

Reloading The .38 Special

Loads for .38 special:

(Note: These are near maximum loads (in some cases ARE MAXIMUM), you should use 10% less to start.) Only if you see more than one load, is it less than maximum. If there is only ONE load, it is MAX.

(See note on Powders below or read all about various Powders.)

Bullets are .357" for jacketed and .358" for lead in diameter. Due to different barrel lengths, type of bullet, seating depth, primer type and other factors, you may not get near the FPS charted. It is just a guide and the reason you should start under these charges and work up.

(Note H110 & W296 are the same as of 2008 as is HP-38 & W231)

(IMR 4227 is same as H-4227 if made in Australia)

90 grain Lead RNFP Cowboy loads

Titegroup 3.0 gr. 755 minimum

Titegroup 3.5 gr. 969 Maximum

Clays 2.5 gr. 705 minimum

Clays 3.0 gr. 938 Maximum

110 grain JHP (Jacketed Hollow Point)

Bullseye 4.5 gr. 1,085 FPS

Unique 5.6 gr. 1,090

Unique 5.8 gr. 997 (different gun)

Universal 5.6 gr. 1,065

Universal 5.8 gr. 989 (different gun)

Clays 3.8 gr. 973

HP38 5.2 gr. 1,043

HS6 7.4 gr. 755

No. 2 5.6 gr. 1,083

No. 5 7.3 gr. 1,090

W231 5.5 gr. 901

W231 (+P) 5.7 gr. 1,009

540 (+P) 8.7 gr. 1,070

125 grain Lead RNFP or SWC

Trail Boss 3.0 gr. 753 FPS minimum

Trail Boss 5.3 gr. 952 FPS Maximum

*Blackhorn 209 11.9 gr. 926 MAX

Universal 4.3 gr. 872 FPS minimum

Universal 4.7 gr. 1036 FPS MAXIMUM

HP38	3.8 gr.	876 minimum
HP38	4.8 gr.	1071 Maximum
Titegroup	3.2 gr.	856 minimum
Titegroup	3.8 gr.	985 Maximum
Clays	2.5 gr.	810 minimum
Clays	3.5 gr.	978 Maximum
AA #2	4.8 gr.	977 max
Competition	2.0 gr.	803
Zip	3.4 gr./td>	732
True Blue	4.0 gr.	744

* Blackhorn 209 is a black powder substitute with smokeless like qualities. Load it like Trail Boss

125 grain JHP or JSP (Jacketed Hollow or Soft Point)

Bullseye	4.4 gr.	965 FPS
Bullseye	4.8 gr.	925 (different barrel)
Unique	5.3 gr.	1,015
Universal	5.2 gr.	1,019
Clays	3.5 gr.	895
HP38	4.8 gr.	914
No. 2	5.3 gr.	990
No. 5	6.8 gr.	860
231 (+P)	5.3 gr.	935
540 (+P)	8.2 gr.	1,000
PowerPistol	6.2 gr.	908

140 grain Hornady XTP

Bullseye	4.4 gr.	807
Bullseye	4.6 gr.	845 (+P)
W231/HP38	4.9 gr.	696
PowerPistol	5.8 gr.	889

146-148 grain LWC (Lead Wad Cutter)

Bullseye	2.8 gr.	815 FPS
Bullseye	3.1 gr.	838
Unique	3.3 gr.	815
Universal	3.8 gr.	940
Clays	2.5 gr.	836
HP38	3.8 gr.	879
No. 2	3.1 gr.	808
No. 2	4.2 gr.	—
No. 5	6.0 gr.	—

W231	3.4 gr.	760
W231	3.1 gr.	692
540	5.2 gr.	785
ZERO AMMO (commercial)		795 (reference only)
AA #2	3.1 gr.	813
Titegroup	2.7 gr.	768

148 grain RNFP Cowboy load

True Blue 3.78 gr. 744
 N32C(Tin Star) 4.5 gr. 955
 (Also try Trail Boss 2.8 gr. to 4.3 gr.)

146-150 grain JHP (Jacketed Hollow Point)

Bullseye 3.8 gr. 850 FPS
 Unique 3.8 gr. 796 (mild)
 Unique 5.1 gr. 860
 HP38 3.8 gr. 856
 No. 2 4.5 gr. 820
 No. 5 6.0 gr. 745
 231 3.4 gr. 820
 2400 (+P) 8.0 gr. 910 (+P) CAREFUL!
 Unique(+P) 5.5 gr. 964 (+P) CAREFUL!

