

GUN TESTS REPORT CARD

VZ-24 Custom 458, about \$1500

GUN TESTS GRADE: D

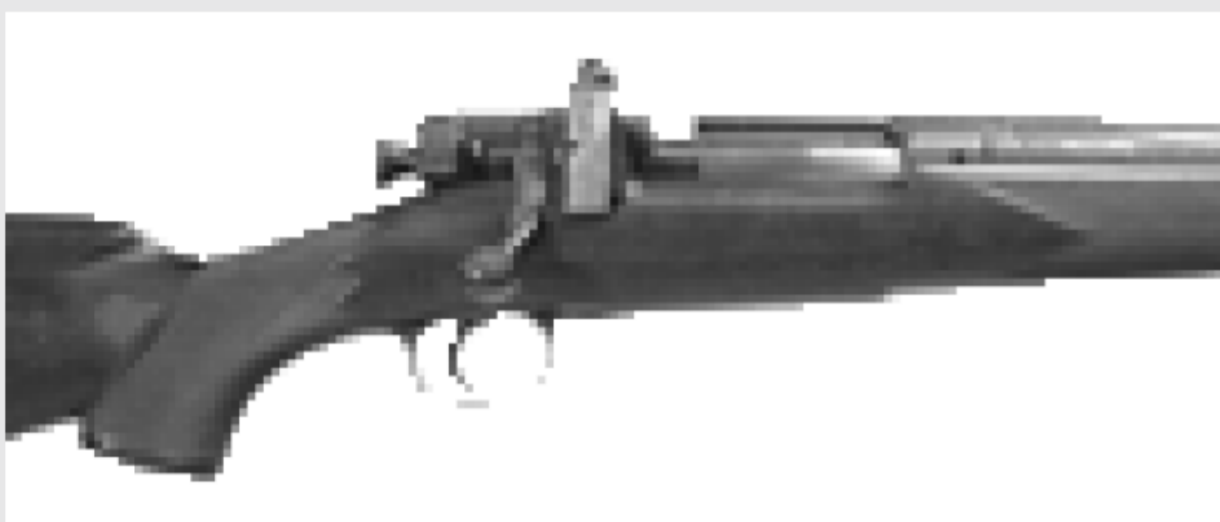


There are good custom rifles, and not-so-good ones. This VZ-24 was in the latter category. As we found it, we gave this rifle a D rating, but it can be fixed. We suggest the owner put a safe trigger into it. Then he might install iron sights, and have some serious internal work

done to make feeding reliable and prevent the stock from splitting. We'd eliminate the brake and add some weight to the rifle. The barrel and chambering were fine. The stock was decent, but could be improved. This rifle could be altered into a very good fun gun for not a lot of money, though we suspect it'll take a lot of work to make it fully ready for Africa.

Springfield Custom Engraved 458, about \$15,000

GUN TESTS GRADE: A



We could not find any flaws on this one. We might have one point of contention with this rifle, viewing it strictly as a dangerous-game rifle. It was on the light side, weighing in at 8.2 pounds, or 8.8 with the K1.5 Weaver scope snugged into the Jaeger side mount. Eight-pound

458s kick hard with the 500-grain bullets that are used on the biggest game. However, its owner built it with Alaskan use in mind. He could have added weight but chose not to. Most of his shooting is done with 350-grain bullets at 2500 fps, which makes this a very useful rifle. With that load, recoil is definitely there, but it's not crushing. We also fired this rifle with 500-grain loads and though it was tolerable, thanks to a good recoil pad, but we would not like to have to shoot a box of them from the bench at a sitting. Shooting this 458 was a real treat. We all liked it a lot. If you want one just like it, be prepared to spend money and don't expect it tomorrow.

Churchill Double 470, \$40,000

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

This was a real treat. The trigger pulls were excellent and crisp, closely matched to each other. After the first few shots, we had a perceived need to work a bolt handle that was not there. It finally dawned on us the second shot needed only a pull on the second trigger. The forward trigger was textured so you could tell by feel which one you were on, important if loading a soft-nose in one barrel and a solid in the other. We fired the left barrel first, which caused the rifle to kick away from our face. Firing the right barrel was painful from the bench due to the swing of the breech to the left on firing. We confess we'd like to spend more time with this rifle, but were relieved when the last shot was fired off the bench. Fired standing it was fun, but something of a workout from the bench. We'd love to own this one.



Written and photographed by Ray Ordorica, using evaluations from GUN TESTS team testers. GT