

Performance Shooter Recommends

IT IS A RARE CASE INDEED when we recommend purchasing a product that is less accurate, and in many ways, mechanically inferior to a competing product, but that's what we're going to do.

Despite its many positives, including the accurate Mark 2000 action, we don't see that the Anschütz Achiever ST fits any shooting niche particularly well. Anschütz bills the product as being designed especially for the advanced junior shooter and the smaller-framed adult shooter. We can't imagine any adult position shooter picking the ST over the 9.9-pound Anschütz 1903 Intermediate Match Rifle, which has an adjustable cheekpiece and buttplate, among other features. Likewise, silo shooters almost certainly would opt for the 8-pound 2-ounce 64MS. Junior shooters would be ill served by the ST, in our opinion, because of its lack of buttplate adjustability. An Anschütz apologist might respond to this criticism by saying juniors shouldn't be confused with too many adjustments. Initially, that's true. But kids learn quickly, and if they've been coached into poor positions because they can't get the gun adjusted properly, that's the wrong solution. The rule is to fit the gun to the shooter, not the other way around.

This means the Marlin Model 2000 Target Rifle gets the nod in this two-way test—even though it, too, is fundamentally flawed. The 2000's unadjustable trigger should be replaced with an aftermarket product from Canjar, Kenyon, Timney, or another manufacturer. The 2000 has sufficient accuracy, in our view, to be used at the 50-foot distance, where most junior and senior shooting is done. To be used outdoors, however, the gun would likely need extensive ammo matching to find a brand and lot that would shoot half-inch groups at 50 yards.

In sum, neither the Anschütz Achiever ST nor the Marlin 2000 products are perfect products for junior shooters, but they are both better than many products young shooters had to use in the past. We wish we were able to perform a Miller Lite transformation and combine “great taste” with “less filling”: That is, slap the 2000's blue stock on the Anschütz action. Now that would be a product we would heartily recommend.