158 grain Lead RNFP or SWC COWBOY load

Trail Boss 2.7 gr. 661 FPS minimum
 Trail Boss 4.2 gr. 804 FPS Maximum
 *Blackhorn 209 11.7 gr. 833 MAX
 Universal 3.5 gr. 756 FPS minimum
 Universal 4.5 gr. 974 FPS MAXIMUM
 HP38 3.1 gr. 782 minimum
 HP38 3.7 gr. 834 Maximum
 Titegroup 3.2 gr. 815 minimum
 Titegroup 3.8 gr. 920 Maximum
 Clays 2.8 gr. 812 minimum
 Clays 3.1 gr. 871 Maximum
 AA #5 6.0 gr. 883 Max

* Blackhorn 209 is a black powder substitute with smokeless like qualities. Load it like Trail Boss

158 grain LSWC or LRN (Semi-Wad, Rnd. Nose or flat point)

Bullseye	3.6 gr.	810 FPS	
Bullseye	3.8 gr.	869	

Unique	3.5 gr.	697	(mild load)
Unique	4.3 gr.	920	
Unique	4.5 gr.	975	(actual in 7" bbl revolver)
Unique	4.5 gr.	908 (5" bbl,powder UP)	(Hi=930 Lo= 885.4 Spread=44.2 fps)
Unique	4.5 gr.	797 (5" bbl,powder DOWN – see note)	(Hi=879.5 Lo= 729.4 Spread=150.1 fps)
Unique	4.9 gr.	938	
Universal	3.5 gr.	756	(Cowboy load)
Universal	4.5 gr.	974	
Clays	2.8 gr.	812 (cowboy load)	
Clays	3.1 gr.	871	
HP38	3.1 gr.	782 (Cowboy load)	
HP38	3.7 gr.	834	
No. 2	4.0 gr.	756 (published load)	
No. 2	3.6 gr.	808 (in 7" bbl)	hi=849 lo=728 ES=122 (powder up and down)
No. 2	3.2 gr.	725 (in 7" bbl)	hi=770 lo=679 ES=91 (powder up and down)
No. 5	5.8 gr.	841 (published)	
No. 5	5.0 gr.	736 (in 7" bbl)	hi=763 lo=688 ES=75 (powder up and down)
No. 5	4.6 gr.	694 (in 7" bbl)	hi=740 lo=648 ES=92 (powder up and down)
No. 5	5.9 gr.	885	
231	3.1 gr.	753 (do not use less)	
231	4.5 gr.	830 (published MAX)	
231	4.0 gr.	898 (actual in 7" bbl revolver)	
WST	3.7 gr.	770 (MAX)	
WAP	4.5 gr.	681 (published)	
WAP	4.3 gr.	752 (in 7"bbl)*	hi=821 lo=684 ES=137 (powder up and down)
WAP	4.3 gr.	734 (in 4 5/8" bbl)*	hi=815 lo=637 ES=178 (powder in normal positions)
WAP	4.0 gr.	658 (in 7" bbl)*(NOT recommended)	hi=714 lo=549 ES=165 (powder up and down)
540	6.8 gr.	880	
VV N320	3.9 gr.	872 (published)	
VV N320	3.2 gr.	723 (in 7" bbl)(same in 4 5/8" bbl)	hi=758 lo=693 ES=65 (powder up and down)(DO NOT USE LESS)
VV N340	4.8 gr.	882	
Zip	3.3 gr.	711	
Zip	3.7 gr.	846	
Competition	2.6 gr.	801	

True Blue	4.0 gr.	772	
HS-6	6.3 gr.	921 (hot for normal 38)	
PowerPistol	4.4 gr.	822	
Trail Boss	4.2 gr.	872	Hi=886, Lo=861, ES=25 (This is a Carolina Cast bullet SWC-great cowboy load)
N32C Tin Star	4.2 gr.	856	start
N32C Tin Star	5.6 gr.	1,004	max

*WAP is not best choice for .38 special, too slow and inconsistent.

