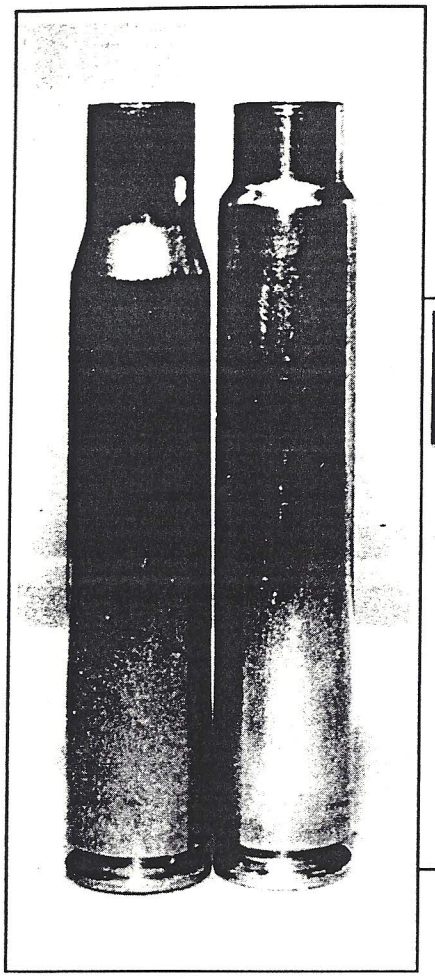
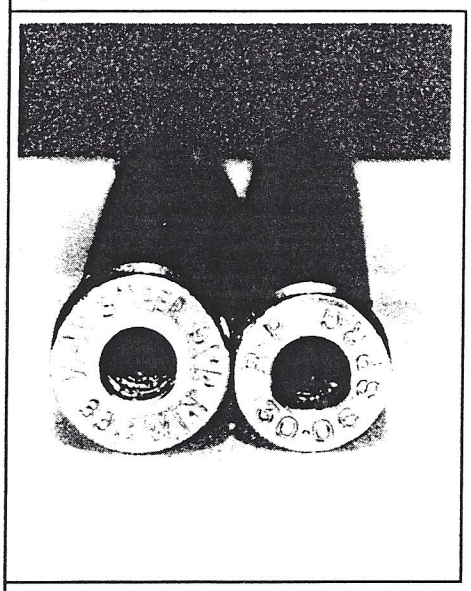


The .30-06 case (far left) is shown for comparison with the .338 Gibbs. All Gibbs cases were formed from .30-06 brass.

Because the .30-06 case head (below right) is smaller and the Gibbs case has minimum body taper, the bolt thrust is less than that produced by the larger belted magnum case head (left) at the same pressure.



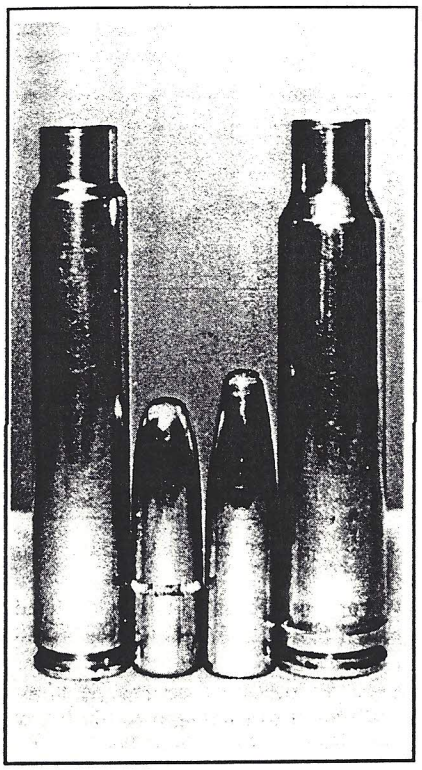
Advertising for the .338 Gibbs was very limited. Gibbs realized that in order for the .338 Gibbs to be an improvement over the 8mm Gibbs, bullets of at least 250 grains had to be used. Rocky felt his .338 Gibbs was underbore with bullets of 250 or 275 grains. He believed that too much powder capacity was used within the .30-06 case when the large bullets were seated deep enough to work through the standard-sized actions. Gibbs felt that a large case was necessary with the heaviest bullets. He believed the .338 Winchester Magnum case was nearly ideal for the .338 bullets.

As long as Rocky didn't truly believe in this cartridge he found it very difficult to aggressively advocate the chambering. Thus he concentrated on selling the .25, .270, .30 and 8mm Gibbs. Rocky allowed the .338 Gibbs to go by the wayside after 1961.

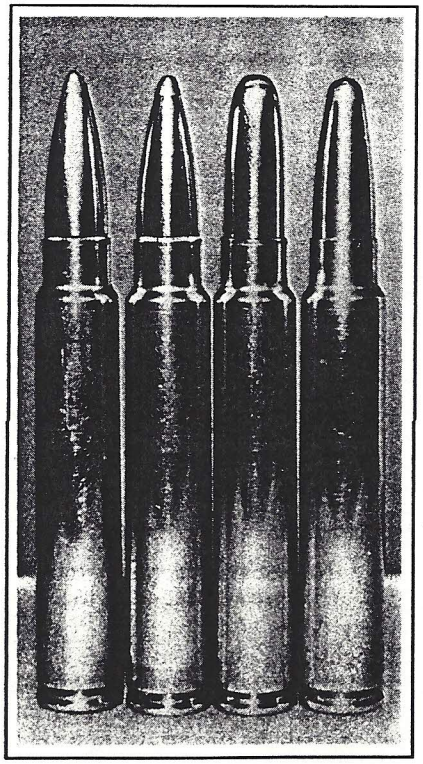
Between 1968 and 1970 Rocky's health started going downhill. The business had never flourished as he had hoped and his wife, Dorothy, still had to work as a secretary at Washington State University. In short, Rocky was depressed and disappointed. In an effort to put some life back into Gibbs Rifles, Rocky decided to reintroduce the .338 Gibbs in the late 1960s. Norma, of Sweden, had recently introduced their new powders and Rocky was convinced that these slow powders would make the .338 Gibbs a contender amongst the big bores.

