

remington model 11 history

remington model 11 history traces the evolution of one of the most significant semi-automatic shotguns in American firearms history. Introduced in the early 20th century, the Remington Model 11 was a pioneering design that combined innovation with reliability, influencing both civilian and military shotgun development. This article explores the origins, design features, military service, and legacy of the Remington Model 11. By examining its technical specifications, production history, and cultural impact, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of why this shotgun remains an important subject in firearms history. Whether for collectors, historians, or shooting enthusiasts, the remington model 11 history offers valuable insights into the development of semi-automatic shotguns. The following sections will guide you through the key milestones and characteristics of this iconic firearm.

- Origins and Development
- Design and Technical Features
- Military and Law Enforcement Use
- Production and Variants
- Legacy and Collectibility

Origins and Development

The Remington Model 11 was introduced in 1905 as the first commercially successful semi-automatic shotgun in the United States. It was based on the design of the Browning Auto-5, created by the famed firearms designer John Moses Browning. Remington acquired the production rights to manufacture the shotgun under license, marking a significant collaboration in firearm manufacturing history. This innovation came at a time when pump-action and break-action shotguns dominated the market, making the semi-automatic operation a revolutionary advancement.

John Moses Browning's Influence

John Moses Browning was a prolific inventor who designed numerous firearms that became staples in both military and civilian use. The Model 11's design was directly influenced by Browning's Auto-5, which featured a long-recoil

operating system. Browning's patented system allowed the shotgun to automatically cycle rounds without manual intervention, enhancing firing speed and efficiency. Remington's adoption of this design helped popularize semi-automatic shotguns in the early 20th century.

Remington's Manufacturing Role

Remington Arms Company began production of the Model 11 in Ilion, New York, capitalizing on the growing demand for advanced firearms. The company's manufacturing expertise ensured the shotgun was produced with high quality and reliability. The Model 11 quickly gained popularity among hunters, sport shooters, and law enforcement, setting the stage for its significant role in later decades.

Design and Technical Features

The Remington Model 11 is renowned for its robust engineering and innovative semi-automatic mechanism. Its design combined functionality with user-friendly features that made it accessible to a wide range of shooters. The shotgun's technical aspects contributed to its reputation for durability and performance.

Long-Recoil Operation

The core of the Model 11's functionality lies in the long-recoil operating system, a mechanism that was revolutionary at the time of its introduction. When fired, both the barrel and bolt recoil together for approximately the length of a shell before separating to eject the spent casing and chamber a new round. This system effectively absorbed recoil energy and allowed for rapid follow-up shots without manual cycling.

Specifications and Materials

The standard Model 11 was chambered in 12 gauge, with barrel lengths typically ranging from 26 to 30 inches. It featured a walnut stock and forearm, steel receiver, and a tubular magazine capable of holding up to five shells. The shotgun's weight and balance were carefully calibrated to provide comfortable handling for various shooting applications.

- Gauge: 12

- Action: Semi-automatic, long-recoil
- Magazine Capacity: 5 rounds
- Barrel Lengths: 26–30 inches
- Stock: Walnut
- Weight: Approximately 7.5 pounds

Military and Law Enforcement Use

The reliability and firepower of the Remington Model 11 made it a preferred shotgun for military and law enforcement agencies, particularly during the first half of the 20th century. Its semi-automatic capability provided a tactical advantage in various combat and policing scenarios.

Role in World Wars

During World War I and World War II, the Model 11 saw service primarily with American forces. Its semi-automatic action allowed soldiers to deliver rapid successive shots in close-quarters combat situations. The shotgun was especially effective in trench warfare during WWI and in jungle warfare during WWII. The military versions often featured shorter barrels and bayonet lugs to adapt to combat requirements.

Law Enforcement Adoption

Law enforcement agencies across the United States adopted the Model 11 for patrol and riot control duties. Its ease of use, reliability, and rate of fire made it suitable for urban policing needs. The shotgun served as a standard tool for officers requiring a versatile firearm capable of handling various threats.

Production and Variants

Over its production lifespan, Remington manufactured several variants of the Model 11 to cater to different markets and purposes. These versions varied in barrel length, stock design, and finishing options.

Standard and Tactical Models

The original Model 11 was marketed as a sporting shotgun, but tactical and military models were introduced to meet specific needs. These included shortened barrels for maneuverability and reinforced components for durability under combat stress. Some variants featured modified sights and bayonet mounts.

Model 11-48 and Successors

The Model 11-48, introduced in 1948, was a direct evolution of the Model 11, featuring improvements such as a redesigned recoil system and simplified maintenance. While the Model 11 ceased production in the early 1960s, its design principles influenced subsequent Remington shotguns, including the widely popular Model 1100.

