

ASPWho ?

Advanced Shooting Products !!!

"ASP...Who?" I frowned. "You are from where?" I asked the slightly tattered 'ex-bush-war' looking gent. "From Advanced Shooting Products" he repeated loudly as another volley of shots carried down range heralding the release of little copper and lead parcels.

It was a balmy October afternoon in 2015 that I made my acquaintance with Dawid van Reenen on the range where I was reviewing the DM4 - Match 1 and some PPU ammunition in 223 and 308 with our esteemed editor and a few co-writers

Dawid resembled an "oud soldaat" returning from the border, at least in my opinion, the beard did it for me. It was bushy and wild, it contrast with his balding brow, putting focus on it. It gave him a very credible look, an intellectual one if I may say. Like a 'mad genius', you know the look I mean? What stood out even more so, was his excitement. Straight away he went into a singular discussion around the ASP ammunition components and all the pains they have taken to ensure that only the best ends up on the Gunshop shelves, and ultimately in the end of all our immaculately polished brass.

"Yes, yes, Dawid" I pretty much stopped him in his tracks. A bit rude, but yeah I've been here before, done this, seen that. So many people have approached me with ammunition they were 'manufacturing themselves and it was all the 'bees' knees' in their eyes. They all want a favor, Sport Shooter to please endorse their product, by giving it a 'good' review. They would love for us to do a short introduction in the magazine to get their business on its way. I can appreciate that dedication to one's product. As public writers and authors we have a responsibility (I feel) to bring all to the reader's attention, even these "smaller guys".... for the lack of a better description. My only concern is that it may not always be a reputable product, and readers make informed decisions based on our findings, suggestions and endorsements. Here was my conundrum I always want to give the little guy a chance but I hate to lead any reader astray and into a decision that may not be the best informed one.

Here is what made Dawid stand out for me. I recall the editor just smiled as Dawid started scratching through an 'oud' ex-army radio pack, which, by the way looked like it had done a tour or two with him on the border. He turned to me and mentioned that he had seen me shinning my little Ruger 308 compact with all the followers and hangers on. I suspected something was up. He produced a 50 unit green ammo box opened it and gently removed a generous handful of the shiny brass contents. Isn't it amazing how we are drawn to well-polished brass, especially in the form of ammunition? "34 grains S335, 150 grain monolithic solid points, boat-tailed, winchester large rifle primers, pmp brass" He gave me the specs as he placed them on the bench where I was seated on the firing line. "These are all to spec, brass cut to size and inside neck reamed, full length sized " "Okay" I thought, Clearly he had the basics down on good reloads. I agreed to put a few loads down range at 150m target that I had patched and not touched again.

Since then I have had many more encounters with ASP and their ammunition. Little known fact but according to one of the directors, Ronnie Teleng, they developed the RIP type bullet heads before the actual R.I.P ammunition was launched in the United States. Yup!

Currently they have some great carry ammo out in conjunction with Diplapoint. This has been a joint venture to produce something extremely effective, that will hundred percent guarantee to stop an 'armed' assailant dead in his or her tracks. Much ammunition exists that boasts such flamboyant reputation, thankfully I have never been in a situation to confirm such boasts by the manufacturers. I have also not had the opportunity to see the various effects of carry ammunition in any control substance. At least not until earlier this year when Ronnie and Dawid invited me to a comparative testing of their ammunition as well as that of some of the 'better brands' of carry ammo.

[Pic – SME C 9mm carry ammo](#)