Rocky knew that the Gibbs cartridge produced much less bolt thrust than a cartridge such as the .338 Winchester Magnum. The head size of the Gibbs case (.30-06) was smaller. Also, his case design produced a case with little taper. A case with little taper grips the chamber walls better than a case with taper. Consequently, when working up loads for the Gibbs cartridges, sticky bolt lift will not occur until safe pressures have been left well behind.

Gibbs stated in his literature that a standard case delivers 40 percent less bolt thrust than a case with a magnum-sized head. Rocky even stated that for a standard case to deliver as much bolt thrust as a magnum, the standard case would have to be loaded to well over 83,000 psi.



Gibbs felt the .338 Winchester Magnum case (right) was a better choice for the long 250 and 275-grain bullets. The .338 Gibbs case (left) has to give up too much powder space with the heavier bullet weights.



This line-up in .338 Gibbs includes (left to right) 200, 225, 250 and 275-grain bullets in various designs.

Rocky's thrust of energy into his company was short-lived. In 1970 a heart attack, followed by the onset of leukemia, put a halt to most of the work in his gun shop.

Prior to Rocky's death in 1973 he instructed his wife to burn all of his records. Of course, the newest material containing information about the .338 Gibbs was on top of the pile and was the first to be burned.

All Gibbs cartridges have identical measurements, except for the neck diameter. The Gibbs cases can all be formed from the popular .30-06 case. Of course, .30-06 cases were readily available in the 1950s and 1960s through military surplus. Cheap .30-06 brass was a dream come true for wildcatters like Rocky Gibbs. Cases used for working up loads for the .338 Gibbs were all .30-06 cases with the same headstamp -- R-P. Primers were all of the CCI 250 Magnum brand. The Gibbs case length is the same as the .30-06 case length -- 2.494 inches. The Gibbs shoulder angle of 35 degrees seems to inhibit case stretch. Trimming is not a problem.

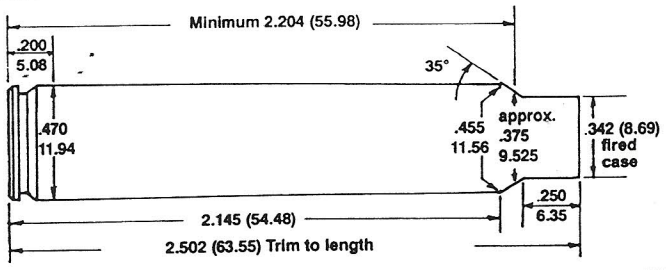
Preparing cases for fireforming is quite simple. First, resize a standard .30-06 case in a .35 Whelen die. It is permissible just to run the neck of the .30-06 case over a .35 caliber expander nipple. Secondly, place the .30-06 case with the .35 caliber neck into the .338 Gibbs sizing die. The case is now ready for fireforming. During the fireforming process, the case will shorten to about 2.470 inches. The only trimming necessary will be to square up the case mouths.

The reason for expanding the case necks to .35 caliber and then necking down to .338 was to create a bulge on the case neck. The bulge engages within the chamber and holds the case against the bolt face to prevent case stretch at the pressure ring. The Gibbs sizing die was adjusted so a slight resistance could be felt when closing the bolt on an empty resized case. The resistance ensured that the bulge had made contact within the chamber.

To fireform a case, prime the case with a magnum type primer, then add about 11 grains of Hercules Unique powder. Fill the remainder of the case with Cream of Wheat cereal or Winchester's Super Grex buffering material. Plug the case mouth with toilet tissue to hold the filler in place, and fire. Always be aware of where your barrel is pointed when fireforming, as the filler material can be dangerous. Serious damage can be done to cardboard at ranges out to 10 feet.

All of the table's listed loads for the .338 Gibbs should be considered as maximum. When working up your loads reduce the loads shown at least four grains and increase slowly, always watching for signs of excessive pressure.

The loads listed for the .338 Gibbs were developed starting with loads listed for the .338-06 found in issue No. 109 of *Handloader* magazine. Those loads were increased one grain of powder at a time until pressure signs presented themselves. The ejector mark was the telltale signal. When the ejector mark was evident, the powder charge was reduced one grain. Five shots were then fired and the pressure rings were miked. Any load that produced a reading at the pressure ring equal to the average of those five shots was considered as a maximum load. ●



.338 Gibbs Loading Data

charge (grains)	powder	velocity (fps)	remarks
200-grain bullet			
61.0	IMR-4320	3,059	max
61.0	RL-15	3,042	max
68.0	H-414	3,018	max
66.0	W-760	2,998	max
67.0	IMR-4350	2,958	case full
225-grain bullet			
65.0	H-414	2,843	max
63.0	W-760	2,840	max
58.0	IMR-4320	2,840	max
65.0	IMR-4350	2,826	case full
58.0	RL-15	2,817	max
250-grain bullet			
65.0	IMR-4350	2,727	case full
61.0	W-760	2,672	max
57.0	RL-15	2,666	max
56.0	IMR-4320	2,647	max
62.0	H-414	2,639	max
275-grain bullet			
62.0	IMR-4350	2,567	case full
59.0	W-760	2,508	max
54.0	RL-15	2,489	max
58.0	H-414	2,486	max
52.0	IMR-4320	2,435	max

