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Reader's comments

Does anyone know if the Sauer High Turret has the "tell tail" mark under the bolt, as do Mauser High Turrets, Contact Rich S. (rs2cs@power.net)

WarChild

Author Unknown

(Note: I realize this is a bit off topic for this newsletter. But, given the martial purposes to which our Mauser rifles were initially put, I could easily picture a trench full of young men with fear-filled eyes clutching their kar98's, or 03 Springfields, or any of the many, many other variations – and thinking thoughts like these. At any rate, I found it touching, being an old soldier myself – I hope you all enjoy it. – Ward)

Little soldier ease your fears.
The time has yet to come.
Find faith within your infant soul.
The battle will be won.

Little soldier hold your spear
The fighting has begun.
Spend your courage wise and proud
Until the battle's won.

Little soldier! Hold your ears!
The drums continue on.
Sing another lullaby,
Soon it shall be won.

Little soldier hold no one dear.
For soon they may be gone.
Pray unto our gentle God
"O let this war be won!"

Little soldier do not hear
The screams of all and none.
Watch the fires in the sky.

The war will soon be won.

Little soldier dry your tears,
The war has now been won.
Fear not the blood upon your hands
'Tis the mark of American sons.

Little soldier travel home
Beneath the desert sky.
Tell your mother you fought well.

And she will tell you why.

Wooden it be nice...

By: Leyteno@aol.com

Your surplus Mauser has just been unpacked and you are in the process of de-gunking it when you notice the absolutely beautiful grain pattern in the stock. You suddenly start spouting invective at the @#\$% &^%\$ who would permit such a lovely piece of walnut get so dinged and gouged up. Happens every time, doesn't it?

Happily, many of the dents and nicks can be fixed with a minimum of filling. One of my Swedes, a 1942 M38/41 short rifle came w/perfect metal, bright shiny bore. Even the buttplate wasn't too scratched up. Underneath eleventeen layers of cosmo crud a nice grain pattern showed dimly through. After degreasing w/solvent and thoroughly scrubbing down w/Ajax liquid I found wood that would easily qualify as Extra-Fancy under pre-1960 standards. Dents, there were aplenty and alas, a few nicks and three really nasty abrasions. For the lesser dents, a brief session with a teakettle managed to remove them. For some of the major dings, I soaked a patch in degreaser and let it really soak in the wood, then steaming ; repeating the process until the dent was raised. Please note that if the wood has been chipped or gouged out, no amount of steaming will repair or restore .I was amazed at some blemishes that I thought were beyond removal. Plenty of steam and hot water will work wonders given time. I did notice that for the steaming to remove major dent, thorough degreasing is necessary.

Also, I noticed that area that have been raised will slurp up the stain and leave you with a unwanted dark spot. The really bad ones I repair with filler, glue and the odd shaving taken from inside the action/bbl channel. I've had good luck with Formby's low gloss tung oil finish. Some stocks will have blemishes than probably should remain as a token of the rifles age, service, and durability. The tung oil gives a finish much superior to the old linspeed method with much less effort. For a really fine piece of wood I would, of course, finish w/600 grit and then "mud" the tung oil into the wood.

To continue on the cleaning up of really cruddy military wood: To remove the big chunks I use a small piece of square cut window glass to remove grease, cosmo crud etc. and then follow up with paint thinner or mineral spirits until the wood shows through. This is followed up with a real soaking in high-octane wood alcohol until a clean rag doesn't show much crud. Then wrap the wood in paper towels while still damp from the alky, taking care to have the absorbent towels in close contact with the wood. Then wrap the lot up in old bath towels or sheets and place in the sun. If you have a cold frame in your yard for early tomatoes-great. The idea is to literally cook the grease out of the wood without overdoing it. Yes, you can use an electric oven with a WARM setting on the dial but keep an eye on it. My oven isn't big enough for much more than hand guards.

