

cc: D.S. Foote
E.A. Rickey
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Ilion, New York
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MARTIN W. KORDAS
Bridgeport

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the testing of the new Model 600 Rifle in the 308 Caliber. You are quite right that the action in the Model 600 is the XP-100 receiver with the exception of the bottom cuts which involve magazine and its feeding.

On occasion there is some interest in developing a bull pup type rifle. This has been discussed with sports writers, commercial gun designers, and also the military. There are very few people interested in the bull pup version for two reasons. From a point of safety, it is undesirable for the shooter to place his cheek near the chamber section of a gun. There are two or three things which can occur in this area. A plugged barrel will allow a barrel to split, no matter how strong the barrel may be, and regardless of the strength of the action. Also, if a cartridge case fails, even in the shrouded head bolt design of this model, a certain amount of gas leakage and the resulting particles of brass will fly out of the receiver and around the bolt. This would put the shooter's head and face and eyes in jeopardy. It is more desirable to have the shooter's head in a rearward position from the receiver as oftentimes an accident as explained above could be averted in that the gas escapes in an outward direction, and at least the shooter's head and associated parts of that portion of the body would be spared.

I have made an inquiry on several occasions with sports writers and others and there appears to be no market for the bull pup idea. One other disadvantage of this type of design is the awkward position in which the operation of the bolt must take place.

Thank you for your interest. If we see anything in the future that indicates possibility of a requirement for a bull pup version in this model, we will certainly make up one.

W. E. Leek
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