

CENTER FIRE RIFLES - contd.MODEL 742X - AUTOLOADING CENTER FIRE - contd.

Development of the Model 742X is on schedule. Four prototype rifles will be completed in July; two magnum and two 30-06 with 243 and 25-06 interchangeable Barrels. These rifles will be available for Marketing field testing. Ten additional prototype rifles will be completed in March, 1974. These will be used to determine interchangeability of components and for final testing before release of design in June, 1974.

It is expected that Barrel Assemblies will be interchangeable without factory fitting.

R & D presented a comprehensive review to answer the question - Why a break-action in the new rifle and shotgun program? A summary of the presentation and discussion follows.

The Model 1100 shotgun sells well; has an endurance life of 15,000 to 35,000 skeet rounds or 2000 3" magnum rounds and with a functional performance of less than 1% malfunction - probably the best autoloading shotgun in the world. It makes a substantial profit for the company. Competition is increasingly copying the Model 1100 in appearance, gas system, locking mechanism and other parts.

Seventeen autoloading shotguns were shown, not all of which are produced now - Exhibit 3. Four of these are recoil operated, the remaining are gas operated. Customers have a bewildering array of similar appearing guns, of both foreign and U. S. manufacture, to choose from. Foreign competition, in other product lines, has proven that copying leads to creating new and better products than that copied. What are those that copied doing now?