

Ilion, New York
January 7, 1963

To: K. D. OSLUND
Lincoln, Nebraska

From: W. E. LEEK

Dear Kay:

Thank you for your interesting and prompt report on the XP-100. Your results show keen interest and desire to provide an impartial test and opinion of this new pistol.

I will refer to your questions and suggestions as they appeared in your letter.

1. Extra cardboard in the package surrounding the carrying case.

We noticed several of the returned cases had scratches lengthwise of the case but were unaware of the cause until we heard from you. Present plans are to use overlapping joints to eliminate this problem.

2. Checkering around the front of the grip

This would be desirable, I suppose, for some shooters, and for others it would be unnecessary. It would be almost impossible to provide any more checkering around the grip on the curved surface as the checkering would prevent removal of the pistol halves from the molding die. I have had the best luck in shooting the XP-100 by supporting it more on the thumb and forefinger, with little or no gripping with the rest of the hand.

3. Sights

Sights are one of our most difficult appurtenances to gun design. The XP-100 is such a flat shooter that it is unnecessary to re-adjust the sights between ranges of 50 to 200 yds. for the average shooter. If one is very adept at off-hand shooting and requires 1/8" or 1/4" minute click adjustments, then a more expensive micrometer adjusting sight is needed. It was necessary to design a sight that provided windage and elevation adjustment and still not have the affect of a "stamped part" appearance. Give this item (sights) some further consideration and I believe you will agree that we have a fine sight for the money. Consider these requirements:

January 7, 1963

3. a. Must have an expensive appearance --- no stampings.
- b. Provide windage and elevation adjustment.
- c. Reasonably low cost.
- d. Provide a partridge type rear sight picture.
- e. Not be too bulky and ungainly in appearance.

4. Muzzle Preponderance

It is necessary for every rifle, pistol and shotgun to have some muzzle preponderance but not too much. Some shooters like more than others. A revolver has too much forward weight because of its peculiar design. Most target pistols are about right, but for some target shooters more weight is desired. We provided for an adjustment in the weight in the fore end of the stock where 38 cal. bullets can be inserted if necessary. Frankly, in our tests I found no improvement in my scores by adding weight. My average off-hand scores at 50 yds. is running around 89 with a couple 98's for good measure. One of my designers noted some improvement in adding two 38 cal. bullets.

In this respect your guess and needs are as variable as others, and to provide versatile weight adjustment for everyone is very difficult. All we can do is compromise and hope to fit the majority.

5. We shouldn't have any difficulty with the trigger balance. For example, drop tests on concrete and even at -20°F. do not seem to affect this part. The front sight seems to be the most vulnerable part, with the nylon holding up exceptionally well. However, we will keep a close inspection on this part.
6. I agree that the picture of the "Bolt Release" appears to reveal the part as being in the rear of the gun. It is as you have found at the rear of the gun but slightly inside the receiver. According to the photographers, artists, etc. this was the best way to show the location, even though it is a general location. Any additional thoughts in this area would be appreciated.
7. Your suggestion concerning a N-66 - 22 cal. pistol is very timely especially since we are in the process of testing one. This information, of course, is

K. D. Oslund

-3-

January 7, 1963

7. confidential and has not been discussed at any length outside our own Design Group. So would appreciate your treating it as such.

I trust I haven't been too verbose in discussing these items with you, but believed they needed some explanation.

Thanks again for your cooperation and suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. Leek, Chief Designer
Firearms Design Section

WEL:T