

The .223 Remington

posted on August 17, 2011



If I could only have a rifle chambered for one cartridge it would be the .223 Remington. With it, I could shoot varmints and deer, I could participate in several forms of competition and just shoot for fun. It has minimal recoil, is affordable to shoot and easy to load for. In addition, it is a cartridge kids take to easily.

The .223 Remington cartridge is the commercial equivalent of the 5.56 X 45 NATO. Some don't understand that from a physical dimension standpoint these cartridges are indeed one in the same. Externally, there is no measurable difference between them. There are, however, two differences in other areas. The first deals with pressure.

Manufacturers load .223 Rem. to 55,000 psi, as established by SAAMI (Sporting Arms & Ammunition Institute). The maximum average pressure for the 5.56 NATO is about 61,600 psi, as established by the U.S. Military. This is 11 percent more than .223 Rem. pressures. Because the 5.56 NATO is a military cartridge, SAAMI hasn't set pressure limits for it. This is why all handloading data published conforms to SAAMI .223 Rem. pressure limits.

The second difference deals with the way the chamber—more precisely the throat—is cut into the barrel. A barrel chambered for the 5.56 NATO has a longer lead than one chambered for the .223 Rem. This means the distance the rifling begins from the end of the case mouth in a 5.56 chamber is longer than it is in a .223 Rem. chamber. Erring on the side of safety, you can always

shoot .223 Rem. ammo in a 5.56 NATO chambered rifle, but should only shoot 5.56 NATO ammo in modern, bolt-action .223 Rem. rifles—never in .223 semi-autos.

The .223 Rem. was actually an experimental cartridge adapted by the U.S. Military in 1964. It was first offered commercially chambered in a Remington model 760 pump-action rifle and announced to the public in December of 1963. It has since become a go-to cartridge for varmint hunters and 3-gun competitors as well as many deer hunters and AR rifle enthusiasts. There is without question more .223 Rem. ammunition fired every year than any other centerfire cartridge.

With 40- to 50-grain varmint bullets, the .223 Rem. is deadly on prairie dogs, ground squirrels and gophers out past 400 yards. For larger vermin like ground hogs and rock chucks, shooting them inside 300 yards provides a lot more bullet upset due to the higher impact velocities. Though some are quick to point out it's not legal everywhere, deer can cleanly and legally be taken with the .223 Rem. in most states. For deer, it's best to keep shots inside 150 yards so impact velocities are high enough to cause the tough bullets to open wide.

Both my sons and I have taken many deer with the .223 Rem. using bullets like the Nosler 60-grain Partition, the 55-grain Barnes TSX and the 62-grain Fusion. Just last year I participated in a cull hunt where several other writers and I used Dynamic Research Technology's (DRT) 60-grain, powdered-metal bullet to take 22 whitetails with ARs chambered for the .223 Remington. Shots stretched out to 180 yards. We did not lose a single deer, and several of the bucks were near 200 pounds live weight.

On my second trip to Africa I took two rifles; a .300 Win. Mag. and a .223 Remington. I used the .223 to take my favorite African animal, the bushbuck. My PH's 7-year-old son collected a mature warthog with the same rifle. Both of these so called "tough" African animals were put down with a 60-grain Nosler Partition.

Early on, the .223 Rem. was considered a varmint cartridge. Accordingly, most barrels had a slow rifling twist rate of one turn in 12 inches (1 in 12). This worked fine with most common bullets weighing 55 grains or less. As new bullets emerged for the .223 Rem., shooters found the 1 in 12 twist was lacking in its ability to stabilize heavier bullets for good accuracy. In turn, faster twisted barrels for the .223 Rem. became more popular.

Obviously, heavier bullets are longer but the new breed of mono-metal (all copper) bullets are longer still because copper—by volume—weighs less than lead. Then there are the heavy for caliber match bullets, which can be really long. Berger's 75-grain VLD Target bullet is 1.066 inches long compared to Nosler's 40-grain Ballistic Tip bullet, which is almost a half-inch shorter. The Berger requires a minimum twist rate of 1 in 8 while the Nosler will work with twist rates as slow as 1 in 14.

With sporter-style, bolt-action rifles chambered for the .223 Rem., the most common twist rate is 1 in 12. Tactical style bolt action rifles generally have a twist rate of 1 in 9. Some ARs and other .223 Rem. rifles specially designed for target and long range applications have twist rates as fast

as 1 in 7. This is very important because the last thing you want to do is find out your new .223 Rem. rifle will not accurately shoot the bullet you want to use.

