AMERICAN CUSTOM GUNMAKERS GUILD
1415 Little Canada Road, Springfield VT 05156

719-645-0335

Application for Professional Membership

The American Custom Gunmakers Guild

The American Custom Gunmakers Guild (ACGG) is a non-profit trade association of individual craft-persons. The specific and primary purpose of the ACGG is to form an association of professional craft-persons who are actively engaged in the art of custom gunmaking primarily in the areas of stockmaking, metalsmithing, engraving, metal finishing, checkering specialist and case making. ACGG members exchange ideas concerning their work and promote public awareness of custom gunmakers and their craft or artistry. *Professional membership is open to anyone regardless of country of origin or residence*.

The ACGG publishes a quarterly magazine called “Gunmaker.” Its purpose is to promote custom gunmaking by publishing articles of interest to custom gunmakers. The ACGG provides an electronic newsletter that is published monthly. It provides up-to-date news on happenings with the ACGG as well as technical articles. The ACGG strives to promote standards of excellence in the art of custom gunmaking and to establish ethical principles that will benefit those who create and those who commission custom guns.

While the ACGG is fortunate to have many of the world's finest crafts-persons as members, the broad diversity of our general membership dictates that we make no endorsement of any member's level of expertise beyond that required for initial acceptance to the ACGG.

To Qualify for Professional Membership

To qualify to join the ACGG as a Professional Member, an applicant must be a professional craftsperson who actively solicits commissions to create custom firearms, all, or in part, or related items. An applicant’s quality of craftsmanship is judged in one or more of the following categories: Stockmaker, Metalsmith, Engraver, Metal Finisher, Checkering Specialist or Casemaker. It is up to the applicant to decide which category he/she wishes to be judged in. The application must represent, at least, a minimum professional standard for their respective category. **Note:** Due to category specialization, an applicant’s quality of craftsmanship in any other categories they have selected must also be judged by the Membership Committee and represent excellent standards for the respective categories. Professional Members are expected to maintain good business practices and high ethical standards in their relations with the public and their peers.

An applicant for professional membership in the ACGG must submit work for viewing and acceptance by the professional membership at the ACGG annual exhibition. All work in the categories submitted for membership approval must be completed by the professional member applicants without any assistance from any outside party (e.g. for Stockmaker, all stockwork, etc.)

At the annual exhibition, professional member applicants are required to display at least two (2) examples of work and be approved by a 2/3 majority of the professional members voting.

Please refer to the attached requirements for specific professional membership categories for details of what must be shown.

As a prerequisite to applying for professional membership, an applicant is required to be an associate member of the ACGG for a minimum of one year before his/her application for professional membership will be accepted for consideration. It is recommended that the applicant attend at least one exhibition as this is an excellent time to gain recommendation signatures and meet with the Membership Committee regarding any questions.

To Apply for Professional Membership

Application for professional membership is conditional and the application fee of $50 is non-refundable. The application along with payment of $313 must reach the executive assistant of ACGG, by **September 1st** to allow publication of candidate's name(s) in *"Gunmaker"* magazine prior to the annual exhibition. The payment of $313 includes the membership dues for the calendar year accepted through June 30th of the next year (1-1/2 yrs.), plus the $50 application fee. Thereafter, professional membership dues are $175 annually, payable between July 1st and August 31, for the year (ending July 1, the following year). Annual dues are subject to periodic adjustments as approved by the Executive Committee. Dues are not a tax-deductible contribution.

If you are not accepted as a Professional Member, you will be given a one-year associate membership (value $60), and the remaining portion of the professional membership application fee will be refunded.

Please complete the tasks described below:

1. Fill out the personal information and signature on the Page 3, Applicant's Signature Page.

2. Provide six (6) customer references who can verify workmanship and satisfactory business practices. (Page 4 of Application)

3. Review all qualifications and sign application.

4. Submit signatures of three (3) or more current Professional Members who have reviewed work samples. One of these signatories must be from the membership category the applicant is applying for (Page 5 of Application).

