

The Kolpin Duck Hunter Case!

The camouflage exterior of the Model 89 hides your gun well while protecting it with these outstanding features.

4-color camouflage waterproof rubberized nylon fabric.

Padded wrap-around handle.

Patented Sight-Tector Tip with hang-up loop.

Full-length YKK nylon coil zipper.

Humidity-Pruf padding with water repellent brown corduroy lining.

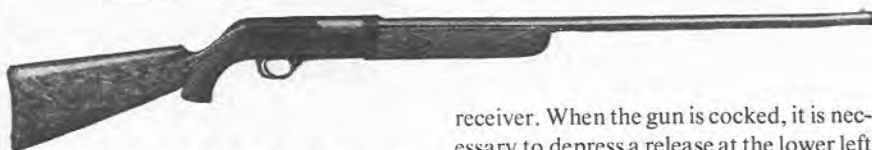
Send \$7 for new 48-page color catalog!

KOLPIN

MANUFACTURING, INC.
Dept. AR-11 Berlin, Wisconsin 54923

DOPE BAG

50 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Stevens Model 124 Shotgun, Powders For Service Rifles, Brass Storage Life, Bullet Base Edges, Oiled Cases And Bolt Thrust, Case Neck Tools, Remington 788 .223
56 IN MY EXPERIENCE
84 BOOK REVIEWS



Stevens Model 124 Shotgun

I have acquired what appears to be an autoloading shotgun, but am unable to open the action. It is marked Stevens Model 124. What can you tell me about this gun and its operation?

Answer: The Stevens Model 124 is a three-shot, tubular magazine, manually-operated repeater. It was introduced in 1950.

The action is operated by pulling the crossbolt outward and rearward, then pushing it forward and inward. Pulling outward unlocks the breechbolt; pulling rearward extracts and ejects the fired case. Pushing the crossbolt forward chambers the next shell; pushing it inward locks the breechbolt to the

receiver. When the gun is cocked, it is necessary to depress a release at the lower left of the receiver to open the action. A crossbolt safety is located at the front of the trigger guard.

While the mode of operation is quite clumsy, the mechanism is reliable and suited for all 2¾" 12-ga. factory shells.

Made in 12-ga. with 28" barrel only, the Model 124 was offered with full or modified choke. Its stock and forearm are made of Tenite plastic. Production variations are found in the hammer, mainspring, safety, release lever and cartridge stop. Early guns are marked 1224 and 124. Those of later production are designated 124-B and 124-C.

Although listed at the attractive price of \$32.45, the Model 124 did not prove popular and was discontinued in 1955.—R.N.S.



Powders For Service Rifles

I have just started handloading target ammunition for my M1 and M1A rifles. Some shooters have cautioned me against using heavy bullets or slow-burning powders with magnum primers in these rifles. What is the reason for this?

Answer: In general, use of slow-burning powders and magnum primers is not recommended for M14 (including its commercial equivalent the M1A) or M1 rifles. Although such loads operate the action reliably, they may drive the mechanism harder than necessary, and impose unnecessary stress on parts involved in the firing cycle. There are occasional reports of bent operating rods in the M1 rifle resulting from the high port pressure associated with slow-burning powders such as IMR-4350.

Military teams firing M1 or M14 rifles do not generally fire bullets heavier than the 173-gr. M118 National Match bullet. Service armorers questioned by *The*

American Rifleman Technical Staff at Camp Perry, Ohio, were generally in agreement that match bullets weighing from 168-180 grs. give best performance in M1 and M14 rifles. Heavier bullets do not give significantly better performance at the velocities obtained at permissible breech pressures with powders which develop normal port pressures in these rifles. Slower powders permit heavier bullets to be driven at higher velocities, but they generate higher than normal port pressure which hurts accuracy, due to violent functioning of the rifle.

The best policy is to use loads which approximate the performance of the National Match ammunition for which the rifle was designed. For the M1 or M14 rifles, such loads may be assembled using IMR-4895, IMR-3031, IMR-4064, IMR-4320, W-W 748, W-W 760, Hodgdon H-380, and H-414. Magnum primers are not required for these loads in .308 Win. or .30-06, but magnum primers are sometimes used with Ball or spherical powders and perform satisfactorily.—W.C.D., Jr.