Group discussions then centered on the six prototypes, with their different combinations of functional and aesthetic elements. Statistics for these issues -- compiled on the basis of respondents' ratings and rankings at the end of the group session -- can be found in the Appendix.

Study Versus Barrel Bands and Fore-end Contour Design

These two issues are interrelated because of the fact that
a schnabel design, due to its shape, can only accept barrel
bands versus a regular fore-end contour design which can
accommodate study. This fact clearly affects the preference
of the fore-end design. More than half of the sample in
discussion find the schnabel design (Models Q and S) appealing both aesthetically and functionally. However, because
of the overwhelming strong preference for study (Models T
and R) versus barrel bands (Models Q and S) and hunters'
refusal to give up study for the schnabel, they change their
preference to the regular fore-end contour design (72%) with
study:

"I'm a little man and I have little hands. I like the feel of the schnabel but I sure wouldn't want barrel bands."

"If I couldn't have studs, I'd rather not have anything."