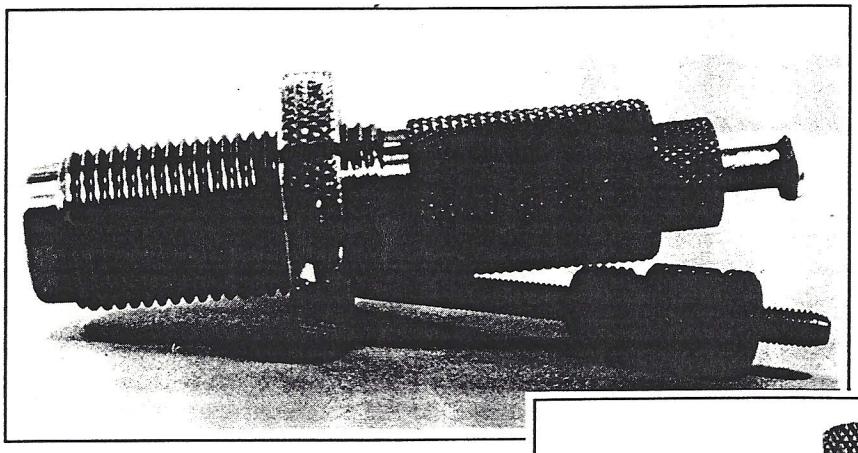
Note: (26-inch barrel, one-in-10-inch twist) All CCI 250 Magnum primers. All R-P cases. Average weight was 203.0 grains primed. Velocities measured on an Oehler Model 33 Chronograph at 15 feet, converted to muzzle velocity.

All listed loads should be considered as maximum. Reduce the loads shown by at least four grains for starters. Work your charge weight of powder up slowly by not more than one grain at a time.

Be alert -- Publisher cannot accept responsibility for errors in published load data.

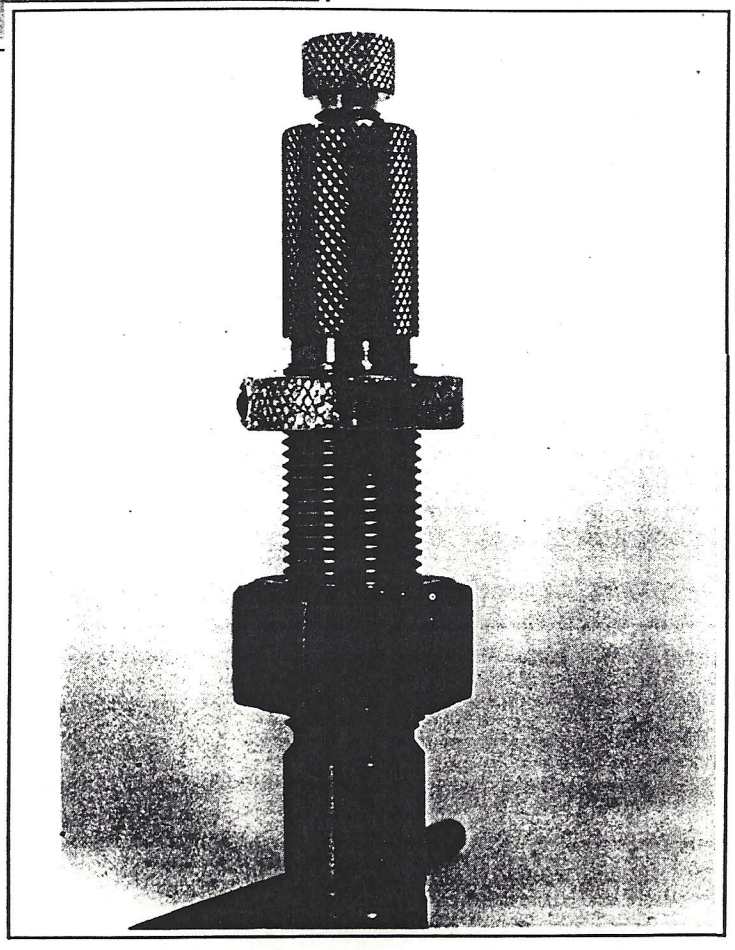
Chapter Seven

GIBBS HYDRAULIC CASE FORMER



The rod (right) extending into the RCBS Gibbs case forming die is struck with a hammer during the hydraulic case forming operation.

The Gibbs case forming tool is shown screwed on to a .30 Gibbs sizing die. The case forming tool can be used with any die using 7/8 x 14 threads.

