

SHOTGUNS

XS-3 (MODEL 878 AUTOLOADER)

Project on the XS-3 (Model 878) has been approved by Management.

Research & Development and DED reported on continued testing. Ten additional guns were assembled by the Plant and placed in gallery test. Of these, four were rejected in gallery testing because of faulty extraction. Extractors were reworked and the four guns passed tests.

Five of the above guns were then sent to Bridgeport for shooting by the Sales Department. Sales reported that in shooting the above five guns 3,219 rounds on September 22 and September 23, the malfunction rate was 1.6%. Of the malfunctions approximately 95% occurred on light loads involving failure to blow back or failure to eject, both associated with under-power. The five guns were returned to Ilion. 83

The designers had suspected and it was confirmed that energy was being lost in the piston by wobble in the tube. A small design change was made involving the addition of pads to the skirt of the piston to stabilize it in travel. The same five guns were then returned to Bridgeport. Subsequently, Sales testing of these five guns to over 3,000 rounds produced only two malfunctions.

The Ilion Plant is endeavoring to produce one hundred XS-3 (Model 878) 12 gauge guns for shipment as a field test the first part of November. Receivers for pilot guns were processed without marking. Purchased parts, most of which are required for the piston assembly, are promised for late October. Vendors have been requested to expedite delivery.

The XS-3 (Model 878) is proposed to be announced January 1, 1959. It would now appear that earliest possible production will be in February, with guns for shipment in March. The Plant cautions that the gun is going ahead with less than normal testing but this is countered by the fact that the gun is not entirely new.

One of the Plant's major concerns at the moment is the scheduling of Sportsman-58 production for 1959 as it is affected by introduction of the XS-3 (Model 878). The new gun is not included in the No. 4 - 1958 forecast. The XS-3 (Model 878) project economics are the only source of shotgun forecast figures that include the new model. XS-3 (Model 878) economics, which had been attached to the agenda for this meeting, were collected by the Secretary as directed. The Plant needs early clarification of the shotgun forecast for 1959 in form usable by the entire plant to permit planning.