



By E. J. Hoffschmidt

Ithaca Model 37 Featherlight Shotgun

THE Ithaca Gun Co. of Ithaca, N. Y., started manufacturing guns in a small wood building on the banks of Fall Creek in 1880. Their first model was a 12-ga. hammer gun, and from this they evolved a series of single- and double-barrel shotguns. Although they have manufactured M1911A1 automatic pistols, M6 survival weapons, and M3A1 sub-machine guns under World War II government contracts, and are currently producing a cal. .22 rifle, their reputation has been built on their trap guns, their double-barrel guns, and the Model 37 Featherlight slide-action shotgun.

The Featherlight was first offered in 1937. It won immediate acclaim since it was a good pound lighter than its nearest competitor. This weight reduction was accomplished by clever design rather than by the use of light alloys. The number of operating parts was kept to a minimum and they were lightened where possible.

As with most slide-action shotguns, the bolt has no locking lugs or separate locking block. The slide tips the end of the bolt up as it is pulled forward. When the end of the bolt is locked into the top of the receiver, the slide supports it from below to prevent unlocking.

Another good design feature is the bottom ejection system which prevents rain from getting into the gun when

handled normally. This system also provides a good safety factor since it protects the face from brass particles or powder burns resulting from defective-shell bursts. Since ejection is downward, the Featherlight is a great favorite with left-handed shooters. Ithaca makes a left-hand safety that can be easily in-

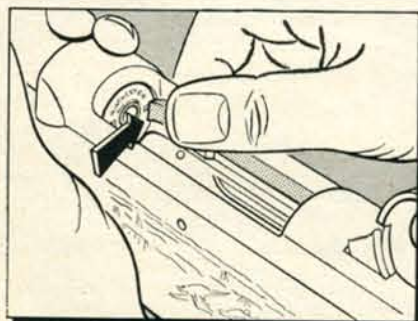
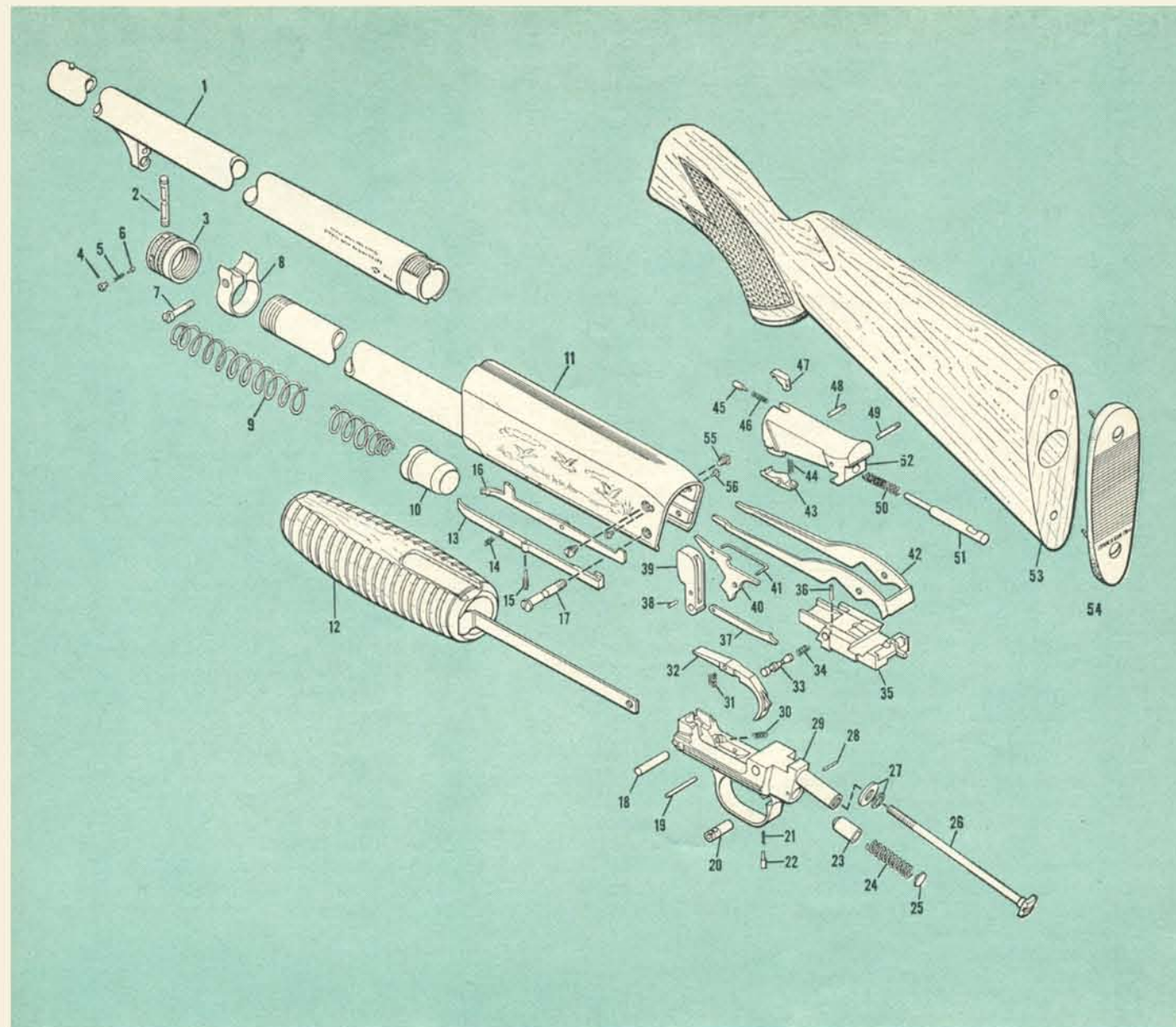
stalled in place of the normal right-hand safety.

