

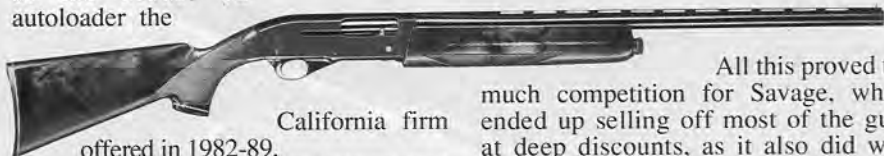
Fox FA-1 Shotgun

At a recent gun show, I picked up a shotgun that looked a lot like a Weatherby Centurion autoloader. When I examined it, I saw it was marked "Fox FA-1." I'd never seen one like it. When were they made?

Answer: One lot of about 5,000 Fox FA-1s was imported by Savage in 1981 and listed in the firm's catalogs for that year and 1982.

The guns were made by the Japanese firm KTG that had manufactured the

almost identical Weatherby Centurion beginning in 1972. The sale to Savage apparently was an attempt to make use of the tooling for that shotgun, since Weatherby had discontinued it in favor of the Model 82 autoloader the



California firm offered in 1982-89.

The FA-1 can easily be distinguished from the Centurion by its exposed mag-

azine tube cap—this in contrast to the Centurion's hidden cap. KTG sold similar guns to Outdoor Sports and Kassnar, with the former sold here under the Charles Daly trademark.

All this proved too much competition for Savage, which ended up selling off most of the guns at deep discounts, as it also did with the companion FP-1 pump gun.—R.W.H.

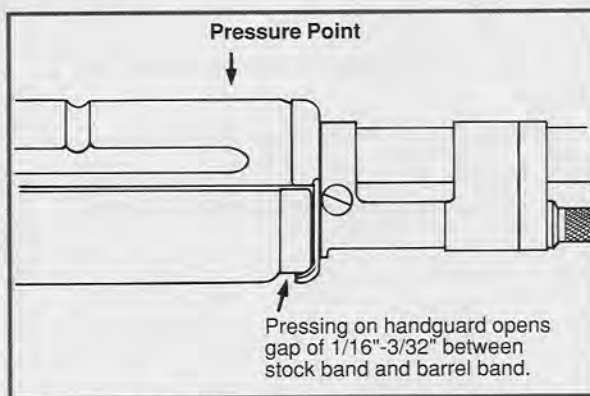
M14 Band Clearance

When I assemble my Federal Ordnance M14 SA rifle, the trigger group locks up the receiver tightly with no play. But if pressure is applied downward on the handguard/barrel assembly, it moves down about 1/16", leaving a corresponding gap between the hooked barrel band and the metal stock ferrule. Even without the pressure, the barrel does not contact the stock band. Is this normal? And if not, how can it be corrected?

Answer: The gap is not normally considered acceptable. When the rifle is assembled, the hook or lip on the lower portion of the front band should be in contact with the bottom of the stock ferrule.

When downward pressure is applied

to the top of the handguard, a slight gap should appear between the band lip and the ferrule. When pressure is released, the barrel should move upward and the



band lip should again bear against the stock ferrule.

Most authorities believe this continuous downward pressure helps maintain uniform stress on the barrel. By having uniform, consistent pressure, the harmonics of the barrel will be the same from shot to shot.

Excessive play in this area is normally corrected by glass bedding the rifle. During the bedding process a small spacer that might consist of a piece of slightly bent wire placed between the two top edges of the ferrule is used to raise the barrel while the bedding is still soft.

Once the bedding hardens and after the spacer has been removed, the barrel will tend to pull away from the front of the stock. The lip of hook on the front band will counter this and at the same time be held snugly against the ferrule.—O.R.C.

BSA "Royal" Rifles

I inherited a BSA .30-'06 bolt gun with an integral muzzle brake. It has a Mauser-type action with a long claw extractor and a schnabel fore-end. I have



been told it is a "Royal," but it has no markings beyond the BSA name and some proof marks. Does this model have a name?

Answer: After World War II, England's Birmingham Small Arms Co., Ltd. (BSA), looked to the American hunting rifle market. The result was its Mauser-based Short Action in .222

Rem., .257 Roberts or 7x57 mm cal.

J.L. Galef & Son of New York City, another firearms importer that no longer exists, took over importation in 1957 and listed the expanded line with the names given in the table (at l.), lumping all together as "The Royal Line of Hunting Rifles."

The Standard Weight was supplied with the choice of "Continental" or "American-style" stocks; the Featherweight had a lightened barrel, stock, receiver and an optional Besa recoil reducer.

The Besa system consisted of seven vertical slots forward of a circular vent cut into either side of the barrel. The last 25/8" of the barrel was counterbored and unrifled.

The rifle you described may be identified by its caliber and features as a Featherweight Imperial member of the "Royal Line." This product line was replaced by the new Majestic series (December 1959, p. 48), that is distinguishable by horseshoe-shaped extractors and counterbored bolt faces, in 1959. Birmingham Small Arms ceased producing firearms entirely around 1987.—M.A.K.



Proofs and the BSA name identify the maker, but the caliber and features determine the model.

Rem. first offered in 1954, followed in 1956 by the Medium Action. The now-defunct Freeland's Scope Stands offered these British sporters in the U.S. as "BSA Field Rifles" in .222

Standard Weight		
Regent Short Action	Viscount Medium Action	Imperial Long Action
.22 Hornet	7 mm Mauser	.30-'06
.222 Rem.	.257 Roberts	
.300 Savage		
.308 Win.		
Featherweight		
Viscount Medium Action	Imperial Medium Action	Emperor Long Action
.308 Win.	.30-'06	.458 Win.
.243 Win.	.270 Win.	