

38 SPECIAL

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Universal

Barrel Length: 5.63"

Twist: 1-10"

Components:

Case: Starline

Trim-to Length: 1.150"

Primer: WSP

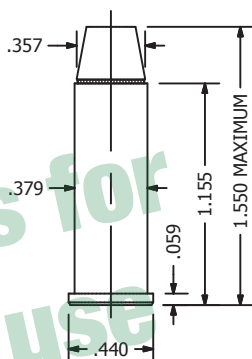
Remarks:

Introduced in 1902, the .38 Special has become one of our all time classic revolver cartridges. The case itself is an outgrowth of the old .38 Long Colt, infamous for its failure to effectively stop the charging Moros during the Philippine insurrection of 1898-1901. Although the army shifted back to a .45 caliber sidearm as a result of this experience, the .38 Long Colt underwent a major face lift as well. Doomed to obsolescence as a military cartridge, it spawned what was to become the most popular revolver cartridge ever; the .38 Special.


With legions of police officers and target shooters, the .38 Special is probably the most frequently reloaded revolver cartridge in the United States. After serving as our number one police cartridge for many decades, it has begun to slip from favor for law enforcement duties. It is slowly being replaced by more powerful numbers such as the .357 Magnum, and pistols offering greater firepower such as the 9mm Luger. However, even in the face of newer advancements, the .38 is still the standard issue duty weapon for a great many law enforcement agencies.

The .38 Special has earned a well deserved reputation for superb accuracy. It is an incredibly well balanced cartridge, working well with a wide variety of component combinations. For this reason, it is generally regarded as the easiest of all handgun cartridges to reload. In this respect, it is an ideal first cartridge for the novice handloader. Fast to medium fast burning powders, such as Bullseye, 231, and Unique are generally excellent choices for the .38 Special. As with any other cartridge to be used in a revolver, the .38 Special requires a roll or profile crimp for best results. Despite its age, the .38 Special is still one of the most versatile and useful cartridges in existence, and will be with us for many years to come.



Special Note: There is a +P cartridge available for this cartridge. The gun must be rated for +P as well.




38 SPECIAL

Bullet Caliber Weight Type								C.O.A.L.
	#8300	.357"	110gr.	JHP				1.440"
Powder v	Velocity >	950	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200	1300
Red Dot			4.6	4.8	5.1			
Clays	4.2	4.4	4.7	4.9				
Red			4.9	5.1	5.4	5.7		
Bullseye		4.6	4.9	5.2	5.5			
Target				4.9	5.2	5.5		
Tite Group			5.0	5.2	5.5	5.7		
American Select	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.8				
WST	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.4				
Zip				6.9	7.1	7.4		
Win 231	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.4	6.7		
Unique			6.5	6.7	7.0	7.2		
Universal			5.8	6.1	6.4	6.7		
Power Pistol				6.4	6.8	7.1		
N330				6.7	6.9	7.1		
True Blue			6.5	6.8	7.2	7.5		
A#5			7.7	8.1	8.4	8.7		
Auto Comp				7.0	7.3	7.5		
CFE Pistol					6.8	7.1		
Silhouette							8.9	9.5
Win 572					7.1	7.5	8.1	
A#7				9.8	10.2	10.5	11.1	
Energy Ft. Lbs		220	244	269	295	323	352	413
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb				
Accuracy Load	A#5	8.7	1200	352				
Hunting Load	Silhouette	9.5	1300	413				



38 SPECIAL

Bullet		Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.				
	#8310	.357"	125gr.	JSP	1.440"				
	#8320	.357"	125gr.	JHP	1.440"				
Powder	Velocity	900	950	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200	
Red Dot			4.5	4.8					
Clays				4.3	4.7				
Red				4.6	4.8				
Bullseye	4.1	4.4	4.7	5.0					
Target			4.5	4.8	5.2				
Tite Group	4.2	4.5	4.7	5.0					
American Select	4.4	4.7	5.1						
WST		4.5	4.9						
BE 86					5.9	6.2	6.5		
Zip				5.6	5.9	6.2			
Win 231		5.3	5.6	5.9	6.2				
Unique		5.4	5.7	5.9					
Universal			5.5	5.8	6.0	6.3			
Power Pistol		5.8	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.9			
N330	5.5	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.4				
True Blue			6.1	6.5	6.8	7.2			
A#5				7.3	7.7	8.1			
Auto Comp			6.1	6.4	6.7	7.0			
CFE Pistol			5.8	6.1	6.5	6.8			
Silhouette				7.9	8.2	8.4	8.7		
Win 572				6.4	6.7	7.0			
A#7				8.7	9.1	9.4			
A#9					10.9	11.1	11.4		
Energy Ft. Lbs		225	250	278	306	336	367	400	
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb					
Accuracy Load	True Blue	7.2	1150	367					
Hunting Load	A#9	11.4	1200	400					


