

#### NEW TRIPLE K LEATHER PRODUCTS CATALOG



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## If you never had time to become a crack shot,



### take time to read this.

Few shooters have the time it takes to become a crack field shot. Seasons last days instead of months. A limit may be several singles instead of several dozen. And your secret hunting spot is probably hours away. Which is all the more reason to make the most of what little time you have in the field.

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Qwik-Point . . . a new sighting concept designed for lightning-fast short-range shooting with rifles and shotours.

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superimposed on the target. Unlike iron sights, both dot and target are seen simultaneously in clear, sharp focus. Unlike a scope, there is no magnification or "field of view." You simply see the dot suspended in space.

#### **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

As your gun comes up to your cheek, you see a luminous red dot. You swing the dot across the target, hold the proper lead, and pull the trigger. It's that easy.

Qwik-Point is dependable, shockproof, weatherproof, foolproof.

#### WHAT ABOUT RIFLES?

Qwik-Point is the world's fastest short-range sight for both center fire and 22 rifles. There's no peep or lead sight to align with a front bead and target. Just cover the target with the bright red dot and squeeze.

It's ideal for brush guns like the Winchester 94. Excellent in dim light or heavy cover. And, there's plenty of accuracy for an occasional across-thecanyon shot.

#### WHAT ABOUT SHOTGUNS?

Qwik-Point can effectively short-cut the countless shells required to become an accomplished wingshot. For the novice, Qwik-Point makes "swing" and "lead" easy to see, understand, and follow. It can even help an expert pick up a lost bird or two by making it easy to see where and why he missed.

With Qwik-Point, you concentrate on the target. There's no need to worry about how you mount and cheek the gun. Forget about how you see the target and sights. Just swing the red dot over the target and fire. That's all.

#### WHAT DOES IT COST?

Suggested price is \$39.95. Complete with mounts for Model S-1 for shotguns and Model R-22 for 22's; bases are extra for Model R-1 for rifles.



Qwik-Point R-1 installed on a rifle.

See it now at all good gun shops and sporting goods dealers.

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#### PUBLIC NOT IN FAVOR OF GUN CONTROL

BY QUERYING 43,000 readers, "Life" magazine in its Jan. 14 issue came up with figures indicating a widespread fear of U. S. crime. Their own homes felt unsafe to 78 per cent; the city streets seemed menacing to 80 per cent. Of families, 43 per cent contained at least one crime victim during 1971; 41 per cent felt that police protection was inadequate; 70 per cent would pay added taxes for improved policing. But 30 per cent of the populace, said "Life" hedged all bets by keeping a gun for self-protection.

To some this might seem cause for plaster-tight gun-control edicts, but the study also brought out the fact that the queried readers saw no virtue

at all in that approach.

"Gun Control laws, particularly those proposed by Senator Hart of Michigan and Mayor Lindsay of New York found no sympathy . . .", said the Life article. Responses indicated the police should offer gun-handling clinics, every criminal is a potential killer, and so on.

"Life's" 30 per cent figure for house-holds containing guns for self-protection may or may not be correct. Perhaps greater weight should be given the higher figures, including firearms used for target shooting and hunting rather than self-defense, which has been cited in other surveys. But it is clear that the public does not want confiscation, does feel that the road to crime control is not by tightening up on firearms but rather by tightening up on criminals—NSSF.

James Lask, of Nashville, Tenn., is the winner of the Ranger Arms Texas Magnum—Governor's Grade. Be a winner! Fill in the required information on a plain post-card and return it to "Guns" magazine. Details inside.

#### THE COVER

The newest Colt offering is this redesigned Detective Special. Full story appears on page 37. Ammo shown in the photo is a .38 Special version of the "bean-bag" non-lethal ammo. As far as we know, it is not available commercially. Photo by Walter Rickell.

#### **APRIL, 1972**

Vol. XVII, No. 04-2 George E. von Rosen Publisher



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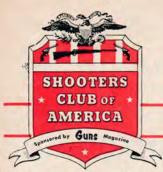






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### News from the ...

#### SHOOTERS CLUB OF AMERICA

Dedicated to the Constitutional Right of Every Citizen to Keep and Bear Arms

ANOTHER AMERICAN FREEDOM IS CHALLENGED

Last month one of my best friends, Col. Terry Benteen, died of cancer. Although he knew his case was terminal, he took his own death better than his family and friends. To die well you have to live well. And he lived a great life. We first met in Korea where he flew 74 combat missions. He was shot down and rescued twice. We have been friends ever since. He had one of the best collections of military pistols in the country which he gave to me just before he died.

During his last few months, we spent several evenings talking about old times and current events. Terry always was disturbed by anti-firearms groups and their way of thinking. He spent most of his life fighting Communism and would get his bristles up whenever someone talked about putting another restriction on our rights. He hated Communism with a real passion. I would play devil's advocate at times and start an argument. I'd say, "now look here Terry, Communism is not really that bad. In Russia they have licked a lot of problems. They have no private firearms. Thus few killings with guns, robberies, crime, and little drug addiction. So how can you argue with that?" He knew I was kidding so he wouldn't get mad. One of his favorite sayings was "everything has a price." And he would answer my questions by saying, "yes the Russians have buried some of the problems which bother America. But at what price? Communism has destroyed most of the causes of crime and drug addiction, but they have also strangled all human motivation which produces higher civilization. Their painting, music, architecture, philosophy, literature, and social manners have been beaten into a tasteless pulp." He would agree with the anti-firearms lobby when they say a few people are hurt every year in America by guns. But he would come back and say "everything has a price, and this is the price we pay for our type of civilization. It is a very small price considering we are 1000% more creative than anyone else." Then he would ask "what would we have to give up to make our civilization completely sterile and antiseptic?"

Terry said "if the anti-firearms people are so interested in having firearms under complete government control then they do NOT have to stay here and wait. They can pack their bags and move to Russia where they have complete firearms control." My only comment to that is "amen."

Please do not read more into our thoughts than is there. We are NOT saying firearms produce civilization. We are saying that it represents one of hundreds of freedoms which are basic to our free and open culture. The anti-firearms lobby does not realize that America was built on the idea people should be free to make mistakes. If you create a bureaucracy to keep anyone from making a mistake then you will in effect destroy our great spontaneity. The flag might still be the same, and there would be no foreign army in Washington. But the heart of America would die. This is what I've always feared. As a military man I know we could never be conquered by an outside army. The country might be destroyed in a nuclear war. But a foreign army absolutely could not take us by force. Next to nuclear war, the second worst enemy we have are groups like the anti-firearms lobby who want to change the basic social system into something foreign. In the military I learned if a system is successful you keep it. If it is a failure you change it. Our country is the oldest working Democracy in the world. Our Government has been unbroken for almost 200 years. We have had 37 Presidents, and although a few were weak, not one was ever a dictator. Our system has made us the intellectual and military leaders of the world. The American way of doing things has spread over the whole world. I ask you, is this the type of system that should be carelessly changed? The answer is plain to anyone with half a mind—absolutely not! Unfortunately most of the anti-firearms groups do not have half a mind. They are imbeciles.

Thousands of American Soldiers have died to keep outside forces from altering the freedoms of other Nations. Are we to now stand with our hands in our pockets while inside forces work to erode our freedoms? We owe a debt of blood to our fallen fathers, brothers and friends to NOT lose the fight they won. If there is a heaven, I could never meet my old fallen comrades if I sat on my butt and did nothing to protect the many rights they died for. If you feel the same way then join the S.C.A. today. The antifirearms hysteria that gripped part of the country a few years ago is passing. I can see a successful defense of this one freedom in the next few years if we do not weaken. Fill out the postage-free envelope opposite this page and send it in today.

Col. Edward Becker

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#### Can't Judge a Book

On page four under Trigger Talk, you say to speak our minds, well here goes.

I know that it will cost money to do what I have in mind as I work for a "newspaper" named The Woonsocket Call.

When I started with Guns magazine, you had a full cover on the magazine. I do not recall when you changed, but I would like to request a full cover, as used by the American Rifleman, be reinstated.

The first reason, I think the less people see of pictures of guns the better, as this is not the time to show guns-the public is funny.

The second reason is that the corners of the magazine gets bent. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

> Walter E. Baker Woonsocket, R. I.

We would welcome other opinions from our readers-editor.

#### Fast Draw Clubs

Here are the names and addresses of the two newly formed Fast Draw Clubs in the Chicago area: Frank A. Mack, President-537 Norwood Lane, Shaumberg, Ill. 60172 and the Renegades Fast Draw Club-Walt Toblesky-President-427 Larkdale Lane, Mt. Prospect, Ill. 60056.

> George E. Virgines Northlake, Ill.

#### Thank You

I think your magazine is the best in its field. I particularly enjoy articles on handgunning, gunfighting and adventure.

I hope that you never stop using the slick paper you do, as there's nothing that turns me away from a magazine more than cheap paper. I'd rather pay more and have a magazine printed on quality paper.

Jack Budnick Dearborn Hts., Mich.

I found the January issue of Guns to be about the finest that I've read. The articles by E. Dixon Larson, Chauncey Thomas, James B. Stewart and the Firearms Encyclopedia are very good. I will be satisfied if future articles are half as good.

Gordon J. Harris San Diego, Calif.

I purchased my first Guns magazine at a newsstand this week. This Guns magazine is the best of its kind that I have ever read. I would like to say a job well done to each and everyone who has anything to do with publishing this magazine.

> Talmadge Ayscue Norlina, N.C.

I subscribe to your fine magazine and enjoy it very much. I sincerely hope that you will continue with your coverage of antique guns in future issues. Last but not least, I would like to compliment you on the Firearms Directory and hope to see my favorite -the 1860 Army if possible.

> Peter L. Maher Oakhurst, N.J.

#### The Good Old Days

My hat's off to Mr. Mason's article in your December, 1971 issue of Guns. I am still using my grandfather's Model 1915 Favorite .22 which he bought in 1921 and taught my father to hunt with. In turn, my father taught me. The gun is still in use, even with a nail for a firing pin, and after having many rounds passed through it, it is still a most accurate gun.

Since then, I have acquired many more of these great guns and shoot them all at both targets and game and would use no other rifle for small game.

I thank you very much for giving such a gun the credit its due.

> James M. Easter Argyle, Iowa

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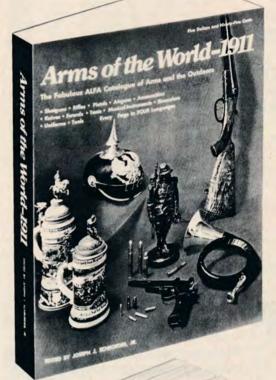
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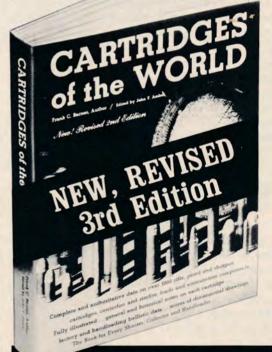
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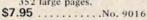
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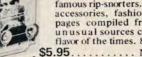
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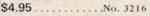
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### HANDLOADING BENCH

BY C. GEORGE CHARLES

Since beginning to market powder scales under its own name a couple years back, Ohaus has added several new handloading items to its line. Among them are plastic loading blocks, a trigger pull scale or gauge, scale dust cover, powder funnel, powder trickler, case length gauge (caliper) with wall chart, and most recent of all, an extensive line of bullet molds and casting equipment.

The latter is of particular interest in view of the fact that for many years many of you have complained of poor delivery from all of the few firms supplying them. I have received numerous complaints from readers claiming delays of many weeks, even for popular numbers—a condition evidently more prevalent than would appear seemly.

In any event, Ohaus devoted a great deal of research to the bullet-casting field and as this is written is delivering molds for over forty calibers, styles, and weights. Calibers range from the diminutive .22's up through popular rifle diameters, most handgun sizes, and even the monstrous .58 caliber, hollow-base minie bullet for civil war buffs who are so fond of shooting rifled muskets. In fact, black powder aficionados will be particularly pleased by molds for four different minies and seven round ball sizes. And, more are promised soon for front loaders.

In the past, all molds (to the best of my knowledge) have been made in the traditional fashion from machined matching blocks of cast iron (except a few of brass) by cutting the cavity with tool steel "cherries." Nothing wrong with this, really, except that cherry wear was fast and any oldtime handloader can vouch for the wide variations in cast-bullet diameters it produced. Consequently, most handloaders were forced to be more or less content with oversize bullets in order to insure they would be brought to proper size in the lubricating/sizing operation. Lack of uniform

mold diameters probably did much to start the still-repeated stories that cast bullets *should* be several thousandths of an inch oversize.

Recognizing this, Ohaus has tooled to produce all its molds with tungstencarbide cherries. While T-C does wear somewhat, and cast iron is mean to cut, the rate is almighty slow, and its use insures maximum uniformity of mold cavity diameter. Cherrying is done, incidentally, on heavy-duty milling machines—a significant improvement over what I've seen in some plants.

In short, Ohaus has identified problem areas in mold manufacture and moved to correct them.

Cavity diameters are selected to produce bullets only sufficiently oversize to insure proper "truing-up" in lubricating/sizing dies to standard diameters for each caliber. There is no large amount of excess to be scraped off, squeezed down, or otherwise removed in sizing. Of course, in some calibers where groove diameter varies substantially according to gun make, a good bit of squeezing is still required at the low end.

The mating faces of Ohaus mold blocks are machined with horizontal grooves to eliminate the need for hand-venting as some older smooth-faced blocks required. Newcomers to the game may not have been forced into that effort, but old-timers remember the tedious filing well. Air must be able to escape the cavity as lead enters, and the grooves allow it to do so without letting out any lead to cause fins or a parting line where the blocks meet.

Blocks are provided with two adjustable, round-nose, hardened alignment pins. Their diagonally opposed placement insures both vertical and horizontal alignment when the blocks are fully closed.

Sprue cutters (cut-off plate to some) are spring-loaded and fitted closely to the blocks. The extension is long enough to allow operation with a gloved hand if you don't care for the mallet or stick method most use. The mallet is simpler and more convenient for me—and Ohaus offers a cylindrical one of hardwood for the purpose. It saves going out and policing up an old hickory hammer handle as I used to do.

Handles are built around a heavy cast joint which may be tightened to compensate for wear. Handle jaws are shaped and dimensioned to fit both single- and double-cavity molds-a blessing which allows only a single set of handles to service as many blocks as you possess. Of course, you should have at least one spare handle set for those times when two molds are being used alternatively to speed up casting-and that happens often with large-caliber heavy bullets. The wood handle extensions are long enough to insure reasonably cool working.

Single cavity molds for plain-base or gas-check solid bullets list for \$14.50 with handles, \$10.00 without. Hollow-base or hollow-point designs add \$4.00 to the basic price, while double-cavity blocks add \$4.50.

Of special interest when you go mold shopping is the packaging of Ohaus molds, Blocks and handles are boxed separately in simple black-andwhite cartons whose labels are easy to read and identify. The ends of block boxes are printed with a large silhouette view of the bullet, leaving no doubt as to its shape. Alongside this appears the individual bullet identification which departs from tradition. It identifies the bullet as to caliber (not diameter), weight, and shape. As this is written, I have before me bullet 41-210-K (which marking is stamped on the blocks as well as on the container). "41" means .41 caliber; "210" means nominal weight of 210 grains, depending upon alloy; and "K" means Keith-style bullet. This gives at a glance a positive mind-picture of the bullet and eliminates checking a simple numerical identifier against a chart and pictures to determine what it means, or opening the sealed box so you can look at the cavity shape. You can tell at a glance what your dealer has on the shelf without asking him to fumble through his entire mold stock.

Ohaus also offers a matching line of top punches to fit all its bullets, and they are interchangeable with existing punches for the several makes of lubricator/sizers. Price is \$2.25 each.

A cast-iron, stove-top type (also useable with a gas torch) lead pot is offered at \$2.50; a casting dipper at \$2.00, and ingot mold at \$2.00, and a sprue-cutting mallet at \$2.49. More

cast-bullet items are likely to come in the not-too-distant future, but there isn't anything we can tell you about them right now. Later, perhaps.

Even newer from Ohaus is a unique powder measure whose design features have attracted enough attention to be written up in Machine Age magazine. I don't recall any handloading item ever given such coverage in the past.

The Du-O-Measure, as it is called, is especially unusual in that it is of drum-type design, yet incorporates two different metering chambers—one of large size for rifle-size charges; the other smaller for pistol-size charges of fine-kernel powders. Switching from one cavity to the other is accomplished in seconds by moving the drum stop-pin and repositioning the operating handle. Quick and handy.

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powder before changing.

The bottom of the measure housing is threaded %x14 to fit die holes in turret loading presses and is supplied with a flat, drilled mounting bracket which permits several different installations to suit individual needs.

Price on the new Du-O-Measure is \$31.95-not at all bad when the cost of a comparable measure with two metering chambers is considered.

One other point worthy of mention is the fact that Ohaus furnishes with the new items, some of the best-written instruction manuals we have seen. Frankly, some of the manuals supplied with other makes of handloading tools can be quite confusing.

I haven't the vaguest idea-nor do I suppose anyone else has-how many Soviet SKS carbines and Communist Bloc copies of it have been brought into this country by troops returning from Vietnam. It must be a bunch. though, for not a single week goes by without several letters asking where ammunition for them can be obtained.

The proper cartridge is not made commercially in this country, though

substantial quantities have been produced by and for our military establishment for use in captured weapons. It is properly identified as 7.62x39mm M-43. Military ammunition of varying ancestry, but usually Finnish, is available most (not all) of the time from Interams, 200 S. Union, Alexandria, Va. Your dealer can order it from that source. Some other purveyors of military surplus ammunition have also offered it from time to time. Firearms International, 4837 Kerby Hill Road, Washington, D.C. 20022, has also supplied soft-point sporting loads in the past and may still be able to do so.

Custom-loaded 7.62x39mm ammunition may also be obtained from George Spence, Steele, Missouri, in both Berdan and boxer primed cases, the latter being the more costly.

As for handloading, the cases can be formed from Norma 6.5x54mm M-S or 6.5mm Carcano brass with a forming die set available from RCBS Inc. Load with about 22.0 grains of IMR 4227 and 125/130 grain .308" bullets for a starter and work up gradually if necessary to obtain reliable semi-auto functioning.

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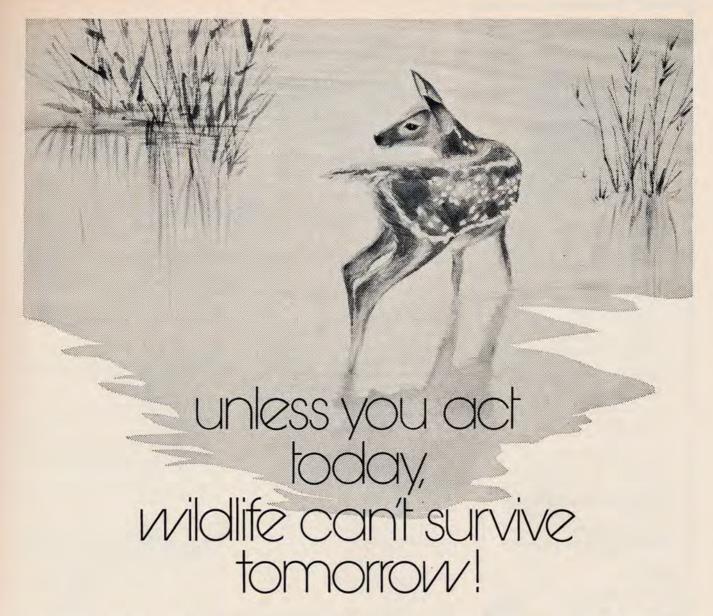
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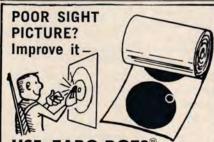


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L ast time we left the readership holding an open-and-empty automatic; assumedly you haven't stood there with it for thirty days or so. But I can remember often enough having been in the same predicament—with a locked-open self loader in hand and not a clue as to how to get it shut again—to make me feel that a few words on the subject would not be wasted.

Mercifully, this situation generally finds me in a gunshop, where I can pass the piece back to the dealer and let him fret with it. But let us return to the hypothetical situation we set up last month, wherein we are on our own, and compelled to muddle through by ingenuity, a general knowledge of how auto pistols are set up, and a scrupulous adherence to the rules of firearms safety.

The piece is, by definition, open, empty, and safe. The primary rule in force then is to keep the muzzle constantly pointing in a safe direction, that is, one which would hold an accidental discharge.

The process of getting the bolt or slide shut is enormously expedited if we understand what holds it open. On the older type autopistol with a clip-loaded, non-detachable magazine, it is a shoulder on the back of the magazine follower (that part atop the magazine spring, which forces the cartridge column upwards) which holds the bolt or slide back after the last shot is fired. On those handguns which have bolts rather than slides, the task of holding the bolt open during reloading is taken over by the stripper clip, and when the empty clip is snatched out, the bolt automatically runs forward to chamber the top cartridge from the freshlyloaded magazine.

This system was designed for combat rather than parade ground convenience, and while we wouldn't wish to fault that logic, the problem remains of getting the wretch shut when it is empty. Generally the only way to do so will be to hold the bolt back with one hand while the thumb of the other hand deftly depresses the magazine follower. Considerable care should be exercised during this operation since, if the bolt slips free unexpectedly, you will be promptly afflicted with what the Army used to call "M-1 thumb," a painful malady indeed.

There are variations on this theme, particularly among later charger-



The slide on this 1911 Steyr is presently being held open for loading by the thumb safety. Note the lever centered above the grip panel which both releases the cartridge column for unloading and depresses the follower so that the slide may be run forward.

loaded pistols and on those with slides rather than bolt type breechblocks. The 1911 Steyr, for instance, which was probably the best pistol of World War I, except for the 1911 Colt, has a slide which is blocked back by the follower after the last shot in perfectly normal fashion. Since the charger guides are in the slide, however, (rather than in the receiver, as would be the case if the gun had a bolt like the 1896 Mauser, et al) something else is needed to hold it open after the follower is forced down under the incoming cartridges. The safety is designed to serve this purpose. When the gun goes empty, the shooter retracts the slide another fraction of an inch manually, and flicks the safety up into a notch in the underside of the slide, thus blocking it fully back. With the magazine loaded, the left hand tossed the empty clip aside while the right thumb wiped the safety off, freeing the slide to lurch forward and drive the top round into the chamber.

