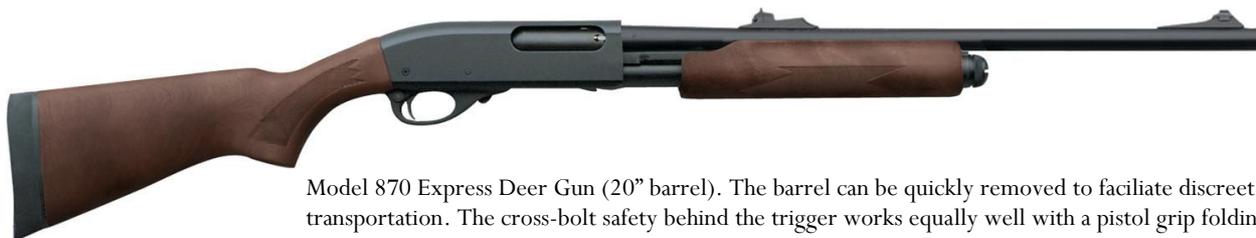


WEAPON GUIDE

REMINGTON 870

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

PUMP ACTION SHOTGUN (12 GAUGE)



Model 870 Express Deer Gun (20" barrel). The barrel can be quickly removed to facilitate discreet transportation. The cross-bolt safety behind the trigger works equally well with a pistol grip folding stock, unlike the case with the Mossberg 500/590/88 safety on the top rear of the receiver.

The Remington Model 870 (c. 1950) is the most widely used pump action shotgun with an excellent 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 can be readily fitted with a folding stock like those made by Choate Machine & Tool and a shorter barrel, which makes it easier to discreetly transport. Choate also make a polymer forend for the 870 with a short Picatinny rail you can attach a white light like the SureFire G2 (via an adaptor like the GG&G G2 Ring) or Streamlight TLR-1 for identifying targets in low light.

Remington also produce a left hand version of the 870 to better suit left handed shooters.



Bean bag rounds.

SUMMARY

The most versatile type of magazine fed long gun for defensive use.

ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Cleaning Kit

Legend Cleaning Kit (HPULSG) [Hoppe's]

Dry Fire Rounds

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

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

High Visibility Sights

Rifle/Shotgun Set—Rem. [TruGlo]

Buttstock Ammo Holder

Deluxe Buttstock Shell Holder & Accessory Pouch. [Allen Company]

Tactical Light

TLR-1 Gun Light. [Streamlight]

HOT TIP

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