



.22 RIMFIRE RIFLES

Getting Started with the Venerable Double Two

The .22 rimfire is your ticket to a lifetime of shooting and hunting enjoyment.

Generations of hunters and shooters have made the .22 rimfire the most popular firearm in the world. For learning proper shooting mechanics, there is no finer choice. Low noise, light recoil and inexpensive ammo make the .22 perfect for the high-quantity practice it takes to become a skilled marksman. It's also an ideal close-range cartridge for small game and varmints.

We'll highlight some of the many fine rifles available, and offer advice to simplify the process of getting started.

ACTION

The three most widely used action types are bolt, pump and semi-automatic. All are suitable for shooting and hunting. However, before purchase, check your state's game laws to ensure semi-automatics are legal for hunting.

Bolt actions, such as the Remington Model Five™, are great all-around choices. This is an extremely accurate, rather inexpensive rimfire rifle. There are plenty of models available with detachable clip magazines that allow you to fire multiple shots before reloading.

The pump action is a long-time favorite that drives tacks and can fire shots in rapid succession with a

quick shuck of the fore-end. Remington's Model 572™ BDL™ Fieldmaster™ is fed by a tubular magazine that holds up to 15 rounds of .22 Long Rifle ammo.

Autoloading (semi-automatic) rifles, such as the Remington Model 597™, shoot as fast as you can pull the trigger. This particular gun is fed by a clipstyle detachable magazine that makes unloading/reloading quick and easy, but there are many models available that feature a tubular magazine.



Model 597™
Semi-Automatic



Model Five™
Bolt Action

Model 572™ BDL™ Fieldmaster™
Pump Action

STOCK

You'll have a choice between natural wood and synthetic stocks. Both have their benefits. Wood has a classic look and adds heft that can improve your ability to hold the gun steady in the off-hand position. Synthetic stocks are impervious to the weather, extremely durable and often lighter. But you can't go wrong with either.

SIGHTS & SCOPES

Perhaps the most important decision is whether to mount a scope or use standard open sights. As a natural progression, most people start with rifle sights and move on to a scope. In general, scopes will enhance your precision by magnifying target size and offering a finer aiming point. If you don't plan to mount a scope, be sure the gun you purchase is equipped with adjustable open sights.

HUNTING & SHOOTING

Under normal conditions, a scoped .22 rimfire rifle in the hands of a skilled marksman is effective for small game out to about 75 yards. Although, most rimfire hunters try to limit their shots to 50 yards and under. This is optimum accurate range, and also guarantees the tiny bullet has enough kinetic energy to quickly dispatch game such as rabbits and squirrels.

When sighting-in, an ideal zero is 1/2" to 1" high at 25 yards. This will put you just about dead-on at 50 yards. You'll need to compensate by holding slightly low on closer targets.

LOADING UP

The best all-around choice for standard hunting and shooting is .22 Long Rifle ammunition. .22 Short and .22 Long rounds are available, but their uses are limited due to a shorter effective range.



When buying ammo, you normally get what you pay for in terms of quality and consistency. For example, Remington/Eley Competition ammo is superbly accurate, but more expensive than others. Versatile choices include Remington High Velocity Golden Bullet, Hyper Velocity Yellow jacket and Viper, and High Speed Thunderbolt and Cyclone ammo. All of these are accurate and suitable for hunting and shooting.

You'll have a choice between solid and hollow-tip bullets. Hollow-tip bullets expand rapidly and tend to ruin more meat on game animals, so you may want to opt for solid bullets when hunting for the table. Solid bullets are great for target shooting and will cleanly kill small game as well.

As with all firearms, it's imperative you're sure of your target and what is beyond it. A .22 Long Rifle bullet can travel 1 1/2 miles or more. A proper backstop is essential for safety.

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C O U N T R Y

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