Besides the safety-slide catch, the big Steyr had another double duty control. This was the unloading latch on the left side of the receiver, which permitted the piece to disgorge the cartridges, all at one gush, when the slide was held back either by hand or by means of the safety. With the magazine empty, of course, the follower would now block the slide from moving forward, were it not for the fact that the unloading lever also



The bolt on the Pattern 14 (1925) "Nambu" is held rearward on the last shot only by the magazine follower, and slams shut when the magazine is removed. Photo, courtesy of M. H. Josserand.

served to depress the follower far enough to remove it from the slide's path. The unloading sequence, then, was: (1) lock slide back with safety lever, (2) depress unloading latch, (3) disengage safety, permitting slide to move forward until blocked by the follower, (4) depress unloading latch again to let slide override follower and return to battery. For barracks inspection of unloaded pistols, there was no need to block the slide back with the safety, and in this case the unloading lever served primarily as a slide release.

The 1900, 1901, and 1905 Mannlichers, which were more or less identical one to another, have a different bag of tricks to offer. Like the Steyr, the Mannlicher uses a slide rather than a bolt, but the unloading lever and the safety of the latter gun serve but one function each. For loading or inspection, there is an internal lever (which also acts as a retarding cam during slide recoil), which hooks into a notch in the underside of the slide

to hold it open. To disengage this device and release the slide, the hammer is thumbed back past full-cock position. I am told that to run the slide forward over an empty magazine, the follower has to be depressed with one thumb while the hammer is eared back to depress the catch with the other. I have not tried this stunt, and am frankly not eager to.

Admidst all the confusion, some sort of general rationale, to which most autopistol designers subscribe, should by now be shining through: it is considered desirable for the slide or bolt to stay back on the last shot to warn the shooter that his weapon is empty; the easiest way to achieve this is for the follower to block it back. In the case of a gun with a non-detachable magazine, the slide or bolt has to stay back during the reloading operation. On pistols with bolts traveling within the receiver, the engagement of the stripper clip in the charger guides of the receiver made this easy to accomplish; on pistols with slides rather than bolts, some other type of latch had to be employed to keep the piece open while it was being charged.

Hugo Borchardt, who introduced the first pistol with a detachable box magazine in 1893, thought he had rendered this whole routine obsolete. Those who insisted, for range-safety reasons or others, on having the pistol's breech blocked open, could insert an extra-long wooden dummy magazine which came with the gun for just that purpose.

Subsequent designers, among them Georg Luger who face-lifted the Borchardt, soon recognized that the old notions had a great deal of merit. For both range safety and general inspection purposes, it was most desirable for the slide to stay back when the gun was empty. And in the heat of battle, the tip-off that the magazine had run dry could be a vital one. So too, the speed in reloading gained by having the breech stay open while a fresh magazine was inserted.

Again, employing the follower for the task was about the only way to accomplish the goal, for the follower's reaching topmost position in the magazine is the only mechanical occurrence that can distinguish the last shot from all the rest of them.

But if the follower itself were to hold the slide back, then it would slam shut again as soon as the magazine were withdrawn. Some pistols, such as the Japanese Patterns 14 and 94, the 1934 Beretta, and several of the Czech double actions, are rigged in just this fashion; in this respect, at least, I do not care for them.



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Normount Armament, Box 211 GNS Forest Grove, Or. 97116, USA A far more common and more desirable arrangement is to have a lip on the follower, as it reaches its topmost position, abut an independent part mounted on the frame, pushing it up in a position to block the slide. Thus the slide will remain rearward when the magazine is withdrawn. This independent part—the slide stop—is ordinarily tensioned downward, out of interference with the slide, by its spring, which is overcome by the far more powerful magazine spring pushing the follower up.

On some guns (the High Standard autos, and the Luger come to mind) the slide stop serves no function of note other than to block the slide back after the last shot departs. More often it is made to earn its keep by doing double duty or more. On most locked breech, Browning-type selfloaders (Colt 1911, copies thereof, SIG, Browning G.P., French PA35, A & S, and MAC50, Radom VIS, S & W M39, and so forth) the slide stop is also the takedown lever, and its cross pin usually serves to cam or pivot the barrel into lockup and out again as well.

On the Walther PP and PPK, copies thereof, the Astra Constable, Beretta Model 90, the Soviet Makarov, the 58W M41, etc., the slide stop is also the ejector. On the Mauser HSc it is the ejector and also the magazine safety.

Generally, though not at all invariably, the slide stop will have an exterior thumb lever, thus implying that if depressed by the thumb, it will release the slide to run forward. Often no such results are forthcoming. I have rarely, if ever, encountered a Smith & Wesson Model 39, for instance, which would release the slide under pressure from but one thumb. Ordinarily it takes both hands, a fact which is indicative of poor design or poor fitting or both. Better then, with most of the lot, to pretend that the slide stop is entirely internal, as is indeed the case with many guns such as the PPK and the Luger. When a loaded magazine is inserted you need only pull the slide slightly rearward and then release it to run forward and chamber a cartridge.



Heckler & Koch HK4

When the slide is pulled back, the slide stop spring will force it down out of the path of the slide.

If you wish to close the slide over an empty magazine, first drop the magazine down about a half-an-inch to get the follower, backed up by the powerful magazine spring, out of contact with the slide stop. Then pull the slide back slightly, permitting the slide stop, under power of its own spring, to snap down. The slide is now free to move fully forward. This procedure will work with the gross majority of detachable box magazine pistols which have a slide or bolt holdopen of any description, whether exterior or interior. There are always a few oddities, though, to complicate the picture.

The Mauser Models 1910 and HSc have a slide stop which I don't pretend to fully understand. The thing is evidently activated by the follower on the last shot. When you shove a loaded magazine in, the slide automatically leaps forward to chamber the topmost cartridge. If you want to close the slide on an empty gun, just drop the empty magazine halfway down and slam it back up into place. This too will release the slide to run forward. With the magazine out of either of these guns, it is usually possible to pull the slide fully rearward, and then release it to override the stop. However, this causes excess wear on the stop mechanism and is not recommended.

The Heckler & Koch HK4 adds an extra fillip. The slide stop seems to



Walther PPK

be activated in normal fashion by the follower on the last shot. However, the only way to get the gun shut again is to pull the trigger. So that is the protocol to recall: the first pull of the trigger closes the slide; the second pull fires the piece. God preserve us from such devices.

In two months of labor we have learned how to get the pistol open, and to shut it again; not an enormous accomplishment. But if, along the way, we have gained a sound theoretical knowledge of how most semi-automatics are designed in this elementary but vital respect, I would say it was time well spent.

## **POINT BLANK**

By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

When the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. got ready in 1905 to release its first automatic shotgun there were a lot of complaints that it was not a proper firearm for the sportsman. The old "Forest and Stream" magazine, long defunct, had an indignant letter from a subscriber who wrote, "These tools are not for the true sportsman, only a game hog would want one.' They shoot grouse in Scotland during August and it is a very decorous sport. If you had the temerity to appear at a grouse shoot armed with any kind of repeating scattergun I fear you'd be asked to retire. The Scots are pretty touchy about their royal bird and for the sportsman to take with him anything save a double barrel is unthinkable. I have seen the same attitude on the Continent but not quite as inflexible as in Great Britain.

It has only been in the last few years that a certain breed of African white hunter would go afield with a sportsman who had his rifle equipped with scope sights. The Britisher, for most of the pro hunters are British, frowned on anything save iron sights. "Not sporting, you know, to take advantage of the beast" he would tell you.

The ranking shooting magazine in England is the old "Shooting Times and Country Gentlemen." During the '90's some upstart was so brash as to appear at a neighbor's pheasant drive and he was carrying a brace of hammerless shotguns. The editor of the magazine took him very properly to task for this. Only doubles with visible outside hammers were considered cricket!

Automatic shotguns, a very American development, commenced to appear around the turn of the century and their arrival coincided, rather unfortunately, with a low game cycle. Our wild things had been shot very hard since the times of earliest settlement. The people believed the game would always be with us in limitless

numbers and proceeded to shoot it without regard for season or bag limit. When it was finally realized that the wildlife could be decimated there were many state legislatures who took immediate and drastic action. Among other things, the autoloading shotgun was completely banned! It was recounted that certain members of the state bodies took the floor and stated that with the automatic shotgun all you had to do was to point the gun at a passing flight of ducks, pull the trigger 5 times, and the air would simply rain down birds. So vehement were some state laws that not only was the selfloader barred but also bird dogs were prohibited from the game fields. North Dakota passed such a law in 1913 and it remained on the law books until 1943.

In an issue of old "Recreation" magazine dated Feb., 1900, a reader showed a lot more perspicacity, when he wrote, "A sportsman is not made nor unmade by the gun he carries. Don't call the gun the game hog but the man behind it."

It was not long after this when the state law bodies got cranked up again and commenced to discriminate against shotshells. The U.S. government also got into this act. The migratory ducks were wards of the federal government and both the state and national bodies passed laws banning shotguns over 10 gauge. One reason for this, among others, was the habit of Chespeake Bay market gunners to load a pound of shot into a punt gun, which might have a oneinch bore, and then pour the charge into rafted wildfowl. Sometimes they killed and wounded a hundred ducks with one blast. The law placing a limit on gauges helped to eliminate the punt gun and the market shooter.

The magnum shotshell, currently with us in all the gauges, including the 10 where the cartridge is 31/2 inches in length and holds 2 full ounces of shot, has not been effected (Continued on page 72)

distinctive group



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### **NEW PRODUCTS FOR**

## WINCHESTER



#### By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE 13TH ANNUAL reunion of the Winchester seminar of the firearms editors was staged this year in the rice fields of south Texas. The yearly get-together is ostensibly to show off all that will be new in guns and ammo but this is only a part of the extravaganza. There is also a dollop of best of wing gunning and the rodeo this year was no exception. Enlisting the veteran experience of proguide Marvin Tyler, a hulking Texan who probably knows more about geese-come-to-Texas than any other living outfitter, the thirteenth encampment of the shooting scribes was dedicated to the winging honkers.

Staged at Altair, Texas, hard by Eagle Lake and so small it was literally only a crossroads, the pundits under the expert direction of Tyler's assistant guides fanned out in every direction and by classy selection and a judicious eye for species, found they could gun down 5 of the handsome birds daily. There were literally thousands, upon thousands, of greater Canadas, lesser Canadas, snow geese, blue geese and specklebellies, along with middling numbers of pintails, mallards, teal, spoonies and quantities of jacksnipe—the latter not yet in season. The shooting was spectacularly good. A bountiful holiday replete with full bags

and endless thrills for the assembled shotgunners.

On the score of new shooting irons for the forthcoming year the offering was wholly on a par with the goose gunning.

Most entrancing was the announcement by Bill Talley, VP of the company that Winchester has at long last answered the insistent demand of a vast portion of the lever action clan to produce a .22 rifle like the sturdy .30-30 Model 94 saddle carbine. Since the Model '66 appeared 106 years ago, shooters have clamored for a twenty-two that worked with a lever. The Model 9422, on dealers shelves as these words see the light, is the answer.

This appealing newcomer has been designed just as nearly like the M94 as inventive genius could make it. It has a 20½-inch barrel, a weight of 6½ pounds, full length tubular magazine, an American walnut stock, open sights, and holding 15 long rifle cartridges the only major differences between this latest Winchester and its older brother



### **1972 FROM:**

## Remington,

The Remington Model 870 shotgun now comes with the golden crest (right) colored in red, white and blue set on the left side of the receiver. Shown is the 870 with optional Monte Carlo stock. This is a very popular pump gun.

#### By COL. CHARLES ASKINS

THE REMINGTON seminar, the 10th held for firearms writers, was staged this year at the new Lonoke (Ark.) ammunition plant. This facility, unquestionably the most completely modern of any cartridge-loading plant in the world, commenced operation in 1969. It is still in process of expansion so far as production is concerned, and there are presently 850 employees, in the 14-acre structure. It will eventually go to 1,000 laborers and will produce all the rifle and handgun ammo as well as shotshells for the company.

The scribes were given a conducted tour and along with this were turned loose on the John Vise Shooting Resort acres where bobwhite quail, chukars, and ringnecks were



The Remington-Peters "RXP" target loads are 12 gauge only with #7½, 8, 8½, and 9 shot.



the "piece dé resistance" of a solid day of shooting. On hand to describe new models and to give an attentive ear to the suggestions of the firearms writers was Wayne Leek, Chief of Firearms Research and Design at Ilion. Also Mike Walker, who heads up the Custom Shop at the main plant. Walker is one of the ranking bench rest marksmen in the country. Ted McCawley, Dick Dietz, Jack Mitchell, Ed Barrett, Pete Morgan, Jim Stone and Don Foote, all managerial heads, were on hand.

In answer, no doubt, to the Savage/Anschutz Model 54 twenty-two sporter, Remington has this year a beautiful little sporter of its own. This is the Model 541S, a clip-loading 5-shot .22 long rifle with the 540 series action in it. This action features the fastest lock time of any firearm. The 541S locks up in the receiver bridge, completely supports and surrounds the head of the cartridge and includes 3 locking lugs. The stock is man-size, well fitting, with a comfortable pistol grip, checkered, has a white line spacer at the butt and a contrasting forend tip and white line spacer. There are no sights but the receiver is tapped and drilled for scope mounting and the barrel has dummy screws in the event the owner should want to attach iron sights. The receiver is scroll engraved and while the magazine holds only 5 rounds, a 10-shot clip is available if wanted. The new Model 541S is a handsome rifle, giving the appearance of a custom-turned model. While it is not a target rifle it is a top drawer hunting, sporting and plinking arm. It was speculated that it would sell for about \$125.

### TWINCHESTER

The traditional "old reliable" Winchester pump gun — the famous Model 12 — returns to the production line. It will be made just the way it always was and the prices will range from \$350 for the Field Grade to \$385 for the Trap Gun with the Monte Carlo stock.

The Model 70 Super Grade is new for '72 and will feature a redesigned stock configuration and deep cut checkering to enhance the lines. It will be offered in four calibers: .243, .270 Win., .30-06 Springfield and .300 Winchester Magnum to cover the field.

Jim Rikhoff, Winchester's Director of Public Relations, took charge of showing the re-instated Model 12 shotgun to the visiting gun writers.



is in the action. The M9422 has side ejection, the .30-30 does not. This, in reality, is an advantage for the rifle now will mount a scope directly over the bore. It is grooved for a tip-on mount and the company plans to offer it—if the buyer wants it that way—with a Weaver scope in place.

Besides the standard version which will handle the .22 Short, Long or Long Rifle, there is also a Magnum model which is chambered for the .22 Winchester Rim Fire Magnum cartridge. This baby is a hot number indeed! It drives the 40-grain bullet at 1550 fps MV and has 215 ft. lbs. of muzzle thump. This is twice as powerful as the .22 Long Rifle hi-speed and puts the rifle up in a class fit for such big game as turkey.

The new Model 9422, you may be sure, will instantly appeal to that vast spectrum of our shooting fraternity who are staunch supporters of the older 94 carbine. The new .22 will complete a pair of twin guns, and through the span of calibers thus provided will allow the shooters to cover their game targets, both large and small, to the satisfaction and the pleasure of a very considerable contingent of our shooting family. I predict instant acceptability and popularity for this newest Winchester.

Responsive to a clamor which, instead of diminishing over the years has grown to a crescendo, Winchester this year restored the Model 12 pump repeater to the fold. Never entirely abandoned, the M12 has been in the category of a deluxe custom-built model these past 8 or 9 years. With '72 it has been returned to the category of a standard item. The new Model 12 is exactly like the original. Not one particular of action, barrel or stock has been altered. It is the same all-steel construction, the same breechbolt. barrel, chamber and stock. The gun will be offered in a deluxe version, however, as a refined and specially finished firearm with selected, finely figured walnut, Monte Carlo comb and recoil pad. There is a raised ventilated rib, hand checekered pistol grip and forend, and the breechblock is polished and chromed. There will be three varieties of the new gun; the field grade at \$350, the skeet grade at \$375, and the trap grade at (Continued on page 69)

## Remington,



The Remington pump shotgun, the Model 870, is one of the best repeaters on the market. It has a lot going for it like utter dependability plus a most sensible sales price. Now the 870 family has a new-comer to the fold. This is a 20 gauge lightweight. This feathery number has a completely redesigned action. A receiver purposely scaled down to the 20 gauge cartridge and yet in every sense precisely like the bigger 12 gauge. The lightweight 20 hefts only 53/4 pounds with 26-inch barrel. It may be had with recoil pad and raised vent rib, if desired. This gun is going to be instantly popular with uplands gunners who are anxious to save all the gun weight possible. It is chambered for the 3-inch cartridge but of course at its poundage is more suited to a 1-ounce loading in uplands 23/4-inch casing.

There is also a Model 870 trap gun, made only in 12 gauge. This is a fancy new deluxe offering with finely selected, figured walnut and an engraved receiver. In the left side of the receiver is a crest done in gold which reads "Model 870 All American Trap Gun."

The shield is done in red, white and blue and against the blued finish of the receiver stands out beautifully. The engraving, which completely covers the action, breech-block and barrel breech, is on the extremely attractive English scroll variety. The deluxe 870 is intended to appeal to that class of trap shooter who not only wants the best in looks and beauty but at the same time expects a high performance gun. This 870 will sell for \$550.

In response to an insistent demand, Remington is this year offering a 34inch 12 guage full-choke barrel for both the Model 870 and the highly popular Model 1100 autoloader. This tube will not be sold as a component of the shotgun but must be ordered separately. Remington has for the past several years had a great deal of difficulty in providing extra barrels for these two extremely popular shotguns. They believe, however, that stocks of the new 34-inch tube will be sufficient to fill all orders promptly. The 34-inch number appeals immensely to those trap gunners who believe they point a bit more meticulously with the greater sighting radius. It will also be avidly taken up by a great many goose and duck shooters who are firmly of the conviction that the longer barrel shoots harder and patterns more effectively.

It is widely conceded that the best plastic hull to reload is the Winchester AAA casing. I shoot skeet every Sunday and watch the gunners who hoard these empties. They may be reloaded time and time again and retain a life expectancy considerably beyond that of other makes. In answer to this acknowledged superiority, I suspect, Remington has this year come along with a new target cartridge which they dub their "RXP" shell. It is loaded for both skeet and trap useage and is, of course, of Remington plastic tubing, with the base wad an integral part of the case. It has a folded crimp but a fold which Jim Stone assured the writers would accept repeated handloadings without weakening. The cartridge has the famous Remington "Power Piston" wadding, a new hard shot, alloyed with antimony and arsenic, (Continued on page 69)



GUNS • APRIL 1972 2

## **OUT OF THE**



The firearms and ammunition industries have joined forces to give shooters greater off-the-shelf accuracy.



Most gun dealers are knowledgeable about selecting the proper gun to use in any particular situation a shooter may come across in the field and the target range. While handloads can be developed to shoot MOA groups, factory loaded ammunition today is fully capable of duplicating this feat. A performance which is fairly consistent is also an added feature.

#### By ROBERT H. REAGAN

THE ACCURACY of factory varmint rifles and some factory ammunition has improved dramatically in the last twenty years. In the early 1950's, rifles that would shoot five shot groups under an inch for each 100 yards of range with any ammunition were relatively rare. The rifles that would shoot this well were usually heavy, custom machines that were chambered for exotic wildcat cartridges. Even if a rifle chambered a standard cartridge, minute of angle (roughly an inch for each 100 yards of range) groups were rare

as hen's teeth with factory shells. There were probably a few one hole groups fired with factory ammo in factory rifles, but they were freak occurrences and the odds against duplicating them seemed to be like drawing two royal flushes in a row.

When Remington introduced their .222 in the Model 722, minute of angle groups came relatively easy to the careful reloader. Some of the old .222's from Remington or Sako would shoot well with one or another make of factory shells—and some wouldn't. None of the three Remingtons I owned shot very well with factory shells, although

all three of them were tack drivers with the one reload my gunsmith recommended.

My first .243 was a heavy, 26" barrel, varmint model from one of the major manufacturers. To make a long story not quite so long, I had the barrel half shot out before I found a combination of rifle tuning and very careful reloading that would consistently shoot two inch groups at two hundred yards. In the course of tuning, we rebedded the stock twice as well as rechambering and rethroating the barrel once. We shot almost 400 rounds before we found the combination of ac-

## **BOX ACCURACY**

tion screw tensions that worked best.

Even then, the forward action screw had to be readjusted nearly half a turn in order to tune for dry or wet weather. Worse yet, the reloads for hot and cold weather were completely different. With factory loads, groups would not stay inside four and a half inches at 200 yards. This was in the late 1950's.

In recent years, the situation has improved dramatically. Several manufacturers have models that can be expected to shoot MOA or better with varieties of factory shells. Generalizations about which make and type of ammo will shoot in a given model are tricky. You will have to experiment with the shells available to you.

At the moment, I have two new rifles in the rack, a Remington M 700 Varmint in 6mm Remington and a Ruger M 77 Varmint in .22-250, each of which averages 1.5", five shot groups at 200 yards with at least one variety of ammo. Neither of them has received any tuning whatsoever. Better yet, they'll do this with a ten power scope

with medium crosshairs rather than the very high power, fine crosshair, taget scopes and they do it in the wind. Under ideal conditions, they both average an inch and a quarter at 200.

The worst group so far for the Remington fired in a bad wind with lots of mirage and using five each of 80-grain Remington Power-Lokt and 100 grain Norma was 2.51 inches. The Ruger, under ideal conditions, scored six consecutive five shot groups within an inch at 200 yards. The best of the lot measured a rousing .45 of an inch, but that was with a pet handload using all the benchrest loading techniques I know.

Each rifle has its own personality and its own requirements, but compared to the varmint rifles and the ammunition of even ten years ago each is a hunter's dream. The 700V in 6mm likes either Remington 80 grain Power-Lokt shells for a normal varminting load or Norma 100 grain factory loads for larger animals or wherever bullet breakup is not a factor. This particular rifle shoots

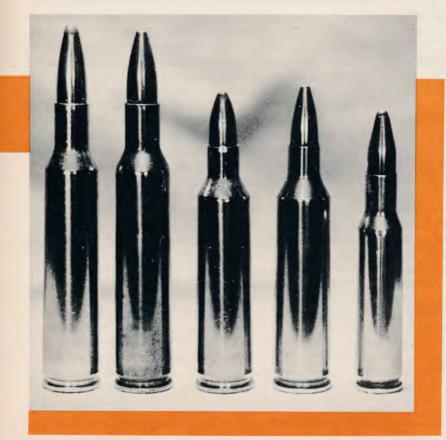
its best with a fairly dirty barrel.

