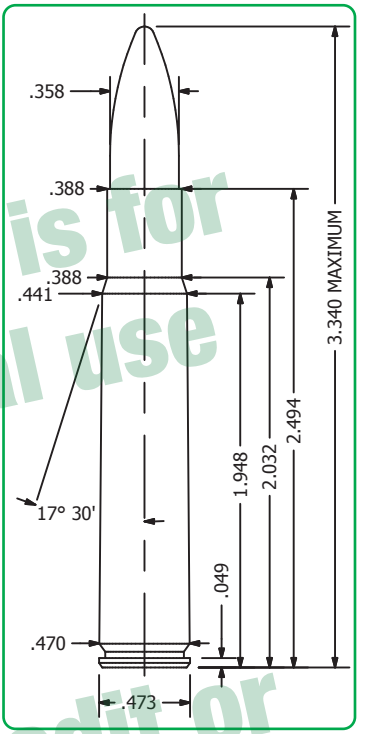
35 WHELEN

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Universal
Barrel Length: 24”
Twist: 1-12”

Components:

Case: Norma
Trim-to Length: 2.485”
Primer: WLR



Remarks:

The 35 Whelen had been one of our most popular wildcats for over a half century when it was adopted and standardized by Remington in 1988. Designed in 1922, the 35 Whelen was intended to provide a cartridge powerful enough to take on the largest game North America could offer. Based on the 30-06 case necked up to accept .358” diameter bullets, there has been a lengthy debate over the true origins of the Whelen. Although some have claimed the cartridge was designed by James V. Howe and merely named in honor of Colonel Townsend Whelen, this does not appear to be the case. Research by noted gun writer Ken Waters located a 1923 issue of the American Rifleman in which Col. Whelen specifically mentions that his rifle was built by his friend James Howe in accordance with his (Whelen’s) design. In a 1936 edition of the same magazine, we found an article written by Elmer Keith covering both the 35 and 400 Whelen cartridges. Keith, who mentions that his Whelen rifles were built by Howe, also credits both cartridges to the good Colonel.

Much of the Whelen’s earlier appeal stemmed from the fact that it provided a level of power approaching that of the 375 H&H Magnum on a standard action. The longer H&H cartridge required the use of a much more expensive “magnum” length action, whereas the 35 Whelen could be built on surplus military actions, such as the 1903 Springfield or ‘98 Mauser. This is no longer much of a consideration since cartridges of greater power and shorter length are now commonly available. Still, the Whelen has survived and even been adopted and standardized for one simple reason — it’s a first rate hunting cartridge.

Reloading for the 35 Whelen is an uncomplicated task. The fact that surplus G.I. brass was readily available and easily formed into Whelen cases was responsible for much of the cartridge’s lasting popularity. Cases can still be formed from 30-06 brass with little or no trouble. For those shooters reforming new 30-06 brass into Whelen cases, try a middle ground load and work up if needed to form the shoulder correctly. Since its adoption by Remington, factory cases are readily available.

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

35 Whelen

Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.
	.358”	200gr.	RN	3.050”

Powder ∨ Velocity >	2700	2750	2800	2850	2900	2950	3000
H335	58.4	59.4	60.4				
A 2460	56.3	57.5	58.5				
IMR 8208 XBR	57.6	58.7	59.8	60.8			
H4895	56.0	57.4	58.8	60.2	61.6		
IMR 4895	59.6	60.7	61.8				
N135	58.4	59.7	61.1				
A 2495	59.2	60.3	61.5	62.7			
IMR 4166 End.	56.9	57.9	58.8				
IMR 4064	59.7	60.8	61.9				
A 4064	60.5	61.8	63.1	64.5			
A 2520	59.0	60.1	61.2	62.4	63.6	64.9	
RE 15	60.2	61.3	62.4	63.5	64.7		
Varget	60.5	61.9	63.2	64.5	65.6		
IMR 4320	59.7	60.8	61.9	62.9			
CFE 223			65.8	67.3	68.8	70.4	71.9
H380	63.9	65.6	67.4	69.1			
Power Pro 2000 MR		65.9	68.1	69.9	71.3	72.3	72.9
N540	61.3	62.3	63.3	64.3			
AR Comp	58.3	59.6	60.9	62.2	63.6		
Energy Ft. Lbs	**3237**	**3358**	**3481**	**3607**	**3734**	**3864**	**3996**

Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb
Accuracy Load	A 2495	62.7	2850	3607
Hunting Load	CFE 223	71.9	3000	3996

35 Whelen

Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.
	#2850	.358”	225gr.	SBT	3.280”

Powder ∨ Velocity >	2600	2650	2700	2750	2800	2850	2900
H335	56.7	57.3	57.7				
A 2460	54.8	56.1	57.6				
IMR 8208 XBR	55.6	57.5	59.1	60.4			
H4895		55.8	57.5	59.0			
IMR 4895	57.2	58.7					
N135	56.5	57.8	59.2				
A 2495	57.1	58.6	59.9	61.0			
IMR 4166 End.	55.4	56.5	57.6				
IMR 4064	57.7	59.1	60.5				
A 4064	58.7	60.1	61.5	63.1			
A 2520	57.8	59.6	61.2	62.5	63.5		
RE 15	58.5	60.1	61.6	62.8	64.0		
Varget	59.0	60.5	61.9	63.3			
IMR 4320	57.9	59.2	60.5				
CFE 223		63.0	64.9	66.5	67.9	69.1	70.0
H380		63.2	65.0	66.7	68.2	69.7	
Power Pro 2000 MR			66.0	67.7	69.2	70.5	71.6
N540	59.7	60.9	62.0	63.2			
AR Comp	56.5	58.1	59.4	60.3	60.8		
Energy Ft. Lbs	**3377**	**3508**	**3641**	**3778**	**3916**	**4057**	**4201**

Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb
Accuracy Load	A 2495	61.0	2750	3778
Hunting Load	CFE 223	70.0	2900	4201

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