

SB 353

Any identifying micro etched or engraved markings that may be put on the tip of a firing pin will be subject to significant wear. The markings are delicate and microscopic in nature and will not last. They are also extremely easy to remove or change to the extent that it could be done with your wife's nailboard.

There are another phenomena that you are not aware of and two of them are called "firing pin drag" and "double strikes".

Firing pin drag very often occurs in automatic and semi-automatic firearms when the breech begins to open and the barrel pivots down while the firing pin is still forward. When this happens the firing pin will drag and dig a furrow from the firing pin impression toward the outer diameter of the primer, thus obliterating any data that may have been present on the tip of the firing pin.

Double strikes are common and are caused by the firing pin bouncing and striking the primer a second time.

I am guessing that Mr. Lizzotte showed you only best case scenarios and you bought it.

I have not heard anyone mention the use of proof loads and their effect on the microscopic array of characters that are supposed to impress themselves in the cartridge case. Do you know that proof loads are about 50% more powerful than standard loads? They are used by every manufacturer to test and confirm the strength of their firearm before it is sold to the public. Add this to the other important different characteristics of ammunition that will have a huge effect on your proposed program. Some of the others are, primer and case metal hardness, different metals such as copper, brass, steel and nickel plated primers. These are very important considerations, which the state has no control over but will greatly affect the success of this proposed system. Keep in mind that the characters that you wish to be transferred to the primer or cartridge case are microscopic in nature and are extremely delicate and not made to withstand chamber pressures in the neighborhood of 33,000 to 35,000 Pounds Per Square Inch such as will be found in many handgun cartridges.

The proposed law reads that the microscopic array of characters must be present in two or more locations on the firearm. Wherever the second area is, the same arguments that I am making apply as it did with firing pins, above. The second area that you may be thinking about could be the breechface area of the firearm. If so, there are other considerations that you must be made aware of.

First is the delicate nature on the microscopic array of characters and their tendency to collapse under pressure.

Second is the propensity of firearms to deposit soot, partially burned powder residue, lubricant, soil, and other materials throughout the firearm during use. That's why we clean them. All of this residue will "clog" the microscopic array of characters and further help to defeat their legibility.

Third is that the chamber pressure on some firearms is not sufficient to properly impress the microscopic array of characters into the cartridge case material, it being made of brass, aluminum, or steel. In fact, if steel cased cartridges are used in any of the targeted handguns, it will completely destroy the microscopic array of characters.

Fourth is the fact that cartridge case heads are not smooth areas of metal. Each is impressed with nomenclature by the manufacturer such as the makers name, caliber, date of manufacture, logos, and other information deemed necessary. This information appears as depressed areas of letters, numbers, and characters into which your microscopic array of characters could not be impressed or stamped.

Based on my experience and training, it totally unfeasible in rimfire firarms; rimfire being mainly 22 caliber, and one of the most popular calibers in existence.

If you want to say that the removal of any of these markings will be illegal, I say to you that that will make no difference to the persons who are using firearms for illegal purposes. It is already illegal to obliterate markings on firearms and I see it all the time. Murder and assault are illegal but we see it every day.

The idea that a police officer at a crime scene could read the markings put on it by the firearm is ludicrous. This is what I and a small handful of others in this state do for a living and I can tell you that it requires the use of a good microscope and two to three years of training. Further, if we could read the markings that you want that might be impressed on the cartridge case it still would not be conclusive proof that the cartridge case was fired in the questioned handgun. We, as firearms examiners, would be required to make the usual comparisons of firing pin impressions, breechface marks, chamber marks, extractor marks, and ejector marks to sufficiently identify the gun to the cartridge case.

In closing, I would like to offer each and every one of you the opportunity to visit a real firearms laboratory and see real cartridge case and bullet evidence so you may have a better idea of what it is you are trying to do. I am sure that the State

Police Forensic Laboratory would make the same offer. At least we did before I retired from there. You may reach me at 203-~~518~~-5214.

S&I

If you and the court would focus your attentions on enforcing and PROSECUTING our existing laws a lot more would be achieved toward cutting down on firearm related crimes. One of the first things to be subbed down or negotiated away for a plea to a more serious crime is the gun violation. Pass a law that makes it mandatory to prosecute for gun related crimes instead of harassing honest gun owners and manufacturers.