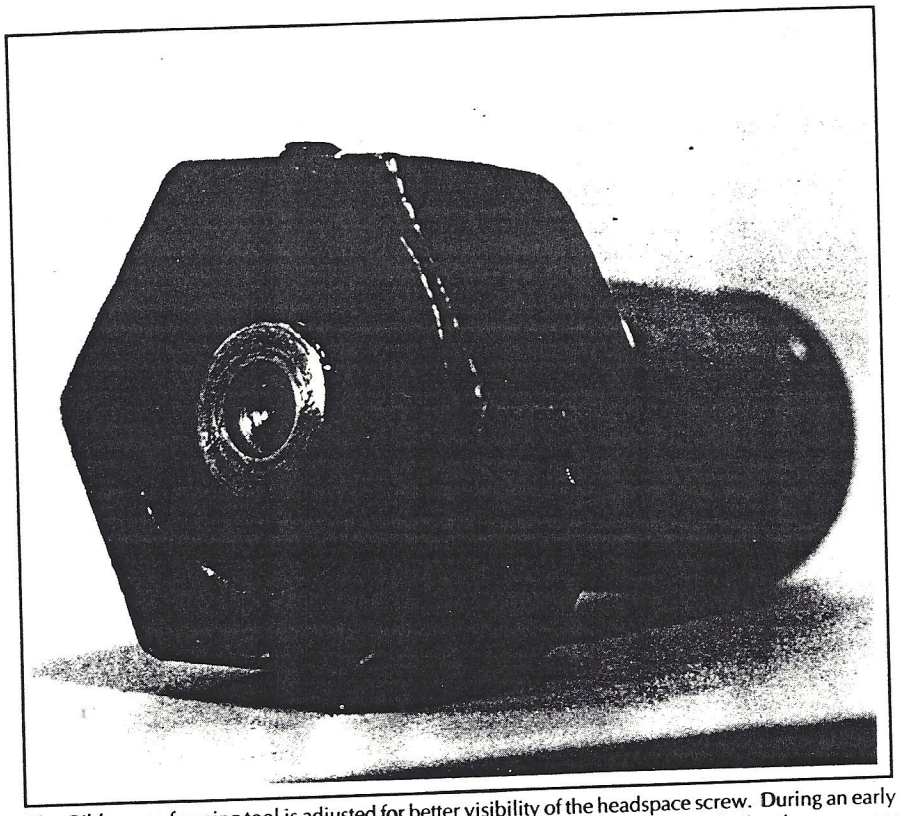


R.E. (ROCKY) Gibbs walked onto the Richmond, California, Rod and Gun Club range and proceeded to win the shooting title hands down. He was shooting a .270 Gibbs, his brainchild. The .270 Gibbs cartridge proved to be the most accurate and flattest shooting cartridge at the club in 1953.

After witnessing the feats of the .270 Gibbs, many club members requested a rechambering job for their favorite rifles. Gibbs happily did the chamber work and promised each that he would furnish the fireformed cases.

Rocky was doing an increasing amount of chambering as his cartridge gained local popularity. The Gibbs air conditioning and refrigeration business suffered because Rocky spent too much time enjoying his hobby. Fireforming required lots of time. Driving back and forth to the range took even more time.

In an effort to be more efficient, Gibbs developed a device he named the Gibbs Hydraulic Case Forming Tool.



The Gibbs case forming tool is adjusted for better visibility of the headspace screw. During an early modification, the mouth of the die was enlarged to handle belted cases and the headspace screw was reduced in size to give smaller cases, such as the .222 Remington, more support. The dimpled face allows primers to back out of the cases under hydraulic pressure. Even military crimped primers can be removed during this operation.

Using this tool Gibbs' customers saved many dollars in components, not to mention wear and tear on their barrels and Gibbs saved valuable hours.

The Gibbs Hydraulic Case Former was designed to be screwed onto the base of any sizing die having 7/8x14 threads. The case former adapter bushing was made to fit into the top of a sizing die having an opening for a 3/8x24 stem bushing. The sizing die then served as the case forming die.

The tool Gibbs invented worked quite successfully and accomplished its intended purpose. Gibbs Rifle Products was formed in 1953. The Gibbs Hydraulic Case Former was the company's first product selling for $12.50.

Wildcat cases could now be formed without firing a shot. The case former was simple to use. An evening in the shop could easily produce 100 newly formed cases.

In the general instructions that accompanied the tool, Gibbs suggested the following: Prepare cases as if you were going to fireform them, then insert an inert primer. Remove the stem and decapping pin assembly from the sizing die you are to use for reforming. Insert a case ready to be fireformed with the inert primer into the sizing die. Fill the case about 3/4 full of medium weight oil (refrigeration oil was recommended). Screw the case former onto the base of the die. Insert the adapter bushing and plunger into the top of the die. Set the assembled unit on a solid surface and strike the plunger with a heavy hammer three or four times. Remove the case former from the base of the die. Remove the primer that backs out into the dimple with a pair of pliers and drain the oil from the case. Strike the plunger again to remove the reformed case from the die.

The headspace can be adjusted using the large screw on the base of the case former. Gibbs suggested the screw on the case former be adjusted until the case forms out about .010 inch too long or until a crush fit is felt in the rifle's chamber.

Built into the headspace adjusting screw, on the end that engages the case head, is a dimple. The dimple is directly beneath the primer of a case to be formed. As hydraulic pressure is applied within the case, the primer partially backs out into the dimple. Even primers that have been crimped in place military style back out with ease.

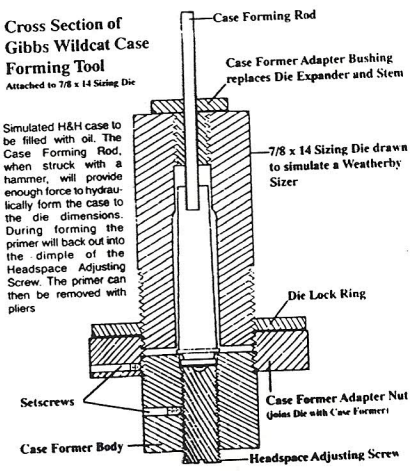
After hydraulically forming the cases, they should be drained completely. After draining, the cases should be washed in a solvent to remove all traces of oil.

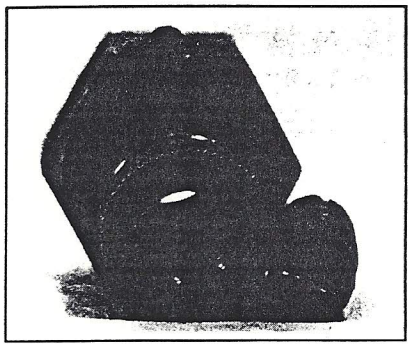
With the stem and decapping pin assembly replaced in the sizing die, the cases should be run through the die a final time the conventional way being careful not to set back the shoulder.

Gibbs went on to say that hydraulically formed cases will have slightly rounded shoulders. As long as the cases fit snugly in the chamber they will work well with regular starting loads.