The first and second shots from a clean, dry barrel shoot an inch and a half or two inches high at 200. After those two shots, groups stay under 13/4" at 200 with very little group shift related to barrel temperature. A very hot barrel may lower the group a half an inch, but I am not going to recheck this because hot barrel shooting has nothing to do with varmint shooting. Most varminting boils down to one shot at a time out of a cold, dirty barrel. If the first shot or two go high, as seems to be a common pattern with the 6mm, you can remember to hold a little low on the first two shots.

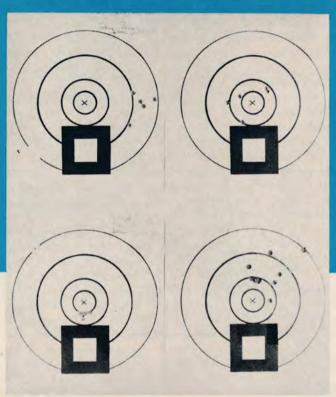
The Ruger 77 V in .22-250 has a little more personality, or at least the one I have does. Paul Nolan, one of the boss men at The Fox Valley Rifle Range near Carpentersville, Illinois, said that every M 77 Ruger he knows of shoots well. Mine shoots some factory loads very well and scatters others out to about three inches at 200. The first 200 yard group fired with Remington Power-Lokt 55 grain shells measured 1.025 inches. Frankly, after shooting that group I just sat there and thought about things for a while. I have been a reloader for more than twenty years. Dad started reloading in the mid 1930s, and his Dad. . . . Well, you get the idea.

When I stop and think of all the development work, money, esoteric reloading techniques, and weird incantations we used to get one-half or five-eighths minute groups, the idea of factory loads shooting like that seems a little eerie. Worse yet, that hair over half-minute group was the best group of the day—better than the development handloads I had with me. It took me three weeks to develop handloads that would beat the green box factory

Varmint cartridges: Left to Right.
Norma 100 grain 6mm Remington;
Remington 80 gr. POWER LOKT 6mm;
Norma 50 gr. .22-250 Remington, a
reload that only an expert could
tell from a Remington 55 gr. .22Remington; 55 gr. Hornaday SX in
a .222 Remington.







Author shooting on the range near his home.

Top, left to right: Typical 55 gr. Remington Power-Lokt 1.484 inch group at 200 yards. The same load fired in the absence of wind resulted in a 1.715 inch group. Five shots which were fired at 200 yards in .45 of an inch using a reload mentioned in the text. The worst ever fired in the 6mm Remington. Five 80 grain Remington Power-Lokts in 1.178 and five 100 grain Norma 6mm Rem. in 2.387 with the four in 1.29 for a composite of 2.51. The flier out at 2 was the first Norma and shows what happens when one switches loads without firing a refouling shot. The black squares are two inches with white one-inch centers, providing depth.

loads consistently. The .45 inch group shown here was a moderate load that seems to work in almost all .22-250's: Rem. 9½ or CCI 200 or Norma large rifle primer, 32 grains of 3031, and 53 grain Sierra Bench Rest bullets, loaded in selected Remington cases. Seat your primers consistently and vary bullet seating depth until you get accuracy. My Ruger shoots 50 grain Norma factory loads, if anything, slightly better than the 55 grain Remingtons, but it does not like the 55 grain Normas. Let me hasten to point out that another rifle might reverse these preferences or like some other load altogether. Any rifle that will shoot like these two is a compliment to its manufacturer and any factory ammunition that shoots this well is fabulous.

The Ruger needs to be cleaned often and it is almost a cold barrel rifle. Normal factory loads do not seem to foul the barrel as fast as other factory loads or my reloads. Except with the Normas, this barrel needs cleaning about every twenty shots if the gilt edge accuracy is to be maintained. As the barrel wears in, it is quite apt to need less cleaning. Best accuracy comes from a cold barrel or a barrel warmed to the extent of a shot every two minutes when shooting on a 90 degree day. This pattern is perfect for the varmint hunter. Inaccuracy due to a very hot barrel does not come into play for three or four shots, but after that, succeeding shots string out across the paper. Horizontal stringing is also the Ruger's way of telling me it does not like a particular load, but it shoots some factory loads to an inch-and-a-half average at 200 yards even in the wind and that is everything a varmint hunter could ask for.

Don't bother to write and ask which rifle I like best. I like 'em both and would not feel badly if I had to stick with one or the other for all varminting. In the East and Mid-West, I favor the .22-250 as enough cartridge, that is a little less noisy than the 6mm, and quite a bit easier to shoot. For the West, I prefer the 6mm because of its superior wind bucking ability as well as its reserve power.

Both the .22-250 and the 6mm are more powerful and flatter shooting than most people need or can use. While there are certainly exceptions (Continued on page 62)



Necessary for the rest are thumb screw, 36" rod, wood spool and a thru-bolt.

# Build Yourself "A CHUCK REST"

By HARRY O. DEAN



In prone rifle testing or field shooting, the chuck rest is a handy companion. Rifle is the Rem. 5mm.

THE SIMPLE but effective device I am about to describe is a boon to the shooter who does not do a great deal of serious testing or sighting. It is portable, economical and has the added advantage of being usable for varmint hunting as well as rifle testing. All parts are readily available and the total cost usually is well under three dollars.

Basically, the unit consists of four parts: a 3/8" steel or aluminum rod, a thumbscrew lock clamp, one long bolt and a wooden spool. These four simple objects combine to make such a handy shooting device that you'll wonder how you ever lived without one!

This gadget is usually called a "chuck rest." The name has stuck over the years and the gent who first made one was probably not even a chuck hunter. Buffalo hunters and Indians alike are known to have used what was then called a "shooting stick." The first ones were simply a straight stick which was rested on the ground (or pushed in) and the shooter simply grasped this rod with the four fingers of his left hand and used his thumb as a sort of hook to support the fore-end or barrel. A left hander would reverse this position.

The old shooting stick has evolved in a number of ways to become a GUNS • APRIL 1972

crotched stick, a forked stick, twin sticks joined by a screw to spread apart when used and any number of variations. Many modern military arms have a bipod attached near the muzzle. This final military application is not really too far away from the original shooting stick, is it? It all breaks down to the basic idea that if you don't have a handy tree to rest your gun against, you simply use a portable substitute.

Right about here in our discussion, you will probably see some gent wildly waving his front paw to remind us that when you shoot from a rest, you should rest the forearm against it but not the barrel itself. Right you are! Because we are resting the rifle to improve accuracy, we certainly don't want to throw off the normal point of impact by interfering with normal barrel vibration. In this line of thinking, we are delving into the science of bench rest shooting and various other scientific aspects of attempting to put all the bullets in one hole. But let's back off a bit. The gadget I want to describe is a fun thing!

Let's see what parts we need and start putting this toy together. You should not have to write in and ask where to get the parts to assemble a "Dean Chuck Rest." First of all, this is not a "Dean" anything. I didn't invent it and I'll just bet that a number of shooters came up with their very own version and that the variations may number in the hundreds.

I like to use a 3/8" rod which you can buy in (Continued on page 68)



Chuck rest may also be an aid to the pistol shooter using the twohand hold, providing more control.



IT WAS DURING a long-distance telephone conversation with a collector friend in the West, and he casually mentioned that he had acquired an Ecia. My reply was less than original: "You have a what?"

Now, having been generously loaned the piece in question, I know very little more. As I usually do when confronted with an impossible question about automatics, I called collector emeritus Sidney Aberman. For his general reaction, see my reply, above.

The pistol is small and superficially resembles an Astra Model 300. The firing system, however, is double action only. That is, the striker (hammer) is not cocked by the slide movement, and the trigger cocks and fires the pistol for each separate shot. Speaking of the Astra resemblance, there is another connection. According to the slide markings, the maker was Esperanza y Compania. In 1908, Juan Esperanza began a partnership with Pedro Unceta at Guernica, Spain, and in 1913 they were the makers of the Campo-Giro pistols. Beginning in 1921, Esperanza y Unceta produced the Astra Model 400 pistol. With this association, it isn't surprising that the Ecia has an Astra look about it.

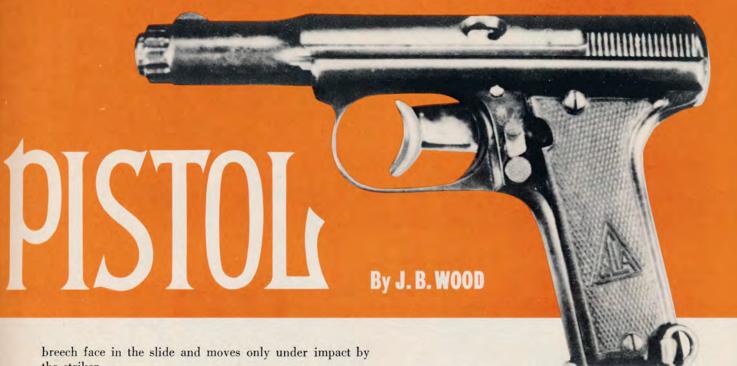
The pistol is chambered for the 7.65 mm Browning (.32 ACP) round, and has an eight-round magazine capacity. The main markings occur in two lines on top of the slide, stamped into the two raised ribs which form the rear sight and extend to form a groove two-thirds of the way toward the muzzle. On the right rib: "ECIA" MOD 1930 CAL 7.65 mm. On the left rib: ESPERANZA Y COMPia GUERNICA ESPANA. On the grips, just below the center, appears a triangle containing a semi-monogrammed version of the name, "Ecia". Grips are checkered, molded hard black rubber, and are very brittle. The right one, covering the trigger mechanism, is very thin in certain areas, and has been broken and repaired. Serial number "7" appears on the front strap below the trigger guard and on the right side of the slide just below the

extractor. The number "1" appears on the barrel and barrel bushing. This may not be a serial number, but rather an assembly number matching barrel to bushing.

The double action firing system has a mechanical principle similar to the one used in the Le Français pistols, which also use a sliding trigger, but there the resemblance ends. The Ecia trigger is mounted on a single sliding bar, emerging from the right side of the frame. In the center of the trigger is a small fingertip grip safety which bears against the frame and prevents trigger movement unless the safety is depressed. Inside the frame a spring-tensioned arm, pivoting on the trigger bar, contacts an extension protruding downward from the right side of the striker, contained in the slide. As the trigger is pressed to the rear, the striker is carried back, compressing its spring. Just before the trigger completes full travel, its internal arm contacts a small roller mounted in the frame, camming it down to release the striker. The very short, spring-retracted firing pin is mounted just behind the



Note captive recoil spring on stripped Ecia pistol.



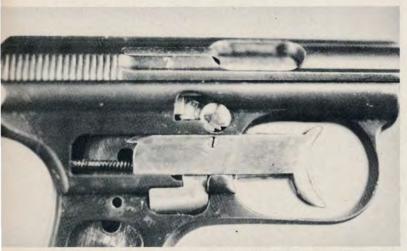
the striker.

In double-action-only pistols having the main firing mechanism in the slide, there is one inherent problem to be overcome: inertial firing. If the firing pin or striker have sufficient weight, and if the retraction spring is weak, the pistol may fire as the slide closes. In the Ecia, this problem is solved in an ingenious way. In the frame, at the upper right forward corner of the magazine well, is a small pivoting block of steel which has a spring detent to hold it in either horizontal or vertical position. As the trigger is pressed, the block is tipped up to vertical position. As the slide cycles, it tips the block down to horizontal and it acts as a forward stop for the striker, preventing it from reaching the firing pin.

Another fine point in the design is the magazine safety which prevents firing when the magazine is removed. In most every other pistol, this is a separate part. In the Ecia, (Continued on page 61) it is simply an extension of the

The Ecia trigger with the fingertip safety; an interesting but unnecessary feature on the doubleaction gun.

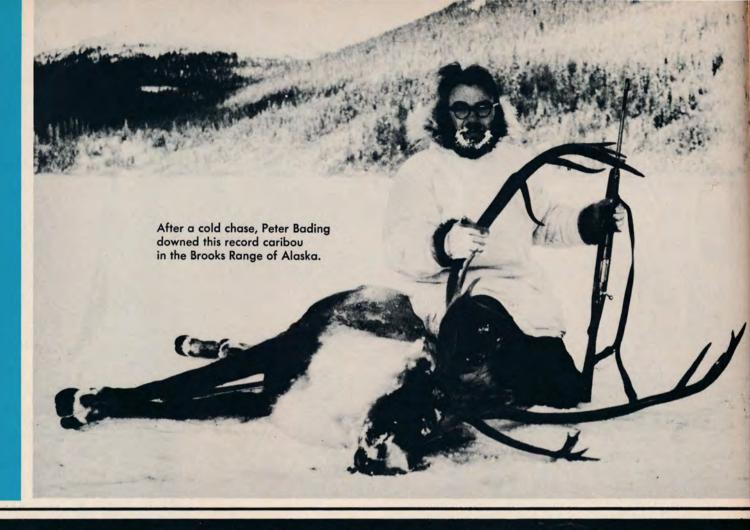




With the right grip removed the trigger spring and guide at the rear, and the striker block above the trigger bar are visible. Large part below trigger is the combination magazine catch and magazine safety. Workmanship is good. Serial number appears below extractor, behind ejection port.



Ecia shows a strikingly family resemblance to the Astra Model 300 (top). The slot in the top of the slide allows the shooter to actually see a loaded round in the chamber. Pistol has many unusual safety features.



## GERMAN HUNTERS

By JOE RYCHETNIK

A LASKA'S UNIQUE geographical position has caused it to be in the path of invaders since early times. The western hemisphere's so-called Indians were most likely people who crossed over from Asia on the Bering Sea land bridge and fought their way down through North and South America against nature and earlier arrivals. Alaska's Aleuts and Eskimos certainly charged across the Bering Sea into the new land.

In historical times it was the Russians trying to put together an empire, and then the Japanese trying to gain a foothold on the Aleutian Chain. The most recent invasion has been by West German hunters, who in the past ten years in ever increasing numbers and armed with the finest weapons, have

become very apparent in the big game fields of Alaska.

Anchorage, where most visitors enter the 49th state, is also the air crossroads of the world. A dozen international airlines stop there on their polar routes to Asia and Europe. During the summer tourist season, there are often more foreign faces at the Anchorage International Airport than "Americans." Many are passing through, but many more, dressed in traditional European hunting clothes-loden cloth coats, velour hats with hunting ornaments, and expensive gun cases clutched under their arms, are coming to spend a month or so taking trophy game.

The typical German hunter is, of course, of the upper middle class, or wealthy. He has hunted Europe, has tried Africa once or twice, has trecked into Asia Minor and India, and is now in Alaska—one of the world's great big-game regions. Many German hunters are old hands here, having made repeated trips over the pole, and consider Anchorage another familiar place where friends await them. In this way, Anchorage is a lot like Nairohi

A first-trip hunter from West Germany arriving on Lufthansa from perhaps Hamburg, is easy to spot. He brings his complete hunting kit with him, and you will see the European style pack sacks, gun cases and luggage. Like rich men everywhere, he checks into one of the town's best hotels, and awaits his guide.

On his second trip over, he will arrive in comfortable sports clothes, with one medium size bag, and perhaps no gun case at all. He has realized, like other big game hunters coming to "The Great Land," that everything is available here, and that what Anchorage shops have to offer is better suited to Alaska than anything made in Europe. And many European hunters, rather than lug their expensive custom rifles back and forth across the world will leave them with a guide or friend in Anchorage for the next season.

The German hunter always arranges for his guide in advance, usually one recommended by a friend back home, and one with whom he has been exchanging correspondence for perhaps a year. It takes a year or two to book in with some of Alaska's better guides. Over the past ten years, since German hunters have been coming to Alaska, several Alaskan guides have begun catering to the West German hunters almost to exclusion.

Bud and Dennis Branham, of Rainy Pass Lodge, regularly book German hunters. Nick Botner of Stephen Lake Lodge, Bob Curtis of Farewell Lake Lodge, Joe Delia of Skwentna, Ward and Kirk Gay of Alaska Safari, Ken and Mary Oldham of High Lake Lodge, and Don Sheldon of Talkeetna also specialize in European hunters. Outfitters like Ottokar Skaal of Moose Pass, and Jack Fuller of Nome arrange hunting "packages" for the European big game hunters.

Although most of the hunters arrive alone, often a wife will tag along to join the hunt or tour Alaska while her husband is chasing game. But more and more, groups of German hunters are coming together, with an eye to touring the state's big game districts and having a good time doing it.

Two trophies head the list for the West Germans. Record-class moose, with a "wing spread" over six feet, are perhaps the most sought-after trophies. These giant heads adorn many a German hunting lodge or game room. The Alaskan moose is the largest deer in the world, and Germans used to collecting the stags of Central Europe want to top their trophy room walls with the biggest head of all.

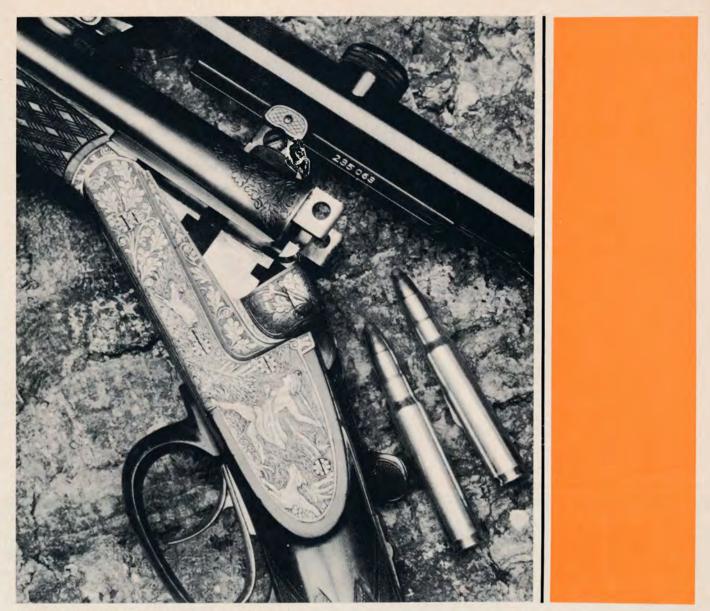
Lodge, Bob Curtis of Farewell Lake Right behind the moose in popular-Lodge, Joe Delia of Skwentna, Ward ity is the polar bear, and Alaska's Chukchi Sea bears taken from Kotzebue and Pt. Hope base camps are the largest in the world. Many Germans hunt Norway's Spitzbergen Island water first, but inevitably come to Alaska for the marine bears.

Following moose and polar bear in popularity are Dall sheep, grizzly and brown bear, mountain goat, and walrus, and nearly every hunter goes home with a caribou head as the trophy moose and grizzly bear districts are often handy to the caribou herds.

Unlike the American big game hunters, even the American trophy hunters, German hunters don't mind going home "skunked." They want their guides to bring them up to game, and if the head is trophy class and it satisfies the hunter he will take it. Otherwise they look elsewhere or go back home to try another time. The pressure to produce an animal for time invested is not apparent, most guides report. The guides catering to European hunters are aware of this, and realize that their clients derive as much pleasure from the outdoors, the fair chase, as they do the kill.

## INVADE ALASKA





A classic German big game rifle, a side-by-side made by Johann Fanzoi of Ferlach in 9.3x64 Brenneke.

Almost without exception, big game guides who cater to German hunters follow the German ritual of the hunt. The trophy is taken in fair chase, and when the kill is made both the hunter and the guide bare their heads as they approach the dead animal. The guide will dip a branch (perhaps willow for a moose) in the animal's blood and present it laid across his hunting knife to the hunter. The hunter puts the branch on his hat. Another branch will go into the animal's mouth as it's symbolic last meal.

Who are these German trophy hunters who come to Alaska almost annually, and have been for the past decade? Mr. & Mrs. Willy Bogner, of stretch pants fame; Carl Horst Andreas, the brewer; Prince Oettingen-Wallerstein; Dr. Hans-Otto Meissner, the writer and lecturer; Sigismund von Braun, brother of Werner von Braun, the rocket scientist; diplomat Kurt Adolph; the Graf Meran; and the head of Mercedes-Benz, Dr. Karl Flick. Wealthy, blue-blooded perhaps, but the top echelon of Germany's globe-trotting trophy hunters.

Staying three or four weeks, and spending from \$6,000

to \$10,000 makes this a rich man's sport, indeed. But it is a sport, and many go home without the great trophy, because they just didn't see it and wouldn't shoot anything else in its place. I suspect that getting out into the wilds of Alaska is as important to the visiting Europeans as having a great bear in their gun sights. Joe Delia, a Skwentna guide, says that often his clients decide to spend the afternoon berry picking or grayling fishing. There isn't that great pressure to take a trophy and get home which typifies American trophy hunters who visit Alaska.

Some of the finest rifles seen in Alaska are those brought over by the Germans. Many custom varieties of the classic Mauser bolt action are equipped with fine German scopes. And in almost every party is a double rifle, either side-by-side or over-under type, engraved and stocked beautifully, and complete with a history of taking trophies all over the world. As mentioned, some hunters now leave their rifles in Alaska for their next hunt. And others, finding the excuse that nearly every gun nut seems to need, buys himself a .300 Weatherby, .338 (Continued on page 67)

## APUFF OF SMOKE

Many trapshooters have a tendency to overlook one of the most basic, but certainly essential elements for success—a positive attitude.

#### By CLARENCE MASSEY

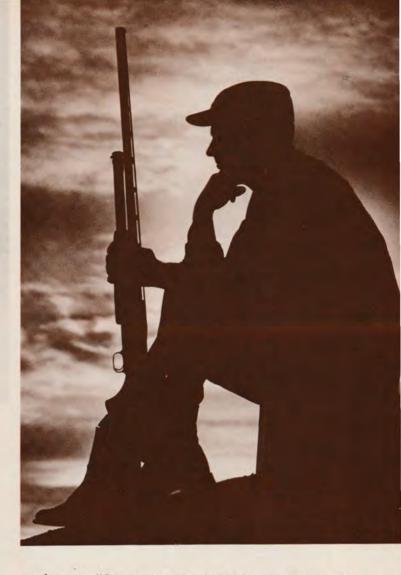
EACH SHOT from the trapshooter's gun was followed by that soul satisfying puff of "smoke" so well known to 16 yard trapshooters and to station eight skeet shooters. Jack was feeling great and his confidence grew as he admired each puff of smoke that so definitely marked each target as a solid hit.

