

357 Magnum

The 357 Magnum was introduced in 1935 as the result of Smith & Wesson's extensive research with high-performance 38 Special loads. Much of this interest was stimulated by Elmer Keith and Phil Sharpe, who found that heavy charges of certain quick-burning rifle powders in a 38 case could achieve significant increases in velocity, enough for deer-sized game.

Major D.B. Wesson wisely noted that a 38 Special cartridge loaded to very high pressures would be a severe hazard if accidentally fired in one of the lighter frame 38 Special revolvers. To avoid this he designed a new cartridge that was physically identical to the 38 Special except for case length. The extra .135 inches of case prevented the potent new cartridge from chambering in 38 Special revolvers.

Thus was born the first "magnum" handgun cartridge. The original Smith & Wesson 357 revolver was a high-grade model made with special steel and careful fitting to handle the new cartridge. Within a year Colt chambered their heavy New Service and Shooting Master revolvers for the 357 Magnum. An added advantage of owning a 357 Magnum revolver is that 38 Special ammunition may be used for practice.

The popularity of the 357 didn't take off until after the Korean War when Smith & Wesson and Colt both introduced lighter, less expensive revolvers. However, factory 357 Magnum ammunition was loaded with only 158-grain lead bullets until the late 1960's when jacketed bullets appeared. The soft lead bullets always caused severe barrel leading so jacketed projectiles were a welcome improvement.

Today's handloader has an excellent selection of bullets. Speer's 110-grain Uni-Cor hollow point at high velocity is an impressive varmint bullet. The 125-grain Gold Dot® hollow point offers excellent expansion and better penetration for defense. The 140-grain Uni-Cor hollow point produces less recoil than the 158-grain bullets yet still offers adequate penetration. For hunting smaller deer species, the 158-grain Gold Dot hollow point and the two 158-grain Uni-Cor bullets are both good choices.

Since we published *Speer #13*, we have introduced several new 35-caliber bullets that add extra flexibility for the 357 Magnum reloader. For compact revolvers, the 135-grain Gold Dot Short Barrel bullet can be loaded to modest velocity for reduced recoil in lightweight "snubbies" yet still expands reliably. The same bullet at maximum safe velocity is a fast-expanding varmint bullet. For medium deer, we have the new Gold

Dot soft point at 170 grains. This bullet is for situations when penetration is more important than expansion. We recommend using this bullet in revolvers with at least six inches of barrel; shorter barrels drop velocity enough to diminish the penetration advantage.

There is one new Speer bullet we don't recommend for the 357 Magnum. It is the 110-grain Gold Dot Short Barrel. It is designed for 38 Special velocities, with a thin jacket and a cavity that comes close to the bullet base. The elevated pressure of the 357 Magnum will deform this bullet in-bore. The 110-grain Uni-Cor hollow point is the one for magnum applications.

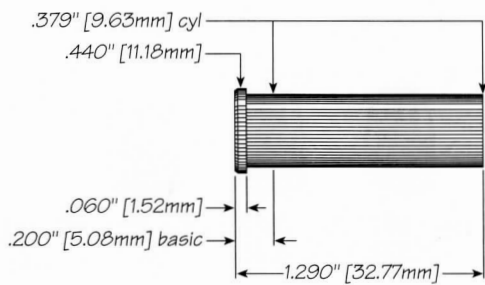
Some states have minimum muzzle or downrange energy requirements for handgun hunting that may eliminate the 357 Magnum from consideration. Check with your local game department for applicable regulations.

The 158-grain lead semi-wadcutters, both in solid and hollow point form, make good practice and target loads. To avoid leading, we recommend limiting velocities to around 1000 ft/sec.

Slow-burning pistol powders require a heavy roll crimp to insure proper ignition. Use magnum primers only when they are specified in the data. We found VihtaVuori N110 to be an excellent 357 Magnum propellant with standard CCI primers. Do not use magnum primers with the 2400 or VihtaVuori N110 loads shown here or high pressures will result.

If you wish to load Speer shot capsules for close-range pest control, we recommend you do so in 38 Special cases for best patterning. Shot capsule data is in the 38 Special (non +P) data section.

The industry maximum average pressure for the 357 Magnum is 35,000 psi. These loads do not exceed that level.



