

protection. In fact, Ralph Lermayer 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 Lermayer 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) which will be standard on all of their bolt action rifles as well as a sister system for autoloading and pump action firearms.

Easily disassembled for cleaning, the bolt can be maintained in the field. Even the bolt head is removable for thorough cleaning or degreasing as required. The fact that the locking lugs do not have to be head spaced to a screwed in barrel means that bolts are interchangeable between rifles, or can be replaced with out gun smithing if for some reason one becomes lost.

The removable box magazine is constructed from steel with the exception of a synthetic box cover that carries the Remington logo. It sits flush with the bottom of the stock, and is held in place with a convenient front latch system. Once again, it can be quickly disassembled for easy cleaning and maintenance.

The dual stack, center feed system holds the cartridges at the rear of the case and provides for straight line positive feeding. It also eliminates the problems that can cause feed malfunctions due to bent or damaged magazine lips. The downside is that it cannot be charged through the open action, and must be removed to be reloaded, but a spare magazine rectifies