

stevens model 107b history

stevens model 107b history traces the origins and development of one of the most iconic bolt-action rifles produced by Stevens Arms. Known for its reliability, accuracy, and affordability, the Stevens Model 107B has a rich history that reflects the evolution of American firearms manufacturing during the early to mid-20th century. This article explores the detailed background of the Model 107B, from its inception and design features to its production timeline and variations. Additionally, it examines the rifle's impact on hunters, sportsmen, and collectors, highlighting why it remains a sought-after firearm today. Understanding the Stevens Model 107B history provides valuable insight into American firearm heritage and the innovations that shaped modern bolt-action rifles. The following sections will delve into the origins, design characteristics, manufacturing history, and legacy of this remarkable rifle.

- Origins of Stevens Model 107B
- Design and Technical Features
- Production and Manufacturing History
- Variations and Model Differences
- Usage and Popularity
- Collectibility and Legacy

Origins of Stevens Model 107B

The Stevens Model 107B originated during a period when affordable and reliable bolt-action rifles were in high demand among American hunters and sports shooters. Manufactured by Stevens Arms Company, a subsidiary of the Savage Arms Corporation, the 107B was introduced in the 1930s as an improved version of earlier Stevens models. The rifle was designed to provide a dependable, easy-to-use firearm for small game hunting and target shooting. Its development reflected Stevens Arms' commitment to producing quality firearms at accessible price points, making the Model 107B a popular choice among entry-level and experienced shooters alike.

Historical Context and Company Background

Stevens Arms, established in the late 19th century, gained a reputation for manufacturing affordable, functional firearms. By the 1930s, the company was

seeking to innovate within the bolt-action rifle market, which was dominated by larger manufacturers. The Model 107B was introduced as part of this strategic effort, utilizing a simple yet effective design to appeal to a broad customer base. The rifle's creation coincided with increased interest in recreational hunting and shooting sports in the United States during the interwar years.

Market Position and Target Audience

The Stevens Model 107B was marketed primarily toward hunters, farmers, and sportsmen who needed a reliable rifle without the high cost associated with premium models. Its affordability and ease of maintenance made it especially attractive to those in rural areas and newcomers to shooting sports. The rifle's chambering in popular small calibers further solidified its role as an accessible and practical firearm for everyday use.

Design and Technical Features

The Stevens Model 107B is a bolt-action rifle known for its straightforward and robust design. Its construction emphasizes simplicity, safety, and ease of use, features that contributed significantly to its enduring popularity. The rifle's design incorporates several technical elements that reflect both innovation and practicality for its time.

Bolt-Action Mechanism

The Model 107B employs a traditional bolt-action mechanism, which is known for its reliability and accuracy. The bolt features dual locking lugs that ensure secure locking in the receiver, improving safety and consistent chambering. The bolt handle is straight and easy to operate, allowing for smooth cycling of the action during rapid fire or follow-up shots.

Calibers and Ammunition

One of the defining features of the Stevens Model 107B is its chambering options. The rifle was commonly available in .22 Long Rifle caliber, a popular choice for small game hunting and target shooting due to its low recoil and economical ammunition. Some variants were also chambered in .22 Short and .22 Long, enhancing versatility. The use of rimfire cartridges allowed for quieter shooting and reduced cost, making the Model 107B attractive to a wide range of users.

Stock and Barrel Specifications

The rifle typically features a walnut or hardwood stock, offering a balance of durability and aesthetic appeal. The barrel length varied slightly among production runs but generally measured around 24 inches, contributing to the rifle's accuracy and manageable weight. The rifle's overall length and weight were designed to provide ease of handling in the field and on the range.

Production and Manufacturing History

The Stevens Model 107B was produced primarily between the 1930s and the mid-1950s, during which time it underwent several modifications and improvements. Its manufacturing history reflects broader trends in American firearm production, including shifts in materials, manufacturing techniques, and corporate ownership.

Manufacturing Timeline

Initial production of the Model 107B began in the early 1930s, with Stevens Arms focusing on quality control and cost efficiency. Production continued steadily through the 1940s, with interruptions during World War II as the company shifted resources toward military contracts. After the war, production resumed and continued until the mid-1950s when the model was eventually phased out in favor of newer designs.