He mounted his gun faster and unconsciously speeded up his shots just a little. He had gone about 20 straight, with every shot a solid hit. It seemed so easy. Then it happened. He heard himself call "Pull!" almost before he had mounted the gun. The target flashed out and he hurriedly slapped the trigger. The gun bucked in recoil and the clay target sailed on, and on, and . . . on!

"Lost!" called the scorekeeper after a long pause.

Jack was dumbfounded. He had missed one of those easy targets. How? He wasn't quite sure. It all happened so fast. Maybe he had shot too quickly. On the next shot he mounted his gun a little more carefully, called "Pull!" and followed the target with the easy swing grown of much practice. As he caught the bird, he tracked it just for a moment to be sure, slapped the trigger and the target exploded in another puff of "smoke." "That's more like it!" he exclaimed under his breath as he readied for the next shot.

He finished up the round of 25 targets with no other misses and walked to the next trap for his second round of targets in the 100 target registered trapshooting 16 GUNS • APRIL 1972



yard event. "One target down," he thought to himself. Not good, but he still had a chance if he didn't miss any more. These 16 yard events were tough competition and he knew that one lost target could put you out of the race. He resolved to be more careful from here on in. And he was careful . . . too careful.

On the second trap he lost one more target, two on the third trap and two more on the last trap for a total score of 94. His 94 was not good and he knew it as several 98's, a 99 and a 100 were recorded on the big scoreboard. Jack put his gun away in the car and sauntered into the clubhouse for a cool drink. A buddy shooter joined him and they commiserated with one another.

"I was breaking those targets so pretty!" he exclaimed to his friend, Bill. "Every target disintegrated into a puff of smoke after I shot. I'm telling you, Bill, it was beautiful." He paused, looked out the clubhouse window and added, "Not a scratch hit out of the entire string of 100 targets. It was either a puff of smoke or a clean miss."

"Maybe your gun is choked too tight," replied Bill.
"You know that with these new one piece plastic wads, we're getting much tighter patterns than we used to have. A full choke gun is now kind of a super choke and I think a standard, full choke gun is really too tight for 16 yard trapshooting. As you say, you either blow them up in a puff of smoke or you miss them." They sipped their drinks and looked thoughtfully out the window.

"They sure look good though when they're "smoked" said Jack as he remembered the long string of smoked



The shooter must learn to relax on the firing line. He can't afford to become distracted because of a near miss. Once the shooter is in position, he must concentrate on each trap individually and not concern himself with the shot he just fired or the one that he is about to make. Mental attitude is the key to successful trapshooting.

targets that he had enjoyed.

"Yeah," replied Bill "but you know they don't look a darned bit better on the scoreboard. Just think, if each of your misses had had a little chip knocked off of it, you'd be tied for first place right now."

"That's right," replied Jack with a slight smile as he thought of being tied for first place in a registered trapshoot. "Maybe I ought to go back to

using the old shells."

"Oh, I wouldn't do that!" exclaimed Bill. "The pattern we get with these new shells is too good to lose: I think maybe it would be better to have a little of the choke bored out of your gun. You know, your full choke barrel probably patterned out at about 75% with the old style shells. With the new plastic wads and the shot collars, there's no telling what it would pattern at now. From the looks of your "smoked" targets, it must be plenty tight. You really should shoot a few patterns with it."

"Maybe I'll do that," replied Jack.
"I haven't patterned this gun since it was new."

But patterning a shotgun correctly with a large number of pattern sheets gets to be work and like many trapshooters, Jack never got around to doing this little chore. At the next large shoot, he started off quite well again in the 16 yard event by smoking every target until the third trap. Then, unaccountably, he missed several targets and wound up with a score of 97.

As Jack studied the 99's and 100's on the scoreboard, he wished again for just another couple of hits on his score. He thought about those beautiful "smoked" targets and . . . about those three clean misses. Later on in the day, when the trophies were being given out, he thought about those three



misses again.

"Maybe I should have that bore reamed out just a little," he thought to himself as he strode back to the car for the long drive home. "Not enough to make it into an open choke but just a little, say maybe a modified choke."

On the next Monday morning, Jack left his gun at the local gunsmith shop to have the work done. He fumed and fretted about it all week until the day finally arrived when he could take his newly re-bored trap gun out to the local trap range. He shot a couple of practice rounds with it and found that it broke the targets very well indeed. No "puffs of smoke" to be sure, but nevertheless, his targets were all broken.

When the next shoot rolled around several months later, Jack was back at the 16 yard line eager to have a go at 100 registered trap targets. He had been practicing in the weeks between the two shoots and felt that he would do better now.

As Jack started the 16 yard event, he shot carefully and broke all of his targets on the first two traps. Not spectacularly as he had done before, but they were all broken. There was no doubt about that.

On the third trap, Jack was watching his broken targets carefully. It seemed that some of them were not broken quite as well as on the first two traps. The more he watched them, the smaller the pieces seemed to be as they were *chipped* off. And "chipped" they were, for it seemed that all the pieces were coming from the edges of each target.

"Barely chipped that one," Jack muttered to himself as he loaded his gun after chipping the rear edge of a sharp right angle target. He broke the next target well enough but he was still wondering about that chipped target shot before last. Then he chipped another angle bird, just a small piece this time, about the size of a dime. There had been a slight pause before the next shooter called for his target and Jack had half expected to hear the score-keeper call, "Lost!" and was prepared to contest the decision. But the score-keeper had seen the small chip and was silent, so the target was scored as a hit. Nevertheless, the near miss jarred Jack a little and he kept thinking about it.

Jack continued on through the third trap, cracking, splitting and chipping his targets all the way. As he walked to the fourth and last trap, Jack began to wish he could "smoke" a target once in awhile. Those split and chipped targets didn't seem to do much for his ego and he felt his former confidence slipping. When he walked onto the last trap field, he kind of dreaded to start shooting.

As the squad started shooting, Jack noticed several puffs of "smoke" as his squad mates broke their targets and somehow he felt let down when his own efforts resulted in a broken target but no real satisfaction to him. Oh, they were going on the scoreboard as hits and he was rapidly building up to his first 100 straight registered targets, but somehow he didn't feel confident.

Suddenly he called, "Pull!" shot too quickly and that thin little chip failed to break off the target.

"Lost!" called the scorekeeper as Jack stared off into space, thinking dour thoughts known only to registered trapshooting contestants.

"Now you've done it!" he exclaimed to himself. What happened? He didn't know and was still pondering the thought several targets later when another target cruelly refused to break or to even drop off a little chip.

"Lost!" called the scorekeeper in a loud, clear voice that jarred Jack from head to toe.

Jack was crestfallen and all of a sudden his trap gun felt heavy. He became tired and gripped his gun tighter as he chipped and chopped away at the remainder of the targets, dropping one more bird in the process. He walked dejectedly back to his car to put the gun away. At last he had had a real 100 straight going, right up until the last trap. What had happened?

He thought about the new choke in his gun. It seemed to break the targets alright but somehow he wasn't satisfied with it. He wondered if one of those targets had slipped through a hole in the pattern. It didn't really seem likely but then . . . maybe.

But dejected trapshooters recover quickly. Next weekend Jack was back at another registered tournament, refreshed and with new confidence in his ability as a 16 yard trapshooter. He shot a round of practice targets before the event began and broke them all. No "smoked" targets, of course, but nevertheless, they were all broken and he was pleased with his 25 straight practice targets.

Confidently, he stepped up to his first trap and broke all 25 of his targets. Even though he smiled to himself as he walked to the next trap, he had noticed the puffs of "smoke" that marked some of his squad mate's targets

On the second trap Jack noticed that two of his targets were only broken in half and he thought about them as he walked to the third trap. He wondered again (Continued on page 71)







# PUMP OR AUTO?





Quartering view showing the hinged floor plate, the flat-sided receiver and the fore-end in its rearward position. Note the moose head and the tree-leaf decor pressed in deep relief into fore-end.



The butt plate of the Standard Rifle bore the company's initials in an entangled pattern. Most Standards also displayed ornate leaf designs and hunters had to be careful to avoid any sun reflection.



The massive muzzle piece on the Standard served as a housing for the bleeder valve and the gas cylinder, while hosting the blade front sight.



This is an overhead photograph of the Standard Automatic Rifle's receiver, showing the open ejection port operated by the expanding gases.



## STANDARD RIFLE

America's early shooters were at first skeptical about the gas-operated, semi-automatic rifle recently invented—and they were right.

By DON ZUTZ

RIFLEMEN of the pre-World War I era were highly skeptical of the gas-operated, semi-automatic deer rifle. The idea of using expanding powder gases to initiate and complete the ejection/reloading cycle were so new that serious questions arose concerning the dependability and accuracy potential of such ordnance.

Moreover, although the Remington Model 14 slide action rifle was becoming popular with stalkers of the White-tail during the same year, sophisticated paper punchers also scoffed at the pumpgun as an accuracy item. Thus, for various reasons, neither the trombone action nor the gas-operated centerfires excited Americans, who were, during Kaiser Bill's Golden Age, still influenced by lever actions and Krag or Springfield bolt jobs.

If a manufacturer wished to produce a real loser, then, all he had to do was create a deer rifle incorporating both mechanical designs then held suspect by serious riflemen—namely, a gasoperated autoloader that could be used as a pumpgun. And the Standard Arms Company of Wilmington, Delaware, was apparently bent upon just such a course of low-volume sales and disgruntled customers, for in 1906 it took out patents covering a 2-in-1 contraption that has since become infamous as the "Standard Rifle" or "Standard Automatic."

Advertised mainly as a semi-auto-GUNS • APRIL 1972 matic, the Standard Rifle did not have the classic lines of a self-loader. As the accompanying photos show, it looked more like a cross between the Remington Model 14 and the Daisy Model 25 air rifle, both of which were pumpguns. Only the slim gas cylinder, which extended from fore-end to muzzle piece, and the rather unsightly muzzle piece, which bore the "ON-OFF" adjustments that transformed it from pump to autoloader, hinted of its semi-automatic capabilities.

Otherwise, eyeballing the Standard Rifle uncovers a dinky fore-end akin to that of a slide-action Daisy BB gun. The butt stocks were generally of plebian walnut, uncheckered and with a straight grip. Length of pull was comfortable at approximately 13½ inches, but drop at heel was excessive at well over 3 inches on those Standard Automatics I have seen. Trigger pull, as expected, was often long, heavy and sloppy. Sighting equipment was nothing more than a simple blade front sight and open notched rear sight.

The stern of a Standard Automatic's receiver swung upward with lines not unlike those of the current Browning Automatic Rifle. Ejection was through a port in the top of the receiver, and the absence of an operating handle left both sides of the receiver flat and without jutting appurtenances. Although the bolt lowered and ran through its entire rearward movement inside the

receiver, absolutely no consideration was given to scope mounting possibilities at this early date in the modern deer rifle's development. Perhaps this was for the best, since scopes and topejection are seldom compatible.

Chambered for the .25 Remington, .30 Remington, and .35 Remington rimless cartridges, the Standard Rifle had an open box magazine with hinged floor plate. Capacity was 5 rounds of the fat .35 Remington cases or 6 of the lesser .25 and .30-caliber cannisters. Those of .30 and .35 caliber were the best sellers and Standard Rifles bored for the .257" projectile are virtually unheard-of nowadays.

Attempts to adorn the Standard Automatic were few and involved mainly the butt plate and fore-end. Both were brass plated and showed animal and leaf figures in deep relief. The butt plate also carried the company's initials in an entangled pattern set inside a diamond-shaped border. And while the butt plate may be considered distinctive and interesting, I doubt whether the connoisseur of fine fire-arms would evaluate the brass-plate fore-end as being anything but an oddity.

Another interesting feature of the Standard was the absence of visible action bars, which was somewhat different for pumpguns of that vintage. Impetus for ejection was carried to the breech bolt/slide plate assembly by a



Here is a full-page advertisement of the Standard Automatic Rifle as it appeared in a 1910 issue of the Hunter-Trader-Trapper magazine.

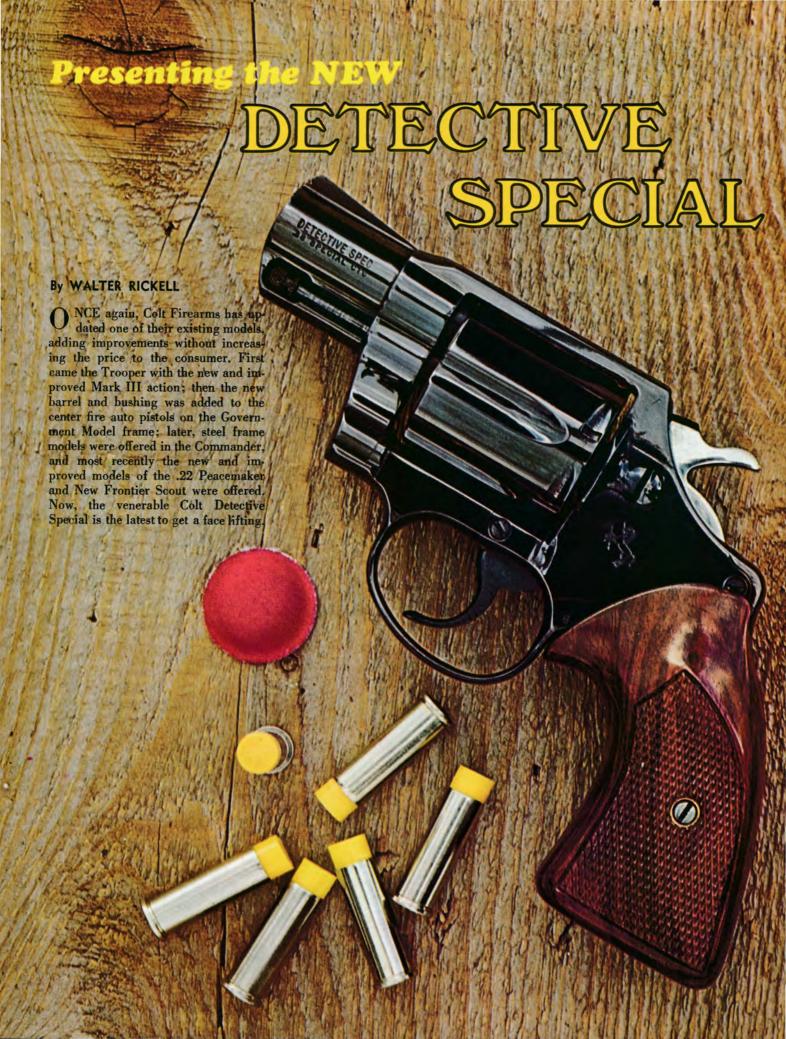
bar, or rod, inside the rather large, tubular magazine-like extension upon which the fore-end rides. When the rifle was set on semi-automatic, the slide handle was disengaged from the action bar, and operating energy was exerted by the piston rod's rearward spurt.

Insofar as the Standard Automatic's performance is concerned, I cannot speak from experience, never having had the opportunity to pump piles of ammunition through one in accuracy and reliability tests. In fact, the ones I have seen were generally "inoperative," and the specimen pictured herein, which belongs to the Hanneson brothers of Langruth, Manitoba, is in a similar condition.

But Old-Timers and gunsmiths have led me to believe that I have missed nothing: the Standard Automatic has more than earned its reputation as a malfunctioning fool! The reasons for its failure as a semi-automatic were myriad. The basic design has always been questioned. Linkage was extensive. The bleeder valve was very near the muzzle, meaning that energy derived from expanding gases had to be transmitted quite a distance via a series of rods and bars, and wobbly, friction, and just plain distance would sap some strength from the initial thrust. Moreover, cartridges of the Remington rimless line used fast-burning powders that generated maximum pressures in the chamber and lower bore areas; consequently, barrel pressures were down when bullets passed the muzzle-end bleeder valve.

Practically all current autoloading centerfire rifles of the gas-operated variety have bleeder valves less than half way down the bore so that sufficiently high operating pressures will be retained in the bore and piston spaces to insure functioning. The fact that there is still gas in the barrel of a modern, gas-operated semi-automatic can be proved by picking up a spent case as it spins from a Winchester 100, Remington 742, or Browning BAR sporter. You won't hold the case; it's hot! You burned your fingers because the bolt/ex- (Continued on page 74)





Swells on either side of the upper portion of the walnut grips are evident in this photo. For comparison, old Detective Special is shown below.



Right front view of new Detective Special shows serrated trigger and hand-filling grip which is built up over front strap of handle.







The medium-sized frame of the Detective Special is also the basis for the Police Positive, the Cobra and Agent, and the Diamondback. The Detective Special, which evolved, in the early 1900's from the Police Positive, has had no major changes since that time except for the rounded butt introduced in about 1926.

The new version has the same 2" barrel length, but the barrel is a bit beefier, and it sports a solid rib and ramp front sight. The most startling change is the addition of a shroud around the ejection rod. For years Colt stuck with the unshrouded rod, saying that even if it were bent the gun would still function since it had no latch or anchor point on the barrel to hold the cylinder in place. Of course, Colt did introduce the shrouded arrangement when they brought out the python and later the Diamondback and the Trooper Mark III.

The Shroud, in my opinion, has a real place in the new Detective Special. These little guns are, for the most part, carried concealed, and the shroud helps keep the rod from snagging in the clothes as it is drawn.

The grip configuration of the revamped Detective

Special is new, The grips are made of solid walnut, nicely checkered, and with no sharp corners. The length is about the same as the older models, but the area between the front strap and the trigger guard-many times filled in by owners with a grip adapter-is filled with wood. The grips also show a well-defined swell just below the top which helps give a hand-filling feeling found mostly in custom grips.

The revamped barrel and slightly bigger grips give the new Detective Special some welcomed added weight which is appreciated by the shooter when firing heavy loads. The added weight, however, does not take this little gun out of the concealed weapon catagory; it's still a nice, neat,

handy lightweight.

All of the attributes which made the Colt Detective Special as popular as it is are still there, and those who have a need for a small, concealable firearm will find that the new features make it even more desirable. Everyone likes to get something for nothing, and the remodeled Detective Special still sells for \$96.50 in

blue and \$111.00 with nickel finish.



# ORIGINAL and

Case history



# By E. DIXON LARSON

E VERY COLLECTOR would like to be completely satisfied that every arm in his collection was authentic in every detail. Experience is said to be a great teacher; but in the collecting of antique weapons this can be a very costly teaching. To most collectors, once an antique arm passes the \$500 price tag, it must be looked at and examined with a jaundice eye and a certain cloud of suspicion—this is particularly true of engraved arms. How far to go in verification is sometimes a problem. The following is an example of the "limit" on one of the world's rarest pair of guns.

Whether the origin be Colt, Remington, or other manufacture, any pair of factory engraved percussion revolvers can be appreciated as extremely rare, particularly in unfired condition, as is the case with the brace of Remingtons shown. Such a pair would excite any collector regardless of his specialty. This pair was selected as a topic for this article as it represents about 25% of its value being spent on verification. The pair of 1858 Remington New Army Models, Serial Numbers 110589 and 110053 (very close for a factory pair) are factory engraved and equipped with Remington ivory grips, gold washed and silver plated. All antique arms consultants would immediately verify the Remington grips as factory, as they have the two-point escutcheon on the left side and the three-point on the right side, a pertinent point which is overlooked on non-factory Remington ivory grips. The pair was produced late in the production of the 1858 percussion Army Models or specifically, 1872, which overlaps the inception of the metallic cartridge. This may account for their remarkable state of preservation and the fact that they are unfired.

At this point, some may wonder how a revolver can be established as original and in unfired condition without the benefit of factory records. This is not a simple task and (Continued on page 57)

# UNFIRED?

of the verification of a pair of Remington rarities.

# **CARBINE WILLIAMS**



Truly a legend in his own time, "Carbine"
Williams is honored for his gun crafting
genius through a permanent exhibit
entitled "The Evolution of Firearms"



Top: "Carbine" Williams locking his workshop. Williams and his brothers built the structure more than thirty years ago. Middle: With the exception of the exterior paint, Williams' workshop has been preserved and relocated in the North Carolina Museum of History. Right: Interior view of Williams' workshop. Williams currently holds more than fifty patents on firearms mechanisms and is given primary credit for the development of the M-1 Carbine. Far Right: The State of North Carolina has gone to great lengths to accurately restore Williams' workshop, even supplying it with the actual tools Williams used to transfer his ideas from paper to cold steel. His two most famous inventions are the floating chamber and the short stroke piston.



A PERMANENT exhibit honoring David Marshall "Carbine" Williams has recently opened its doors to the public in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The exhibit, entitled "The Evolution of Firearms," displays the workshop and personal gun collection of the famed North Carolina gun inventor. This is not an easy undertaking, for Williams currently holds approximately fifty patents on firearm mechanisms and is given primary credit for the development of the classical M-1 Carbine which was used for many years by the United States military.

In addition to the M-1, the exhibit has on display the four rifles Williams made while confined at the Caledonia State Prison Farm. Other personal weapons donated to the exhibit by Williams include a collection of handmade North Carolina hunting rifles, pistols dating from the early seventeenth century, and military shoulder weapons from the Revolutionary War to the M-16 being used today in Southeast Asia. All of these weapons are displayed with appropriate headgear and cartridges.

The State of North Carolina has gone to great lengths to accurately restore the workshop Williams used to design his two major inventions, the floating chamber and the short stroke piston. Although Williams has not used the workshop since the 1950s, every effort has been made to give visitors an opportunity to step back in time and actually sense the genius who worked so creatively in it.

The exhibit displays items from William's childhood. Among them is a handmade wooden pistol which actually fires and a photographic collage depicting "Carbine" Williams from the time he was a teenager until the present.

Williams was born in Godwin, North Carolina on November 13, 1900. He was one of eleven sons of a locally prominent tobacco and cotton farmer.

It wasn't long before Williams showed an interest and aptitude for firearms. Before long, Williams started sketching designs and new construction styles for the guns he had seen or dreamed about during those early years. He designed and built his first pistol, using a reed barrel, at the age of ten.

When Williams was seventeen years old, he married Margaret Is a bell a Cook of Black River Township in Cumberland County in 1917.

With the added responsibility of a married man, Williams took a position as a railroad section hand, but soon lost interest and directed is energy toward manufacturing nontax-paid whiskey in the backwoods of his state.

Although "moonshining" was not an uncommon practice, six law officers raided his still and Deputy Sheriff Al Pate was killed in the exchange of shots that followed.

