

That all changed when I went to another stock design. My time spent shooting the SR-25 got me closer to the Silhouette position, but the TUBB 2000 refined this even further. Not only does the T2K have a naturally higher sighting plane, but its adjustment capability in some key areas let me go even higher than what I used on the SR-25.

Since the sights are higher (approximately one inch higher than my previously attainable “high” Model 70 sight set) the sighting plane is higher. I also have the ability to have a single shot loading block which extends down from the receiver to the legal depth.

Furthermore, in front of that loading block the rifle profile goes up a couple of inches from the magazine housing to the bottom of the action. That, plus the narrower action width (no stock), allowed me to put the

forward portion of the magazine box between the “V” of my two fingers, and yet the bottom of the loading block got down into the meaty part of my thumb. Then I not only had the V-grip finger control, but had the rifle sitting in a very solid place on my hand; my thumb and little finger were in there also in the great equation. The wrist was then essentially vertical, not bent as before. The sighting plane is

higher, and it’s comfortable. I’m running the rear sight even a little higher because I’m using the adjustable height front sight, so I move the sight up twenty-some minutes, not a great amount, but it gets it up a little bit higher. Then I had something that I was really pleased with.

[There is much more about left hand gripping methods coming shortly, and you’ll see why the preceding was written in the past tense.]

This is a strong example of how a rifle change equates to a position change, and that it’s the position needs that should first dictate rifle design. I stand straighter because I don’t have to move the muzzle up with the larger amount of back bend. I get the same settling and solidity now standing upright with the new gun as I did with the increased back bend on the old gun, and it’s easier to do. The

position I have attained is better. To reiterate, the old wind position was more upright and the calm position had more back bend. The old wind position with the Model 70 was not as steady as the calm position. Now with the T2K the wind position and calm position are the same, and it’s the old wind position all the time, and the big difference is a matter of accomplishment rather



Here is the set up I used for a time on my Model 70. This sight dovetail was offset to level it to the cant I used offhand and also elevated. The idea to add another dovetail to the existing front globe used for sling supported positions was to get the sighting plane higher. That then allowed me to attain a better offhand position since it influenced several major technical areas in my hold. I used a separate rear sight. This sight was mounted on a taller rear sight base that was also ground to level the rear sight to the extra cant. I installed the sight and base prior to shooting offhand and then removed it to install the sight and base I used for the other events.



Rifle design either opens or reduces possibilities for attaining the sort of position the shooter really wants. It is certainly better to have a technical format that opens possibilities rather than forces compromises. Study these photos to see the difference in my head orientation between the Model 70 I shot in 1992 and the 2002 edition of my offhand position with the TUBB 2000.

than technique: the hold is equal now to my best efforts in the past to have a “calm” position. A lot of that had to do with how I changed my hand position, and virtually all of that change came about after moving away from the Model 70 to a rifle that allowed me the latitude I needed to develop a left hand grip I liked. I was more comfortable after I changed my hand and rotated it around to shoot a position that had a little more lean, not back bend. It’s what I’m doing from my shoulder blades up. I am sort of curling into the rifle. I have back bend but I am leaning a little toward the gun (back bend is lower, in the lower back; the lean is in the upper back).

The only difference now in a light wind and heavy wind is the degree of tension I hold onto the gun with the left hand and I pull back harder with the right hand. I use a little bit more tension to keep it from being buffeted as much. Overall, I have not seen or experienced the need for any changes in elements of this nature or magnitude over the past few years of

shooting the better rifle design. I hold the rifle with the same force and have essentially the same feels in my offhand position now as ever. The main differences have been in the quality of the position, and, again, that has been uncovering the ability to fit a rifle to the ideal offhand position I have always favored — which is the Silhouette chin gun style.

HAND HOLDS

Throughout this segment I’ve brought up points about right and left hand preferences and positioning and now I’d like to reiterate a few points and add more. I have said that I favor a high right hand position. It also should be clear by now the relationship between rifle design and position elements: position elements are limited by rifle design, and rifle design changes I make are done to expand position options to include my preferences. It also should be clear that I do not hesitate to make something work for me, whenever possible.