

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.

The sleeve also incorporates one side plate of the trigger assembly. Model 700 parts are used for the trigger system, and it is preset at the factory at 3.5-5 pounds. The trigger is adjustable, but for liability reasons, it is sealed at the factory. Any adjustment except by a Remington authorized gunsmith renders them free from liability claims which may arise and cancels any guarantees associated with malfunction.

The safety does not lock the bolt, so it is operable in both positions, an added safety feature for unloading the chamber. The bolt release is an external lever on the upper left side of the stock which must be flicked up to remove the bolt from the action.

The receiver insert/trigger group become one component in this system.

The barrel and receiver housing are a second system component. The 22 inch barrel sports a hunting contour and, like the receiver housing is glass beaded for a matte finish. It is six grooved button rifled and has a right hand one in ten inch twist and comes only bare (without sights) at this point. The recessed crown, often thought of as a target grade crown, is the perfect choice for a hard hunting rifle since it offers the most