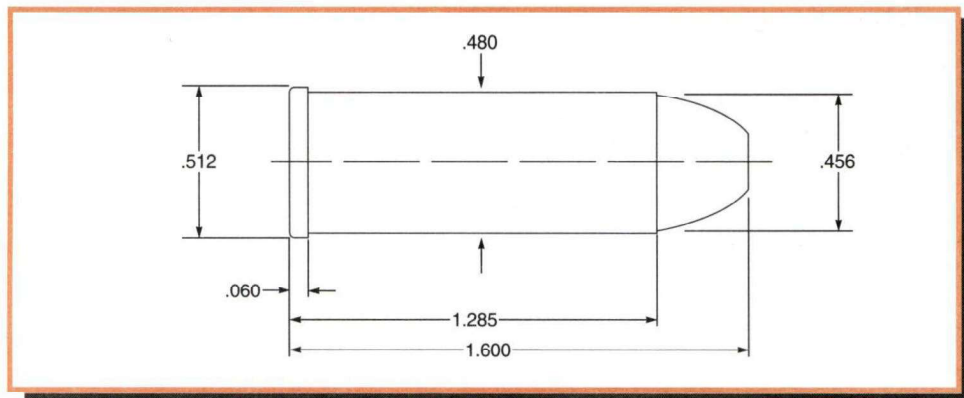


45 Colt



Comments:

The year 1873 was a milestone in development of metallic cartridges. 1873 marked the introduction of the 44-40 (44 WCF), the 45-70 Government, and the 45 Colt. All three cartridges are still going strong 130 years after their debut. Widespread use in Cowboy Action shooting is also contributing to their current popularity. Colt introduced their 45 cartridge in the famed Model 1873 Single Action Army. The original loading propelled a 255-grain lead bullet with 40-grains of black powder around 900 feet per second. The 45 Colt is also known—mistakenly—as the 45 Long Colt. In contrast to several other offerings from Colt, i.e. 32 Short/Long, 38 Short/Long, 41 Short/Long, there never was a 45 Short Colt.

Several caveats apply when reloading the 45 Colt. Shooters must pay particular attention in regard to the cartridge's

small diameter rim. This rim provides less bearing surface to the shell holder in comparison to other cartridges and tears easily if undue force is applied during the reloading process. The grooves of Pre-World War II revolvers normally measure .454" in diameter. Later production revolvers and lever action rifles are built with .451" diameter grooves. Those loading for older revolvers with the original .454" groove should stick with cast bullet #454190. This is our original bullet for the 45 Colt and dates to the nineteenth century. If in doubt, slug the bore. Cast bullet #452424 is an Elmer Keith design and has long been an accurate performer. Bullet #452664 is designed for Cowboy Action shooters. It will function through lever action rifles and produced excellent accuracy with Hodgdon's Titegroup. Unique and 231 are both long time favorites for loading the 45 Colt.

Test Components:

CasesWinchester
Trim-to Length1.275"
PrimersWinchester WLP
Primer SizeLarge Pistol
Lyman Shell HolderNo. 11
Jacketed Bullets UsedSierra JHP #8800, 185 gr.
Speer GDHP #4478, 200 gr.
Speer JHP #4479, 225 gr.
Sierra JHC #8820, 240 gr.
Hornady HP/XTP #45200, 250 gr.
Cast Bullets Used(sized to .452" dia)
#454190, 250 gr.
#452664, 250 gr.
#452424, 255 gr.

Test Specifications: (Velocity Only)

Firearm UsedRuger Blackhawk
Barrel Length7½"
Twist1-16"
Groove Dia.451"

185 gr. Jacketed HP							BC: .110
1.520" OAL							SD: .130
Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	
700X	6.0	658	—	7.0	884	—	
N320	8.3	873	—	9.3	1123	—	
231	7.6	866	—	8.5	1006	—	
Unique	7.5	615	—	10.0	934	—	
AA#5	10.8	876	—	12.0	946	—	
Blue Dot	12.0	692	—	13.5	826	—	
HS-7	13.0	700	—	14.5	908	—	
IMR-4227	16.5	711	—	20.0	875	—	
XMP-5744	18.4	842	—	20.5	978	—	

200 gr. Jacketed HP							BC: .138
1.557" OAL							SD: .140
Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	
N320	7.7	843	—	8.6	1031	—	
Unique	8.5	847	—	9.5	934	—	
SR-7625	7.0	581	—	9.5	894	—	
AA#5	10.3	820	—	11.5	913	—	
SR-4756	9.5	679	—	11.8	950	—	
HS-6	10.3	740	—	13.3	993	—	
Blue Dot	11.6	560	—	12.8	835	—	

Note: Loads shown in shaded panels are maximum. Loads shown in bold designate potentially most accurate load.

