

6.5 x 50mm JAPANESE ARISAKA

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Type 38 Carbine

Barrel Length: 19"

Twist: 1 x 9"

Components:

Case: Norma

Trim-to Length: 1.974"

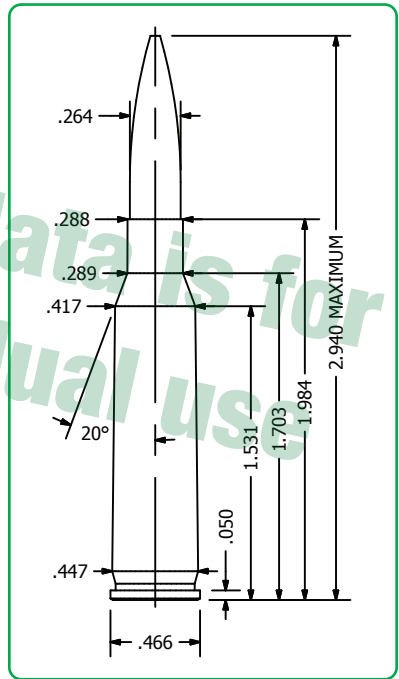
Primer: Remington 9 1/2

Remarks:


Adopted in 1897, the 6.5x50mm Arisaka served as the Japanese service cartridge through two major wars and several smaller conflicts before World War II. Early Japanese experiences in China brought requests for a more potent service cartridge. This resulted in the adoption of a more powerful 7.7mm service rifle cartridge in 1939. Making massive logistical changes on the eve of a world war was hardly a simple matter for the Imperial forces. As a result, the 6.5x50mm cartridge was used extensively throughout the war. The round itself is comparable to other contemporary 6.5mm service cartridges. The case is a semi-rimmed design and was originally loaded with a 162 grain bullet at 2300 fps. This was eventually changed to a 139 grain bullet, pushed to 2500 feet per second.



As a group, the milder 6.5mm cartridges have proven themselves to be reliable performers on most North American big game, including deer, sheep and black bear. The Japanese offering is no exception, and the 6.5x50mm can be reloaded with good results. Sierra's 140 grain bullets can be used to duplicate the original factory specs, although the 120 grain spitzer should prove best for most hunting applications.

Norma has been the only reliable source of boxer primed brass for the 6.5x50mm. This lack of reloadable cases has spawned at least one wildcat — the 6.5x257 Roberts. Many Arisaka owners, frustrated at their inability to obtain 6.5x50mm cases simply had the chamber opened up to accept a 257 Roberts necked up for a .264" diameter bullet. We have seen several other cases suggested as a starting point for forming brass for the 6.5x50mm Arisaka — the 220 Swift, 270 Winchester, and 35 Remington, to name a few. Given the differences in head design and dimensions, we cannot recommend any of these as being entirely satisfactory.








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Bullet Caliber Weight Type						C.O.A.L.
	#1700	.264"	85gr.	HP		2.650"
Powder ∨	Velocity >	2500	2600	2700	2800	2900
IMR-3031		33.0	34.0	35.0	36.0	37.0
IMR-4895		34.2	35.6	37.0	38.3	39.7
IMR-4064		36.0	37.1	38.2	39.3	
IMR-4320		36.1	37.3	38.5	39.6	40.8
H380		37.8	39.4	40.9	42.5	
Energy Ft. lbs		1179	1276	1376	1479	1587
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb		
Accuracy Load	IMR-3031	35.0	2700	1376		
Hunting Load	IMR-4895	38.3	2800	1479		

Bullet Caliber Weight Type						C.O.A.L.
	#1710	.264"	100gr.	HP		2.710"
	#1715	.264"	107gr.	HPBT MatchKing		2.800"
Powder ∨	Velocity >	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800
IMR-3031		31.4	32.7	34.0	35.3	
H335		36.0	36.9	37.7	38.6	39.4
BL-C(2)			36.8	38.0	39.3	40.5
IMR-4895		33.8	35.0	36.2	37.4	
IMR-4064		34.8	36.0	37.2	38.4	
IMR-4320		35.1	36.6	38.1	39.6	
H380		38.5	39.8	41.0	42.3	
Energy Ft. lbs		1279	1388	1501	1618	1741
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb		
Accuracy Load	H335	38.6	2700	1618		
Hunting Load	H335	38.6	2700	1618		

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		Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type						C.O.A.L.
		#1720	.264"	120gr.	SPT						2.800"
		#1725	.264"	120gr.	HPBT MatchKing						2.800"
Powder	Velocity	2300	2400	2500	2600	2700					
IMR-3031		30.2	31.6	33.1	34.5						
H335		33.2	34.4	35.6	36.8	38.0					
BL-C(2)		33.9	35.3	36.6	38.0						
IMR-4895		32.5	33.8	35.0	36.3						
IMR-4064		33.3	34.5	35.8	37.0						
IMR-4320		34.2	35.3	36.4	37.5	38.6					
H380		35.4	37.3	39.2	41.1	43.0					
IMR-4350		37.6	39.1	40.6							
Energy Ft. lbs		1409	1535	1665	1801	1942					
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb							
Accuracy Load	IMR-4064	35.8	2500	1665							
Hunting Load	H380	43.0	2700	1942							

		Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type						C.O.A.L.
		#1730	.264"	140gr.	SBT						2.920"
		#1740	.264"	140gr.	HPBT MatchKing						2.920"
		#1742	.264"	142gr.	HPBT MatchKing						2.920"*
		*requires a 1x8" or faster twist									
Powder	Velocity	2100	2200	2300	2400	2500					
IMR-3031		28.7	30.1	31.5	32.9						
H335		30.7	32.2	33.7	35.2						
BL-C(2)		32.1	33.5	35.0	36.4						
IMR-4895		30.3	31.7	33.1	34.5						
IMR-4064		30.9	32.3	33.6	35.0						
IMR-4320		31.4	32.8	34.1	35.5	36.8					
H380		32.9	35.0	37.1	39.2						
IMR-4350		35.4	36.9	38.4	39.9						
Energy Ft. lbs		1371	1504	1644	1790	1943					
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb							
Accuracy Load	IMR-4064	33.6	2300	1644							
Hunting Load	IMR-4350	39.9	2400	1790							