As a rule of thumb, if the heaviest bullet you will be shooting is 50 grains or less, the 1 in 12 twist should provide good accuracy. If you want to be able to accurately shoot bullets that weigh at least 60 grains, go with the 1 in 9 twist. And finally, if you plan to shoot the really long and heavy bullets, like the Bergers, a twist rate of 1 in 8 or even 1 in 7 is a good idea. For most common use or hunting applications, the 1 in 9 twist is the way to go and will stabilize the light 35- to 40-grain bullets well enough for you to shoot little groups and hit little targets.

As popular as the .223 Rem. is, there are some subtle nuances about the cartridge that not everyone is aware of. Pay attention to twist rate and use robustly constructed bullets if you're after deer-sized game, and if you're handloading, stick with relatively fast powders with burn rates between Alliant's Reloader 7 and Hodgdon's Varget. Alliant also has a new powder called AR Comp, specifically designed for ARs and the .223 Rem.

The .223 Rem. is a great cartridge. If you understand its limitations and versatility it is indeed a great one-gun choice. I know it's what I would choose. If the situation arose where I needed a bigger gun, I'd just borrow one.

All About 223 Remington

Posted on February 23, 2022 • by [Kat Ainsworth](#)

223 Remington is perhaps the most popular intermediate cartridge on the market. Many gun owners think of it as the cartridge meant for the AR-15 — and it was originally made for such rifles — but in reality, there's everything from AR-15s to bolt-actions to lever-actions chambered in this versatile cartridge. If you're interested in the history and specifications of the cartridge, you've come to the right place.

Contents

[The Company Behind the Cartridge](#)

[223 Remington Background](#)

[Why Did the U.S. Military Want 223 Remington?](#)

[How is 223 Remington different than 5.56x45mm?](#)

[How accurate is 223 Remington?](#)

[How far can you shoot with 223 Remington?](#)

[Hunting with 223 Remington](#)

[Personal defense with 223 Remington](#)

[223 Remington Specifications](#)

[Available Loads](#)

[Which firearms manufacturers make 223 Remington rifles?](#)

[Who makes 223 Remington barrels?](#)

[Which manufacturers make 223 Remington Components?](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The Company Behind the Cartridge

Remington Arms Company in Ilion, New York. The company will be moving to Georgia under its newest ownership. (Photo credit: Remington Arms Company)

As its name suggests, 223 Remington was designed by Remington, but it was technically a collaborative effort with others. Additional engineers involved in its creation included Eugene Stoner—the creator of the AR platform—and Frank Snow of Sierra Bullets. Guns and Ammo editor Robert Hutton also had a hand in its design. By and large, though, the cartridge is attributed to Remington. Remington Arms Company was founded in Ilion, New York, in 1816 by Eliphalet Remington.

Eliphalet Remington founded the Remington Arms Company in 1816. (Photo credit: Historical archives)

For 200 years, Remington was the largest and oldest constantly-operating firearms manufacturer in the United States. They've had a few bumps along the way, and today the Remington Ammunition brand is owned by Vista Outdoors. As for the Remington Arms side of the business

that manufactures firearms, it is owned by the Roundhill Group and Remington CEO Ken D'Arcy, who already worked for the company prior to buying the firearms side of the business.

223 Remington Background

In 1957 the U.S. Continental Army Command (CONARC) launched a project with the goal of developing a lighter-weight rifle capable of firing with ammunition higher velocities than what they had at the time. This involved a fair amount of design and legwork and quite a few people were brought into it.

Unsurprisingly, CONARC wanted Eugene Stoner, inventor of what we now call the AR-10, to create a lighter-weight version of that rifle. They specifically requested a platform that could fire a 55-grain bullet with a velocity of 3300 feet per second for improved accuracy at 500 yards.

Remington Arms, Fairchild Industries, and a number of engineers got to work on the project. Also among those trying to come up with something new for CONARC were Guns and Ammo Technical Editor Robert Hutton and Frank Snow of Sierra Bullets. It might seem surprising to realize that gun writers have a hand in developing new cartridges, but it happens more than you might realize.

