

Military Surplus Rifle Restoration

Our first message from this customer stated:

"I have a 1950's Winchester .22 bolt-action military surplus rifle with a wood stock that was soaked in cosmoline. I have attached a picture for reference.

"I'd like to remove the cosmoline without using harsh chemicals or large amounts of water. . . ."



After some discussion back and forth about use of our products, we received the following:

E-mail: Tue, 04 Aug 2009

Hello again,

Attached are some photos of my finished project.

This is the first time I have cleaned a military surplus gun stock. The whole rifle had been soaked in cosmoline. I wanted to clean the walnut gun stock as gently as possible, to leave the original finish and character of the rifle intact. I decided against using water, because I didn't want to risk raising the grain.

To remove the cosmoline, I wrapped the gun stock in newspaper or paper towels, placed it inside a black plastic bag, and set the bag on the dashboard of my closed car in the heat of the day. I did that for four days. I re-wrapped the stock each day, almost like changing bandages. I think most of the cosmoline came out in the first two days.

I then cleaned the stock with three treatments of Blemish Clarifier, applied with a white cloth, one treatment each day. The Blemish Clarifier removed surface oils and I hope any remaining cosmoline.



After that, I oiled the stock with six treatments of Antique Improver, applied with a white cloth, one treatment each day. In total it took about two weeks to go through this process. Overall, I am pleased with the results. The gun stock is now "clean", but it still wears its scars and blemishes proudly as proof of its 70+ year age.

Best regards,

Todd A. (Lancaster, CA)

(NOTE: Additional discussion concerning use of Kramer's Best products can be found on this forum:
<http://http://forums.gunboards.com/showthread.php?t=122451>)