

218 Bee

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Marlin Over/Under

Barrel Length: 26"

Twist: 1 x 16"

Components:

Case: Remington

Trim-to Length: 1.335"

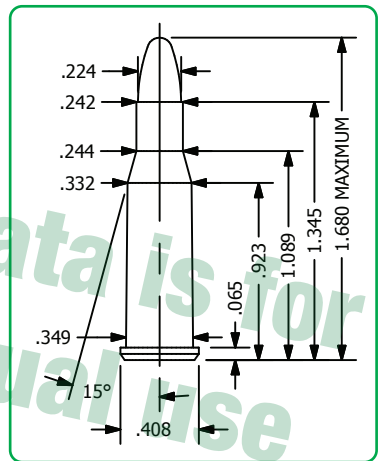
Primer: Rem 6 1/2

Remarks:




Introduced by Winchester in 1938, the 218 Bee was intended to provide somewhat more killing power than the Hornet. Based on the 25-20 WCF, the Bee offers case capacity in between the Hornet and the 219 Zipper, another popular varmint cartridge of the same era. While the Bee does give higher velocities and greater energy, it never earned the same reputation for accuracy as the Hornet. Much of this is attributable to the fact that the Bee was introduced in the Model 65 lever action rifle, which didn't possess the accuracy potential of the many bolt actions for which the Hornet was chambered. The tubular magazine of the Model 65 also required use of blunt, round nosed bullets, further reducing long-range performance. While the Hornet is alive and well, the 218 Bee has fallen by the wayside.




Despite the foregoing comments, the Bee can be reloaded with satisfactory results. While factory brass for the 218 can be difficult to obtain, cases can be easily formed from the more readily available 32-20 WCF. Since its introduction, the Bee has been chambered in several different action types, many of which will accommodate spitzer bullets. For the Winchester Model 65, and any other rifle using a tubular magazine, blunt nose bullets must be used. Given the Bee's velocity range, Sierra's Hornet bullets are an excellent choice for most small game or varmint hunting. A 1x16" twist is the nominal standard for this cartridge, limiting most rifles to bullet weights of 40 to 50 grains for best accuracy.

Like the Hornet, the Bee shines brightest when fed a steady diet fast burning powder. In our testing, IMR-4227 gave the best results with the lighter bullet weights from 40 to 50 grains. Heavier bullets, ranging from 52 to 55 grains, performed best with IMR-4198. It is unfortunate that the Bee isn't better known among shooters today; it's a useful and enjoyable little cartridge.






218 BEE

	Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.		
	#1200	.224"	40gr.	Hornet	1.680"		
	#1385	.224"	40gr.	HP	1.680"		
	#1440	.224"	40gr.	BlitzKing	1.680"		
Powder	Velocity	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800	2900
2400				10.9	11.4	12.0	12.5
IMR-4227		10.5	11.1	11.7	12.2	12.8	13.4
IMR-4198			13.5	14.1	14.6		
Energy Ft. lbs		512	555	600	647	696	747
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb			
Accuracy Load	2400	12.0	2800	696			
Hunting Load	IMR-4227	13.4	2900	747			



	Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.		
	#1110	.223"	45gr.	Hornet	1.680"		
	#1210	.224"	45gr.	Hornet	1.680"		
	#1310	.224"	45gr.	SPT	1.680"		
Powder	Velocity	2300	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800
2400			10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0
IMR-4227			11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0
IMR-4198		13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	
Energy Ft. lbs		528	575	624	675	728	783
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb			
Accuracy Load	IMR-4227	12.5	2700	728			
Hunting Load	IMR-4227	13.0	2800	783			

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Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.
	#1320	.224"	50gr. SMP	1.680"
	#1330	.224"	50gr. SPT	1.680"
	#1340	.224"	50gr. Blitz	1.680"

Powder	Velocity	2100	2200	2300	2400	2500	2600
2400		9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5
IMR-4227				10.8	11.4	11.9	12.5
IMR-4198		12.0	12.6	13.2	13.8	14.4	15.0
Energy Ft. lbs		490	537	587	639	694	750

Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb
Accuracy Load	IMR-4198	14.4	2500	694
Hunting Load	IMR-4198	15.0	2600	750




Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.
	#1410	.224"	52gr. HPBT MatchKing	1.680"
	#1400	.224"	53gr. HP MatchKing	1.680"

Powder	Velocity	2100	2200	2300	2400	2500	2600
2400			9.5	9.8	10.2	10.5	
IMR-4227		10.2	10.7	11.1	11.6	12.0	12.5
IMR-4198		12.0	12.6	13.2	13.8	14.4	15.0
Energy Ft. lbs		509	559	611	665	722	780

Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb
Accuracy Load	IMR-4198	15.0	2600	780

Sierra does not recommend MatchKing bullets for hunting applications.

Z18 BEE

	Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.
	#1345	.224"	55gr.	Blitz	1.680"
	#1350	.224"	55gr.	SMP	1.680"
	#1360	.224"	55gr.	SPT	1.680"

Powder	Velocity	2100	2200	2300	2400	2500	2600
2400			9.5	10.0	10.5		
IMR-4227		10.2	10.8	11.4	11.9	12.5	
IMR-4198		12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5
Energy Ft. lbs		538	591	646	703	763	825

Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb
Accuracy Load	IMR-4198	14.0	2500	763
Hunting Load	IMR-4198	14.5	2600	825

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