

December 30, 1963

Mr. James J. Sipe  
1141 McNeilly Road  
Pittsburgh 16, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Sipe:

I am in receipt of your letter dated December 13th with regard to your recent purchase of an XP-100 Pistol. You have suggested you would be interested in rechambering the barrel from a .221 cartridge to a .222 Remington, and question the advisability and strength of the action in handling this cartridge.

First of all, let me say that the first XP-100 made was chambered for a .222 with disappointing results as far as velocity and noise was concerned. The .222 cartridge is designed with a slower burning powder to burn more efficiently in a 24" to 26" barrel. In a 10" barrel such as we have on the XP-100 the velocity of this cartridge pushing a 50 and 55 grain bullet was very low and the muzzle noise was very objectionable. As a result it was necessary to design a cartridge with faster burning powder that would produce the ultimate in bullet velocities in a barrel around 10" to 10 1/2" in length. The result was the .221 Fireball.

I therefore recommend that you do not rechamber your XP-100 for the .222 as you will be greatly disappointed. The velocities will drop and the noise will be objectionable as stated previously. However, you will find that the .221 cartridge is exceptional for handloading and with care and experimentation you can obtain exceptionally high velocities with this combination. You have probably read in several of the sporting magazines of some of the results of this experimentation. Some individuals have attained velocities beyond 3,000 fps. However, beyond this range excessive pressures might result.

The basic action used in the XP-100 is the same strength-wise as we are using in our Model 700 Rifle, which is more than adequate for the 375 and 458 Magnums, so in this area you have nothing to fear. You will find that the .221 combination in this pistol is extremely accurate and you should have no difficulty in making kills on varmints up to 300 yards. Recently one of my designers and I put on a demonstration at Aberdeen Proving Ground with two XP-100 Pistols. We were shooting at man size silhouette targets at one quarter mile and at 100 yards. In shooting at the one quarter mile targets we used bench support for the pistol and at 100 yards all shots were fired offhand. We made one hundred per cent hits during the demonstration.