5. Include a signed copy of your Federal Firearms License if you have one.

6. Enclose a check or money order for $313.00 payable to the American Custom Gunmakers Guild, Inc.

7. Mail pages 3, 4 and 5 along with payment to:

   American Custom Gunmakers Guild

   1415 Little Canada Road, Springfield, VT 05156

Application for ACGG Professional Membership

Applicant's Signature Page

By the signing of this application, and upon acceptance as a member of any category, in the event such membership is terminated, either by resignation or upon authoritative action of the organization for any reason whatsoever, the undersigned hereby waives any and all right or rights to recourse of any kind or nature, legal or otherwise, and shall hold the organization harmless from any and all consequences, monetary or otherwise, there from without limitation.

I am applying for the Membership category(ies):

___ Stockmaker
____ Metalsmith
____ Engraver
____ Metal Finisher
____ Checkering Specialist
____ Casemaker
____ Engraver

___I have been an associate of the ACGG for at least one year.

(***Note: You need to provide a list of the points and work submitted for each category you apply to for the Membership Committee prior to the voting when your work is displayed.)***

Please Print:
NAME_____PHONE_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

FAX_____ E-MAIL_____

Signature_____Date_____
Applicant for Professional Membership

ENGRAVER Category: We recognize the acceptance process of the Firearms Engravers Guild of America in the FEGA Master Membership category. FEGA members in that category are admitted by providing a copy of the master engraver certificate and annual dues to ACGG. Your certificate must be signed by the FEGA secretary.

Customer References

List six customer references who can be contacted by the ACGG to complete a reference form. Their names will not be added to any mailing list and they will not be contacted for any other reason.

(1) Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

(2) Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

(3) Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

(4) Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

(5) Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

(6) Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Signed_____ Date_____

Applicant for ACGG Professional Membership

Recommendation for ACGG Professional Membership

I,_____, certify that I qualify for Professional Membership in the American Custom Gunmakers Guild, Inc., as stipulated in Article 2 of the organization's Bylaws. I have reviewed and understand Article 2 and Article 11 of the Bylaws (see page 6).

Signed_____Date_____

Printed Name_____

I, the undersigned, attest that I have examined examples of the above applicant's work and have determined that it, in my opinion, represents (at least) minimum professional standards for the field in the membership category for which the applicant is applying. We also attest that, to the best of our knowledge, there is no reason this applicant not be considered for membership in the American Custom Gunmakers Guild, Inc.

(At least three (3) signatures of ACGG Professional Members in good standing required.)

(1)_____
Signature Printed Name Date

(2)_____
Signature Printed Name Date

(3)_____
Signature Printed Name Date

BYLAWS AMERICAN CUSTOM GUNMAKERS GUILD, INC. (March 2019)

SUMMARY OF ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERS

Classes of Members

2.01 The Corporation shall have four (4) classifications of which the designations, qualifications of which the designations, qualifications and rights of the members of each shall be as follows:

1. Professional Member - To qualify as a Professional Member the applicant must be a professional craftsperson who is actively engaged in the creation of custom firearms or related items, all or in part. Professional members are required to maintain good business practices and high ethical standards in their relations with other ACGG members and the public. Professional members retain all rights granted by the ACGG as determined by the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee....
2. Associate Member - A non-voting supporter classification, which is open to any individual or group interested in promoting the craft of custom gunmaking that does not meet the requirements for any other classification. Associates shall not retain any rights which are granted to Professional Members other than to state that they support the ACGG, its purposes and custom gunmaking.
3. Commercial Member - A non-voting membership supporter classification which is open to companies or corporations wishing to support the ACGG. Criteria determining commercial membership will include the production and/or sale of quantities of goods by whatever means, and others as determined by the Membership Committee with the approval of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee...
4. Honorary Membership - A non-voting honorary classification to pay tribute to those who have contributed to the gunmaking profession. Qualifications and retained rights of an Honorary Member shall be specifically determined by the Board of Directors.

