

44 AUTO MAG

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Auto Mag Model 180

Barrel Length: 6 1/2"

Twist: 1 x 18"

Components:

Case: 7.62 NATO (reworked)

Trim-to Length: 1.296"

Primer: CCI 350

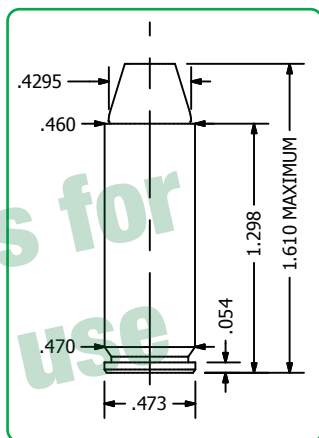
Remarks:

Other than its ballistic performance, the 44 Auto Mag shares little in common with the better known 44 Magnum.


A rimless design, the Auto Mag is not a true member of the family of 44 caliber cases which trace their lineage back to the old 44 S&W American. Introduced in 1971, the big 44 Auto Mag was designed to give 44 Magnum performance in an autoloading handgun. The Auto Mag was designed and marketed by Harry Sanford, of Pasadena, California. A beautifully made handgun, the Auto Mag was an intriguing and highly functional design.


Factory ammunition for the 44 Auto Mag has only been commercially available from three sources; Cartouches Deportivos Mexico (CDM), Norma, and the now defunct Super Vel. None was ever exactly common, and most prospective Auto Mag owners had probably resigned themselves to forming cases before buying the pistol. Either commercial or military cases can be used to form Auto Mag brass. These are usually formed from 30-06 or 7.62mm military brass, although any similar .473" head diameter cases can be used. Cases will need to be trimmed to approximately 1.298", and will require case mouth reaming. Despite the fact that the case was originally designed as a rifle cartridge, it should be reloaded only with pistol primers.

The 44 Auto Mag pistol made an appearance in one of the later "Dirty Harry" sequels, but by that time, the gun had long been discontinued. Rather than reviving the combination, this bit of exposure merely drove prices of existing specimens sky high. To date, no other handgun manufacturer has shown any interest in the 44 Auto Mag cartridge. Both Norma and CDM dropped the loading from their lines many years ago, essentially relegating both gun and cartridge to the pages of handgun history...or collectors' vaults.



44 AUTO MAG

Bullet Caliber Weight Type						C.O.A.L.
	#8600	.4295"	180gr.	JHC		1.610"
Powder ▾	Velocity >	1450	1500	1550	1600	1650
H110		24.0	24.8	25.6	26.4	27.2
2400			23.1	24.0	24.9	25.8
296		26.2	27.0	27.8	28.6	29.3
Energy Ft. lbs		840	899	960	1023	1088
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb		
Accuracy Load	H110	26.4	1600	1023		
Hunting Load	H110	27.2	1650	1088		

Bullet Caliber Weight Type						C.O.A.L.
	#8610	.4295"	240gr.	JHC		1.610"
Powder ▾	Velocity >	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400
Unique		10.2	10.8	11.4	12.0	
H110		17.6	18.4	19.2	20.0	20.8
2400		17.2	18.0	18.8	19.6	20.5
296		22.0	22.7	23.3	24.0	24.6
Energy Ft. lbs		767	833	900	971	1044
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb		
Accuracy Load	H110	20.0	1350	971		
Hunting Load	H110	20.8	1400	1044		