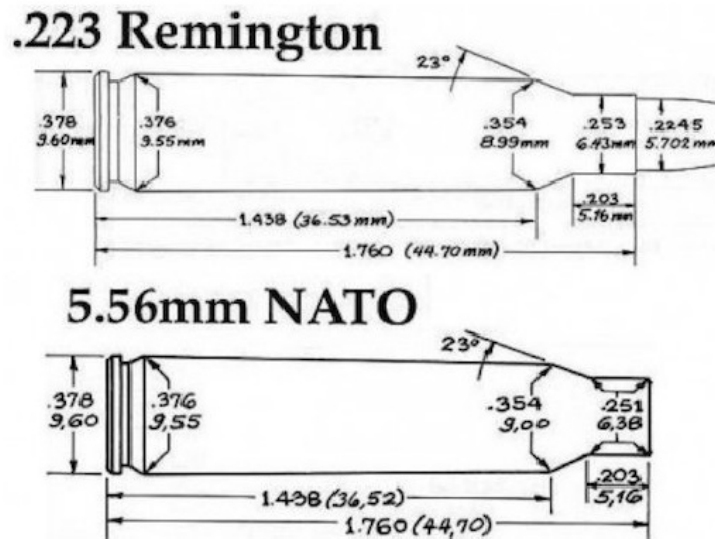
Long story short, in 1962 they submitted the 223 Remington's specifications to the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI). The following year the company announced the Model 760, its first rifle offering chambered in the new cartridge, which has been officially available since 1964.

Why Did the U.S. Military Want 223 Remington?

Armalite AR-15. (Photo credit: Department of Defense archives)

The military was interested in having a lighter-weight version of the heavier 7.62x51mm NATO. Once CONARC got its hands on the ArmaLite AR-15, they discovered smaller teams of men armed with 223 Remington-chambered rifles were effective in combat as opposed to the larger teams needed with 7.62x51mm NATO. In fact, military marksmanship testing took place in 1961, and they found 43% of shooters armed with the ArmaLite AR-15 shot at Expert level but a scant 22% of the men armed with M14s managed the same. In addition to its improved accuracy, CONARC ultimately chose Stoner's platform because it had far fewer failures than the other available model.

How is 223 Remington different than 5.56x45mm?



223

Remington versus 5.56x45mm NATO (Photo credit: Quora)

It's understandable to be confused when it comes to the differences between 223 Remington and 5.56x45mm NATO. On the outside, the cartridges appear to be identical; on the inside, they differ enough to mean 5.56x45mm NATO cannot be fired through guns specifically chambered for 223 Remington.

In simple terms, 223 Remington is a lower-pressure round than 5.56x45mm NATO. The chambers of a 223 Remington rifle are not designed to run the higher-pressure 5.56x45mm NATO, so don't try it. The internal dimensions don't match. If you insist on firing a high-pressure round through a gun meant for low-pressure rounds, you're probably going to have a bad time. This has to do with the chamber leade.

The leade refers to the distance in the part of the chamber between the case mouth of the cartridge in question and the point where the barrel's rifling engages. In a 5.56x45mm NATO, the leade is slightly longer than in a 223 Remington (freebore of 0.0566 inches for the NATO cartridge and 0.025 inches for the 223 Remington, so almost double). That minute difference makes it possible for the higher-pressure round to run safely and accurately; fire a 5.56x45mm NATO through the shorter leade of a 223 Remington chamber, and the sudden pressure spike can be extremely dangerous.

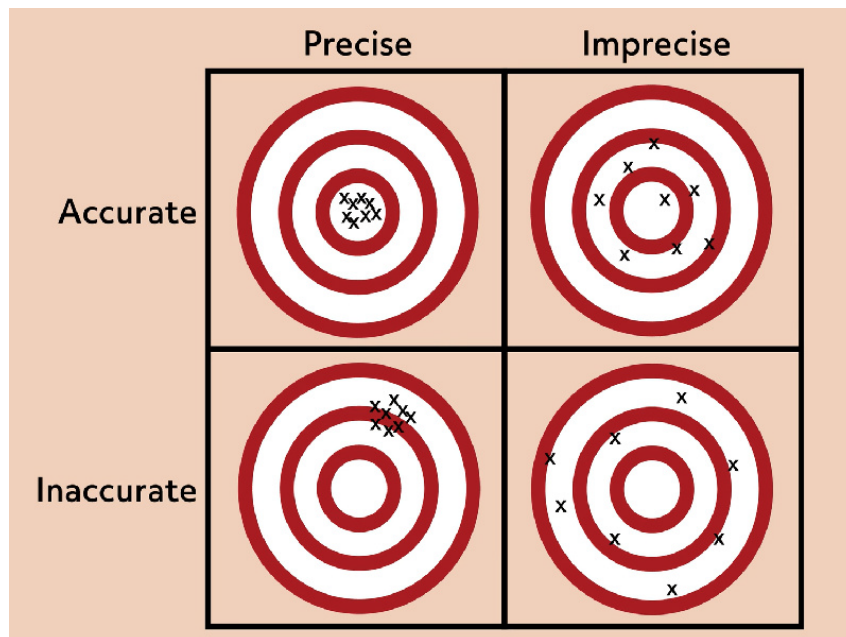
In addition, the 5.56x45mm NATO has a thicker case wall.

