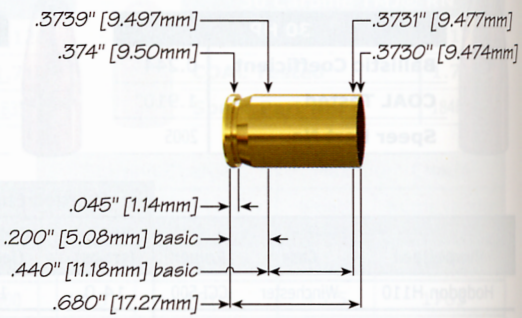
380 AUTOMATIC

Alternate Names:	9mm Browning Short/Court/ Corto/Kurz, 9x17mm
Parent Cartridge:	Original design
Country of Origin:	Belgium
Year of Introduction:	1908
Designer(s):	John Browning
Governing Body:	SAAMI/CIP



CARTRIDGE CASE DATA

Case Type:	Rimless, straight		
Average Case Capacity:	12.6 grains H_2O	**Max. Cartridge OAL**	.984 inch
Max. Case Length:	.680 inch	**Primer:**	Small Pistol
Case Trim to Length:	.670 inch	**RCBS Shell holder:**	# 10
Current Manufacturers:	CCI/Speer, Federal, Remington, Winchester, Cor-Bon, Fiocchi, Magtech, Aguila, Prvi Partizan, Sellier & Bellot, Armscor, PMC		

BALLISTIC DATA

Max. Average Pressure (MAP):	21,500 psi, 17,000 CUP - SAAMI	**Test Barrel Length:**	3.750 inch
Rifling Twist Rate:	1 turn in 16 inch		

Muzzle velocities of factory loaded ammunition

Bullet Wgt.	Muzzle velocity
85 to 90-grain	1,000 fps
95-grain	955 fps

HISTORICAL NOTES

- In 1908, most gun owners considered a 32 caliber pistol a "big gun."
- Consequently, when John Browning's Pocket Pistol in 380 Auto was introduced in that year, it created quite a stir.
- Most pistols designed for the 32 Auto cartridge could be adapted easily for the new 380 Auto cartridge which encouraged other handgun manufacturers such as Mauser, Walther, Beretta, Remington, and Savage to introduce pistols in the new caliber.
- In Europe, the 380 Auto is called the 9mm Kurz/Corto/Court/ or 9x17mm.

Interesting Fact

While the 9x17mm Short was never taken into military service by any European country, it did enter U.S. military service during World War II in the form of a special 380 caliber pistol for general officers. Of course, ammunition had to be made available for these guns, so it was procured from commercial sources under military contract. A 95-grain FMJ RN bullet was used.

BALLISTIC NOTES

- Compared to the anemic ballistics of the 32 Auto cartridge, the 380 Auto is a quantum level improvement. Muzzle energy levels of the 9mm Short are 47% higher than the 32 Auto.
- Despite this, most European law enforcement agencies were not interested in handgun stopping power and so they stuck to the familiar 32 Auto or the (7.65mm Browning as it is called in Europe). As a result, the popularity of the 9mm Short in Europe grew slowly.
- However, U.S. shooters and police officers have always been more concerned with the stopping power of a cartridge. After a slow start in the U.S. market, by the 1970s the 380 Auto had become a popular choice for a backup gun by many police officers and for home defense.
- At that time, American manufacturers offered only one loading in 380 Auto—a 95-grain full metal jacket round nose bullet at a muzzle velocity of 950-960 fps. Muzzle energy was approximately 190 ft-lbs.
- In the mid-1970s, Federal introduced a 90-grain JHP bullet with a muzzle velocity of 1,000 fps. This load substantially upgraded the ballistic performance of the 380 Auto, although it did not feed reliably from some pistols.
- Today, the 380 Auto is offered by nearly every major ammunition maker. Most manufacturers of handguns offer several models of pistol in this caliber.
- The 380 Auto is a fine choice for personal defense.

TECHNICAL NOTES

- The 380 Auto cartridge does not share the semi-rimmed case design favored by John Browning for his 25 Auto and 32 Auto pistol cartridges. Rather, it is a rimless, straight sided case that looks, at first glance, very much like a short 9mm Luger cartridge case.
- For this reason, many people consider the 380 Auto cartridge case to be a short 9mm Luger. This is not correct as the rim, head, and interior taper of the 380 Auto case differs substantially from those of the 9mm Luger.
- Ammunition in 380 Auto should not be fired from a 9mm Luger pistol.

HANDLOADING NOTES

- Bullet weights for the 380 Auto range from 80 to 100 grains with 90 and 95 grains being the most common.
- Speer offers two bullets that have been designed specifically for the 380 Auto cartridge: a 90-grain Gold Dot HP and a 95-grain TMJ.
- Although 380 Auto and 9mm Luger bullets share a common diameter, the two are not interchangeable. The heavy bullets for the 9mm Luger are too long for the short 380 Auto cartridge case, while the light 380 Auto bullets will not operate 9mm pistols.

