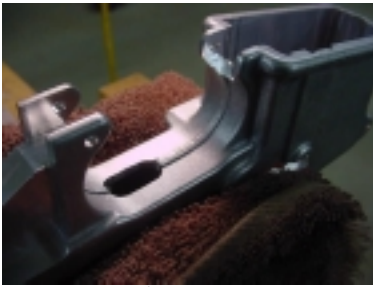


# Chapter 12

## Finishing Up

Now that you have a working lower receiver, you will want to do some final finishing. Removing forging seams and smoothing sharp edges will take your lower from “home-job” to “nice job!”

You will want to file and sand smooth the forging seams inside the trigger area, front of the mag well and on the curve between the pistol grip and the buttstock.



*Rough trigger area*

Hold your lower in a bench vise using a rag to prevent the vise jaws from marring the surfaces. Be careful not to overtighten!



*Trigger area filed*

A half-round bastard file works well for taking down the forging seams.



*Trigger area polished*

Finish with 240 grit emory paper on the file to take out scratches and file marks.



*Rough*



*Finished*



*Rough*



*Finished*



*Rough*



*Finished*

A carbide burr in a hand grinder is very useful for putting a lead-in on the bottom of the magazine well. The lead-in makes it easier to get the magazine into the rifle. When using power hand tools, grind carefully to avoid cutting too deep. Smooth and finish with a file and sand paper.



*Pick a number, any number!*

Although it is not required by law, it is strongly suggested you put some kind of 'serial' number on the lower. The BATF recommends some kind of identification so the weapon can be returned to you in case it is lost or stolen. I use my old NRA number with a dash one, dash two etc. If you don't number your lower you may spend a night in jail because someone is not all that familiar with the laws and wonders why you have an un-serilaized weapon...

I am blessed with a loving wife who lets me buy just about any machine if I ding-dong long enough. I use a panto-mill to engrave my markings on the lower. If you are using stamps you should have stamped the forging before you did any machining as I mentioned in chapter one. Another option is to take it to your nearest trophy shop and have them laser or diamond engrave it. Have this done after the lower is anodized.

# Anodizing is Easy!

You need a battery charger, lye, battery acid and distilled water, baking soda and dye.

I was pleasantly surprised by how easy it was to get a great anodizing job at home. It is a four step process and if you succeeded in machining a lower, anodizing will be a walk in the park. The four anodizing steps are: clean, anodize, dye, seal.

I am not going to detail the anodizing process in this book. You can learn all you need to know from this web-site:

*<http://www.focuser.com/atm/anodize/anodize99.html>*