

GUNS MAGAZINE FALL/WINTER 2013

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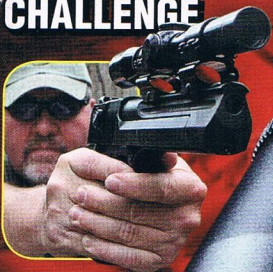
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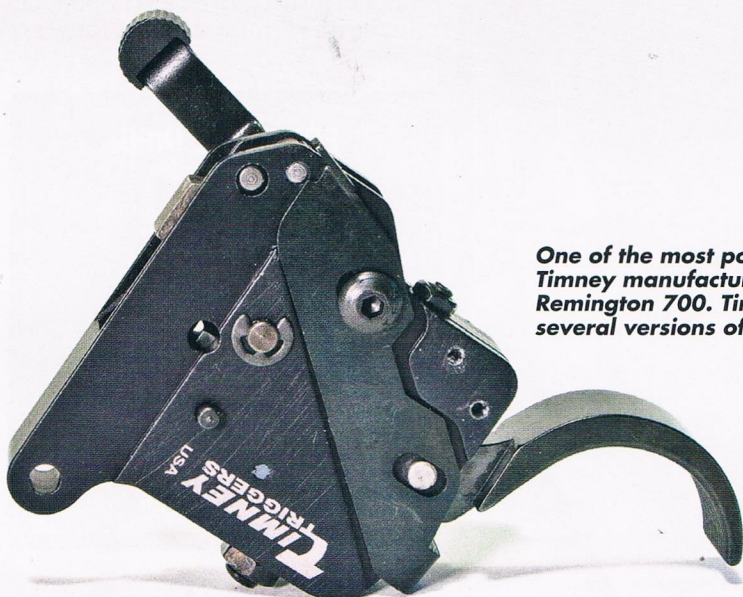


Richard Mann

TIMNEY TRIGGERS USA

GOOD PEOPLE AND GOOD TRIGGERS

Even in today's world where everything is high tech, people are what matter. This might seem odd, especially to the latest generation who manages most of their interpersonal and professional relationships via a smartphone. But back in the day — and that day was not long ago — folks didn't look to technology for answers. They went to people they could trust to get things done and with whom they knew they could get a fair shake. It's true, Timney Triggers is one of the most modern manufacturing facilities in the firearms industry, but it's the people there who make the difference.



One of the most popular triggers Timney manufactures is for the Remington 700. Timney offers several versions of this trigger.

Allen Timney founded Timney Triggers in 1946. After WWII, he knew the proliferation of surplus military rifles like Mausers and Enfields would create a demand for easy-to-install, single-stage triggers. Allen built Timney Triggers around those rifles and did well for himself until he decided to retire; at that point, he decided to sell the company to Rosemary and Paul Vehr. Timney Triggers plodded right along until 2000 when John Vehr, the general manager of Timney and son of Rosemary and Paul, bought the company.

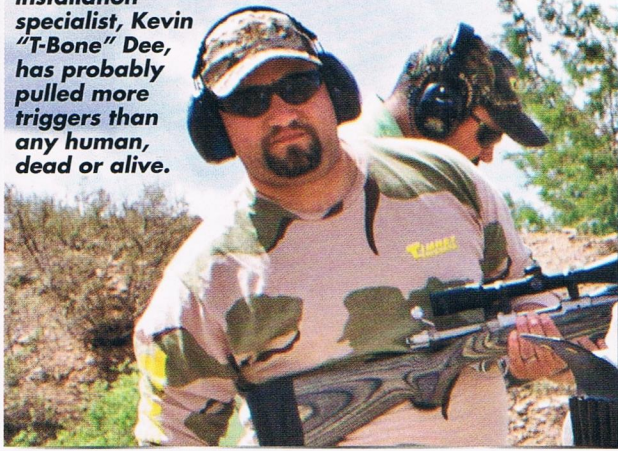
The first time I met John, I noticed he was a wild child. The second time we met, I told him how weird I thought he was — and I meant it. John must have appreciated my honesty, because we have been close ever since. (Thinking John to be weird should not be considered a slight to his character; I was raised in the hills of West Virginia and folks don't have to be too different to appear weird to a hillbilly.) Here's the thing: John Vehr is very smart. He knew if he didn't change the way Timney was doing business, there wouldn't be any. He also knew that for an aftermarket trigger company to be successful, the shooting public would have to be educated on how important a good trigger is to good shooting.

