

# SHOOTING TIMES

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## COVER PICTURE

Squirrel hunting is one of America's favorite outdoor hunting sports—available to young or old—and almost anywhere in the country. Stalking becomes a fine art—and a sharp gun eye is a "must" if a hunter is successful. (Water color painting by R. O. Ackerman).

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**CONDITIONS:** Letters from readers printed in SHOOTING TIMES Magazine become the property of this magazine, and we reserve the right to edit or delete to compensate for space requirements. A check or money order for \$1 (one dollar) is required with each letter which requests information of a technical nature to be answered by a staff member. This dollar partly offsets the cost of research and time involved; letters and answers of general interest will be printed in our "Firing Line" column. All letters should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please address letters to "Editor," SHOOTING TIMES Magazine, Box 1500, War Memorial Dr., Peoria, Ill.

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(Letters From Readers)



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## The Firing Line

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like a good price. I would like to know if these guns are the same as the Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifles and carbines sold as fancy sporters for around \$200?

I have been told that the Greek models have bad barrels and that new barrels must be installed. If new barrels are needed is it all right to have one altered to something like .257 Roberts or .308 Winchester? Are they strong enough for these calibers? How much would such a conversion cost? C. George Charles, Springfield, Ill.

The Greek M-1903 Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifles and carbines advertised in SHOOTING TIMES have the same basic action as those used for modern sporters. However, the sporter has been redesigned several times since the first 1903 models, while the military model has not. Because of this, none of the basic parts are interchangeable between the two.

Most Greek M-S rifles and carbines I have seen do have pretty rough barrels. Rebarreling for the original 6.5x54mm cartridge is no more difficult than any other action. Most gunsmiths will charge from \$30 to \$40 for such a job.

The Mannlicher-Schoenauer action can be converted to other calibers, but the job is not as simple as on the basic Mauser type action. The basic characteristic of the M-S magazine is the rotary spool which carries the cartridges, each in its own trough, shaped to fit the case. Conversion involves reshaping these troughs for the new cartridge and there is very little metal to play with.

The cartridges you mention (.257 Roberts and .308 Win.) are approximately .020 inch larger at the head than the 6.5x54mm round, and correspondingly larger in other dimensions. To alter the magazine to handle them requires that the spool be opened up to the maximum amount allowable, and that the magazine housing be cut away in some places and built up in others. In addition to this, the feedway in the receiver must be made large and reshaped. The cartridge stop must also be built up and reshaped.

Some calibers also require that a cartridge guide be made and installed near the front

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## 'Firing Line' Policy

We respectfully request that readers enclose one dollar (\$1), either check or money order, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with all "Firing Line" letters which ask information of a technical nature. This dollar helps us pay the writer-experts for their research and letter-answering time.

The most interesting letters and answers will be published here, unless you specifically state that you want your letter kept confidential.

October, 1962



Every  
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# SHOOTING TIMES

OCTOBER, 1962

50 Cents

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