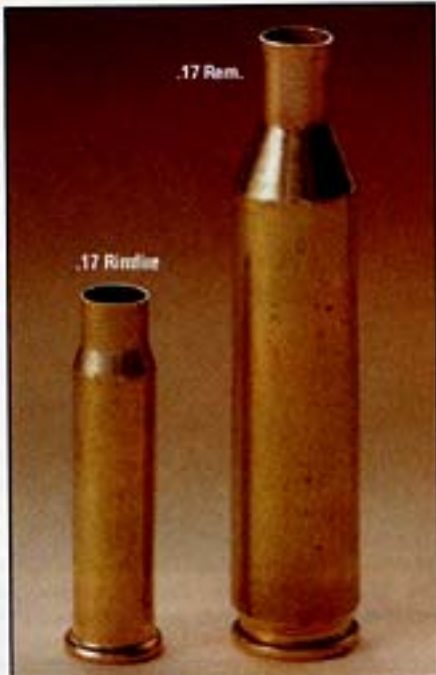


Chernicky swages 20-grain, .17-caliber bullets using dies he designed and built. Core, jacket, and finished bullet shown here.



.17 Rimfire ammo is made from primed, necked-down .22 Magnum cases.



.17 Rimfire lacks bore fouling problems of .17 Remington centerfire.

◀ A 20-grain .17-caliber bullet is dwarfed by a 180-grain .30 caliber.

the process, and due to the nature of rimfire priming, the safety of such an operation is questionable. For these reasons no loading data accompanies this article. I mention the loading process here simply as part of the history of the development of the .17 Rimfire.

Unlike Kopp, Chernicky had the advantage of working with Federal Cartridge Co., and was able to obtain new primed .22 Magnum cartridge cases, which he necked down to .17 caliber.

Rather than using existing 25-grain bullets, Chernicky began making his

own, first with the Wood and Simonson dies, and then with dies he made himself. Bullet jackets were available in .17 caliber, and he experimented with a variety of weights, finally determining that 20 grains is optimum.

Chernicky made boattail bullets, not for the ballistic advantage (there's virtually none out to 200 yards), but for the ease of bulletseating without mouth expanding the newly formed cases.

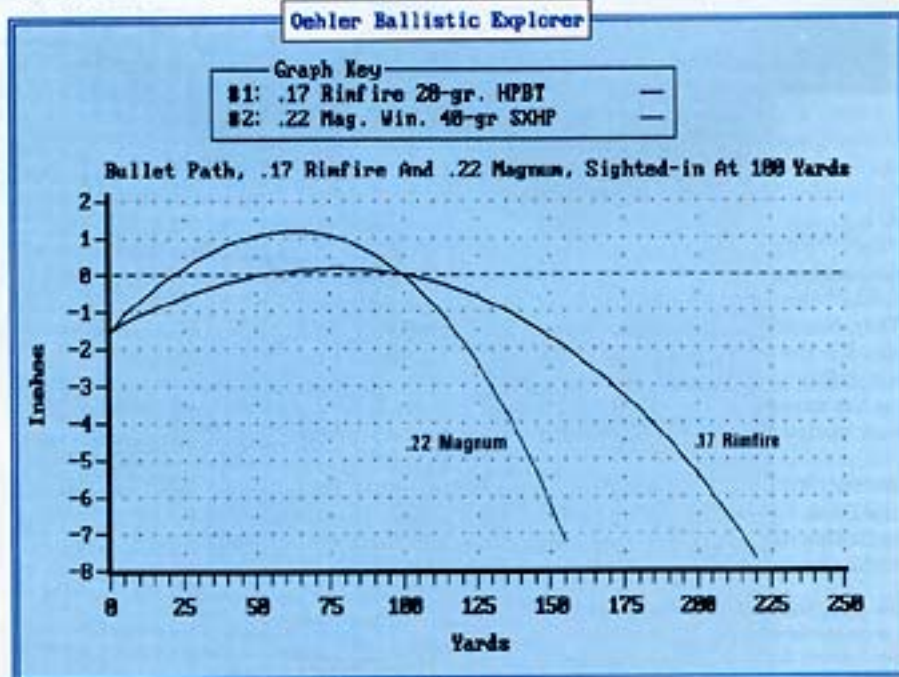
.17 Rimfire Rifles Used

Kopp and Chernicky have used a vari-

ety of rifles for the .17 Rimfire cartridge, and all of them are rebarreled, basic .22 Magnum rifles. Kopp's includes the Ruger Model 77/22 Magnum bolt action and a Marlin Model 39 lever action.

Chernicky's rifles chambered for the .17 Rimfire include a Remington Model 40XR bolt-action single shot, an H&K Model 300 semiauto, a Ruger Model 77/22 bolt action, and a Marlin Model 25M bolt action.

Standing the Kopp and Chernicky car-



"Everyone who has seen it, including Jim Carmichel of *Outdoor Life*, Grits Gresham of *Sports Afield*, and George Martin of the NRA, is enthused about it. It's a super varmint gun in the rimfire category. It will appeal to the varmint hunter who doesn't want to tear up pelts. It's also ideal for turkey hunting in areas where rifles are allowed.

"The rimfire market is very strong; it's ripe for a new cartridge that will do what this does. The key to everything is ammunition. We are ready to go with it, but we need factory ammunition. I would like to see 2650 fps for a 20-grain bullet in factory ammo."

Dick Cantu,
Precision Imports (Mauser)