

Remington 597, 597 Sporter

Retail Price...\$159



SPECIFICATIONS (597)

Warranty: Ltd. Lifetime

METAL FINISH	Blued	REAR SIGHT TYPE	ADJUSTABLE
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	5.5 lbs.	CAPACITY	10 rds.
OVERALL LENGTH	40 in.	STOCK MATERIAL	Polymer
BARREL LENGTH	20 in.	ACTION TYPE	Semiauto
SIGHT RADIUS	15.25 in.	TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT ...	6.7 lbs.

Our recommendation: These guns are good plinkers.

SPECIFICATIONS (Sporter)

Warranty: Ltd. Lifetime

METAL FINISH	Blued	REAR SIGHT TYPE	ADJUSTABLE
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	5.5 lbs.	CAPACITY	10 rds.
OVERALL LENGTH	40 in.	STOCK MATERIAL	Hardwood
BARREL LENGTH	20 in.	ACTION TYPE	Semiauto
SIGHT RADIUS	15.25 in.	TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT	5 lbs.



We prefer the 597's release (left) over the Ruger's (right).



Left: The Ruger magazine is better than the 597's mag, we think.



Plus: grooved 597 receiver.

pistol grip, which felt great. The guns came to shoulder easily and naturally, we thought. The flat forends sat squarely on sandbags, which we appreciated. Though we didn't see any accuracy advantage in this test, we thought the Remingtons' free-floated barrels were a good idea. We liked the easy-to-reach magazine release, and we liked that the action stayed open after the last shot.

However, we think the 597s are still works in progress. The plastic 10-round magazines felt cheap and flimsy, and we noted continuing failures to feed in both Remingtons when the clips were fully loaded. The Dominator and Federal ammos also caused malfunctions, even when the clips weren't fully loaded. The heavy trigger on the 597 had a squared edge that was uncomfortable.

Ruger 10/22RP, 10/22RB

Our recommendation: Still the way to go, we think. But the Rugers badly need Remington-like modifications, including a better magazine release and a grooved receiver top.

In terms of accuracy, the 10/22RB and 10/22RP shot more small groups

than the 597s, but weren't dominant, in our view. Both Rugers liked the Lapua ammo, firing 0.8-inch and 0.7-inch average groups, respectively. But they didn't like the Viper ammo, shooting 1.9-inch and 1.4-inch average groups with that brand.

In these guns, pinpoint accuracy generally takes a backseat to run-dirty reliability, and the Rugers shone in this area. We noted but one failure to feed rounds from the blocky 10-round magazines in the wood-stocked gun. We had more failures to feed in the plastic gun, until we figured out one of the magazines was defective. Once it was eliminated, the gun functioned well.

Beyond these basics, the 10/22 could stand some updating. The magazine releases need to be moved from underneath the guns to the side, like the Remington. The receivers need to be grooved as well, instead of just drilled and tapped. We had a horrible time getting these guns sighted in when installing aftermarket bases. The bolt release is hard to operate, and the stamped piece should be moved and enlarged. The triggers weren't too good either, and they limited the guns' ability to shoot groups.

The stocks felt light, which is an advantage in some ways, but they didn't help stabilize the gun. Of the two stocks, we liked the ding-proof qualities of the polymer version better.

GUN TESTS® Recommends

✓ In our view, Remington has closed the gap with Ruger in this segment and is fielding a competitive, but not obviously better, product. We would stick with Ruger for now, particularly the polymer stocked 10/22RP. ●

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