Election of Members

2.02 Following the acceptance of charter members, others will be received as candidates for general membership after they have (1) submitted an appropriate application form; (2) been recommended by three or more members in good standing; (3) paid an initiation fee and first year membership dues; (4) provided six (6) customer references who can verify the workmanship and satisfactory business practice of the candidate; (5) are in compliance with current federal firearms licensing regulations and; (6) are in compliance with all local, state and federal laws regarding licensing and business operations and; (7) provide the necessary information for the ACGG Executive Director. All fees and information must be received by the Executive Assistant at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting so the names of the candidates may be printed in the newsletter preceding the next annual meeting.

To complete requirements for professional membership an applicant must (1) meet with the Membership Committee for a preliminary screening at the annual meeting, prior to the vote of the membership; (2) display at least two examples of their work to the members at the next annual meeting. Said examples having been completed by the candidate without the assistance of any outside party and having been approved for display by the Membership Committee; (3) receive affirmative vote of a 2/3 majority of the members voting and; satisfy any other requirements set forth by the Membership Committee and approved by the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee.

Associate and Commercial Associates will be received upon submission of an appropriate application form and payment of one year's dues in advance. The Board of Directors will have full discretionary powers regarding the admittance to and suitability of these classifications.

Voting Rights

2.03 Each Professional member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

Termination of Membership

2.04 Termination and/or suspension from membership in the ACGG will be covered by rules and regulations adopted by the Ethics Committee and approved by the Board of Directors and any recommendation for termination or suspension will be acted upon by the Board of Directors without unnecessary delay. The rules, regulations and procedures adopted by the Ethics Committee and approved by the Board of Directors may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the ACGG. A member who is terminated may not be readmitted for a period of two years, and then only after satisfying the requirements for admission of a new member and by approval of a two thirds majority of the Board of Directors.

Resignation

2.05 Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the Secretary, but such resignation shall not relieve the member so resigning of the obligation to pay any dues, assessments, or other charges theretofore accrued and unpaid.

Reinstatement

2.06 A former Professional Member who resigned their membership or defaulted their membership by reason of unpaid dues and who was in previous good standing, may be reinstated into the ACGG within four years or 48 months after, (a) submitting a letter of application for reinstatement to the Board of Directors at least sixty (60) days prior to the next Annual Meeting, (b) paying their annual dues at least sixty (60) days prior to the next Annual meeting, (c) receive an exemption from new membership requirements from the Board of Directors, and (d) receive a majority vote of approval from the professional members at the Annual Meeting. A former member who was not approved for reinstatement by the preceding method or any other former member may be reinstated by satisfying the same requirements as a new member (Article 2.02).

Transfer of Membership

2.07 Membership in this Corporation is not transferable or assignable.

SUMMARY OF ARTICLE 11 - DUES

Annual Dues

11.01 The Board of Directors may determine from time to time the amount of the initiation fee, if any, and the annual dues payable to the Corporation by members and Associates.

11.02 The Board of Directors may determine from time to time the effective period of the membership year for which dues are paid and the time frame that the dues will be required to be paid without default.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE - STOCKMAKER

An applicant must submit two stocks with the following work completed. All this work must be performed solely by the applicant.

1. INLETTING

a. Both stocks must be fully inlet, metal to wood.

b. At least one of the stocks must be laid out, inlet and shaped by hand. This means no use of duplicating or pantograph machines (drill presses, hand saws, milling machines, etc. are, of course, acceptable). We are making no judgments on the use of pantograph machines in the everyday life of a stockmaker. We do believe, however, that a stockmaker should know how to make a stock "by hand from the blank" and for this occasion we would like him/her to do so on at least one of the examples.

c. The applicant must bring required hand tools to remove metal from wood for inspection of inletting.

2. STYLE

Style of stock work may be any the applicant desires and will be judged solely on the layout, quality of fit, finish, detail and checkering.

