

# 6.5 x 52mm MANNLICHER-CARCANO

## Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: M38 Carcano Carbine

Barrel Length: 21"

Twist: Gain Twist

## Components:

Case: Norma

Trim-to Length: 2.055"

Primer: Remington 9 1/2

## Remarks:

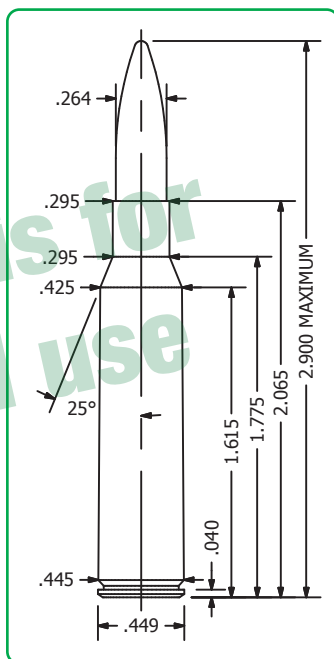
The Carcano is yet another WWII veteran introduced to American shooters by returning G.I.s. First adopted in 1891, the 6.5x52mm MannlicherCarcano family of rifles represents the oldest and most outdated weapons carried into the war by any major power. Designed at the Italian Government Arsenal at Turin, the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle was loaded with a six-round clip that stayed in the magazine until falling out the bottom when the last round was chambered. Starting in 1938, the Italians began upgrading their infantry weapons to a more powerful 7.35mm cartridge chambered in a slightly revised model of the standard Carcano rifle.

Caught in the middle of this conversion at the start of the war, the Italians opted to switch back to the standard 6.5x52mm cartridge. As a result, it continued to serve throughout the war.


Action strength is an issue with the Carcano, so some cautions are in order. As originally designed, the rifle was intended to use the 6.5x52mm, a fairly low-pressure cartridge. When used with such loads, the Carcano action is perfectly adequate. It does not, however, have the strength to handle pressures anywhere near as high as the Arisaka, 98 Mauser, 1903 Springfield, or similar actions. When reloading for a Carcano action, these limitations must be kept in mind, and the loads kept fairly mild. This is not a combination to be pushed too hard.



Carcanos use a split-bridge receiver, which makes scope mounting somewhat awkward. As originally issued, most models used a non-adjustable, fixed-notch rear sight, a dubious idea on an infantry rifle. These features combine to make the Carcano a suitable rifle for plinking, but somewhat questionable for more serious uses.

One interesting feature of the 6.5mm Carcano rifles was the use of a gain twist. This method of rifling starts off with an extremely slow (1x19.25") pitch near the chamber, which gradually becomes quite fast (1x8.25") toward the muzzle.








# 6.5 x 52mm Mannlicher-Carcano

Bullet Caliber Weight Type						C.O.A.L.
	#1700	.264"	85gr.	HP		2.700"
Powder	Velocity	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800
IMR-3031		30.2	32.6	34.9		
A 2495 BR		31.7	33.2	34.8	36.3	37.8
IMR-4895		35.6	36.7	37.8		
Viht N135		31.0	32.1	33.2	34.3	35.4
Varget		33.0	34.2	35.4	36.6	37.8
IMR-4064		34.8	36.2	37.5	38.9	
IMR-4320		35.5	36.6	37.8	38.9	40.0
H380		37.6	39.1	40.7	42.2	
<b>Energy Ft. lbs</b>		<b>1087</b>	<b>1179</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>1376</b>	<b>1479</b>
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb		
<b>Accuracy Load</b>	IMR-3031	32.6	2500	1179		
<b>Hunting Load</b>	IMR-4320	38.9	2700	1376		


