

PRODUCT REVIEW

REMINGTON 870

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PUMP ACTION SHOTGUN (12 GAUGE)



Model 870 Express Deer with 20" barrel.

The Remington Model 870 (c. 1950) is the most widely used pump action shotgun with an unsurpassed reputation for reliability and durability.

Pump action shotguns are the most versatile long guns for defensive use due to the wide range of ammunition they can use, including buckshot, slugs, and less lethal rounds that use low velocity bean bags, rubber bullets or pellets.

The sound that loading a pump action shotgun makes is also intimidating and can cause offenders to flee or surrender.

If a round does not go off (due to a defective primer) you can instantly load the next round by pumping the slide, whereas manually reloading a semi-auto takes much longer.

In jurisdictions that restrict or ban the ownership of pump action shotguns but not pump action rifles you may be able to register one as a 12 gauge rifle by ordering it with a rifled 'slug' barrel (which improves the accuracy of slugs and bean bag rounds).

The best 12 gauge rounds for defensive use are the reduced recoil '00' buckshot loads (full power loads have punishing recoil). Less-lethal bean bag rounds (typically small lead

pellets in a fabric carrier) will not penetrate an internal sheetrock wall. Bean bag rounds should normally be aimed at the gut area to wind an offender except when lethal force is justified and it is appropriate to shoot an offender in the head or throat. If you use less-lethal bean bag rounds don't mix them with conventional loads as you could mistake one for the other in an emergency.

The 870's four round magazine can be left fully loaded as the magazine spring is designed for this level of stress. Magazine extensions are also available if you want to increase the magazine capacity. If you use your shotgun on a regular basis for

training or sporting use replace the magazine spring every five years as magazine springs can suffer metal fatigue from the many compression cycles involved in loading/unloading.

It is best fitted with a SureFire WeaponLight like the 618LMG-B (2 x 123A) to identify targets in low light (always identify targets).

It can be readily fitted with a folding stock like those made by Arms Tech and Choate Machine & Tool and a shorter barrel, which makes it easier to discreetly transport, with the location of the safety catch being very well suited to the use of pistol grip folding stocks.

A left hand version of the 870 is also available.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The most versatile long gun for defensive use due to its ability to use less lethal bean bag rounds.

ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book.
[Blackheart International]

Field Bore Brush

Hoppe's BoreSnake.
[Hoppe's]

Cleaner/Lubricant

Slip 2000 725/Slip 2000 EWL.
[Slip 2000]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps.
[Lyman Products Corp.]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4 Sonic Defenders.
[SureFire]

High Visibility Sights

Rifle/Shotgun Set—Rem.
[TruGlo]

Tactical Light

618LMG-B WeaponLight.
[SureFire]

Bean bag rounds.



HOT TIP

Work the pump vigorously to prevent 'short stroking' and ensure reliable functioning.