

# Basset Machine SM14-1A Scope Mount

**T**HIS new Bassett Machine mount for M1A or M14 rifles is made of heat-treated aircraft aluminum extruded into shape and then machined. Pins imbedded along its inside surface mate with the vertical and horizontal scope-mounting grooves found on mil-spec receivers. Once the unit is positioned, the single steel mount screw is tightened into the existing receiver mounting screw hole.

The manufacturer recommends 22 in.-lbs. of torque in screw tightening for best results and uniformity. Weaver standard height rings can then be installed with the clamp-nuts on the left side for maximum clearance.

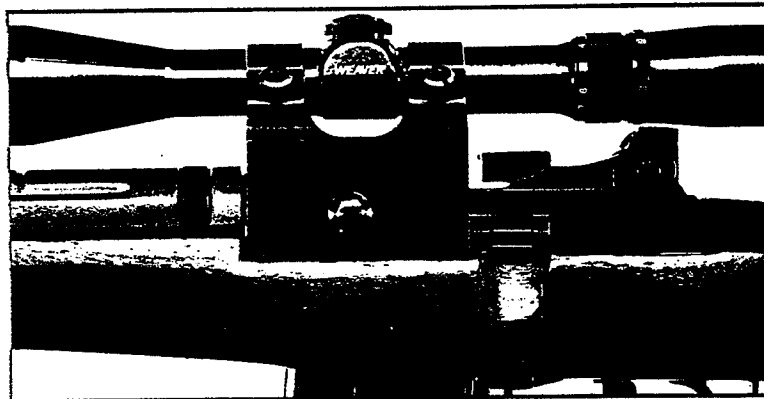
The mount was tested on a Springfield Armory M1A, fired with good accuracy, removed, remounted and fired

again several times. While not perfectly zeroed after each remounting, all subsequent groups were in close proximity.

The mount showed no wear and was easily reinstalled each time. The manufacturer cautions that some M14 copies have off-center vertical aligning grooves and mounting holes, requiring modification before the mount will seat flush against the receiver.

Two mount heights are offered. The lower gives 5/8" clearance between a 1" tube and the M14 or M1A's hand-guard and the higher 1/4" more.

Available from: Sarco, Inc. 323 Union St., Stirling, N.J. 07980. Price: \$39.95



The Basset Machine scope mount for the M14 family of rifles makes installing a telescope sight an easy procedure.

## Q&A

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

From the tens of thousands of questions and letters on guns, ammunition and their use that the American Rifleman receives every year, it publishes here the most interesting. Receiving answers to technical questions is a privilege reserved to NRA Members. Questions must be in the form of letters addressed to **Dope Bag, NRA Publications, 470 Spring Park Place, Suite 1000, Herndon, Va. 22070**; must contain the member's "code line" from an Ameri-

can Rifleman or American Hunter mailing label or membership card; must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed, legal-size envelope and must be limited to one specific question per letter. Non-members may submit a question with membership application. **We regret that no technical questions can be answered by telephone or FAX, and that we cannot place even an approximate value on firearms of any description.**

#### Iver Johnson Champion

*I was glad to note the capsule history of Harrington & Richardson's single-shot, break-open shotguns in the September 1992 issue. Have you anything similar on Iver Johnson's Champions, of which I have several?*

**Answer:** The history of H&R's singles began later and is less obscure than that of IJs for a number of reasons. Not the least of these is the confirmation from IJ executives that, before federal legislation demanded it, accurate production records were not kept.

IJ was less prolific in its advertising and catalog issuance than was H&R but more active in private branding. A partial list of private brands applied to

Champions appeared here (September 1984, p. 66), each coupled with its appropriate wholesaler or mail-order house, most of them long defunct.

Blackfield	Hermitage	Revonoc
Black Imp	Ideal	Scout
Burack	King Nitro	Sloux
T. Barker	Marshwood	Triumph
Challenger	Marswells	True Blue
Diamond Arms	Monitor	Volunteer Arms
Eastern Arms	Newport	Western Field
Famous	Olympic Arms	Witte Special
Falcon	Ranger	XLCR

Other Champion aliases have also been reported and, of course, the brands have been used on other guns by other makers and sold by other houses. An-

other complication in private brand identification lies in the early manufacture of similar-appearing singles by such firms as Crescent, Stevens and Davenport which, in some cases, were marked with the same brands as the Champions.

To further cloud the issue, both British and Belgian shotguns have been noted with "Champion" markings.

Despite all these traps, some shotgun students, notably Fred Ford, DeWitt Sell, Bob Hinman and Joseph T. Vorisek, though not agreeing in all details, have given us an historical framework that, one hopes, will be built on by some advanced collector in the book form the subject deserves.

**1879:** There seems to be general agreement that IJ's predecessor, Johnson & Bye of Worcester, Mass., sold its first single, the "Champion Side Snap," in this year. The Side Snap employed not the familiar top lever (or top snap)

opening system but a lever projecting from the left of the action. The Side Snaps changed in appearance over the years, gained pistol grips and came to be made also in semi-hammerless and concealed hammer versions. All were discontinued ca. 1897.

**ca. 1880:** The "Champion Top Snap" appeared. Like the Side Snap, it was a 10- or 12-ga. stocked in walnut and made with a blued plain or twist barrel,