The Hilljack

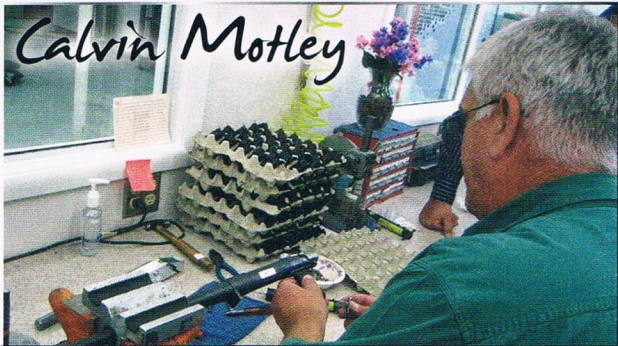
Ironically, shooters already knew a great trigger made the rifle. What they didn't know was how easy it was to replace a factory trigger, and that

Timney's trigger testing and installation specialist, Kevin "T-Bone" Dee, has probably pulled more triggers than any human, dead or alive.

Kevin "T-Bone" Dee



Calvin Motley



Timney's smart guy, Calvin Motley, the only way you ever see him: working. Motley is Timney's engineer who designs and develops all of Timney's triggers.

Chris "Hilljack" Ellis



A lifelong hunter and shooter, Chris "Hilljack" Ellis has used his hillbilly charm to help Timney convince gunwriters they can trust drop-in triggers.

an aftermarket drop-in unit could be trusted. This was, in no small way, partially due to the fact that for years the firearms press had been advising shooters, "Don't mess with your trigger." Admittedly, screwing around on a factory trigger with a file in one hand and screwdriver in the other is a task only for a gunsmith. And a gunsmith is what gunwriters suggested you use to fix a bad trigger.

The fact is, good gunsmiths aren't found on every corner. This is truer today than it was a dozen years ago. Additionally, some folks don't like the idea of leaving grandpa's Old Betsy or their favorite deer rifle with some guy who can't tell them the exact week, day and hour they'll get it back. Vehr needed some way to enlighten the average shooter. He knew gunwriters could do it, but he first had to convince the stubborn lot a drop-in trigger was indeed trustworthy.

The answer was to hire a hilljack — a country boy who would know how the average shooter and hunter felt about their guns. A fellow who folks could trust and who had enough charisma to get grouchy gunwriters to try things they're unfamiliar with. Vehr hired Chris Ellis, a hunter and shooter from West Virginia, and told him to show gunwriters they could trust and even install — all by themselves — a

Timney Trigger. Gunwriters have an anvil-breaking and sexy-dream-ruining reputation, so it was indeed a tall task that didn't happen overnight.

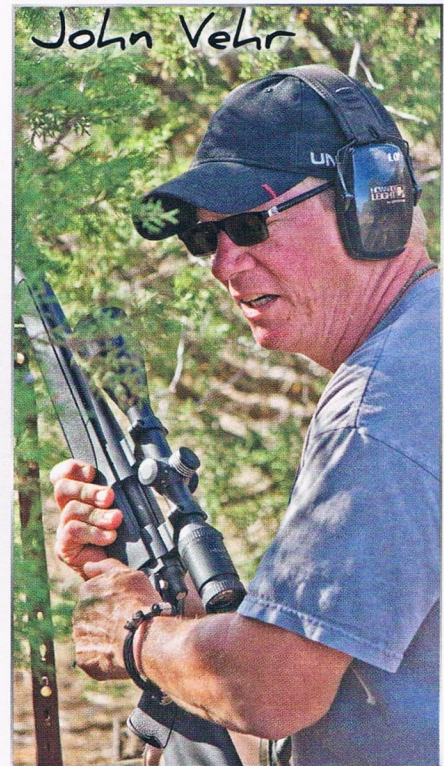
As for manufacturing, the current crop of triggers offered by Timney required a good bit of hand work. This was costly and slow. To meet the demand that had to be created for Timney to make money, the manufacturing process had to change. So Vehr took a \$400,000 investment gamble on modern technology and purchased high-tech machines he didn't even know how to operate.

Because Ellis was working his magic, things started to change. Gunwriters were finding out that a precision-manufactured drop-in trigger was indeed easy to install and could be trusted. And they were writing about it, spreading the word that with a Timney, no gunsmith was required. Vehr was also learning, finding out that with his new machines Timney could produce triggers that were even more precise and in a lot less time. The stage was set, but there were still components — like people — missing from the equation.

