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REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Remington

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TO: E.J. GARRITY

FROM: R.J. REINECK

SUBJECT: LIGHTWEIGHT HUNTING RIFLES

Any hunter who has carried an eight to nine pound scoped rifle on a week-long mountain hunting trip or even on a one day hunt realizes the advantages of a lightweight firearm. In addition to the weight of his rifle, the hunter who encounters rain, snow, or even very cold weather on his hunt might also find out what effects the weather has on his wood stocked rifle.... particularly if he misses a seven point elk because Mother Nature has changed the point of impact of his gun.

For these and a number of other very good reasons I am recommending that Remington seriously consider the production of a lightweight, fiberglass stocked hunting rifle. This rifle should be produced in at least one caliber large enough to take most North American big game animals yet small enough that it will not produce excessive recoil (i.e.) 7mm-08 Remington. Not only should the stock be made of a lightweight synthetic such as fiberglass or Kevlar, the barrel should be no longer than 22 inches and tapered as much as possible without sacrificing accuracy. If properly constructed, the complete rifle will weigh less than six pounds and under seven pounds complete with scope and mounts.

Several of the more obvious reasons for producing a fiber stocked gun are:

(1) WEIGHT - A synthetic fiber stock will weigh approximately one pound less than a similarly shaped walnut stock. If the barrel is tapered and shortened the net gain in a completed rifle should be 1½ - 2 pounds.

(2) ACCURACY - A synthetic fiber stocked rifle will be consistently more accurate than the same barreled action in a walnut stock. Wood is very sensitive to changing temperatures and moisture conditions. Slight changes can cause the point of impact to change on target while severe changes can cause the shooter to miss the target completely. The stability of fiberglass is unquestionably greater than wood as evidenced by the use of fiberglass type stocks by nearly all serious bench rest shooters.

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(3) WEATHERPROOF - As stated above, weather changes do not cause the point of impact to change with fiberglass stocks. Also eliminated is the problem of finishes coming loose, wood grain splitting and other problems encountered when wood, even wood sealed with a quality finish, comes in contact with inclement weather.

(4) DURABILITY - Under most circumstances a fiberglass stock is stronger and more durable than a walnut stock.

(5) WORKABILITY - Not only can synthetic fiber stocks be molded to closer tolerances than walnut stocks can be turned, if an error is made the hole or barrel channel can be filled with compound and be reworked. This concept means not only less labor from start to finish but a minimum scrap rate.

(6) EXPENSE - Preliminary research disclosed that the total cost of producing a synthetic fiber stock will be equivalent to or less than the cost of producing a 700 BDL stock once economics of scale can be realized.

(7) AVAILABILITY - With the total marriage to DuPont recently completed it would seem natural to develop a synthetic fiber stock for the Model 700. Secondly, we continue to hear about the shortages of good walnut trees....we may eventually run out of walnut but it will be a long time before we run out of synthetic fibers.

The idea of producing a fiberglass stocked rifle is not new. Several small manufacturers are producing custom made synthetic fiber stocked rifles starting at a retail price of $450.00. Most, by the way, are using Remington Model 700 barreled actions for their creations. Ilion R&D has built several lightweight rifles during the last several years and found their performance and features to be most acceptable.

I think it is time that Marketing and Product Planning examine the possibility of producing a synthetic fiber stocked rifle. The advantages of such a firearm are many and I sincerely believe that demand is already present and can be greatly increased through an effective advertising campaign. I have attached several magazine articles by some of the leading firearms writers to support this concept.

R. Reuck

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