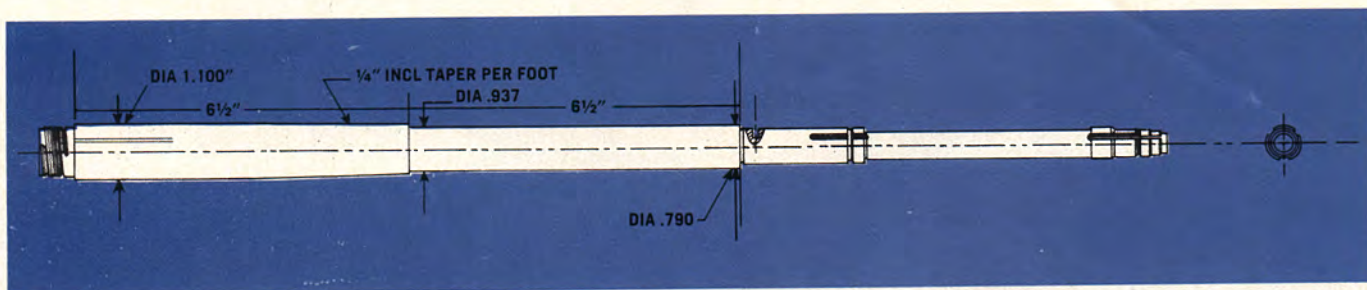


National Board approves heavy M14 NM barrel



Dimensions of the heavy M14 National Match barrel submitted by the USAMU, Ft. Benning, Ga. and approved by the NBPRP.

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THE National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice has approved a heavier barrel for 7.62 mm. M14 National Match rifles used in NBPRP regional and National Trophy competitions.

According to tests conducted by the USAMU, Ft. Benning, Ga. the heavier barrel makes possible an improvement in grouping capability of 30%. The increase in weight of approximately 1 1/2 lbs. over the standard barrel is made possible by eliminating exterior machining operations during the barrel's manufacture.

In addition to increased stability from the heavier barrel, it is felt that fewer induced stresses are present in the finished barrel. Another advantage is that elimination of a number of machining operations would result in a significant cost reduction if incorporated into future National

Match production.

The approved heavy-barreled rifle must utilize the standard gas cylinder, flash suppressor, stock and sights. A number of rifles utilizing the heavy barrel but otherwise unchanged will be fired in testing during this year's competitive season. In addition there are several prototype NRA Match Rifles which will be fired at Camp Perry this year, which are based on the M14 design. These other M14 National Match Product Improved Rifles are in the experimental stage, but have not been submitted to the Board for approval. The first design prototype made at the Rodman Laboratories, Rock Island Arsenal, uses a modified gas system which is essentially equivalent to the standard M14 gas system and has an aperture front sight instead of the issue sight. The flash suppressor was not used on the 24" heavy-weight barrel, which is a straight taper from .900" dia. just forward of the chamber to .700" at the muzzle.

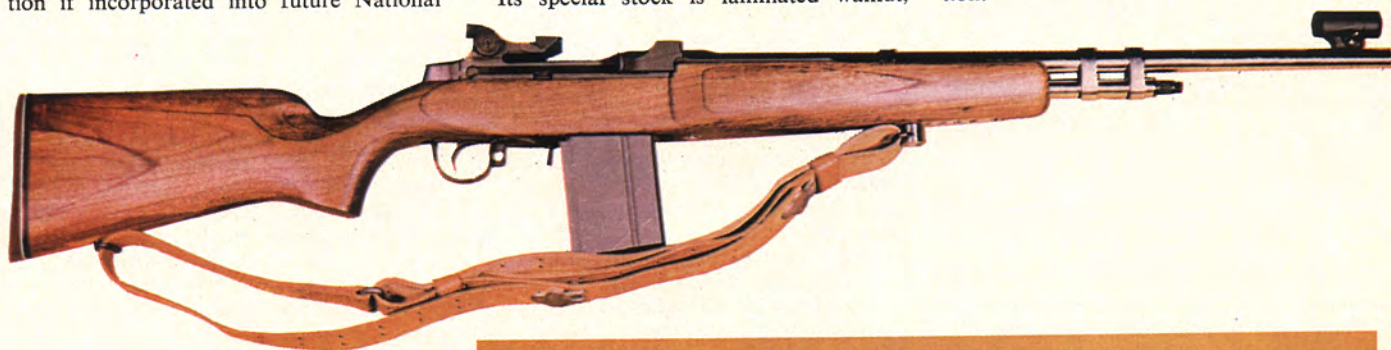
Its special stock is laminated walnut,

and the issue handguard has been eliminated. The barrel is free floating, the action anchored by bedding screws front and rear. Weight of the rifle is 10 1/2 lbs. with sling and magazine.

The barrel of the first rifle has broached rifling and was fabricated using standard machining practices. Subsequent barrels will be rotary forged and outside contoured during the process so that no finish machining is required on the OD.

Competitors desiring to rebarrel their rifles may duplicate the approved contour shown in the accompanying drawing. The rifle must retain the standard sights, stock, handguards, gas system and flash suppressor for use in the service rifle category, though more extensively modified rifles may be used in the NRA Match Rifle category.

Engineers at Rock Island have suggested production changes in the NM rifles to incorporate the heavier barrel, but no final decision has been made for volume production.



Prototype M14 National Match Product Improved Rifle, shown above assembled with sling and magazine, and below with stock removed to show details of barrel and gas system. Note absence of handguard.