158 grain Copper PLATED SWC

W231 4.0 gr. 745 (published)
W231 4.5 gr. 830 (published MAX)
W231* 4.0 gr. 811* (in 7" bbl revolver) hi=859 lo=743 ES=116 *(my personal medium load)
Trail Boss 4.2 gr. 798 Hi=823, Lo=742, ES=81 Nice cowboy load

158-160 grain JHP or JSP (Jacketed Hollow or Soft Point)

Bullseye 3.5 gr. 805 FPS
Unique 4.2 gr. 800
Unique 4.9 gr. 858/td>
2400 7.6 gr. 850
Universal 4.4 gr. 778
HP38 3.7 gr. 819
HS6 6.3 gr. 701
HS6 6.5 gr. 914
No. 2 4.0 gr. 756
No. 5 5.8 gr. 841
PowerPistol 5.9 gr. 838
231 (+P) 4.4 gr. 720*
540 (+P) 6.6 gr. 800*
2400 (+P) 7.8 gr. 910*
2400 (+P) 8.2 gr. 955*
Unique(+P) 5.0 gr. 928*

* All PLUS P loads for guns designed for it (20,000 PSI)

180 grain LEAD (Truncated Cone) Flat Point

VV N320 3.2 gr. 722 fps hi=780 lo=674 ES=105(powder up and down)
WAP 4.3 gr. 773 fps * hi=875 lo=685 ES=190.2(powder up and down)
WAP 4.0 gr. 639 fps * hi=710 lo=497 ES=213 (powder up and down)
AA No.2 3.6 gr. 816 fps hi=857 lo=785 ES=72 (all shot level)
AA No.2 3.2 gr. 722 fps hi=791 lo=625 ES=166 (Powder up and down)

AA No.5 5.0 gr. 725 fps hi=785 lo=670 ES=115 (powder up and down)
AA #5 5.0 gr. 781 fps, hi=801, low=766 ES=35.32 in Contender 14" bbl
AA No. 5 4.6 gr. 690 fps hi=736 lo=647 ES=89 (powder up and down)
(Cowboy loads – shot in 7 1/2" bbl. revolver – no need to reduce)

*WAP is not best choice for .38 special, too slow and inconsistent.

180 grain JHP or JSP (Jacketed Hollow or Soft Point)

2400 (+P)7.5 gr. 895* FPS

Unique (+P)4.4 gr. 875*

HS-6 (+P)6.7 gr. 870*

HS-7 (+P)7.6 gr. 885*

H4227 (+P)11.0 gr. 890*

IMR4227 (+P)10.7 gr. 844*

231 (+P)4.4 gr. 800*

ALL THESE LOADS ARE PLUS P, SPECIAL HOT – 21,000 PSI

* Use in PLUS-P Guns ONLY!!!!

200 grain LRN (Lead Round Nose)

Bullseye 3.0 gr. 760 FPS

Unique 3.6 gr. 780

2400 7.0 gr. 870

Universal 3.5 gr. —

HP38 3.2 gr. 681

HS6 5.0 gr. 794

(Note (+P) means higher pressures, use in guns designed for the +P cartridges.)

Note: More and more test are conducted with all rounds fired with powder UP against the primer for each shot, or DOWN on the bullet for each shot, then gently bring to horizontal to shoot. A significant difference in speeds is usually noted. It is always higher when powder is next to primer. For best accuracy in slow fire shooting, you may want to raise gun before every shot.

Discussion: Bullseye is a faster burning powder and some people feel better suited for the .38 special. I prefer the slower burning Unique, and I also use it for .357 magnum, just more of it. It seems to burn completely in the .38 and is not as critical as the faster powders like Bullseye. Accurate's No. 2 and No. 5 are good choices. Winchester's 231 or WSL are also good powders for the .38 special. Winchester 231 is between Bullseye and Unique for the .38 special (see my personal load above). Hodgdon's Clays, International, Universal and HP38 are good choices. And Vihtavouri's N320 and N321 fall in this range for burning times. Even slower powders may provide more consistent speeds and will be tested in the future (No. 7, No. 9 and others like 2400 that are generally used for magnums).

If you have a lightweight .38 or older gun, you may want to start with 10% less than max amounts listed above, and work up to the full loads. The "cowboy" loads would be good choices as listed, since these ARE reduced loads for that sport, where usually just hitting a metal plate to make a sound is all that is required of the round.