Stevens and Savage Arms Merger

In 1920, Stevens Arms became part of Savage Arms, which influenced the production and marketing strategies for the Model 107B. The merger allowed for shared resources and engineering expertise, resulting in improvements in manufacturing processes. The association with Savage Arms also helped distribute the Model 107B more widely across the United States, enhancing its market presence.

Materials and Manufacturing Techniques

Throughout its production, the Model 107B utilized stamped steel parts combined with machined components, which reduced production costs while maintaining durability. The use of blued steel for barrels and receivers provided corrosion resistance and an attractive finish. Stock materials were selected for their balance of cost and performance, with some models featuring laminated wood for increased strength.

Variations and Model Differences

Over its production span, the Stevens Model 107B saw several variations and updates that addressed user feedback and evolving market demands. These differences allow collectors and enthusiasts to distinguish between production runs and appreciate the rifle's development.

Standard vs. Deluxe Models

The Model 107B was available in both standard and deluxe versions. Deluxe models often included finer wood stocks, improved sights, and enhanced finishes. These variations catered to customers seeking a more refined firearm experience while maintaining the core functionality of the rifle.

Barrel Length and Sight Options

Some Model 107B variants featured shorter barrels for more compact handling, while others retained the standard 24-inch barrel for improved accuracy at longer ranges. Sight options ranged from simple bead sights to adjustable open sights, with some models offering provisions for mounting scopes, reflecting the growing popularity of optical sights in the mid-20th century.

Markings and Serial Numbers

Collectors often use markings and serial numbers to identify specific production years and variants of the Stevens Model 107B. Early models feature distinct Stevens branding, while later examples may include Savage Arms markings. Serial number ranges can help pinpoint manufacturing dates, aiding in authentication and valuation.

Usage and Popularity

The Stevens Model 107B gained widespread popularity due to its combination of affordability, reliability, and ease of use. It became a staple rifle for hunters, sportsmen, and youth shooters throughout its production years and beyond.

Hunting and Sporting Applications

Chambered in .22 caliber rimfire cartridges, the Model 107B was ideally suited for small game hunting and target shooting. Its lightweight design and manageable recoil made it a favorite among novice shooters and experienced hunters alike. The rifle was commonly used for hunting rabbits, squirrels, and other small game, as well as for informal target practice.

Youth and Training Rifle

Due to its simple operation and low recoil, the Stevens Model 107B was frequently recommended as a training rifle for young shooters. Its dependable mechanism and affordable ammunition made it a practical choice for introducing new shooters to firearm safety and marksmanship fundamentals.

Enduring Popularity

Even after production ceased, the Stevens Model 107B remained popular on the used firearm market. Its reputation for reliability and accuracy ensures that many rifles are still in service today, cherished by collectors and shooters who value classic American firearm design.

Collectibility and Legacy

The Stevens Model 107B holds a significant place in American firearms history, and its collectibility has grown over the years. Collectors value the rifle for its historical importance, craftsmanship, and nostalgic appeal.

Factors Influencing Collectibility

Several factors contribute to the collectibility of the Stevens Model 107B:

- Originality and condition of the rifle
- Presence of original markings and serial numbers
- Rarity of specific variants or production years
- Completeness of accessories such as original boxes or manuals

Impact on Firearm Design

The Stevens Model 107B influenced subsequent rifle designs by demonstrating that quality and affordability could coexist in a bolt-action rifle. Its success encouraged other manufacturers to develop similar rifles aimed at the mass market. The model's legacy is evident in many modern rimfire rifles that prioritize user-friendly features and cost-effective production.

Preservation and Enthusiast Communities

Enthusiast groups and firearm historians often highlight the Stevens Model 107B in discussions of classic American rifles. Preservation efforts and shared knowledge among collectors help maintain the rifle's legacy, ensuring it remains a valued piece of firearms heritage for future generations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Stevens Model 107B?

The Stevens Model 107B is a single-shot, bolt-action rifle manufactured by Stevens Arms, known for its simplicity and reliability.

