Our recommendation: This gun was the highest-grade rifle due to its great cosmetics. It also shot and handled well. Depending on price and condition, this vintage gun can be a jewel.

The stock had impressed checkering that was too slippery for us. The pistol grip was slim with good-looking flutes on the top of the buttstock. The rifle was fitted with a (costly) Redfield target micrometer-adjustable aperture sight, with replaceable-insert globe front. The Redfield sight was tall enough that it looked over the normal step-adjustable rear sight, so it remained in its dovetail in the barrel.

Our recommendation: This gun was the highest-grade rifle due to its great cosmetics. It also shot and handled well. Depending on price and condition, this vintage gun can be a jewel.

If you're in the market for a vintage bolt-action rimfire, any of the three we tested here are well worth considering, always assuming they have a near-perfect bore, since that flaw is next to impossible to fix. How can you determine this? You can get some idea by removing the bolt, pointing the muzzle toward a bright light, and seeing for yourself. If you see noticeable pitting in the bore, pass on it. But there can be other, more subtle problems as well, and if you can arrange for the gun to be looked at by a gunsmith you trust, it's probably worth $20 of his time to render an opinion on a used gun before you buy it.

If you make the leap, these rimfires can be trainers, understudies to your centerfire rifles, hunting companions, or just fun guns. Also, many a professional stock-maker got his start refinishing old rimfires, and that's another good use for these older .22s.

- **Winchester Model 69A**, $100 to $300 depending on how good a shape it's in. **Conditional Buy.** If you can find a good used Winchester Model 69A with a perfect bore and beat-up exterior, it's well worth customizing. Expect to pay a premium—$300 or more—for a perfect one, because of increasing collector value. Otherwise, if you're looking for a knock-around gun, we'd buy one of these in a heartbeat if the price was right.

- **Marlin Model 80-DL**, $100 and up. **Conditional Buy.** Our test gun was an attractive, durable, and very useful rifle. Its construction and detail work left a bit to be desired, but we felt this rifle was well worth seeking out. We would not expect to find this quality of wood on every Model 80-DL, though. A good scope would be easy to mount, and many would prefer that as a more versatile setup. We liked the Marlin. If you can find a good one for a good price—which would be around $100 today—grab it.

- **Winchester 320**, $175 to $400, depending on its shape. **Conditional Buy.** This is a much-sought-after item to collectors, particularly one in excellent condition. A serious collector would pay $300 to $400 for a rifle like it, and the Redfield sights would add to the price. If collecting isn't your gig, then look hard for one in less-than-perfect condition for a fraction of that. Again, it probably won't have this costly aperture sight, but an appropriate scope would do. In sum, the 320 can be a better gun than many, or most, currently manufactured products. As such, it can be a delightful bargain, and it's worth looking for it.