

# Shell Latch Staking Tool Instructions



A Remington 870 with a loose shell latch

While the Remington 870 series shotgun is one of the most popular and arguably the best pump shotgun available, one of its weaknesses has been the shell latch. It is very common to find shotguns with a shell latch that has become loose and may even fall out with the removal of the trigger guard assembly. The Baker Shell Latch Staking Tool is designed to re-stake loose shell latches, install new shell latches and replace worn or broken ones.

## **Before beginning work on any firearm:**

Be sure the firearm is pointed in a safe direction, unloaded and that no ammunition is in the work area.

For best results, use a sturdy, high quality gun vise such as the Tipton Best Gun Vise available from MidwayUSA and other quality retailers. Place the shotgun upside down and secure it according to the instructions included with the gun vise. After the 870 has been properly secured, remove the trigger guard assembly by driving out the two retaining pins using a brass punch and a mallet. Place the loose shell latch in its proper slot in the receiver and place the front retaining pin through the holes in the receiver and the hole in the shell latch to ensure it is properly located, as shown below.



The loose shell latch positioned in the receiver for restaking.

Once the shell latch has been properly located, a small c-clamp may be necessary to hold it against the inside of the receiver in the slot for re-staking. Position the tool such that the hardened point is inside the receiver and the short bolt is on the outside with the wide bolt pad between the bolt and the receiver.

**NOTE:** To prevent marring of the finish, lead shims, painters tape or other suitable material may be placed between the bolts and the receiver.

Align the hardened staking point of the tool on the inside of the receiver just above the shell latch. The original staking dimples should be visible and the staking point should be placed next to one but not in one. Gently snug the short bolt with the bolt pad against the outside of the receiver. Adjust the long bolt so that it just touches the receiver. Using a 9/6" wrench or socket and ratchet, tighten the outside bolt while steadying the tool with the other hand.



**The staking tool in the proper position.**

Once resistance is felt on the bolt, any farther turns will begin to dimple the steel. Extra care should be taken from this point on. Only dimple the steel enough to hold the shell latch in place, which will be a firm tightening, but at no point should it be difficult to turn.

After removing the tool, the newly created staking dimple will be visible. Next, position the tool just below the shell latch, opposite of the dimple that was just made. Repeat the tightening process to create another staking dimple. Repeat this process four more times, switching from above the shell latch to below the shell latch until six total dimples have been made.



**The shell latch after being staked in.**