

## 30-30 Winchester

If we judged cartridges by ballistics alone, the 30-30 Winchester would be only a fond memory. However, the combination of mild recoil and America's affection for lever-actions rifles keeps the 30-30 popular. Most American rifle makers have chambered the 30-30 at some time, usually in lever- or slide-action rifles.

The 30-30 has the distinction of being the first American small-bore sporting cartridge loaded with smokeless propellant. It was introduced in 1895 in the famous Winchester Model 1894 lever-action rifle and was an immediate success. Original loading specifications called for a 160-grain bullet at 1970 ft/sec. The new rifle was almost as light and handy as the earlier Model 1892 but could handle longer and more powerful cartridges. By 1895 standards, the Model 94 gave the hunter significant power in an easily carried package. Although 110 years of sporting cartridge development and advancement have faded the 30-30's former glory, it still remains in consideration as the first deer rifle for many new shooters.

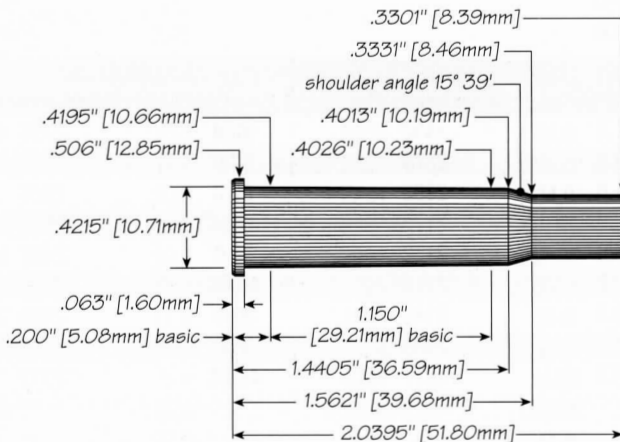
For rifles having tubular magazines, the 30-30 must be loaded with flat point bullets. This prevents cartridge detonation in the magazine during recoil. Speer makes four flat point bullets suitable for the 30-30 in weights from 110 to 170 grains. These bullets are designed to give optimum expansion at modest velocities. They all have a cannelure to allow secure crimping of the bullet. Crimping is mandatory for cartridges going into tubular magazines so that bullets are not pressed into the case by recoil and the tension of the magazine spring. The 170-grain Hot-Cor is the best choice for game up to medium-size deer, which is the effective game limit of the cartridge. The 130 and 150-grain Hot-Cor flat points are fine for smaller deer.

When using the 100-grain Speer Plinker® we recommend that they be fed singly into the barrel. The short overall cartridge length may cause feeding problems in tubular magazines and the magazine spring can push bullets deeper into the case.

Some bolt-action and single-shot rifles have been chambered for this cartridge. Reloaders may use spitzer-type bullets in these rifles, but should keep the weight to 150 grains or less. Heavier spitzer bullets cannot be driven fast enough in the 30-30 to expand reliably at normal hunting ranges. We are occasionally asked if the 30-30 can be loaded to higher pressures in a modern bolt action like the Remington Model 788. The answer

is no! Although the M788 action is strong, the 30-30 cartridge case has relatively thin walls by today's standards. Attempting to load "hotter" would risk a dangerous case failure.

The listed loads do not exceed the industry maximum average pressure of 38,000 CUP. The data for round nose and flat point bullets can also be used in the 30 Remington cartridge, a rimless version of the 30-30 designed for Remington semi-automatic and slide-action rifles. Spitzer bullets may be used in the Models 8 and 81 rifles chambered for 30 Remington; they have box magazines.



**Max. Case Length:** 2.0395"  
**Trim-to Length:** 2.030"  
**Max Cart. OAL:** 2.550"  
**RCBS Shell Holder:** #2

**Cart. Case:** Winchester  
**Primer:** CCI 200; 250\*  
**Test Firearm:** Winchester Model 94  
**Barrel Length:** 20"



<b>0.308"</b>	<b>30 RNSP</b>
Weight, grains	100
Ballistic Coefficient	0.144
Sectional Density	0.151
COAL Tested:	2.345"
Speer Part No.	1805