In November of 1954, M.D. Waite evaluated one of the earliest Gibbs Wildcat Case Formers in the New Products section of the *American Rifleman* magazine. Waite, in the evaluation, told prospective Gibbs customers to send their sizing die and fired standard head-sized cases to Gibbs so he could preset the tool for the correct headspace.

Even before the *Rifleman* piece appeared Gibbs realized that customers wanted to be able to adjust the Hydraulic Case Former themselves. Gibbs had made design changes to improve the tool. M.D. Waite was not aware of the design changes when he evaluated the tool in the *Rifleman*.





Note the "Pat Pend." stamped on the Gibbs case forming tool. The setscrew on the die body allowed the customer to lock the adjusting screw in the proper position after the correct headspace was set.

The mouth of the case forming tool had been opened up to enable a belted case to be reformed. The magnum rage was on and Roy Weatherby was leading the pack of those who were reforming the .300 H&H cases.

Most importantly the setscrew and the screwdriver slot were added to what was to become the headspace adjusting screw. The screwdriver slot enabled each customer to adjust the headspace screw to the proper location. The added setscrew enabled the customer to lock the headspace screw into position. With this improvement to the tool, it was not necessary to have Gibbs preset the tool.

The primer pocket dimple in the end of the headspace adjusting screw had been made slightly smaller in order to give small size case heads additional support. This was an important change for people who were reforming the .222 Remington cases.

I can't locate any record of official notification to the public of the worthy modifications made to the Gibbs Hydraulic Case Former. As far as the public knew, they still had to send their dies and fired cases to Gibbs for fitting. The announcement by M.D. Waite was probably a fiasco for both Rocky and his case forming tool.

Pat. Pend. is stamped on the bottom of the Hydraulic Case Former. Whether or not a patent was actually applied for is unknown. The fact remains that the tool is rather ingenious. Despite being messy because of the oil involved, the case former does perform as advertised.

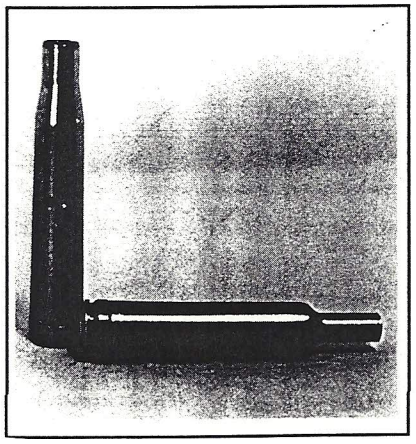
Hydraulic case forming was probably not an original idea for Gibbs. Since Gibbs was an avid reader and perpetual student he could have gotten the idea when he stumbled across an *American Rifleman* article written by F.C. Ness in July of 1944. The *American Rifleman* carried Ness' story about two brothers, Dean and Walt Astles of Rochester, New York.

The Astle brothers suggested using the same wildcat reamer to ream both a rifle barrel chamber and a die. The die would be used for hydraulically forming cases. The die would have a plunger on the top and a base for adjusting the case headspace on the bottom. A case to be formed into the new wildcat configuration was to be inserted into the die. The base was screwed onto the die and the contained case filled with oil from the top. The plunger was then inserted into the top of the die and struck with a hammer. When the plunger displaced the oil, the oil pressure reformed the brass cartridge case to the die's shape.

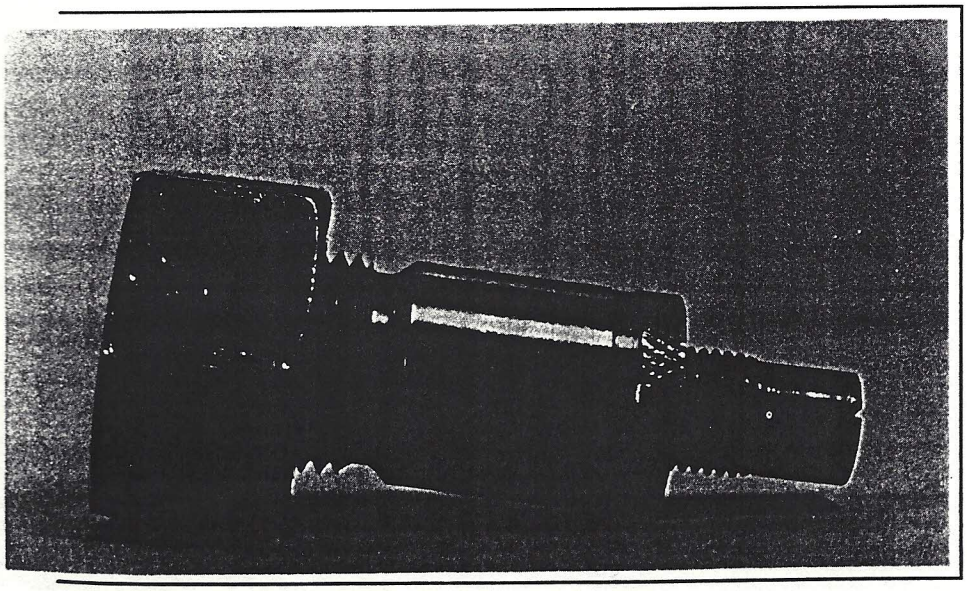
The instruction sheet furnished with Gibbs' Hydraulic Case Former used many of the phrases and terminology directly from the Astle brothers article. Whether or not the Astle brothers influenced Rocky Gibbs is beside the point. Rocky certainly refined the concept of hydraulic case forming.

Gibbs advertised his tool in various outdoor magazines. The tool sold moderately well for about five years. In 1958, after relocating to Viola, Idaho, Rocky's home burnt to the ground. While rebuilding his home and business, the business name was changed from Gibbs Rifle Products to Gibbs Rifles. The Gibbs Hydraulic Case Former became increasingly less important.