Max. Case Length: 1.290"
Trim-to Length: 1.280"
Max Cart. OAL: 1.590"
RCBS Shell Holder: #6

Cart. Case: Speer
Primer: CCI 500; 550*
Test Firearm: S&W Model 19
Barrel Length: 6"



| 0.358" | 38 LSWC | 38 LSWC HP |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------|
| Weight, grains | 158 | 158 |
| Ballistic Coefficient | 0.123 | 0.121 |
| Sectional Density | 0.176 | 0.176 |
| COAL Tested: | 1.570" | 1.575" |
| Speer Part No. | 4623 | 4627 |

| Propellant | START CHARGE | | MAXIMUM CHARGE | |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec |
| Unique | 5.5 | 970 | 6.0 | 1034 |
| SR 7625 | 4.8 | 926 | 5.3 | 1021 |
| 700-X | 4.5 | 904 | 5.0 | 1002 |
| 231 | 4.9 | 897 | 5.4 | 989 |
| Bullseye | 4.3 | 848 | 4.8 | 939 |
| HP-38 | 4.5 | 839 | 5.0 | 932 |

NOTE: These loads do not reach maximum pressures.

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



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 0.357" | 38 UHP |
| Weight, grains | 110 |
| Ballistic Coefficient | 0.113 |
| Sectional Density | 0.123 |
| COAL Tested: | 1.575" |
| Speer Part No. | 4007 |

| Propellant | START CHARGE | | MAXIMUM CHARGE | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec |
| Viht. N110 | 19.0 | 1557 | 21.0C | 1693 |
| Blue Dot | 14.0 | 1548 | 16.0 | 1680 |
| 2400 | 17.5 | 1536 | 19.5 | 1670 |
| Power Pistol | 9.5 | 1326 | 10.5 | 1451 |
| Unique | 8.5 | 1284 | 9.7 | 1447 |
| 3N37 | 9.7 | 1305 | 10.8 | 1433 |
| Bullseye | 7.8 | 1246 | 8.7 | 1403 |
| 700-X | 7.0 | 1208 | 8.0 | 1366 |
| H. Universal | 8.0 | 1264 | 9.0 | 1359 |
| HS-7 | 12.5 | 1182 | 14.4 | 1341 |
| AA No. 5 | 10.8 | 1246 | 12.0 | 1330 |
| 231 | 8.5 | 1231 | 9.5 | 1319 |

NOTE: Do not use the 110-grain Gold Dot SB HP (#4009) in the 357 Magnum.



| 0.357" | 38 UCSP | 38 GDHP | 38 UCHP | 38 TMJ FN |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Weight, grains | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 |
| Ballistic Coefficient | 0.129 | 0.140 | 0.129 | 0.146 |
| Sectional Density | 0.140 | 0.140 | 0.140 | 0.140 |
| COAL Tested: | 1.575" | 1.580" | 1.575" | 1.575" |
| Speer Part No. | 4011 | 4012 | 4013 | 4015 |

| Propellant | START CHARGE | | MAXIMUM CHARGE | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec |
| Viht. N110 | 16.8 | 1410 | 17.8 | 1443 |
| 2400 | 16.5 | 1335 | 17.5 | 1409 |
| Power Pistol | 9.5 | 1273 | 10.5 | 1345 |
| Unique | 8.6 | 1259 | 9.6 | 1343 |
| 296* | 18.3 | 1188 | 20.3 | 1336 |
| Blue Dot | 11.5 | 1252 | 13.0 | 1333 |
| H110* | 18.0 | 1154 | 20.0 | 1282 |
| AA No. 9 | 12.6 | 1119 | 14.6 | 1238 |
| Viht. N350 | 9.0 | 1097 | 10.0 | 1226 |
| H. Universal | 7.5 | 1148 | 8.2 | 1200 |
| Viht. 3N37 | 9.0 | 1035 | 10.2 | 1180 |
| HS-7* | 11.8 | 1052 | 13.3 | 1169 |
| 231 | 7.6 | 1129 | 8.3 | 1168 |
| AA No. 7 | 12.0 | 1045 | 13.5 | 1134 |
| HS-6* | 10.0 | 1009 | 11.3 | 1124 |

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



| 0.357" | 38 GDHP SB |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Weight, grains | 135 |
| Ballistic Coefficient | 0.141 |
| Sectional Density | 0.151 |
| COAL Tested: | 1.590" |
| Speer Part No. | 4014 |

| Propellant | START CHARGE | | MAXIMUM CHARGE | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec |
| H110* | 17.5 | 1313 | 18.5 | 1387 |
| 296* | 17.5 | 1264 | 18.5 | 1377 |
| 2400 | 15.0 | 1219 | 16.0 | 1377 |
| AA No. 9 | 14.5 | 1234 | 15.5 | 1345 |
| Power Pistol | 8.6 | 1192 | 9.6 | 1291 |
| Viht. 3N37 | 7.7 | 1093 | 8.7 | 1185 |
| Unique | 6.8 | 1082 | 7.8 | 1185 |



| 0.357" | 38 GDHP SB |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Weight, grains | 135 |
| Ballistic Coefficient | 0.141 |
| Sectional Density | 0.151 |
| COAL Tested: | 1.590" |
| Speer Part No. | 4014 |