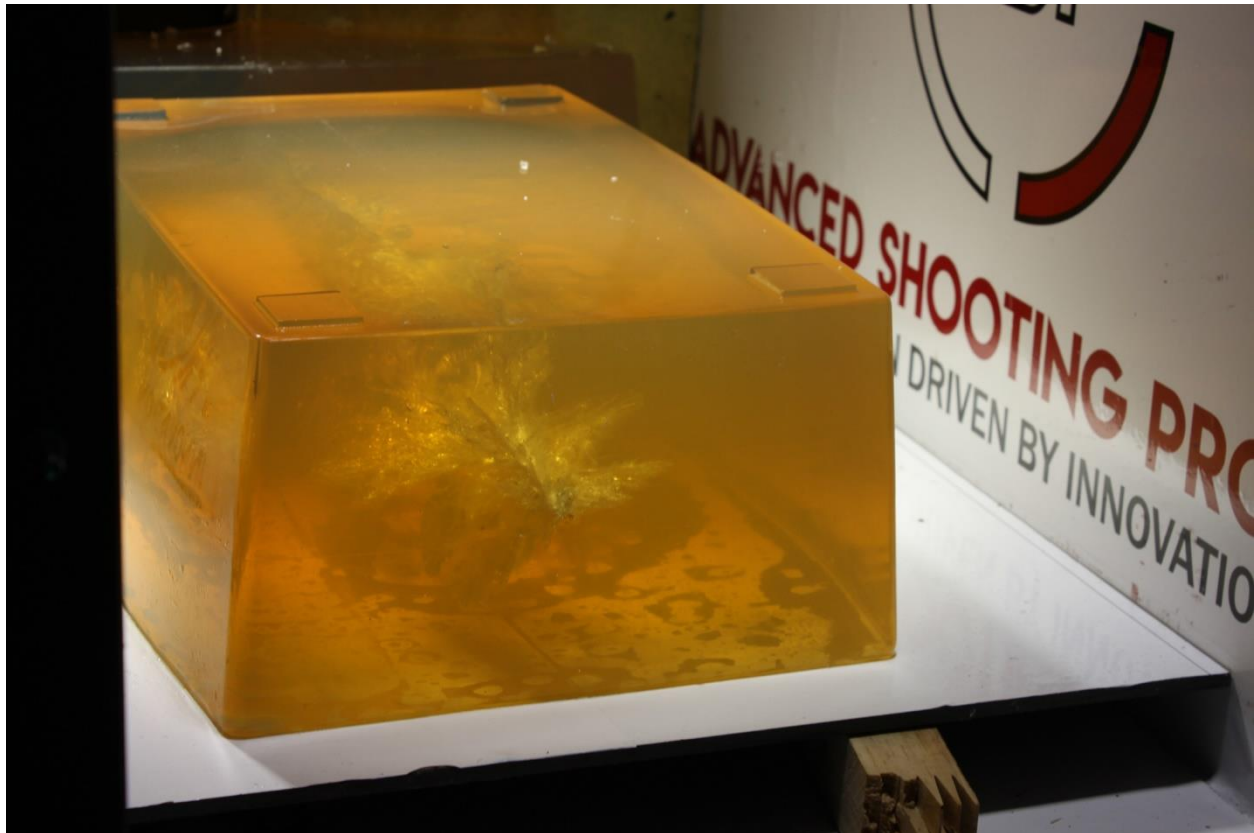


I was hugely impressed by their setup. They used special ballistic gels, high speed cameras and videographer's trained in high speed filming. They had a special box constructed for the test purposes that would not allow stray bullets to exit if they went off at angles to their intended directions. Man, I was really taken back by their 'NO HOLDS BARRED' and 'SPARE NO EXPENSE' approach. What really mattered I thought was that they invited anyone to bring whatever carry ammunition they wanted to the test, even casual shooters from the range, where they held their demonstrative tests, were given the opportunity to pop a round or two of their own chosen brands, the comparative testing sessions. It was an amazing experience for me. To say that a lot was revealed, myths put to rest and legends just plain knocked off their pedestals, is an understatement.

Pic – Ballistic testing and unit



Pic – Wound channel in Gel



I have already negotiated with the editor for a whole article for this testing in our next issue, don't miss it! It is going to make you think twice about what you send down the pistols spout when you are confronted with a life and death scenario. Just a little taste, I am a die hard 45 boy, I assumed this to be one of the most destructive and effective rounds on the market.....ha ha surprise!

Ronnie offered me the opportunity to test some of their 223 ammunition after this event. And consequently supplied me with three types of 5,56 / 223 heads for my own testing. This happened after I saw the effects of the ammunition in the ballistic gel.

So let me start here. On the day in question, the first 223 round they put through the gel was an 40grain 223 monolithic solid meant for armor piercing purposes. So most definitely this round would be for law enforcement and military purposes only. The team used two and a half blocks of gel in front of a layer of Kevlar and spate plate before the armor plate of the box that held the gel. All of the onlookers simply commented that being armor piercing should it not just exit. Dawid explained that the gel extra gel would slow the projectile sufficiently as to be able to stop the projectile and possibly catch it with the plate. And so it was, he has obviously learned from trial and error what works. The round zipped through the gel, the Kevlar, the armor plate and dented the plate of the box. Okay, I thought that's pretty effective in my opinion. The projectile is a solid brass rod, so no used uranium cores or titanium or anything. It is similar to the 5,7 by 28 armor piercing round in that it relies on extreme velocity in conjunction with a solid projectile. The goal being for it to punch through anything in its path. Similarly It works! Or at least its effective.