This may be leading you to wonder if you can safely fire 223 Remington through a 5.56x45mm NATO chamber. Yes, you can. Because it is a lower-pressure round designed for a shorter

chamber, firing it through the longer chamber of the 5.56x45mm NATO is safe. Shooters will frequently notice less accuracy when running the 223 Remington through a 5.56x45mm NATO. If the greatest accuracy possible is desired, consider a 223 Wylde barrel, which works for both cartridges and delivers with not only accuracy but precision.

How accurate is the cartridge?

How accurate your 223 Remington is depends on factors such as the ammunition being used, the barrel on the gun, and your own skill. It can be an extremely accurate round under the right circumstances. Precision is also quite possible from a 223 Remington, but remember, accuracy and precision are not the same things.



A graphic illustration of accuracy versus precision. (Photo credit: Mometrix Academy)

A solid explanation of how accuracy and precision are different scientific measures comes from the University of Hawai'i: "Precision and accuracy are two ways that scientists think about error. Accuracy refers to how close a measurement is to the true or accepted value. Precision refers to how close measurements of the same item are to each other. Precision is independent of accuracy. That means it is possible to be very precise but not very accurate, and it is also possible to be accurate without being precise. The best quality scientific observations are both accurate and precise."

This is true for shooting as well. They are not the same thing, but they can be produced simultaneously with some skill and good gear.

How far can you shoot with it?

Once again, this depends on the ammunition, platform, and skill of the shooter. Technically speaking, the cartridge has an effective range of approximately 200 yards on animals such as whitetail deer. Its approximate effective range on steel targets is between 400 and 600 yards. Once the bullet gets past 600 yards, it's typically no longer supersonic and has issues with being destabilized and tumbling, which seriously hampers accuracy.

It's worth noting 5.56x45mm NATO has a longer effective range than 223 Remington, but the difference is not enormous. In "An Army Outgunned: Physics Demands a New Basic Combat Weapon," by Joseph P. Avery, Ph.D., the author notes, "The advertised maximum effective range of both the M14 with a 150 gr., 7.62 mm NATO cartridge and the M16's 62 gr., 5.56 mm M855 NATO cartridge was 460 meters. This equal classification is odd considering the dramatic difference in cartridges. "Effective" is the key word. In this instance, it denotes the maximum range a projectile is expected to inflict casualties or damage. Both projectiles fired at a paper mache mannequin at 460 meters may sail the distance, but one will probably bounce off. As previous studies concluded, a truly lethal maximum effective range for an M885, 5.56 mm NATO projectile is about 200 to 250 meters (218- 273 yards). Therefore, because half of our firefights occur well beyond 300 meters, our weapons are marginally effective."

Hunting with 223 Remington

This is an understandably popular cartridge among many hunters. Although a lot of gun owners may talk about long-range hunting, the majority seem to prefer closer shots and, in fact, the average deer hunter is unlikely to spend a lot of time shooting deer outside 100 to 150 yards. In the woods, those shots get even closer.

If you're a deer hunter, it's important to know and follow your local laws regarding what calibers you're allowed to use on whitetails and blacktails. In some states, 22 caliber bullets are banned across the board for deer hunting, meaning 223 Remington is prohibited for taking deer.

Of course, there are a lot of other hunting applications for this cartridge. It's favored by some coyote hunters depending on the range they intend to shoot from and is useful for varmints and predators like badgers and foxes. Many hog hunters use it as well. It isn't an ideal hog hunting cartridge, but with careful placement and the right load, it can get the job done.

When choosing a load to hunt with, make sure you select one specifically made for that use. All ammunition is not created equally; in fact, all hollow points and related expanding rounds aren't the same. Taking the time to use ammunition designed to drop the game or predator you're after can make all the difference between an ethical, one-shot kill and wounding an animal. Aside from careful ammunition selection, also zero your scope precisely and familiarize yourself with the drift and drop of your gun and ammo combination. If need be, create a DOPE sheet to track the changes.