Model 37 Featherlight shotguns are made in 20-, 16-, and 12-ga. Barrel lengths range from 20" for the riot gun, to 30" for trap or duck hunters. The 5-shot magazine is easily plugged to conform with Federal law.

Parts Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Barrel | 30. Slide stop spring (bottom) |
| 2. Magazine nut pin* | 31. Trigger spring |
| 3. Magazine nut | 32. Trigger |
| 4. Magazine nut pin check screw* | 33. Slide pin |
| 5. Magazine nut pin catch spring* | 34. Slide pin spring |
| 6. Magazine nut pin check spring cap* | 35. Slide |
| 7. Yoke screw | 36. Slide pin check pin |
| 8. Yoke | 37. Hammer bar |
| 9. Magazine spring | 38. Hammer bar pin |
| 10. Magazine spring cup | 39. Hammer |
| 11. Receiver and magazine tube | 40. Slide stop |
| 12. Slide handle assembly | 41. Slide stop release spring (top) |
| 13. Spring shell stop (left) | 42. Carrier |
| 14. Spring shell stop spring | 43. Bottom extractor |
| 15. Spring shell stop screw | 44. Bottom extractor spring |
| 16. Positive shell stop (right) | 45. Positive extractor spring cap |
| 17. Trigger plate screw | 46. Positive extractor spring |
| 18. Hammer pin | 47. Positive extractor (top) |
| 19. Trigger pin | 48. Extractor hinge pin (bottom) |
| 20. Safety | 49. Firing pin check pin |
| 21. Safety catch spring | 50. Firing pin spring |
| 22. Safety catch | 51. Firing pin |
| 23. Mainspring cup | 52. Breechblock |
| 24. Mainspring | 53. Stock |
| 25. Mainspring cap | 54. Buttplate and screws |
| 26. Stock bolt | 55. Carrier screw (2) |
| 27. Stock washers | 56. Carrier screw lock screw (2) |
| 28. Mainspring stop | |
| 29. Trigger plate | |

