



# Remington Model 870 Shotgun



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“short stroke”) can induce a hang-up. A round in the 870 can then jam halfway out of the magazine, back over the lifter. For this reason, many departments have modified the lifter with a central longitudinal slot. This enables pushing a jammed round back into the magazine with a key, a pen, or a knife, putting the gun back into action easily. Home-defense guns can be modified similarly; it's easy enough to do with a Dremel® or similar tool and a cutoff wheel. Current 12-gauge guns have a “Flexi-tab” lifter with a U-shaped slot that alleviates the problem.

The factory has offered various configurations over the years. Almost standard among outdoor sportsmen are the 28-inch-barrel field models with a ventilated rib and a modified choke. In recent years, “Rem-choke” barrels have become available; these have interchangeable choke tubes that screw into the muzzle of the barrel. This arrangement allows selection of an open, improved, modified or full choke in just a few moments. Many older barrels were custom equipped with adjustable chokes and/or compensators such as the Cutts models.

Riot guns with shorter barrels (usually 18” or 20”) and with more mundane metal and stock finishes are considered ideal for police and home defense work. The 870 is easily adaptable to allow different stocks, barrels with rifle sights, extended magazines, extra ammo brackets, etc. Custom-configured “tactical” models are easy enough to put together for those interested in doing so. There are even forearms with built-in high intensity flashlights for use in the dark or low-light environments. Aftermarket polymer stocks and folding or

collapsible stocks are also available. Guns without shoulder stocks and using just pistol grips make for handiness in confined areas, but are not for the recoil-sensitive.

There are so many factory configurations that they are impossible to list in this short article. There are left-handed actions, a wide variety of stock materials, many different gauges and chamber lengths, youth models, sighted barrels, moisture-resistant and camouflage finishes, and special guns made for competition such as skeet and trap.

The gun illustrated here is my old 12-gauge 870 TB trap model. It's equipped with a 30” ribbed barrel featuring two “stack ‘em” beads. By the standard Remington date code on the barrel, it was made in February of 1969. I've put thousands of rounds through it and it's still as good as new. If you're wondering about the pieces of red and blue tape on the forearm, they were put there to distinguish my gun from all the others in the racks at the trap range – it seems almost everyone where I competed had one a lot like it. With practice and this fine gun, I was able to hit 50 straight pretty regularly before my interests wandered to other endeavors. The trap and skeet models typically had premium wood, finely figured and finished. This old gun is no exception. It's a beautiful piece.

Over 10 million 870s have been built and sold from 1950 to 2010, and this shotgun shows no signs of any decline in popularity. Parts and accessories are available almost anywhere and on the Internet. Sportsmen, police, the military, shooting competitors and those just wanting effective self-protection all think the world of it. If you don't have one, well – why not?