Bullet Caliber Weight Type						C.O.A.L.
	#1710	.264"	100gr.	HP		2.750"
	#1715	.264"	107gr.	HPBT MatchKing		2.900"
Powder	Velocity	2200	2300	2400	2500	2600
IMR-3031		30.1	31.2	32.2	33.3	
A 2495 BR		29.7	31.2	32.8	34.3	35.8
IMR-4895		32.7	33.8	34.8	35.9	
Viht N135		27.5	29.0	30.5	32.0	33.5
Varget		30.0	31.1	32.3	33.4	34.5
IMR-4064		33.6	34.7	35.9	37.0	
IMR-4320		33.1	34.4	35.7	37.0	38.3
H380		34.7	36.4	38.1	39.8	
<b>Energy Ft. lbs</b>		<b>1075</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>1279</b>	<b>1388</b>	<b>1501</b>
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb		
<b>Accuracy Load</b>	IMR-4320	37.0	2500	1388		
<b>Hunting Load</b>	IMR-4320	37.0	2500	1388		

# 6.5 x 52mm MANNLICHER-CARCANO

	Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.	
	#1720	.264"	120gr.	SPT	2.900"	
	#1725	.264"	120gr.	HPBT MatchKing	2.900"	
Powder ∨	Velocity >	2100	2200	2300	2400	2500
IMR-3031		27.3	29.0	30.6	32.3	
A 2495 BR			29.7	31.5	33.4	35.2
IMR-4895		30.6	32.0	33.4	34.8	
Viht N135		28.7	29.8	31.0	32.1	33.2
Varget		29.3	30.5	31.7	32.8	34.0
IMR-4064		30.5	32.1	33.7	35.3	36.9
IMR-4320		32.1	33.4	34.7	35.9	37.2
H380		32.9	34.5	36.2	37.8	39.4
<b>Energy Ft. lbs</b>		<b>1175</b>	<b>1289</b>	<b>1409</b>	<b>1535</b>	<b>1665</b>
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb		
<b>Accuracy Load</b>	IMR-4064	35.3	2400	1535		
<b>Hunting Load</b>	IMR-4064	36.9	2500	1665		

	Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.	
	#1730	.264"	140gr.	SBT	2.900"	
	#1740	.264"	140gr.	HPBT MatchKing	2.900"	
	#1742	.264"	142gr.	HPBT MatchKing	2.900"*	
*requires a 1x8" or faster twist						
Powder ∨	Velocity >	2000	2100	2200	2300	2400
IMR-3031		29.2	30.3	31.4		
A 2495 BR			28.9	31.0	33.1	35.2
IMR-4895		29.5	30.7	32.0	33.2	
Viht N135		28.1	29.3	30.5	31.7	32.9
Varget		27.9	29.3	30.7	32.0	33.4
IMR-4064		30.3	31.7	33.1	34.5	35.9
IMR-4320		30.5	31.9	33.3	34.6	36.0
H380		31.4	33.2	35.0	36.8	38.6
<b>Energy Ft. lbs</b>		<b>1243</b>	<b>1371</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>1644</b>	<b>1790</b>
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb		
<b>Accuracy Load</b>	IMR-4064	34.5	2300	1644		
<b>Hunting Load</b>	H380	38.6	2400	1790		

# 6.5 x 52mm Mannlicher-Carcano

Bullet Caliber Weight Type					C.O.A.L.
	#1750	.264"	160gr.	SMP	2.900"
Powder	Velocity	1700	1800	1900	2000
A 2495 BR		23.7	25.4	27.0	
IMR-4895		25.2	26.4	27.7	28.9
Viht N135		24.8	26.2	27.5	28.9
Varget		24.6	26.2	27.7	29.3
IMR-4064		24.8	26.3	27.9	29.4
RE-15		24.7	26.3	27.9	29.5
<b>Energy Ft. lbs</b>		<b>1027</b>	<b>1151</b>	<b>1282</b>	<b>1421</b>
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb	
<b>Accuracy Load</b>	Varget	27.7	1900	1282	
<b>Hunting Load</b>	IMR-4064	29.4	2000	1421	

Do not edit or  
redistribute.