

Ejector

Pilot 12 gauge guns have been assembled with the new ejector and have been submitted to pilot testing by Research and Development. Pilot assembly of 16 and 20 gauge guns will follow. It now appears that changeover to the new type ejector will be accomplished without obsolescence in May or June.

SPORTSMAN-K

The Sportsman-X was conceived as an entirely new auto-loading shotgun to replace the Sportsman-58. A reevaluation of our position by Research and Development had led to a number of conclusions among which are the following:

1. Acceptance of the design and appearance of the Sportsman-58 is good and competitive conditions will probably not require a drastic redesign in the next few years.
2. Increases in equipment costs have made retooling for a basically new design exorbitantly expensive. It is important therefore in designing replacement models to utilize as much existing equipment as possible.
3. A critical review of the strength and weaknesses of the Sportsman-58 design lead to a conclusion that a greatly improved design can be developed within the basic Sportsman-58 configuration and utilizing many of the present parts and existing equipment.
4. To obtain the best possible "mileage" from the Sportsman-58 design it should probably be retained through 1959 with a new model being ready for introduction in January, 1960. The adoption of the type of program suggested in Item 3 above would permit adequate time for design, development and testing and orderly changeover for introduction with minimum obsolescence, by January, 1960. Although the Sportsman-K is still in the early design stages, W. E. Leek was able to outline some of the improvements that might be made over the Sportsman-58. Among them were the following: