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Research & Development and the Plant state that continuing experience with the Model 878 in 12 gauge will result in better 16 and 20 gauge guns if it is later decided to add these in 1961.

The Committee agreed that no further work be undertaken on 16 and 20 gauge guns until there is a decision that such gauges should be added.

3" Magnum

Pursuant to a Sales Department request made during development of the Model 878, the Research & Development Department has investigated the feasibility of modifying the Model 878 to handle the 3" Magnum 12 gauge in addition to all 2-3/4" field loads. Development work and testing of this concept has been accomplished.

Results of testing 10 modified Model 878 Field Grade guns with 400 rounds each, using 16 different types of ammunition, indicate that a 3" Magnum version will reliably handle all 2-3/4" field loads as well as the new 3" Magnum loads with two in the magazine and one in the chamber.

No basic design changes are necessary to convert the Model 878 for 3" Magnum; however, the following modifications are made -

1. Rechamber 30" barrel for 3" Magnum shell.
2. Move ejector step cut .230" rearwardly to provide ejection clearance for 3" shell.
3. Replace current round wire magazine spring with one of the flat wire type.
4. Add recoil pad on stock (this is a non-functional change).

Research & Development points out that modifications (2) and (3) above could be incorporated in production of all Model 878 shotguns, apparently without detrimental effects to the standard 12 gauge gun. If this were done, the only change necessary to convert the standard 12 gauge gun to a 3" Magnum would be replacement of the standard barrel with one chambered for the 3" shell.

It was pointed out that there is currently no authorization for the Model 878 in 12 gauge 3" Magnum. The Sales Department defined the necessity of maintaining a dollar-spread between the Model 878 price and the Sportsman-58 price, and questioned whether it would be advisable to bring out a Magnum version of the Model 878 that was more versatile than the comparable model of the Sportsman-58.