

## Match and National Match

The most informative article "The Cal. .30 Cartridge In Match Competition" (THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, Sept. 1969, pp. 42-47) describes in detail the successive National Match and Special Match ammunitions which appeared through the years. It does not speak of ammunition labeled only Match, except for a brief mention at the very end. There seems to be a good deal of such Match ammunition. Examples I have inspected are marked as follows on front and back of the cartridge boxes, and the rounds are head-stamped as indicated:

- (1) (headstamp LC 62 MATCH)  
1962 MATCH

CALIBER .30 MATCH  
M72

BULLET 173 GRAINS  
VELOCITY 2640 F.P.S.

- (2) (headstamp LC 64 MATCH)  
7.62 MM MATCH

XM 118  
MATCH

BULLET 173 GRAINS  
VELOCITY 2550 F.P.S.

- (3) (headstamp LC 66 MATCH)  
7.62 MM NATO

M 118

MATCH

BULLET 173 GRAINS  
VELOCITY 2550 F.P.S.

Headstamps and velocities thus do not agree with those given for those years in Tables 1 and 3 (Cal. .30 and 7.62 mm. National Match Ammunition, respectively) in the article. Can you give the reason for this apparent discrepancy?

**Answer:** For many years, the only match ammunition types made for the U.S. Armed Forces were special order and intended for certain authorized matches only—the National Matches, the Palma and other international matches, and the Olympics. The ammunitions were headstamped and the boxes marked accordingly.

By 1957 there had developed considerable Service interest in marksmanship, with competitions through the year at regimental, division, and army levels and also the usual big matches. The practice changed to marking all match type ammunition simply Match, and using it for all matches and related practice. The National Matches then received the best lots of Match ammunition available. The Cal. .30 National Match ammunition table (Table 1) in the article reflects this marking for those years, and the velocity given is simply the specification velocity for Match ammunition.

Starting in 1962 a change was made again, Lake City manufacturing both Match and National Match ammunition and marking them accordingly. The table in the article shows, beginning at 1962, the headstamp and the actual velocity of the National Match ammunition of each year. These velocities differed slightly from the Match specification and also varied from year to year, mainly because the National Match was loaded with selected components with the charge adjusted for best target accuracy with those components.

The history of 7.62 mm. National Match is similar. As shown in Table 3 of the article, 7.62 mm. Match was used in 1961, then 7.62 mm. National Match in 1962 and afterward through the final production of National Match in 1967.

The article also gives in detail, in Table 2 for Cal. .30 and Table 4 for 7.62 mm., the characteristics of the various Special Match ammunitions which were produced in those calibers for the Armed Forces. Like the National Match, these varied from year to year.

The American Rifleman's Sept. 1969 article "The Cal. .30 Cartridge In Match Competition" thus was devoted to the National Match and other special-order ammunitions made up for use in certain important match competitions.

In contrast, the Cal. .30 Match M72 and 7.62 mm. Match M118 are standard types, made to the same specifications whenever produced. The 7.62 mm. Match M118 continued in production after 1967, and could be produced again if required. The Match M118 is used regularly in the 7.62 mm. sniping rifle XM21 (see "Army Sniper Rifle", The American Rifleman, Dec. 1969, p. 82).—B.R.L.

## Gun Markings

What is the best way to bring out the inscriptions on firearms for decorative purposes or to make them easy to read? I note that this is done frequently with new guns evaluated in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.

Is white paint or some similar material rubbed into the markings?

**Answer:** The markings and inscriptions on guns are enhanced readily, especially for photographic purposes, by rubbing them with a white wax or grease pencil of the type furnished for marking china. Pencils of this type are available through stationery stores.

Once the inscriptions have been well filled with wax, the excess is rubbed off using a paper towel or other non-abrasive means. It may be necessary to repeat the rubbing and wiping operations several times to eliminate unsightly skips.

An advantage in using a wax or grease pencil is that these materials are readily removed from the inscriptions with a solvent such as lighter fluid.

If permanent filling of inscriptions or markings is desired, an ordinary enamel in any desired color can be used. For best results, the enamel should be fairly thick.

A number of commercial preparations are offered which are designed specifically for filling inscriptions or engravings on firearms and other objects. One, called "Lacquer-Stik", is available in red, white, or gold form. Applied by rubbing into the work, it soon hardens and becomes permanent. Another preparation, offered under the Bonanza trade name, is furnished in silver or gold and is also designed for decorative filling of engraving or any other inscriptions. Both of these low-cost materials are available through gunsmith supply houses such as Brownell's, Inc., Route 2, Box 1, Montezuma, Iowa 50171.—M.D.W.

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