

rounds of commercial ammunition through each .30-06 rifle. Accuracy testing was conducted outdoors at 100 yards using a rifle rest and a 3-9x scope on its highest setting. We fired five consecutive three-shot groups with each of three brands of ammunition: Remington 125-grain pointed soft point, Federal Premium 150-grain boattail soft point, and Winchester 165-grain pointed soft point.

In a nutshell, we found that most of these products showed distressingly average accuracy with commercial ammo; in sum, they showed very little advancement in their development over products manufactured 40 years ago, in our estimation. Overall, we think serious shooters like Gun Tests readers will want to shy away from all but one of the guns in this test simply because three of the four weren't accurate enough. You might want to test-fire the Savage, however, since it shot near minute of angle—plenty good for a hunting rifle.

More detailed criticisms and comments about the products are covered below:

## Winchester Model 70 Ranger Black Shadow

**Our recommendation: Average at best. The Black Shadow had the smoothest action and the best handling, but its accuracy lagged, in our view.**

In some respects this rifle would be our first choice, but its best groups were more than 50 percent larger than the Savage's. Standard hunting rifles need to be able hit a vital area of the game you pursue, so the question becomes, How good is good enough? Many hunters will settle for 1.5-inch groups, but our tastes run smaller—1.25 inches. With this accuracy standard in mind, the Winchester Model 70 Ranger's performance was clearly substandard, with its three-shot average-group sizes measuring 1.68

## Winchester Model 70 Ranger

Retail Price...\$447



**Our recommendation: Don't buy it. This gun just wasn't accurate enough, in our opinion.**

### SPECIFICATIONS

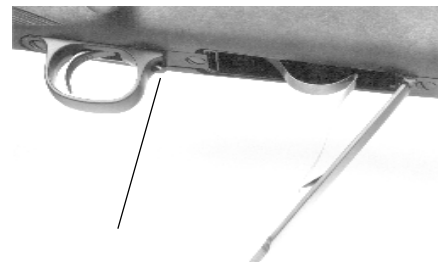
Warranty: No Written

METAL FINISH .....	Blued	STOCK MATERIAL .....	Synthetic
WEIGHT (EMPTY) .....	7 lbs.	LENGTH OF PULL .....	13.75 in.
OVERALL LENGTH .....	45 in.	FOREND WIDTH .....	1.72 in.
BARREL LENGTH .....	24 in.	GRIP WIDTH .....	1.28 in.
SIGHT RADIUS .....	NA	MAGAZINE TYPE .....	Internal
CAPACITY .....	5 rds.	FLOORPLATE .....	Steel



The Winchester Model 70 Ranger Black Shadow's manual safety is a three-position wing-type lever on the right rear of the bolt. The rounded bolt knob is knurled to make it less slippery.

To release the Winchester Model 70 Ranger Black Shadow's hinged magazine floorplate, the shooter depresses the button-shaped catch on the front of the trigger guard.



inches, 1.75 inches, and 2.25 inches. In our opinion, this Winchester's accuracy could have been enhanced by free-floating the barrel and improving the trigger. Though there was no slack and little overtravel in the trigger movement, the trigger's pull released at 4.25 pounds, about a pound too much for consistent shot placement.

These shortcomings in the gun's most crucial areas were unfortunate, since otherwise the Black Shadow's performance was very good. It didn't malfunction even once with the three kinds of ammunition we used. Thanks to the bolt's jeweled finish, its movement was the smoothest and easiest to operate. All of the controls, including the three-position