

The use of the aluminum grip cap has caused operating problems, and a consistently uniform appearance has not been obtained. In addition, the costs are very high. Since it is now necessary for Ilion to re-order grip caps, a decision must be made concerning the retention of this design. Among the possibilities considered were the use of the duck design currently used on several models, the use of the scroll design now used on high grade models, the development of a plastic grip cap similar in appearance to the present aluminum grip cap, and retention of present design.

The following approximate costs were given (material, labor, and burden):

Duck	39-1/2 cents
Scroll	44.8 cents
New plastic design	35 to 45 cents
Present aluminum cap	71 cents

After some discussion, the committee recommended to the Ilion Plant the immediate adoption on the Sportsman-58 of the scroll-type grip cap, attached with a Phillips head screw. Since this is not considered a completely satisfactory solution, they were encouraged to continue development of an alternate design.

16 and 20 Gauge Guns

The 16 and 20 gauge guns were announced on December 27, 1956, and both guns are now going to the warehouse.

A total of 4,038 - 16 gauge guns was delivered in December against the schedule of 4,100 submitted December 11, 1956. The quality of these guns is considered to be satisfactory.

It has been necessary to develop a separate cap for the 20 gauge guns in order to handle the 26-inch and compensated barrels. The difficulty of ejectors tearing through the rims of Winchester magnum shells has apparently been overcome through the minor changes in the ejector previously discussed. These difficulties have led to a delay in delivery of the 20 gauge guns to the warehouse, and against a schedule of 1,000 to 1,500 in December, 76 were actually delivered, and an additional 231 on January 5. The Ilion Plant believes that from now on guns can be delivered as required.

Twenty 20 gauge guns, each with two barrels, will be supplied in approximately two weeks for gun writers. In addition, forty-three each of 16 gauge and 20 gauge guns with single barrels are being prepared for field representatives. Sales urged that these guns be shipped as promptly as possible. Five 20 gauge guns have already been delivered to Sales for their evaluation.