Below, are three loaded rounds. Nickle cases look pretty but don't seem to take the number of resizings

that plain brass cases do. Always make sure your lead bullets have been sized and lubricated. Note the dark band of lube on the 3 lead bullets. As you move up in loads, you at least need the gas check on the bottom of the bullet to prevent gas melting the lead and fouling the barrel. For any loads over 900-1,000 FPS, I suggest using a jacketed bullet. Jacketed bullets create a bit more wear on the rifling, but it's better than trying to wire brush out a bunch of lead build up. Just depends on what kinds of loads you plan to shoot. Normal, mild .38 loads work fine with lead bullets. A bullet with a copper gas check or copper plating is best for INDOOR ranges to keep lead vapors out of the air.

Bullseye, Unique and 2400 are products of Alliant (formerly Hercules) Powders.

Clays, Universal, HP38, HS6 and H4895 are products of Hodgdon Powders.

IMR 3031 and IMR 4895 are products of IMR (formerly DuPont) Powder Company.

No. 2, No. 5, #2230, and #2460 are products of Accurate Arms Company

WAP, WMR, WSF, WSL, 760, 748, 231 and 540 are products of Winchester, Components Div.

VV N320, N330 and N340 are products of VihtaVouri Oy Company

References: Accurate Arms Co. 1996 Reloading booklet – – Alliant Powder Co. Reloaders' Guide

(1995) – – Hodgdon's Basic Reloaders Manual (1996) – – Speer Reloading Manual, #12 – –

Winchester Reloading Components Manual, 14th edition – – Lyman Piston & Revolver Reloading

Handbook, 2nd edition. – – VihtaVuori Oy Company, reloading booklet (1995) – – Numerous

magazine articles on reloading special calibers and personal loads where noted. Also internet references
2009



SET YOUR SIGHTS ON PISTOL RELOADING DATA

CARTRIDGE

38 SPECIAL

Twist: 1:18.750"

Barrel Length: 7.700"

Trim Length: 1.145"

BULLET WEIGHT
130 GR. MEI CAST LRNFP
CASE
WINCHESTER
PRIMER
WINCHESTER SP, SMALL PISTOL

Starting Load							Maximum Loads		
Manufacturer	Powder	Bullet Diam.	C.O.L	Grs.	Vel. (ft/s)	Pressure	Grs.	Vel. (ft/s)	Pressure
Hodgdon	700-X	0.358"	1.460"	3.5	870	13,300 PSI	4.1	996	16,500 PSI
Hodgdon	CFE Pistol	0.358"	1.460"	5.3	1,053	13,200 PSI	6.1	1,175	17,100 PSI

Starting Load						Maximum Loads			
Hodgdon	Clays	0.358"	1.460"	3.0	828	12,500 PSI	3.5	924	16,100 PSI
Hodgdon	HP-38	0.358"	1.460"	4.1	880	13,200 PSI	4.7	1,008	16,100 PSI
Hodgdon	Titegroup	0.358"	1.460"	3.6	922	14,000 PSI	4.2	1,018	15,900 PSI
Hodgdon	Universal	0.358"	1.460"	4.7	957	13,500 PSI	5.2	1,056	16,000 PSI
IMR	IMR Red	0.358"	1.460"	3.4	884	12,800 PSI	4.3	1,071	16,600 PSI
IMR	IMR Target	0.358"	1.460"	3.5	915	12,700 PSI	4.8	1,126	16,400 PSI
IMR	PB	0.358"	1.460"	3.9	887	12,400 PSI	4.4	996	16,500 PSI
IMR	SR 4756	0.358"	1.460"	5.3	916	12,900 PSI	5.9	1,046	15,300 PSI
IMR	SR 7625	0.358"	1.460"	4.6	925	13,700 PSI	5.2	1,055	16,800 PSI
Winchester	244	0.357"	1.460"	4.6	1,035	14,000 PSI	5.1	1,129	16,800 PSI
Winchester	572	0.357"	1.460"	5.1	980	14,100 PSI	5.8	1,103	17,000 PSI
Winchester	AutoComp	0.358"	1.460"	5.5	981	13,600 PSI	6.0	1,072	15,800 PSI

Revised 01/10/2011



38 Special +P

Bullet Weight: 110 gr
Bullet Style: TAC-XP
COAL: 1.500 "
Case: R-P

Case Trim Length: 1.145 "
Primer: Rem 1 1/2
Barrel Length: 2.00"
Twist Rate: 1:18.75 "