OK. The stock is degreased. Now fire up the teakettle and direct steam on dings dents and blemishes. If there is residual grease in the dents it will take a bit longer to raise them. For really stubborn dents, a wet rag and judicious use of a soldering iron will usually do the trick. Careful use of a cut piece of window glass will scrape away some scratches and will smooth out the stock surface considerably. Be cautious about removing too much wood, especially where the barrel bands fit. Swab down now and then with an old diaper wet with alcohol until the rag does not stain anymore. Using 0000 steel wool, and rubbing with the grain smooth out wood to your satisfaction. Suggest using garden gloves to keep oil from hands off naked wood. I have found water-soluble stains more to my taste than oil but take your choice. I have had very good results with maple 60% and red Mahogany 40% mixed to bring out the figure in my Swedes, but to each his own. Wet stock thoroughly with water, pat dry and quickly apply the stain of your choice and put aside for a day or two to thoroughly dry. Of course you have just raised the grain again. Take 0000 steel wool and wet with tung oil and gently begin working oil into stock. A "mud " will start forming on the wood, which is what you want. When satisfied with smoothness of wood and oil has dried up, hang the stock up for a day or so to thoroughly dry. It will look terrible. Again using steel wool and tung oil continue the process but this time gently wipe stock off with soft cloth and let dry. Keep this up ,smoothing now and then with steel wool-gently until you have a beautiful sheen on your wood or become sick unto death from the smell of tung oil, The purpose of "mudding" is to fill all those #\$\$%^&* pores in the wood w/o it being too obvious. Results will vary according to humidity and temperature. Your stock looks great but has retained the honorable wear and patina of a well-kept weapon. This same technique works on new wood with considerably less effort. I wish I could remember the name of the chap who taught me this but it has been too many years. By the way, after a week or two of "curing" a couple of coats of hard wax will really put an elegant shine on the stock. I found a can of "Blue Coral" in the garage and used that on a '95 carbine stock. Wow!

Haven't heard much from Delbert and Aimo lately. Was told they are converting old Spanish Destroyer carbines to their new wildcat , the 346 Super Yewper Magnum. Will try to keep our reloader friends up to date on the progress of their efforts. Almost forgot something. If you want a really deep gloss on your wood, after mudding the stock and letting it dry, lightly go over it with 0000 steel wool-dry and burnish it with a rib bone (try to get most of the meat off first) This is very time consuming but can be done while watching TV in the house as no noxious chemicals are involved. When burnished to a high gloss, continue rubbing stock with tung oil.

Just thought I'd pass along a hint or two for others to try. Electrical contact degreaser works like a charm on small grease filled spots and I love those spray cans. Happy shooting.

Publisher's Comments

By: Ward M. Clark (wclark1046@aol.com)

A slow month, as you all can see!

Everybody's busy after the holidays, but the Monthly need reader input, so let's get some shooting stories, tips and info sent in!

This issue marks our third anniversary – I hope year 4 of putting out the Monthly will be as much fun as the first three have been. I've been working on a few other writing projects as well – not least of which is my upcoming book on the Animal Rights Movement, *titled Philosophy of Ignorance* – you can see an excerpt of this work on the Web at: <http://members.aol.com/wclark1046/page/index.htm>. I have to admit that putting out the Monthly has been a spur to my previously flagging writing "career" and I have all of you to thank for it – the e-mails of appreciation for the Monthly I receive are greatly appreciated.

A few of the 400+ readers have been contributing most of the material. Let's hear from some of

the rest of you – I'm sure all of you have lots of experience and insights that we could all benefit from. Write 'em up and send 'em in!

Reproduced in this issue from June 97 is "wooden it be nice" a treatise on stock refinishing from our old friend Leyteno@aol.com. I was doing a little stock work myself this month, which reminded me of a story worth repeating.

Quite a few of you requested the info on the large Mauser collection for sale – if anyone else wants the scanned photo and information, let me know.

And now, I've got a new .338 load to try out in Thunder Speaker, so it's away to the range!

Until next month -

Good Shooting!

- Ward