- Most pistols in 380 Auto are blowback operated (unlocked breech). Fired cases from such guns are frequently damaged by the violent extraction or ejection forces. For this reason, we recommend that you carefully inspect all fired cases before reloading them. Discard any that are dented, split, scratched, cracked or have damaged rims.
- Finish your reloads with a light taper crimp on the case mouth to hold the bullet securely, and to improve shot start and feeding reliability.
- Do not seat bullets deeper than listed in the reloading data. Do not seat bullets out beyond maximum overall loaded length.
- Do not attempt to reload 380 Auto empty cartridge cases with Berdan primers. Destroy them.
- Some 380 Auto pistols may experience problems feeding hollow point bullets. Should that occur, we recommend adjusting the overall loaded length slightly to compensate. If that fails to solve the problem, try another bullet type or weight.
- Never load less than the minimum charges shown in the loading data as the small charge of propellant may not be sufficient to push the bullet completely down the barrel.

SAFETY NOTES

SPEER 95-grain TMJ® RN @ a muzzle velocity of 1,027 fps:

- Maximum vertical altitude @ 90° elevation is 3,621 feet.
- Maximum horizontal distance to first impact with ground @ 33° elevation is 2,066 yards.

GOLD DOT

90 GRAINS

DIAMETER	SECTIONAL DENSITY
.355"	0.102

380 GDHP	
Ballistic Coefficient	0.101
COAL Tested	0.970"
Speer Part No.	3992

			Starting Charge		Maximum Charge	
Propellant	**Case**	**Primer**	**Weight (grains)**	**Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)**	**Weight (grains)**	**Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)**
Accurate No. 2 Improved	Winchester	CCI 500	3.5	982	3.9	1056
Accurate No. 7	Winchester	CCI 500	6.3	941	7.0 C	1050
Vihtavuori N320	Winchester	CCI 500	3.1	953	3.4	1044
Alliant Unique	Winchester	CCI 500	4.1	877	4.6 C	1034
Winchester 231	Winchester	CCI 500	3.6	978	4.0	1031
Alliant Power Pistol	Winchester	CCI 500	4.4	944	4.8 C	1020
Hodgdon H. Universal	Winchester	CCI 500	3.8	821	4.3	994
Hodgdon Hi-Skor 700-X	Winchester	CCI 500	3.2	812	3.6	988
Accurate No. 5	Winchester	CCI 500	4.8	845	5.4	984
Alliant Bullseye	Winchester	CCI 500	3.0	885	3.4	981
Hodgdon TITEGROUP	Winchester	CCI 500	2.8	885	3.2	976
Winchester WSL	Winchester	CCI 500	3.2	825	3.6	972
Alliant BE 86	Federal	Federal 100	3.2	804	3.9	963
Alliant American Select	Winchester	CCI 500	2.8	841	3.3	955
Winchester AutoComp	Federal	Federal 100	3.5	863	3.9	954
Hodgdon CFE Pistol	Federal	Federal 100	3.4	861	3.8	948
Alliant Sport Pistol	Federal	Federal 100	2.4	773	2.9	914

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

95 GRAINS

DIAMETER	SECTIONAL DENSITY
.355"	0.108

380 Auto TMJ® RN	
Ballistic Coefficient	0.131
COAL Tested	0.970"
Speer Part No.	4001

			Starting Charge		Maximum Charge	
Propellant	Case	Primer	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)	Weight (grains)	Muzzle Velocity (feet/sec)
Winchester 231	Winchester	CCI 500	3.6	945	4.0	1027
Accurate No. 7	Winchester	CCI 500	5.9	971	6.5	1019
Hodgdon Hi-Skor 700-X	Winchester	CCI 500	3.1	912	3.4	1012
Alliant Unique	Winchester	CCI 500	3.8	918	4.2	1006
Vihtavuori N320	Winchester	CCI 500	3.0	893	3.4	998
Alliant Bullseye	Winchester	CCI 500	3.0	874	3.3	990
Hodgdon H. Universal	Winchester	CCI 500	3.6	854	4.1	979
Alliant Power Pistol	Winchester	CCI 500	4.2	883	4.7	974
Alliant BE 86	Federal	Federal 100	3.5	870	4.0	970
Accurate No. 2	Winchester	CCI 500	3.3	887	3.7	965
Winchester WSL	Winchester	CCI 500	3.1	849	3.5	960
Winchester AutoComp	Federal	Federal 100	3.5	852	4.0	960
Accurate No. 5	Winchester	CCI 500	4.6	871	5.0	949
Hodgdon CFE Pistol	Federal	Federal 100	3.5	856	3.9	943
Alliant American Select	Winchester	CCI 500	2.8	824	3.3	935
Hodgdon TITEGROUP	Winchester	CCI 500	2.7	851	3.1	930
Alliant Sport Pistol	Federal	Federal 100	2.5	799	3.0	928

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