

The designers propose to consider two modifications to the latest XS-3 model. The economics of a powdered metal magazine cap will be evaluated and an operating handle of a nylon material will be tested. The latter has two purposes - one to reduce the trouble with handles popping out, and the other to alleviate receiver cracking. The designers indicate that a steel operating handle contributes to or aggravates receiver cracking. If test results are promising, the nylon operating handle will be used in the first one hundred guns.

Also on the subject of receiver cracking, the Plant has suggested a change in process involving the use of an end mill cutter to introduce a radius at a point of stress in the interceptor latch clearance slot in the front of the receiver. This looks promising. The XS-3 (Model 878) is proposed only as a field grade gun and the incidence of cracking is expected to be less than in Sportsman-58 Skeet and Trap guns. 83

It has been recommended by the Sales Department that the XS-3 (Model 878) be produced without a receiver decoration to camouflage hairline cracks. This is in keeping with past policy of plain receivers on field grade guns. The Committee concurred with the Sales Department's recommendation.

The Sales Department has proposed the name "Automaster" and "Model 878" for the XS-3. This has not as yet been approved. The model number "878" departs from standard numbering system but it is thought advisable to link the new gun to the Model 870 rather than the Sportsman guns. The Committee concurred in this departure.

The Sales Department is working on art work for the receiver roll marking. The Plant cautioned that it will require eight weeks from approval of art to mark the first receiver. This could be a delaying factor.

The Committee reviewed the XS-3 (Model 878) economics dated September 25, 1958, copy of which is attached to these Minutes. All copies of these economics are numbered and must be returned to the Secretary after review.

The Committee, after consideration of the above recorded information and economics, made the following recommendation -

Decision

The Operations Committee (Arms Division) recommends the addition to the line of the XS-3 (Model 878) Autoloading shotgun based on the economics dated September 25, 1958, on the performance of the gun to date and contingent on future testing.