SHORT BARREL
VELOCITIES

Test Firearm: S&W Model 19 2.5"

| Propellant | START CHARGE | | MAXIMUM CHARGE | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec |
| AA No. 9 | 14.5 | 1202 | 15.5 | 1258 |
| H110* | 17.5 | 1128 | 18.5 | 1205 |
| 2400 | 15.0 | 1124 | 16.0 | 1176 |
| Power Pistol | 8.6 | 1046 | 9.6 | 1137 |
| 296* | 17.5 | 1105 | 18.5 | 1130 |
| Unique | 6.8 | 971 | 7.8 | 1109 |
| Viht. 3N37 | 7.7 | 874 | 8.7 | 1012 |



| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 0.357" | 38 UCHP |
| Weight, grains | 140 |
| Ballistic Coefficient | 0.145 |
| Sectional Density | 0.157 |
| COAL Tested: | 1.560" |
| Speer Part No. | 4203 |

| Propellant | START CHARGE | | MAXIMUM CHARGE | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec |
| 296* | 17.0 | 1327 | 18.0 | 1367 |
| Viht. N110 | 14.2 | 1255 | 15.2 | 1365 |
| H110* | 16.2 | 1323 | 17.2 | 1352 |
| Blue Dot | 10.3 | 1234 | 11.5 | 1324 |
| IMR 4227 | 17.2 | 1153 | 19.2C | 1298 |
| 2400 | 13.1 | 1219 | 15.1 | 1298 |
| Power Pistol | 8.5 | 1193 | 9.5 | 1288 |
| AA No. 9 | 13.0 | 1213 | 14.0 | 1266 |
| AA No. 7 | 11.1 | 1144 | 12.1 | 1238 |
| Viht. N350 | 8.1 | 1078 | 9.1 | 1195 |
| Unique | 7.2 | 1086 | 8.0 | 1185 |
| AA No. 5 | 9.1 | 1111 | 10.2 | 1181 |
| HS-7* | 10.7 | 1041 | 11.9 | 1179 |
| HS-6* | 8.8 | 1005 | 9.8 | 1142 |
| 231 | DNR | — | 7.1 | 1105 |

NOTE: The 146-gr JHP-SWC (#4205) may be used with these propellants by reducing the charge weights one grain. DNR — do not reduce

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| 0.357" | 38 TMJ FN | 38 UCHP | 38 GDHP | 38 UCSP |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Weight, grains | 158 | 158 | 158 | 158 |
| Ballistic Coefficient | 0.173 | 0.163 | 0.168 | 0.164 |
| Sectional Density | 0.177 | 0.177 | 0.177 | 0.177 |
| COAL Tested: | 1.570" | 1.570" | 1.575" | 1.570" |
| Speer Part No. | 4207 | 4211 | 4215 | 4217 |

| Propellant | START CHARGE | | MAXIMUM CHARGE | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec |
| 2400 | 13.8 | 1128 | 14.8 | 1265 |
| Viht. N110 | 13.5 | 1102 | 15.0 | 1253 |
| H110* | 13.9 | 1151 | 15.5 | 1217 |
| Blue Dot | 9.0 | 1049 | 10.2 | 1188 |
| 296* | 13.2 | 1089 | 14.7 | 1185 |
| AA No. 5 | 9.0 | 1032 | 10.0 | 1152 |
| AA No. 7 | 10.5 | 1015 | 11.7 | 1140 |
| AA No. 9 | 12.3 | 1052 | 13.7 | 1136 |
| IMR 4227 | 15.0 | 1003 | 17.0 | 1126 |
| Power Pistol | 7.5 | 963 | 8.5 | 1078 |
| Viht. N350 | 7.7 | 958 | 8.6 | 1072 |
| HS-7* | 9.9 | 895 | 11.0 | 1041 |
| HS-6* | 8.7 | 925 | 9.7 | 1040 |
| Unique | 6.9 | 978 | 7.7 | 1040 |
| H. Universal | 6.5 | 904 | 7.3 | 1015 |



| 0.357" | 357 Mag GDSP |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Weight, grains | 170 |
| Ballistic Coefficient | 0.185 |
| Sectional Density | 0.191 |
| COAL Tested: | 1.590" |
| Speer Part No. | 4230 |

| Propellant | START CHARGE | | MAXIMUM CHARGE | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec | Weight, grs | Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec |
| 2400 | 13.9 | 1100 | 14.5 | 1166 |
| Viht. N110 | 13.2 | 1046 | 13.8 | 1132 |
| H. Lil' Gun* | 14.8 | 1100 | 15.4 | 1121 |
| IMR 4227 | 16.1 | 1037 | 16.7 | 1084 |
| H110* | 14.4 | 1024 | 15.2 | 1076 |
| AA No. 9* | 11.0 | 1030 | 11.7 | 1071 |
| Blue Dot | 8.8 | 978 | 9.4 | 1002 |

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