

G-88

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DON'T SAY IT—WRITE IT

TO _____
FROM W. E. LEEK - IllionDATE March 18, 1963

Bridgeport Suggestion No. 3065 P - N. Niles, Jr.

Design

This is in answer to the above suggestion pertaining to combinations in the XP-100 pistol.

I agree that it won't be long until we will be hearing about combinations of other calibers introduced into the new pistol. As a matter of fact, Warren Page has already suggested that some people will probably try a 308 Win.. I hope that such articles do not aggravate a situation which might be disastrous to the shooter. For example, in this article of Page's he warns shooters to be careful and not introduce such large calibers in a handgun as recoil might break one's wrist or arm.

The suggestion concerning other calibers bears discussion. For example, the 222 Rem. was designed to burn efficiently in a 22" to 24" barrel. The first model in the XP-100 was chambered for this cartridge. It was inefficient and noisy as the powder was burning too slowly for a pistol; therefore, velocities were extremely low. The present pistol can be rechambered for such a cartridge should one wish, thereby losing velocity and producing a noisy gun.

A 380 caliber is not a very desirable cartridge for such a gun as this. In the first place, velocity and muzzle energy are low, and accuracy leaves something to be desired. A 38 Super Auto. is a rather violent cartridge and is, I believe, the most powerful used in autoloading pistols today. I have fired many thousand rounds in this caliber, and it is my opinion that it should remain only in the autoloading pistol. The 9mm Luger might be considered in this category also, along with any of the 38 calibers.

One must remember that in order to re-barrel such a pistol, utilizing the present stock, the barrel would possibly have to be larger to accommodate these larger calibers. The main intent of this pistol, which will be varied when shooters get it, was to produce a very accurate flat trajectory of long range in a high velocity pistol. I feel sure that if the shooter deters from the original objective by adding any of the calibers such as mentioned, he will be disappointed, as he can obtain satisfactory and normal ballistics from other handguns in existence which accommodate these cartridges.

The suggestion for introducing an interrupted screw so that various types of barrels and calibers can be accommodated in this new pistol could be accomplished but complete redesign of the barrel and stock would be necessary and the combination would be very expensive. An example suggested is the 7.7mm Japanese paratrooper rifle which has a type of quick change combination. The one with which I am most familiar is the machine gun of WW-2, which had an excellent quick change device. All of these devices involve careful machining to very close tolerances to accommodate the quick change principles and the tightness of the action necessary for such high pressure cartridges. If the manufacturer or the user of such combinations deter from the close

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tolerances which must be maintained, a blowup would exist. As you will note, the military when involved with a quick change barrel retained only one caliber and in most cases one bullet load. It can be imagined what a combination of problems would be involved with various calibers together with quick change barrels introduced in such a gun.

Then again we of course have the Federal Firearms Act and dealings with the Alcohol and Tobacco Unit, who have some legal restrictions on pistols, barrel lengths in their close association with sawed off shotguns and rifles.

To answer the question direct, it is not feasible, economical or practical from a design standpoint to accomplish this quick change principle.

This interest is appreciated and we hope it is the forerunner of interest to many thousands of handgun users in this country. Already we are astonished at the acceptance, inquiries and interest of shooters in the Model XP-100.

Wayne E. Leek
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