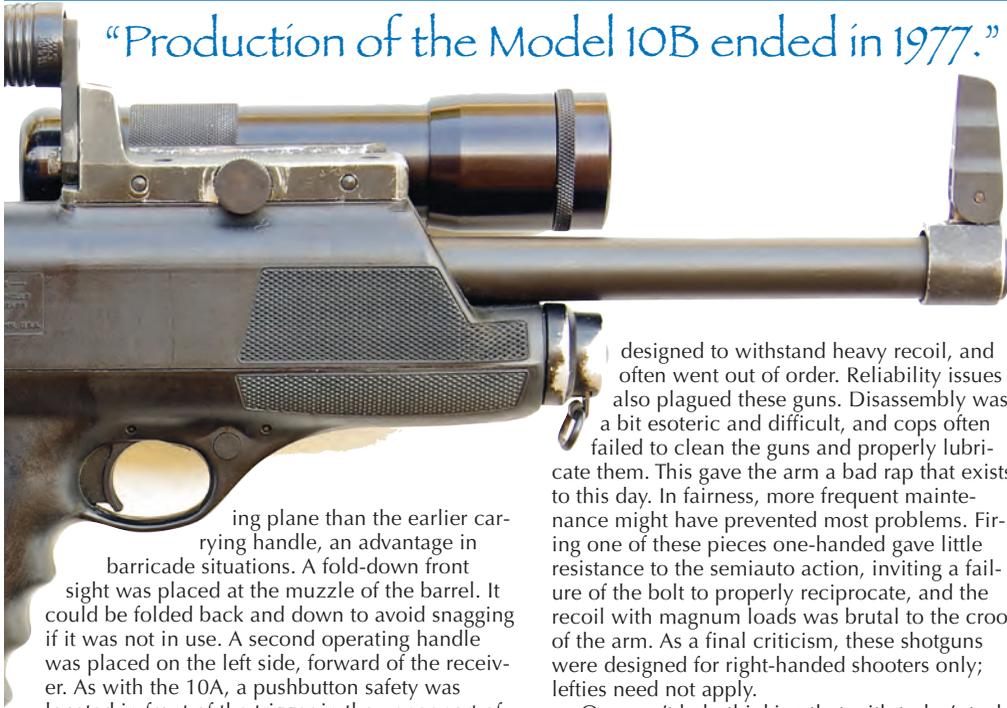


Standard Model 10 B Police Shotgun

“Production of the Model 10B ended in 1977.”



ing plane than the earlier carrying handle, an advantage in barricade situations. A fold-down front sight was placed at the muzzle of the barrel. It could be folded back and down to avoid snagging if it was not in use. A second operating handle was placed on the left side, forward of the receiver. As with the 10A, a pushbutton safety was located in front of the trigger in the upper part of the trigger guard. These changes made for a more maneuverable arm, and the flashlight could be readily replaced if damaged. All in all, these were worthwhile modifications. The shotgun illustrated is one of the improved Model 10Bs. It's complete with its original flashlight and instruction sheet and was manufactured around 1973.

Both Model 10s inherited the action of the commercially offered Flite King shotgun. They were semiautomatic and gas-operated. In these guns the gas piston surrounds the magazine tube under the barrel, and lockup is via a tilting bolt. The return spring is located just behind the gas piston, also around the magazine tube. The magazine is loaded by single rounds at the bottom of the receiver. A bolt release/cartridge stop button is located on the forward left side of the receiver. Spent cases are ejected from the port on the right side of the receiver, and the magazine can be emptied by operating the bolt repeatedly.

Production of the Model 10B ended in 1977. Although it found some initial favor among police departments, it had some flaws that ultimately spelled its demise. First, although the police wanted an extended magazine that would have given a couple of extra rounds of capacity, High Standard did not meet this need. Some aftermarket extensions were made by the Choate Company, but few were made and they are seldom seen today. Secondly, the flashlights of that day were never

designed to withstand heavy recoil, and often went out of order. Reliability issues also plagued these guns. Disassembly was a bit esoteric and difficult, and cops often failed to clean the guns and properly lubricate them. This gave the arm a bad rap that exists to this day. In fairness, more frequent maintenance might have prevented most problems. Firing one of these pieces one-handed gave little resistance to the semiauto action, inviting a failure of the bolt to properly reciprocate, and the recoil with magnum loads was brutal to the crook of the arm. As a final criticism, these shotguns were designed for right-handed shooters only; lefties need not apply.

One can't help thinking that with today's technologies, a similar bull pup semiauto shotgun could be made that would address the earlier issues with the old High Standards. In particular, an action with a downward-ejecting mechanism could be used; an extended magazine could be employed, and a more modern and reliable high-output LED flashlight would be a natural for a gun of this sort. Easier takedown would be a boon to allow for better maintenance by police who are often pressed for time. In recent years Mossberg has partially taken up the challenge and offered their military styled models 500 and 900 bull pup pump shotguns, but I think more could be done with this genre.

As police departments eventually disposed of their inventories of these exotic guns in favor of more conventional pump shotguns, used examples became available on the civilian market. The flashlights for the Model 10B are often missing, and these are in demand to complete the guns, as are original instruction sheets. The Model 10A is the rarer of the two models, having been made for only about three years. The Model 10B is more plentiful, but evolutionally and technically more desirable.

At any rate, today the old High Standard Model 10s are little known but desirable collector's items that are innovative, visually impressive and fascinating classics. They rank high for collector interest, and the better specimens are commanding hefty prices.