

# REMINGTON MODEL 700 VTR



**R**emington, which is well known for its popular sporting firearms, also has a somewhat lesser known tradition of developing firearms for the military, law enforcement and tactical communities. Seeing no need to reinvent the wheel, most, if not all, of these firearms are developed as variants of Remington's established hunting firearms, such as the Model 870 and 11-87 shotguns, the 7600-series pump-action rifle, and the Model 700-series bolt-action rifle.

In fact, the latter of these is the basis for one of Remington's newest and more unique offerings, the Model 700 VTR, which stands for varmint/tactical rifle. Officially part of Remington's sporting firearm line, the new rifle is designed around a dual-role approach that covers both varminting and tactical use. However, it eschews the usually heavy weight and lengthy barrels of such guns in exchange for a 22" barrel and 7½-lb. total weight. Also of note is the fact that the rifle features a surprisingly low retail price of around \$800. The short-action

rifle is available in four chamberings that include the popular varminting cartridges of .204 Ruger, .223 Rem. and .22-250 Rem., as well as the .308 Win., which is traditionally seen in most tactical rifles.

While the Model 700 VTR's appearance is visually distinctive from the tip of its muzzle to the base of its buttpad, the barrel is particularly unique. Taking the concept of barrel fluting to an extreme, the VTR's hammer-forged carbon-steel barrel features a triangular exterior contour that is machined from a heavy blank. The thinking behind the design is that it offers increased structural rigidity over a conventional heavy contour barrel while also offering lighter weight and increased heat dissipation.

Another unique feature of the Model 700 VTR is its integral muzzle brake. Sporting three vents perpendicular to the bore axis, the VTR's muzzle brake is counter-bored from the muzzle end and features a recessed, internal barrel crown.

The VTR features Remington's new X-Mark Pro factory-adjustable trigger. Highly polished and

nickel-plated surfaces on key components provide crisper, cleaner breaks, as well as significantly lighter trigger pulls set from the factory. Functionally, the X-Mark Pro operates the same as traditional Model 700 triggers and features a safety that blocks the sear and trigger, with two positions that allow the rifle's action to be cycled with the safety either on or off.

Just like the barrel, the VTR's synthetic stock represents a conscious effort on Remington's part to make the rifle's appearance as distinctive as its design. Displaying an overall color of matte green, it features black overmold gripping areas on both sides of the pistol grip as well as two panels on the lower portion of the fore-end. The stock features a beavertail fore-end with three horizontal cooling vents and dual sling swivel studs for equipping the rifle with both a bipod and a sling. Working in

*The VTR's X-Mark Pro trigger has polished and nickel-plated surfaces for cleaner, crisper breaks and lighter pulls from the factory, but it is adjustable. The rifle is fed from a hinged floorplate magazine system.*



## REMINGTON MODEL 700 VTR

**MANUFACTURER:** REMINGTON ARMS CO., INC. (DEPT. AR), 870 REMINGTON DRIVE, MADISON, NC 27025-0700; (800) 243-9700; WWW.REMINGTON.COM

**CALIBER:** .204 RUGER, .223 REM., .22-250 REM., .308 WIN. (TESTED)

**ACTION TYPE:** BOLT-ACTION, REPEATING CENTER-FIRE RIFLE

**RECEIVER:** CARBON STEEL, MATTE BLACK

**BARREL:** 22", MATTE-BLACK CARBON STEEL

**RIFLING:** SIX-GROOVE, 1:12" RH TWIST

**MAGAZINE:** FOUR-ROUND CAPACITY (TESTED), HINGED FLOORPLATE

**SIGHTS:** NONE; DRILLED AND TAPPED FOR SCOPE MOUNTS

**TRIGGER PULL:** SINGLE-STAGE, 3 LBS.

**STOCK:** GREEN OVERMOLDED SYNTHETIC; LENGTH OF PULL, 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"; DROP AT HEEL, 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"; DROP AT COMB, 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 41<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"

**WEIGHT:** 7 LBS., 8 OZS.

**ACCESSORIES:** GUN LOCK, OWNER'S MANUAL

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$805

## SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YDS.)

.308 WIN. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>BLACK HILLS 168-GR. BTHP</b>	2612 Avg. 31 SD	2,546	1.38	1.81	1.68
<b>REMINGTON No. PRA308WB 165-GR. ABT</b>	2683 Avg. 36 SD	2,638	1.06	1.74	1.21
<b>WINCHESTER No. X3083 180-GR. ST</b>	2525 Avg. 42 SD	2,549	1.66	2.14	1.89

### AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD

1.59

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 22" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 75° F. HUMIDITY: 89%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: ATP (ACCUTIP BOATTAIL), BTHP (BOATTAIL HOLLOW POINT), ST (SILVER TIP), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).



concert with the VTR's muzzle brake to help tame perceived recoil is a 3/4"-thick synthetic buttpad.

