

Contents:

- 1. **Reader's comments**
- 2. **A Find: A 94 Swede Carbine (Slightly Modified...)**
By: *Ward M. Clark (wclark1046@aol.com)* (Reprinted from December 1997)
- 3. **Publishers comments**
By: *Ward M. Clark (wclark1046@aol.com)*

Reader's comments

No reader's comments this month. - Ward

A Find: A 94 Swede Carbine (Slightly Modified...)

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

(Note – I decided to rerun this article for this issue for two reasons – 1) the final report on this piece will be ready next month, and this will refresh the story, and 2) Contributions were way off this month – like none- and I had to come up with a story at the last minute.)

My wife, Dawn, loves to go to estate sales and auctions with her Mom. Personally I avoid them like the plague, with the exception of farm auctions where you can often find fixer-upper and project guns...

Anyway... I was at work, when my wife calls and reports a "pretty nice little Mauser" on offer at an estates sale, price \$100. After asking a couple of questions, I arrived at the conclusion that what she was looking at was a 38 Swede cavalry model... After a few minutes of deliberation, I told her to go ahead and pick it up, what with the supply of Swedes drying up and all... A nice 38 would be a good addition to the gun rack.

Sometimes it's lovely to be wrong.

On arriving home that day, I went to the shop to examine Dawn's find. At first glance, I saw that the rifle was not a 38 but was in fact a 94 carbine, one of the versions that had a small addition clumsily added to the barrel to make the length 18", to satisfy the import restrictions of the time. Regrettably, the receiver had been drilled and tapped to accept a Redfield peep, and the lower 2/3 of the butt amputated (from just rear of the trigger guard on a straight line to about 2" below the heel) and a portion of a pistol grip stock added on. Colors didn't match, either. The whole thing was topped off with a large shotgun-style recoil pad (on a 6.5X55mm??!??) and a patch of wood grafted into the handguard where the tangent sight used to be.

A shame, perhaps, that the 94 wasn't original; original condition 94's command a pretty good price these days, after all. However, the altered condition of the carbine does leave me with a certain latitude, a certain, shall we say, freedom of action?

While in Wyoming hunting antelope I test fired the Swede - nothing more scientific than a few shots at a pop can placed in front of a clump of sagebrush. The little carbine handled nicely, recoil negligible, a pleasant bark from the short barrel. At about 50 yards I was able to roll the Diet Coke can over with every shot, firing offhand. Obviously a range session was in order.

At the next opportunity I repaired to the range with the Swede and a bunch of handloads using the 100-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip. The results were satisfying, although not outstanding - 100-yard groups

averaged about 3", with the best coming in at about 1.75". Not bad for a 18" barreled, peep-sighted carbine.

Since I have this "freedom of action" with the little 94, I plan to try to turn out an original pattern stock out of a nice piece of dark American black walnut, with two deviations from issue: I'll turn out a handguard without the cutout for the missing tangent sight, and fit a black Pachmeyer butt pad instead of issue steel. The Redfield peep will stay in place.

The result will be a beautiful and functional little carbine, with the overall appearance of an original 94 at first glance, but amenities of a modern sporting rifle. Reason enough in itself to take the project on. Watch these pages for progress reports.

Publisher's Comments

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

A might lean month, this! June always has been though, as for most of our readers summer has started, and the outdoors beckons.

This month I finally got back my 94 Swede carbine, complete with new Circassian walnut in the original military pattern, with two differences – the handguard is not cut for a rear sight, and the steel buttplate has been replaced with a thin black rubber Pachmyer pad. The military front sight has been replaced by a streamlined long ramp front, and the rear tangent with a Redfield peep. And for the purists among us, no, I didn't cut up an original! This 94 had been drilled and tapped for the peep when my wife found it at a garage sale; that, I figure, gives me a license to be a little "creative." It's a beauty, no two ways about it. I'll have complete details and a shooting review hopefully by the July issue. Reproduced in this issue, is the story I wrote in December 1997 about my original plans for the 94 – next month will be the final results.

As stated previously, this month was pretty thin; let's get some shooting stories, gunsmithing tips of trivia points in for July!

Until next month -
Good Shooting!

- Ward