

THE GUNS

Weatherby is currently chambering the .30-378 in its popular Accumark rifle. Weatherby says the Accumark .30-378 is the company's best-selling deer rifle. The Accumark we tested featured a 26-inch fluted barrel with a detachable muzzle brake. When we shot the gun, we learned the brake effectively controls the fierce recoil of the .30-378—but it was very loud. However, the brake easily screwed off and was replaced with a thread-protecting cap so that the gun can be used for hunting without the noise blast. Another curiosity on the gun was the magazine, which holds only two cartridges as opposed to the three rounds that most magnums handle. The advertised weight was 8.5 pounds, clean and empty. Carrying a massive Leupold 6.5-20X50 MM Euro scope with a 30-mm tube, it weighed just over 10 pounds. The trigger broke nicely at 3.75 pounds straight from the factory.

Initially, Remington will chamber the 7mm STW in two rifles, the Model 700 Sendero Stainless Fluted and in the Model 700 BDL SS DM-B. The Sendero is varmint-style rifle with a heavy, 26-inch fluted barrel. It is a heavy and extremely accurate rifle designed for long-range shooting, and it is comparable to the Weatherby Accumark in design. Our Remington test rifle was the BDL SS DM-B, which is Rem-speak for a stainless-steel synthetic-stocked rifle with a detachable box magazine and a muzzle brake. This gun has a 25.5-inch barrel and weighs 7.5 pounds bare. When the hunting includes walking, the BDL is a better choice than the Sendero. It comes with a detachable box magazine and a muzzle brake. This brake is very effective but noisy. The gun weighed exactly the promised 7.5 pounds without a scope and is just a bit over 8.5 pounds when mounted with a Leupold 4.5-14 Vari-X III scope. The trigger was a bit stiff at 5.5 pounds, but any competent gunsmith can adjust the Remington trigger. We took ours down to 2.75 pounds.

Right: The Weatherby Accumark .30-378 rifle we tested (left) had a 26-inch fluted barrel with a detachable muzzle brake. The Remington BDL SS DM-B with a 25.5-inch barrel (right) is a better walking-around gun, in our view.

