

Firing Pin Change

First quantities of the revised firing pin are expected during the week of October 8, and will permit immediate assembly in the Model 870 and the Sportsman-58. If no difficulties are encountered, it is expected that the new firing pin will be adopted in the Model 11-48 and the Sportsman-48 about the first of the year.

Receiver Rail Support

A project covering the necessary expenditures has been approved, and it is anticipated that the change can be made by February, 1957.

Revised Magazine Spacer

The nylon magazine spacer is now being assembled in some guns, and the use of the pin-type spacer will terminate shortly.

16 and 20 Gauge Guns

Thirteen guns in 16 gauge were tested by Sales Department representatives, and gave an overall malfunction rate of 1.2 per cent, or 44 malfunctions in 3,575 rounds. Only five of the thirteen guns gave malfunction rates in excess of 1 per cent.

Most of these guns have now been returned to Ilion and have been examined. In general, the defects found in the field have been confirmed at Ilion. The most common complaint in these guns was the failure to feed Winchester Magnum shells from the magazine. This difficulty has been largely overcome through the assembly in these guns of the nylon magazine spacers referred to above. The Ilion Plant expressed their appreciation for the observant and helpful comments of the Field Representatives, which have permitted them to recognize and correct some other potential sources of difficulty.

Thirteen 20 gauge guns were also tested. Two of these gave high malfunction rates, and were withdrawn from test. Disregarding these two guns, the overall malfunction rate was .8 per cent. The most frequent serious complaint was failure to connect resulting in failure to fire. The most probable cause of this difficulty was dirt lodged in the fire control mechanism, since in two cases it was overcome by simply cleaning the fire control and re-assembling. In these cases there was insufficient free play, making the guns susceptible to this difficulty. Ilion will watch this point closely to insure that, when regular assembly starts, some free play is provided in the fire control.