

THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PLATINUM 2000® AND THE 800 PLUS®

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The Platinum 2000 (commonly called the "P-2000") and 800 Plus (800+) are a offspring of several small engineering enhancements over the years from the original 800B, 800C, and 800CVT that were Ponsness/Warren's claim to fame for some 40 years.

These basic enhancements include: the methods used to index the turret (P-2000 and 800+ differ), the Removable Die System, the EZ-Fill Hopper System, the easily removable shot & powder Bushing Plate, the "neutral" position, the pre-crimping system, and the Brass Externally Adjustable Primer Seating Assembly with my design-recommended beefier primer ram. BOTH reloaders resize each shell throughout the entire reloading cycle, P/W's claim to fame.

The older 800's used a gearing system, which occasionally got out of time and had to be "retimed." A simple procedure, but nevertheless, some people are not mechanically adept. The new 800+ uses a gearing system similar to a rack-and-pinion, using two gears; a large hardened gear, like the pinion gear in the differential of a car, and the other is a flat, thicker, highly machined 8-toothed gear. The older 800's differed slightly, using a thin stamped flat 8-toothed gear, which was more prone to wear.

As the new 800+ indexes, there is a noticeable "click" or "clunk" sound that many shooters have grown accustomed to. The actual sound comes from a rotating Index Pad and spring driven shaft at the rear of the 800+. As the pad pops back up to its normal set position and the shaft pops down, a "clunk" sound is generated. Personally, I prefer this and have loaded on all of the P/W's since the early 1970's, and nearly every reloader from other manufacturers.

The engineering advances in 800's have brought it to its present P-2000 and 800+ status. The P-2000 indexes its turret with a center shaft that can never get out of time. If it did, then the reloading operator would have had to do major physical damage to the reloader...nearly impossible, even using the ever-popular hydraulic addition.

OK, bid deal, so why a "new" 800+? Well, simply, the 800+ uses a similar indexing system as the older 800, but updated. And, most importantly, because the indexing is done under the turret, there is no center index shaft as there is on the P-2000. With the absence of the center indexing shaft, a shooter can easily remove the entire top Toolhead from the 800+, and install a new one with different gauges in about 5-10 minutes. Because all of the P/W reloaders now come with removable dies (easy at most any station), the shooter in a matter of minutes can change BOTH the top crosshead and dies, and have a "new" reloader in a different gauge quickly. I prefer the 800+, myself, mainly because it has an aluminum turret (cylinder) versus the Grivory plastic one on the P-2000. The Grivory turret does have a lifetime warranty, but you'd have to install it.

You can change gauges on the P-2000, but you have to change each of the top Toolhead pieces and adjust each. This could take easily up to an hour. The final adjustments are what consume your time is getting things exact.

Ideally, I like the new 800+ over the P-2000; HOWEVER, there was a price difference of about \$140 (now only \$50 as of March '09). I reload only 12 gauge, but I still like the aluminum turret on the 800+ over the P-2000's Grivory turret.

When the prices of both machines are the same, I still prefer the 800+. However, under normal pricing circumstances (\$799.95 versus \$749.95), the P-2000 has a slight advantage, if a shooter does NOT require a gauge change. However, if you consider resaleability, then the definite choice would be the 800+ for its appeal to change gauges. Pricing since has changed. The original 800+ retailed at \$839.95, whereas today (4-2009), it is \$799.95.

Both machines accept the popular Automatic Shell-Feeder system (\$359.95) and the very well made Ponsness/Warren hydraulic system (\$1,295.95) and now the newly available Electric Drive system (\$799.95 & \$849.95 with foot-switch).

I have attempted to "copy" and build-to-sell my own version of this hydraulic system. My partner in another venture owns a mechanical engineering company. We have tried to duplicate the P/W system, but we just cannot do a better job of assembling a unit that even comes close to the beautiful P/W hydraulic system. The new Electric Drive will give this a run for its money.

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