45 Colt

 225 gr. Jacketed HP BC: .169 SD: .158 1.575" OAL						
Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.
N320	7.2	764	—	8.0	862	—
231	7.4	780	—	8.3	954	—
Unique	8.0	772	—	9.0	969	—
SR-7625	8.4	777	—	9.3	899	—
Power Pistol	8.5	837	—	9.5	974	—
N340	9.0	901	—	10.0	1078	—
AA#5	10.0	787	—	11.2	908	—
HS-6	10.7	737	—	11.9	874	—
Blue Dot	11.7	756	—	13.0	888	—

 240 gr. Jacketed HC BC: .170 SD: .168 1.575" OAL						
Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.
Unique	8.0	827	—	8.8	917	—
Power Pistol	8.2	861	—	9.2	957	—
N340	8.8	870	—	9.8	982	—
AA#5	9.3	771	—	10.4	895	—
HS-6	10.0	705	—	11.0	875	—
2400	15.0	765	—	17.0	997	—
XMP-5744	16.5	790	—	18.5	873	—

 250 gr. Jacketed HP BC: .146 SD: .175 1.590" OAL						
Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.
Titegroup	5.6	653	—	6.3	803	—
231	6.5	681	—	7.3	813	—
Unique	7.8	755	—	8.7	877	—
Power Pistol	8.0	754	—	9.0	893	—
N340	8.5	850	—	9.6	969	—
AA#5	10.0	777	—	11.0	925	—
2400	14.8	755	—	16.5	904	—
SR-4759	15.5	742	—	17.5	940	—
XMP-5744	16.0	725	—	18.0	822	—

 #454190 250 gr. (#2 Alloy) 1.600" OAL BC: .269 SD: .175						
Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.
700X	4.5	535	—	6.0	800	—
Titegroup	5.6	803	—	6.2	876	—
Red Dot	4.5	535	—	6.5	835	—
N320	6.0	685	—	6.8	822	—
Green Dot	4.5	505	—	7.0	835	—
231	6.5	789	—	7.4	894	—
PB	5.0	545	—	7.5	820	—
SR-7625	6.0	555	—	8.5	890	—
Unique	6.0	595	—	9.0	875	—
AA#5	9.5	703	—	10.5	885	—
HS-6	9.5	748	—	10.5	851	—

 #452664 250 gr. (#2 Alloy) 1.570" OAL BC: .150 SD: .175						
Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.
700X	5.4	744	—	6.0	809	—
Titegroup	5.6	814	—	6.2	881	—
Red Dot	5.8	752	—	6.5	836	—
N320	6.0	754	—	6.8	833	—
Green Dot	6.3	750	—	7.0	837	—
231	6.5	796	—	7.4	902	—
PB	6.7	730	—	7.5	822	—
SR-7625	7.0	721	—	8.5	897	—
Unique	6.3	754	—	8.2	931	—
AA#5	9.5	803	—	10.5	886	—
HS-6	8.5	640	—	10.5	859	—

 #452424 255 gr. (#2 Alloy) 1.575" OAL BC: .210 SD: .178						
Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure C.U.P.
700X	4.5	535	—	6.0	785	—
Titegroup	5.6	816	—	6.2	896	—
Red Dot	4.5	550	—	6.0	780	—
N320	5.8	692	—	6.7	841	—
Green Dot	4.5	500	—	6.5	765	—
231	6.5	797	—	7.2	879	—
PB	5.0	530	—	7.0	750	—
SR-7625	6.0	555	—	8.0	835	—
Unique	6.0	590	—	8.5	845	—
AA#5	9.3	737	—	10.4	845	—
HS-6	8.8	676	—	10.3	838	—

Note: Loads shown in shaded panels are maximum.
Loads shown in bold designate potentially most accurate load.