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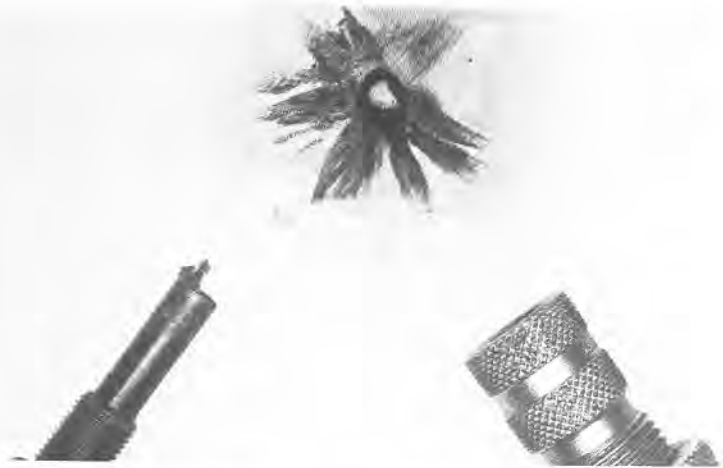
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52 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Grease In Seating Die, 7.62 mm Match Loads, Density Of Loading, Sizing Lubricant Pressure, Clean Under Extractor, Exploding Bullets, Chrome-Plated Bores, Yugoslavian 9 mm Cartridge

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Grease In Seating Die

I shoot a lot of cast bullets, but I can't seem to maintain a constant seating depth. Adjusting the bullet seating punch does not always help. Do I need a different seating die?

Answer: When loading lubricated cast bullets, you will get cartridges which vary in overall length unless you clean the seating die and punch frequently. Small amounts of bullet lubricant are deposited inside the die. After some buildup occurs, there is no place for the grease to

go, so the bullet is seated more deeply. Seating depth will increase as more grease is deposited inside the die.

Use lighter fluid, Varsol, Hoppes, or other solvent with a rod, slotted tip and patch to remove the deposits. Unscrew the seating punch and scrub all the grease from the die. With the seating punch out you can look into the die and observe any deposits you missed. When the die is clean, dry it and the punch thoroughly, reassemble, and readjust it for the load you choose.—E.L.

7.62 mm Match Loads

What handloads would closely approximate the pressure and velocity of Lake City 7.62 mm M118 Match ammunition, but using 168-gr., 173-gr., or 180-gr. bullets?

Answer: To approximate the performance of 7.62 mm NATO M118 match ammunition, using Lake City military cases and either the 168-gr. Sierra International boattail hollow-point bullet or military 173-gr. M118 bullets, 40.0 to 41.0 grs. of IMR-4895 would be a suitable powder charge. The Remington 9½ primer is essentially equivalent to the 84M military primer used in 7.62 mm M118 ammunition. A charge of 39.0 to 40.0 grs. of IMR 3031 will give similar results. Using Winchester cases and primers, NRA tests indicated a charge of 42.0 grs. of IMR-4895 gave 2608 f.p.s. and 47,770 c.u.p. with the 168-

gr. Sierra bullet. Use of military cases, which have smaller powder capacity, requires a reduction of about 2.0 grs. to produce the same chamber pressure.

It is not generally possible to obtain 2600 f.p.s. with 180-gr. bullets within normal chamber pressure limits of the 7.62 mm NATO cartridge with either IMR-4895 or IMR-3031. A charge of 39.0 to 40.0 grs. of IMR-4895 with the 180-gr. Sierra Matchking should produce about 2500 f.p.s.

Velocities from different rifles, however, may vary considerably, perhaps 100 f.p.s. from those obtained in test barrels with the same loads. The 168-gr. match bullets are a good substitute for the 173-gr. M118 match bullet only up to 600 yds. At 1000 yds., these 168-gr. bullets do not shoot particularly well, and match-type bullets weighing 180 or 190 grs. are better choices.—W.C.D., Jr.