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August 16, 1949

PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

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INFORMATIVE BULLETIN #21

SUBJECT: STOCK DIMENSIONS ON MODELS 721, 722, 742 and 762 RIFLES

Recently there has been some difference of opinion with respect to the Stock dimensions of the subject rifles for use with open sights and, therefore, it seems advisable to review the steps that were taken to ensure that the functioning, appearance and other characteristics of these new arms were satisfactory before introducing them to the trade.

In the instance of the Model 721, a quantity of rifles was sent to various Sports Writers throughout the country about January 1946, or two years before announcement, for their examination and criticism with respect to overall performance, appearance and general acceptability. Similarly three rifles were sent to each of eleven Field Representatives for test, comments and recommendations in accordance with G. E. Pinckney's letter dated October 31, 1947. Abstracts from the reports on these thirty-three rifles were consolidated in a memorandum by the undersigned dated December 23, 1947. General comments were most favorable and no definite recommendations were submitted by these groups for changes in Stock dimensions.

Since the introduction of the Models 721 and 722, many favorable reports have been received with respect to the suitability of the Stocks particularly for use with open sights and as evidenced by sales volume these rifles have had a wonderful reception. However, to obtain a current opinion on Stock dimensions, G. E. Pinckney sent a telegram on July 13, 1949 to each Field Representative listed below. The telegram read as follows:-

"Do you consider the heel and comb drop of standard stock on Model 721 satisfactory for open sights? If not, what changes would you recommend? Please wire answer."

Replies are listed herewith:

C. V. Bracher: "Retel Model 721 Standard stock for open sights OK at comb Would like to see less drop at heel by using longer butt plate"

W. D. Harrison: "Have had no complaints on stock dimensions for iron sights but some think butt stock too skimpy Another few ounces here would not hurt"

L. W. Johnson: "I consider stock dimensions on the Mod 721 most satisfactory for iron sights Talking with several hundred users of the gun here in the North West further substantiates my opinion"

- E. H. Kuhlman: "Retel Consider present stock ideal for open sights Stop Have received numerous compliments not a single criticism Strongly urge no change in this excellent stock"
- R. C. Miller: "Present stock dimensions on 721 seem to be satisfactory to consumers and dealers in this section No complaints received from users or prospective buyers"
- C. C. Mitchell: "Hi comb on Model 721 would be more acceptable as standard for open peep or telescope Hi comb can be reduced by shooter who desires excessive drop in stock with less expense than building up present stock"
- Gus Peret: "Retel My opinion standard drop Model 721 with iron sights Okeh. Will fit 95 percent of the shooters"
- C. Richard: "Retel Present Model 721 standard stock perfect with open sights"
- K. O. Scribner: "Stock on 721 OK for iron sights"
- F. E. Morgan: "Retel Personal opinion Model 721 standard stock satisfactory. Checked further with two competent big bore target shooters. Received same expression. No change recommended at present"
- R. L. Lahey: "Believe present dimensions on Standard 721 satisfactory for average shooter using open sights"
- C. G. Baldwin: "I have received your telegram asking for my opinion on the comb & drop of our present Model 721A Standard Grade rifle.

"It is my belief that present stock dimensions are perfect for open sights and would suggest that no change be made. The rifle as is, is a fast natural pointer that fits the majority of the shooters who have a normal build, and after all it is the majority that we must please. True there may be a few technical rifle men that demand straight stocks, but they are in the minority, however, we are now in a position to supply "High Comb Stocks" for those that plan to fit receiver or telescope sights on these rifles.

"The rifle as is gives very little recoil with maximum loads such as 30/06-220 gr. Many shooters consider this due to the present drop. It is light and easy to carry. Also mention the fact that field shooters demand a gun with medium amount of drop. Shotgun shooters are pleased with new model 11-48 autoloader for the fact that it has 2-1/2" drop at heel, further, I would like to suggest that plenty of drop be built into our proposed

new center fire rifles that we plan to announce in the near future.

"Yes, George, give 'em plenty of drop, all of 'em want it with the exception of trapshooters."

It was recognized from the beginning that, as in the case of the old Model 30, a high comb stock should be furnished on special order for the Models 721-722 for use with telescopic or receiver sights. The high comb stock was announced in January, 1949.

After a careful review of all the comments, reports and criticisms to date, it is the consensus of opinion of Products Committee members that no change should be made in the Standard Stock dimensions of the Models 721-722, or the contemplated dimensions for the Models 742-762 rifles and the Model 870 shotgun.

W. L. Clay
W. L. Clay
Secretary

WLC:VFD