

HOW WE TESTED

To ensure the rifles competed on a level playing field, we dialed out as many variables as possible. Using guns provided by the companies, we fitted all four contestants with Zeiss Diavari-C 3–9 X 36 T* riflescopes. We shot the guns in a 100-yard underground tunnel at Federal Cartridge Company's Anoka, Minnesota, plant.

Additionally, Federal supplied identical lots of its .270 Winchester Premium 130-grain Sierra boat-tail soft-point cartridge, its 140-grain Trophy Bonded Premium ammunition, and its 150-grain Hi-Shok Classic soft-point round-nose loading for the test. Federal's ballistic technician Scott Chamber and ballistic product engineer John Hallis, both of whom have extensive ammunition-testing backgrounds, fired each gun's multiple three-shot groups. We measured the groups with a Mitutoyo Digimatic caliper and rounded to hundredths of an inch.