

## This superbly accurate Takedown from Lynx impresses Bruce Potts with its safety features

stablished in 1979, the Lynx 94 action was designed by Mr Torsti Laaksonen — a well–known Finnish master gunsmith — and since then this unique straight-pull precision hunting arm has gained a good reputation for accuracy and handling.

Lynx rifles enjoy a small number run for discerning hunters. Because of this, quality is always maintained and you get a "custom-built" factory rifle, so to speak.

Besides the standard hunting models, the new Takedown version, Lynx TD12, takes the Lynx system to another level. One locking screw is all that is needed to remove the stock from the rifle action and make for a handy rifle to pack for any hunting trip.

### Action, trigger and safety

Unlike the other Lynx rifle actions, the TD12 utilises a two-piece system that has a lower aluminium solid milled block of 7075 Ergal section that the barrelled action locks into. This means you have a solid platform with a rail extending forward under the barrel which secures the fore-end wood. The butt of the stock is bolted on to the back of the action block, so no wood touches the barrelled action. This allows its fast take-down ability and, importantly, this means the rifle won't be affected by extremes of weather, which can lead to movement of the wood, thus affecting your rifle's zero.

The lower action has a smooth satin-black anodised finish, which is scratch resistant, and the top action has a good deep bluing. The bolt,

## **FIELD TEST**

BULLET MAKE	BULLET WEIGHT (GRAINS)	BULLET TYPE	RELOAD DATA	MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	MUZZLE ENERGY (FT/LB)
Hornady	129	SST	36 grains of RL 15	2,671	2,044
			36 grains of Vit N140	2,694	2,079
Hornady	140	SST	37 grains of RL 17	2,660	2,200
			34 grains of Vit N140	2,549	2,020
Nosler	120	Ballistic Tip	37.5 grains of RL 15	2,838	2,147
			36.5 grains of Vit N140	2,759	2,029
Sierra	120	Pro Hunter	36.5 grains of Vit N140	2,757	2,026
			37.5 grains of RL15	2,811	2,106
Berger	140	VLD Hunting	36.5 grains of IMR 4007	2,586	2,079

in this case straight-pull, remains the same as the rest of the Lynx rifle range and is the nicest straight-pull system, in my view. It uses a cross-locking bolt system that locks twin lugs into the side walls of the receiver, so when the bolt is closed you have a strong and safe lock up, and the bolt cannot travel backwards at all.

The large "gear stick" of a bolt handle is still there and visually, yes, it looks a tad unwieldy but, after using it to cycle the bolt, you have a firm grip, which allows an ultra-fast action and positive cartridge extraction and insertion — perfect for tricky hunting situations.





ABOVE LEFT: The TD12 with 129-gr and 36 grains of Vit N140 resulted in a 0.75in three-shot cluster. ABOVE RIGHT: With 120-gr it achieved some impressive three-shot groupings of 0.5in or less

As the bolt handle is pulled back, the surface-hardened lugs simultaneously unlock a large, square lug from the right side of the action and a smaller slotted lug on the left side. Now the 7.75in-long cylindrical bolt, which is 0.782in diameter, and has a plunger ejector and clawtype extractor, can be smoothly cycled.

The trigger is, again, a precise unit, adjustable for length of pull and weight, with an instant sear let-off adjustable from 0.5kg to 1.2kg. The safety catch has a change position on this model. No longer on the left side of the action, as with other models, the safety catch is sited in the top section of the trigger-guard, so you pull it down in front of the trigger-blade to operate, thus locking and blocking the trigger in one move. It obstructs the trigger, so you cannot forget it's on, which is a nice touch.

The bolt release catch drops through the action just in front of the trigger-blade, and is the only feature I didn't get on with, as it's a bit fiddly to use and requires some force to operate.

#### Stock

The stock is where the magic starts. Due to the central action, this is in two parts and allows the rear butt section to be removed simply. A single, long bolt is encapsulated in the butt-section and is accessed through the solid rubber recoil pad, with a hexagonal wrench provided. A few full turns on the wrench and the stock is removed, and now the overall length of 43.75in is split into a 31.25in front half and a 16.5in rear half, (4in of the stock overlaps the action).

