7mm Practical

History

Updated August 2017

The 7mm Practical is a cartridge of my own design. It was initially developed between the years 1974 and 1977, then published in the TBR Reports (which I produced and sold myself) in 1978 and 1979. It was then published in the Australian Shooting Annual for 1980. The 7mm Practical has been popularised to produce a high degree of efficiency and power, while using a case that is short enough to fit in a standard Mauser or Lee Enfield action. Because it is the lowest capacity 7mm Practical cartridge, it is the most efficient of the family, and is the most popular with those who have tried it.

Having witnessed very short barrel life with the 7mm RCM, and also being surprised the potential power shortfall of the 7mm Remington Magnum when used in short barrels, I decided that a 7mm cartridge was needed that would give good performance from barrels as short as 18 inches. The 7mm Practical has been developed to produce a high degree of efficiency and power, while using a case that is short enough to fit in a standard Mauser or Lee Enfield action. Because it is the lowest capacity 7mm Practical cartridge, it is the most efficient of the family, and is the most popular with those who have tried it.

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During the period of research I was already aware of and had tested the 7mm STW, an extremely powerful cartridge, but one that was too long to function in a Mauser or Lee Enfield. The STW had only been in production for a few years, and I was fortunate enough to have a friend who was a gunsmith who had a 7mm STW. I was also aware of the fact that the Remington Magnum parent case, was well by the late 1970s, a very popular case for wildcatting, and was being used for 7mm, 8mm, 9.3mm and magnum length proprietary and to hold barrels in place.

Over the years, several barrels have been made for .280 Remington Magnum case shown in the photo below, and I have found that the case is very strong, and that it is a very good case for wildcatting. I had also found that the case was very suitable for the 7mm Practical, and had made a few barrels for the 7mm Practical, and had made a few barrels for the 7mm Practical, and had made a few barrels