

# Z04 RUGER

## Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Universal

Barrel Length: 24"

Twist: 1-11"

## Components:

Case: Norma

Trim-to Length: 1.840"

Primer: WSR

## Remarks:

Patrick Meitin, author "The Predator & Varmint Hunter's Guidebook"

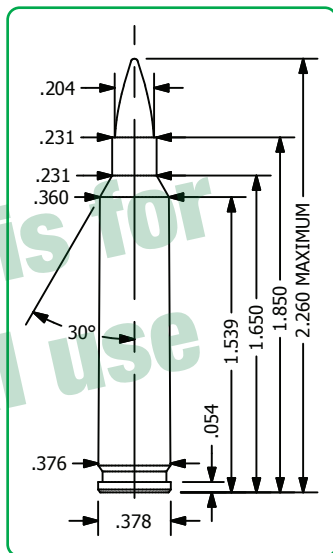
The .204 Ruger, a Remington/Ruger effort, uses as a parent case the nearly defunct .222 Remington Magnum. Necking the .222 Rem. Mag. to .204 caliber created a varmint shooting juggernaut providing flat trajectories, inherent accuracy and gentle recoil. The .204 produces velocities exceeding 4,000 fps, while allowing shooters to mark their own shots, dismantle burrowing rodents or anchor tough predators at great distances. It's commonly chambered in both bolt rifles and AR platforms.

Standard .204 Ruger bullets include 32 and 39/40 grain numbers, with some lighter and heavier options. In my opinion the .204 Ruger does its best work with 32 grain pills with exceptions, which I'll address shortly. With most powders 32 grain bullets can be pushed to 4,000 fps (24-26 inch barrels) without breaking a sweat (or approaching maximum loads). A number of powders allow 4,100 fps with maximum loads (Vihtavouri N140 without reaching maximum and quite accurately pushing 4,200 fps with maximum measures of powder). N140 loaded to 4,100 fps produces 5 shot/1 hole groups from my own out of the box .204 Ruger.


It's all too easy to dismiss 39/40 grain velocities from the .204 Ruger, as they mirror numbers produced by the wildly popular .223 Remington, maxing out at 3,700 to 3,800 fps. I was once of this mind, saying "Why kill everything good about the .204 when I can do the same thing with my .223?"

The difference is ballistic coefficients. A .204 caliber 39 grain BlitzKing includes a BC of .287; the .224 caliber 40 grain BlitzKing .196. Launched at an identical 3,700 fps, zeroed at 200 yards, subjected to a 10 mph crosswind, the .204 drops 13.3 inches and drifts only 12 inches at 400 yards, the .223 including 16.5 inches drop and 19 inches drift with 40 grain pills at the same distance. That's pretty significant when targeting small varmints like ground squirrels or prairie dogs on typical windy Wyoming days.

I own many varmint rifles chambered in a wide variety of cartridges, but forced to pick just one (horrible thought!) the .204 Ruger would be my pick.




# Z04 RUGER

		Bullet Caliber Weight Type							C.O.A.L.
		#1032 .204" 32gr. BlitzKing							2.260"
Powder	Velocity	3500	3600	3700	3800	3900	4000	4100	
RE 7				22.7	23.5	24.3	24.9		
IMR 4198			21.0	22.1	23.0	23.8	24.3		
LT 32			23.6	24.4	25.1	25.7	26.4		
RE 10x				24.0	24.9	25.7	26.3		
Benchmark				26.0	26.7	27.3	27.9		
H335				26.7	27.3	28.0	28.7	29.3	
IMR 8208 XBR			26.3	26.9	27.5	28.1	28.7		
H4895				26.3	26.8	27.4	28.1	28.7	
IMR 4895	26.2	26.5	27.1	27.8	28.7				
N135		24.6	25.5	26.3	27.0	27.6			
A 2495	25.7	26.3	26.9	27.6	28.3				
IMR 4166 End.		26.0	26.6	27.4	28.3				
IMR 4064	26.2	26.8	27.5	28.3					
Exterminator		24.7	25.6	26.4	27.2	27.8			
A 4064	26.2	26.9	27.7						
RE 15	26.7	27.2	27.8	28.4	29.0	29.7			
Varget		27.0	27.6	28.3	29.2				
CFE 223	27.2	27.9	28.5	29.0	29.4	29.8	30.2		
N540	26.8	27.4	27.9	28.5	29.1	29.6			
AR Comp				26.1	26.9	27.6	28.3		
<b>Energy Ft. Lbs</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>1026</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>1194</b>		
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lbs					
<b>Accuracy Load</b>	RE 7	24.9	4000	1137					
<b>Hunting Load</b>	H335	29.3	4100	1194					



While conducting some "spring cleaning" around his deer hunting property Patrick Meitin used a .204 Ruger and 32 grain Sierra BlitzKing to literally flatten this fawn eating coyote at 340 yards.

## Z04 RUGER

Bullet		Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.				
	#1039	.204"	39gr.	BlitzKing	2.260"				
Powder	Velocity	3300	3400	3500	3600	3700	3800	3900	
RE 7		21.6	22.2	22.9	23.5	24.1			
IMR 4198			21.3	22.2	22.9	23.5			
LT 32			23.6	24.6	25.3	25.7			
RE 10x			22.9	24.0	24.8	25.5	25.8		
Benchmark		23.4	24.4	25.3	26.1	26.7	27.3		
H335			24.9	25.8	26.6	27.2	27.7		
IMR 8208 XBR			25.6	26.1	26.6	27.3	27.9		
H4895		24.3	24.9	25.5	26.2	26.8	27.5		
IMR 4895			25.2	25.9	26.6	27.3	28.1		
N135			23.2	24.2	25.0	25.7			
A 2495			25.0	25.7	26.3	27.0	27.7		
IMR 4166 End.			24.4	25.1	25.8	26.7	27.6		
IMR 4064			25.1	26.0	26.8	27.5			
Exterminator		23.5	24.2	24.9	25.7	26.5	27.3		
A 4064			25.7	26.3	27.0	27.8			
RE 15			25.7	26.3	26.9	27.6	28.3	29.1	
Varget			25.7	26.3	26.9	27.7	28.6		
CFE 223			26.1	26.7	27.2	27.8	28.5	29.1 29.9	
N540			25.8	26.3	26.9	27.6	28.3		
AR Comp			23.6	24.2	24.9	25.6	26.4	27.2	
<b>Energy Ft. Lbs (39 gr.)</b>		<b>943</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>1122</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1250</b>	<b>1317</b>	
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lbs					
Accuracy Load	RE 15	29.1	3800	1250					
Hunting Load	CFE 223	29.9	3900	1317					