

the gas system can be designed to accommodate various loads without manual adjustment. There is some indication that added recoil reduction has been achieved in this model over that demonstrated in the Sportsman-58. However, this has not yet been proved by measurement.

Preliminary testing indicates that the new action is seven times as strong as the Model 870, being comparable in strength to the Models 740, 760 and 721 rifles. The double locking lug system can be expected to prevent angular stress moments in the receiver, which moments are often responsible for parts breakage. The double piston gas system is 4 to 5 oz. lighter than the Sportsman-58 system.

A new fire control is being designed for this model along with proper shell latches and carrier latches. The first model is being set up for a five-shot tubular magazine and a new fore-end is now being designed.

XC-6

The basic elements for this model are now being constructed and it is hoped that the item can be assembled and proofed within one week. The basic locking mechanism and receiver are the same as the XS-6 except for location of the gas operating system.

Initially, it will be necessary to use a Sportsman-58 fire control in testing, and since a box magazine has not yet been developed, first testing will be single fed by hand. Strength tests as well as measurements will be conducted as outlined under the XS-6 heading above.

Design criteria for both the XS-6 and XC-6 have been closely related to keep production costs down. A total of 7 guns is contemplated to handle all gauges and calibers, including short Magnum center fire calibers. Parts interchangeability is estimated at 90%, and it is possible that a customer could have both a shotgun and a rifle by purchasing one gun and an additional interchangeable barrel and bolt assembly.

One significant difference in the XS-6/XC-6 models is the location of the ejection port. To accommodate two locking lugs in the action, it has been necessary to dispose the ejection port more toward the top of the receiver, on an angle of approximately 45° to the vertical axis of the guns.

Research & Development states that it is hopeful of presenting appearance models of the items at the next Committee meeting.