The Smart Guy

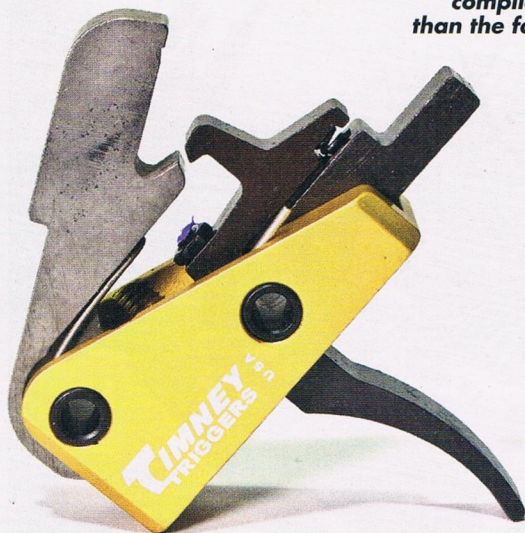
Without innovation and new products, things become stagnant; after all, a shooter only has so many Mausers,

John Vehr



John Vehr is the owner and operator of Timney Triggers. Vehr is a savvy businessman who understands the bottom line is good people. Vehr is also a shooter, hunter and strong supporter of Second Amendment rights.

Like most Timney triggers, the AR-10 and AR-15 triggers are much less complicated to install than the factory option.



Timney's triggers for the AR-10 and AR-15 introduced Timney to a new section of the shooting world. Timney's AR triggers are very popular with hunters and 3-gun competitors.

Enfields and Remington 700s. Timney needed new products and instead of trying to guess what people wanted, Vehr listened to the consumers.

First was the trigger for the Japanese Arisaka. Shooters asked for it, and Timney delivered. Then, during a predator hunt in Wyoming, a young outfitter pushed Vehr hard for an AR-15 trigger. When Vehr got back from the hunt, he told his smart guy — every company that's successful has one — to design an easy-to-install and reliable trigger for an AR-15.

Timney's smart guy is Calvin Motley. Calvin has been the engineer behind new Timney triggers since 2004. He knows how to operate high-tech machines, how mechanical

things work and how to make them work simply; Calvin is nothing short of a mechanical genius. Calvin designed an AR-15 and an AR-10 trigger. This introduced Timney to an entirely new world of shooters.

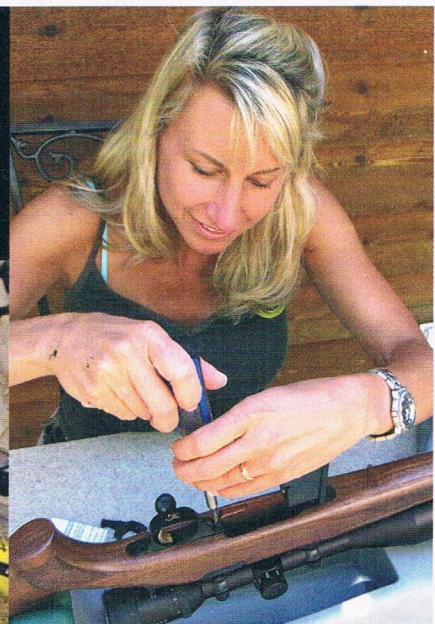
Next was Calvin's take on a drop-in trigger for the Ruger 10-22. After customer feedback showed the install was a bit too much for some to master, Calvin reengineered it. Now it's sold as a complete drop-in trigger housing. Shockingly, Timney's next trigger was for the Mosin Nagant. Why would anyone make a \$100 trigger for an \$80 rifle? Several reasons: There are thousands of Mosin Nagants being used, they all have bad triggers and their owners asked Timney for help.

In a move that surprised many, Timney then offered a trigger fix for the 870 shotgun. In the past, Timney had been known strictly as a rifle trigger company. However, it became Vehr's goal to help rifle and shotgun shooters alike. Remington 870s and all of the Remington shotguns and rifles — which use the Remington Common Fire Control system — have a reputation for notoriously bad triggers. Vehr once again went to Calvin for a solution.

Calvin's answer was a new sear and spring that could be installed in less than 5 minutes and — in the Timney tradition — was user-adjustable for pull weight. The 870 Trigger Fix was dropped into the modern