38 SPECIAL

Bullet Caliber Weight Type								C.O.A.L.
	#8325	.357"	140gr.	JHP				1.440"
Powder v	Velocity >	800	850	900	950	1000	1050	1100
Red Dot		3.7	3.9	4.2				
Clays			3.9	4.1	4.4			
Red				4.2	4.5	4.8		
Bullseye			4.0	4.3	4.6			
Target					4.4	4.7		
Tite Group			4.1	4.3	4.6			
American Select			4.3	4.5	4.8			
WST	3.8	4.1	4.4					
BE 86					5.3	5.6	6.0	
Zip					5.1	5.5	5.8	
Win 231				5.0	5.2	5.5		
Unique				5.5	5.7	6.0		
Universal				5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1	
Power Pistol				5.1	5.4	5.7	6.0	
N330	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.8		
True Blue					5.8	6.2		
A#5					6.8	7.1	7.4	7.7
Auto Comp		5.7	5.9	6.2	6.5			
CFE Pistol			5.6	5.9	6.1	6.4		
Silhouette						6.7	7.0	7.3
Win 572					5.8	6.2	6.5	
A#7						8.7	9.0	9.3
A#9					10.8	11.0	11.2	11.4
Energy Ft. Lbs		199	225	252	281	311	343	376
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb				
Accuracy Load	Unique	6.0	1000	311				
Hunting Load	Silhouette	7.3	1100	376				

38 SPECIAL

Bullet		Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.				
	#8340	.357"	158gr.	JSP	1.450"				
	#8360	.357"	158gr.	JHC	1.450"				
Powder	Velocity	700	750	800	850	900	1000	1100	
Red Dot		3.3	3.5	3.7	3.9				
Clays			3.3	3.5	3.8	4.0			
Red			3.3	3.6	3.9	4.2			
Bullseye				3.6	3.9	4.2			
Target				3.5	3.8	4.1			
Tite Group			3.3	3.6	3.9	4.2			
WST		3.3	3.5	3.8	4.1				
BE 86					4.6	4.9	5.6		
Zip					4.6	4.9			
Win 231				4.3	4.5	4.8			
Unique		3.9	4.2	4.4	4.7	4.9			
Universal			4.2	4.5	4.7	5.0			
Power Pistol					4.9	5.2	5.8		
N340			4.4	4.7	5.0	5.2			
True Blue					5.0	5.3			
A#5						6.1	6.8		
Auto Comp					5.1	5.4	6.0		
CFE Pistol					5.1	5.4	6.0		
Silhouette					5.7	6.0	6.6		
N350				5.0	5.3	5.6	6.2		
Win 572				4.9	5.2	5.5	6.0		
N110						9.3	10.0		
Win 296							13.1	13.6	
Energy Ft. Lbs		172	197	224	253	284	351	424	
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb					
Accuracy Load	A#5	6.8	1000	351					
Hunting Load	Win 296	13.6	1100	424					

38 SPECIAL

		Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.			
		#8350	.357"	170gr.	FMJ Match	1.450"			
Powder	Velocity	550	650	750	850	900	950	1000	
Red Dot			3.1	3.5					
Tite Group			3.1	3.6					
WST	3.0	3.4	3.8						
Win 231		3.9	4.3						
Universal			4.1	4.6	4.8				
N340		3.9	4.4	4.9					
Auto Comp				4.4	5.0	5.3			
CFE Pistol				4.2	4.8	5.0			
N350		4.5	5.0	5.4	5.6				
Win 572				4.5	5.0	5.2			
A#7					6.6	7.0	7.4		
2400						8.8	9.2	9.5	
A#9					8.1	8.5	8.8	9.1	
N110					8.6	8.9	9.2		
Win 296							10.2	10.8	
IMR 4227				9.9	10.9				
Energy Ft. Lbs		114	159	212	273	306	341	377	
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity	fps	Energy	Ft. lb			
Accuracy Load	A#9	9.1	1000		377				
Hunting Load	2400	9.5	1000		377				