

# Best Gear Year Ever!

DEER &  
DEER HUNTING

# DEER

## HUNTERS' EQUIPMENT

2011 ANNUAL

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THAT PACK A WALLOP

### 7 HEAT SOURCES YOU CAN'T BEAT!

# 148

### HOT PICKS FOR DEER HUNTERS

### RIFLES

BARGAIN  
GUNS FOR  
LIGHTS-OUT  
ACCURACY

### CROSSBOW NATION

HOW THEY'RE CREATING  
MORE DEER HUNTERS

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MONEY!

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HOW TO GET THAT  
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**ATI's** Adjustable Stock is available in any color thanks to its DyeHard process to apply graphics. This process uses ink to penetrate through the glass reinforced polymer stock, resulting in an image that won't scuff, chip or scratch off. The stock adjusts from 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches to 14<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches with the push of a button and features the new Scorpion buttpad with non-slip surface. Contact ATI at (800) 925-2522, or visit [www.atigunstocks.com](http://www.atigunstocks.com).

closed. The safety slide is attached to the trigger assembly.

A 22-inch carbon-steel barrel is mated to a round receiver via a barrel collar or nut, which allows for precise headspacing during production, same as the 110. Between the receiver and barrel nut is a mortise where a recoil lug, imbedded in the polymer stock and protruding upward about 1/8 inch, mates neatly with the receiver.

The stock also features steel pillars. Overall, it's very trim and quite comfortable in your hands. Rather than checkering, it features an alternating slat-and-textured surface along the inside of the wrist and along each side of a uniquely inletted forend. A cushy recoil pad is standard. The wrist, or grip, of the stock is very narrow to appeal to shooters with large or small hands.

An injection-molded triggerguard is held in place with the rear guard screw. At its leading edge is a flat surface that extends up into the magazine well, against which the back of the detachable magazine is held in place. My test sample was a short-action in .308 Win. Long-action versions use the same basic stock with the shorter trigger guard to accommodate a longer magazine.

It's obvious that many of the Axis' features were borrowed from the 110 to keep manufacturing costs down and retail prices within reach of any deer hunters' budget. That's smart business. So too is the range of caliber options: .223 Rem., .22-250 Rem., .243 Win. 7mm-08 Rem., .308 Win., .25-06 Rem., .270 Win. and .30-06 Sprg. Short- or long-action versions can be had in all matte black or matte black metal with a camouflage stock. New for 2011 is a stainless-steel version, as well

as youth models, and adult and youth models packaged with a scope.

The base rifle weighs 6½ pounds. With a Weaver 2-10X variable atop it, my sample weighed just more than 7 pounds. Accuracy performance was admirable. With Federal 150-grain soft-points and Winchester 150-grain Power-Points, three-shot, 100-yard groups stayed in the range of 1 to 1½ inches. With Remington 165-grain Accutip Boattail loads, three-shot groups tightened up to ¾ inches.

Manufacturers offer many options for high-quality, low-price rifles to outfit any hunter, regardless of age, gender or experience in the field.



ROD SPOFFER/PWINDLER