

The 6mm Pindell Palmisano Cartridge or PPC as it is more commonly known hit the Benchrest circuit in 1974.

I thought that I would give those who do not use this cartridge and those that are interested in starting to use it, a bit of an insight into its origins.

Dr Lou Palmisano a dentist and his shooting buddy Ferris Pindel a talented design engineer, had been looking for something to give them an edge in BR competition. They Already knew that the 6mm bullet was the way to go because it had already been successfully used in some wildcats such as the 6mm International and the 6mm American.

Both these cartridges had larger than ideal powder capacities and an occasional and sometimes erratic ignition, an accuracy robbing fault.

In the meantime Russian shooters using the 7.62x39 in competition were not happy with the quality of the bullets available for this cartridge and decided to neck it down to .224, thus the 220 Russian was born.

The new cartridge was an instant success in the European UIT shooting events and it was not long until the news of this little wonder reached Lou and Ferris.

Using Ferris's extensive engineering background and a lot of experimentation, the two guys came up with what has become arguably the worlds most cartridge.

The 6mmPPC American, its correct SAAMI specification name, now holds over 300 world records, but not in its SAAMI form.

Although Sako standardized the cartridge dimensions, apart from rifles made by themselves, Ruger and Cooper, most shooters who use 6mmPPC own rifles with custom cut chambers which do not adhere to full SAAMI or CIP specs, unintentionally making them wildcats.

Having a base diameter of .445" it sits in between .222 and .308 based cartridges, which meant it could not be easily be adapted into current manufactured rifles without bolt face work.

The small primer pocket and the .0625" flashhole produced extremely consistent ignition and comprehensively even burn characteristics with suitable powders.

It was not long before all the top shooters on the line had the PPC.

When did this cartridge make its transition into the field? I don't know but I would say not long after shooters saw the records tumbling.

In my opinion I don't think it is as popular a varmint cartridge in the USA as the established favourites such as the .223, .222, 22-250 and the swift, and that has nothing to do with its performance, just the fact that "it aint Traditional."

Judging by the interest on this forum and our somewhat shorter shooting distances, we here in the UK seem more willing to embrace this top little performer as the ideal Fox cartridge.

Delivering in standard twist barrels, bullets in the 55 to 70 grain range at velocities from 3000 to 3500fps this cartridge can be pushed to be effective up to 500yds but most will curb their max range to a more realistic 300

Guys using factory rifles will be able to utilize factory ammo made by Sako and Lapua, however this is not recommended for shooters who have custom chambers as many have their chambers cut with a minimum spec. or specific diameter neck.

I do believe however that the majority of PPC users like to handload for their chosen rifle.

As you can imagine because of the cartridge's competition success top quality components are easily (most of the time) available.

For those of you that don't use this cartridge the best cases are had by fire forming Lapua .220 Russian cases in the PPC chamber, ready made cases just don't cut the mustard.

Now here's the interesting bit, although Lapua's .220 Russian can be loaded into 220 Russians, they are in fact intentionally manufactured to be formed into PPC cases. When these cases have been expanded up to take a 6mm bullet they inevitably need to be neck turned to provide adequate clearance in the chamber neck.

This is an easy case to handload with powders suitable for 222 family of cartridges working well in the 6mmPPC the favourites being Hodgden H322 and Vit 133. Flat base bullets whether they are match or hunting are best suited to this cartridge for the ranges it will be most likely used at, 68grn offerings from the likes of Barts, Berger and JLK perform very well on fox and rabbits when driven at about 3200fps

I don't want to go into load data as every rifle has its own individual characteristics but I will say that from my own experience I found that I got best accuracy and consistency when I jammed a 68grn Berger .003 into the lands behind a 29.8grn charge of Vit 133.

However my best ever group with the 6mmPPC was shot in September 2001 from my Stolle actioned BR gun and it measured .068" using, the humble 70grn SMK!

Varmint bullets are available from all of the major makers, with 55grn and 70grn Ballistic Tips from Nosler, 58grn and 65grn V Max's from Hornady and 55grn and 70grn Blitzkings from god old Sierra.

All this makes this little cartridge one of the most potent fox cartridges we have.