

For all those that don't use it, the .222 Remington or "Triple" is an all but forgotten cartridge.

You can blame the demise of this excellent little performer on one of its siblings, the .223 Remington, which after its adoption as the current US service round guaranteed the .223s success.

The .222 was an immediate success when it was introduced in 1950's and had varmint hunters jumping up and down with glee, at its excellent inherent accuracy, great shootability and ease of re-loading.

It did not take very long for the .222 to establish itself as the king of Benchrest cartridges, only being toppled by the PPC's in the mid seventies.

Up until 15 to 20 years ago this was the only cartridge to have if you were after fox's and rabbits nothing else was even considered, apart for some "radical" shooters who dared to purchase a 22-250

Not a fast cartridge, it has very light recoil and burns a tiny amount of powder.

In rifles with heavy barrels the light recoil allows you to observe bullet impact, unlike the 22-250 with which you loose your sight picture for a split second after letting off a shot.

Brass is available from all the makers with the quality stuff again coming from Scandinavia in the form of Lapua and Norma.

Powders such as Hodgdon's BLC2, H322 and H335 together with Vit 133 and with heavier bullets Vit 135 are an excellent choice for this little tack driver.

Bullets in the 50 to 55grn range travelling at around 3000fps are what makes this cartridge sing, powder charges should be in the region of 20-22grns for any of the above powders.

Higher velocities can be achieved but I found that accuracy starts to tail off just past 3050fps.

In the late 90s I conducted velocity against accuracy tests using my Model 70 HV, Norma brass, H322, 52grn JLK bullets and Federal 205M primers.

Starting at 2400fps, I found that as the charge weight and velocity increased so did the group size reaching its biggest at 2800fps for group size of .788".

The groups then began to decrease and I had my best results at 2997fps recording a 5 shot group of .201", with a charge of 21.8grns

At 3100fps the groups started to open up again and the test was stopped at 3200 as signs of pressure started to appear.

For the shooter who does not want a super fast 22 C/F cartridge, and more inherent accuracy then the 223 then the "Triple" is definitely the way to go

Ian.