

The Outdoor Wire - July 8, 2013

FEATURE

A Visit to Timney Triggers

A lot has changed since I last paid a visit on Timney Triggers in Phoenix. Gone is their previous utilitarian location. In its place, a spacious modern location in a trendy light industrial area on the outskirts of even trendier Scottsdale.

The new facilities reflect the personality and management theory of owner John Vehr. Likable and outgoing, Vehr's passionate about business, and determined to keep Timney's standards high without sacrificing a very laid-back company culture.



"When I first took over," Vehr told me, "Timney was one of those dingy, worn down manufacturing facilities where it seemed people were always complaining about something.

"It frustrated me," he says, "until I realized I wouldn't be happy working there, either."

So, he worked to do away with "worn-out machines that leaked everywhere" and replace them with the latest CNC platforms. Their new facility features rows of them, gleamingly clean on industrial floors that sparkle like they're regularly polished with an industrial-grade floor polisher because, well, they are.

Not only does that kind of care keep the equipment running smoothly, Vehr says, it keeps Timney's highly-skilled workers happy. So, too, do the offices, exercise room and quirky art that make Timney look like a facility that may have been designed for fun as much as manufacturing. It's not by accident.

"I want it to be a great place to work for a lot of reasons," he says, "it's a long process to train good people. But I want them to feel like they are part of a team- *our* team. If they're happy, they like coming to work. If they like their work, are paid well, and know they're more than just workers, they become part of a happy working culture."

It's not difficult to see that Vehr believes strongly in that culture. Workspaces, equipment, Vehr's light-hearted management style encourage the light-hearted banter that goes nearly non-stop as his team carefully hand-assembles, adjusts and tests every trigger before it is released for sale.

"This is what makes them the best triggers in the world," Vehr told me proudly, sweeping his arm across a room of workbenches where men and women were using small hand tools to assemble each trigger.

"After assembly, every trigger is then installed on the appropriate action and hand tested for function. Then, each trigger gets hand-adjustments to assure it is exactly up to specifications."

At that point, they're grouped in bulk carriers and prepped for packaging and delivery to customers.



Every trigger from Timney, without exception, is hand-calibrated and safety checked before being released for sale. OWDN photo.

But is there really a difference between a Timney a stock trigger? It's a question Vehr's heard hundreds of times. It had been a tough one to answer, Vehr said, because a great trigger has to be *felt*. Today, it's demonstrated using a pair of custom-built devices that resembles the trigger housing and hand grip of the AR-style rifle.

In one unit there's a stock trigger. In the other, a Timney custom. When I cocked it and pulled the trigger, it felt like virtually every AR-15 rifle I've ever fired. The trigger was OK, but it had plenty of slack or take-up before I actually felt like I was started to actually pull the trigger. At about six pounds of pressure, it snapped.

Vehr then handed me the identical unit with a Timney' triggers in their signature gold finish. The first thing I noticed was the absence of slack. What followed almost immediately after was the crisp release of the trigger with no over-travel.

Timney triggers also allow two things not often found in stock triggers: ease-of-replacement and the ability to precisely adjust the trigger pull from very light (think ounces, not pounds on precision rifles) to my preferred four-pound trigger for hunting or sporting rifles.

Timney triggers are available for the usual cross-section of rifles, and at least one you might not consider a candidate for their \$100-plus custom triggers: the Mosin-Nagant.

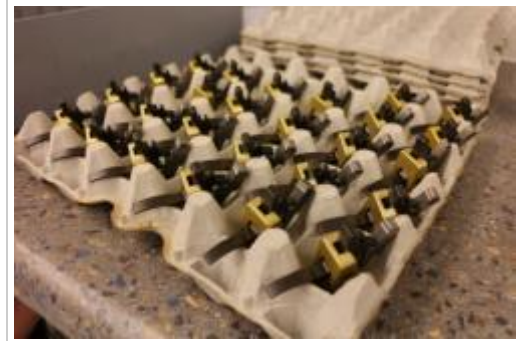
Timneys for the lowly Mosin, Vehr told me, was something The Outdoor and Shooting Wires had a large hand in determining.

"A couple of years ago, we asked your readers to tell us what our next trigger should be," he reminded me, "and the requests for the Mosin surprised the heck out of us."

"It wasn't just a few more people asking for it," he laughed, "it was double or triple the

requests for other rifles. So we went to work and designed a trigger than really does give you all the accuracy that rifle's capable of producing. With a great trigger, it is surprisingly accurate at all sorts of distances."

That's not the only quirky offering these days. If you're one of the rabid fans of the SlideFire stock on a Ruger 10/22, there's a Timney trigger replacement unit that not only makes the trigger crisp and precise, it's designed to maximize the effectiveness of that smile-producing accessory that enables users to produce near-auto rates of fire-legally.



Timney triggers ready for customers. What's next? A question the consumer can answer. OWDN photo.

What's next, I asked? "Don't know," Vehr laughed, "we'll see what people tell us they want - and we'll figure out how to make it."

Got a suggestion? Drop me a note at jim@theoutdoorwire.com and I'll pass it on to Vehr and his team. You just might pick the next Timney trigger.

We'll keep you posted.

--*Jim Shepherd*