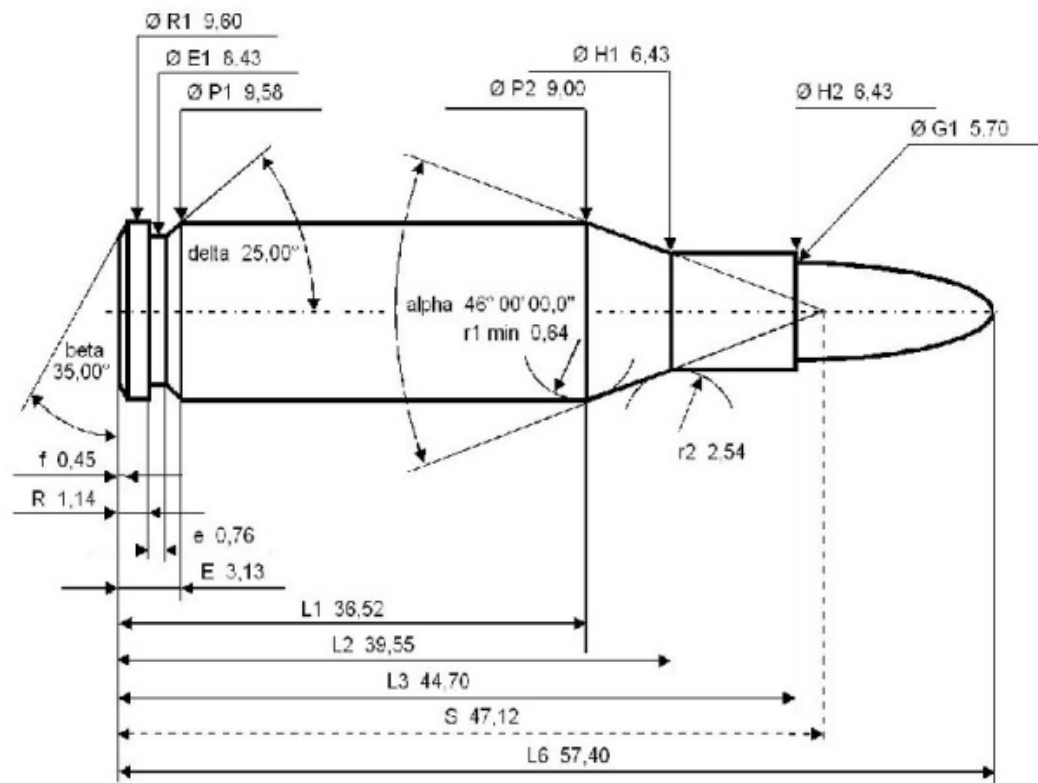
Personal defense with 223 Remington

There was a time when shotguns were considered the ideal platform for home defense, but times have changed. Today, AR-15 rifles and pistols are favored by a lot of gun owners. Carbine-length AR-15s are easily maneuverable in most places of residence and AR pistols work well, too. If you're looking for a truck gun you'll find AR pistols are commonly used for that purpose.

One of the concerns many gun owners raise over using an AR platform rifle or pistol for personal defense is the risk of over-penetration. In reality, almost every caliber on the market runs the risk of going right through a wall or door, given the right set of circumstances. Knowing your target and what is beyond it is one of the four rules of gun safety, and an important one to remember. Training can help you react properly in a self-defense scenario and making a plan with family members in case of an attack can reduce the chances of a serious problem.

Bottom line? Yes, the cartridge can be used for personal defense. As with all guns and cartridges, choose a quality defensive load and spend time shooting it to get used to its capabilities at various distances.

223 Remington Specifications



(By Francis Flinch at English Wikipedia, CC BY 3.0)

- Designer: Remington Arms
- Designed in: 1962
- Produced: 1964 to present
- Country of Origin: United States
- Variants: 223 Ackley Improved, 5.56x45mm NATO
- Parent Case: 222 Remington
- Case Type: Rimless Bottleneck
- Cartridge Type: Centerfire Rifle
- Bullet Diameter: .224 inches
- Land Diameter: 0.219 inches
- Neck Diameter: 0.253 inches
- Shoulder Diameter: 0.354 inches
- Base Diameter: 0.376
- Rim Diameter: 0.378 inches
- Rim Thickness: 0.045 inches
- Case Length: 1.76 inches
- Overall Length: 2.26 inches
- Case Capacity: 28.8 grain
- Recommended Rifling Twist Rate: Varies
- Primer Type: Small Rifle
- Maximum SAAMI Pressure: 55,000 psi
- Maximum CIP Pressure: 62,366 psi
- Maximum Copper Units of Pressure (CUP): 52,000 CUP