3. FINISH

Finish may be any type the applicant feels is appropriate for the firearm displayed. Judging will be on preparation, application, detail and overall appearance.

4. CHECKERING

a. Checkering will be judged on layout, sharpness of diamonds, straightness of lines, lack of overruns, and overall appearance. Patterns may be any the applicant desires.

b. This requirement does not apply to muzzleloaders unless checkering is featured. If checkering is present, flat tops are acceptable. Judgment will be based on straightness of lines, uniform length of lines, lack of overruns and overall appearances.

5. SCREWS

All slotted screws must be indexed with slots parallel to the length of the firearm (north-south screws).

6. ADDITIONAL FEATURES

We would like to see these features included at least once each. It is not necessary to include all four features in each piece, but we would like to see one feature each from a, b, c, and d, somewhere on the two stocks. Where submittals are muzzleloaders, we would like to see these five features included at least once each. It is not necessary to include all five features in each piece, but one feature each from e, f, g, h, and i somewhere on the two stocks.

a. Steel, skeleton butt plate or leather covered pad.
b. Steel, skeleton grip cap or trap grip cap.
c. Ebony or contrasting forend tip.
d. Inletted sling swivel base or bases.
e. An ornate patch box inlet into at least one of the stocks in the butt side of the stock.
f. Ramrod spindles.

g. A metal end cap.
h. Barrel to stock attachment hardware.
i. An appropriate crescent butt plate.

7. FUNCTIONING

Above all, the examples MUST function perfectly. This is CUSTOM work, which means superb in function as well as esthetics. The applicant will submit along with the two firearms, a full magazine of **dummy** cartridges for function testing. For muzzleloaders the magazine of dummy cartridges is not required.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS, TYPES OF FIREARMS

Since the purpose of this work is to show off the applicant's abilities as a stockmaker, it is recommended that quality rifles or shotguns requiring a considerable amount of inletting and shaping be chosen. Mauser 98, Model 70 Winchester, 03 Springfield, High-Wall Winchester, Hagn, Ruger #1, Model 21 Winchester, L.C. Smith, Parker, any of the fine European shotguns, side-by-side or over-under, and, if you are lucky enough, a fine double rifle would be great.

What we would **not** like to see would be, for example, Model 12 Winchester, 870 Remington, etc. There is nothing wrong with these firearms, they simply do not require the amount of inletting and shaping that we feel is necessary to showcase one's skills.

Muzzleloaders should be designed as examples of the finest period firearms or better. Modern tooling and materials for producing custom firearms are much better today than they were when muzzleloaders were made as the latest state of the art. Submitted examples should reflect this.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE - METALSMITH

The applicant must be willing to make two masterpiece quality barreled actions especially for viewing. The applicant is advised that acceptance or rejection for membership is almost entirely determined by the quality of these two pieces.

Since almost all the listed work refers to bolt action or single shot rifles, it is suggested the applicant choose a quality 98 Mauser, Model 70 Winchester, 03 Springfield, or Ruger #1, High-Wall Winchester, Hagn, or similar quality action. If you choose an action not listed, it would be best to contact the Membership Committee for approval. We will not disqualify any quality action.

Rifle work is not a requirement. We would like to see fine double shotguns, as well as muzzleloader work. The ACGG does not discourage individuality, so if you do quality work of a type not included on this document, contact the Membership Committee.

Should you do work related to custom gunmaking, but which does not fall under the categories of metalsmith, stockmaker or engraver, you may apply for membership under a special category. Again, contact the Membership Committee for information. It is our function to aid you in joining the ACGG.

Above all, the examples MUST function perfectly. This is CUSTOM work, which means superb in function as well as esthetics. The applicant will submit along with the barreled actions, a full magazine of dummy cartridges for function testing.

In the following list each item must be wholly made and installed by the applicant. We realize that, in the everyday operation of your business, you may purchase many of these items, rather than make them from raw stock. However, for purposes of acceptance into the ACGG, it is necessary that the members see YOUR abilities. You should select items from this list to total a minimum of 100 points for the two examples submitted.

