

ing can fracture the bullet's shank. That could mean a defective round, or, even worse, a projectile fragment stuck in the barrel bore upon extracting a live round, resulting in potentially catastrophic consequences if not caught.

Another interesting footnote regarding the composition of this bullet is that a lubricant is included in the powder mix, originally intended to promote mold release during production. But that lubricity remains inside the bullet, itself, and not just on the surface. This results in a natural bullet slipperiness that, according to the manufacturer, allows your firearm to shoot cooler and cleaner than traditional projectiles, with increased velocities, and at reduced pressures.

Of the limited number of samples obtained by VHP for review, their weight ran from 601.0 to 612.4 grains, with an average of 606.4 grains. The sample weight extreme spread of 11.4 grains works out to a deviation of about 1.9% in relation to the average. The projectiles have an overall length of 1.85 inches, which is shorter than the Kilgore design, but they are also of a very blunt profile, like Kilgore's. Consequently, the same cautions apply to this design as those mentioned above for Kilgore.

For a number of years, the people at FrangibleBullets.com have been selling frangible projectiles for reloading in the smaller calibers that most are familiar with; rifle, pistol, even shotgun. The .50 caliber is just the latest addition to their line. Their .50 frangible design is available for \$15 per package of 10 bullets, \$145 per package of 100, and even as low as \$1.05 each in bulk quantities. Contact them for more details, or for loaded ammunition pricing. A demonstration DVD is available for interested parties. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover card are accepted for phone or internet orders.

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Armstrong Precision Ammunition

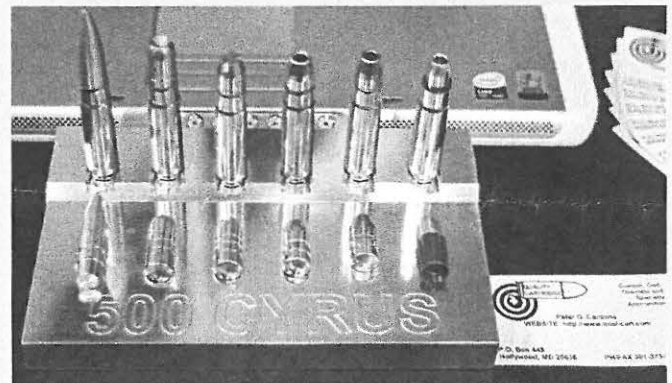
Armstrong, a Philippine-based company, was in atten-

dance at the SHOT Show again this year. Their US division announced that they will now have a line of .50 BMG caliber ammunition available and assembled on new Winchester brass. Initially available are a 690 grain Ball loading, as well as a 647 grain Ball (utilizing new Winchester projectiles), and a 750 grain Hornady AMAX match loading. Muzzle velocities listed range from 2800 to 2900 fps, depending on bullet. Prices and availability were not available at press time. Contact them for a referral to a nearby dealer.

Armstrong Precision Ammunition

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500 Cyrus



Lineup of various projectile loadings for the new .500 Cyrus (12.7x56.7RB) cartridge from Cross Outdoors.

If something more exotic in the .50 caliber line is your cup of tea, you might want to check out Cross Outdoors. At the 2008 SHOT Show, they were displaying their new ".500 Cyrus" caliber cartridge design.

Originally based on the .416 Rigby cartridge case, the .500 Cyrus is a rebated rim, "center-feed" cartridge, cut back and necked to .50 caliber. It is intended for use with .500, instead of .505 or .510 caliber projectiles. Grizzly Cartridge will be producing loaded ammo, but **Quality Cartridge is already producing cases**, with dies being available from CH4D and Lehigh Bullets. Powder and load data is already available through Hodgdon and .500 caliber bullets are available from the typical sources (Speer, Sierra, etc.) along with Lehigh, and even a lead/cast design is available from Ranger Rick's.



