

**Linda Powell**

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**From:** Powell, Linda  
**Sent:** 07/19/2004 04:54:58 PM  
**To:** 'Linas Cernauskas'  
**CC:**  
**BCC:**  
**Subject:** RE: Bell's Article

Linas,

The only change is in the first paragraph.

...the .257 Roberts, .250 Savage, etc. and in 2003, the diminutive .221 Fireball.

The .221 Fireball was actually the 2002 Classic. For 2003, it was 300 Savage.

Thanks  
Linda

-----Original Message-----

From: Linas Cernauskas [mailto:Linas@harris-pub.com]  
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2004 11:13 AM  
To: Carter, Teresa; Powell, Linda  
Subject: Bell's Article

Morning,

Please verify the technical details of William's article for our upcoming Annual. The article has been enclosed, as well as pasted below my contact info. Thanks.

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SPORTSMANS GUN ANNUAL 2005

Title: Gun Test:  
NEW REMINGTON  
M700 CLASSIC 8mm

Blurb: The time proven Classic returns with a classic cartridge!  
Byline: By William Bell

When Remington Arms Company introduced their Model 700 Classic in 1978 it came in six popular calibers. Three years later in 1981 Remington initiated a new tradition where every year a Classic Model would be chambered for a different classic caliber as a Limited Edition. The first of these special Classic rifles was chambered for the 7mm Mauser (7x57) and down through the years other calibers have appeared such as the .257 Roberts, .250 Savage, .35 Whelen, .220 Swift, 6.5x55 Swedish, and in 2003, the diminutive .221 Fireball. I received a stack of Remington Press releases in January 2004 and going through them I discovered this year's Classic rifle was chambered for the venerable 8mm Mauser, and that information caused me some little excitement.

So what's there to get all worked up about? Well first off, it's a quality American-made

Remington rifle, in itself a thing of beauty, but in this new 8mm chambering, you can get tons of military ammo, dirt cheap! What do I call cheap? How about a cloth bandolier of 70 rounds in stripper clips for under five bucks? Check with your local gun shop or maybe Shotgun News to see some of these great ammunition prices. Of course, these surplus rounds usually have corrosive primers, but as I always give my rifles a good cleaning after a range session, it's no big deal to me. I don't do much rifle cartridge reloading, so having access to a supply of economical cartridges is a big plus and if I want to hunt with the 8mm, 170-grain soft point commercial loads are also readily available. In 8mm your Remington Classic becomes an economical plinker and you can get in tons of practice before the next hunt.

The 8mm Mauser cartridge, also known as the 8x57mm or 7.92x57mm (S) came into its present configuration in 1905. Previously, the 8x57 case carried a bullet with a diameter of 0.318 of an inch, but in the aforementioned year, the cartridge was improved and the bullet diameter increased to 0.323 of an inch with the "S" or spitzer-type bullet shape. All of the Model 1898 Mauser bolt action rifles since that time have been chambered for the improved 8mm cartridge. This Mauser Model 98 rifle and 8mm cartridge served Germany in both world wars and copies of the M-98 in 8mm continued to be used by many countries worldwide for a number of years after WWII. One of my favorites is the Model 1948, which was manufactured in Yugoslavia. I have a like-new condition military configuration rifle of this type in 8mm Mauser, and as much as I enjoy shooting it, I couldn't wait to get to the range with the new Remington!

#### Gun Details

My test sample Remington 700 Classic arrived at my doorstep just days after the 2004 SHOT Show. It was everything I expected when I opened the carton. A nice looking walnut stock with a soft lustrous finish, and cut checkering on the forearm and pistol grip. The stock appeals to me due to its conservative elegance; no roll-over check piece, pistol grip or forend caps, and none of those appalling white spacers. The plain rubber recoil pad had a black spacer and sling swivels come standard. The tapered, medium weight barrel is 24 inches in length and free-floating for the most part. I could slide a piece of paper down the barrel and under the forearm and it moved freely until it came to the area where the swivel stud is located. The paper would also slide between wood and metal easily once you got beyond that point, on down to the receiver. This version of the Model 700 Classic has the long bolt-action receiver necessitated by the 2.24-inch case length of the 8x57 round. The receiver is drilled and tapped for scope mounts, and open sights aren't provided. The nostalgic part of me would like to see this rifle with a good receiver peep sight and a ramped, gold bead front sight. The portion of the bolt exposed in the ejection/loading port is left in the white and attractively jeweled. The blue bolt handle is checked on the inside and outside of the knob, and the bolt plug of the firing pin assembly protrudes for both a visual and tactile indication that a round is in the chamber. The Model 700 Classic has a hinged floor plate magazine, the catch of which is inside the triggerguard and a 4 + 1 cartridge capacity. A safety lever is located above and just to the rear of the bolt handle. Round in shape and grooved for handy thumb operation - fully forward is the "fire" position and fully to the rear is "safe". The single-stage grooved trigger is crisp with a pull weight of 3.5 pounds.