The grade of walnut used is excellent — dark, with a lovely grain pattern and colour, all finished in a perfect oiled finish. There are also laminated wood options.

#### Barrel, calibre and magazine

Lynx uses high-quality chrome moly barrel steel in all its rifles and these are expertly fitted to the action, which is why the stock comes off

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

CALIBRE: 16.5MM BY 47MM. ALL USUAL CALIBRES ARE AVAILABLE.

BARRELS: 22.75IN. USES HIGH-QUALITY CHROME MOLY BARREL STEEL.

ACTION: NICE STRAIGHT-PULL ACTION.
TOP ACTION HAS A GOOD, DEEP BLUING.

FEATURES: TAKEDOWN FACILITY THAT
MAKES IT QUICK TO DISMANTLE WITHOUT
AFFECTING ACCURACY.

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to reduce the overall length and not the barrel, which is a good move. This maintains superb accuracy, and the finish is equally good.

The overall length is sensible at 22.75in, so it's not too long or too short and perfectly balances the TD12. Its profile is 1in at the receiver end and tapers down to 0.61in at the muzzle, which is screw cut with a 14mm/1 thread and spigot.

The usual calibres, such as 22.250, 7mm-08, 6mm BR, 7x57mm, .243 Win, 7x64mm, .270 Win, 8x57IS, 6mm, 5x47mm, .308, 30.06 Sprg, 6.5x55mm, .338 Fed, 6.5mm-284, 9.3x62mm, 6.5x68mm, and .375 Ruger are available, as are some nice alternatives such as this 6.5x47L on test.

The magazine is detachable, all metal, and holds three rounds (a five-shot version is available) and is removed by pulling back on the lever sited in front of the trigger-guard.

### **Accuracy and targets**

Lynx rifles are straight-pull designs and, as such, benefit from using a full-length die instead of a neck die for sizing the cases before reloading. (this eases case extraction from the chamber). In this way, the rounds are all the same dimension and load smoothly. The 6.5x47L cartridge is

# HOW THE RIFLE SCORES

ACCURACY

FINE ACCURACY FROM A HIGHLY REFINED SPORTING RIFLE.

HANDLING

EXCEPTIONALLY FAST HANDLING AND WELL BALANCED.

TRIGGER

ULTRA PRECISE TRIGGER UNIT.

STOCK

HIGH GRADE WALNUT AND EXCELLENT TAKEDOWN FACILITY.

VALUE

DESPITE HIGH PRICE TAG, WELL WORTH IT.

# TOTAL 96/100

## CONCLUSION

The TD12 is an accurate rifle platform and its straight-pull design is one of the safest and best in the business. Every part of the Lynx is well made, and accuracy is excellent.

The Takedown facility is a good idea and useful for the travelling hunter, and the design allows you just to remove the stock, ensuring accuracy is always maintained. Yes, you have to pay for that quality of manufacturing, but if you want a different rifle design that delivers, then the Lynx Takedown is it.

a superb round, having all the benefits of the efficient 6.5mm bullet diameter, packed into a short 47mm case. Factory loads are target bullets only, so reloading is the way to go. This Lynx TD12 was super accurate, and preferred the light bullet weights in the 120-gr to 129-gr weights.

A great load was the Sierra Pro Hunter 120-gr bullet. Here, a medium-burning powder of either RL 15 or Vit N 140 works well. I found 37.5 grains of RL 15 powder achieved 2,811fps for 2,106 ft/lb energy and put three shots into 0.5in or less at 100 yards. Similarly, the best accuracy came from the Nosler 120-gr Ballistic Tips of which three shots went consistently into one elongated hole! Here a load of 37.5 grains of RL 15 powder gave 2,838 fps for 2,147ft/lb energy. When I upped the weight of the bullet, the Hornady 129-gr SST worked well. The best load was 36 grains of Vit N140 for 2,694fps and 2,079 ft/lb and resulted in 0.75in three-shot clusters. Sii

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