

Gun Project 1—Rifle Scope Mount/Jerry Kieffer

The Gun is a model 88 Mauser hunting rifle built by Haenel of Germany in the 1930's. The rifle and scope were purchased together but the claw mount rings on the scope were removed and missing. The claw mount bases were on the rifle. The two new claw mount rings for the scope were machined from bar stock and soldered to the steel scope tube with high temperature (650°) soft solder. This solder is sold by Brownell's Gunsmith supply for this purpose so it can be used with hot bluing salts. Of course, the scope's lens system was removed for soldering and re-bluing. This was Jerry's first project on a Sherline mill and he says there was "a lot of swearing and head banging" to figure out the alignment of the rings before it was complete. The size of the rings pushed the upper limit of the mill's working range but the ability to accurately remove small amounts of metal around the claw areas saved a lot of hand work. Claw mounts must be fit with very close tolerances to function properly.

Jerry was selected as the 1997 winner of the Joe Martin Foundation's "Metalworking Craftsman of the Year" award. You can see more of Jerry's work at www.CraftsmanshipMuseum.com/Kieffer.htm.