Though Williams always insisted he was completely innocent of the shooting, the state, knowing that he was the "owner" of the stilling operation, charged him with first degree murder



which carried with it a mandatory death sentence upon conviction.

His trial ended in a disagreement between the state prosecutors and William's defense, but a second trial was never held. On the advice of his attorneys, Williams accepted the state's offer of a reduced sentence in return for his plea of guilty to second degree murder. His sentence was thirty years at hard labor.

Williams started his gun designing career in prison. The camp superintendent recognized the untapped talent of Williams and allowed him to sketch gun designs. It wasn't long before Williams was given authority to visit the blacksmith shop to recreate his sketches into working models.

Williams first developed a rifle breech mechanism that would not jam (Continued on page 60)







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Automatic Pistols By H. B. Pollard (WE Inc., \$5.95)

Originally published in 1921, Automatic Pistols was the first real study of any length on automatic pistols. The battles and fighting of "The Great War" proved the need for a reliable, accurate and easily maintained pistol of the self-loading variety and many countries had their own versions.

The author points out, "The automatic pistol has been in existence for more than twenty years. It is the arm of the present and the arm of the future, and we may hang up the revolvers in the same limbo of obsolete arms with the percussion and flintlock." How right he was. Probably the most important development in modern firearms since the invention of the metallic cartridge case and practical breech-loading mechanisms is the automatic system. This book covers all World War I pistols and gives details of the most important automatics, some of the history of them and gives the reader some practical knowledge of them, including advantages and dis-advantages encountered. Covered in detail are such names as Colt, Luger, Steyr, Mauser, Browning and Bergmann and many more.

For the automatic pistol collector, expert or novice, this book is must reading. It contains 110 pages, 16 plates of photos and six pages of charts and tables containing pertinent information. H.A.M.

Second World War Combat Weapons, German, Volume I By E. J. Hoffschmidt and W. H. Tantum IV (WE Inc., \$7.95)

First in a series of collector-type books for the military oriented collector is this, Volume I, dealing with German combat weapons. The book ranges through four basic chapters: I. Infantry, Small Arms Weapons and Ammunition; II. Artillery, Antitank, Antiaircraft, Light and Heavy Field Guns; III. Combat Vehicles-Tanks, Self-Propelled Guns, Command Cars, Armored Movers. Cars. Trucks; IV. Miscellaneous Weapons-Rockets, Mortars, Mines, Grenades, and Glossary of German Terms.

Basically, this is a catalog of historical development of German arms in a few hundred pages. Naturally the book does not present all types, models and kinds used by the German Army during the war as this would take a book nearly five times this size. Rather, it gives the reader an excellent review of just basically what the German Army had available to them, in general terms. The descriptions of the various arms are generally clear and concise and appear to have been taken from official U.S. Army documents outlining captured weapons. A specification table is included with the description of every piece that gives exact dimensions, etc. Illustrations used are all of good size and quality, although many have been touched-up for clarity and do not reflect the actual finish and detail of the pieces.

For the casual collector or the expert, this book is an invaluable aid to identification. Few other books in this category offer as much as this series does in that it covers all types of weapons and does not dwell on only small arms or tanks or some specific topic. We highly recommend it. H.A.M.

Antique Weapons
By Richard Akehurst
(Arco Publishing Co.)

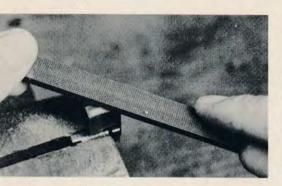
This richly illustrated book gives basic guidance to those interested in collecting antique weapons. The author is an experienced collector and gives sound advice on where and how to buy, in general terms, and important points that affect values. Also included are interesting and important hints on the restoration of antique weapons.

There are 24 color photos of rare and interesting antique guns and swords that are very clear and informative. With almost four times as many black and white photos there is very little left to the imagination of what is covered in the text.

Particular emphasis is given to those weapons that are still generally available and within the reach, in varying degrees, of most serious collectors. Many of the illustrations in the book are from old pen and ink illustrations, drawings, etc. that show the weapons in actual use in hunting and military applications.

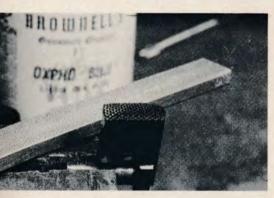
For the antique weapons collector this book makes an excellent reference source and is very worthwhile reading. It covers weapons from as far back as the 17th century up through the 19th century in fine fashion, H.A.M.

# CHECKERING ON











A JUST completed check of gunsmithing books and magazine articles discloses that the checkering of steel is one of the least discussed facets of the gunsmith's trade. In fact, I was able to find several times more information on how to go about cutting steel with an engraving tool than about cutting steel with a checkering file.

This no doubt stems from a dirth of information within the trade itself. Very few practicing gunsmiths, it seems, ever do any fine detail checkering on safeties, bolt stops or bolt handles, have any real idea of how to go about it or, for that matter, even own a checkering file.

Perhaps it is this very scarcity of skilled checkerers that helps add distinction to a neatly checkered bolt knob. And too, of course, there's no getting around the fact that a sharply checkered surface increases the gripping qualities by several hundred percent. If you doubt this for an instant compare a brightly polished bolt knob with one that has been checkered by hand. (The reason I emphasize "by hand" is that the current Remington 700 series of bolt action rifles feature checkered bolt knobs but in this case the checkering is done as part of the investment casting process which forms the bolt handle. To be sure, it looks good and is non-slip-but not nearly so sharp as hand checkering.)

The non-slip property of checkered steel is even more apparent when wearing gloves. As you've probably noticed, it's pretty hard to manipulate a slick bolt handle with gloves, especially if they happen to be the bulky cold weather variety. With a sharply checkered bolt handle, however, the gloves seem to snag the checkering and hang on almost by themselves.

Aside from the practical side of checkered steel there is also the esthetic side. Neatly done hand work is always attractive, especially when the craftsmanship is a few cuts above the ordinary. Thus we can appreciate checkered steel for the functional service it performs, its decorative value and the careful handwork it represents. So for all of these reasons we should do a bit of metal checkering on the European type sporting rifle we've been working on for the past several issues.

So far as equipment goes the only thing you'll need is a checkering file and a sharp edged needle file. As a matter of fact it is possible to do a pretty fair job of checkering with nothing more than a needle file but this means spacing the lines "by eyeball". It's a lot easier and faster to use a checkering file and they don't cost much anyway. Brownell's, Box 1, Montezuma, Iowa 50171, stocks checkering files in cuts of 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 lines to the inch. Prices run from \$3.80 to \$4.55 each with the price getting higher as the cut gets finer. In case you don't already have a set, Brownell's also has needle files for \$6.95 per 12 piece set. Get the fine cut model.

Essentially, all a checkering file happens to be is a tool with rows of fine teeth that cuts close rows of grooves separated by a narrow, sharp topped ridge. When two sets of rows are cut so that they intersect each other at an

Photos in this panel show, top to bottom, checkering file in use on the safety; both cross cuts completed, and checkering being cleaned up with wire brush. Last photo shows completed checkering as it appears after being blued with cold bluing. Bottom photo shows Mauser bolt release with checkered tab.

# METAL



By JIM CARMICHEL

angle, the ridges are divided into individual diamonds with sharp peaks. These sharp peaks, of course, are what gives checkering on wood or steel it's non-slip characteristic.

Needless to say a checkering file is not used like an ordinary file. The trick to neat metal checkering is being able to keep the file in perfect stroke after stroke alignment while the grooves are being cut to full depth. This in itself isn't all that difficult but it is rather tedious to keep the file working in a straight line and work around a curved surface, such as a bolt knob, at the same time. For this reason it is best to practice on a small, relatively flat surface before tackling the harder jobs.

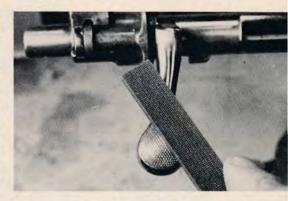
The first step is to decide on the layout of the checkering. All this involves is establishing the angles of the lines to be cut so that the diamonds will form rows that are more or less harmonious with the lines of the rest of the gun. Keep in mind that that the rows should intersect at a 45 to 60 degree angle. Practice with different angles until you find the one that suits you, or the work you'll be doing, best.

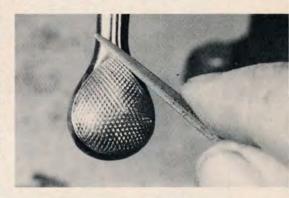
My technique for cutting smooth, even rows is, first of all getting myself and the piece to be checkered into a position that is as uncramped and comfortable as possible. Since it is essential that the tool "stays in the groove" it is important that your hand and arm move in a smooth natural motion. If you try to cut from an awkward angle the position of the tool is much harder to "feel" and you're more likely to lead it astray.

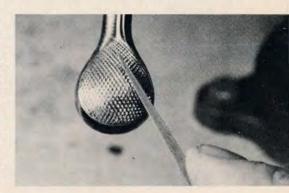
When you begin cutting don't lift the tool from the work to see what kind of a mark you're making. This changes your arm's position and makes it hard to find the groove again. Keep the file pressed down firmly on the work and cut back and forth until the grooves are cut to full depth. You'll know when they are full depth because the tool stops cutting when the ridges come to a point. In other words it's impossible to cut too deep because the checkering file won't let you.

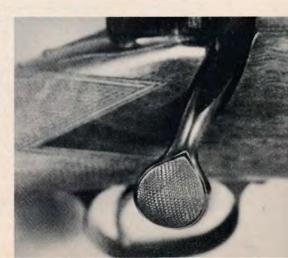
If the area to be checkered is wider than the file simply set the file over about half or two thirds of its width and continue with the pattern. By not setting the file over to its full width you can feel some of the previously cut grooves and thus keep the spacing and angle perfect. The file is most likely to skip and "lose its place" on the first few strokes so take it easy until you feel the file riding in the grooves.

This skipping about can be especially troublesome on hard surface metal. Many rifle actions, especially older Mausers, have been heat treated so that there is a thin but extremely hard surface. At first the file will want to slip around on the glass hard surface and progress will be slow. But when it breaks through the going will be a lot easier because the underlying metal is usually pretty soft. Or, if you prefer, you can buff off the hardened surface on the area to be checkered. Don't attempt to draw the hardness by heating because this will also soften the surfaces that should remain hard. Examples of (Continued on page 58)

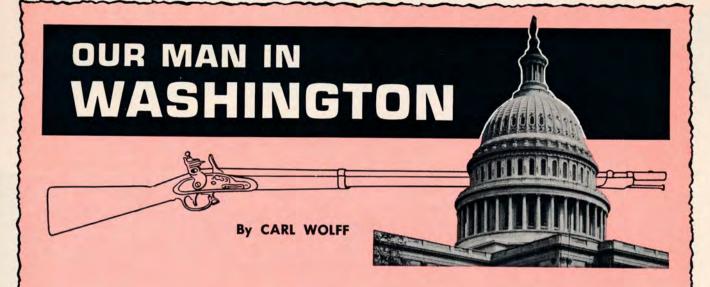








Checkering the rounded surface of a bolt knob is a little tougher than a flat surface, as these photos show. After the crosscuts are made, lines can be cleaned up with a needle file, and any run-overs can be removed with the same file. Finished job adds much to looks and utility of the bolt.



The bill to modify ammunition recordkeeping to exempt .22 caliber rimfires from the reporting requirements under the Gun Control Act of 1968 is again turning into something of a cliffhanger. There is a real question about its ever passing.

The bill, H.R. 3599, by Congressman Al Ullman (D.-Oregon) would mean that the sale of .22 caliber rimfire ammunition, as well as the sale of ammunition already exempt from the reporting requirements (shotgun ammunition, ammunition suitable for use only in rifles generally available in commerce, or the component parts for this ammunition) would not require the licensee (seller) to make a record of any information about the purchaser.

The Treasury and Justice Department have stated that they recommend enactment of the bill. Under the Gun Control Act of 1968 (18 U.S.C. 922) it was made unlawful for a licensee to sell or deliver a firearm or ammunition without making a record showing the name, age and residence of the purchaser. Another provision of the act requires all licensees to "maintain such records of information, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms and ammunition," as may be provided by regulations.

Treasury Department regulations require a licensee who sells ammunition to record: (1) the date; (2) the name of the manufacturer, the caliber, gauge or type of component, and the quantity of the ammunition transferred; (3) the name, address, and date of birth of the purchaser; and (4) the method used by the licensee to establish the identity of the purchaser.

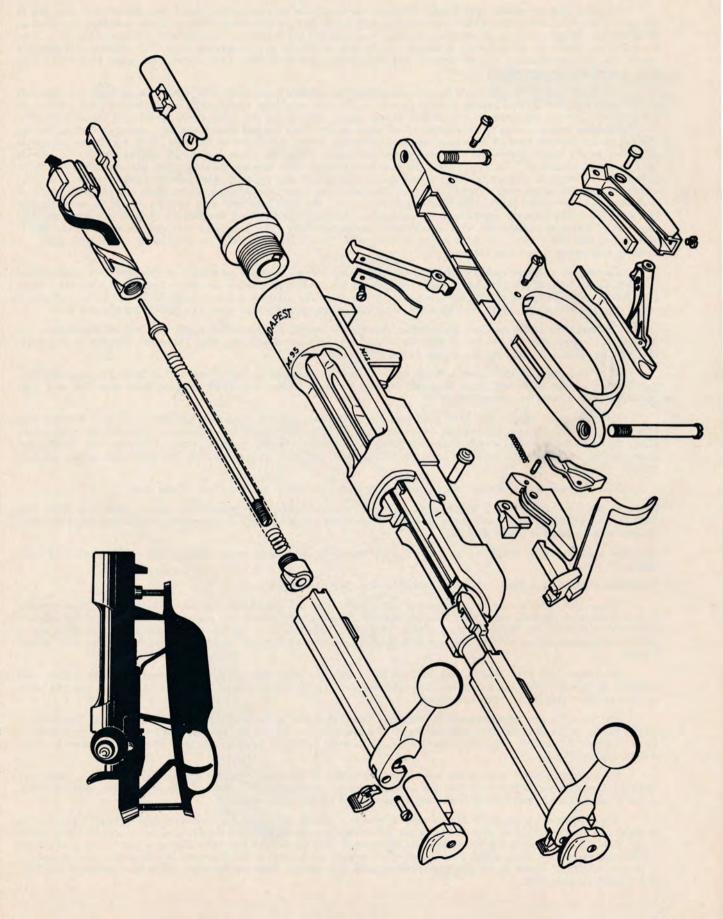
In 1969, Congress added a provision

which, in effect, repealed the above requirements with respect to sales of (1) shotgun ammunition, (2) ammunition suitable for use only in rifles generally available in commerce, and (3) component parts for these types of ammunition. The original amendment exempted .22 caliber rimfire ammunition as well. However, .22 caliber rimfire was removed by the Senate before the measure became law.

Congress provided the exemption because it believed that the reporting requirements for ammunition for firearms of sporting types created a large and unnecessary administrative burden on the Treasury Department, on firearms dealers, and on the Nation's sportsmen who purchase this type of ammunition.

The exemption was not applied to .22 caliber rimfire presumably on the grounds that this ammunition is not used exclusively in rifles. However, the recently repealed Federal Firearms Act (replaced by the 1968 Gun Control Act) excluded .22 caliber rimfire ammunition from a classification of ammunition for pistols and revolvers. Furthermore, .22 rimfire ammunition has become the most popular sporting ammunition for use in rifles in the United States.

Moreover, a Treasury Department representative before Congress stated that he knew of no instance where any of the recordkeeping provisions relating to sporting-type ammunition (including .22 caliber rimfire ammo.) had been helpful in law enforcement. A representative of the Department of Justice advised Congress that "there is not a single known instance, as we have learned from our discussions with IRS, with the (Continued on page 78)



# STEYR MODEL 1895 STRAIGHT-PULL - Cal. 8 x 50 R

Adapted from an earlier 1890 Model developed for the Swiss service by Ferdinand Von Mannlicher, this rifle is the most successful and widely distributed rotating bolt head, straight-pull action. The arm was standard for Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria, and as a substitute standard was widely used throughout the Balkans, the Near East, Asia, Russia and Italy. Nearly six million were produced and the arm is still in limited service today. The original cartridge for which it was designed in the 8 x 50 rimmed Austrian service (DWM #385c) firing a 244 grain round nose bullet with an MV of 2034 ft/sec.

The bolt system is of two piece design, comprising the rotating bolt head with dual locking lugs, and the bolt actuating sleeve with integral handle. Helical grooves on the bolt head rear engage with corresponding ribs in the actuating sleeve. Dovetail undercuts in the receiver engage guide ribs on the actuating sleeve, preventing its rotation. The principle of the system is that of the familar spiral screw driver. With the bolt closed, the lugs engage in vertical locking recesses in the receiver hood. A direct pull on the bolt handle moves the sleeve to the rear. This rectilinear motion is translated by the spiral grooves into rotation of the bolt head. When the sleeve has moved approximately 1", the bolt head has been rotated 90°. In this position the lugs have cleared their locking shoulders and are opposite their guide grooves in the receiver. Appropriate cuts in the spiral splines now engage, tending to prevent further rotation, and the continued pull draws the entire unit to the rear. Reversing the thrust reverses the action. Note the camming angle of both face and rear of the lugs. These insure that on opening, the bolt head not only rotates, but is cammed slightly rearward, providing primary extraction. On closing, the forward cams contact the locking shoulder, twisting the bolt head out of traveling engagement with the sleeve to facilitate closing. The long claw extractor does not rotate and is attached to the bolt sleeve. The main spring is compressed inside the bolt head, cocking being effectuated partly on opening and partly on closing the bolt.

The trigger and sear unit is multi-purpose. A forward extension serves as ejector in the open bolt position and as a bolt sleeve lock on firing, which prevents escaping gas or recoil from moving the sleeve rearwards when the trigger is pulled. A separate spring loaded block serves as a bolt stop. The safety is a thumb lever on the left of the bolt sleeve which engages both a slot on the cocking piece and a slot in the receiver, thus securing both firing pin and bolt.

The magazine is the standard Mannlicher, requiring a special five shot clip which falls out on chambering the last round. Grooves identify the top of this clip, which can be inserted only one way. The entire contents of the magazine may be ejected by pressing the release in the front of the guard bow.

Field Stripping: Push trigger forward and pull bolt straight out to rear. Press spring catch (on magazine bottom forward of clip well) and hinge floor and follower forward. (Note: bolt head must be kept extended with lugs parallel to bolt handle for re-assembly.)

Bolt Stripping: Rotate bolt head until lugs clear extractor, pry out claw with cartridge and draw forward. Rotate bolt head until it abuts against bolt sleeve. Pull out cocking piece until its extension clears the bolt sleeve slot. Using the extractor tail as a wrench to prevent firing pin rotation, unscrew cocking piece. Unscrew bolt head from sleeve, noting assembly position. Using extractor tail, unscrew the main spring collar in bolt head and remove pin and spring.

The 1895 was issued in three main types, differing only in barrel and furniture. These were:

Infanterie Gewehr—30" bbl. full length hand guard, barleycorn fore and V notch rear sights, adjustable from 300-2600 meters. Fited for 9½" blade, knife bayonet. When fixed, the blade edge is uppermost, contrary to usual practice. Weight without bayonet about 8½ lbs.

Artillerie Stutzen— $19\frac{1}{2}$ " bbl. fitted for bayonet, with swivels on bottom of stock, sighted 200-1200 meters. Weight about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

Cavallerie Karabine-as above, with side swivels and no bayonet fittings.

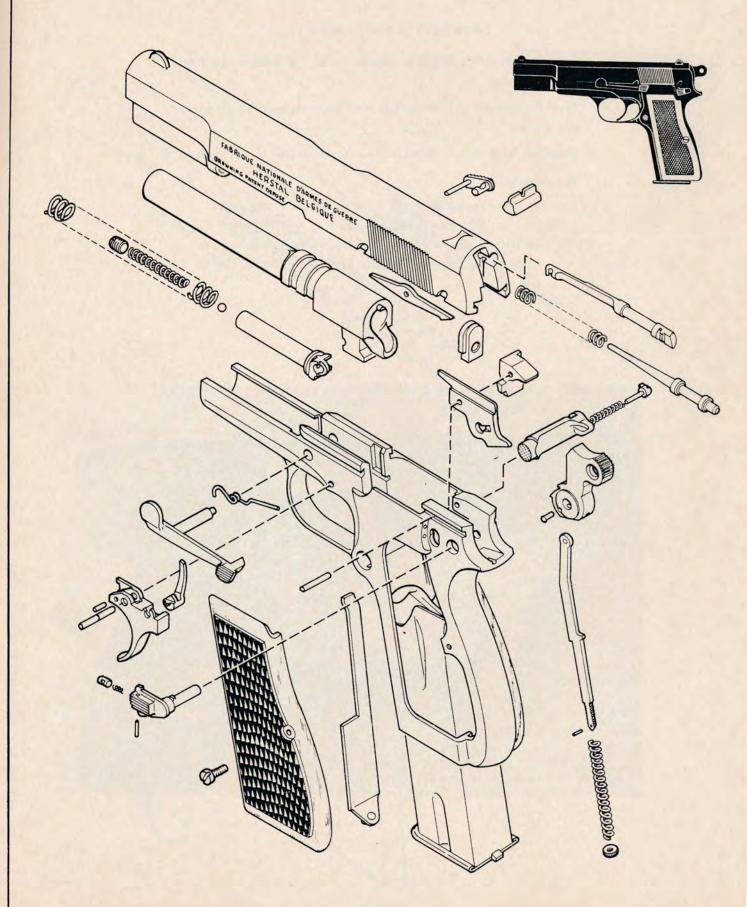
Other 1895 Models may be encountered with minor variations chambered for different cartridges. These are the 8 x 52 Hungàrian rimmed, the 8 x 52 Siamese rimmed, and the 8 x 56 Mannlicher rimmed. In 1924, Steyer used selected receivers to produce the 95/24 for Jugo-Slavia. This is an 1895 altered to use the 8 x 57 Mauser ammunition, and is fitted with tangent sights, 24" bbl., Mauser clip slots in the receiver bridge, and an altered magazine with closed bottom.

Evaluation: All 1895 Models were made at Steyr with the finest materials and workmanship. The weapon was designed to be very light, and throughout its production run many innovations, such as stainless steel barrels and bolts, as well as dural magazines, were introduced.