Somewhat surprisingly, the barrel of the VTR is not free-floated, instead it seats on built-in pressure points located in the stock's barrel channel. Remington claims that the positioning of these contact points improve barrel harmonics and increases accuracy. The rifle has a hinged floorplate magazine system that is robust and sturdy, and its release button is located in the upper inside face of the trigger guard. The rifle is not supplied with sights, but the receiver is drilled and tapped to accept scope mounts.

The rifle received for testing was chambered in .308 Win. Immediately upon handling, our testers commented on the light weight and handy size of the rifle, as well as the pleasant tactile qualities of the black overmolded sections on the stock. All metal parts featured an evenly applied matte-black finish. For testing, we fitted the rifle out with a Leupold Mark 2 3-9X 40 mm scope-mounted in Brownells steel rings.

Over the course of several boxes each of three types of




The VTR's triangular-contour barrel (above), which reportedly lends to increased rigidity, has an integral muzzle brake. Dual fore-end swivel studs (above, r.) allow attachment of both a sling and a bipod. To aid purchase, the rifle's stock features black overmolded panels (r.).



ammunition, the rifle performed flawlessly. Accuracy was good, and the rifle exhibited a loyal streak through its preference for the Remington ammunition. It also showed a general preference for lighter rather than heavier weight bullets. It was noted during testing that the VTR's trigger had an extremely clean and consistent break, with a

trigger pull gauge later revealing a consistent 3 lbs. pull.

For the individual who wants a bolt-action rifle that offers the uncommon combination of light weight, compact size and good accuracy, as well as one that can serve in a variety of roles, the Remington Model 700 VTR is an excellent choice. 

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

**WARNING:** Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.

# DS ARMS B&T TP9 PISTOL

Taking a circuitous route to these shores, the B&T TP9 9 mm pistol from DS Arms, Inc., traces its lineage back to the Austrian Steyr *Taktische Maschinenpistole* (TMP) and related semi-automatic Special Purpose Pistol (SSP) (August 1993, p. 70)—albeit with a detour through Switzerland along the way.

In 2001, the Swiss company Brügger & Thomet negotiated the purchase of the TMP/SPP from Steyr, including all patents, drawings and production rights. B&T updated the design by reshaping the frame, improving the trigger pull, adding Picatinny rail sections and modifying the safety/selector configuration. The result was the MP9 sub-machine gun. As a parallel development, B&T also developed a semi-automatic pistol version of the design called the TP9. This variant is being imported to the United States for civilian sale by DS Arms, Inc., as the B&T TP9.

The 100 percent Swiss-made TP9 weighs in at 44 ozs. and features high-impact resin polymer upper and lower receivers. The TP9 employs a closed-bolt design with a novel delayed blowback system of operation.

Unlike more common rotating-bolt systems, the TP9 uses a rotating barrel system. During firing, recoil causes both the steel bolt and steel barrel to move rearward for a short distance. During this movement, a locking pin located in the upper section of the bushing-like barrel guide at the muzzle end of the pistol engages a control cam cut into the barrel. This cam causes the eight-lug

*The heart of DS Arms' B&T TP9 pistol is its delayed blowback system of operation that employs a rotating barrel (l.).*



## DS ARMS B&T TP9 PISTOL

**MANUFACTURER:** BRÜGGER & THOMET  
AG (DEPT. AR), P.O. Box 42,  
3608 THUN, SWITZERLAND  
**IMPORTER:** DS ARMS, INC.  
(DEPT. AR), P.O. Box 370,  
BARRINGTON, IL 60011;  
(847) 277-7258; WWW.DSARMS.COM  
**CALIBER:** 9 MM LUGER  
**ACTION TYPE:** SEMI-AUTOMATIC,  
DELAYED-BLOWBACK PISTOL  
**FRAME:** RESIN POLYMER UPPER AND LOWER  
RECEIVERS; BLACK, TAN OR GREEN  
**BARREL:** 5"  
**RIFLING:** SIX-GROOVE; 1:9.84" RH TWIST  
**MAGAZINE:** TRANSLUCENT, POLYMER  
DETACHABLE BOX  
**SIGHTS:** ELEVATION-ADJUSTABLE POST  
FRONT; WINGED, WINDAGE-ADJUSTABLE  
NOTCH REAR  
**TRIGGER PULL:** 8 LBS., 8 OZS.  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 12"  
**WIDTH:** 1½"  
**HEIGHT:** 6¾"  
**WEIGHT:** 44 OZS.  
**ACCESSORIES:** HARD CASE, MANUAL, ONE  
15- AND ONE 30-ROUND MAGAZINE  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,250

