracy might get better? We didn't think so. Some shooters will love the space-age look, and most will like the other features we found to be pleasant. We thought this was an excellent design, but the barrel was not as good as the rest of the gun. The stainless gun appeared to be more accurate in our brief testing, but it cost \$100 (40 percent) more and came with a creepy trigger that broke at 5.7 pounds. We would not buy the more costly one if we wanted a Neos. But we don't want a Neos. We know we'd be a lot happier in the long run spending the extra money for the Ruger Mark III, and we suspect you will, too.



## **Browning Buck Mark Micro Standard URX .22 LR, \$380**

### **GUN TESTS GRADE: C+**

On the range we found the Browning would not give the razor-sharp accuracy we got out of the Ruger. The Browning felt good, looked good, was well made and finished, but cost more than the Ruger while providing less accuracy. We don't believe the Browning's shorter barrel was a significant factor here. There were no sub-inch groups at all with the Browning, but with the Ruger they were normal. Our very best group with the Browning was 1.1 inches for five at 15 yards. The Ruger, with the same Federal Match ammo, put five into

half an inch. There were no problems at all with the Browning, though we were a bit surprised at its lack of accuracy compared with the Ruger. Perhaps a better way of saying it is that the Ruger had astonishing accuracy that not many pistols can match, much less beat.