The action is not recommended for extensive conversion due to the magazine and clip difficulties. The Steyr is amply strong, select receivers having been altered in quantity to use the 8 x 57, but older actions are best re-barreled to 30-40 Krag or .303 British pressure levels. The system is quite safe and no difficulty with blowouts has ever been reported, (as with the Ross).

In conversions never remove the bolt sleeve lock which is erected by pulling the trigger. With this component removed, a remote possibility exists that gas from a ruptured cartridge might move the sleeve and thus open the bolt. Removal of the double pull feature is also not recommended for the same reason.

With optimum conditions, a fire rate of 35 rounds a minute has been obtained. The weak primary extraction is a drawback however. Mud or dust in the action and dirty ammunition can slow the firing to below standard bolt action rates. With prolonged firing the action becomes increasingly difficult to work manually. The same conditions apply to the modern semi-automatic arms, which are often in effect straight-pulls, such as the American M1. However, these arms have a greater margin of power in the gas and recoil systems that actuate their mechanisms. With this exception, the 1895 is a rugged, reliable arm.



# BROWNING 13-SHOT (Model 1935)

A remarkably sturdy hand-gun, supposedly the last designed by John Mose Browning.

Three military and one commercial models are encountered, all basically similar.

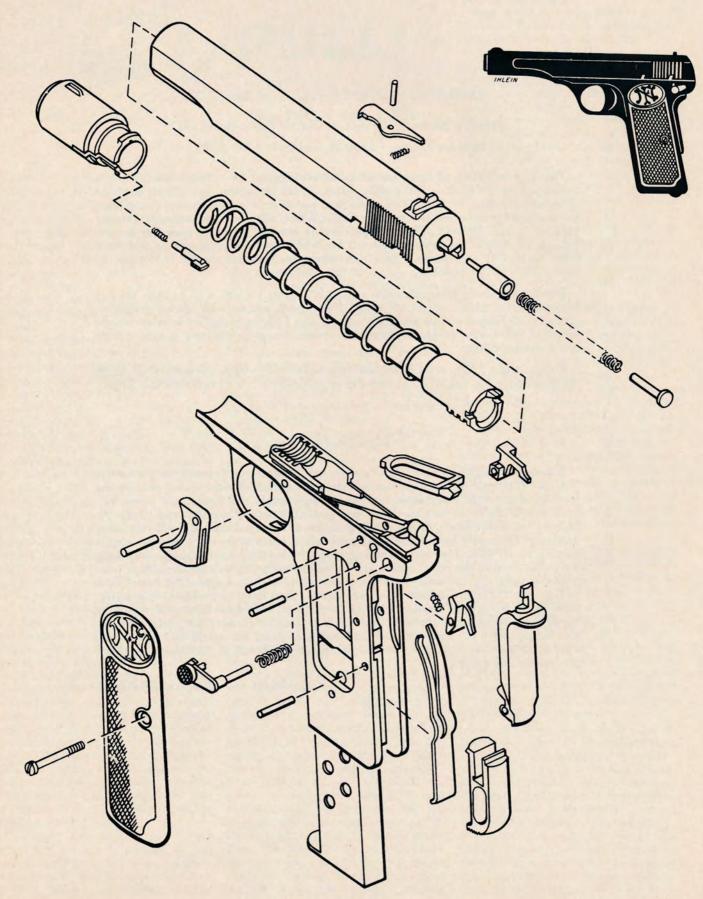
Magazine is of the staggered column type, similar to the Savage.

# To dismount:

a) Remove magazine; b) Lock slide back in rearmost position with safety; c) Slide-stop may now be pushed up slightly, and withdrawn to left; d) Slide may now be eased off frame by holding firmly as safety is disengaged.



52



# **BROWNING AUTOMATIC PISTOL, MODEL 1922**

Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre: Police-Model 1922 Calibers 7.65mm (.32 ACP) and 9mm (.380 ACP).

This is a relatively undistinguished autoloading pistol of conventional design. A beefed-up version of the 1910 pocket pistol, it was introduced in 1922 as a police weapon. According to FN: "This pistol has just been supplied to the Yugoslavian Government for its police and army" (c.1925). Wilson (Textbook of Automatic Pistols) says that it was adopted briefly as a Czech service arm—it must have been very briefly, because the Czechs bought the Mauser "N" Model and brought it out as their own P-24. "A History of Browning Guns" lists something very like the FN M.1922 as the Model 1928 Police pistol.

Dimensions of the two pistols are identical: 7" over all with 4½" barrels. Factory listings for the 9mm: weight of pistol, 23¾ ounces, weight with loaded magazine, 26½ ounces. Magazine capacity, eight rounds. The 7.65mm is slightly heavier: weight of pistol with empty magazine, about 25 ounces. Magazine capacity is nine rounds in the smaller caliber.

Rifling in the 7.65mm: six lands, one turn right-hand in approximately 10.6"... in the 9mm: six lands, one turn right-hand in approximately 10". (From the Pistol Atlas.)

# DISASSEMBLY-

Remove the magazine, clear the chamber. Let the slide run forward, set the safety. Near the front end of the slide you will note the annular dividing line made by the jointing of the slide and muzzle bushing. Cutting across this line on the lower left-hand side of the pistol is a small serrated plate, the muzzle bushing catch. Take the body of the pistol firmly in one hand, grab the muzzle bushing hard with the other hand, slip the muzzle bushing catch forward as far as it will go and rotate the muzzle bushing slowly until it is free—and hang on to it! Ease the muzzle bushing away from the pistol, remove the recoil spring from around the barrel. Release the safety, push back the slide, slip the safety into the disassembly notch and rotate the barrel until its lugs clear the frame and enter the recess cut for them in the slide. Release the safety, move the slide forward together with the barrel until both are off the gun, rotate the barrel until its lugs clear their cut in the slide and pull it forward out of the slide. Or else simply move the slide forward until you can rotate the barrel and pull it out, leaving the slide on the gun, which will reduce the likelihood of your losing the firing pin, spring and guide.

-Roger Marsh and Allen Pennell Wescott



NEW TRAPSHOOTERS WILL shoot longer handicap yardages in 1972. The ATA Executive Committee has decided to replace the former twenty-yard handicap minimum for adult males with a beginning twenty-two yards. This ruling applies to new shooters, and to temporary handicap card holders who have not recorded the required fifteen-hundred registered targets over a four-year period.

Male sub-juniors holding temporary cards will still start their handicap events from twenty yards, and all distaff gunners will continue to begin on the eighteen-yard stripe.

It has required the wisdom of a Solomon over the years for ATA officials to set equitable handicap yardages for tens of thousands of new shooters whose distance shooting abilities are in most cases totally unknown to those responsible for assigning handicap yardages. Yet, the basic concept of handicap yardages implies that every shooter shall be fairly and equally handicapped with respect to all other competitors.

This new action by the ATA in setting twenty-two yard minimums goes far in eliminating the problem inherent when a twenty-yard handicapper who has earned his twenty-yard status by proven ability was matched with a new shooter or a temporary card holder shooting from twenty yards who might very well be capable of winning from twenty-four yards.

Now that the new policy is in effect, a new shooter who has been assigned twenty-two yards will be re-evaluated after he has completed the required 1500 targets for a permanent card, and we may see that the shooter will be moved up to twenty yards, but only after he has demonstrated that twenty yards is a fair measure of his shooting ability.

Observers new to the clay target sports are invariably amazed at the basic honesty and good sportsmanship demonstrated by hotly competitive shooters. These observers find it difficult to believe that there are, for all practical purposes, no officials serving in the capacity of umpire or referee and that, for the most part, the clay target games are self-policed.

Sport buffs from the whole spectrum of competition are impressed that a small amount of major championships, carrying with them impressive hardware and sums of money, are not materially affected by a controversial decision by a referee or umpire.

It has taken a great deal of sagacity and discipline by shooters and shooting officials to maintain this enviable status quo. This most recent decision by the ATA is another in a long series of statesmanlike decisions.

When we consider the greedy and self-serving nature of man, we can realize that there will be no regulation enacted that will forever and completely eliminate sand-bagging. Sand bagging is nothing more than an attempt to gain an unfair advantage over one's competitors. Because this is practiced, condoned, and accepted in a lot of other fields of endeavor, including sports, it becomes no less than a miracle that sand-bagging has played only a very tiny part in the history of clay target championships. We in the game ought to be proud of this record, and make our own contributions toward keeping the games clean.

If the reader is new to shooting jargon, and still does not know exactly what I mean by "sand-bagging," I shall try to explain. When a new shooter was arbitrarily assigned a handicap of twenty yards, for example, it was possible for him to practice by shooting only in non-registered shoots (shoots for which no scores are reported to the ATA, and subsequently no measure of the shooters ability becomes a part of his record) until he had become so proficient from 20 yards that he could reasonably expect to win the first major event he entered in registered competition and was assigned twenty

yards. Of course, most all sand-bagging has to be a one-time shot, because after once winning the automatic extra yardage assigned takes care of that yardage.

But, if the scheming shooter picked his spot, the reward for a major handicap win could be substantial, especially if the shooter picked a shoot such as a state or national tournament to emerge from hiding. It always has been rather difficult for a conniving shooter to conceal his true ability once he was launched into a registered shooting career, because he could be assigned extra yards by winning or placing in any event, and the bigger the shoot, the more chance of earning yardage. Then, a score of ninety-seven in a registered event gains a yard, whether or not the 97 score is a winning one. Also, a yearly average from an assigned yardage can prove that the shooter has outlived his current assignment, and gain an automatic yard or yards at the close of a

As I have indicated, winning by sand-bagging by its very nature must be at best a one-time thing, and a victory by that method would surely leave a very hollow taste on what should be a happy occasion.

From a practical standpoint, it would also be possible to sand-bag over a longer time period, but the reward seems somewhat thin. If, for example, a man shot at less than his ability over a period of 1500 targets just to hold a low yardage, a victory and purse after this preparation would be pyrrhic at best. He would have to be sure to win a very large purse to offset the cost of fifteen hundred wasted targets.

One of my reasons for concluding that the move by ATA to assign all male shooters a minimum handicap of 22 yards is a good one derives from the long established practice of requiring shooters with no record to compete from 22 yards in the Grand.

Most veteran shooters have felt that even if a man has been sand-bagging, if he can win from twenty-two yards, more power to him. He earned the victory and will automatically be assigned more yardage.

As an aside here, it should be pointed out that the Grand American (national trapshooting championships) is truly unique in that a competitor can walk on the grounds having never fired a shot in competition, and at least theoretically have a chance at a national championship. No other sport in my knowledge can match these entry requirements. ATA officials have long faced the difficult problem of making the rules equitable for all contestants, while at the same

# THE SILENT PARTNER



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time not turning away new shooters by unrealistic requirements.

I am sure that some shooters will scream that assigning a minimum handicap of twenty two yards will drive new shooters from the game of trap, and slow the phenomenal growth the game has enjoyed in the last decade.

I simply don't buy this for a lot of reasons. First of all, improved guns and ammunition bring twenty-two yard targets a lot closer to the muzzle than in the past.

Secondly, I have fired far too many boxes of shells from distances of 25 yards and more in meat shoots not be convinced that good scores can be fired from long yardage marks.

I can remember some dire predictions when the maximum yardage was increased from twenty five yards to twenty seven yards that the twenty seven-yarder didn't have a chance. The number of twenty seven yard shooters today, and their scores, burst that bubble, and quickly.

Also, I still feel as I have often said during the fourteen-year life of this column, that yardage handicaps are far more mental than real or physical.

When the shooter forgets the vardage marker on which he is standing, and concentrates on breaking each individual target, he will be amazed at the score he recorded from a seemingly impossible yardage handicap.

Let's even be a little more objective rather than emotional about handicap yardages. Most trap target are fired from 12 gauge guns, with a majority of full choke barrels. Full choke barrels are designed by the manufacturer to throw their most effective patterns at distances of from forty five to fifty five yards.

A shooter with normal eyesight and reaction time picks up a trap target about twenty yards from the trap house. When a shooter standing on the twenty-two yard handicap marker fires at his target, he is shooting the target from a range of about forty two yards, which is less than the distance his gun is designed to provide him with most effective performance.

So, what is so difficult about shooting handicap targets, especially from the twenty-two yard stripe, where the gun you are using has still not reached its mot effective performance level.

Shoot your best, concentrate on breaking one target at a time, and have a great year in 1972, from any handicap yardage!



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# A RARE PAIR: ORIGINAL AND UNFIRED?

(Continued from page 41)

certainly is not inexpensive. First, the arm must be examined by a reliable firearms consultant. This usually will cost from \$200 to \$350. If the findings are affirmative, then two more opinions might be desirable, depending on the value of the arm, which was the case with the Remingtons, as their preliminary appraisal was \$8000. Guideline to getting three opinions is usually a value of over \$3000. If the experts in the field agree that the arms are genuine as represented, then one can either accept this as conclusive or proceed further with a complete laboratory analysis. Most research metallurgical laboratories do not specialize in this type of research due to the small demand; but if they are equipped with microprojectors, five-place Starret inside and outside diameter micrometers, Xray spectrometers, and mass spectrometers, they can handle most required analysis. Here again, the subject must justify the expenditure at this

point as costs for a complete six-point analysis usually runs from \$500 to \$850. This was the last step in the verification of the pair of Remingtons. Although the arms consultants had a vast knowledge of the style and type of Remington contract factory engraving, and agreed on the factory ivory grips and that the arms appeared unfired, this was a point their eyes could not positively tell them.

In the instance of percussion revolvers, metallurgists, supported by their Creep and Dislocation theories, say that once a percussion revolver has been fired, certain stresses will be relieved; consequently, the diameter of a cylinder or barrel should be almost microscopically smaller than one that has been fired, thus if cylinder walls or bores had been freshened in any way, their diameter would be greater than a fired comparative model. This is a fine point that requires a laboratory to establish. The following laboratory six-point analy-







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sis was made on the two Remingtons.

Laboratory Analysis Subject: 2 - 1858 Remington Revolvers #110589 and 110053

Micrometer examination of bores and cylinders (inside) cylinders and bores show no evidence of re-matching and check with standard model. Therefore it can be concluded bores and cylinders are original in all respects. Micro-Projector Analysis at 400 power does not reveal any traces of grain distortion in the inside of the cylinder walls. Further, there is no evidence of deformation from ignition indicating subjects have never been fired. No evidence of lead striation was observed

There is no evidence of rear grain distortion at the rear of the cylinders as would be the result of recoil from firing. Oxidation and shrinkage would conclude grips to be relatively 100 years old.

## Silver and Gold Plate

Analysis of the silver indicates two distinct applications appears that silver finishes have been re-washed in

handle and frame areas, as analysis of plate of plate are slightly different. Gold plate appears original in all areas

# Engraving

Under the micro-projector, engraving does not show any fresh cuts, bars, or edges. In some exposed areas, some progressive corrosion is visible indicating oxidation over an extensive period of time, therefore engraving can be considered old and not recently done

## Parts

Screws and bearing surfaces do not show any appreciable wear nor does nipples or hammer knurling or striking surfaces.

# Conclusion

Revolvers appear to be original and engraving and parts contemporary with arms in all respects, except for some small areas where silver plating has been re-washed in grip and frame area, predominately on 110053.

Thus, a lab report can reveal some interesting facts and eliminate certain doubts. (Arms consultants, owner, and laboratory names were withheld for security reasons at the owner's request.)

# CHECKERING ON METAL: DO-IT-YOURSELF

(Continued from page 47)

this are Mauser safeties; they usually have a glass hard surface and pretty well resist a file. However, the crust is easily ground off or can be "wiped" away with a bit of sandpaper wrapped around a file. If you should attempt to soften the crust by heating you would also soften the wearing surface where the safety cams in front of the cocking piece. Once this hard surface is gone the safety starts to wear and is much harder to operate.

For our European sporter three areas should have some checkering; the finger tab on the bolt release, the safety and, of course, the bolt knob. Done in this order the projects range from quick and easy to relatively difficult. So you'll be gaining experience as you work your way along toward the hardest part.

My personal choice of checkering size for these three areas is 40 or 50 lines to the inch for the bolt release tab and 30 lines to the inch for the safety and bolt knob. This is following the general rule of thumb of putting finer line checkering on smaller parts. However, if you wish to invest in only one checkering file for the present all of the parts can be checkered the same size and look just fine. As a matter of fact, all of the checkering shown in the illustrations is 30 lines per inch.

The bolt release tab is a simple project and should present no problems whatever. The safety is only slightly more difficult because it has a slightly curved surface. But once you get the lines in order it should go quite easily.

The bolt isn't all that much harder so far as the actual checkering goes but does present the problem of checkering within a bordered area. As with checkering on wood the idea is to avoid runovers at the pattern's border. But, in fact, some runovers can be filed away.

The first step in checkering the knob is marking the outline of the pattern. The most common pattern, and one that always looks good, is the classic teardrop. This is a simple teardrop shape that covers about a third of the knob with the point running up toward the bolt shank. With teardrop panels on the top and underside of the knob the coverage is two thirds or so and thus very ample for a really nonslip surface.

The outline can be marked with a scribe, a needle file or any other marking device you can think of that won't rub off. Begin the checkering in the center of the pattern and then work your way toward the sides. Don't worry if you nick the outline a little. Just try to get the grooves right up to the edge of the pattern and as deep as possible. In some cramped areas such as near the root of the bolt shank you may find it works better to only lightly cut the lines with the checkering file and then cut to full depth one by one with a sharp edged needle file.

After the panel is completely checkered deepen the border with a needle file. This will get rid of any runovers—provided they aren't too deep.

A handy hint, if you haven't already guessed, is to checker the underside of the bolt first. This part doesn't show, and any bobbles will be hidden most of the time. After having done one panel the other should go much better. Of course the really ideal situation is to have a spare bolt handle or two around to practice on before attempting the real thing.

Newly cut checkering can be razor sharp and have a few slivers hanging on just waiting to stick into your fingers. So give the pattern a thorough scrubbing with a wire bristle brush. This gets out the debris, dulls the diamonds somewhat and polishes the work a bit.

Aside from the purposes listed here other likely places to apply your newly learned skill with the checkering file is on handgun backstraps, hammer spurs, triggers, all types of safeties and on the front of handgun trigger guards for a two-handed hold.

The surface doesn't have to be checkered with the usual diamonds. You may sometimes want to cut simple serrations with a one way (not crossed.) cut. These are especially nice on areas where you want a nonglare surface. Examples of this are the rear edge of front sights, front sight ribs or pistol barrel ribs. The possibilities go on and on and the only limiting factor is your imagination. From the standpoint of decoration some gunsmiths get a nice effect by checkering the heads of action screws. So this should give you even more ideas.

Up until now progress on our European sporter has been limited to metal work only and no doubt many of you stockmakers are eager to get on with cutting some wood. So next installment we will pick up our chisels and see how one goes about getting a really tight and close job of stock inletting.







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# "CARBINE" WILLIAMS AMERICAN GUN GENIUS

(Continued from page 43)

in rain, mud, or sand and then went on to develop the revolutionary principles of the "short stroke piston" and the "floating chamber" which has been widely institutionalized by the United States Military.

Finally, Williams converted one of the early model Remington rifles used by the prison guards. Arrangements were made for Williams to demonstrate his newly created weapon to a representative of the Winchester company. A description isn't needed of the enthusiasm with which the gun was received.

Williams was pardoned by Governor Angus MacLean in 1929 and returned to his hometown of Godwin. With the help of his brothers, he built the machine shop that is now on display in the North Carolina Museum of History and equipped it with purchased and donated gun machinery—more sophisticated equipment than had been previously available to him.

Williams was employed by several firearm companies, such as Winchester, Remington and Colt. In 1930, Williams offered the fixed barrel rifle to the Department of the Army in Washington, D.C. The military was doubtful of the reliability of Williams' newly invented weapon to withstand the adverse conditions of the field and did not give it further study.

But they took a longer look at another application of a similar principle which Williams had invented. This was a .22 automatic pistol on the .45 Colt auto frame, with a simulated kick equal to the big .45. Instead of reducing the kick, Williams had multiplied it through a floating chamber that worked the .22 with the energy of a .45. The Army adopted the idea and the first of Williams' guns was born.

Williams' next operation was to de-

sign .22 machine gun, which the Army wished to use in training. He completed his assignment successfully and it wasn't long before Williams and the Army came to terms for future gun creations.

Williams was assigned a small research office in the Winchester building and it was here that he met his lifelong friend, Harry Sefried. Together, they found more uses for Williams' floating chamber principle.

A variation of it was used in the Model 550 Remington .22 autoloading rifle, which fires Shorts, Longs and Long rifles interchangeably. It accomplishes this because the chamber is short. The Long Rifle cartridge extends ahead of the floating chamber and does not use it to multiply force. But the stubby Shorts just come to the end of the chamber. The gases expanding onto the front of the chamber, throw it back with tremendous acceleration. This action is transferred to the heavier bolt, and the bolt inertia is what retracts the bolt and works the gun.

It has been this inertia concept that has been the key to Williams' success. Williams has an uncanny knack of making this energy work as no man before him. The epitome of this success was demonstrated in the carbine he designed for Winchester.

Because of his genius, Williams has since become a legend in his own time. No one who has a true interest in guns and their development hasn't heard of "Carbine" Williams.

In all probability, Williams' inventions would have been created by someone else, but the fact remains that Williams did create them and shooters in North Carolina and around the world pay tribute to this great American.



(Continued from page 27)

magazine release bearing on the trigger bar. When the magazine is removed, the release button is allowed to move further to the left than it stands when retaining the magazine, blocking the trigger. Aside from its simplicity, another good feature of this system is that it can be over-ridden by a slight pressure on the magazine release button, if it became necessary to fire the round in the barrel while the magazine was removed.

The third safety provided is the usual pivoting lever type, and is welllocated on the left side of the frame, just above the magazine release. It is easily operated as it falls beneath the shooter's thumb, and, like the other two, blocks the trigger bar.

Toward the rear is on safe, forward is firing position. On a pistol that is double action only, I can see no real need for any safety at all, but that is a matter of opinion.

Since the firing mechanism and its springs are mainly in the slide, and the magazine release is a push-button type near the trigger, the grip frame is very slim, with its rear upper curve placed high. This allows the long sliding trigger to be easily reached, and also gives good balance and pointing qualities.

Range-testing a pistol which has only double-action capabilities may seem ridiculous, but the results were surprising. For aimed fire, I found that it was possible to press the trigger to almost full travel, take aim, and complete the squeeze. At 25 yards, using the standard target for that range, I managed to keep four out of nine shots in the black. Sights are good-a heavy square-post front, and a shallow u-notch rear, both integral with the slide.