When was the Stevens Model 107B first produced?

The Stevens Model 107B was first produced in the late 1940s, shortly after World War II.

What caliber is the Stevens Model 107B chambered in?

The Stevens Model 107B is primarily chambered in .22 Long Rifle caliber.

Who manufactured the Stevens Model 107B?

The Stevens Model 107B was manufactured by Stevens Arms, a notable American firearms company.

What was the primary use of the Stevens Model 107B?

The Stevens Model 107B was mainly used for small game hunting, target shooting, and as a training rifle.

What features distinguish the Stevens Model 107B from other rifles of its era?

The Stevens Model 107B is distinguished by its simple bolt-action mechanism, affordability, and lightweight design.

Is the Stevens Model 107B considered a collectible firearm today?

Yes, the Stevens Model 107B is considered collectible, especially among enthusiasts of vintage rimfire rifles.

How long was the Stevens Model 107B in production?

The Stevens Model 107B was produced from the late 1940s until the mid-1950s.

What is the historical significance of the Stevens Model 107B?

The Stevens Model 107B represents post-WWII American firearm manufacturing, offering an affordable and reliable rifle for civilians.

Are there any notable variations of the Stevens Model 107B?

There are few variations, but some models feature different stock materials or barrel lengths, though the core design remained consistent.

Additional Resources

1. *Stevens Model 107B: A Comprehensive History*

This book provides an in-depth look at the development and evolution of the Stevens Model 107B firearm. It covers the historical context in which it was designed and manufactured, highlighting its significance in American firearms history. Readers will find detailed descriptions of its mechanical features and variations over time.

2. *The Legacy of the Stevens Model 107B Shotgun*

Exploring the impact of the Model 107B on hunting and sport shooting, this book traces its popularity among enthusiasts. The author delves into the craftsmanship and reliability that made the Stevens Model 107B a favorite in its era. The book also includes personal accounts and collector insights.

3. *American Shotgun Classics: Stevens Model 107B*

This volume situates the Stevens Model 107B within the broader context of American shotgun manufacturing. It examines the competitive market of the early 20th century and how Stevens Arms positioned the 107B as an affordable yet dependable option. The narrative is enriched with archival photos and advertisements.

4. *The Mechanics and Design of the Stevens Model 107B*

Focused on engineering enthusiasts, this book breaks down the technical aspects of the Model 107B. It explains the design choices, materials used, and the functionality of its pump-action mechanism. Detailed diagrams and maintenance tips are included to aid collectors and restorers.

5. *Stevens Arms Company: The Story Behind the Model 107B*

This historical account traces the origins of Stevens Arms Company and its role in producing the Model 107B. The book explores the company's innovations and business strategies during the mid-20th century. It offers insight into

how the Model 107B fit into Stevens' broader product lineup.

6. *Collecting the Stevens Model 107B: Identification and Valuation*

Designed for collectors, this guide helps identify different production years and variants of the Stevens Model 107B. It provides information on market values, rarity, and condition grading. The book also discusses restoration ethics and recommended practices for preserving these firearms.

7. *Pump-Action Shotguns of the 20th Century: Spotlight on the Stevens Model 107B*

This book surveys the development of pump-action shotguns, dedicating a significant section to the Stevens Model 107B. It compares the 107B to contemporaries like the Winchester 12 and Remington 870. Historical usage in various contexts, including military and civilian, is thoroughly examined.

8. *The Cultural Influence of the Stevens Model 107B in Rural America*

Examining the social and cultural role of the Stevens Model 107B, this book highlights its presence in rural communities. It discusses how the shotgun became a symbol of self-reliance and tradition among hunters and farmers. Personal stories and folklore surrounding the 107B enrich the narrative.

9. *Restoring and Maintaining the Stevens Model 107B*

A practical guide for firearm enthusiasts, this book offers step-by-step instructions for restoring and maintaining the Stevens Model 107B. It covers cleaning techniques, replacement parts sourcing, and troubleshooting common issues. The book aims to help owners keep their shotguns in optimal condition for years to come.

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