Other items, designed by you, may be added subject to acceptance by the Membership Committee. If you plan to submit any items not on this list, please contact the Membership Committee as soon as possible for a ruling.

	Item	Points
1.	Complete interior polish of action	4*
2.	Complete exterior grind & polish of action	8*
3.	Barrel: Turn, fit, chamber, headspace, polish, crown, ripple free, safe contour	10*
4.	Bolt handle (weld on)	4**
5.	Quarter rib, with sight or sights	10***
6.	Rear sight base, band, soldered, or screwed to barrel, with sight or sights	6
7.	Barrel band front ramp with sight and hood	8
8.	Scope rings	10
9.	Scope bases	6
10.	Open rear sight, simple standing leaf	1
11.	Open rear sight with one standing, one folding leaf	4
12.	Shorten or lengthen bolt action	14
13.	Open action for long magnum	6
14.	Open action for short magnum	4
15.	Integral square bridges (per bridge) 6	
16.	Safety: tang, recessed tang or bolt shroud	8
17.	Checker bolt knob, at least two panels	2
18.	Reshape rear tang	1
19.	Blind rear tang screw hole	1
20.	Alter bolt stop and checker or serrate	1
21.	New bottom metal	12
22.	Modify 1909 Argentine bottom metal (or similar), straddle floor plate, reshape trigger bow, lengthen box if necessary, polish	6
23.	New magazine follower	4
24.	Barrel: Octagon, integral machined ramp, sling lug, rear sight base, quarter rib, etc. Submit description or sketch to Membership Committee for evaluation	
25.	Sling swivel base, band type	4
26.	Sling swivel base soldered to barrel	3
27.	Front ramp with sight and hood	4
28.	Auxiliary recoil lug on barrel	2
29.	Bush breech block (single shot)	4
30.	Rimless extraction conversion (single shot)	8
31.	Short tang conversion (single shot)	8
32.	Slow rust blue barreled action after stocking	6

*	Work must be done on each example.
**	Work must be done on bolt action examples.
***	Must be done on at least one barreled action.

All slotted screws must be indexed with slots parallel to the length of the firearm (north-south screws).

Please submit a list of those operations entirely done by the applicant. Something similar to the following example:

EXAMPLE

Applicant presents the following work on a 98 Mauser:		Points
1.	Complete interior polish of action	4*
2.	Complete exterior grind & polish of action	8*
3.	Install barrel	10*
5.	Quarter rib	10***

4.	Bolt handle	4**
14.	Open action for short magnum 4	
16.	Bolt shroud safety	8
17.	Checker bolt knob, at least two panels	2
19.	Blind rear tang screw hole	1
20.	Alter bolt stop 1	
22.	Modify 1909 Argentine bottom metal	6
25.	Sling swivel base, band type	4
7.	Barrel band front ramp with sight and hood	8
28.	Auxiliary recoil lug	2
9.	Scope bases	6
	Total points, Mauser barreled action	78

Second barreled action, Ruger #1

1.	Complete interior polish of action	4*
2.	Complete exterior grind and polish of action	8*
3.	Install barrel	10*
16.	Safety, tang, recessed tang, or bolt shroud	8
	Total points, Ruger #1 barreled action	30

The total for these two examples is 108 points. The points assigned to each item are the minimum you will be credited with. The Membership Committee may credit you with more points for extra effort or more detailed work. To be on the safe side, do not count on extra credit. Make very sure that your two examples total at least the minimum 100 points.

The Membership Committee may disqualify any work which we feel is unsafe.

Remember that the point system details only the quantity of work required. Quality of fit, soldering, welding, shaping, detailing, polish, function, and general aesthetic value are the most important criteria on which you will be judged.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE - METAL FINISHER

The applicant for Metal Finisher category should perform work of the highest class, and in general be at least as high quality, or higher, than the same work performed by others not having this classification. The applicant must present at least two examples for viewing that have the metal polished and finished entirely by the applicant, one of which must be a pair of shotgun or rifle, side by side or O/U barrels rust blued or express blued by the applicant.

