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MONTHLY REPORT - JAN. 1993: OVER/UNDER SHOTGUN

The "Peerless" was shown to the gun dealers and public for the first time at the "Shot Show" and was generally well received. Some reservations were expressed about the deliberately mismatched surfaces of the frame, mono-block and fore-end iron. Design and Process changes to match these surfaces are being developed. The perceived loose fit of the side ribs to the barrel was also considered detrimental and is being addressed.

Endurance testing of the current "Field" design, with frames that have lightening cuts and are flame hardened, indicates the endurance life, when shooting only heavy 3" magnum loads, is approximately 30,000 rounds. One gun, shooting a mix of light and heavy loads, is at the 41,600 round level with no major problems yet evident.

Computer finite element analysis and test lab strain gauge readings indicate that there are some highly stressed areas on the frame that will have to be addressed before the gun will be released. To this end, the water table will be raised .100" and its corner radius with the breech face will be increased from .062" to .188". The lightening cut in the top tang behind the breech face will be eliminated and the frame will be heat treated to Rockwell C 42-48. These improvements will reduce the stress level by 60%.

The ejectors, which have been failing at about the 28,000 round level, will be shotpeened in their critical areas to improve their endurance life.

A three gun packaging shake test, to determine the durability of the new foam insert, will be conducted at R.I.T. on Feb.9.

The "blue proofs" for the owners instruction manual have been received from the printer and have been reviewed. Some final changes are being made and some missing graphics completed. The final version should be delivered back to the printer the first week in February. Printing of the manuals will take about ten days.