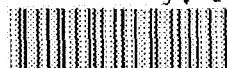


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QUALITY ATTRIBUTES AND CUES
IN BOLT ACTION CENTER FIRE RIFLES

For: Remington Arms Company, Inc.
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NTBOOK198

REM 0026850

...assessing how much wobble or slop there is in various positions (more tolerated in the fully open position), checking for close tolerances (also a cue to durability)...

"The bolt just rattles and rattles -- but when I close it, it's solid."

"I would feel the action. If there's a lot of slop and freedom, that would tell me it's probably going to wear out faster than one whose bolt fits nicely."

...or noting the action design. Frequent reference is made to the Mauser type action with its (perceived) stronger, larger extractor:

"It takes a bite on the cartridge -- a whole quarter-inch instead of a sixteenth. So if you get some dirt in the chamber or a burr on the rim instead of pulling through the rim on the cartridge, it'll yank the thing out of the chamber." (Ruger)

Other action pluses mentioned include a short, fast throw; an enclosed bolt head (a few); and an easily removed bolt.

"It had a very short-throw bolt action; it was just crisp all the way down. The working of the mechanical work was just beautiful -- a short throw, crisp!"

"I have never cared for Ruger's bolt stops; that's definitely a two-handed operation, getting that bolt out of there."

Safety. General agreement exists on a stated desire for a safety that is quiet...

"If it makes any noise at all it's too noisy. Mine's been modified so it's not noisy." (Ruger)

...is solid, not flimsy, and smooth yet positive in action, without being subject to accidental shifting...

"When you move it, it's hard to know whether it has reached safe or whether it's only half way there because there's no click, no positive click to it."

"If you grab it in the wrong place [Remington Model 788], this portion of your hand will shove the safety off."



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...add gives clear indication of its position (for some, especially when shouldered), without paint spots that wear off:

"I try to get a safety that's in front of my eye so that I know when it's on and when it's off. I hate those little colored paint dots that wear off."

"On others, the movement is so imperceptible you can't tell which position it's in without looking. On the Remington when you're carrying it, you just touch it with the side of your thumb and tell whether it's on or off. I don't like to keep looking."

Additionally, on probing, there is some positive reaction to a three position safety, primarily for the ability to "clear" a weapon with the safety in the "on" position, rather than because three positions are intrinsically preferable to two. That is, a two-position safety which would permit working the action in the "on" position might be just as acceptable as a three:

"If you wanted to get the shells out, on this gun you'd have to put it in the "fire" position. That's why I like the three position safety."

Location of safety generally is a matter of idiosyncratic personal preference, although a few men cite the convenience of a tang safety, especially for left handers.

Floor Plate. For the most part, the hinged floor plate is liked for the ability to empty the magazine quickly out the bottom of the receiver...

"On the Classic you can dump all shells out the bottom."

...but, for some, a removable clip (attached to the floor plate ala Browning) is preferable, as it would avoid dumping cartridges into the snow or dirt; and for at least one respondent would eliminate the fragile "jack-in-the-box" look of the follower dangling on a spring.

Trigger. All agree that quality in a trigger pull means crisp, clean, and precise, without any slack, creep, or grabbiness. Only a few mentions (mainly dealers) are made about having an externally adjustable trigger; apparently it's not that important on a hunting rifle. In more than one instance, Remington is praised for having the best triggers.



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