cc: C. B. Workman
(no attachments)

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Remington DUPONT

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.
SEPTEMBER 14, 1978

TO: J. W. BROOKS

FROM: W. L. ERICSON

SUBJECT: THREE-POSITION SAFETY: RELEASABLE BOLT LOCK

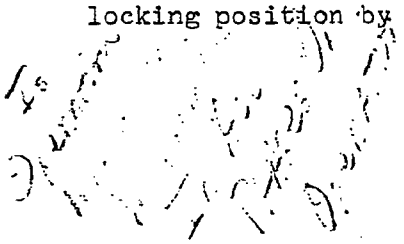
An extensive search has been made for patents relevant to the prototype three-position safety shown in the "C" series photos you supplied us (stamped April 3, 1978 by your Photo Lab). No patents which could raise any infringement risks were found. The following are of interest with respect to the patentability of this design:

1,318,423 - Williams —
2,824,402 - Fischer —
2,869,269 - Couture -
3,138,888 - Brewer —

The Williams, Fischer, Couture and Brewer patents show various forms of three-position safeties having alternate "safe" positions in which the bolt is locked and released. However, it appears to me that none of these is so closely related to your prototype as to foreclose us from obtaining patent protection for it, in the event it is selected for use.

Williams uses a safety bar N which is slidable transversely of the bolt C, and has ribs O that interfere with ribs P on the firing pin F in two "safe" positions, but are cut away at Q to define a "fire" position. In one of the safe positions, the bolt C and its handle D are locked by the projection into a recess U of a spring-loaded detent S (see Fig. 9); but this detent retracts into a notch T_2 in the safety bar in its remaining two positions.

Fischer has a bolt lock button 12, 13 engageable with a notch 14 in the bolt 2 of a Mauser action (Fig. 4); this button carries an interlock pin 26 which is engaged by a safety lever 23 in its "fire" position 23A, to unlock the bolt. In an intermediate "safe" position 23B, the firing pin 4 is locked by a safety pin 19 (see Fig. 5), and the button 13 can be manually operated to either lock or unlock the bolt. In a second "safe" position, shown in solid line at 23 in Fig. 4, the button 13 is held in the locking position by a notch 28.



Couture bears some resemblance to our Walker Patent 2,514,981 in that a bell crank lever 28 serves both as a safety and a bolt lock. However, Couture provides for three safety positions rather than two; these positions are determined by a spring-loaded lug 60 engageable in any of three recesses, shown unnumbered in Fig. 2. The safety has a stop member 54 which locks the trigger in either a rear or an intermediate position, and a longer arm 55 which engages a notch 57 in the bolt only in the rear position. (This mode of operation is the reverse of your prototype).

Brewer employs a sliding safety 190 that has a screw 228 which locks the trigger, and a lug 230 which engages a locking notch 234 in the bolt, in the rearmost safety position shown in Fig. 12. Forward movement to an intermediate position keeps the trigger locked, but disengages the lug 230 from the bolt notch. Incidentally, there are only two detent notches 229 and 231, which correspond to the rear "double-safe", and "fire" positions: so feeling the intermediate position would appear to be somewhat uncertain.

To summarize, the prior art most nearly related to your design is the Couture patent, but this is a one-piece trigger safety and bolt lock that is readily distinguishable both in construction and mode of operation. Patent protection should be obtainable on your prototype.

There is a mention in earlier correspondence of a three-position safety in the Model 725. If you have a sample, we might compare it.

Bill Ericson

W. L. ERICSON
SENIOR PATENT COUNSEL

WLE/dt
Attach.(5)

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