

Model Seven action and the 3 is for the year of introduction) has been updated in both style and modern chamberings.

The new Remington is a very close copy of the famed Model 600 with some exceptions to bring it up to date. The Model 673 does have the famous two-color laminated stock that's done in light and dark brown with a twin band of natural laminates, which keeps the flavor of the older gun. More recently Remington has been leaning towards more classic designed stocks. We first saw it on the Classic Deluxe (CDL) with all the features of the Model 700 without the fancy, high-combed stock. This Guide Rifle also has straight-combed stock with a cheekpiece on the left side.

Even with a shorter than normal barrel length, the gun has man sized proportions. The overall length is almost 42 inches, and it checks in at 7.5 pounds without a scope, rings, bases or ammunition. Length of pull is 13.37 inches over the soft, KickEz type recoil pad and the pistol grip is swept back in almost English style. Made for hunting this rifle has no fancy pistol grip caps or fore-end tips to mar its lines.

Further detailing of the stock includes an intricate checkering pattern that follows the older style. A traditional point pattern, on each end there's an arrow styled pattern that goes rearward into the checkering as it did on the Model 600 series. This is included on both front and rear checkering sections and even with the hardness of the wood and finish, the checkering is done clean and neat.

The outside finish on the gun is polished smooth and a satin finish is added for weather resistance. Areas around the ejection port, pistol grip and bolt handle are smooth and free from burrs sometimes associated with a hard, laminated stock.

The Guide Gun is built on the Model Seven action, which seems odd since it was the Model Seven that took away all the thunder from the original Mohawk rifle. Gone is the dog leg on the bolt handle, instead it comes down straight from the bolt then turns rearward and is capped off by a checkered bolt knob for additional handling qualities. Behind the bolt handle is the safety lever, traditional in operation, forward is fire, to the rear is safe. When on safe, the mechanism allows the bolt to be opened for removal of live rounds, but the sear remains locked. Trigger pull went off my trigger pull gauge, but I'm assuming it is right around 8 pounds.

This is a short action gun, but retains all of the qualities of the larger Model 700 family. Inside the bolt face is both the blade type extractor and the plunger ejector. The gun is locked up at the breech via twin locking lugs and from here back the bolt retains the same diameter for ease of feeding and general operation. On the right hand locking lug there is an anti-bind slot and it works in conjunction with a rail on the inner raceway of the action for smooth cycling of the bolt whether loading a round or ejecting one. For additional access to the ammunition, the floor plate drops down with just a push of the button ahead of the triggerguard. To remove the bolt, push in the small lever that's neatly hidden away under the gun and in front of the trigger.

The 22-inch barrel doesn't exactly fit into the carbine status of the older model. On top of this new gun there is a ventilated rib that is supposed to cut down on rising heat waves much like that of a hunting or competition grade shotgun. It is secured at five different points along the barrel and finished off at the muzzle with that original look-a-like front sight that reminds one of a shark fin or a raptors beak. On top of the front sight there is a white insert which when lined up with the white arrow marking on the rear iron sight, gives you a more than adequate sight picture. The rear sight is adjustable for windage by a screw within and below the rear notch and elevation via an Allen screw in front of that.

The receiver is drilled and tapped for scope mounting. On our test gun, I mounted a Burris Compact 3-9 scope that not only was installed without a hitch, it looks good on this "carbine" type rifle.

Overall appearance of the gun is top rate with the finished stock and blued action complimenting each other. The metalwork, save the floorplate, is polished and blued to a deep luster. With the matte finished scope, rings and bases, the gun is a very handsome rifle to have in your gun rack.

Our test .308 turned out to be just the right combination of power and recoil. For a hunting cartridge there is hardly a better one. While some call it a shortened .30-06 or a stepchild to the .35 Whelen, the .308 proves itself in a shorter gun. Factory ammunition is abundant, and handloaders can rejoice in the amount of components to include bullets, powder, primers and brass.

Shooting Impressions

Remington is famous for out of the box accuracy and this gun continued that tradition putting all the test rounds going into very tight groups. With loads from Remington, Hornady and Winchester in bullet weights of 150, 185 and 180 grains, the .308 is a versatile, do-everything cartridge.

The Guide Rifle is a pleasant change from the norm and with some new chamberings there's going to be a gun/cartridge combo for most everyone. For those who wanted this rifle back into the fold, it's here and with bells on!

Specifications: Remington Model 673

Caliber: 6.5mm Rem Mag, .308, .300RSAUM, .350 Rem Mag

Barrel: 22 inches