Moving up to 7 yards, with the standard silhouette target and firing from the hip, the Ecia scored better in its intended role as a personal defense weapon. Eight out of nine rounds went into the "K" zone. It is easy to see how this little .32 would make an ideal pocket pistol. It can be safely carried with chamber loaded and magazine full, as it is never cocked until the trigger is pulled through its entire travel.

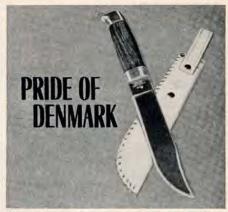
On the left side of the slide, opposite the forward end of the ejection port, there is a large dished-out aperture which exposes a portion of the

rear edge of the barrel where there is a small, square opening somewhat like an extractor cut. The purpose is obvious. A round in the chamber is visible through the square cut, making this a simple and foolproof visual loaded indicator.

Takedown of the Ecia is rather interesting, to say the least. Like its ancestor, the Campo-Giro, it is somewhat tricky, and should be attempted only by someone who has had much experience with the internal mechanisms of self-loaders. With the pistol empty and magazine removed, depress the fluted barrel-bushing at the muzzle, give it a half-turn in either direction, and remove it. At this point you will note a further refinement of the design—the recoil spring will not fly out. It is a captive unit, retained on the barrel by a sliding collar and a threaded nut at the muzzle. Next, retract the slide until the forward edge of the ejection port is just behind the rear edge of the barrel, and turn the barrel clockwise until it stops. Move the slide forward to normal closed position, turn the barrel back to center, and withdraw it from the slide. Then, move the slide forward about % of an inch, tilt its right edge up out of the frame rail, move it slightly to the right to free the left frame rail, and lift it straight up off the frame. This completes routine disassembly. When replacing slide during reassembly, be sure that the striker stop block is in the tipped-up position by depressing the magazine release button to over-ride the safety and pulling the trigger. Place the striker extension behind and against the stop block, keep the slide level, and move it forward into position to be tilted down into the frame rails. Left, then right. This is the most difficult part of reassembly.

Grips are retained by two screws each, and removal of the right one allows observation of the firing mechanism. It is beautifully designed, and even with grip removed there is no danger of losing any parts.

At the present time, I can only suppose that at least seven Ecia pistols were made, assuming that serial numbering began with "1". Perhaps it was an experimental, and never reached full production. If so, I can't understand why. It is compact, beautifully engineered and well-made,



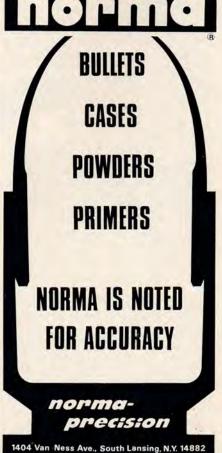
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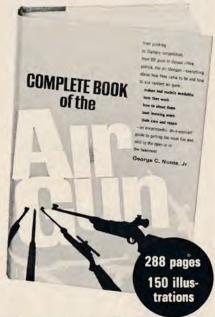
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Zip

and would be an ideal pistol for personal or home protection. It is a pity that Esperanza y Compania failed to produce it in quantity. Even in today's competitive market, it would be a desirable and saleable item.

In 1926, the Astra firm became Unceta y Compania, and Juan Esperanza established his own factory in Guernica, later moving to Marquina, a village nearby. His production of pistols was apparently an experimental sideline, as he mainly manufactured mortars for the Spanish Army and for export, also using the trade name Ecia. If only he had decided on extended production of the Model 1930 Pistol!

Specifications of the 7.65 mm Ecia Model 1930 Pistol:

Weight: 21 oz. Length: 6 3/8" Height: 4" Width: 11/16"

Barrel length: 41/32"

The writer wishes to express his sincere appreciation to Jan Borjesson of Mesa, Arizona for his co-operation and assistance.

# OUT OF BOX ACCURACY-GUNS AND AMMUNITION

(Continued from page 23)

to these generalizations, crows and woodchucks are fairly safe from most shooters if they are an honest 250 yards away. Try setting up a dollar bill if you are thinking of woodchuck and a dollar bill folded in half if you are thinking of crows. Walk back 300 paces remembering that most people pace just less than 30 inches on rough ground. Now look at the bill. If you can consistently hit the dollar bill with your first shot, you are good enough for the kind of long range shooting that these cartridges will let you do. If you think you will have trouble hitting at that range, you are more in need of a .222 or a .222 Magnum than you are of a really long range rifle. The .222s make a lot less noise than the bigger shells. They are easier to shoot. They tend to be more accurate and the accuracy life of .222 barrels is usually much better than the bigger shells.

Warren Page, who is considered to be the father of the commercial 6mm, wrote in an article titled "The Bigger the Cartridge" in "The "Gun Digest" 1968, "As far as pure accuracy is concerned-the ability for a rifle/cartridge duo to put bullet after bullet into the same hole, or nearly so-it has been clearly shown that the smaller the caliber/power set up, the tighter the groups." As a practical matter, a man buying a varmint rifle over the counter can expect the smaller .22 cartridges to be more accurate at 200 yards than the bigger shells. While I do not have one in the rack right now, I would choose a good .222 for woodchucks in rolling farm country, where they are hard to see beyond 200 yards, and for crows under any but the windiest of conditions.

Sako makes a very good rifle, and every one I have owned or even heard of has been deadly accurate and accurate with factory loads. A Sako Forester in .243 Winchester was the first rifle I owned that would hold MOA groups with factory shells.

In picking a rifle, consider the models with heavy barrels. Theoretically, a good light barrel will be just as accurate as a good heavy barrel, at least until it gets really hot. But as a practical matter most people hit better with the heavier barrels. If you shoot a lot, you will learn to like the weightforward balance and the steadiness of the varmint models enough to be willing to carry the extra weight. Actually, the varmint models on short actions usually weigh very little more than the M-1 rifles a lot of us carried a few years ago under much less pleasant circumstances.

There is an art to the bench rest shooting that will produce minute of angle or less than minute of angle groups. The aiming error of a ten power scope varies from 1/8 to 1/16 of an inch at a hundred yards. If we assume the ultimate accuracy of the ammunition in a particular barrel is 3/8 of an inch at a hundred yards (which is assuming quite a bit) and double both figures for two hundred yard shooting, we have only a halfor five-eighths of an inch left out of an inch-and-a-half group for all other factors combined.

Shooting error can be reduced to minimum figures only by using a position that leaves the crosshairs rock steady on target, a target that matches your crosshairs, a position that makes the rifle recoil the same way each time, and a trigger pull that does not pull to one side or the other or jerk anything anywhere. Rest the forend, not the barrel, on a soft surface that is supported by a solid object at about the right height from a good solid bench. In the picture on

page 24, I have the Remington M 700 rested on an old GI ammo can with a gun case providing the soft surface. A rest on a hard surface usually displaces the group in a direction away from the hard surface and often opens up the group as well as marking up the forend. Two or three sandbags (I use old lead shot bags filled with pea gravel) placed under the slanting rear portion of the stock complete the rifle rest. One does not really hold a rifle or steer it in bench shooting. Aim the rifle left or right by moving the sandbags laterally. Move the crosshairs up or down by moving the sandbags forward or back. Grasp the pistol grip lightly with a 22 or firmly with a 6mm and shoulder the stock again lightly with a 22 or more firmly with a bigger shell by moving your shoulder to the stock. Once you are in this position, fine tune your sight picture by moving the sandbags with your left hand if you are a right handed shooter. Do not fine tune your sight picture with pressure from your hands, shoulder, or cheek. Consistency is the order of the day here. Make sure that you have shouldered the rifle on the same spot and exactly the same way each time. Grasp the pistol grip exactly the same way each time. If you swear at the wind, swear at the wind the same way each time.

If you are shooting for group size, disregard a steady wind. The only trouble here is that the wind is almost never steady. Using tall grass, leaves, and wind flags if there are any for indicators, pick one of the more common wind conditions and fire each shot as close as you can to that wind condition. One day early last summer, the wind was giving all of us on a 200 yard line absolute fits. The gusts were coming from behind us at the firing line, but they were bouncing off a cliff behind the targets and gusting from left to right at the targets. The net result of all this was almost a two inch variable at 200 yards for my .22-250 with 55 grain bullets.

Eventually, I found that I could watch a gust go away from me down a line of trees, then bounce and displace the leaves to my right, then ease. If I started squeezing the trigger as the gust to the right began to ease, I could usually sneak a bullet down to the target between the gusts. When I did that five times in a row, I had a good group. One thing about this kind of shooting; it will teach you what the wind actually does to the bullets from your load out of your rifle. This experience will let you hit better on varmints at estimated ranges in estimated winds than all the formulas in the world.

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and top gun is the boss—accurate, tough, dependable—and looks, well it doesn't take an expert to know that it means business. When it comes to guns, it is nice to know you have the very best on your side—especially when you can own the best at this price. The new Commando Mark III employs a revolutionary internal design never before used in any blow back type rifle and features smoother chambering action and easy trigger pull. Guaranteed to out perform all other 45 caliber carbines, the Mark III accepts 15 or 30 shot magazines, weighs only 8 pounds, and is 37 inches overall in length, requires no special license or regulations and is classified by the U. S. Government as a legal semi-automatic weapon. Proof of FFL license needed for dealer discounts. Write or phone

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where you see your target away from the spot where the target is. Think of mirage as if it were a crude prism between you and your target. Once you get a bench position that you know is steady, you can watch a bad mirage displace your target. The target seems to fade slightly, loose its sharp edges and waver to a spot downwind and above where it was. Fire your shots at a fixed point of the mirage variable. I usually fire during periods of least mirage. Some people get almost a seasick sensation from watching mirage waver around. Most people will get eyestrain from too much shooting through a high power scope in a mirage. Taking aspirin to control the eyestrain headache and continuing the eyestrain that gave you the headache can really hurt an eye. It is probably better to heed nature's

warning in the form of the headache and quit shooting for the day.

Trigger control in bench shooting is the subject of many arguments in the hot stove league as well as a few honest differences among experts. Over the years, bench and expert varmint shooters will spend a lot of money on Canjar or Jaeger triggers. I think of a rifle model that has a good trigger on its stock as if I were getting a \$25 discount. Squeezing the trigger straight back is something of an art in its own right. Depending on how the pistol grip/trigger set up fits me, I either concentrate on squeezing straight back or squeeze with my whole hand as if I were using a lemon squeezer.

Accuracy on an out of the box basis seems to be three or four times better now than it was, say, twenty years ago. I have yet to tune either the Ruger or the Remington in any way and they shoot beautifully. There are other rifles and other makes of ammunition that shoot accurately. These just happened to be the ones that I had handy for testing. In my opinion, today's shooter can usually buy over the counter standard rifles that, if properly handled, will kill varmints cleanly about as far away as the shooter is apt to see them.

All makes of factory loads tested for this article varied in accuracy from lot to lot. The first lot of one brand tested averaged inch and a quarter, five shot groups at two hundred yards. The worst of three lots tested stayed inside an inch and three quarters at 200. Some dealers will help customers purchase shells by

mber.

lot number.

-The Guns Magazine -

# Panel of Experts

 Each question should be sent directly to the panel member best suited to solve your problem. Mail questions directly to the expert at the address shown below.

Each question—only one question per letter, please—must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope ond \$1.00.

 You will receive the answer to your question directly from the expert. Our panel will select the most interesting questions for publication in this column, but you don't have to wait for the magazine to get your answer.

Letters with questions which do not have \$1.00 will be disregarded; those without a self-addressed envelope will be answered in

the magazine, and not directly.

We have enlarged the staff of our Panel of Experts to give you the best possible service on your questions. Remember, write directly to the expert at the address below—do not send questions to GUNS Magazine—and be sure to include the \$1.00 and the self addressed envelope.

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Tight Fit

I had a Model 721 Remington .30-06 rebarreled and chambered to the .244 Rem. Now I find that the bolt will just close on a Wilson "NO-GO" guage with a slight feel. I am using new brass handloads and was wondering if

with the first firing, the brass will take up the excessive headspace and be safe to use. Or should I send the barreled action back to the gunsmith and have him correct his mistake?

Allen Moen Kasson, Minn. I would recommend that you return the gun to the man that made and chambered the barrel for redoing. A new barrel and chamber should not have to take a "no-go" guage.

You can shoot it safe enough if you handload by sizing the necks of the 6MM ammo up first to 25 caliber the full length of the neck. Then screw your sizing die out two turns, at least, and size the neck back to 6mm. You will now have to use a bit of force to chamber the round. On future reloads do this same setting for resizing. If more is needed you will have to repeat the upward sizing process. I personally use some of my rifles that will take a field guage loosely but never a "no-go."—L.B.

# Hollis Shotgun

I have a double barrel muzzle loading shotgun in excellent condition and would like to know the value. It is made by I. Hollis & Sons, London. On the rib it has "London Fine Twist." There is engraving on the side plates and it has two small strips of gold on the end of the rib.

George Koutsopoulas Elyria, Ohio

If your Hollis shotgun is in exceptionally fine condition, its collector's value should be paproximately \$125.00. It was made in approximately 1855. English shotguns have a good demand to both the collector and shooter, but their condition must be excellent or better. R.M.

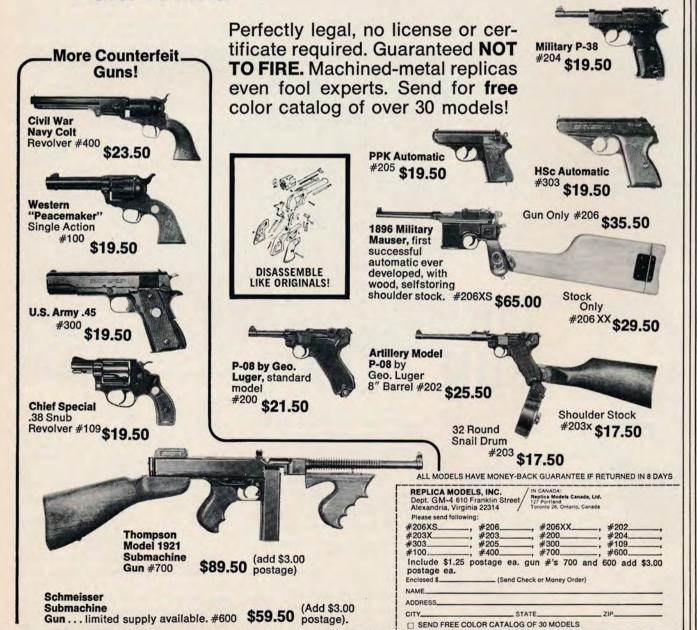
# New Zealand Hunting

I would like to obtain information on professional hunting in New Zealand. I am considering immigration to that country, and while my primary (Continued on page 66)

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(Continued from page 64)

interest in going is not possible employment as a hunter, it sounds to be both profitable and interesting.

Eric Speidel Mainesville, Ohio

The two best sources I know of regarding commercial hunting in Australia are Sporting Shooter Magazine, P.O. Box A256, Sydney South, Sydney, Australia NSW, and Col. Allison, 109 Park St., Carlton North, Victoria, Australia 3054. L.B.



I recently bought a Stevens single-shot .25-20 center fire rifle for \$30.00. But upon trying some Winchester .25-20 ammunition, I find that the chamber is not large enough for this shell, although the muzzle is much too large for the bullet. It is a Model 44 single shot marked, "J. Stevens A & T Co., Chicopee Falls, Mass. USA Pat. Apr. 1894." The action is of the falling block design. Can you tell me just what ammo this gun takes?

Freddie Butt Deleware, Ohio

The .25-20 Single Shot and the .25-20 Winchester are different cartridges with different dimensions. You might contact the Connecticut Cartridge Co., Box 345, Plainville, Conn., as I understand that this outfit is currently making the .25-20 cartridge case and you might try handloading. Or, you might have the condition of the rifle checked out and if suitable have it re-chambered for the .25-20 Winchester. S.B.

# 7.62 Blanks

I recently got ahold of 500 rounds of 7.62mm NATO blank machine gun ammo in belts. I want to resize these shells to fit another gun but don't know how to best open up the neck and resize and trim them.

Paul Greenfield Bandallstown, Md.

In order to open-up the "bullet" portion of your NATO blanks, simply file, grind or polish a long taper on a 30 caliber expander button. Make the button small enough at its lower end to enter the case mouth, then use it in the normal fashion to open up that portion of the neck to the same diameter as the rest. This procedure will be simplified if you drop a tapered punch into the case mouth and tap it gently to remove the original crimp and flare the mouth slightly. G.C.N.

# Case Coating

I purchased one of J & G's case tumblers for cleaning my brass and would like to know about the coating of rouge left in the cases. The exterior of the cases have a slight coating but the inside has a very visible red color. Will this affect the performance of my handloads?

William Rotherforth Rocky Hill, Conn.

The very slight trace of red rouge left inside the cases that have been tumbled in the J & G Rifle Ranch medium is not in any way harmful. If you find it objectionable, a relatively short tumbling in un-treated ground nut hulls will remove it. G.C.N.



Sigma Engineering Company, Dept. G, 11320 Burbank Blvd., No. Hollywood, Calif. 91601



# GERMAN HUNTERS INVADE ALASKA

(Continued from page 30)

Winchester, or 7mm Remington Magnum; nearly all of them medium powered, scoped rifles.

A typical rifle brought to Alaska for bear last year was a custom over-and-under by Glaser of Zurich, chambered for the 8x60 Mauser Magnum, made with Böhler antinit steel, and equipped with a four-power Kahles Helia featherweight scope. Known as a Bockdoppelbüchse in Germany, it was sighted in for the 196 grain bullet which put it in the class of the .300 H&H Magnum. The

for brown bear one year. Until the .460 Weatherby Magnum came along, it was the most powerful magazine rifle cartridge being made. Now the Germans are swinging toward the popular .300 Weatherby, and I am sure we will see fewer and fewer European rifles here in their traditional calibers.

Because of its location across the poles from major German cities, Alaska's big game hunting also attracts German photographers. Best known is Martin Schliessler, the tele-



Merkel over-under rifle with detachable side plate.

scope was removable and handy British express-type open sights were available for close-in work.

Another very popular caliber is the 9.3x64 Brenneke, which is the largest and most powerful of the Brenneke line. It does well on all Alaska big game, and many rifles chambered for this cartridge have been used to hunt all over the world. It is in the same class as the .375 H&H Magnum. Some hunters feel the Brenneke torpedo bullets of 286 grains are in a class by themselves. German rifle calibers will run all the way from the 7mm (usually the 7x64 Brenneke) through the 12.7x70 Schuler. A Krieghoff-Schuler magnum bolt action was brought in

vision documentary producer and photographer, who combines filming Alaska's wilderness and mountains with his love of trophy hunting. After lugging a 16mm Arriflex outfit around the bush, he says a nine pound rifle is almost fun.

One German sportsman from Augsburg, Peter Bading, came to Alaska after a visit in British Columbia, liked its wildness immediately and settled down to stay. He first toured and hunted the Brooks Range, then settled in Anchorage where his natural interest in big game hunting led to a taxidermy and fur shop. This ultimately led into an informal outfitting business, specializing entirely in

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West German hunters.

Bading got so good with his .30-06 Husqvarna that the 1964 Boone & Crocket trophy record book contains sixteen entries for him. His polar bear was number 6, his grizzly bear number 25, his brown bear number 33, his black bear number 40, his walrus number 11, and his Dall sheep placed 62 and 78. His entries for moose were 17, 44 and 170, and his caribou held 22, 40, 45, 46 and 157th spots.

Bading has relaxed his big game hunting efforts now, and prefers to enjoy watching his friends, like Dr. Karl Flick of Mercedes-Benz, take trophies. Flick has a reputation for rewarding his guides with products from his factory. One year he tipped his guide with a four-wheel drive all-terrain truck; another year he gave a guide a choice of a Mercedes-Benz sedan. Most guides aren't this lucky, but apparently Dr. Flick enjoys his Alaskan hunting.

What the German hunters enjoy most is the feeling of being in the true wilderness. Unlike the game reserves of Europe and Africa, Alaska's wilderness seems to run forever. The German hunters have known for years what American hunters are just beginning to appreciate—a region like Alaska should be treasured and protected so that there will always be a place where great bears and moose can live to their prime, and be taken in a fair chase. They seem to know what the philosophy of hunting is all about.

# THE CHUCK REST: SIMPLE SHOOTING TOOL

(Continued from page 25)

most hardware stores. The length is one yard and they come in aluminum or steel. If you plan to carry it a great deal, then by all means get aluminum. I recommend the lighter metal but I will admit to preferring steel for my own use. This is because when I happen to be in rocky terrain, I will bang it into the ground with a large stone and I don't have to worry too much about upsetting the struck end or completely blunting the ground point. In my area, I find that I can simply shove it into the ground more often than not and if I do hit a rock, a slight shift in position will let it push in. The point can be filed or ground and is best if made rather blunt so it won't deform easily.

Regarding the spool, I obtained the one shown from a tailor and I like its shape. I have others that I have turned from wood in various concave and flat bottom shapes and some have a felt covering applied with contact cement. If you prefer a soft covering to protect your fine stocks, go ahead and apply cloth, rubber, plastic foam or whatever suits your fancy.

I have purposely held off in describing the clamp because this part is the key to the whole assembly. This is a thumb screw device which is used in chemical laboratories to attach any number of things to metal stands. Most of them will fit any rod from ½" down to ¼". They are most at home on a ¾" rod. The technical name for this device is "Burette Clamp," and they cost less than two dollars. The portion that holds the neck of the test tube or flask may be discarded or, if

you are clever, you may think up a use for it.

Now that we have our thumb clamp to set our rest at any point on the 3/8" rod, we only need one more thing. This will be a long 1/4" bolt to attach the spool to the clamp. Get one long enough and you can cut it off so it pulls up tight on the spool. Remember, to properly cut a threaded bolt, you put a nut on first! Cut the bolt to length, file finish the cut end and then when you remove the nut, it will clean up the threads, right? That bit of advice comes from one nut to another. You won't need that third nut because our bolt goes directly into the thumb clamp. Use a washer at each end of the spool when you install it so you can tighten it firmly.

