The Dardick Magazine-fed Revolver

In the 1950's, the military were experimenting with alternative feeding devices for machine guns and found that a triangular cartridge case when stacked into a magazine took up almost 50% less space than a round casing, but they never expanded on the design.

Dave Dardick, in the mid 1950's, took the triangular cartridge design and started the Dardick Corporation in Hamden, CT. The new design was a combination of a hybrid revolver and a magazine-fed pistol. It has a magazine that held 11, 15 or 20 triangular cartridges called trounds depending on the model. The magazine was internal, not removable, and fed through a door on the left hand side of the revolver. The revolving cylinder had three vee-shaped channels spaced evenly on the length of the cylinder. The two sides of the vee made up two sides of the chamber, and the revolver's topstrap had a metal plate that made up the third side of the chamber.

The magazine feeds the cartridge into the chamber in the 7 o'clock position; it is rotated to the 12 o'clock position and fired. Then it is rotated to the 3 o'clock position and the empty tround falls out of the cylinder thru an opening in the frame of the revolver.

The barrel of the Dardick can be quickly removed. It is held into the frame by two cams that are rotated by a screw that it located in the front of the frame below the barrel. A half turn on the cam screw and the barrel can be pulled from the frame for cleaning, a different length barrel or caliber change.

The triangular casings were constructed of an extruded plastic called Celanese Fortiflex. It consisted of a plastic casing, metal primer pocket, primer, powder and a .38 caliber bullet. A .22 long rifle casing and barrel was also available. The .22 casing accepted a standard .22 long rifle cartridge inserted into the center of it. The barrel for the .22 was installed and a switch on the hammer was changed to rimfire mode.

A carbine conversion was also available. It consisted of a wood butt stock attached to a carrier that the whole pistol, minus the barrel, was inserted to. The carbine barrel was then inserted into the frame and locked into place by the barrel cam screw.

The demise of the Dardick was its less than attractive appearance (it was butt ugly). Also, the plastic cartridges after time warped and would not completely chamber, locking up the cylinder when it rotated.

They were manufactured from 1958 to 1962 with less than 100 revolvers made.