

Remington Model 700

"It's the modern standard by which precision rifles are judged."



that can be released with a lever inside the trigger guard to empty the magazine of its contents. This grade incorporates a black fore end tip, fancy impressed checkering and a glossy polyurethane finish on the stock. Left-hand versions are available. All popular U.S. centerfire rifle calibers have been offered. Newer grades are too numerous to completely cover here, but they include the CDL (basically a deluxe BDL with a longer barrel), the Safari for African game, and the SPS with a blind magazine and a synthetic stock. The Mountain LSS model has a stainless barrel and a laminated stock. The DBM model incorporates a detachable box magazine. Although the standard barrel length is 22", variations exist from 16" to 26". There are varmint and target models with longer 26" barrels, and a couple of police/tactical versions with heavy 20" or 26" bull barrels. The rifle illustrated is one of these, made in December 1994. It has a 26" barrel chambered for .308 Winchester. This one is equipped with a Burris 6.5x20x50mm scope with a ranging reticle. The fiberglass stocks on these tactical versions are made by H-S Precision and have internal rails incorporating bedding posts. The barrels are free-floated for accuracy. The stocks accept bipods, and the rifles are easily capable of less than minute-of-angle groups with match-grade ammunition.

On April 7, 1966, the short action Model 700 with a Redfield Accu-Range 3x9 power scope was adopted as the "Rifle, 7.62 mm Sniper, M40" by the U.S. Marine Corps. These rifles replaced the older Winchester Model 70s equipped with the accurate but long and unwieldy Unertl scopes. This newer combination made for a quicker first shot with comparable accuracy. There were, according to the Marine Corps, "no unique specifications, just the right combination of parts." The M40 was a standard production rifle with a tapered, free-floating 24" medium-heavy target barrel in 7.62 mm NATO (.308 Winchester). The stock had an integral cheek rest, a checkered buttplate and a non-reflecting linseed oil finish. Complete with the scope and mount, it weighed in at 9-1/2 pounds and had an overall length of 43.5". No iron sights were provided. Scopes had an olive drab or black-matte finish

and were numbered to the rifles. In late 1969, a new left-side mount allowed the use of a Starlight scope, retaining the original top-mounted daylight scope mounts. The improved M40A1 sniper rifle, used for more than 30 years, utilized a special stainless steel barrel and a glass-bedded McMillan fiberglass stock. It originally retained the Redfield scope, although other scope systems were used. The current upgraded weapons are the M40A3 and M40A5. The M40A5 accepts a detachable 5- or 10-round magazine and has a rail mount on the barrel for night optics.

The U.S. Army has its own Remington 700-based sniper system, the M24. This uses the long action, originally intended for the .30-06 cartridge. The newer M24E1 model is chambered for the .300 Winchester Magnum. This model was upgraded and the name changed to the XM2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle. This has a fully adjustable modular stock featuring a pistol grip like the M16 and numerous mounting rails. It can be equipped with a sound suppressor and advanced optics. This is currently being deployed.

In recent years, there have been attempts in the news media to sensationalize purported inadvertent discharges of Model 700 rifles, usually alleged to be the fault of the pre-2002 trigger system. Remington has steadfastly denied that there is any problem, attributing known instances to improper adjustment of the trigger by those not qualified. In defense of Remington, it should be noted that the Model 700 has been in service since 1962, with millions having been made and used with very few problems in the civilian, police and military arenas. As always, any firearm should be handled with care and all safety rules applied. If you are contemplating the purchase of a used Model 700, it should be inspected to be sure the trigger adjustments have factory-applied epoxy, and if not, you should be sure that any non-factory adjustments are properly checked and verified as safe by a competent gunsmith.

The Remington Model 700 has become a staple as a hunting and sport-shooting firearm in the U.S., and has been used with distinction by our police and armed services. Many fine custom rifles have been made using the Model 700 action as the basis. Accurate, affordable, reliable and easy to maintain, it's the modern standard by which precision rifles are judged.