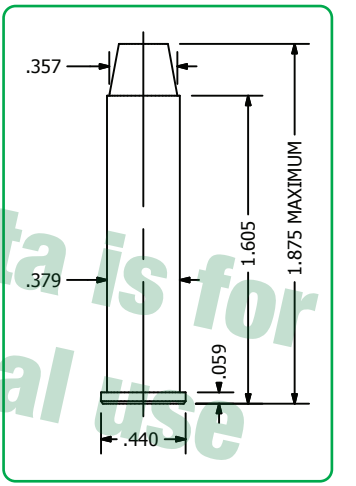
357 Remington Maximum

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Dan Wesson M40V8S
Barrel Length: 8”
Twist: 1 x 18 3/4”

Components:

Case: Remington
Trim-to Length: 1.595”
Primer: Federal 205M



Remarks:

Few commercial handgun cartridges have had a more controversial life than the 357 Remington Maximum. Developed under the persistent guidance of Elgin Gates, the Maximum was first introduced in 1983 in the Ruger Blackhawk revolver. Trouble surfaced almost immediately though, in the form of gas or flame cutting in the top strap and severe erosion at the forcing cone. Several gun writers, none of who were competitive shooters or who understood the reasoning behind the cartridge, bashed it in print. Ruger dropped the chambering almost immediately pending “further research” and has not offered the cartridge since. Dan Wesson, on the other hand, adopted the Maximum in their double action revolvers, and effectively dominated the revolver category of IHMSA silhouette shooting for many years.

The cartridge itself is an outgrowth of the standard 357 Magnum, lengthened to 1.605 inches, and designed to be used with a small rifle primer. Originally developed in response to the needs of competitive handgun metallic silhouette shooters, the Maximum was intended to deliver enough momentum to reliably topple the 200 meter rams, a chore for which the 357 Magnum was found lacking. In all fairness, much of the early trouble with the Maximum was the result of using lightweight bullets that were totally unsuited to it. For this reason, Sierra only lists loading data for the Maximum in a revolver for those bullets of 170 grains or more.

Also known as the 357 Super Mag, the 357 Maximum has a well deserved reputation as being a finicky cartridge to load for. Temperature variations, which affect virtually all forms of ammunition, seem to be unusually serious in the Maximum. In extreme cases, we have seen examples of loads that performed quite well on a cool morning, only to show very obvious signs of excessive pressure as the day warmed up. Handgun silhouette shooters, the only group still widely using the Maximum, are well aware of this. Despite this quirky behavior, the Maximum can be an extremely accurate and effective cartridge for the handloader who is willing to work with it.

357 Remington Maximum

Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.
	#8365	.357”	170gr. JHC	1.875”

Powder ∨ Velocity >	1300	1350	1400	1450	1500	1550
H110		19.4	20.2	20.9	21.6	22.3
Viht N110	15.5	16.2	16.9	17.5		
296			18.8	20.5	22.2	
H4227	18.6	19.6	20.6	21.6	22.5	
A 1680		23.4	24.2	25.0	25.8	26.3
Viht N120	21.2	22.0	22.8	23.5		
Energy Ft. lbs	**638**	**688**	**740**	**794**	**849**	**907**

Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb
Accuracy Load	H4227	21.6	1450	794
Hunting Load	A 1680	26.3	1550	907

Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.
	#8370	.357”	180gr. FPJ Match	1.875”

Powder ∨ Velocity >	1300	1350	1400	1450	1500	1550
H110		19.7	20.2	20.7	21.2	21.5
Viht N110	15.0	15.8	16.6	17.3		
296		18.0	18.8	19.6	20.4	21.2
H4227	18.4	19.0	19.6	20.2	20.8	21.5
A 1680			22.7	23.6	24.5	25.5
Viht N120	20.6	21.3	22.0	22.7		
Energy Ft. lbs	**675**	**728**	**783**	**840**	**899**	**960**

Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb
Accuracy Load	A 1680	24.5	1500	899
Hunting Load	H4227	21.5	1550	960

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

357 Remington Maximum

Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.
	#2800	.358”	200gr.	RN	2.120”

Powder v / Velocity >	1250	1300	1350	1400
H110	19.8	21.0	22.0	
296		19.9	21.2	22.5
H4227	19.5	20.6	21.7	22.8
A 1680	23.2	23.8	24.4	25.0
Energy Ft. lbs	**694**	**750**	**809**	**870**

Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb
Accuracy Load	A 1680	24.4	1350	809
Hunting Load	A 1680	25.0	1400	870