

remington model 510 targetmaster history

remington model 510 targetmaster history traces the evolution of one of Remington's most iconic bolt-action rifles designed for target shooting and small-game hunting. Introduced in the mid-20th century, the Model 510 Targetmaster quickly gained recognition for its precision, reliability, and innovative design elements tailored to competitive shooters and enthusiasts alike. This article explores the comprehensive history of the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster, detailing its development, technical specifications, variants, and its enduring legacy in firearm history. Understanding the background and features of this rifle offers valuable insight into its role in both sporting and recreational shooting contexts. The following sections will provide an in-depth look at the rifle's origins, manufacturing timeline, design characteristics, and its place among contemporaneous firearms.

- Development and Introduction
- Design Features and Technical Specifications
- Variants and Model Differences
- Manufacturing Timeline and Production Details
- Legacy and Collectibility

Development and Introduction

The remington model 510 targetmaster history begins in the post-World War II era when Remington sought to expand its line of rimfire rifles aimed at target shooters and small-game hunters. Introduced in 1949, the Model 510 Targetmaster was designed to offer a more refined and accurate shooting experience compared to its predecessors. It was developed as an improvement over the earlier Model 511, featuring a stronger action and enhanced ergonomics to appeal to competitive marksmen and casual shooters. The rifle was chambered primarily in .22 caliber, which was a popular choice for target shooting due to low recoil and affordable ammunition.

Remington's engineers focused on precision and reliability, incorporating a bolt-action mechanism that delivered smooth cycling and consistent shot placement. The introduction of the Model 510 Targetmaster marked a significant step in Remington's rimfire rifle offerings, positioning it as a serious contender in the market for training and competition firearms. Its development reflected a growing demand for specialized rifles that could provide shooters with improved accuracy without sacrificing ease of use.

Design Features and Technical Specifications

The design of the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster combined functional precision with user-friendly features, making it a favorite among target shooters. The rifle's bolt-action system was

engineered for smooth operation, featuring a single-shot loading mechanism that encouraged deliberate and careful shooting. This design choice emphasized accuracy over rapid fire, aligning with the rifle's target-oriented purpose.

Barrel and Accuracy

The Model 510 Targetmaster was equipped with a heavy, 24-inch barrel that contributed significantly to its accuracy. The barrel was free-floating, which helped reduce barrel vibration and improved shot consistency. This aspect of the rifle's design was critical for achieving tight groupings and enhanced precision during target practice or competition.

Stock and Ergonomics

The stock of the Model 510 was typically made from high-quality walnut, providing both durability and a comfortable grip. Its design featured a straight comb and a checkered pistol grip to aid in steady aiming. The stock's shape and finish were tailored to reduce shooter fatigue during extended sessions, which was important for target shooters requiring sustained focus.

Sights and Mounting Options

Standard iron sights were fitted to the Model 510 Targetmaster, including an adjustable rear aperture sight and a front post sight, allowing precise sight alignment. Additionally, the rifle was drilled and tapped for mounting telescopic sights, giving shooters the flexibility to customize their setup according to personal preferences and shooting conditions.

- Caliber: .22 Long Rifle (primary), also available in .22 Short and .22 Long
- Action: Bolt-action, single-shot
- Barrel length: 24 inches, heavy profile
- Stock: Walnut, checkered pistol grip
- Sights: Adjustable aperture rear, blade front, scope mount drilled and tapped
- Weight: Approximately 6.25 pounds

Variants and Model Differences

Throughout its production life, the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster was offered in several variants that catered to different shooting disciplines and preferences. These variants primarily differed in terms of barrel length, stock configuration, and chambering options, allowing users to select a model best suited for their specific needs.

Model 510A

The 510A variant featured a shorter barrel length of 22 inches compared to the original 24-inch barrel. This made the rifle slightly lighter and more maneuverable while maintaining accuracy for target shooting and small-game hunting. The 510A remained popular among shooters who preferred a more compact firearm.

Model 510X

The 510X was an experimental or limited-run version that incorporated minor changes such as stock shape and finish variations. Some 510X models featured a Monte Carlo-style stock designed to improve cheek weld and sight alignment, enhancing performance during scoped shooting.

Caliber Variations

While the .22 Long Rifle cartridge was the standard, the Model 510 Targetmaster was also chambered in .22 Short and .22 Long calibers in some production runs. These options provided versatility for shooters seeking different ballistic performances or specific ammunition preferences for plinking or competition.

Manufacturing Timeline and Production Details

The production of the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster spanned from 1949 until 1963, during which time it went through various manufacturing refinements and updates. Over this 14-year period, approximately 200,000 units were produced, reflecting strong demand and sustained popularity among target shooters and hunters alike.

Manufacturing took place at Remington's primary facility in Ilion, New York, where stringent quality control measures ensured each rifle met exacting standards. The rifles were assembled using high-grade materials and components, contributing to their reputation for durability and precision. Serial number records indicate distinct production batches, which are often referenced by collectors to determine the rifle's manufacturing date and variant.

Throughout its production, minor adjustments were made to improve reliability and ease of maintenance. These included enhancements to the bolt design, refinements to the stock bedding, and updates to the sights. Despite these changes, the fundamental characteristics of the Model 510 Targetmaster remained consistent, preserving its identity as a precision target rifle.

