

TO: J. W. BROOKS
RE: THREE-POSITION SAFETY:
RELEASABLE BOLT LOCK

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Couture bears some resemblance to our Walker Patent 2,514,981 in that a bell crank lever 28 serves both as a safety and a bolt lock. However, Couture provides for three safety positions rather than two; these positions are determined by a spring-loaded lug 60 engageable in any of three recesses, shown unnumbered in Fig. 2. The safety has a stop member 54 which locks the trigger in either a rear or an intermediate position, and a longer arm 55 which engages a notch 57 in the bolt only in the rear position. (This mode of operation is the reverse of your prototype).

- Brewer employs a sliding safety 190 that has a screw 228 which locks the trigger, and a lug 230 which engages a locking notch 234 in the bolt, in the rearmost safety position shown in Fig. 12. Forward movement to an intermediate position keeps the trigger locked, but disengages the lug 230 from the bolt notch. Incidentally, there are only two detent notches 229 and 231, which correspond to the rear "double-safe", and "fire" positions: so feeling the intermediate position would appear to be somewhat uncertain.

To summarize, the prior art most nearly related to your design is the Couture patent, but this is a one-piece trigger safety and bolt lock that is readily distinguishable both in construction and mode of operation. Patent protection should be obtainable on your prototype.

There is a mention in earlier correspondence of a three-position safety in the Model 725. If you have a sample, we might compare it.

Bill Ericson

W. L. ERICSON
SENIOR PATENT COUNSEL

WLE/dt
Attach.(5)

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