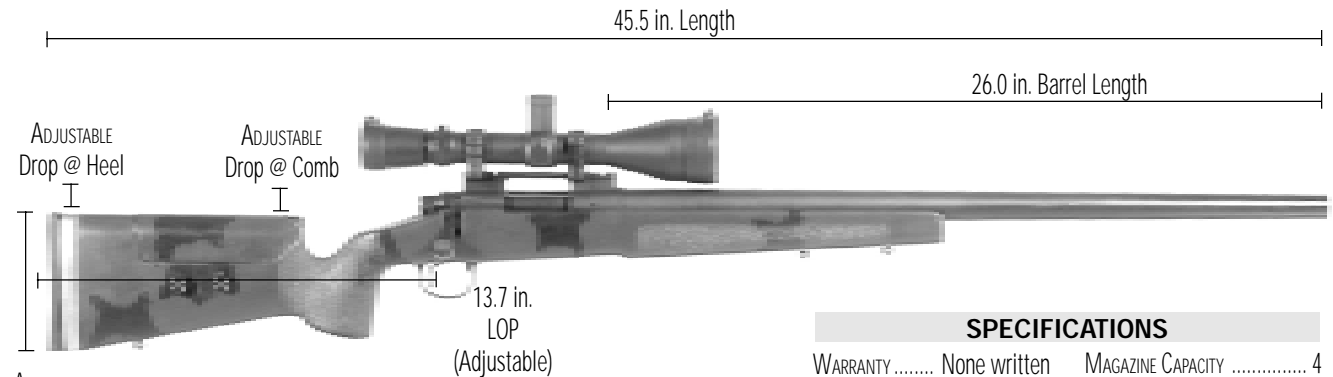


# AUTAUGA TACTICAL RIFLE .308 WINCHESTER

Price....\$3,200



**Our recommendation: Shot great at a substantially lower price than the Robar. We think it's a best buy, despite the expense.**

### SPECIFICATIONS

WARRANTY .....	None written	MAGAZINE CAPACITY .....	4
METAL FINISH ...	Black polymer	MAGAZINE TYPE .....	BOX
STOCK .....	FIBERGLASS	MAGAZINE FLOORPLATE .....	Alum
FINISH .....	Matte	ACTION TYPE ....	Bolt (Rem 700)
WEIGHT .....	13.9 lbs.	TRIGGER PULL .....	2.5 lbs.



*The Butler Creek instantly deployable scope covers were standard equipment on the Autauga and Robar rifles. This photo of the Autauga shows some of the movements available in the McMillan stock's cheekpiece and buttpad.*

with a muzzle brake, and that, together with the 15.4-pound weight, reduced recoil to almost nothing. However, the report of the rifle was loud enough to defy the rules of the Geneva Convention. Heck, they could probably hear it in Switzerland. Each round made the shooter feel like a bomb had gone off, making double ear protection mandatory.

The rifle metal appeared to be parkerized, and the stock was painted dull gray. Like the Robar gun, the forend and pistol grip were roughened for better grasping, and this works well enough. This heavy rifle had an appearance that spoke volumes about what a business rifle should look like.

The Dakota action is a close copy of the pre-'64 Winchester with some excellent improvements. The safety is typical Winchester-style three-position. The bolt release is nearly invisible. To remove the bolt, one pulls outward on the release

until it swings 90 degrees from the bore axis. The bolt is then supposed to come out. However, with this rifle it was necessary to first raise the cheekpiece fully, withdraw the back of the bolt into the forward portion of the cheekpiece, then swing the front of the bolt outward.

The forend was fitted with two sling swivel studs for alternate placement of a shooting sling. The front of the forend was fitted with a stud, onto which a Parker Hale style bipod could be fitted. There was a single sling stud on the buttstock. There was a stack of five quarter-inch spacers to adjust length of pull. The rubber surface at the top and bottom of the very hard German recoil pad had begun to peel by the time we were done with our testing. If we owned this rifle we'd replace the buttstock posthaste.

Workmanship of the Dakota was outstanding, particularly the inletting of metal to stock. The trigger

broke at just under 2 pounds, and it was crisp and clean as any trigger on one of these rifles must be. The rising cheekpiece had a soft surface for added shooter comfort. This also got warm to the touch very quickly, which would be a great boon in cold weather.

The Dakota had a two-round magazine. When we put a single cartridge into it, we were unable to make it feed. We tried this twice, and both times the round was badly distorted when we finally got it out of the blind magazine box. With two rounds in the box, the top one fed all right, but the bottom one always jammed. The Dakota people told us to look for finish buildup on the follower, but that was apparently not the problem. Therefore we did our test firing by placing one round into the action and closing the bolt over it. This worked, but the bolt was difficult to close because the controlled-feed extractor