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Reloder 7	31.0	2457	35.0	2792
H322	33.0	2375	37.0	2730
AA 2015	31.0	2366	35.0	2658
IMR 4064	33.5	2173	37.5C	2527
BL-C(2)*	34.0	2172	38.0	2497
748*	36.0	2111	40.0C	2483
Viht. N133	28.0	2140	32.0	2405
H4895	31.0	2054	35.0	2388
H380*	36.0	1971	40.0C	2319

**NOTE:** See "Lab Notes"  
before loading this bullet.



<b>0.308"</b>	<b>30 HP</b>
Weight, grains	110
Ballistic Coefficient	0.128
Sectional Density	0.166
COAL Tested:	2.415"
Speer Part No.	1835

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Reloder 7	30.0	2302	<b>34.0</b>	2708
H322	31.0	2230	<b>35.0</b>	2593
AA 2015	30.0	2254	<b>34.0</b>	2591
748*	36.0	2256	<b>40.0C</b>	2564
IMR 4064	33.0	2091	<b>37.0C</b>	2460
BL-C(2)*	33.0	2090	<b>37.0</b>	2430
IMR 4895	31.0	2101	<b>35.0</b>	2415
Viht. N133	27.0	1934	<b>31.0</b>	2362
H4895	30.0	1955	<b>34.0C</b>	2300
IMR 4350	36.0	1976	<b>40.0C</b>	2298
AA 2230	27.0	1998	<b>31.0</b>	2296
AA 2460*	28.0	1988	<b>32.0</b>	2259

### Lab Notes:

In the last two decades, several makes of 30-30 rifles appeared with much shorter throats than previously seen. Although within industry specs, these short throats preclude loading the 110-grain Speer Varminter® HP to the cartridge length we tested. Before loading this bullet for your rifle, make a dummy round to test for throat interference. If you encounter interference with the rifling, seat bullets to the FRONT cannellure and load singly.

Maximum Loads should be used with CAUTION • C = Compressed Load • \*Magnum Primer used with this powder.



<b>0.308"</b>	<b>30 FNSP</b>
Weight, grains	130
Ballistic Coefficient	0.312
Sectional Density	0.196
COAL Tested:	2.550"
Speer Part No.	2007

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
AA 2520*	31.0	2068	35.0C	2433
AA 2460*	30.0	2086	34.0	2425
Reloder 7	27.0	2106	31.0	2393
H322	29.0	2036	33.0	2367
Varget	31.0	1987	35.0	2294
Reloder 10X	26.5	2039	30.5	2273
Reloder 15	32.0	1943	36.0C	2259
Viht. N140	31.0	1964	35.0C	2257
748*	31.2	1866	35.5	2221
IMR 4895	28.0	1857	32.0	2134
IMR 4064	29.0	1757	33.0	2067



0.308"	30 FNPS
Weight, grains	150
Ballistic Coefficient	0.255
Sectional Density	0.226
COAL Tested:	2.550"
Speer Part No.	2011

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
748*	33.0	1925	37.0C	2238
H322	27.0	1886	31.0	2219
AA 2520*	28.0	1863	32.0	2192
Reloder 7	25.0	1882	29.0	2188
Reloder 15	30.0	1823	34.0C	2170
Viht. N140	30.0	1854	34.0	2156
Varget	29.0	1825	33.0	2139
Reloder 10X	24.0	1839	28.0	2117
H335*	28.0	1731	32.0	2111
H414*	34.0	1725	38.0C	2078
IMR 4320	29.0	1699	33.0	2047
H4895	27.0	1674	31.0	2041
IMR 4895	27.0	1698	31.0	2018
IMR 4350	32.0	1690	36.0C	2012

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0.308"	30 FNSP
Weight, grains	170
Ballistic Coefficient	0.298
Sectional Density	0.256
COAL Tested:	2.550"
Speer Part No.	2041

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
748*	30.0	1833	34.0	2118
Varget	27.0	1626	31.0	2006
H322	25.0	1684	29.0	2005
H335*	27.0	1669	31.0	1988
Viht. N140	27.0	1643	31.0	1983
IMR 3031	25.5	1699	29.5	1975
Reloder 10X	22.5	1646	26.5	1972
IMR 4064	27.0	1654	31.0	1964
760*	31.0	1635	35.0	1946
H414*	31.0	1599	35.0	1926
IMR 4350	30.5	1570	34.5	1915
IMR 4895	25.0	1616	29.0	1879
AA 2460*	24.0	1590	28.0	1871

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