S.D. 0.123
B.C. 0.156

Powder	Starting Load		Maximum Load	
	Charge (grains)	Velocity (fps)	Charge (grains)	Velocity (fps)
Bullseye (Alliant)	3.8	741	4.8	921
Titegroup (Hodgdon)	3.6	687	4.6	884
Win 231 (Winchester)	4.6	733	5.6	924
Universal Clays (Hodgdon)	4.8	560	5.8	702
Power Pistol (Alliant)	6.0	849	7.0	964
HS-6 (Hodgdon)	7.2	792	8.2	952
Silhouette (Ramshot)	6.0	674	7.0	896
IMR 800X (IMR)	6.2	764	7.2	941
A-No.7 (Accurate)	8.0	628	9.0	842
True Blue (Ramshot)	6.4	815	7.4	928



38 Special

.357"	38 UCHP	38 GDHP SB
Weight (grains)	110	110
Ballistic Coefficient	0.113	0.117
Sectional Density	0.123	0.123
COAL Tested	1.455"	1.455"
Speer Part No.	4007	4009

SHORT BARREL VELOCITIES
Test Firearm: S&W M15 2"

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Alliant Unique	Speer	CCI 500	5.4	806	5.8	936
Accurate No. 5	Speer	CCI 500	6.8	860	7.2	900
Vihtavuori 3N37	Speer	CCI 500	6.5	845	6.9	895
Hodgdon H. Universal	Speer	CCI 500	5.1	760	5.5	882
Alliant Power Pistol	Speer	CCI 500	6.2	823	6.6	880
Hodgdon Hi-Skor 700-X	Speer	CCI 500	4.2	784	4.6	879
Alliant Bullseye	Speer	CCI 500	4.2	791	4.6	852
Hodgdon TITEGROUP	Speer	CCI 500	4.1	782	4.5	850
Winchester 231	Speer	CCI 500	4.6	817	5.0	848
Alliant American Select	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.3	784

DNR — do not reduce

WARNING: Improper handloading practices can result in serious personal injury and/or property damage. Refer to the current SPEER® Reloading Manual for handloading instructions. Be thoroughly familiar with those instructions before using these loads. As Vista Outdoor Operations LLC has no control over individual handloading practices or the condition of firearms in which the resulting ammo may be used, we disclaim all liability for any damages that may result from the use of this information.

Maximum loads should be used with CAUTION • C = Compressed Load



38 Special

.357"	38 UCHP	38 GDHP SB
Weight (grains)	110	110
Ballistic Coefficient	0.113	0.117
Sectional Density	0.123	0.123
COAL Tested	1.455"	1.455"
Speer Part No.	4007	4009

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Alliant Power Pistol	Speer	CCI 500	6.2	1006	6.6	1074
Vihtavuori 3N37	Speer	CCI 500	6.5	990	6.9	1071
Alliant Unique	Speer	CCI 500	5.4	947	5.8	1065
Accurate No. 5	Speer	CCI 500	6.8	979	7.2	1043
Hodgdon TITEGROUP	Speer	CCI 500	4.1	890	4.5	1002
Hodgdon H. Universal	Speer	CCI 500	5.1	829	5.5	998
Hodgdon Hi-Skor 700-X	Speer	CCI 500	4.2	907	4.6	997
Alliant Bullseye	Speer	CCI 500	4.2	891	4.6	990
Winchester 231	Speer	CCI 500	4.6	871	5.0	971
Alliant American Select	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.3	887

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38 Special +P

.357"	38 JHP	38 GDHP SB
Weight (grains)	110	110
Ballistic Coefficient	0.113	0.117
Sectional Density	0.123	0.123
COAL Tested	1.455"	1.455"
Speer Part No.	4007	4009

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Alliant Power Pistol	Speer	CCI 500	7.0	1123	7.4	1192
Vihtavuori 3N37	Speer	CCI 500	6.9	1071	7.3	1150
Accurate No. 5	Speer	CCI 500	7.5	1099	7.9	1143
Alliant Unique	Speer	CCI 500	5.9	1090	6.3	1117
Hodgdon H. Universal	Speer	CCI 500	5.7	1028	6.1	1100
Alliant Bullseye	Speer	CCI 500	4.8	1027	5.2	1098
Hodgdon Hi-Skor 700-X	Speer	CCI 500	4.7	1017	5.1	1085
Hodgdon TITEGROUP	Speer	CCI 500	4.7	1013	5.1	1082
Winchester 231	Speer	CCI 500	5.2	1008	5.6	1059
Alliant American Select	Speer	CCI 500	4.4	894	4.8	967

