

338 lapua reloading data

338 Lapua reloading data is an essential topic for precision shooters, hunters, and long-range enthusiasts who seek to maximize the performance of their ammunition. The .338 Lapua Magnum is renowned for its exceptional long-range capabilities, making it a popular choice for both competitive shooting and big-game hunting. However, to achieve the best results with this powerful cartridge, understanding reloading data is crucial. This article will provide in-depth insights into .338 Lapua reloading, including components, techniques, safety considerations, and specific loads to consider.

Understanding the .338 Lapua Magnum

The .338 Lapua Magnum was developed in the 1980s for military applications, specifically designed for long-range shooting. It is a rimless, bottlenecked cartridge that offers a high ballistic coefficient and flat trajectory, making it suitable for shooting at extreme distances.

Key Features of .338 Lapua Magnum

- Caliber: .338 inches
- Case Length: 2.724 inches
- Overall Length: Approximately 3.600 inches
- Bullet Weight: Typically ranges from 200 to 300 grains
- Muzzle Velocity: Can exceed 3,000 feet per second, depending on load

Components for Reloading .338 Lapua

When reloading .338 Lapua Magnum cartridges, several key components are necessary to ensure safety and consistency:

1. Brass Cases

Selecting high-quality brass is vital for reloading. Popular brands include:

- Lapua
- Hornady
- Nosler

These brands provide durable cases that can withstand the high pressures generated by the .338 Lapua Magnum.

2. Powder

Choosing the right powder is crucial for achieving desired velocity and accuracy. Some commonly used powders for .338 Lapua include:

- Hodgdon H1000
- Alliant Reloder 33
- Vihtavuori N165

Each powder has its own burn rate and characteristics, so it's essential to consult reloading manuals for specific load data.

3. Bullets

The choice of bullet can significantly affect performance. Options for .338 Lapua bullets include:

- Sierra MatchKing
- Hornady ELD-X
- Nosler AccuBond

Select bullets based on the intended purpose, whether it be target shooting or hunting.

4. Primers

Large rifle primers are required for .338 Lapua reloads. Recommended brands include:

- CCI 250
- Federal 215
- Winchester WLR

Ensure primers are compatible with the chosen powder and bullet combination.

Reloading Techniques for .338 Lapua

Reloading .338 Lapua Magnum can be a rewarding process, but it requires precision and attention to detail. Here are essential techniques to follow:

1. Preparation of Brass

Before reloading, proper preparation of brass can enhance accuracy and consistency:

- Cleaning: Use a tumbler or ultrasonic cleaner to remove debris and contaminants.

- Sizing: Resize the brass using a full-length resizing die to ensure proper chamber fit.
- Trimming: Trim cases to uniform length as needed, ensuring they do not exceed the maximum length of 2.724 inches.
- Neck Turning: For precision shooting, consider neck turning to achieve consistent neck thickness.

2. Powder Measurement

Accurate powder measurement is critical for achieving desired ballistic performance. Use a reliable powder scale and consider the following:

- Weigh Each Charge: Consistency is key, so weigh each powder charge rather than using a volumetric measure.
- Start Low: Begin with the lower end of the recommended powder charge and work up, observing for pressure signs.

3. Seating Bullets

Proper bullet seating depth can influence accuracy and pressure. Follow these tips:

- Use a Bullet Comparator: Measure the overall length of the cartridge and compare it to your chamber dimensions.
- Collet Seating Die: Consider using a collet seating die for more precise bullet seating.

Safety Considerations in Reloading

Reloading can be a safe and enjoyable hobby if proper precautions are taken. Here are some important safety tips:

1. Work in a Well-Ventilated Area

Ensure your reloading area is well-ventilated to avoid inhaling powder fumes.

2. Wear Safety Gear

Always wear safety glasses and consider using gloves when handling primers and powder.

3. Follow Load Data Carefully

Always consult reputable reloading manuals or databases for load data. Never exceed recommended

maximum loads to avoid catastrophic failures.

Sample Reloading Data for .338 Lapua Magnum

Here are some example loads to consider when reloading .338 Lapua Magnum. Always verify these with current reloading manuals:

1. Hodgdon H1000

- Bullet: 250 gr Sierra MatchKing
- Powder Charge: 86.0 grains
- COAL: 3.600 inches
- Velocity: Approximately 2,850 fps

2. Alliant Reloder 33

- Bullet: 300 gr Hornady ELD-X
- Powder Charge: 85.0 grains
- COAL: 3.600 inches
- Velocity: Approximately 2,900 fps

3. Vihtavuori N165

- Bullet: 250 gr Nosler AccuBond
- Powder Charge: 83.0 grains
- COAL: 3.600 inches
- Velocity: Approximately 2,800 fps

Conclusion

In conclusion, **.338 Lapua reloading data** plays a pivotal role in achieving optimal performance for long-range shooting. By understanding the components, utilizing effective reloading techniques, and prioritizing safety, you can enhance your shooting experience. Always keep learning and consult updated resources to refine your reloading skills. With patience and practice, you'll be able to produce high-quality ammunition tailored to your specific shooting needs. Happy reloading!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best powder for reloading 338 Lapua?

Popular choices for powder include Hodgdon H1000, Retumbo, and IMR 7828, as they provide optimal velocity and accuracy.

What bullet weight is most commonly used for 338 Lapua reloading?

Common bullet weights for the 338 Lapua range from 250 grains to 300 grains, with 300 grains being particularly popular for long-range shooting.

What is the maximum overall length (OAL) for 338 Lapua reloads?

The maximum overall length for 338 Lapua is typically around 3.600 inches, but it's important to check your specific chamber for exact measurements.

How much case capacity does a 338 Lapua Magnum hold?

The 338 Lapua Magnum typically holds about 90 to 100 grains of water, depending on the specific case brand and design.

What is a safe starting load for 338 Lapua with 300 grain bullets?

A safe starting load for 300 grain bullets is usually around 85 grains of H1000 powder, but always consult a reloading manual for specific data.

Is there a significant difference between factory ammo and handloaded 338 Lapua?

Yes, handloading allows for customization of bullet choice, powder type, and charge weight, often resulting in improved accuracy and performance compared to factory ammo.

What are common mistakes to avoid when reloading 338 Lapua?

Common mistakes include overcharging the case, not matching bullet seating depth to the chamber, and neglecting to thoroughly clean and inspect cases.

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