After 1958, Rocky never really pushed the sale of the case formers. He encouraged shooters to fireform all of their cases. Gibbs came to believe that shooters probably needed the shooting practice and fireforming was cheap, educational entertainment. ●



The .300 H&H case (left) was transformed into a .257 Weatherby (right) in the Gibbs case forming tool; note the primer protruding from the base of the formed case. After trimming, the (new) case is ready for loading and firing.



This side view of the Gibbs case forming tool shows all parts extended for visibility. The entire die could be properly adjusted by the customer, thus avoiding sending fired cases to R.E. Gibbs for tool adjustment.

Chapter Eight

CARTRIDGE INFORMATION

GIBBS METRICS (6.5mm, 7mm, 8mm)

FROM 1953 to 1973, the years Rocky Gibbs owned Gibbs Rifle Products, the marketing of his eight cartridge chamberings never produced any dramatic results.

For some reason the 6.5mm and the 7mm Gibbs were never big sellers despite the fact that Rocky Gibbs marketed these two cartridges quite aggressively. The .240, .25, .270, .30 and .338 Gibbs received reasonable success. The .25, .270 and the .30 Gibbs were the top sellers. The 8mm Gibbs was close behind.

All the talk and publicity in the 1950s and 1960s about the .270 caliber helped the sales of the .270 Gibbs. Surplus military rifles, both .30-06 and 8x57, provided Gibbs with many rechambering jobs for his .30 and 8mm Gibbs cartridges.

Except for neck diameter, the Gibbs Metrics were identical in every dimension with the other five Gibbs cartridges. All eight Gibbs cartridges were advertised as having a loading capacity of 67 grains of powder to the neck's base. The chambers were not freebored or long-throated. The trim to length for all the Gibbs cartridges remained the same as the parent .30-06 case, 2.494 inches.

Gibbs advertised his cartridges as having less recoil, muzzle blast, muzzle bounce, bolt thrust and barrel erosion than the magnums. He continuously advertised that his "cartridges fired in a 26-inch barrel made a magnum with a short barrel, just another rifle."

The 6.5mm Gibbs was a cartridge intended for the custom rifle builder. Gibbs did not believe the 6.5 Jap or

6.5x55 Swedish Mauser rifles were suitable for the conversion to the high-intensity Gibbs cartridges. Sadly, the custom rifle makers did not storm his shop for barreled actions.

Santa Barbara or Husqvarna actions and Douglas barrels were sold by Gibbs. He recommended these parts for all of his custom barreled actions. Many custom actions sold included a bullet point protector installed in the magazine.

The bullet point protector was manufactured first by Floyd Held and then I.J. Sullivan of Culdesac, Idaho. Gibbs and Sullivan apparently traded advertising to help each other out. Gibbs included the bullet point protector in each custom barreled action while Sullivan stated in his advertising that his product could be used in rifle magazines intended for wildcats based on the '06 case.

Gibbs believed the 6.5 Gibbs was a very versatile cartridge. He advertised it as a "vicious big game rifle, fit for gophers to grizzlies."

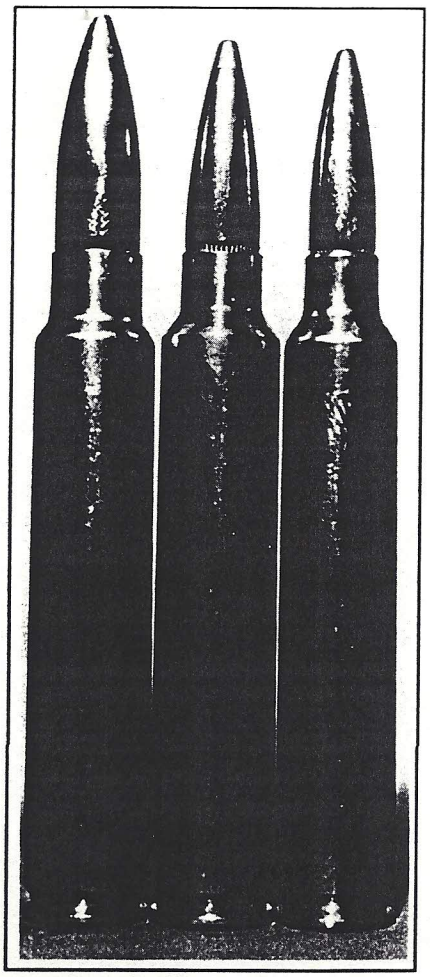
The 7mm Gibbs rechambering work did not increase after the introduction of the .280 Remington. Production barely moved as rechambering jobs remained limited to the surplus 7x57 Mauser rifles.

Gibbs was flabbergasted by the lack of interest in the 7mm caliber as he believed it to be the ultimate caliber. He praised Roy Weatherby for the introduction of the 7mm Weatherby. Gibbs stated that Joyce Hornady did a true service to the handloader when he introduced the 7mm 175-grain bullet.

The 8mm Gibbs, when chambered in one of the surplus military 8x57 rifles, made one of the best and most inexpensive big game rifles. Gibbs advertised in his literature that "you never had to apologize for your 8mm Gibbs, because your 175-grain bullet at 3,100 FPS left no one to apologize to."

Gibbs had his own pressure testing equipment. After loading up his cartridges to about 53,000 CUP, he would go down to the Speer laboratory in Lewiston, Idaho, to check velocities. One day while chronographing, Ray Speer confronted Rocky and asked him why no one else could obtain the velocities Gibbs advertised.

Rocky asked if Ray was condemning him for cutting a good chamber or excusing the man who cuts a bad one. Gibbs claimed his reamers were the best available and considered his chambers to have a "mirror-finish." Gibbs stated many times that top performance with handloads could only be obtained if the chamber had a mirror-finish.



