

9mm Luger

The 9mm Luger cartridge is known as the 9mm Parabellum and 9x19mm. Some pistols chambered for this cartridge are marked “9mm/08” or “9mm P/08” to indicate the date (1908) when it was adopted by the German Army. Except for war souvenirs, there were few 9mm pistols in the U.S. until the 1950's.

The U.S. military considered the 9mm Luger as a service pistol cartridge on numerous occasions and finally adopted it in 1985 in the M9 Beretta pistol. Compact pistols and generous magazine capacity have combined to make the 9mm Luger the most popular cartridge in the U.S. law enforcement community.

The 9mm was originally loaded with full metal-jacketed (FMJ) bullets for reliable feeding. To succeed as a police service cartridge, expanding bullets were needed to limit the tremendous penetration of 9mm FMJ bullets. The current trend in law enforcement is toward 124 and 147-grain JHP bullets.

Speer offers a number of bullets that are suitable for the 9mm. For general-purpose shooting and target practice, the three TMJ® bullets and the 124-grain Uni-Cor® soft point bullets are good choices. The 115, 124 and 147-grain Gold Dot hollow points should be chosen for serious defense work.

There is a wide variation in locking mechanisms and spring rates in 9mm pistols. Some may exhibit sluggish function with the lighter 147-grain loads. Sub-compact pistols are more prone to this issue. Load a few rounds and test them for function before settling on a 147-grain load.

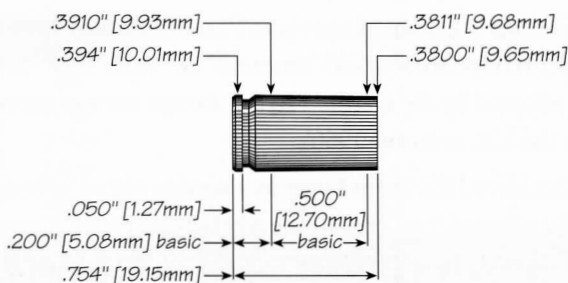
Carefully observe the cartridge overall lengths listed in the data when loading the 9mm. Under no conditions should the bullets be loaded shorter than the listed lengths. 9mm case capacity is small and seating a bullet deeper than indicated can cause excessive pressures and the potential for gun damage or injury.

The 9mm Luger headspaces on the case mouth so taper crimping is required. The taper crimp also gives a nicely finished edge to the case mouth for reliable feeding. Refer to the section, “Loading for Semi-automatic Pistols” in the introduction to the Handgun data. There you will find an extended discussion on 9mm Luger reloading containing some helpful tips. Review the section “Rifles Chambered for Handgun Cartridges” in

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the same chapter if you plan to load for a 9mm carbine. We do not recommend loading 147-grain bullets for carbine use.

The listed loads do not exceed the industry maximum pressure of 35,000 psi.



Max. Case Length:	0.754"	Cart. Case:	Speer
Trim-to Length:	0.744"	Primer:	CCI 500
Max Cart. OAL:	1.169"	Test Firearm:	S&W M5906
RCBS Shell Holder:	#16	Barrel Length:	4"

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE: These loads were developed and tested for safe use in **HANDGUNS**. Not all loads may be suitable for use in a carbine or rifle chambered for this cartridge. If loading for a carbine or rifle, choose from among the loads developing the highest handgun velocities and load just a few rounds. Thoroughly test this small sample in your firearm in slow-fire mode, insuring that you achieve proper feeding and ejection. Be certain that all bullets exit the barrel; watching the target for each bullet strike is the best way to know that the load produces sufficient gas volume for a longer barrel.



0.355"	9mm GDHP	9mm TMJ RN
Weight, grains	115	115
Ballistic Coefficient	0.125	0.151
Sectional Density	0.130	0.130
COAL Tested:	1.125"	1.135"
Speer Part No.	3994	3995

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Blue Dot	7.7	1161	8.5	1258
Unique	5.6	1166	6.3	1244
Viht. 3N37	6.0	1128	6.7	1225
AA No. 7	8.6	1158	9.6C	1220
Power Pistol	6.2	1122	6.7	1212
Viht. N350	5.8	1109	6.5	1210
HS-6	6.6	1048	7.4	1178
H. Universal	4.7	1046	5.3	1172
WSF	5.0	1041	5.6	1156
Bullseye	4.2	1037	4.7	1144
231	4.4	1026	4.9	1133
TiteGroup	4.1	1061	4.5	1121
AA No. 5	6.0	1003	6.7	1102
American Select	4.8	1067	5.4	1102
700-X	4.0	1007	4.4	1101

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0.355"	9mm TMJ RN	9mm UCSP	9mm GDHP
Weight, grains	124	124	124
Ballistic Coefficient	0.159	0.115	0.134
Sectional Density	0.141	0.141	0.141
COAL Tested:	1.135"	1.120"	1.120"
Speer Part No.	3993	3997	3998

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
HS-7	8.0	1159	8.9	1249
Blue Dot	7.1	1121	7.9	1238
AA No. 9	9.4	1061	10.5C	1185
Unique	5.2	1080	5.8	1180
AA No. 7	8.1	1077	9.0	1180
Viht. 3N37	5.7	1063	6.4	1179
Power Pistol	5.6	1033	6.4	1157
TiteGroup	4.0	1020	4.4	1095
H. Universal	4.5	993	5.0	1089
AA No. 5	5.7	963	6.4	1069
700-X	3.9	989	4.3	1067
Bullseye	3.9	966	4.4	1059
HS-6	6.0	951	6.7	1059
American Select	4.5	994	5.0	1053
231	4.0	887	4.5	998



0.355"	9mm GDHP	9mm TMJ FN
Weight, grains	147	147
Ballistic Coefficient	0.164	0.188
Sectional Density	0.167	0.167
COAL Tested:	1.130"	1.130"
Speer Part No.	4002	4006

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Blue Dot	5.1	900	5.8	1001
Power Pistol	4.5	872	5.0	975
Viht. 3N37	4.4	886	4.9	969
AA No. 7	6.1	867	6.8	961
SR 4756	4.2	841	4.6	957
HS-6	5.0	845	5.5	956
Unique	3.8	852	4.3	954
HS-7	6.1	866	6.8	953
WSF	3.6	840	4.1	931
AA No. 5	4.5	821	5.1	931

NOTE: 147-grain bullets not recommended for barrels longer than 10 inches.

Lab Notes:

Reloadable 9mm Luger cases were once hard to find but are now as abundant as flies in most areas. There is little need to use military surplus brass when there are so many good commercial cases available at a reasonable price.

In addition to requiring the extra effort of removing a primer crimp, some military cases have primer pocket profiles slightly different from commercial cases. This can cause repriming difficulties, especially on progressive equipment. Powder capacities may not be the same either and pressure variations can show up.

Our recommendation: don't bother with military 9mm Luger cases.

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