

GUN TESTS VALUE GUIDE: VARMINT GUNS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
Savage Model 12 BVSS Varmint 22-250 Rem, \$696	June 2004	Grade A (Best Buy): The Savage was in every way a great rifle. Looked good, excellent finish, durable stock.
CZ Model 527 Lux 22 Hornet, \$566	Aug 2002	Grade A (Our Pick): We liked the CZ very much, and could not seriously fault it.
Ruger Heavy-Barrel Varmint M77VT Mark II 243 Win, \$685	Jan 2001	Grade A (Buy It): Occasionally had trouble getting rounds into the chamber. Otherwise, no problems.
Howa M1500 T'hole Varminter Supreme 22-250 Rem, \$692	Oct. 2003	Grade A (Our Pick): Offered great value for the money, had acceptable accuracy with all loads, and looked good.
Ruger Model 77 Mark II KM77VT, 204 Ruger, \$845	June 2004	Grade A: Well thought out and well executed. Ruger and Hornady made a fine match-up of gun and ammo.
Ruger KM77VT MKII 204 Ruger, \$935	Sept. 2008	Grade A: The KM77VT MKII went right down the checklist of things we like.
Savage 510 Striker Bolt-Action Handgun 22-250 Rem, \$400	Oct 1998	Grade B (Buy It): If we wanted a good, accurate bolt-action handgun in 22-250, we'd pick the Striker.
Kimber 84M Varmint 204 Ruger, \$1224	Sept. 2008	Grade B+: This rifle's light weight and sleek lines are likely best for the hunter who plans on walking a lot.
Ruger Model 77/22RH 22 Hornet, \$589	Aug 2002	Grade B+ (Buy It): The Ruger was an attractive, handy rifle that performed nearly as well as the CZ Lux.
Remington Model 700 EtronX 243 Win, \$1999	Jan 2001	Grade B+ (Conditional Buy): Performed very well, but it came with a \$2000 list price.
Anschütz Model 1730 D HB Stainless 22 Hornet, \$1199	Aug 2002	Grade C (Conditional Buy): A mighty fine rifle. Great looks, fine workmanship, but needed more accuracy.
Sako Model 75 Varmint 22-250 Rem, \$1200	Oct. 2003	Grade C (Conditional Buy): You will like this rifle, but its high cost made us wonder why anyone would choose it.
Thompson/Center Encore Handgun 22-250 Rem, \$495	Oct 1998	Grade C: Ambidextrous. Not quite as accurate as the bolt-action handguns.
Remington XP-100R Bolt Action Handgun 22-250 Rem, \$665	Oct 1998	Grade C: Bolt handle was on the right side. Would have been easier to operate on the other side.
Savage M12 LR Precision Varminter 204 Ruger, \$1208	Sept. 2008	Grade D: Box magazine fit was too tight and the bolt was difficult to lock up. This also affected safe handling.
Browning A-Bolt II Hunter 223 WSSM, \$741	June 2004	Grade D (Don't Buy): Plain. Excellent trigger, disappointing accuracy. Unnecessary new cartridge. Expensive.
Ruger No. 1B 22 Hornet, \$850	Aug 2002	Grade D (Don't Buy): It was a big, heavy rifle for a tiny cartridge, and it didn't produce

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