

years. It will initially be offered in .30-06 Springfield and .270 Win., features a black matte finish with a grey composite synthetic stock and comes complete with a factory mounted and bore-sighted Bushnell Sharpshooter scope. It is designed to be virtually weather proof, easy to maintain when in the field for extended periods, and like the 870, just keep on working. And, it will retail for a little less than \$360.

Sound impossible?

That was my first reaction when I first heard about it. It started a flurry of phone calls to Remington to get more information, and as I started to understand the whole concept, the more I became convinced that it would be the perfect rifle for most of the world's serious hunters. The more information I received on it, the more questions I had, and I was soon reduced to the point where I was begging the Remington folk for the opportunity to take a quick peek at it, handle it, and if possible, shoot it a few times.

Persistence paid off, and eventually I was permitted an early preview with two other outdoor writers who were in the same predicament as I was. Ralph Lermayer, a noted gun writer from New Mexico made the observation before we were introduced to the 710 that seeing a new rifle for the first time is like a blind date. "When that door opens, you never really know what to expect". I was quite prepared to be disappointed when I actually got to see it, but I left the one day session even more excited than before. The blind date was a real success in all respects.

I don't really know what I expected, but at that price I was conjuring up images that were more two by four, half inch water pipe and an odd looking receiver than anything else. I sure didn't expect to see a rifle that looked like a conventional rifle, balanced and handled like one, or shot exceptionally well. I was surprised on all three counts.

The 710 incorporates the use of modern materials, innovative design concepts, and up to date manufacturing techniques that save money, and those savings are passed on to the consumer. It also uses a "component" design that facilitates both manufacturing and repairs should they ever become necessary and it is presented in an attractive yet functional package. Sure, it will pale in the gun rack beside those polished blued steel and fancy figured walnut stocked firearms, but in the wet cold muddy field where it really counts, it will shine.

The heart and soul of this new rifle is the bolt sleeve insert. The receiver on conventional bolt action rifles undergoes extensive internal machining. Guide slots for the bolt lugs, the bolt lock up area, and a host of other machining operations are an essential part of the production process. The inside of the 710 receiver is a straight bore through process, and a silicon and teflon impregnated fiberglass reinforced polymer sleeve handles all of the bolt operating functions. The bolt itself actually locks up in the rear end of the barrel, turning the whole receiver into nothing more than a bolt carrier system.

This insert holds and guides the bolt while it is cycled through the reloading process. There is no slop in the bolt, and tolerances are close, so the pull and return is firm, smooth and even throughout it's entire travel. The presence of the teflon and silicone means that lubrication is not required (some oil can be applied to the bolt for protection only) which is ideal for very cold climates. Test results with a prototype rifle which was fired and cycled 10,000 times showed that the polymer sleeve/bolt exhibited less wear than traditional steel to steel contact. The insert is held in place with a single screw, and can be removed for a thorough cleaning if it ever gets dunked, or exposed to a salt water environment.