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38 Special +P

.357"	38 JHP	38 GDHP SB
Weight (grains)	110	110
Ballistic Coefficient	0.113	0.117
Sectional Density	0.123	0.123
COAL Tested	1.455"	1.455"
Speer Part No.	4007	4009

SHORT BARREL VELOCITIES
Test Firearm: S&W M15 2"

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Alliant Unique	Speer	CCI 500	5.9	929	6.3	976
Hodgdon H. Universal	Speer	CCI 500	5.7	895	6.1	976
Accurate No. 5	Speer	CCI 500	7.5	915	7.9	969
Alliant Power Pistol	Speer	CCI 500	7.0	911	7.4	967
Vihtavuori 3N37	Speer	CCI 500	6.9	903	7.3	958
Hodgdon Hi-Skor 700-X	Speer	CCI 500	4.7	878	5.1	954
Hodgdon TITEGROUP	Speer	CCI 500	4.7	875	5.1	945
Winchester 231	Speer	CCI 500	5.2	884	5.6	944
Alliant Bullseye	Speer	CCI 500	4.8	873	5.2	941
Alliant American Select	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.8	879

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38 Special

0.357	38 GDHP	38 UCHP	38 TMJ® FN
Weight (grains)	125	125	125
Ballistic Coefficient	0.140	0.129	0.146
Sectional Density	0.140	0.140	0.140
COAL Tested	1.440"	1.435"	1.435"
Speer Part No.	4012	4013	4015

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Vihtavuori 3N37	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	6.8	1037
Accurate No. 5	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	7.1	1011
Accurate No. 2 Improved	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	5.4	994
Alliant Power Pistol	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	6.1	986
Alliant Unique	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	5.7	980
Hodgdon H. Universal	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	5.5	966
Winchester WSF	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	5.3	934
Hodgdon TITEGROUP	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.4	933
IMR PB	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.9	927
Alliant Bullseye	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.5	914
Hodgdon Hi-Skor 700-X	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.6	905
Alliant American Select	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.1	839

DNR — do not reduce

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Maximum loads should be used with CAUTION • C = Compressed Load



38 Special +P

.357"	38 GDHP	38 JHP	38 TMJ® FN
Weight (grains)	125	125	125
Ballistic Coefficient	0.140	0.129	0.146
Sectional Density	0.140	0.140	0.140
COAL Tested	1.440"	1.455"	1.435"
Speer Part No.	4012	4013	4015

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Vihtavuori 3N37	Speer	CCI 500	6.8	1037	7.2	1098
Alliant Unique	Speer	CCI 500	5.7	980	6.0	1082
Alliant Power Pistol	Speer	CCI 500	6.1	986	6.8	1082
Hodgdon H. Universal	Speer	CCI 500	5.6	976	5.9	1058
Accurate No. 5	Speer	CCI 500	7.5	927	7.8	1030
Alliant Bullseye	Speer	CCI 500	4.5	914	4.8	1021
IMR PB	Speer	CCI 500	4.9	927	5.4	1021
Winchester WSF	Speer	CCI 500	5.3	934	5.8	1021
Accurate No. 2 Improved	Speer	CCI 500	5.4	994	5.7	1014
Hodgdon Hi-Skor 700-X	Speer	CCI 500	4.6	905	4.9	1013
Hodgdon TITEGROUP	Speer	CCI 500	4.4	933	4.9	1012
Alliant American Select	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.7	931

DNR — do not reduce

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Maximum loads should be used with CAUTION • C = Compressed Load


speer®
 bullets

38 S&W

0.357"	38 JHP	38 TMJ® FN
Weight (grains)	125	125
Ballistic Coefficient	0.129	0.146
Sectional Density	0.140	0.140
COAL Tested	1.055"	1.055"
Speer Part No.	4013	4015

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Alliant Herco	Winchester	CCI 500	4.7	914	5.0	986
Alliant Unique	Winchester	CCI 500	4.5	920	4.8	972
Alliant Red Dot	Winchester	CCI 500	3.0	773	3.3	846
IMR SR 7625	Winchester	CCI 500	3.2	748	3.5	826
Alliant Bullseye	Winchester	CCI 500	2.8	742	3.0	789
Winchester 231	Winchester	CCI 500	DNR	—	3.0	662

