

Get a New Pad

Neil Price shows a simple after-market addition that can make a big difference to your shooting

1 If your rifle has a fixed butt pad and you fancy changing it for a height adjustable one, then there are a few on the market that won't break the bank and only take a couple of hours to change over.

Here is what it looks like before we start.

2 Remove the original butt pad. Two wood screws usually hold these on, which are accessed either through normal counter-bores in the rubber pad, or the screw heads can be hidden from view behind small slits in the rubber. These can sometimes be quite difficult to find, but they will be there somewhere.

3 Time to unpack the replacement butt pad. We have the backing plate with adjustment slot, the sliding screw and the butt pad with retaining nut.

4 Often there are portions of the slot that have 'flash' in them which can obstruct the movement of the adjusting screw.

5 These are easily removed with a small file or a craft knife.

6 The holes for the screws can be fairly crudely formed and also have flash in them.

7 I like to clean these up with a 90-degree counter-sink cutter.

8 The counter-sink bit is run at a slow speed in a pillar drill or a hand drill ... that looks a bit better.

9 It is very rare that the two fixing screw holes in the new butt pad line up with the existing holes in the butt. Sometimes two new holes have to be drilled in the new butt plate to match. On this rifle, one of the existing holes could be used, but a new screw hole will have to be drilled in the butt for the second screw.

10 Tighten the one screw and make sure that the plate is centralised on the butt leaving material all round that can be profiled to the shape of the butt.

11 Mark through the screw hole where the pilot hole had to be drilled into the butt.

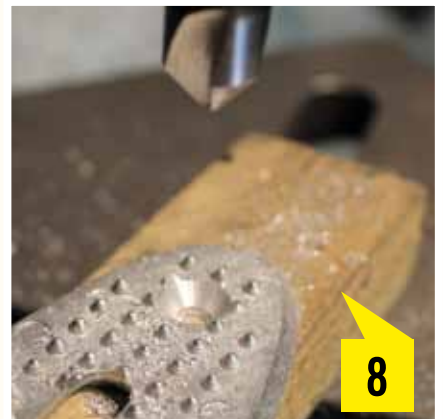
12 The pilot hole has to be the same diameter or very slightly larger than the root diameter of the screws that are to be used.

13 This is what I mean by the root diameter of the screw.

14 Now a suitably sized drill has to be found. ↘



IN THE WORKSHOP



15 In the centre of the previously marked position for the new screw, use a sharp-pointed object to indent the wood so that the drill is located in the correct position and does not slip.



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16 Line up the drill both vertically and horizontally and drill the pilot hole to the full depth of the screw thread.



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17 The new plate can now be screwed into position.



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18 Scribe around the profile of the butt making a clear impression on the new back plate.



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19 Most of the excess material can now either be sawn or filed away to get somewhere near the scribed profile line.



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20 That is most of the excess metal now removed, time now for a less-coarse file to be used.



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21 The plate is held in soft jaws in a vice and a medium- or smooth-toothed file used to remove the final amount of metal down to the scribed line.



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22 That's the final shape achieved.



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23 Place the sliding screw in the slot and make sure it slides smoothly the whole length of the slot.



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24 The backing plate and sliding screw can be finally fixed in position on the stock.



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25 The adjustable sliding piece is held on with one nut in the centre of the rubber recoil pad.



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