

GUN TESTS REPORT CARD

Ruger KM77VT MKII 204 Ruger, \$935 **GUN TESTS GRADE: A-**

For less money than the other guns, the KM77VT MKII went right down the checklist of things we like: Just heavy enough, or light enough, for steady shooting and portability; the fore end was ideal for bench rest shooting; its consistent trigger didn't require the most skillful hand for fine accuracy; it chambered a variety of rounds with ease, whether one at a time or from the magazine. Perhaps best of all, its performance seemed immune to high operating temperatures.

Kimber 84M Varmint 204 Ruger, \$1224 **GUN TESTS GRADE: B+**

This rifle's light weight and sleek lines are likely best for the hunter who plans on walking a lot or often fires standing. Cooler temperatures may improve its already considerable accuracy under tough conditions. Expert riflemen will likely prefer its match grade single-stage trigger. Many shooters will see this gun as an A-grade product—and we wouldn't quibble about that. But its higher price tag factored into our grade, because the Ruger is as capable and \$300 cheaper.

Savage Model 12 Long Range Precision Varminter (Repeater) **204 Ruger, \$1208** **GUN TESTS GRADE: D**

Box magazine fit was too tight and the bolt was difficult to lock up. This also affected safe handling. Properly executed, this rifle would be ideal for the varmint hunter that shoots exclusively from a bench. Unfortunately, this was not the case with our sample. For the more mobile hunter, we would look for a lighter-weight model.

*Written and photographed by Roger Eckstine, using evaluations from
GUN TESTS team testers. GT*