

THE BASICS IN RIFLE MAKING

Lex Webernick, custom rifle builder of Rifles, Inc., has seen a lot of fads come and go over his almost 30 years of building custom rifles.

"I believe in basics and improvements of components that will improve the performance of a rifle," he said. "By basics I mean: stock design, matching barrel contour and length to rifle, and, of course, caliber."

For hunting rifles – Webernick believes a well-designed stock, accurately balanced rifle with a caliber that you can either handload or use premium ammunition is going to net successful hunts.

"I also believe in matching the optics to the rifle performance and hunting application," he said. "Accurate rifles are the result of paying attention to rifle balance, quality of the barrel and chambering, fitting of the stock — both interior and exterior, optics and ammunition."

New components do excite the veteran rifle maker.

"Where I get excited about innovation is improving the basics," Webernick said. "My lightweight stock looks about the same as it did 25 years ago, but I've continued to change the materials and lamination schedules – which is a fancy way of saying the way the different cloths and weights of either Kevlar, Carbon and fiberglass are layered."

Webernick's lightweight stock out of the mold now weighs 11 ounces. Once it's bedded and finished and a recoil pad and sling swivel studs are added, the complete stock will weigh approximately 15-17 ounces.

Another basic that he likes to improve on is accuracy — his lightweight 5-pound rifle will usually shoot premium factory ammunition 1/2-3/4 MOA.

"I also build heavier rifles that are

guaranteed to shoot 1/2," Webernick said. "I get these results from close attention to details such as stock bedding, chambering and barrel break-in. I shoot each rifle for accuracy."

"Once I've finished breaking-in the barrel and have shot the rifle for accuracy, I send the customer a Ballistic Sheet that details the ammunition, chronograph information and trajectory," he said. "Optics can then be matched to the actual rifle shooting specific ammunition."

Rifles', Inc. builds six different models — from the extremes of 5-pound lightweight hunting to 10-pound long-range. There really isn't a one-size-fits-all.

"To achieve a goal, you've got to know what the goal is: sheep hunting, general type of hunting, target or competition shooting," Webernick said. "Success for me is building a rifle that my customer is confident in and well suited for his hunting goals."

"My goal is to build you 'your' perfect hunting rifle."



RIFLES, INC.

(830) 569-2055

riflesinc.com

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ONE AT A
TIME



Lex Webernick personally builds each rifle. His goal is to build you the perfect hunting rifle.

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3580 Leal Road, Pleasanton, TX 78064

(830) 569-2055

DSC Booth #4136