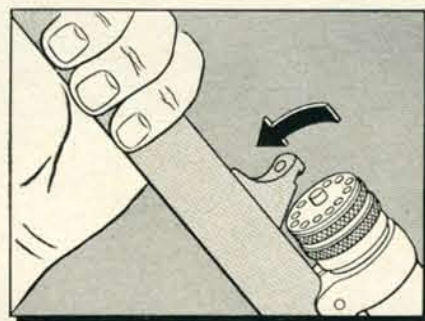
* Not used in guns made after 1954



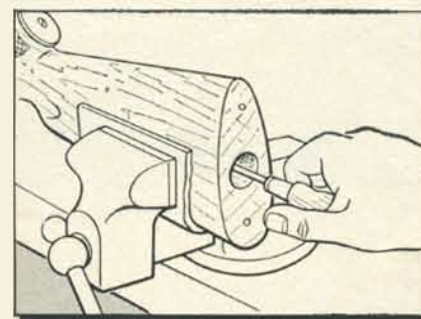
1 Before attempting to remove barrel, unload magazine and chamber. To empty magazine, push in spring shell stop (13) on inside of receiver as shown. Ease rounds out one by one. Pull back on slide release on forward side of trigger guard and pull back slide handle to empty chamber



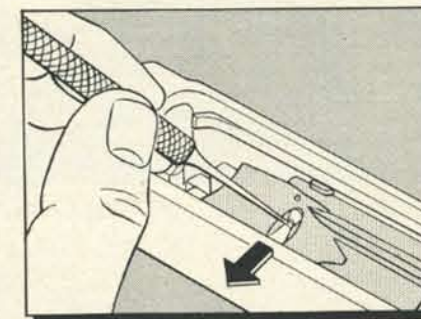
2 To remove barrel (1), pull back on slide release on forward side of trigger guard and pull slide handle assembly (12) to rear to open breech. Pull up magazine nut pin (2) and use it as a lever to rotate magazine nut (3) until projection on it is free of barrel lug. (Magazine nut pin furnished only on guns built prior to 1955. On later built guns having no pin, simply rotate magazine nut in direction shown)



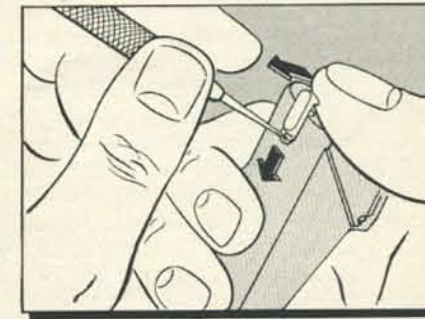
3 Barrel is joined to receiver by an interrupted thread. When magazine nut is free of barrel lug, give barrel 1/4-turn in direction shown and pull it free of receiver. Magazine tube and slide handle assembly remain attached to receiver



4 Stock (53) must be removed before disassembling action. First remove buttplate screws and buttplate. Stock is attached to receiver by a long bolt (26) which has a square head with slot so that it can be removed with a long screwdriver or socket wrench



5 With stock removed, remove trigger plate screw (17) and pull trigger plate group to rear and out of receiver. Remove 2 carrier screw lock screws (56) and carrier screws (55) from receiver. Hold receiver bottom up with magazine to left, and with punch or fingernail pull slide pin (33) toward body until slide bar can be pulled forward from engagement with slide (35). Pull slide, breechblock (52), and carrier (42) together to rear, out of receiver



6 Positive extractor (47) is retained by a powerful spring. To remove it, use a thin punch to push spring plunger back; at same time push extractor out of its seat as shown. Bottom extractor (43) can be easily removed by driving out its hinge pin (48). To remove firing pin from breechblock, first drive out firing pin check pin (49). Then firing pin and spring (51 and 50) can easily be removed. Reassemble in reverse