1. Model 11 (1905–1963)
2. Model 11-48 (1948–1968)
3. Other limited variants for military and law enforcement

Legacy and Collectibility

The Remington Model 11 holds a distinguished place in firearms history due to its technical innovation and widespread use. It is highly regarded by collectors, historians, and shooting enthusiasts alike. Its legacy extends beyond its production years, influencing shotgun design and semi-automatic technology.

Impact on Firearm Design

The Model 11's adoption of the long-recoil semi-automatic system paved the way for modern semi-automatic shotguns. Its success demonstrated the viability of semi-automatic operation for both civilian and military applications. Many design elements from the Model 11 continue to appear in contemporary shotguns.

Collector's Value

Today, original Remington Model 11 shotguns are sought after by collectors due to their historical significance and craftsmanship. Well-preserved examples can command high prices, especially those with military provenance or unique features. The shotgun's distinctive profile and operational history make it a prized possession for firearm enthusiasts.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was the Remington Model 11 first introduced?

The Remington Model 11 was first introduced in 1911 as one of the earliest semi-automatic shotguns produced in the United States.

What innovation did the Remington Model 11 bring to shotguns?

The Remington Model 11 was one of the first semi-automatic shotguns to use the long-recoil operating system, which allowed for faster follow-up shots compared to traditional pump-action or break-action shotguns.

Who originally designed the Remington Model 11?

The Remington Model 11 was originally designed by John Browning, a renowned firearms designer, and was based on his earlier Auto-5 shotgun design.

How did the Remington Model 11 impact military use?

The Remington Model 11 saw limited military use during World War I and World War II, where it was valued for its semi-automatic capability and reliability in trench and close-quarters combat.

What calibers or gauges was the Remington Model 11 chambered for?

The Remington Model 11 was primarily chambered for 12 gauge, but variants were also available in 16 gauge and 20 gauge.

When did production of the Remington Model 11 end?

Production of the Remington Model 11 ended in 1948, after which it was succeeded by other semi-automatic models such as the Remington Model 1100.

Why is the Remington Model 11 considered significant in shotgun history?

The Remington Model 11 is significant because it was one of the first widely produced semi-automatic shotguns in America, introducing reliable semi-automatic technology to the market and influencing future shotgun designs.

Additional Resources

1. *Remington Model 11: The Legacy of America's First Semi-Automatic Shotgun*

This book delves into the origins and development of the Remington Model 11, exploring its design innovations and historical significance. It covers the shotgun's role in both military and civilian use from its introduction in the early 20th century. Detailed photographs and schematics provide insight into its mechanical evolution.

2. *The Remington Model 11 Story: From Browning's Blueprint to American Classic*

Tracing the lineage of the Model 11, this book highlights John Browning's original design and how Remington adapted and improved it. Readers will find accounts of the shotgun's impact on hunting, law enforcement, and wartime applications. The narrative includes firsthand stories from users and collectors.

3. *Shotgun Innovations: The History and Mechanics of the Remington Model 11*

Focusing on the technical aspects, this volume breaks down the mechanics that made the Model 11 a breakthrough firearm. It explains the inertia-operated system and contrasts it with other designs of the era. The book also discusses manufacturing techniques and variations throughout its production run.

4. *Remington Model 11 in Combat: The Shotgun's Role in World War I and Beyond*

This historical account details the deployment of the Model 11 in military conflicts, particularly during World War I. It examines how the shotgun was adapted for trench warfare and close-quarters battle. Veteran testimonials and archival photographs enrich the narrative.

5. *Collecting the Remington Model 11: A Guide for Enthusiasts and Historians*

Designed for collectors, this guide offers tips on identifying authentic Model 11 shotguns and understanding their value. It includes information on different variants, serial numbers, and common restoration challenges. The book also provides historical context to appreciate the firearm's significance.

6. *The Evolution of Semi-Automatic Shotguns: Spotlight on the Remington Model 11*

This book places the Model 11 within the broader story of semi-automatic shotgun development. It compares the Model 11 to contemporaneous designs and outlines its influence on future firearms. The text is supplemented with

timelines and patent illustrations.

7. Remington Model 11: The Gun That Changed American Shooting Sports

Exploring the shotgun's impact on sporting clays, trapshooting, and hunting traditions, this book illustrates how the Model 11 shaped competitive shooting. Profiles of prominent shooters and their preferred configurations add personal depth. The book also covers the cultural significance of the Model 11.

8. Military Shotguns of the 20th Century: Featuring the Remington Model 11

A comprehensive review of shotguns used by the military across various conflicts, with a detailed chapter dedicated to the Model 11. It discusses tactical advantages, modifications, and service records. The book includes comparisons with other military shotguns and equipment.

9. Remington Model 11 Repair and Maintenance Manual

This practical manual provides step-by-step instructions for cleaning, disassembling, and repairing the Model 11. It is aimed at gunsmiths and owners who want to preserve the shotgun's functionality and historical integrity. Illustrated diagrams and troubleshooting tips make it an essential resource.

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