The applicant is advised that acceptance or rejection for membership is almost entirely determined by the quality of these examples. What the ACGG would like to see is, for example, a pair of double barrels, polished and blued, and bores cleaned and polished. Another example could be a complete barreled action polished and rust blued, with appropriate areas finished by other techniques where applicable. The quality of the work done, rather than the type of firearm is paramount.

In the following list, all work, including polishing must be done by the applicant. The method of polishing is not important, but the surface should be ripple-free. Unfinished areas, like the lumps of a set of barrels, should be polished bright, the way the work would be presented to a customer. Examples do not have to have the same finishes. A total of 100 points is the minimum for the examples. More points do not increase chances of acceptance but do give a better picture of the applicant s work. The ACGG would like to see complete finished components, for example a set of barrels rather than a piece of barrel rust blued.

*Rust blued double barrels	25 points
Rust blued rifle barrel and/or action	25 points

Nitre bluing	15 points
Charcoal bluing	25 points
Black oxide bluing (hot blue) of a barreled action	25 points
Black oxide bluing (hot blue) of other parts (e.g.: an action alone)	15 points
Express blued barreled action or pair of barrels	25 points
Barreled action polished in the white without additional finish	15 points
French Grey	15 points
Plating	15 points
Color case hardening	50 points
Damascus browning/blacking	25 points
Browning	25 points
Engine turning of parts	5 points

* a pair of double barrels (rifle or shotgun) is required, either rust or express blued.

Additional requirements

1. A minimum of 100 points is required.
2. No more than two examples of the same finish can count towards total points. This means you cannot have 4 examples of rust bluing, without showing additional finishes, and count 100 points.
3. Rust bluing must be on applicant polished parts, not bead blasted. This gives a better example of polishing skills.
4. For Color Case Hardening, a complete barreled action, rather than just the action alone, must be submitted, to test hard fitting. Color case hardened parts, like a butt plate alone, is not sufficient for Color Case Hardening. A barreled action is required.

For Example: the first example could be a pair of double shotgun barrels polished and blued, 25 points, along with charcoal bluing of the trigger guard, 25 points. Example two could be a barreled rifle action polished and rust blued, 25 points, along with nitre blued parts on the rifle, 15 points. Example three could be a Damascus browned/blacked pair of barrels, 25 points. These three examples would total 115 points

A minimum of two examples is required, but any number of finishes could be shown on the examples. For example, a color case hardened action, rust blued barrels with a charcoal blued trigger guard.

The Membership Committee has attempted to establish requirements for admission as a Metal Finisher. These are not the only finishes that may be deemed appropriate. If you wish to try some other finishes, please consult with the Membership Committee for clarification. The Membership Committee has no opinion regarding applied metal finishes like Teflon or Black T, but these finishes don't require much if any polishing and don't show an applicant's skill as well as traditional finishes do.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE – CHECKERING SPECIALIST

An applicant must submit three stocks with the following work completed. All this work must be performed solely by the applicant.

PATTERNS/STYLE

Checkering will be judged on layout, sharpness of diamonds, straightness of lines, lack of overruns, even border lines, symmetry, and overall appearance.

We would like to see three examples, 20 lines per inch or more;

a. Point pattern with ribbons

b. Fleur-de-lis with ribbons
c. Point pattern full wrap on forend without ribbons

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

At least one of the patterns must include Mullered borders. This is most often included on point patterns.

If possible, show the transfer patterns for the examples to be judged.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE - CASEMAKER

An applicant must submit one or two finished Custom cases with the subject rifle or shotgun included as well as furniture. One case must be a hard case; the other may be a hard case or leg-O-mutton type case. If only one case is submitted, it must be a hard case.

