

The First Dillon Reloading Machine

Long before Mike Dillon brought such amazing machines as the [RL 550B](#), [XL650](#), or the [Super 1050](#) to market there were some pretty impressive early machines that paved the way for all that would follow. The very first machine that was truly a Dillon product was the RL-1000. Mike had been making, and rapidly selling, his .223 conversion kits for the Star Reloaders but the people wanted more. They began asking him to make a 30.06 conversion. That is when Mike decided that things might be better if he just made his own reloading machine. Out of that desire to innovate, and using his prior experience making the conversion kits, Mike created the RL-1000.

The RL-1000 was not a hobby level machine, at least not so far as the price tag was concerned. The RL-1000 initially sold for \$2475 with the case feeder. Adjusted for inflation that would be over \$9000 in today's economy (2016). This put the RL-1000 out of reach of the casual reloader or hobbyist in the late 1970's. Part of the reason the cost was so high was the stainless steel frame. When the RL-1000 was redesigned as the RL-1050 the stainless steel frame was eliminated in favor of a cast frame and the price was reduced considerably. The linkage was also changed and the press went from being capable of producing 30.06 cartridges down to a maximum cartridge size of .223.

Today Dillon Precision offers the [Super 1050](#) which combines the strengths of both of it's predecessors the RL-1000 and the RL-1050. The linkage is restored to the longer length of the RL-1000, so 30.06 length cartridges can once again be made, and the frame is still cast like the RL-1050 so the price is more economical. If you check out the links to the [Super 1050](#) we think you can easily see the family resemblance to the RL-1000 below.