The 8mm Gibbs (left) is loaded with a Speer 200-grain spitzer while the 7mm Gibbs (center) features a Hornady 154-grain Spire Point. The 6.5mm Gibbs (right) is loaded with a Hornady 140-grain Spire Point.

6.5 Gibbs Loading Data

charge (grains)	powder	velocity (fps)	remarks
100-grain Hornady SP (B.C. .346)			
61.0	RL-22	3,559	max
59.0	H-4831	3,504	max
63.0	IMR-7828	3,492	max
60.0	H-450	3,365	max
69.0	H-870	3,152	max
129-grain Hornady SP (B.C. .415)			
57.0	RL-22	3,251	max
57.0	IMR-7828	3,175	max
56.0	H-4350	3,094	max
57.0	H-450	3,073	max
68.0	H-870	3,057	max
140-grain Hornady SP (B.C. .441)			
55.0	IMR-4831	3,126	max
57.0	IMR-7828	3,042	max
54.0	RL-22	3,028	max
67.0	H-870	2,988	max
56.0	H-450	2,973	max
160-grain Hornady RN (B.C. .251)			
65.0	H-870	2,784	max
55.0	H-450	2,781	max
54.0	H-4831	2,769	max
55.0	IMR-7828	2,765	max
53.0	RL-22	2,754	max

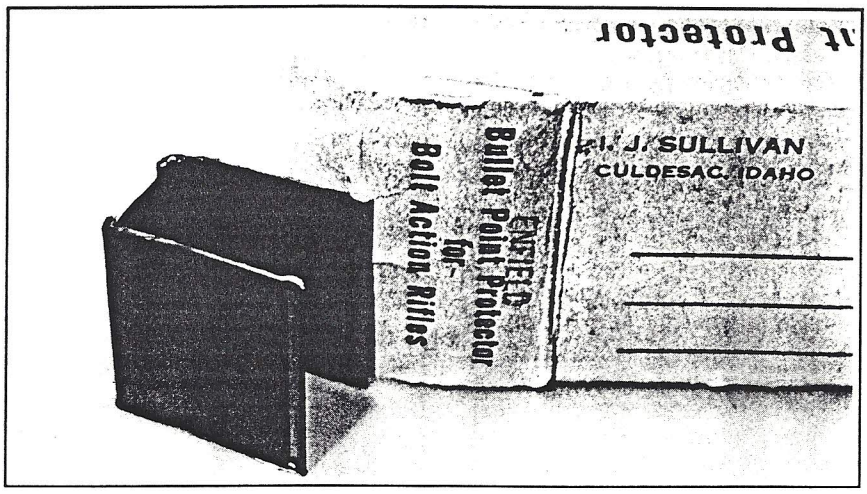
Note: (26-inch barrel, one-in-eight-inch twist) All CCI 250 Magnum primers. All R-P cases. Average weight was 203.3 grains primed. Velocities measured on an Oehler Model 33 Chronograph at 12 feet, converted to muzzle velocity.

All loads listed are maximum. Starting loads should be reduced and worked up to maximum using good handloading techniques. Always watch for signs of excessive pressure. Be especially aware of using reduced charges of slow burning powders. Keep airspace to a minimum.

Be alert -- Publisher cannot accept responsibility for errors in published load data.

He was adamant when it came to the proper adjustment of the loading dies. Rocky believed the loading dies should be perfectly adjusted to eliminate any headspace after the cartridge was chambered. Excessive headspace created by the adjustment of the loading dies allowed the cartridge case head to slam against the bolt face and register erroneous pressure indications. Excessive headspace within the Gibbs chambers also laid the groundwork for dangerous case separations at the pressure ring. (Proper die adjustment is very important with all cartridges, not only the Gibbs series.)

Loads for the three Gibbs Metrics were achieved following the same basic procedure. Fifty cases were made for each cartridge. Since the Gibbs cartridges are true wildcats and not factory produced, all of the cases must be formed to the shape of the chamber.



The dished-out shoulders on the bullet tip protector prevented the cartridge from moving forward under recoil.

7mm Gibbs Loading Data

charge (grains)	powder	velocity (fps)	remarks
120-grain Hornady SP (B.C. .346)			
65.0	RL-19	3,488	max
56.0	RL-15	3,441	max
65.0	H-4350	3,438	max
56.0	IMR-4320	3,415	max
62.0	H-380	3,386	max
139-grainHornady SP (B.C. .390)			
66.0	H-4831	3,321	case full
63.0	H-4350	3,319	max
63.0	RL-19	3,296	max
54.0	IMR-4320	3,201	max
59.0	H-380	3,156	max
53.0	RL-15	3,138	max
154-grain Hornady SP (B.C. .433)			
64.0	H-4831	3,141	case full
59.0	H-414	3,105	max
60.0	H-4350	3,096	max
60.0	RL-19	3,092	max
53.0	IMR-4320	3,023	max
56.0	H-380	2,951	max
51.0	RL-15	2,950	max
175-grain Hornady RN (B.C. .274)			
61.0	H-4831	2,965	max
57.0	RL-19	2,913	max
58.0	H-4350	2,906	max
56.0	H-414	2,882	max
51.0	IMR-4320	2,844	max
54.0	H-380	2,790	max
49.0	RL-15	2,780	max

Note: (26-inch barrel, one-in-nine-inch twist) All CCI 250 primers. All R-P cases. Average weight was 202.6 grains primed. Velocities measured on an Oehler Model 33 Chronograph at 10 feet, converted to muzzle velocity.

All listed loads listed should be considered as maximum. Reduce the loads shown by at least four grains for starters. Work your charge weight of powder up slowly by not more than one grain at a time.

Be alert -- Publisher cannot accept responsibility for errors in published load data.

The .30-06 cases were sized in a Gibbs die in such a way as to produce a bulge on the case neck. This bulge engaged within the chamber and held the cartridge case head against the bolt face.