barrel to rotate clockwise, unlocking it from the bolt assembly and allowing the bolt to continue rearward to cycle the action.

The magazine well is in the pistol grip, and it accepts the TP9's double-stack translucent polymer magazines. The test model came with one 15- and one 30-round magazine, although 10-rounders are also available. Once a loaded magazine is fully seated into the magazine well, an AR-style charging handle just to the rear and below the rear sight is retracted fully then released to allow the bolt to move forward under spring pressure and feed a round into the chamber.

The TP9 features three safeties: an internal firing pin safety, a manual cross bolt safety and a Glock-style safety located on the face of the trigger. The rectangular cross-bolt safety, which passes from right to left to disengage, features a white dot to indicate "on safe" and a red dot to indicate "off."

An interesting feature of the TP9 is a circular recess cut into the side of the bolt body that is exposed through the open ejection port. This recess is designed to accept the case head of a 9 mm Luger cartridge to provide leverage to open the action during a malfunction.

An interesting side benefit of the delayed-blowback operation

## SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>SPEER GOLD DOT 124-GR. +P GDHP No. 23617</b>	1282 AVG. 15 SD	453	2.12	2.88	2.66
<b>SPEER GOLD DOT 147-GR. GDHP No. 23619</b>	1003 AVG. 11 SD	328	1.41	3.34	3.13
<b>WINCHESTER 115-GR. FMJ No. Q4172</b>	1211 AVG. 16 SD	375	1.62	2.73	1.98
<b>AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD</b>					2.59

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 5" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 62° F. HUMIDITY: 42%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: +P (PLUS PRESSURE), GDHP (GOLD DOT HOLLOW POINT), FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).



The TP9's bolt-release button (above, l.) is on the left side of the lower receiver. A circular recess cut into the side of the bolt body accepts the case head of a 9 mm Luger cartridge to provide leverage during a malfunction (above, r.).

of the TP9 versus a more conventional straight-blowback system is the fact that it allows the use of a last-shot bolt hold-open mechanism activated by a ledge on the left side of the magazine follower. Once a fresh magazine has been inserted, a bolt release button located on the left side of the lower receiver can be pressed down to send the bolt home. This lever can also be used to manually lock open the action.

Brügger & Thomet modified the design somewhat to improve ergonomics and modularity. The grip frame on the test model was quite comfortably shaped, and the 44-oz. pistol balanced surprisingly well in the hand despite its size. The addition of Picatinny rail sections on the top of the upper receiver as well as forward of the trigger guard on the lower receiver were appreciated, making it quite easy to mount accessories such as a SureFire X200 WeaponLight and a Zeiss Z-Point red-dot optic. In addition to the Picatinny rail on the upper receiver, the TP9 has iron sights that include an elevation-adjustable cylindrical

post front and a winged, windage-adjustable notch rear.

For testing, we tried the pistol out with a combination of FMJ ammunition as well as some defensive hollow-point loadings. The pistol was extremely pleasant to shoot, due in no small part to its weight and size combined with its mild 9 mm Luger chambering. Over the course of several hundred rounds, there was a single failure-to-extract malfunction. Apart from that, the testing procedure was uneventful.

Although the TP9 exhibited good mechanical accuracy, the trigger pull was heavy and exhibited some unpleasant stacking before breaking. However, accuracy was still quite good, with it showing a preference for the lighter bullet weights.

The TP9 is definitely intriguing, with its uniquely Austrian lines and latter-day Swiss heritage. For those in the market for an extremely capable tactical-style pistol for which price is no object, the TP9 might be the ideal solution. ★



# BUSHNELL ELITE 6500

## 4.5-30X 50 MM

**A**fter developing its 2.5-16X Elite 6500 rifle scope, which featured an industry first 6.5X magnification ratio, Bushnell re-employed the technology to create a higher-magnification variant for long-range and varmint applications. The result was the versatile 4.5-30X 50 mm rifle scope. There are two reticle options—a mil-dot and a fine, multi-X—available.