Cases will be judged based on the following considerations:

LEATHER WORK

Nicks and scratches: Did the case get built without scarring and denting the leather? Stitching; Is it evenly spaced and all inletted into clean grooves? Edges: Are all edges dyed, waxed and finished?

FURNITURE

Whether the furniture is brass, nickel, etc., is it mounted straight and neatly and well finished? Are fasteners pulled tight and secure? Are screw slots oriented east and west? Phillip-head screws are not acceptable.

FABRIC/INTERIOR FINISHING

A pleasing and well-balanced layout is impossible to describe but very easy to evaluate at first glance. The fine points are easier to judge gaps between partitions and blocks, ragged and uneven fabric edges, glue residue on the fabric, fabric edges visible when they should be tucked under or away. Do the gun components and accessories leave deep dents in the lid (they should touch but not be pressed in)? Are the blocks and partitions inside solid and free from movement?

WOODWORK

Not everybody may build an oak and leather case but when one is submitted the primary consideration should be the fit of the furniture and the wood finish. Wood finish should be similar to gun wood finish. The lid should be restrained in some manner from leaning back, when opened, more than a few degrees. This should be a SOLID restraint.

FRENCH INLETTING

This is an area any case maker would have to know. The main things to judge are the fit of the item (too high or loose). How well does the cutout follow the contour of the item? Does the item sit too high or low?

BALANCE

With the fitted firearm in the case, the case must balance when carried.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE - ENGRAVER

Applicants must submit applications, photos, and paperwork to the Membership Committee Chairman no later than three (3) months prior to the Annual Convention. The two (2) guns and practice plate must be at the Annual Convention for judging. The Engraving Applicant must also be present.

1. ALL Applicants will initially submit to the Membership Committee Chairman:

a.) A letter of intent to apply for ACGG Professional Membership as an Engraver. Included in this letter are the Statements following: " I,_____certify that I am in full compliance with Federal, State, and Local firearm laws and regulations in regard to the firearms being submitted for evaluation and (if applicable) running a business in my location."

2. Applicants, along with their application, must supply two (2) or more good quality photographs of engraved firearms showing some clear detail (e-mail or other electronic versions are fine for this).

a.) The firearms or the major metal parts thereof, must have been engraved solely by the applicant. These must be finished firearm projects. All aspects of the engraver's responsibilities must be completed. The applicant is encouraged to submit examples of the work that illustrate their skill with more than one style or technique. The applicant must demonstrate competency with all the following criteria in item number 4 listed below.

b.) If any of the criteria below is not on the firearms, then a practice plate and photos of that item will be submitted. More photos may be requested if deemed necessary to judge the applicants work.

3. Applicants must have a minimum of two (2) guns (you may have more if you want) at the Annual convention. The engraver must be present also. Applicants must meet the following criteria which must be one, or both, or any of the engraved firearms.

a.) The guns must have been engraved solely by the Applicant. These must be finished firearm projects. All aspects of the engraver's responsibilities must be completed. The Applicant must submit examples of work that illustrate their skill with more than one style or technique. The applicant must demonstrate competency with all the following criteria below listed in item #4.

b.) Practice Plate- If any of the below criteria is not on any of the guns..... then it must be done on a practice plate. The plate must be supplied by the applicant and finished to a professional quality. What the judges are looking for is a plate with no flaws ....as a finished engraving job should appear.

4. Criteria for all Applicant submissions

Note: All measurements are approximate guidelines and do not have to be strictly adhered to. They are an indication only of high quality, technical workmanship, and good taste proportions with gun engraving.

a.) Borders: A single line order approximately 1/16" from the edge of the metal. The width of the line approximately 1/32"

b.) Scroll Work: there must be two (2) different styles of suitable gun type scrollwork. Completed in a size and style that would befit a high-quality firearm. An absolute maximum of 1" high scroll allowed.

c.) Design: All aspects of the design, scroll work, scene work, etc. will be judged. Make sure the design is suitable for the firearm.

d.) Background: At least one (1) firearm must show a relieved background and texturing.