Pic – Armor piercing ammunition, centre . left is petal Right is FMJ



I loaded up some 40 grain heads to 20 grains of S321 with S&B primers in Winchester cases. Admittedly I did not shoot for accuracy I merely popped off a few rounds at 50m these were into an AS500 plate to see what effect it may have. After two shots I saw that it was starting to crack the plate and chip pieces off. It did not penetrate but I felt really uneasy when I saw the condition of the plate. I was surprised, to find that it was doing the same kind of damage as a 50 BMG solid had done to the plates at 50m a few weeks back. Sorry I wish I had taken a pic or two of the plate. It is lying next to the IDPA bin at Rooikraal if anyone wishes to inspect it. It started affecting the integrity of the plate around the bolt that olds it on the chain so I abandoned testing it further. I am not sure if that qualifies as armor piercing but in my opinion, let's just say, it works!

The next type of head was a 'petaled' hollow point projectile. They don't have names on the boxes so I refer to them descriptively. It is a 55 grain hollow point that has vertical slots cut into the projectile to ensure a controlled opening of the projectile head on impact. In the gel their performance was astonishing. It created a wound channel about 50mm in diameter the full length of the first gel block passing around halfway into the 2nd gel block. It then seemed to have lost its petals and continued to within 10cm of exiting the gel and stopped. The last section it performed just like a solid round. Penetration is amazing, as is the initial wound channel of around 60 cm. It's actually frightening in all honesty. I would say these have real world law enforcement use. On the range I took them out to 100m in my CQA AR15. My standard load for my AR fodder is 22,9 grains of S321, S&B primers and 55 grain copper FMJ's. Consequently I just replaced the heads with these brass heads. They are 55 grains as well, obviously a little longer though. I did inspect the projectiles and found them to be flawless in design. Ronnie did mention to me that the heads are CNC cut. Quite an investment in time and money I would say.

At 100m the best group I got with them was 19mm, that's reasonable, with more testing and playing with the load I'm sure we can squeeze a few clover groups out of a few shots.

Pic – AR 15 Testing



I was really interested in the plain hollow points. The last box of projectiles I received. Once again these look absolutely perfect like little brass jewels. I felt disappointed at having to shoot them away, they really just look so nice. Workmanship is flawless on them. CNC cutting is a lot invested in the bullets.

Once again, I just settled on my standard load behind this projectile. I am always nervous when shooting brass out of my rifles but I did not experience this when using this ammunition. I think this stems from a strange experience I had at Sure Focus indoor shooting range a number of years ago. I was evaluating a client's 303, MTC 3-12 x 44 telescope combination on the day in question. I had asked the client to provide his preferred ammunition, which he did. I was intrigued when I found all his ammunition to be topped with, turned monolithic brass. On firing the first round I halted all shooting in the indoor tunnel to evaluate what had happened, when I pressed the trigger on one of his rounds, I saw nothing but sparks out of the barrel, yes no flame, just sparks. It was as if as if someone was using an angle grinder on metal in the tunnel. Needless to say I was most apprehensive about continuing the evaluation. I did though. I found accuracy on that 303 to be phenomenal at 100m. All rounds cutting each other at that range, but oh my word! The sparks! It was the oddest experience. Since then I always shoot brass projectiles with a dose of apprehension. Silly me! I suppose I think they are eating away at the interior of the bore when I see those little stars.

Needless to say my experience here was absolutely AWESOME! Every time a pressed my 'bang button' on one of these little 223 Jewels and I read the results on the paper down range, my mind went back to that day when I first met Dawid in 2015 and he handed me the 308win 150 grain ammo.

I recall as I touched off the last of those five rounds topped with the 150 grain ASP heads at the 150m mark, I could clearly see the almost perfect clover leaf hole in the target through the Sightron S3 4,5-14 scope I had on the little Ruger.

I squinted up at Dawid and asked , **“ where did you say you are from ?”**

Advanced Shooting Products !!! - their products are here to stay.

Written and compiled by Lloyd Wyman