

Franchi

The big news from Franchi this year is the inclusion of the new Momentum All-Terrain Elite—a light, handy bolt-action rifle that incorporates some elements of Jeff Cooper's Scout rifle. At the heart of this rifle is Franchi's proven Momentum push-feed action with a full-diameter spiral fluted bolt and three locking lugs up front.

The action is mated to a medium-contour 18-inch barrel with 5/8x24 threads capped with a radial muzzle brake, and the rifle's metalwork is protected by a Cerakote Midnight Bronze finish.

The blade front sight is adjustable for elevation, and there's a windage-adjustable aperture rear sight that flips down. The top Picatinny rail is extended and can handle both traditional scopes and Scout-style extended eye relief scopes—as well as red dots and similar sights.

The TrueTimber Strata camo polymer stock has soft-touch inserts in the pistol grip and fore-end and a soft raised comb insert. There's also a TSA recoil pad that does a good job stamping out recoil. The crisp Relia Trigger adjusts from two to four pounds, and the gun accepts AICS-pattern magazines.

Resembling a thoroughly modern take on Cooper's Scout or Remington's venerated Model 600, this is one of guns I'm most excited about.

Also new from Franchi is the Momentum Elite Varmint TrueTimber Prairie, a premium bolt-action rifle. Like the All-Terrain, it features a top optics rail, soft touch comb and grip panels, three-lug bolt and spiral-fluted

barrel. Don't let the Varmint moniker fool you: The rifle is chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Win and makes an excellent big game rifle.

Both are backed by a sub-m.o.a. accuracy guarantee and seven-year warranty.

Gunwerks

Gunwerks' founder and CEO Aaron Davidson is always looking for ways to make better guns. To that end, his team created a new double-stack, flush-fit magazine design for the Nexus rifle that wasn't limited to the dimensional constraints of a Remington 700 box magazine.

He paired this new magazine with a new aluminum action, the NXT, and a created a six lug bolt—three sets of two lugs—that shortened bolt lift to just 65 degrees. You can also remove the bolt head by knocking out a single pin, so it's easy to swap calibers. Changing barrels is simply a matter of removing two screws, and the bolt locks into position in a steel barrel extension.

The bolt head/extension lockup is secure and powerful, and that allows for the use of aluminum for the action. Further reducing weight is the liberal use of carbon fiber that is used to construct the stock and wrap the barrel.

Optic rail sections are machined directly into the receiver, and the new stock comes with a vertical grip, full-length ARCA rail, front Pic rail for bipod mounting and—perhaps most striking—leather inserts in the pistol grip and on the cheekpiece. A directional brake also comes standard.

I tested the Nexus at Gunwerks'

Sheep Mountain shooting course, and my report on the rifle is coming soon.

Henry

Henry is offering a Henry Deluxe Engraved 25th Anniversary Edition of its iconic .44-40 lever-action rifle. It features a hand-selected rosewood stock, bronze crescent buttplate and receiver, and scroll engraving on the receiver.

It's 43 inches long with its 24.5-inch barrel and weighs an impressive nine pounds. A ladder-style rear sight is included, and a blade front sight sits atop the octagonal barrel. Only 2,500 of these rifles will be made.

The other big news at Henry is the planned launch of lever rifles chambered in .360 Buckhammer. Details were too sketchy at press time to include it on our buyer's chart, but Henry is likely to convert its Steel Lever Action .30-30 to .360.

Howa

Howa is combining its Japanese-made 1500 series push-feed barreled action with a Hera H7 chassis stock. The rifle is profiled elsewhere in this issue, so if it's of interest you can check it out.

Howa is also expanding its Superlite line of rifles with the addition of Stocky's carbon fiber stocks in gray, tan and OD green. At just four pounds, seven ounces the Stocky's versions are the lightest bolt-action hunting rifles on the market. These rifles feature bolt faces that are trued and squared to the chamber, top rails for optic mounting, a HACT two-stage trigger and M-16-style extractor/ejector. A wood-stocked version is slated to come this year as well.



Gunwerks Nexus

**Howa Superlite
Stocky's**