A close examination of the rear of the bolt disclosed an odd button on the left side, with a curious J-shaped slot in it. This is Remington's new Security System, operated by a key that looks like a small odd-shaped green screwdriver. The metal part of this key is also J-shaped and is inserted into the safety button slot. With the bolt open and to the rear, insert the key into the slot as far as it will go and turn it as far clockwise as you can. When you look at the bolt from the rear, note a white dot is visible on the button. This means the safety device is engaged and you will not be able to close the bolt. To disengage, keep the bolt handle open again and repeat the process only turn the key counter-clockwise, which will expose a red dot and allow you to close the bolt. Never try to force the bolt closed with the white dot showing!

#### Shooting Glass

I wanted a hunting-type scope for the Model 700 Classic and during the SHOT Show I visited the display booth of Optronics. These folks have a line of sporting lights; spot lights, lights for vehicle applications, and this year have added rifle scopes and binoculars to their extensive catalog. From the Horizon BuckRidge series I selected the BuckRidge 3-9x40mm Variable Power Wide Angle, with a weight of 13 ounces and 12.75 inches in length with aluminum alloy construction and black anodized finish. The optics are fully coated, and the scope is waterproof, fog proof and shock proof. My test scope has a Mil-Dot reticle for multiple aiming points and the Wide Angle feature of the scope gives a 10% greater field of view. The elevation and windage adjustment are quarter-inch click and the knobs are turned by hand. The left side of the scope is adorned with a gold BuckRidge emblem. The Horizon scope is backed by a lifetime warranty for the original owner, regardless of the cause of damage. Now that's a guarantee befitting a knock-around hunting scope. ATK was contacted regarding mounts and provided a set of Weaver Grand Slam bases (S35 48224) and Redfield rings (47242). Both are good quality, solid steel products, with a black matte/satin finish.

#### Ammo & Extras

Next, came the 8x57 ammunition selection and right off I acquired several boxes of Remington Express cartridges, featuring a 170-grain Core-Lokt soft point bullet (R8MSR). These cartridges are precision manufactured and Remington advertises that the Express loads with the Core-Lokt bullets have dropped more game than any other round. I also obtained some Federal Power-Shok and these also have a 170-grain JSP bullet that's slightly more pointed than the Remington projectile. Federal recommends these cartridges in this caliber for medium game, which includes such thin-skinned animals as deer, antelope and black bear. For years Federal rifle cartridges have come packed in plastic slides, which hold ten cartridges each. They have slots and can be worn on the belt, making carrying of extra ammunition a snap.

For the bargain price military surplus loads, I selected cartridges made in Turkey, circa 1940; Ecuador and Czechoslovakia, both circa 1955. Bullets are the pointy, spitzer variety and have cupro-nickel or copper full-patch jackets. I pulled the bullets on these three loads and found that all were loaded with a nitro-cellulose powder in small, black square-shaped flakes. The bullets in the Czech and Turkish cartridges were boat-tail and weighed 198 grains each, while the bullet in the cartridges from Ecuador was flat-based and weighed 155 grains. Time would tell how close to the same point-of-impact these three loads would shoot.

The final piece of equipment I obtained for this test was a Shooter's Ridge Steady Point Rifle Rest, distributed by Onalaska Operations/Outers. This rest is constructed from tubular steel and holds the rifle steady at the forearm and butt for rock steady target practice, sighting-in or even long-range hunting. The rest has a durable powder-coated finish in an attractive green color, and a small leather sandbag made from tan leather that is attached by a Velcro strip. Non-skid rubber feet keep the rest from sliding on the bench and the butt portion (cradle) of the rest is vinyl coated to protect the rifle's finish. There are three points of adjustment on the Steady Point rest; a foot adjustment that raises and lowers the rear support arm, an elevation adjustment that works like a scissors jack, and a fine windage adjustment knob, just below the sandbag. The rest is hefty without being too heavy and virtually eliminates felt recoil for the shooter. That sure makes this old gun writer happy. The rest easily converts for right or left-handed shooters, and collapses without need of tools for easy transportation and storage.

#### Shooting Impressions

The day I had a chance to go to the range it was 79 degrees and a south wind was blowing at 15-20 MPH. This beautiful late March day brought out lots of shooters at the Department of Natural Resources Range. I managed to score a shooting bench, but the target stand left much to be desired for precision shooting as it was a sheet of cardboard stapled to a 2x4 driven into the ground. It moved a bit in the wind, which gave me a good excuse for my groups!

I set up my Steady Point rifle rest and pulled the rest of the gear out of my shooting bag. I had previously bore-sighted the Remington 700 Classic in my backyard, so it only took six rounds of Remington factory ammo to zero-in. I did some preliminary shooting at 50 yards to see where the other ammunition would shoot compared to the Remington loads. The Federal factory load was a couple of inches low at 5 o'clock, the Czech and Turkish surplus cartridges shot about three inches high at 11 o'clock, but the Ecuador Army ammunition with its 155-grain bullet shot over a foot high and about six inches to the right. I decided to forego using this load for my test, as I didn't want to have to do any radical scope adjustments.