That about does it! Now all you need is your rifle, ammo and a target. The target can be a paper one to sight in, or if you rifle is already zeroed, you go afield and try to find a temporarily live one. That old over-smart groundhog that always ducks just as you are about to fire will be a dandy example. You shove your new chuck rest in the ground, set her up for a prone shot and wait until old fur face peeks out to see why you are so doggoned quiet. Now you put the crosshairs on his whiskers and start pressing one off. There-he ducked! And I'm glad. It serves you right for setting up so close. If you were any kind of sportsman, you would remember to give your quarry a "fair game" distance. Especially since you are using your new handy dandy chuck

rest. Better luck next time!

# REMINGTON: NEW GUNS FOR 1972

(Continued from page 21)

and a new primer.

Along with the shotshell offering, Mike Walker, announced a new benchrest .224 bullet, of 52-grains weight, hollowpoint, which has shot into .24" repeatedly and has gone as small as .16" during 15-shot tests. There is also a new 100 grain, .25-06 Pointed Softpoint bullet of "Corelokt" design which indicates 3300 fps MV and a muzzle energy of 2420 ft. lbs. The company has decided to drop the terminology ".244 Rem." and hereafter will use only the designation "6mm Rem." In this regard there is a new 90-grain bullet for the 6mm, that will deliver 120 fps more velocity than the older 90-grain for the .244. It will hit 3320 fps MV.

With special regard for those shooters who are armed with the 2-inch barrel revolver, Ed Barrett, has a 95-grain semi-packeted hollowpoint for the 38 Spl. which will churn up 985 fps from this chopped off muzzle. The new 158-grain 38 Spl. has a lead semi-wadcutter slug with the ability to perform well on game animal or paper target. It delivers standard velocities. Finally there is a new .357 magnum loading. It fires a new 125-grain semi-jacketed hollowpoint. Velocity from

an 8%-inch barrel is given at 1675 fps MV.

The most popular autoloading shotgun today is the famous 1100. It is the handiwork of the extraordinarily gifted designer, Wayne Leek. All you need do is to visit any skeet field anywhere in the country and you will count more 1100's than any other shotgun. It is equally true on any game farm, duck resort or shooting place. During the skeet nationals last year, I counted more of the Remingtons in the hands of the winners than any other scattergun. The company has now made an entire family of these selfloaders. There are 12's, 16's, 20's and 28's as well as that little pipsqueak the 410. The gun may be had with standard chamber or magnum, for uplands shooting or for wildfowl, for skeet, trap or field use.

It is not surprising then that this year at the editors' seminar that the versatile Leek came out with a Model 1100 for the left-hander. That was about all there was left to be done with this remarkable shotgun. Now the southpaw can have his 1100 in either 12 or 20 gauge with the ejection port on the left side and the safety reversed.

# WINCHESTER: NEW GUNS FOR 1972

(Continued from page 20)

\$385. Only the latter will come with Monte Carlo comb. The field and skeet guns have standard stocks.

There has never been a more famous pump action repeating shotgun than the Model 12. It was forced into the discard pile not because there was anything inherently wrong with the design but simply because the cost of production had risen so astronomically it could not be marketed profitably. The decision of the company to reinstate the marvelous "old reliable" at a higher price will be hailed by shotgunners everywhere.

Last year, Winchester came along with a pair of commemorative rifles to honor the 100th centennial of the National Rifle Association. These rifles were both built on the Model 94 lever

action. The first was a replica of the NRA Musket, a rifle originally built around the Model 95 action; the second was the Model 64 lever action rifle, a gun first built in 1933 and dropped from the line in the early '50s. The 64 is the most handsome lever action ever made by Winchester. It has a 24-inch round barrel, halfmagazine, full size stock with pistol grip and a shotgun butt. The gun has a ramp-type front sight, a weight of 7 pounds and is chambered for the .30-30 round. Sold last year as a commemorative, as I have explained, it far out-distanced the NRA Musket. As a result of the extraordinarily fine response by the shooting public, the Winchester brass made the decision to reinstate the 64 as a standard item



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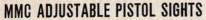


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BARNEY'S CANNONS, INC. 61650 OAK ROAD SOUTH BEND, IND. 46614 this year. There were hints that at some time in the immediate future there would be other cartridges for this excellent rifle. Probably a .33, .34 or more likely a .35 caliber besides the ever-popular .30-30.

There is a bewildering galaxy of new Model 70 bolt action highpowered rifles. There is a standard Model 70 which has a completely redesigned stock; a piece of furniture built of selected American walnut with a new Monte Carlo comb and a pistol grip that has a bit shorter configuration. a little more rounded and better defined. The forend is rounded but it also has some of the flat-bottomed feel of the more popular stocks today. The forend tip is of contrasting black wood and sports white liner spacer. There is another white line spacer at the buttplate. There are detachable sling swivels, an engine-turned bolt, and a bolt handle with knurled head.

The open sights have a white diamond inset in the rear notch to better the aim. The receiver is tapped for scope mounts or a receiver sight.

There is also a Super Grade which is like the standard 70 except the quality of the wood in the stock is fancy figured walnut. Along with these is the new Model 70A. It is a somewhat less costly number than the standard 70. The stock has the same design except it does not sport the black forend tip nor the white line spacers. Along with these is a still less expensive version which has been christened the Model 670. It was in the line last year along with the Model 770. The latter has been dropped for '72. The Model 670, like the Model 70A, is just as sturdy, just as dependable and just as reliable as any of the 70 family. It is simply that stock wood is not as fancy, there are no sling swivels and undoubtedly the wood is something other than walnut. Aside from this these more moderately priced rifles are Winchesters to the very core.

# ATTEMPT TO MODIFY AMMO RECORD-KEEPING

(Continued from page 48)

firearms people there, not a single known instance where any of this recordkeeping has led to a successful investigation and prosecution of a crime." Also, the Treasury Department representative reported that because of the volume of transactions in this ammunition, the recordkeeping requirements have become so burdensome that they tend to detract from the enforcement of other provisions of the firearms laws.

The Committee on Ways and Means of the House which has two times recommended the .22 caliber exemption bills be enacted into law believes the legislation is consistent with the objectives of the exemption provided in 1969. It has twice recommended "dealers and sportsmen (should be exempted) from unreasonable burdens in the purchase of sporting-type ammunition, and to continue protecting the public safety by retaining recordkeeping requirements with respect to the purchase of ammunition designed primarily for handguns."

The Committee twice pointed out that the measure did not affect existing controls of interstate shipments and sales of ammunition of any type by a licensee to certain classes of people such as juveniles, drug addicts, felons, and others subject to the provisions of the Gun Control Act of

The committee has also reported that enactment of the bill would not cost anything but could represent a savings. The idea is that the fewer regulations you have it will cost less to carry out those regulations.

The House side of Congress passed such a measure last Congress. However, it was stopped cold in the Senate. Referred to the Senate Finance Committee after passing the House, it never again saw the light of day.

It was late in the 91st session before the measure reached Senate Finance and other bills took priority, so the measure had to start all over again with the start of the 92d Congress. Again the House Ways and Means Committee reported out a bill recommending the exemption of .22 rimfire ammunition, but again, late in the first half of the Congress, so other bills got preferred consideration before the House.

All the reasons for not taking the measure to the House in the first half are not clear, but this GUNS contributor has been told by persons in a position to know, Wilbur Mills, Chairman of the same House Ways and Means Committee that recommended enactment of the measure, was the guy that held it up. A phone call to the Committee and to the Arkansas Democrat's office has not

produced any results.

Congressman Mills is generally considered a "friend" of the shooting sportsmen. However, when the 1968 Gun Control Act was introduced his committee had hearings unconcluded on other gun legislation. The 1968 Act was written to bypass his committee and get into the hands of the House Judiciary. Mr. Mills did not object.

In the Senate, regular readers will recall. Senator Dodd's Juvenile Delinguency Subcommittee was holding hearings on the use of firearms by

juvenile delinquents. When the gun bills before the 1968 Act were introduced they went to the Commerce Committee. They were referred back to Dodd's Subcommittee.

It is this GUNS contributor's educated guess that Mr. Mills, as powerful a man as the Ways and Means Committee Chairman is, and as important as he is to the Administration, was offered the same kind of consideration. Anyway, he did not object although his committee had already developed, as had Dodd's, expertise in the area.



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# PUFF OF SMOKE: POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE

(Continued from page 33)

if his pattern was thin . . . in the center. Nevertheless, he had scored on all his targets so far and he was anxious to get through all four traps so he could see that first 100 straight up on the scoreboard at the clubhouse.

As he worked his way through the fourth and last trap he noticed several chipped targets in a row and began to think again about that thin pattern. Along about the 95th target he heard the scorekeeper call, "Lost!" just after he had fired and realized that it had happened again. His 100 straight had been ruined! Again!

Jack cursed that "thin" pattern as he hurried to his last post. Now he became careless, snapped at several targets and inevitably, lost two more targets out of the last five to end up with a 97.

"I just don't have my old confidence," Jack told a trapshooting friend as they had their after-shooting drink in the clubhouse. "It seems that I'm never sure if I'm going to break the target or not. I don't know what the trouble is but there sure must be something wrong. I don't feel the same when I'm shooting and . . . it's not near so much fun anymore."

"I noticed that you don't "smoke" your targets any more," remarked his friend. "You seem to be chipping and chopping away at them. I remember a few months ago you were really making each target disintegrate into a 'puff of smoke' until . . . you missed one."

"Yeah, I remember those smoked targets too," replied Jack. "I had the choke opened-up on this gun and now I'm beginning to wonder about it. Maybe I made a mistake by having it done. It sure isn't as much fun breaking targets as it used to be."

"They all look the same on the scoreboard, you know," replied his

"I know," said Jack "but I'm still missing a few targets anyway and I don't have the confidence in my shooting ability that I had when I was smoking those targets. When I see those small chips flying off a target, it worries me and I begin to wonder just how small the chips are going to get until there isn't any at all and I get a lost target on the scoreboard."

And so we leave our friend, Jack, the "thinking" trapshooter with his newly rebored trap gun. Like so many serious trapshooters, he still believes that the secret to good trapshooting is in his equipment and he forgets that his own mental attitude is also part of his trapshooting "equipment" and is, in fact, probably the most important piece of equipment of all.

Whether Jack's newly re-choked gun has a too thin pattern or not isn't the real problem with Jack's shooting. If he shot his newly choked gun with the same supreme confidence that he had shot with before the gun's choke was changed, it is probable that his score would have improved a little. But the very fact that Jack's confidence was no longer buoyed up by those beautiful puffs of "smoke" that every trapshooter recognizes as a dead center hit, was a detriment to him. The absence of those reassuring "puffs of smoke" plus the continuing string of split targets and small chips from targets that gave evidence of near misses, began to work on Jack and in the long trail from the first target to the 100th target, there was ample opportunity for worrying about his chipped targets. And as every really good trapshooter knows, there is no room for the "worrier" or for the "thinking trapshooter" in the highly competitive trapshooting tournaments.



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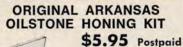
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(Continued from page 17) by legislation but these heavy loads come in for their share of criticism. It is contended that the magnum persuades a certain class of shooter to try out-of-range shots. He lets one go at a flighting of geese that are 80 yards high. He immediately earns the dubious title of "sky-buster," a disparging description abhorred by true sportsmen. Any loading, like any gun, can be sporting or unsporting depending on the user. There isn't anything wrong with the magnum cartridge; the fault lies with the shooter. Legislation controlling guns and loads can only go so far and then it runs into the human equation. We have never been a shooting clan hung up on the repeating scattergun as a butcher's arm. The autoloader and the pump repeater both originated here and

. . .

both have seen most of their useage

on this continent. Both are quite as

sporting as the double-barrel and de-

spite the Scotsman's abhorrence are a

gentlemen's tool.

Most of us like a good mystery, whether it is for real or in the pages of Earle Stanley Gardner or Agathe Christie. But in the end we want the whodunit resolved. It is pretty unsatisfactory to be left dangling with the mystery unresolved. I am afraid I am going to be guilty of just that. Spring a mystery and then make a poor attempt at resolution.

The greatest mystery in shooting circles today is the Remington Model 1100 autoloading scattergun. This rather ordinary looking shotgun is a real puzzler, a shooting iron that breaks more skeet targets than any other and when you attempt to analyze why it does this you are left as nonplussed as a bloodhound at the river edge. The gun is simply a "geewhiz" number when it comes to hitting skeet-rocks. It is the universal choice of all the leading marksmen and this was never more in evidence than at the World Skeet Championships, fired at San Antonio, Texas, last August. Not only do the boys swear by the Model 1100 in 12 gauge but they go right down the line and shoot the gun in the 20, 28 and .410 gauges too.

I am a regular skeet shooter, firing every week the year around. I have been shooting skeet for 30 years and have tried all the smoothbores in the book. The autos, the pump repeaters and the over/unders; in every gauge, with muzzle gadgetry, with all manner of ribs, stocks, sights and triggers; with every length of barrel from 20 inches to 30 inches and with all the

loadings, both factory and homebrewed, that could be dreamed up. I have found after this three decades of experimentation that I can bust more saucers with the 1100 than any other gun. Just like a multitude of others. Most of them better shooters than me, some about the same, and others poorer.

. . .

I have studied the Remington at great length; viewed it, hefted it, pondered it and fired it at pattern sheets, and at game and watched my reaction and that of other shooters. I have tested it for balance and feel and maneuverability, have torn it down and analyzed each major part and all the minor ones. Whatever it is that this gun has is carefully shrouded in mystery. It cannot be the balance for it balances in the same spot as most repeaters, about the forward end of the receiver. It can't be the weight for it is very much garden-run on that score. It weighs 71/2 pounds which is about par for the course. It has the old cut-and-dried stock measurements, 14"X11/2"X21/2", which you will find on more scatter guns today than any other measurements. If you run an inside mike down the bore you will find no mystery there. It is right down the line.

The 1100 has no special trigger pull. It is usually pretty good but nothing to go into fits of ecstacy over. The hammer fall is fast enough but nothing unusual. Ignition is okay but again not any thing to rave over. So what is it this gun has that others seem to lack?

My experience with the 1100 has been that I break more skeet targets with it in 12 gauge than any other of the 1100's. This is to be expected because, quite logically, the 12 holds more shot. For all that I almost equal the 12 with the 28 which holds only 3/4-ounce of shot. And my scores with the .410 and its piddling little shotload, a mere 1/2-ounce, always please me immensely. I once had the Model 1100 in the 20 gauge lightweight, a gun designed by Remington engineers not for skeet but for uplands game shooting, at a weight of 61/2 pounds. I could not do good work on the flying claybirds with this shotgun. I believe. maybe if I'd had the standard skeet model which weighs 7 pounds I'd have probably been alright but the 1100 Lightweight was simply too feathery. The .28 gauge and the .410 have 3/4-pound weights screwed to the forward end of the magazine and these add enough heft so the smaller gauges have a feel not unlike the twelve gauge. This makes them handle, point and swing very honestly.

While I shoot better with the 12, as I have said, the 28 is my favorite and I shoot it in preference to anything else.

With a consistent experience running back over the past several years with the Model 1100, it would seem that I ought to have some pretty cogent notion as to why the shotgun shoots so well. I am frank to confess that I do not know. Suffice to say it outguns the others and has demonstrated this ability so many times there cannot be any doubt whatever about its superior pointability. A mystery; fathomless and intriguing.

New Targets

Jim Bainbridge has a spanking good sighting-in target for use with scope sights. Those glasses with really fine crosswires, the tapered crosshairs, and even the post work well with the Bainbridge target. It is put up on yellow paper with an aiming center which is a sort of cloverleaf. This cloverleaf subtends 8-inches but has an inner circle of 3-inches. The crosshairs are laid over the very middle of the target and the "wings" of the cloverleaf serve to obviate canting. I am no lover of the standard crosshair as a scope reticle. For general big game hunting the post is a whale of a lot better. It is easier and quicker to find in heavy cover, bad light, and under a myriad of gamefields conditions. Tests of several of my post reticles on the Bainbridge target show that it is excellent for them, too. A dozen sell for 79¢ which is pretty moderate. Jim Bainbridge is located at Box 12066, Denver, 80212.

Col. Charles Askins.

Browning .380

The new Browning .380 auto pistol was forced on the company by the 1968 federal firearms law. The original .380, first designed by John Browning in 1910 and modified and improved in 1922, was ruled off the course by the IRS "point" system. It could no longer be imported from FN in Belgium. The latest .380 overcomes the "point" handicap with a longer barrel, target sights, a stock with a thumb rest and a hook on the magazine. The pistol weighs 23-ounces, with an overall length of 71/16" and a barrel of 47/16inches. It holds 6 rounds in the magazine and a 7th cartridge in the chamber. There is an indicator which protrudes through the butt end of the slide and shows there is a round in the chamber and the pistol is cocked. It may be felt in darkness. The extractor also protrudes outward and further indicates a cartridge is up the spout.

The sights are target type, the rear

adjustable both ways and the front a ramp-mounted partridge. The grip has a semi-thumbrest on the right side. These are concessions to the IRS point system, as explained. This is a pocket pistol and such innovations seem a trifle out of character. The trigger pull lifts 8 pounds 7 ounces, and the grip safety requires 12 pounds of pressure to depress it, and a round cannot be dropped into the extraction port and then loaded. It won't pass through the port. It must be loaded in the magazine and then worked into the chamber.

Test fired with Winchester, Remington, Browning and Super-Vel ammunitions the new Browning never missed a stutter. It digested the various loads and shot good groups despite the heavy trigger. The list price is an appealing \$76.50.

Col. Charles Askins.

Browning Ammo

The Browning Company has entered the ammunition field. There is now a full line of centerfire rifle and handgun cartridges. It is reasonable to believe that sometime soon the company will offer both rimfire and shotgun ammunitions. A test lot of the new cartridges, which are made by the Amron Corp. for Browning, included .22-250 Rem., 6 mm Rem., 7 mm Rem. magnum, and 30-06. In handgun fodder there is .38 Spl., .357 magnum, 9 mm Luger and .45 ACP. The '06 included only 20 rounds which are hardly sufficient for a conclusive field test. The load was a 125-grain softpoint, jacketed with gilding metal. Ten rounds indicated bullet weights only varied 2/10-grain. This is excellent. The powder charge was 54 grains of what looked like DuPont 4895 powder. The 10 powder charges varied 2/10-grain, which again was extremely small. The Browning box which holds the cartridges says the muzzle velocity is 3200 fps. On the Oehler chronograph with new Remington Model 742 autoloader the average velocity for 5 rounds came out to 3147 fps MV, which is close enough. A 5-shot group at 200 yards measured 4.10 inches. Good accuracy for the 125-grain bullet and the auto rifle. With one box of cartridges you cannot be too definitive but it looks like this is good ammo.





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Box 1133

# STANDARD RIFLE: A SPORTSMAN'S NIGHTMARE

(Continued from page 36)

tractor assembly was already opening while hot powder gases filled the barrel, and those powders seeped backward to surround the brass case as it was loosened from the chamber walls. Indeed, when the expanding gases in a modern semi-automatic centerfire hit bleeder valves, the projectile still has half the barrel to negotiate, which places prolonged pressures on pistons for positive performance.

Final criticism of the Standard Rifle has it that a combination of abundant linkage, muzzle-end bleed-off, friction, and low pressure cartridges made it impossible to time the piece properly. Gunsmiths almost unanimously agree that it was a nightmare with which to work. One repair led to another problem, and satisfaction was nowhere in sight. The time involved was normally out of proportion to what one could charge for the job.

What about accuracy? An elderly gent with whom I once spoke claimed his Standard Rifle, when set on semi-automatic, would do groups of 4-6 inches at 100 yards when shot from a bench rest using the original open sights and factory loads of .35 Remington ammo. That would have sufficed for broadside shots on whitetails out to about 150 yards. But if the old buck angled off or presented a smaller target through the brush, it would have made things a mite chancy.

Of course, I do not really know what shooting ability that kindly gent possessed, and it is possible that a skilled rifleman, using tailored handloads and a scope atop the Standard, could whittle those groups down to 2-3 inches despite the sloppy trigger. Such grouping has always been acceptable accuracy for Eastern whitetails in brush and timber country. But that's sheer hypothesizing, and I have never actually heard from anyone who claims better than 4 MOA accuracy from a Standard Automatic.

The old gent also complained that he seldom ran through a full magazine of cartridges without getting at least one malfunction. Sometimes the clunker balked with every shot he fired. Many malfunctions came on the initial shot through a cold barrel, and smokestack jams were common. Failure to eject the first fired cartridge was frequent when the Standard Automatic had been carried for hours in freezing weather, and more than a few bucks lived to enjoy the November rut because a Standard Automatic flopped on follow-up shots.

Modern hunters may well look askance at the 2-in-1 Standard Rifle and ask, "Why? Why design a semi-automatic that can be converted into a pump-gun by minor adjustments? If somebody wanted a slide action, he'd buy one!"

And, today, the venture does seem silly. But our gas-operated models generally function reliably, whereas the Standard Automatic didn't. Before World War I, the theory and practice of designing and producing gas-operated sporting arms were not completely mastered by all inventors and manufacturers (although one is left to ponder what might have happened if a genius like John M. Browning had been invited to tinker with the Standard), and the possibility of gun failure in the field was a reality. Undoubtedly, then, the pumpgun features were incorporated as an admission of failure-failure to design and build a dependable semi-automaticand the pumpgun potential was, in effect, for emergency use. When the gas-operated mechanism balked, a hunter could close the bleeder valve, engage the slide handle, and continue with a trombone-action repeater instead of being caught afield with a busted or inoperative autoloader that could only be used as a single shot.

Thus, the Standard Automatic was the product of scientific shortcomings. Its sole contribution to the development of sporting firearms apparently lay in teaching other designers what to avoid; and whoever wrote on page 289 of the Speer Reloading Manual 7 that the Standard Rifle was a "fearful turkey" is guilty of making a gross understatement. Like Kaiser Bill, it commanded no loyalty after the Great War.

But the danged thing sure is interesting!





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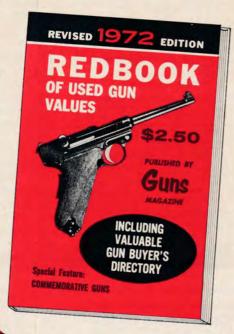
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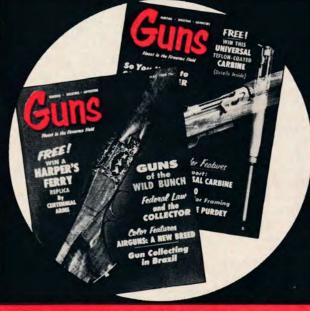


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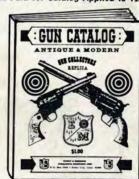
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