

## Advanced Shooting Products - ASP , a 30 cal follow-up

Recently Dawid van Reenen presented me with a little box of jewels, little brass CNC machined jewels. I think I may have gulped. Even though it was for testing purposes, it still held the feeling of a meaning gift or gesture, As if the contents held wonderful un-tapped potential.

Pic 1 - Are they not stunning?



The ammunition I was supplied with were all CNC monolithic hollow points of a nature. Some of the units were 145grain and 165 grain monolithic hollow points, the balance were the fluted petal type hollow points of 145 and 165 grainers. In truth I weighed all the rounds from each batch and found the fluted petal type heads to all be within a grain lighter than the solid hollow points. All the heads had been machined, CNC machined so their diameters and lengths were uniform for each type. I took the measurements across the crimp lines and found diameters to all be 7, 79 mm on the lines and then directly above the crimp grooves towards the points the rounds were all 7, 73mm. 165's were 3,59mm,145's were 3,29mm. They were all the same, man that's consistent. I thought you guys were just 'wintie' like we used to say as kids, but you have the numbers to back it up. Nicely done. Accuracy is after all the 'art of consistency'.

Pic 2 – From left to right, the 165gr Monolithic hollow point, the 165gr fluted hollow , the 145 grain monolithic hollow and finally the 145 gr fluted hollow point



As can be seen, all the rounds are boat tails, yet there is a slight variation in the boat tail design between the two weights. On the 165 grainers the body of the brass round tapers from the rear in a boat tail fashion but the sides end at the top of the crimp grooves. The 145 grainers also taper in similar fashion towards the crimp lines but they end at the base of the first crimp line. Besides the shorter length I think this also contributes to lightening the projectiles to the specific 145 grains. The 145 grainer only carries two crimp grooves, while the 165 carries three.

And so I got down to the task of reloading a few rounds for my Ruger Compact M77 in 308 win and DM4 – sport in 300 AAC Blackout. From my own past experience with these rifles and similar weight projectiles I had a rather experienced idea as to what fodder each enjoyed, particularly for that specific weight projectile. That being said we did have a few unknowns now that could really mess up reloading recipes. Any old hand or bench shooter will tell you what works for one type of projectile in a specific weight could react and fail completely on a different type of bullet. But shucks fellers, I only had a few bullets of each sample so I had to start somewhere. And it seemed as good a place as any.

In the 300 blackout I just loaded up 145 grainers with 15grains of S265 it is unfortunately the only suitable powder we have for the blackout in SA. Fortunately some distributors have started importing Hodgons. According to the yanks some of these are ideal for blackout. Sadly I will only get in June after this issue has reached you. Be sure when I have it, it won't just be wasted, I will report to you on the merits they claim for the blackout with this fairy dust, both in supersonic and subsonic ammo. Unfortunately experience has taught me that my rifle becomes slightly erratic when firing ammunition over about 150 grains in the blackout. Mainly it experiences failure to feed and when it does fire, pressures are excessive with flat primers and difficulty extracting. The main problem is that the rifle has a carbine length gas port, it should be pistol length. That is also the reason why all the DM4's in 300 experience cycling and feeding problems with ammo carrying heavier projectiles. The problem has been brought before the manufacturer but to date no corrective action has been taken. Well this is Africa hey.

The 165 grainer will fire and cycle from my rifle if I compress a load of about 17 grains, but I was a bit concerned about that pressure on a monolithic bullet so I chose to skip that adventure. My Ruger is a different story, she just loves 165 sierras so I figured she would pretty much chew on these with similar vigor. Worst case, if anything, I may just have to tweak the loads minimally to achieve the same clover leaf stamps at 150m with this little beauty. I have fired some of these rounds in 2015 with remarkable accuracy out of this rifle, unfortunately they were not my hand loads, but Dawid van Reenens, and so I was expecting good things. Dawid also indirectly confirmed this when he mentioned to me recently that a national league shooter, pardon no names, who recently tested these projectiles, approached them for sponsorship, he was so impressed with their performance. Pardon here, in the 300 blackout I used brand new Lapua cases, with standard seller and ballot small rifle primers. Overall case length was kept at 55,6mm after bullet seating and a taper crimp applied.

In the 308 I used twice fired PMP cases, neck sized, with standard large rifle Winchester primers. The 145 grainers I loaded up in 308, both fluted and monolithic hollows, with 41 grains of Somchem S335. The heads were seated at 68mm and a factory crimp applied. I filled the cases holding the 165 grainers with 37 grains of S335. The rounds were seated at 68, 2 mm and similarly a roll crimp applied. The rounds looked handsome and business like even if I must say so myself. It seemed a shame to shoot them, but then I was eager to see how they would perform.

Unfortunately my initial testing was cut short due to rain on the range, I did manage to Chrono a couple of rounds while the sun was out.

The 300 blackout with the 145 grainers gave me an average of 1850fps. The 145's in the 308 did an average of 2443fps, while the 165grainers clocked 2128 average. Remember I only have a 16 inch barrel on the 308, a longer barrel and heavier loads will no doubt put you up around the 2700fps mark if not higher. I must admit to taking it a little easy on the loads because these are solid brass and I was watching for signs of pressure. I had none, so I could safely turn up the juice a bit. All testing on of the velocities on the chronograph took place at two meters from the barrels ends.

On my return trip I punched paper and pinged away at the steel. I stopped that quickly. These brass monolithic's, even though hollow points and fluted to allow the head to form a petal, leave nasty scars and pit marks on the steel. I am not 100 percent certain of the application they intend for these projectiles? But, they are going to be very effective against hard cover, that I can assure you. Even behind steel I would be most uneasy if they intend to send a number of them in my direction.

My best group of the day was a 4 shot group at 150m with the 165grainer monolithic hollow from the little Ruger. All four shots touching. I was supposed to fire a fifth shot but I stopped there because I was afraid I would spoil it with a flyer, there's always a flyer. Apologies for not shooting further but I normally don't shoot this little gun further than that, in my mind I've set it as its limit. A mental thing I suppose. I suspect the flutes must affect the projectiles a little in flight. They just did not produce the same tight groups the monolithic hollows did for me. Thought it was probably just me not applying myself properly. The 145grainers did show a lot of potential in the Ruger. I suspect we need to drive them and the 165's a bit faster and we will get even better results. It's just a feeling. I got a 21 mm group from the 145 monolithic hollows with the Ruger. The DM was okay at 32mm. I suspect we are going to see better results when my Hodgans arrives. I do also feel I need better optics on the DM. something with a little more mag than 10 x magnification. I was shooting at 14 x with a sigthron s3 on the Ruger.

[Pic – best group of the day 308 , 165 grainer at 150m](#)



Pic – the Ruger M77 compact 308 win and the DM4-sport 300 AAC both only sport 16inch barrels, both midgets I suppose



I think this has been a great introduction to a company willing to take the risk of research and development to bring us superior local product. I regard myself as a very average to below average shooter, so imagine what possibilities a top national or international shooter will be able to unlock from these precisely, made projectiles, on the firing line or over the bench, they will translate to perfection no doubt bring home the gold!

Written by Lloyd Wyman