

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

Production reported that Model 870 Fore-ends were press formed this month using blanks from the Richardson process machine with Magazine Tube hole and end counterbores concentric within .015" TIR. Problems were encountered in the first (profile) press with regard to excessive splitting of the blanks. Cause of the splitting was attributed to a high moisture content of the wood-at time of machining the blanks resulting in inherent stresses as the wood dried. To compensate for this condition, additional supporting of the blank during press form was required. This may solve the splitting problem. 83

Further testing is now in progress to determine die contour matching between the first and second pressing operations. Plating of the dies will be done when this work is completed.

Trial and pilot operation of Model 870 press formed Fore-ends by production personnel is expected to resume in June.

SHOTGUNSMODEL 1100, 20 GAUGE LIGHTWEIGHT SHOTGUN

R & D reported that one Model 1100, 20 gauge lightweight prototype skeet shotgun has been fired 24,500 rounds. The Locking Block made to the new design was put into this gun at 9300 rounds and has not failed. This one gun test will be followed with two more guns with double heat treated Locking Blocks and Action Bars.

It is planned to transmit drawings to Production in June, 1974. Announcement is scheduled for 1976. Standard 20 gauge guns will remain in the line at least one year after the 20 gauge lightweight skeet shotgun is announced.