

FIREARMSWOOD PRESS FORMINGMODEL 870, 12-16-20 GAUGE FORE-ENDS

Production reported that this process is in production one shift per day. Appearance of the Fore-ends is excellent. Cracking of Fore-ends during pressing is a major problem. It is estimated that a minimum of three months will be required to determine whether or not cracking can be reduced to an acceptable level. Study to date indicates the cause is directly related to the condition of the blank prior to press form:

- . Insufficient moisture content
- . Improper carved geometry - outside shape
- . Non-uniform Receiver clearance cuts in the blank

Weathering and shooting tests are being made to determine at what level cracks are significant and are cause for rejection of a Fore-end.

SHOTGUNSMODEL 3200 SHOTGUN
(Introduction 1973)

R & D reported that one of the production pilot lot guns was fired 52,500 - 3 inch magnums, 90% through the top Barrel. This gun experienced three problems: 1) the Ejector Cam Plate broke at 33,100 rounds, 2) crack started on right side of Frame at 38,000 rounds, 3) broken Tang Block Screw at 18,000 rounds.

The Tang Block Screws are now being heat treated. Drawings for wide Ejector Cam Plate have been transmitted to Production.