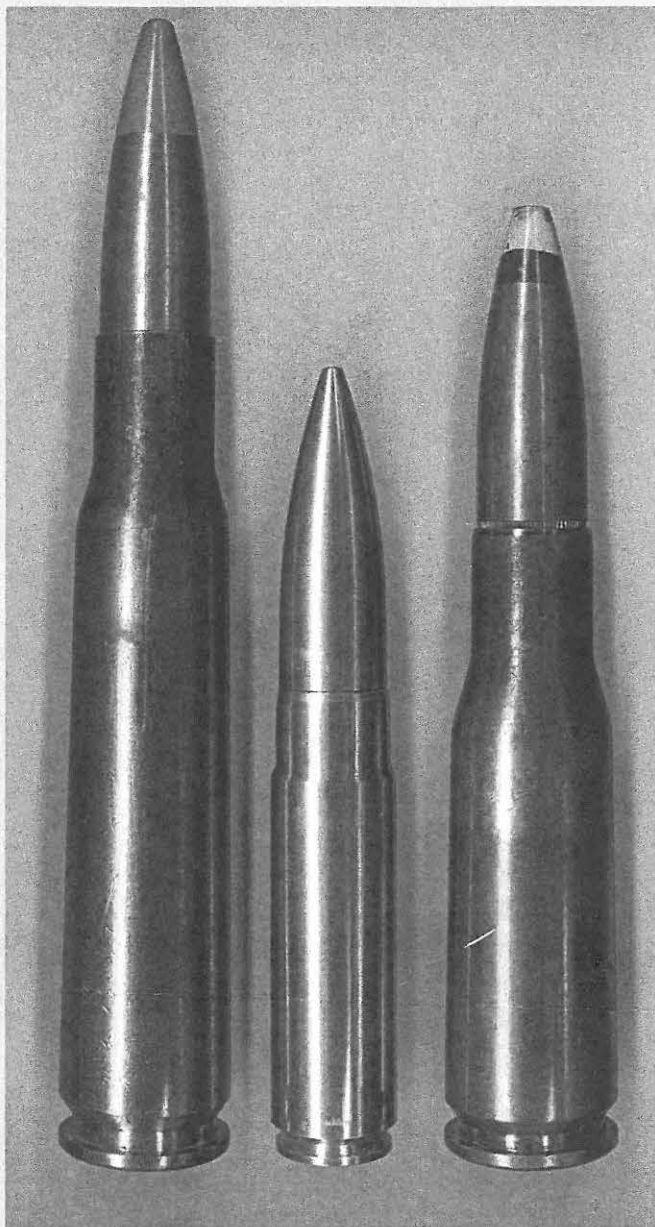
Headstamp of the new .500 Cyrus cartridge case produced by Quality Cartridge.

You may be wondering why, yet another, .50 caliber cartridge. The answer to this question is addressed by the Cross Outdoors literature: "Over the last several years the popularity of .500 caliber rifle cartridges has increased. However, most .500 caliber rifles are as heavy as a locust fence post. Cross Outdoors wanted a true .500 caliber cartridge that could be used on all sizes of big game and we wanted it housed in a rifle no heavier than a sporting-weight 30-06."

The objective was to create a .500 caliber, short-action rifle that weighted comparable to what everyone was already used to carrying for hunting, one that would launch a 325 grain projectile at over 2500 fps, and keep it in a rifle package with a barrel in the 18-21 inch range for maneuverability in dangerous game situations. But they also hoped to achieve a cartridge design that was flexible enough to be down-loaded for use on deer-sized game. Most other dangerous game caliber firearms remain in the gun cabinet virtually all their lives, being brought out only for that special hunt or two. That's an inefficient investment.

Mike Cyrus began his search in March of 2005. With several iterations, he ended up with a 12.7x56.7mm cartridge case, with a rebated rim, off the original, parent, .416 Rigby, about a year later. The final design lends itself to numerous bulleting options, for a host of hunting scenarios. Depending on bullet load selected, muzzle energy ranges from 2200 to over 5800 ft/lbs.


Cross Outdoors is manufacturing the rifles, themselves, on actions from Montana Rifle Company. They



The new .500 Cyrus caliber cartridge, designed by Cross Outdoors (center), flanked by a .50 BMG caliber Tracer (green tip) from Igman of Yugoslavia (left) and a .50 BAT caliber M48A1 Spotter-Tracer (yellow/red tip) cartridge from Lake City, 1968 production (right). This particular loading of the .500 Cyrus is under a Lehigh Bullets, 620 grain, solid brass, match projectile.

were chosen for the strength of their actions and the reliability provided by that design's claw extractor. But other actions are also possible.

For further information about this rifle/cartridge combo, contact them at:

 **CROSS OUTDOORS**

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500 Cyrus Cartridge/Firearms