Moving to 100 yards, I put up some targets made with used computer paper and Birchwood Casey Shoot-N-C self-adhesive targets. I put five of them in a pattern on the computer paper like five appears on dice. I used the center target as a final "sighter" and the four targets in the corners for 3-shot groups. I had noted some lateral movement of the buttstock of the rifle in the Steady Point rifle rest cradle, so I used a folded hand towel to eliminate the extra space. I was using a pretty uneven wooden plank bench, so it was a bit difficult to move the rest back in place after each shot as it moved with the recoil. Fortunately the elevation and windage adjustments were quick and easy to get you back on target.

I was somewhat surprised when the best 3-shot group of the day at 1.31 inches was scored by the Remington Classic 8mm with the surplus Czech ammunition. I set up my Oehler Model 35P chronograph to do some velocity measurements, and the American commercial loads and military loads compared favorably with the highest velocity round and lowest velocity round averaging a difference of 329 feet per second (fps).

I had no feeding or firing malfunctions of any kind with the Federal and Remington factory 8mm cartridges. The rather aged military stuff was another matter. I noted the Ecuadorian round, while winning the velocity contest, took some "umph" to lift the bolt and eject the empty. A few times I had to stand up in order to get some added leverage to raise that bolt handle far enough for it to unlock. The Czech ammo, while being the most accurate, was also the least reliable. I had a number of misfires and finally found that if the round didn't go off with the first firing pin strike, I would wait for several seconds in

case of a hang-fire and then lift the bolt handle to re-arm the firing pin. The second try always resulted in the cartridge firing.

The Optronics BuckRidge 3-9x scope was cranked up to 9 power and worked very well, giving a sharp and well focused field of view. I especially liked the Mil-Dot reticle. There was no loosening of the scope throughout the firing of almost 200 rounds, a testament to the Weaver bases and Redfield rings. Oh, don't forget to clean the barrel well. I tried a new gun cleaning product called Forrest Professional Copper Remover Foam from Clean Gun, LLC. Spray the foam down a cool barrel, wait 15-30 minutes and remove the foam with a rod and patch. The bore will be bright and shiny.

#### Final Notes

The Remington Model 700 Classic in 8mm Mauser is a Limited Edition for 2004 and won't last long, so you'd better get down to your Remington dealer and check one out before they're all snapped up. I predict the marriage of this fine rifle and time proven cartridge will be extremely popular with hunters and shooters.

#### Specifications: Remington Model 700 Classic

Caliber: 8mm Mauser (7.92x57/8x57)

Barrel: 24 inches, 1:9.5 inch twist rate

OA Length: 44.5 inches

Weight: 7.25 pounds

Stock: Checkered American walnut stock w/ swivel studs and recoil pad

Sights: None, drilled and tapped for scope

Action: Bolt action repeater

Finish: Blued with "jeweled" bolt

Capacity: 4 + 1

Price: \$683

#### Performance: Remington Model 700 Classic 8mm Mauser

Load	Velocity	Best Group	Accuracy	
			Average of Groups	
Federal 170 JSP Power-Shok	2246	1.78	2.10	
Remington 170 JSP Express	2358	1.69	2.13	
Czech Military Surplus 198 FMJ	2488	1.31	1.75	
Ecuador Military Surplus 198 FMJ	2575	2.43	2.72	

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per second (fps) by Oehler 35P chronograph for average of 5 rounds 10 feet from muzzle, accuracy in inches for four 3-shot groups fired at 100 yards from mechanical bench rest. Temperature 79 degrees, wind from the south at 15-20 MPH.

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Photo Captions:

- A. New for 2004 is the limited edition Remington 700 Classic in 8mm Mauser
- B. Remington Classic has 4-round mag capacity and hinged floor plate. Cartridge nose points to thumb-operated safety lever.
- C. Remington 700's security system will not allow bolt to be closed when engaged. Green-handled key is inserted into J-slot of safety button for activation.
- D. Author fitted rifle with Optronics Buckridge 3-9X40mm variable scope
- E. Test ammo included hunting loads with 170gr. JSPs from Remington and Federal, plus military surplus loads with 198gr. FMJ bullets.
- F. Accuracy testing of the new Remington was done from the bench
- G. At 100 yards. Velocities of the test cartridges were measured with an Oehler 35P chronograph.
- H. The heavy 8mm Mauser bullets bucked the 15-20 MPH wind pretty good and the best 3-shot groups with commercial and military ammunition ran from just over 1.5" to just under 2.5".
- I. A Shooters Ridge Steady Point rifle rest was using during the Remington T&E
- J. and cut felt recoil considerably. Corrosive fouling from the aged military cartridges was eliminated with Clean Gun's Copper Removal Foam.

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