Legacy and Collectibility

The Remington Model 510 Targetmaster history is marked by its enduring legacy as a respected and sought-after rimfire target rifle. Even decades after production ceased, the Model 510 continues to be valued by collectors, shooting enthusiasts, and small-game hunters. Its combination of accuracy, craftsmanship, and historical significance contributes to its status as a classic American firearm.

Collectors prize early production models and variants with unique features or limited runs, such as the 510X or those chambered in less common calibers. The rifle's robust construction means many examples remain in excellent working condition, making them highly desirable for both display and practical use.

- Recognized for exceptional accuracy and reliability
- Popular among vintage firearm collectors
- Valued for historical significance in mid-20th century shooting sports
- Maintains strong aftermarket support for parts and restoration
- Often used in nostalgic target shooting competitions

The Remington Model 510 Targetmaster's place in firearm history is secured by its role in advancing rimfire target shooting and its influence on subsequent rifle designs. Its combination of thoughtful engineering and user-focused features exemplifies Remington's commitment to quality and innovation during a pivotal era for American firearms.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster?

The Remington Model 510 Targetmaster is a semi-automatic .22 caliber rifle produced by Remington Arms from 1949 to 1967, designed primarily for target shooting and small game hunting.

When was the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster first introduced?

The Remington Model 510 Targetmaster was first introduced in 1949.

What type of ammunition does the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster use?

The Remington Model 510 Targetmaster uses .22 Long Rifle rimfire ammunition.

What are the key design features of the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster?

Key features include a tubular magazine under the barrel, a blowback semi-automatic action, a 27-inch barrel, and a wood stock designed for target shooting.

How many Remington Model 510 Targetmaster rifles were produced?

Approximately 151,000 Remington Model 510 Targetmaster rifles were produced during its manufacturing run from 1949 to 1967.

Why did Remington discontinue the Model 510 Targetmaster?

The Model 510 Targetmaster was discontinued in 1967 due to changing market demands and the introduction of newer models that offered improved features and ergonomics.

What is the historical significance of the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster?

The Model 510 Targetmaster was significant as a reliable, affordable semi-automatic .22 rifle designed for target shooting and hunting, representing post-WWII American firearm innovation.

How does the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster compare to other .22 rifles of its era?

Compared to other .22 rifles of its time, the Model 510 Targetmaster was known for its accuracy, smooth blowback operation, and quality craftsmanship, making it popular among target shooters and hunters alike.

Are Remington Model 510 Targetmaster rifles still popular among collectors today?

Yes, the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster is considered a collectible firearm today due to its historical value, reliability, and iconic design, often sought after by vintage firearm enthusiasts.

Additional Resources

1. *Remington Model 510 Targetmaster: A Comprehensive History*

This book offers an in-depth look at the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster, tracing its development from initial design to production. It covers the technical specifications, manufacturing changes over the years, and its impact on target shooting sports. Richly illustrated with photographs and diagrams, it is a valuable resource for collectors and enthusiasts alike.

2. *The Evolution of Remington Rimfire Pistols*

Focusing on the broader family of Remington rimfire pistols, this book places the Model 510 Targetmaster within the context of its predecessors and successors. It details the innovations introduced with the 510 and compares its features with other models. The author also discusses the pistol's reception in the shooting community and its legacy.

3. *Classic American Target Pistols: Remington and Beyond*

This volume explores the history of American target pistols, with a significant section dedicated to the Remington Model 510 Targetmaster. It examines the firearm's design philosophy, performance in competitions, and its role in popularizing precision shooting. Collectors will appreciate the detailed serial number guides and variant descriptions included.

4. *Targetmaster Techniques: Using the Remington Model 510*

A practical guide aimed at shooters interested in mastering the Model 510 Targetmaster, this book covers handling, maintenance, and shooting techniques. It includes tips on sight adjustments,

cleaning procedures, and optimizing accuracy. Historical anecdotes about the pistol's use in various shooting disciplines enrich the content.

5. *The Remington Model 510 Targetmaster: Collectors' Edition*

Tailored for firearm collectors, this edition provides exhaustive details about production runs, rare variants, and identifying features of the Model 510 Targetmaster. It features high-quality images of mint-condition specimens and discusses the pistol's market value over time. The book also offers advice on authentication and preservation.

6. *Remington Firearms: A Legacy of Innovation*

While covering the entire range of Remington firearms, this book dedicates a chapter to the Model 510 Targetmaster, highlighting its innovative aspects. It places the pistol within Remington's broader history, emphasizing technological advancements and design trends. The narrative includes interviews with former Remington engineers and designers.

7. *Rimfire Pistols of the 20th Century*

This historical overview covers various rimfire pistols produced during the 20th century, with a focus on popular models such as the Remington 510 Targetmaster. The book discusses manufacturing techniques, market competition, and the evolution of rimfire technology. Detailed comparison charts help readers understand the 510's unique qualities.

8. *Precision Shooting: The Remington Model 510 Targetmaster in Competition*

Focusing on the competitive shooting scene, this book chronicles the role of the Model 510 Targetmaster in various tournaments and shooting clubs. It includes profiles of notable marksmen who favored the pistol and recounts memorable matches. The text also provides insights into tuning and customizing the firearm for peak performance.

9. *The Art and Craft of Remington Model 510 Targetmaster Restoration*

Designed for gunsmiths and hobbyists, this guide walks readers through the process of restoring a Remington 510 Targetmaster to its original condition. It covers disassembly, parts replacement, refinishing, and troubleshooting common issues. Detailed photographs and step-by-step instructions make it an indispensable manual for restoration projects.

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