

FIREARMSWOOD PRESS FORMINGMODEL 870, 12-16-20 GAUGE FORE-ENDS

R & D reported that complete and consistent elimination of a visible parting line in the checkering of the Fore-end, resulting from pressing in the three-piece die, has not yet been possible. Two potential solutions to this problem have been studied in detail:

1. Modify the parting line edges of the checkering patterns to follow the shape of the diamonds thus eliminating the presence of a straight line.
(Sketches were shown to illustrate this proposal.)
2. Re-style the Fore-end checkering pattern to incorporate a "three-piece split design" utilizing the presence of a parting line.

Although this second concept would solve the immediate parting line problems, further review indicated three disadvantages over the first approach:

1. Limited design flexibility in Fore-end patterns. Model 1100 which is contemplated next is a continuous wrap-around design as is the Model 742-760.
2. A new pattern would require more time for design, approvals and fabrication.
3. Press formed Model 870 Fore-ends would not be compatible to existing Model 870 sanded Fore-ends which would prevent startup of partial facilities in conjunction with current sanded Fore-end process.

ERD engineers are confident that the first proposal will eliminate the parting line. Die modifications are being made. Work on Onsrud Carver modifications, special end contour machine and radii sanding fixture is being completed. It is indicated that press formed Fore-ends with this modification should be completed during the week of January 15, 1973.