

# HEYM'S



Top rifle is Heym left-hand SR20 G in .375 H&H Magnum. The lower rifle is Heym's SR40 in .222 Remington. Both are quality rifles.

## German rifles have always had a fine reputation for beauty and quality. Now, the classic Heym rifles are available for left-handed shooters.

By Jim Woods

If there was ever a maltreated minority, it's the left-handed long-gun shooter. Only a couple of U.S. production rifle companies offer left-hand models, and they're good ones too, but the choices are limited in both model and caliber. Therefore, when a new southpaw rifle model comes on the market, it's welcomed with left-handed open arms. Join me in a rousing welcome to the left-hand Heym bolt action rifles.

The German name of Heym is an old one in sporting firearms, even though the name hasn't been very well known in the U.S. until the last ten years or so. There were some Heym guns imported to the U.S. back in the 1920's and 30's, but with the Second World War, that trickle of guns dried up, not to start up again for a half century. Heym, though, has marked several new starts in its history. The company started in the gunmaking center of Germany—Suhl—in 1865. Following WWII, the company moved out of Suhl, which was going to wind up on the wrong

side of the dividing line between East and West Germany. Eventually, the plant was re-started in Munnerstadt, in West Germany, where it is today.

Around the mid 1960's, Heym entered into a working arrangement with Mauser to produce Heym-designed bolt action rifles under the Mauser label. Then, in the early 1970's, that arrangement was terminated, and with some changes to the Heym-Mauser, the guns were produced as the Heym SR series. The SR20 N is the standard length action; SR20 G is the magnum action; SR20 L is the Mannlicher style carbine; and SR40 is the short action. All of these now are available in left-hand versions. All the options available on right-hand versions of the SR series of rifles are available on left-hand versions.

Friedrich Wilh Heym is an arms factory, but the rifles built there get a good deal of attention to detail equaling a lot of hand work. That, in turn, translates into limited production and a correspondingly higher price. Heym guns are comparatively ex-

pensive, but this is an instance where the adage, "You get what you pay for," has no negative connotation.

Heym bolt rifles utilize a Mauser-type locking system that is characterized by smooth operation. A three position safety locks the bolt as well as the trigger in the rear position, but permits the bolt to be opened for unloading the chamber with the safety at the middle position. When the safety is fully forward, the rifle will fire. The forward position (fire) is marked with a red dot; the rear position is marked with a white dot. The middle safe position is not visibly marked, but the tactile detents let you know the position of the safety.

A choice of three optional triggers can be ordered on a Heym bolt action rifle: Single stage, adjustable; single set; or double set. We tested one left hand rifle with the single stage trigger and another with the single set trigger.

The magnum bolt actions hold three rounds in the magazine; standard actions hold five rounds. Cartridges can be removed from the magazine via a hinged floorplate.

That leads me into the only real flaw I find with the Heym rifles. The floorplate is cast alloy, not steel, where steel is much more preferable. On the short action rifle we tested, it's cast with some high relief scrollwork and a stag head that just draws attention to it. I have to concede, though, that the relief artwork is well executed. Under magnification, it shows to be a quality job. Perhaps it's just a case of my personally not being familiar with that sort of decorative treatment for rifles. If the same scene had been engraved on steel, I'm sure that it would have been perfectly acceptable to me. Maybe the reason the cast relief decoration bothers me is that several of the very expensive Heym guns are decorated with absolutely superb hand engraving. Engraving is available on bolt rifles at additional cost; just order the Deluxe version. The SR20 floorplate is also cast but plain. Trigger guards on all the bolt action rifles are aluminum.

All topside metal—barrel and receiver—are flawlessly blued. An inscription on top of the barrel, just forward of the rear sight, announces that the barrel is of Krupp steel. Alongside the rear sight on the left is model and caliber data. A little farther back are proof markings and, on the receiver's left side, are the serial numbers. Flip the rifle over to the right side, and along the receiver is the company name, Friedrich Wilh Heym. Forward, on

# Southpaw Safari Rifle

the right side of the barrel at the rear sight, is additional marking that won't be seen on Heym rifles that are sold in countries other than the U.S. It's the U.S. importer name and address, Paul Jaeger, Inc., Jenkintown, PA.

