

The sleeve also incorporates one side plate of the trigger assembly. Model 700 parts are used for the trigger system, and it is preset at the factory at 3.5-5 pounds. The trigger is adjustable, but for liability reasons, it is sealed at the factory. Any adjustment except by a Remington authorized gunsmith renders them free from liability claims which may arise and cancels any guarantees associated with malfunction.

The safety does not lock the bolt, so it is operable in both positions, an added safety feature for unloading the chamber. The bolt release is an external lever on the upper left side of the stock which must be flicked up to remove the bolt from the action.

The receiver insert/trigger group become one component in this system.

The barrel and receiver housing are a second system component. The 22 inch barrel sports a hunting contour and, like the receiver housing is glass beaded for a matte finish. It is six grooved button rifled and has a right hand one in ten inch twist and comes only bare (without sights) at this point. The recessed crown, often thought of as a target grade crown, is the perfect choice for a hard hunting rifle since it offers the most protection. In fact, Ralph Lermeyer refers to it as a Texas floor board crown, since rifles there spend a lot of time in pick-ups, and sooner or later make contact with the floorboards of the truck.

The receiver housing is profiled much the same as the Model 700 and is drilled and tapped for scope mounting, but all similarities end there. The barrel is compression fitted into the housing to exact tolerances. Since the bolt lugs lock up in the barrel, there are no head spacing concerns, and that helps to turn this rifle into a true component system. Bolts are interchangeable from rifle to rifle. Another major departure from the 700 system is that the bolt for the 710 sports three lugs instead of two.

This system also has the potential to be a real tack driver. Production rifles will likely deliver groups of about one inch or slightly larger at 100 yards from the box. Ralph Lermeyer took one of our test rifles home for a photo session, and with a minimal amount of tweaking and the addition of a target grade scope was getting consistent three quarter inch groups. I predict that with a little home gun smithing, and a couple of ounces of epoxy bedding, the vast majority of these rifles will match, or even better those results.

The reasons for this are simple. By locking the bolt in the back end of the barrel, virtually all the bedding problems associated with the action are eliminated. The chamber section of the barrel is where it clamps into the stock with two screws, and the recoil lug is located between these two screws. If the rifle is solidly bedded in this area, with the barrel and the action (the rear tang screw is not necessary for bedding and only serves to hold the action in the stock) essentially free floated, you have just achieved the same thing in a hunting rifle that bench rest shooters have been doing for years. The only flaw in the plan would be if you wound up with one of those odd barrels that just doesn't want to shoot no matter what, and that can happen. Just ask a custom barrel maker.

The bolt features three locking lugs, and this allows for a short 60 degree throw. What this means in layman's language is that when it is in position to be cycled, the bolt handle basically sticks out at a ninety degree angle from the line of the bore. This design leaves plenty of room for the bolt handle to clear the scope while it is being operated. Again, this is an important feature when using the rifle in cold climates where numb, or gloved hands are the norm. The all steel bolt handle is swept rearward and downward and is knurled for a better grip.

The bolt also features Remington's new Integrated Security System (ISS)