

FIREARMSSHOTGUNSWOOD MOLDING

The ERD program for short Stock wood molding has progressed to a point that a pilot line for the Model 870 is being proposed. The present Stock process including RK-W finishing requires twenty-six (26) operations from the carving through finishing. The proposed molding process as now visualized will be approximately six (6). Samples of the proposed and present Stock operations were explained to the Operations Committee. The comparison of operations is shown as Table 1.

It was reported that this unconventional process for finishing wood could be extended to Fore Ends. The proposed process provides for a molding compression in the range of 2 to 3%. The carving operation must produce a finish that when molded will be free of carving imperfections. To do this, refinements to existing commercial copy lathes are indicated or the development of special equipment by Remington.

The process provides that after molding to size, an RK-W finish will be applied in order to provide a match with the Fore End. In the final molding, the checkering pattern is included. A more uniform pattern should result. The Butt Plate and Grip Cap are assembled in a final operation that may be before or after the RK-W finish. The Butt Plates and Grip Caps will be molded to size for as near a match as possible with the molded Stock.

The present process provides five coats of RK-W finish. The proposed would be two sealer dip coats and three coatings of RK-W.

The ERD representative stated that with the lower area reductions and the double dip of the sealer used before molding, the stability and weatherability of the Stock equaled that produced by the conventional RK-W finish process.