

How We Tested

All of our test guns were broken in by shooting 100 to 150 rounds in each of them. We cleaned the guns and reoiled them as needed, and doublechecked the stock and scope-base screws frequently. We used a Leupold 36X, 40mm scope with a 1/8-minute dot to shoot the accuracy tests with all four test guns. Scope rings for all the guns were furnished by Volquartsen. Accuracy testing was done at the Bayou Rifle's 100-yard tube in Houston, Texas. This is an enclosed building, which gave us consistent conditions for testing. Our Ransom Master Rifle Rest with Protektor front and rear bags helped hold the test guns securely, minimizing any human error. To minimize movement between shots and speed realignment, we applied a 2-inch-wide strip of Velcro to the forend of each gun, and a similar strip to the front bag. This held the guns very securely.

We used Pro-Shot Lead & Powder Bore Solvent and Pro-Shot .22 patches to clean the barrels between strings. We used an Otis Products Kit & Caboodle rifle kit to clean the bores. This product has a rubber-coated, flexible cleaning cable that feeds down the bore from the muzzle. It made cleaning easy and quick. Also, we used a Clark Custom muzzle guide during the cleaning process. This sleeve slips over the muzzle of a bull-barreled autoloader and protects the muzzle rifling when cleaning guns that have no access from the rear. Since all of our test barrels had roughly the same barrel OD, we were able to use it with all the test guns.

An Oehler 35P was used to log ten-shot strings with each gun and each ammunition. When shooting for accuracy, we collected ten five-shot groups, discarding groups when the shooter called an off round. We used Speedwell's Police Rifle Shot Log targets for the accuracy test. Cleaning each gun after each lot, we shot 10 to 20 fouling rounds as needed when sighting in for next test.

We used Eley Tenex Lot WS 1309, Federal Gold Metal Match Lot L 235, Fiocchi Super Rifle Lot 136003 B, RWS Special Match Lot 541 WL 582, and Lapua's new Scoremax 48-grain bullet, Lot 7811 V.



Above: The Otis Products Kit & Caboodle rifle kit, which has a rubbercoated, flexible cleaning cable that feeds down the bore from the muzzle, made cleaning our test guns easy. The Clark Custom muzzle guide, a plastic sleeve that slips over the muzzle of bull-barreled autoloaders, protects barrel rifling.