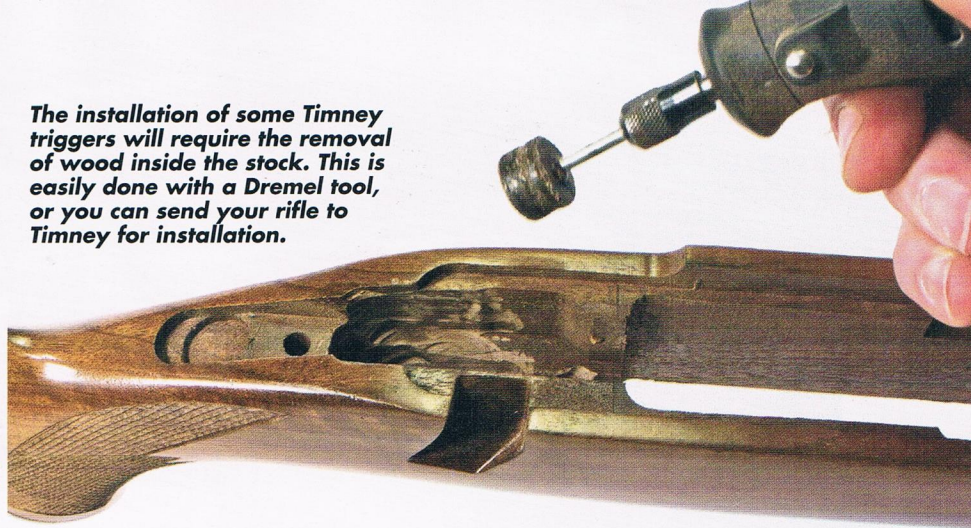
It's the outrageously expensive machines like this wire EDM unit (left) that allow Timney to manufacture extremely high-precision triggers in volume, affordably. A Timney trigger undergoing the quality control checks before shipment. (below) Every Timney trigger is installed, adjusted and tested before leaving the shop. The hallmark of the Timney trigger is ease of installation. (right)



Every Timney trigger comes pre-tested and with comprehensive instructions. If you order direct from Timney, most models can be preset for your desired pull weight at the factory.



The installation of some Timney triggers will require the removal of wood inside the stock. This is easily done with a Dremel tool, or you can send your rifle to Timney for installation.



manufacturing processes established at Timney, which by then included CNC, wire EDM and even robot workers. But without people like Calvin who engineer the triggers and operate those machines, none of these triggers would have happened.

Quality Control

One of the most amazing things about Timney Triggers is every trigger Timney manufactures is actually installed on an action and is adjusted and tested before it is packaged for shipment. I'm not talking about just the triggers you order direct from Timney (that you can have them set at your desired pull weight); every trigger gets tested regardless of if you order it from Brownells or pick it up at your local firearms emporium. This installation, adjustment and testing has to be done by a human, and that human is just as important as the one who designs the trigger.

Kevin "T-Bone" Dee is Timney's official trigger tester. I'd bet money there's not a man, woman or even a

mythical creature who has pulled more triggers than T-Bone. All day, every day, T-Bone installs triggers in actions, adjusts them and tests them. Sometimes he even installs triggers on customer's guns that have been sent to Timney. This is a service Timney offers to anyone who is not comfortable working on their gun at the kitchen table after supper.

T-Bone is also the person you'll likely talk with if you call Timney with questions about trigger installation. (Timney treats their customers with the same attention and care as they do their triggers.) With as much trigger pulling as T-Bone does, he is an expert at pulling triggers; that's something Vehr wanted to make sure of. He knew if customers who were passionate about shooting were calling to talk with someone about triggers, that person had better understand how important every pull of a trigger is.

Striving For Excellence

Last year, Vehr and I were both

preparing for different, but important, hunts. I suggested we spend a week at Gunsite Academy, working through one of their rifle training courses to get us both ready. Vehr agreed and brought Chris Ellis and T-Bone along for several reasons: so they could better appreciate and communicate with customers and gunwriters, and so they could learn how to use a good trigger to become a better shot.

If you visit Timney Triggers, you'll find a machine shop so clean you could eat off the floor. You'll also see machines so complicated you'll feel like Darth Vader might step around the corner at any moment. More importantly, you'll find a building full of folks dedicated to serving customers who are passionate about shooting. Sure, Vehr invested in the technology that would let Timney produce large quantities of quality components in a hurry. More importantly, and he'll tell you this himself, he invests in people — turns them into Jedi trigger warriors and helps them find the *force* — to help Timney become the standard by which all triggers are judged.

It used to be when a fellow pulled a good trigger he would say something like, "That trigger breaks like a glass rod." Today, a better analogy, and the one I use most often, is, "That trigger feels as good as a Timney." I told Vehr this, and then asked him how it felt to know his product was considered to be the Egg McMuffin of triggers. John smiled and said, "This is just the beginning. I want Timney to be the Audi of triggers, and as long as we find the right people, we will be." 🗡️

Not only is John Vehr dedicated to modern manufacturing techniques and hiring and training good folks, he is always looking to learn anything he can about how to better use triggers.



FOR MORE INFO:

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