



Handcrafted Firearms

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Biathlon Rifles Available

There are only 2 commercial manufacturers of Biathlon Rifles. Izhmash (RUS) and Anschutz (GER). While it is possible to modify various .22lr rifles for Biathlon use, the limited cost savings achieved, typical lack of cold weather performance, non-adjustable triggers, and lack of stock adjustability makes this a poor option and is not recommended.

Izhmash Rifles

The Izhmash rifle is a very solid, straight pull action rifle which offers excellent performance and value. The action is a 'pinch lock' system. Although not as refined in design or finish as an Anschutz product, it is totally reliable and is on par with Anschutz for accuracy. The Izhmash is designated as the Biathlon 7-3 or 7-4. The Standard 7-3 stock is smaller than the 7-4 stock. In addition, the trigger on the 7-3 is situated closer to the pistol grip for easier access by shooters with smaller hands. Otherwise, the rifles are identical. The Izhmash is available in a left handed version. This rifle utilizes a modified right-handed action with a true left handed stock.

The Izhmash rifle is available in 2 different barreled actions: Standard and Larsen. The standard Izhmash, imported previously into the USA through Kalashnikov USA and European American Armory, is now imported by Russian American Armory. The Izhmash-Larsen is imported in North America exclusively by Altius. Although the 2 versions appear identical, only the Izhmash-Larsen guarantees cold weather (-20C) performance. The standard Izhmash ***will not*** reliably group below -10/-15C. All Larsen versions utilize the 7-3 barreled action.

The Standard Izhmash comes with the factory stock (adjustable for length of pull and cheekpiece height and cast) and the factory accessories. These accessories are functional, although quite dated in design and materials. Also, the rifle cover does not include the now-required 'bolt view' window. This rifle can be seen at link http://www.raacfirearms.com/Biathlon_7-3_7-4.htm

The Larsen version comes with a Larsen laminated stock (adjustable for length of pull and cheekpiece height and cast) and Altius modern accessories. This rifle can be seen at link http://www.larsenbiathlon.com/index.php?page=vis_produkt&ProduktID=568. It is also available in a Recruit version for younger competitors who do not carry the rifle. This version comes with sling, handstop, cuff, and rifle cover but no carrying harness. It can be viewed at link http://www.larsenbiathlon.com/index.php?page=vis_produkt&ProduktID=569. This is a great choice for juniors just starting out as it can be upgraded by simply changing the stock when the athlete reaches that age class.

Please note that several web sites list other versions of the Izhmash rifle, including one with an Anschutz barrel. The versions described in this information sheet are the ***ONLY*** versions available at this time.



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Anschutz Rifles

Anschutz now manufacturers only 1 rifle, the Fortner. It is available in the Standard and Sprint configuration. The only difference between the 2 versions is the weight. The Sprint model is 200g lighter than the Standard. Both are also available in a true left-handed configuration.

The Fortner is the most common rifle on the World Cup. It features a straight pull action with ball-bearing lockup. The stock is fully adjustable for length of pull and cheekpiece height, cant, and cast. Cold weather (-20C) performance is assured. Perfect fit and finish and a beautiful walnut stock are the hallmarks of this rifle. This is a fine German-made rifle that emphasizes both form and function.

Pricing

(note that all pricing is subject to change due to fluctuation in world currency markets.)

Except as noted above, prices reflect complete packages for a race-ready rifle. A 'Race Ready Package' from Altius includes:

- Barreled Action and Front Sight
- Stock
- Rear Sight
- 5 Magazines
- Extra Firing Pin (Fortner Only)
- Handstop, Sling, Cuff
- Harness
- Rifle Cover
- 6-Round Spare Cartridge Holder

Anschutz Fortner \$3295

Anschutz Sprint Fortner \$3495

Izhmash 7-3 or 7-4 \$1400 (\$1500 LH)

Izhmash-Larsen 7-3 \$2495 (\$2595LH)

Izhmash-Larsen 7-3 Recruit \$1995

Contact Altius regarding pricing for variations on this package or for Custom rifle projects.