Like its 2.5-16X brethren, the 4.5-30X Elite 6500 features a one-piece, cold-molded 30 mm magnesium/aluminum tube; however, unlike its predecessor, which is offered with a choice of either a 42-mm or 50-mm objective lens, the 4.5-30X version is only available with the latter. The 50 mm objective lens aids light gathering, particularly at the higher end of the 4.5-30X Elite 6500's wide magnification range—the exit pupil's diameter measures 11.1 mm at 4.5X and 1.6 mm at 30X. Eye relief is a constant 4", and the field of view at 100 yds. is 21.6 ft. and 3.4 ft. at 4.5X and 30X, respectively. The 4.5-30X 50 mm Elite 6500 measures 13.5" in length.

Mimicking Bushnell's other Japanese-manufactured Elite-series riflescopes—the 4200 and 3200—windage and elevation adjustments are valued at 1/4 m.o.a.;

however, unique to the 6500-series riflescopes is an extended 80 m.o.a. of elevation and windage adjustment travel. Another uncommon feature is the scope's new push/pull-style turrets. When set, or pushed inward, rotating the turret provides both tactile and audible verification of reticle movement. Pulled outward, the turret is disengaged, thereby preventing reticle movement, yet allowing the "0" setting to be aligned with a corresponding black reference mark for a quick, repeatable return to zero. Numbers and marks allow for precise turret movement. The scope's reticle is located in the second focal plane.

The Elite 6500-series riflescopes feature a third, side-mounted turret—graduated from 25 yds. to infinity—to correct parallax, as well as a fast-focus eyepiece. The magnification band is traditionally placed, and raised sections aid purchase when changing magnification.

The scope's lenses are fully multi-coated with a magnesium-fluoride coating, and the external surfaces are finished with Rain-guard—Bushnell's patented water-repellent coating. Dry nitrogen gas is added to prevent fogging.

Mounted atop a Savage

## BUSHNELL ELITE 6500

**IMPORTER:** BUSHNELL OUTDOOR PRODUCTS (DEPT. AR), 9200 CODY, OVERLAND PARK, KS 66214; (800) 423-3537; WWW.BUSHNELL.COM

**MODEL:** ELITE 6500 4.5-30X 50 MM

**MAGNIFICATION AND OBJECTIVE:** 4.5-30X 50 MM

**FINISH:** MATTE BLACK

**FIELD OF VIEW (Ft. @ 100 Yds.):** 21.6 FT. (4.5X), 3.4 FT. (30X)

**EYE RELIEF:** 4"

**CLICK VALUE:** 1/4" @ 100 YDS.

**WINDAGE AND ELEVATION ADJUSTMENT RANGE:** 80 M.O.A. (WINDAGE AND ELEVATION)

**RETICLE:** FINE, MULTI-X (TESTED), MIL-DOT

**LENGTH:** 13.5"

**WEIGHT:** 21 OZS.


**FEATURES:** SIDE-FOCUS KNOB FOR PARALLAX CORRECTION FROM 25 YDS. TO INFINITY; FAST-FOCUS EYEPIECE; PUSH/PULL-STYLE TURRETS

**ACCESSORIES:** SCOPE COVER; 5" SUNSHADE

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$936

Model 25 in .223 Rem. for testing, "shooting the square" revealed the Elite 6500 4.5-30X 50 mm's prescribed 1/4-m.o.a. click value as accurate, consistent and repeatable, and the push/pull-style turrets made returning to zero fast and fail-proof. A 15-minute submersion test verified the company's waterproof claims, and after an hour in the freezer, returning to room temperature showed no signs of internal fogging. Overall, the scope offered contrast, resolution and brightness comparable with more expensive glass, and our only grievances were the scope's hefty 21-oz. weight and the close proximity of the higher settings on the magnification band, particularly 16X-30X, which were tightly clustered.

The Bushnell Elite 6500 4.5-30X 50 mm also comes with a "one year, no questions asked" policy and the company's limited lifetime warranty.

Considering the Elite 6500 4.5-30X 50 mm's features and price, and backed by Bushnell's guarantee, it represents a solid value. 

*Unlike Bushnell's other Elite-series scopes, the 6500 features push/pull-style turrets.*

