

Wood — Type and FinishClaims

All four competitors advertise the use of genuine American walnut in their stocks along with cut checkering on both the pistol grip and forearm. Browning also adds that their stocks are sealed with a high gloss weather resistant urethane finish.

Investigation

A finish sales representative visiting the plant was given stock samples from the four competitors rifles. His comments on each sample are as follows:

Ruger

Wood - American walnut

Finish - The finish system from his previous knowledge of this product is fill, vinyl sealer and scuff. The top coat is an oil modified oxidizing urethane which is hazardous because of spontaneous combustion. Adhesion is poor.

Browning

Wood - Claro walnut ?

Finish - Either conversion varnish or urethane. Adhesion is good.

Smith & Wesson

Wood - ?

Finish - Conversion varnish or urethane with good adhesion.

Winchester

Wood - American walnut

Finish - Either conversion varnish or urethane. Finish is buffed and has poor adhesion.