One reads so much about wood-to-metal fit in most test reports, so I won't dwell on the superb Heym workmanship in this area. It's enough to say that if it weren't for the different colors of the blued steel and the French walnut stock, it would be difficult to tell where one leaves off and the other begins. The stock is hand checked and matte finished. Heym's standard grade wood leaves nothing to want for in a field grade gun. In fact, straight-grained walnut, well fitted and expertly finished, shows off well in the gun rack. All the half

stock rifles, except the petite SR40, were fitted with a Schnabel fore-end. The other test rifle, an SR40 in .222 Rem., has a square cut fore-end tip, in rosewood as is the Schnabel on the Standard and Magnum rifles. The SR40 makes use of white line spacers at the buttplate, pistol grip cap, and fore-end tip. The SR20 has no spacers at the contrasting fore-end tip or pistol grip cap and is fitted with a brown compressible rubber buttpad.

All the Heym bolt action rifles come with iron sights, the rear of which is a single fixed leaf with an adjustable elevation notch. The front is a bead on a ramp. All the rifles are, as are most rifles from other manufacturers, drilled and tapped for standard scope mounts. The Heym rifles can be ordered with Suhler claw

mounts, or the excellent EAW mounts that, like the claw type, permit the scope to be easily removed when the use of iron sights is desirable.

The two test rifles I had on hand were already equipped with scopes when I received them. I saw the guns at the National Shooting Sports Foundation S.H.O.T. Show in Dallas in January of 1984. The SR series of rifles was being shown to the industry, and both the left hand and right hand sample guns were outfitted with various accessories including mounts and scopes. I made arrangements to borrow two left hand rifles, a subject of considerable personal interest to me, since I shoot lefty even though I'm right-handed in all things except shooting long guns. Since

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**Top: Detail of the Heym SR20 with test target. Below: Closeup shot of the Heym SR40. Right: Author used SR20 with Schmidt & Bender scope.**





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## Left-Hand Heym

*Continued from page 35*

the guns were already in the country for that Show, I didn't have to wait long for them, and they came complete with the scopes that were mounted for the display.

They also came without firing pins! It's a S.H.O.T. Show rule that guns on display must be deactivated, so my two test rifles were good for photos and very little else. This was the first time for me that I had to resort to gunsmithing before I could test-fire factory-loaned guns. Eventually, the firing pins came in the mail, and I replaced the dummy pins that were in the guns with the operational ones.

This wait for firing pins was not the only delay in my test fire plans. Following the S.H.O.T. Show in January, the Safari Club Show came up in February in Las Vegas, Nevada. Heym was displaying at that show too, so I had to give up the rifles for use at that affair. As luck would have it, a discriminating left-handed sportsman, a Mr. Tom Carmody of Ventura, California, spotted the .375 H&H Mag. SR20 G with EAW mounts and Schmidt & Bender 1 1/2-6 power scope and made arrangements to purchase it on the spot. I seems that he had a Safari coming up almost immediately, and he wanted that particular gun for Africa. The rifle was committed to Mr. Carmody by the Heym people with

the provision that I got it back first to complete my test of it.

The new owner of the gun had actually purchased two Schmidt & Bender scopes for the rifle. The second was a 56mm objective lens 2 1/2-10X model that he expressly wanted for low light shooting. He intended to switch to this particular scope when he hunted leopard, for which he had obtained a permit to bring back into the U.S. I did some shooting with the second scope too, enough that it was pretty well sighted in for him.

Though I've never met the gentleman who purchased the rifle, he told me by telephone that his safari to Botswana was a success, and the left-hand Heym SR20 G accounted for trophy Cape buffalo, kudu, and gemsbok. He also took a fantastic 47 1/2-inch sable antelope, and he did bag his leopard, though not in the evening light for which he took the large objective lens Schmidt & Bender scope. He did use that high magnification scope for some of the small antelope that called for long range shots. I can tell you that I liked the rifle so well, that I'll latch on to another one like it for my next trip to Africa. Heym can supply plenty more rifles just like it, to me and other left-handed shooters who appreciate great guns.

The SR40 in caliber .222 Remington, stayed with me a while longer. It is fitted with superb Conetrol bases and rings, holding a Leupold 3x9 Compact scope that compliments the trim lines of the

## New Hunter Brown Cases From Protecto



The classic Hunter Brown color is not the only thing that's different about these new cases from the Protecto Division of HOPPE'S. The full length Piano Hinge is the best protection ever against twisting and binding. Neat looking, nickel plated locks, three of them on some models, add to the security, as does the "egg-carton" polyurethane lining, bumper feet, rugged twin braces and double luggage handles enhance the rich looks of the scuff resistant Hunter Brown finish.

