

...assessing how much wobble or slop there is in various positions (more tolerated in the fully open position), checking for close tolerances (also a cue to durability)...

"The bolt just rattles and rattles -- but when I close it, it's solid."

"I would feel the action. If there's a lot of slop and freedom, that would tell me it's probably going to wear out faster than one whose bolt fits nicely."

...or noting the action design. Frequent reference is made to the Mauser type action with its (perceived) stronger, larger extractor:

"It takes a bite on the cartridge -- a whole quarter-inch instead of a sixteenth. So if you get some dirt in the chamber or a burr on the rim instead of pulling through the rim on the cartridge, it'll yank the thing out of the chamber." (Ruger)

Other action pluses mentioned include a short, fast throw; an enclosed bolt head (a few); and an easily removed bolt.

"It had a very short-throw bolt action; it was just crisp all the way down. The working of the mechanical work was just beautiful; -- a short throw, crisp!"

"I have never cared for Ruger's bolt stops; that's definitely a two-handed operation, getting that bolt out of there."

Safety. General agreement exists on a stated desire for a safety that is quiet...

"If it makes any noise at all it's too noisy. Mine's been modified so it's not noisy." (Ruger)

...is solid, not flimsy, and smooth yet positive in action, without being subject to accidental shifting...

"When you move it, it's hard to know whether it has reached safe or whether it's only half way there because there's no click, no positive click to it."

"If you grab it in the wrong place [Remington Model 788], this portion of your hand will shove the safety off."



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