

# ASP Ballistic Gelatine

**D**uring my quest to find the ultimate defensive bullet I have concocted all types of test media – most fairly messy – in attempting to simulate real-life conditions. Those days are now over; Advanced Shooting Products (ASP) in Gauteng are marketing what they call “10% munitions grade” ballistic gelatine.

The procedure is simple: buy the package, follow the instructions, and the next day you should have a block of gel to use for “scientific” research – or just plain fun – on the range.

The FBI’s ballistics tests of defence loads have become the yardstick for most manufacturers when developing their bullets. However, when testing locally produced handgun ammunition, we at *Magnum* were at a distinct disadvantage, as sourcing gelatine was difficult. The biggest problem I have faced is to get gelatine translucent enough to enable me to see the bullet and its path into the gel.

ASP’s gel kit includes a 15-litre plastic container to serve as a mould, a packet containing 1.56g of ordinance grade gelatine powder, 8 millilitres of preservative and the instructions.

Using a pot with a capacity of just over 20 litres, I poured in 14 litres of bottled and filtered water at room temperature. I mixed in the gelatine powder and stirred for about 30 minutes to ensure that no lumps remained, then left it for an hour, by which time the contents were thick and all powder absorbed.

Then I slowly heated the pot on a gas stove, ensuring that the temperature did not exceed 40° Celsius. The mixture became clearer as the temperature rose. Next, I stirred in the preservative and poured the entire contents



into the plastic mould. I allowed the solution to cool to room temperature and then refrigerated it for eight hours.

The ASP gel can be re-used once, though only the first solution will be true 10% ordinance gel. Simply re-heat the used gel to just below 40°C, pour it into a mould and let it cool. ASP’s instructions explain how the gel’s consistency can be tested using a BB gun.

I transported the gel to the range in a cool-box and tipped the mould upside

down on a plastic drum. Punching a small hole in the bottom (now top) of the mould released the vacuum and the gel slipped out easily. The consistency was similar to my last home-brewed gel, perhaps slightly firmer.

Shooting various bullets and loads into the gel blocks delivered laboratory-like results enabling me to compare their terminal performance in the same test media. The results were spectacular and interesting, and it was great fun. The gel performs as advertised, is translucent enough to clearly show the ‘wound channels’ and bullets, and can be handled without creating a mess. We used this gel for our bullet tests described on page 34. This gel will make future *Magnum* ballistic tests easier and more scientific as we will be strictly comparing ‘apples with apples’.

The basic kit costs R680; a refill costs R490. For more information contact Dawid van Reenen on 082-303-6790. 