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Maximum loads should be used with CAUTION • C = Compressed Load



38 Special +P

.357"	38
Weight (grains)	135
Ballistic Coefficient	0.141
Sectional Density	0.151
COAL Tested	1.450"
Speer Part No.	4014

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Alliant Power Pistol	Speer	CCI 500	6.0	983	6.4	1065
Accurate No. 5	Speer	CCI 500	6.6	1000	7.0	1052
Accurate No. 7	Speer	CCI 500	7.8	964	8.2	1030
Hodgdon HS-6	Speer	CCI 500	6.8	944	7.2	1027
Vihtavuori 3N37	Speer	CCI 500	6.0	969	6.4	1007
Alliant Unique	Speer	CCI 500	4.8	867	5.2	988
Hodgdon H. Universal	Speer	CCI 500	5.0	937	5.2	977
IMR PB	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.7	936

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38 Special +P

.357"	38
Weight (grains)	GDHP SB
Ballistic Coefficient	135
Sectional Density	0.141
COAL Tested	0.151
Speer Part No.	1.450"
	4014

SHORT BARREL VELOCITIES
Test Firearm: S&W M15 2"

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Accurate No. 7	Speer	CCI 500	7.8	838	8.2	882
Accurate No. 5	Speer	CCI 500	6.6	819	7.0	878
Hodgdon HS-6	Speer	CCI 500	6.8	780	7.2	856
Alliant Power Pistol	Speer	CCI 500	6.0	797	6.4	845
Alliant Unique	Speer	CCI 500	4.8	768	5.2	834
Hodgdon H. Universal	Speer	CCI 500	5.0	785	5.2	825
Vihavuori 3N37	Speer	CCI 500	6.0	760	6.4	823
IMR PB	Speer	CCI 500	DNR	—	4.7	788

DNR — do not reduce

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Maximum loads should be used with CAUTION • C = Compressed Load



38 Special

.358"	38 LSWC	38 LSWC HP	38 LRN
Weight (grains)	158	158	158
Ballistic Coefficient	0.123	0.121	0.170
Sectional Density	0.176	0.176	0.176
COAL Tested	1.440"	1.455"	1.510"
Speer Part No.	4624	4628	4648

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
IMR SR 4756	Speer	CCI 500	5.0	844	5.6	967
Alliant Power Pistol	Speer	CCI 500	4.8	856	5.4	948
Accurate No. 5	Speer	CCI 500	5.8	874	6.2	922
Hodgdon H. Universal	Speer	CCI 500	4.2	827	4.6	902
Hodgdon Hi-Skor 700-X	Speer	CCI 500	3.2	774	3.8	877
Winchester 231	Speer	CCI 500	3.8	783	4.3	863
IMR PB	Speer	CCI 500	3.7	770	4.2	858
Hodgdon HP-38	Speer	CCI 500	3.6	756	4.1	855
Winchester WSF	Speer	CCI 500	3.8	738	4.3	830
Vihtavuori N350	Speer	CCI 500	4.5	717	5.0	818
Alliant Unique	Speer	CCI 500	4.0	740	4.7	815
Alliant Bullseye	Speer	CCI 500	3.1	752	3.5	814
Alliant Red Dot	Speer	CCI 500	3.0	727	3.4	793
Accurate No. 2	Speer	CCI 500	3.6	708	4.0	781

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38 S&W

.358"	38 LSWC	38 LSWC HP	38 LRN
Weight (grains)	158	158	158
Ballistic Coefficient	0.123	0.121	0.170
Sectional Density	0.176	0.176	0.176
COAL Tested	1.065"	1.065"	1.065"
Speer Part No.	4624	4628	4648

Propellant	Case	Primer	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
			Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Alliant Red Dot	Winchester	CCI 500	2.4	667	2.7	765
IMR SR 7625	Winchester	CCI 500	2.6	683	2.9	752
Alliant Herco	Winchester	CCI 500	2.9	630	3.2	702
Alliant Unique	Winchester	CCI 500	2.8	619	3.1	694
Alliant Bullseye	Winchester	CCI 500	2.2	629	2.4	693
Winchester 231	Winchester	CCI 500	2.3	593	2.6	671

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