For the 8mm Gibbs cases, the .30 caliber cases were first necked up to .35 caliber and then resized in the 8mm Gibbs sizing die. Neck expanding was not necessary for the 6.5 or the 7mm cases. One pass of the .30-06 brass into a 6.5 Gibbs or 7mm Gibbs sizing die was sufficient to place a bulge on the case neck.

The dies were adjusted to provide considerable force in closing the bolt on the ready to fireform case. If the case was not held snugly in the chamber during fireforming, then case stretch at the pressure ring could occur. Head separation, a dangerous condition, could result.

After shaping the cases with a bulge on the case neck, all were similarly loaded with 11 grains of Unique powder. Enough Cream of Wheat cereal was placed on top of the powder to fill the remainder of the case. Toilet tissue was used to plug the case mouth and contain the Cream of Wheat. A Magnum primer provided the ignition.

After fireforming, the cases had slightly rounded shoulders. These round shoulders shaped up perfectly upon firing the first loaded rounds.

Trimming Gibbs cases was seldom a problem. Cases shorten slightly during the fireforming process; then the 35-degree shoulder seemed to contain the case stretch while firing fully loaded rounds.

For starting loads, I used information from Gibbs literature. From this starting point, the powder charge was increased one grain at a time until excessive pressures were indicated. Excessive pressures usually surfaced with Gibbs cartridges as severely cratered primers, ejector marks on the case head, considerable jump in the chronograph standard deviations, or a large expansion of the pressure ring on the case.

Sticky or difficult bolt lift is normally not a problem while shooting the Gibbs Metrics. The improved case design inhibits bolt thrust as the straight-walled cases grip the chamber walls well. (Be sure to keep chamber and cases free of grease and oil.)

As soon as excessive pressures were recognized I reduced the powder charge at least one full grain. Then five shots were fired. The pressure ring on these five rounds was measured with a micrometer and averaged. From that point on, any time a combination of components produced that pressure ring measurement, it was considered a maximum load.

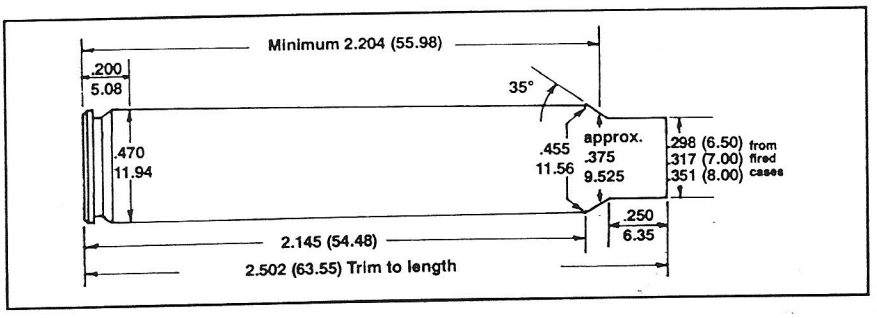
A word about the barrels. The barrels for this test came from McGowen Rifle Barrel Company (Rte. 3, St. Anne IL 60964). McGowen sells barrels and chambers for all the Gibbs cartridges.

The chamber for the 6.5 Gibbs is very tight and throated for the 140-grain bullet. The necks on the .30-06 brass had to be turned down after reforming to make a comfortable fit in the 6.5 chamber.

The chamber on the 8mm Gibbs has a throat just right for the 220-grain Hornady Spire Point bullet. This throating allows a lot of bullet jump for the 150, 170, 200-grain 8mm bullets. The performance of the 8mm Gibbs was very good. Improvement may have been possible if I had requested the barrel throat to have been cut for the outstanding 200-grain Speer bullet.

The 7mm Gibbs barrel turned in a great performance. With the barrel throated for the Hornady 154-grain Spire Point bullet, both accuracy and velocities were more than acceptable in all bullet weights. Velocities in excess of 3,000 feet per second were easily obtained even with the 154-grain projectile. Accuracy with all bullets seldom exceeded 1.5 MOA which I considered outstanding considering the barrel was installed on a switch barrel rifle.

All three McGowen barrels chambered for the Gibbs Metrics have mirror-finish chambers. Rocky Gibbs would have been proud. ●



8mm Gibbs Loading Data

charge (grains)	powder	velocity (fps)	remarks
150-grain Hornady SP (B.C. .332)			
64.0	RL-15	3,346	max
64.0	IMR-4320	3,346	max
63.0	IMR-4064	3,339	max
73.0	H-414	3,285	case full
70.0	H-380	3,274	case full.
170-grain Hornady RN (B.C. .225)			
63.0	RL-15	3,202	max
62.0	IMR-4320	3,145	max
70.0	H-414	3,132	max
60.0	IMR-4064	3,066	max
68.0	H-380	3,043	max
200-grain Speer SP (B.C. .411)			
68.0	H-414	2,913	max
58.0	IMR-4064	2,895	max
59.0	RL-15	2,888	max
58.0	IMR-4320	2,874	max
65.0	H-380	2,861	max
220-grain Hornady SP (B.C. .448)			
65.0	H-414	2,797	max
57.0	IMR-4320	2,761	max
57.0	RL-15	2,743	max
56.0	IMR-4064	2,720	max
63.0	H-380	2,689	max

Note: (26-inch barrel, one-in-10-inch twist) All CCI 250 primers. All R-P cases. Average weight was 203.1 grains primed. Velocities measured on an Oehler Model 33 Chronograph at 10 feet, converted to muzzle velocity.

All listed loads should be considered as maximum. Reduce the loads shown by at least four grains for starters. Work your charge weight of powder up slowly by not more than one grain at a time.

Be alert -- Publisher cannot accept responsibility for errors in published load data.