

MONTHLY REPORT - SEPT. 1991: OVER/UNDER SHOTGUN

Two Beretta Model 686 Ultra Light O/U guns have been acquired for competitive analysis. The guns, with 28" barrels chambered for 2 3/4" shells, are advertized as weighing 5 lbs. 13 oz.. However, actual gun weight was 6 lbs. for one and 6 lbs. 1 oz. for the other. This light weight is achieved by manufacturing the frame from a high strength aluminum alloy, and shortening the barrel side ribs to extend only from the muzzle to the fore-end. These guns will be subjected to endurance and high pressure intentional abuse tests. If endurance life of these guns is considered satisfactory, Remington also has the option of offering a light weight aluminum framed gun.

Field testing has confirmed that the weak ejection problem, encountered when shooting 3" magnum shells, has been overcome by the new design that increases the ejector's power stroke and force.

Unless there are serious objections from Marketing, the gun model number and/or name, and the serial number, will be roll marked on the underside of the frame in approximately the same location as the M/3200. Fixturing for this operation already exists. All barrel assembly roll marking will be on the mono block - not on the barrel. Because of space limitations, it will be desirable to minimize the "warning" text. Legal will be consulted about this.

The approved master stock is currently being digitized by the N.C. group. Once complete, this data will be used by the CAD group to generate a computer model which will then be used to machine additional stocks and the oversize metal stock former.

Design of the lightweight barrel contour, required to meet marketing's change from a 7 1/2 lb. to a 7 1/4 lb. gun, is complete. New barrels have been manufactured and assembled into two mono blocks. These assemblies also contain a brazed in middle barrel spacer to fill in the gap between barrels. Other parts that had to be remade due to the barrel contour change are nearing completion.

All parts for the new fore-end assembly are complete except for the fore-end iron and fore-end lug. Fore-end wood will be contoured by the Custom Shop when irons become available.

Four potential checkering pattern designs and one set of engraved long side plates are complete and will be shown to the Sept. Product Team for their comments.

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