Protecto's new Hunter Brown cases are available in the seven most popular styles, including the B100-Double rifle or shotgun, B200-Single Trap Shooter, B300-Single Rifle, B400-Single Compact, B500-Silhouette Pistol, B600-Four Handgun and B700-

Two Handgun.

These rugged cases meet all airline requirements and are not affected by heat, extreme cold or moisture. At the price of guns these days, they all deserve top protection when moving them from place to place. It's the best travel insurance you can buy!

The popular full line of Protecto ABS Plastic Green cases in a full line of sizes is, of course, still available and covers all kinds of archery, camera, gun, spotting scope, and other outdoor transportation chores.

Another great line of products from the same folks who make No. 9 Solvent. HOPPE'S, Division of Penguin Industries, Inc., Airport Industrial Mall, Coatesville, PA 19320 (Dept GN12)

small rifle. The SR40 was equipped with a single set trigger that releases with just a whisper, then the trigger is first pushed forward to set it. Without the set function being used, the trigger breaks at a normal crispness of about 3½-pounds.

With the normal trigger and using Federal ammo, I printed 3-shot, sub-inch groups from the very start. For that matter, Remington ammo did the same in the Heym SR40. With the set trigger, groups shrank perceptibly when I could control it. Sometimes though, I'd barely touch the trigger at the wrong time in the waver, and I'd scatter groups all over. It took a lot of time with the set trigger before I could shoot with it consistently. It may be good for target games, but the standard trigger is the best choice for hunting.

Both the SR20 and the SR40 are obviously intended for hunting, and the left handed shooter/hunter would do well to take a close look at them. Admittedly, the rifles are considerably higher priced than the U.S. production rifles that are available for left-handers. But, they represent a significant new choice for the south-paw shooter and we shooters so handicapped need all the help we can get.



### Specifications

#### Heym Sr Series Bolt Action Rifles (All available in left-hand variation)

##### Model SR20 N Standard Rifle

Caliber: 5.6x57; 6.5x55; 6.5x57; 7x57; 7x64; 9.3x62; .243 Win; .270 Win; .308 Win; .30-06  
Magazine capacity: 5 rounds  
Overall length: 44½-inches  
Barrel length: 23½-inches  
Weight: Approximately 7-pounds  
Price: \$835; Left hand, \$995

##### Model SR20 G Magnum Rifle

Caliber: 6.8x68; 8x66s; 7mm Rem. Mag; .300 Win. Mag; .375 H&H Mag.  
Magazine capacity: 3 rounds  
Overall length: 47-inches  
Barrel length: 25½-inches  
Weight: Approximately 7½-pounds  
Price: \$880; Left hand, \$1040

##### Model SR20 L, Full Stocked Carbine

Caliber: Same as Standard Rifle except 9.3x62 not available.  
Overall length: 41½-inches  
Barrel length: 20½-inches  
Weight: Approximately 7¼-pounds  
Price: \$945; Left hand, \$1105

##### Model SR40, Short Action Rifle

Caliber: .222 Rem; .223 Rem.  
Magazine capacity: 5 rounds  
Overall length: 43½-inches  
Barrel length: 23½-inches  
Weight: Approximately 6¼-pounds  
Price: \$765; Left hand, \$925.

## BARREL BY SHILEN QUALITY BY HAC ACCURACY BY DESIGN



Every Holloway Arms Company Rifle is test-fired at the factory to insure both function and accuracy. Fired from a machine rest at 100-meters, the test target is packed with the rifle as our commitment to excellence. The target on the left was fired by a serial production rifle using standard military ball ammunition. Fired using only the rifle's iron sights, HAC will ship no rifle unless the five shot group is satisfactory. HAC cares for the rifles it makes so that they will take care of the situation. Service to the shooter begins with service to the product. We make it as easy on your wallet as we make it tough on your target.

#### AVAILABLE IN

.308 Win., .243 Win., 7 mm-08 Rem., .358 Win.	
MODEL 7 STANDARD RIFLE	MODEL 7C CARBINE
20" Barrel (Shown)	16" Barrel
Weight w/o Magazine: 8 lb. 12 oz.	Weight w/o Magazine: 8 lb. 8oz.
Length, Stock Folded: 33"	Length, Stock Folded: 29"
Length, Stock Extended: 43"	Length, Stock Extended: 39"



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