

SPORTSMAN 58 AUTOLOADER (con't)

Cost of the accepted A Grade checkering was discussed. The Plant expects that such checkering will be comparable in cost to current machine checkering.

Weight - Research & Development reports that weight of this item has been reduced to 7 pounds, 4 ounces, by systematic lightening of barrel, magazine cap, fore-end, butt stock, and butt stock fasteners.

Four ounces have been removed from the barrel along by providing an abrupt taper immediately forward of the receiver. With this abrupt taper, the barrel becomes substantially cylindrical throughout its length. The Sales Department considers the revised barrel contour to be unacceptable from an appearance standpoint. Maintenance of the pleasing Sportsman 58 barrel contour is desired by Sales despite the realization that revision of barrel contour is an effective means of reducing gun weight. It is possible that some compromise in barrel contour may be made, which would be acceptable to Sales.

Shell Carrier and Trigger Coloration - Research and Development reports that attempts to provide Cyanide Black coloration on the shell carrier have resulted in dimensional and tempering changes which make carriers functionally unacceptable.

The Sales Department reiterates its desire for a blue-black carrier and trigger. Research & Development is investigating other potential coloring processes.

Receiver and Bolt Decorations - The pattern for receiver and bolt decorations has been accepted by the Sales Department, but roll engraved receiver and bolt samples are required for Sales Department review and approval. These items will be prepared by Research & Development after slight die revisions are made.

Receiver - The Research & Development Department reviewed in detail their investigation of receiver cracking. Work was concentrated on elimination of cracking at the forward receiver bridge, since cracking at the operating handle slot has been eliminated by the rearward stress relief cut.

The barrel extension is a strong factor in forward receiver cracking, and for this reason consideration is being given to reemployment of a long barrel extension overlying the bolt to redistribute receiver stress. Two guns with long barrel extension are being tested. There is a strong probability that the long barrel extension will be necessary in production.

The Committee requests that costs of the long barrel extension and its effect on project timing be submitted for review.