

BROWNING SA-22 GRADE I 22 LR, \$700

GUN TESTS GRADE: B-

The little SA-22 Browning had lots of drop to its rather huge stock, which made it very comfortable on the face. Although the rifle was compact and felt good from the shoulder, we were at a loss to use its iron sights effectively. They were okay for young eyes, though, and that might suit you fine. We prefer an aperture or a scope, and neither were easy on this rifle. A dedicated scope base and rings will set you back an additional C-note or more. We didn't care for the glassy-glossy finish either, though the finish on stock and metal were flawless. The 11-round magazine was within the stock.



SPECIFICATIONS

Overall Length.....	37 in.	Weight Loaded.....	5.0 lbs.
Barrel Length.....	19.5 in.	Capacity.....	11
Sight Radius.....	16.2 in.	Action Finish.....	Gloss Blued
Overall Height.....	7.8 in.	Action Type.....	Semiautomatic
Length of Pull.....	13.9 in.	Barrel Finish.....	Gloss Blued
Weight Unloaded.....	4.9 lbs.	Magazine Type.....	Integral in Stock
		Stock.....	Walnut
		Trigger Pull Weight.....	4.1 lbs.
		Warranty.....	None Written
		Telephone.....	(801) 876-2711
		Website.....	www.Browning.com
		Made In.....	Japan

Right: Making a package about as small as that of the Ruger, The SA-22 was far more susceptible to dirt at the joint.



The wood was decent walnut on this Grade I rifle. Middle: This latch (arrow) needs to just be able to fit into its notch for the gun to be correctly joined.



We didn't like the fact that the bolt can't be easily held open. An interrupted thread is the key to the Browning's takedown. The forend button has to be shoved forward to unlock it, and then a quarter turn gets the sharp threads apart. In time this ought to become easier. Adjusted properly, the forend is tight. If not, the wood rattles and the barrel flops.



The sight folded, just like on all three test rifles, and had a slide for elevation. Windage was by drifting, and you had to drift out the sight to mount a scope. We thought that was a design mistake. Move the sight two inches forward and it could remain on the rifle. There was a cross-bolt safety at the front of the trigger guard. There was no way to lock the bolt open, which we didn't like, especially when we had a stuck cartridge. The bump just behind the forend is the finger extension of the bolt.

The arrow points to the extra-cost aluminum scope base. It uses the screw holes on the barrel, after the iron sight has been drifted out. The scope is then cantilevered over the action. We didn't like this setup.

