

# Grizzly Cartridge Company



## Purveyors of Premium Pistol Provender

Hamilton Bowen

**B**ack in the Good Ole Days, the numerous major cartridge companies offered cartridges of every description in every caliber you had ever heard of and some you had not. There were premium-quality hunting loads, mid-range target loads, reduced-power practice loads, light-bullet loads, heavy-bullet loads, left-handed shooter loads and so on.

Those days are largely past due to insufficient demand to profitably make and sell such an enormous range of munitions. But the good news is that the Good Ole Days are here again, thanks to the advent of the small specialty ammunition companies which have stepped into the breach to produce limited-demand cartridges. Some of the niches are pretty small but active enough to sustain any of a number of specialty makers such as Garrett, Cor-Bon and Black Hills. But not all the niches are covered and yet another, Grizzly Cartridge Company, has risen to the occa-



sion to fill in a few more of the gaps.

### **Dedicated To Excellence**

A quick perusal of the informative Grizzly Cartridge Company Web site shows the firm's clear focus on high-performance revolver and lever gun cartridges with 10 different revolver chamberings in a total of 36 different loadings. There are six alone for the .500 S&W ranging from a shootable 350-grain jacketed-bullet loading at 1,350 fps to the scary-sounding 440-grain cast-bullet load making 1,550 fps.

Not every client is interested in a steady diet of the 440-grain wrath-of-God munitions when you can practice with a 350-grain load. Perhaps the most important and useful of the Grizzly offerings are the 300- to 325-grain bullet loadings in the .44 Magnum and .45 Colt, calibers that the vast majority of revolver shooters favor. There aren't any gaps in the lineup.

From chatting with Mike Rintoul, the firm's founder and

guiding light, it's also clear there aren't any gaps in his approach to the development and production of his ammunition. Even the boxes are exceptional pieces of graphic art and not something to toss at the end of the day. An instrument engineer by training and occupation, Mike has devoted considerable time, energy and skill to making every cartridge. Two basic notions guide his efforts: close attention to detail and first-quality components.

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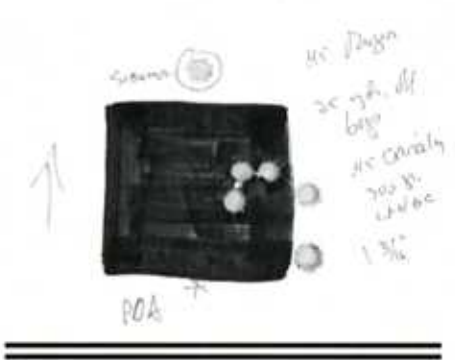
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maximum possible bullet crimp and crimp consistency, critical to both accuracy and dependability with propellants typical of magnum revolver cartridges. Three-hundred-grain bullet .44 Magnum ammunition brutalized in an M329 Smith & Wesson PD exhibited minimal bullet creep, a credit to excellent loading techniques. Propellants cannot be chosen lightly, especially for serious hunting ammunition. Aside from the obvious need for reliable ignition, propellants must give the same pressures in all weathers, whether bone-chilling Alaska interior cold or West Texas pick-up truck dashboard hot. Otherwise, the point of impact of bullets fired in the bush may differ wildly from "sunny and 72 degrees" results at the public range. Grizzly Cartridge Company ammunition is extreme-temperature tested to assure its consistency.

Furthermore, each lot of ammunition is pressure tested and assigned a lot number. At any point in the future, if any component change is made, the resulting new lot of ammunition is retested. Records are made and kept of the results so that the performance of each lot can be compared against the standards and pressure specs for that specific cartridge loading to ascertain that every cartridge is as similar as possible, from lot to lot. Consistency may be the hobgoblin of little minds but it is also the hallmark of great ammunition. A lot of trouble, to be sure, but these procedures make for superior quality and demonstrate the Grizzly Cartridge Company's dedication to excellence.

Components are as important as attention to detail in the production of premium-quality revolver ammunition. No stinting on quality in these cartridges. Brass for most cartridges is from Starline, though Hornady provides the .475 and .500 Linebaugh cases. In either case, it is of excellent quality and typically very consistent in neck-wall thickness, a dimension critical to good accuracy. Along with uneven case mouths from repeated loading or poor trimming, uneven neck tension from uneven brass thickness in cartridge necks is deadly, causing erratic ignition and irregular



bullet release from shot to shot.

### Bullet For Your Buck

Grizzly loads premium-quality bullets in these cases. Hawk Precision Bullets supplies the jacketed projectiles while Cast Performance Bullets provides the cast ones. Hawk bullets feature soft copper jackets and lead cores, which offer useful expansion at handgun velocities. Hawk's theory of bullet construction is that hard jackets fail to stretch and support the soft cores, which leads to jacket and core separations and weight loss. The bullet's enviable reputation and per-

formance in the field on big game provides considerable empirical evidence in support of the design.

The Cast Performance bullets are all gas checked which helps minimize leading in guns where cylinder throats and barrel groove diameters are less than optimal. These bullets are extremely tough and hard without excessive brittleness and shoot exceedingly well. Just bear in mind that cast bullet alloys are always a compromise — it is possible to shoot any hard-cast bullet fast enough to cause failures in the form of deformation or fragmentation when heavy

*Grizzly has a solid lineup of hard-hitting calibers.*



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