Available Loads

After more than fifty years in production, there are countless [223 Remington load variations](#) on the market. Nearly every ammunition manufacturer in the United States produces the cartridge and/or its components (and so do ammunition manufacturers in other countries). If this makes you wonder which is best, that depends on what you're going to do with it. To give you a general idea of what is available, here are a few popular examples:

Hornady American Gunner 223 Remington 55 grain HP Match

Hornady American Gunner 223 Remington 55 grain HP Match. (Photo credit: Hornady)

Features

- Hornady HP bullet
- Versatile
- High-quality brass, primers, and propellants
- Sectional density 0.157 inches
- Ballistic coefficient 0.254 (G1)
- Minimum recommended twist rate: N/A

From Hornady

“The American Gunner line of ammunition is a collection of tried-and-true, versatile loads that are popular with shooters for their target shooting, hunting, or self-defense needs. Made in the USA with premium components, American Gunner ammunition combines generations of ballistics know-how with modern technology.”

Test barrel: 24 inches

	Velocity (Feet Per Second)	Energy (Foot-Pounds)	Trajectory (Inches)
Muzzle	3240 feet per second	1282 foot-pounds	-1.5 inches
100 yards	2802 feet per second	958 foot-pounds	1.5 inches
200 yards	2403 feet per second	705 foot-pounds	0
300 yards	2039 feet per second	508 foot-pounds	-7.6 inches
400 yards	1710 feet per second	357 foot-pounds	-23.6 inches
500 yards	1426 feet per second	248 foot-pounds	-51.6 inches

Remington Premier AccuTip-V 223 Remington 55 grain

Features

- AccuTip-V bullet
- Superior terminal performance
- Quality, reloadable brass
- Good for varmint hunting

From Remington

“Varmint accuracy. Explosive Performance. Expect dynamic results. In varmint calibers, AccuTip-V combines superb flight characteristics and match-grade accuracy with a design optimized for explosive on-game results. At impact, AccuTip’s gold polymer tip is driven rearward, causing the thin jacket and soft lead core to fragment violently. First and foremost, though, it gets there precisely shot after shot—it’s the most accurate varmint bullet you can shoot.”

Distance (yards)	Velocity (feet per second)	Energy (foot-pounds)	Trajectory (inches)
Muzzle	3240 feet per second	1282 foot-pounds	Unavailable
100 yards	2805 feet per second	961 foot-pounds	1.5 inches
200 yards	2410 feet per second	709 foot-pounds	0*
300 yards	2049 feet per second	512 foot-pounds	-7.5 inches
400 yards	1721 feet per second	362 foot-pounds	-23.5 inches
500 yards	1437 feet per second	252 foot-pounds	-51.6 inches

*Zeroed at 200 yards

Winchester 223 Remington 62 grain FMJ

Features

- Consistent, reliable accuracy
- Good for target use
- Full Metal Jacket bullet doesn't expand
- Durable, heat-treated brass

From Winchester:

“Backed by generations of legendary excellence, Winchester ‘USA White Box’ stands for consistent performance and outstanding value, offering high-quality ammunition to suit a wide range of hunter’s and shooter’s needs.”

Distance (yards)	Velocity (feet per second)	Energy (foot-pounds)	Trajectory (short-range, inches)	Trajectory (long-range, inches)
Muzzle	3100 feet per second	1323 foot-pounds	Unavailable	Unavailable
50 yards	Unavailable	Unavailable	-0.2 inches	Unavailable
100 yards	2762 feet per second	1050 foot-pounds	0*	1.5 inches
200 yards	2448 feet per second	825 foot-pounds	-3.1 inches	0*
300 yards	2155 feet per second	Unavailable	-12 inches	-7.4 inches
400 yards	1884 feet per second	Unavailable	-28.4 inches	-22.3 inches
500 yards	1636 feet per second	Unavailable	Unavailable	-47.1 inches
			*Zeroed at 100 yards	*Zeroed at 200 yards

TulAmmo 223 Remington 75 grain Hollow Point

Features

- Hollow Point bullet
- Designed for hunting
- Steel case
- Non-corrosive
- Ballistic coefficient 0.36 (G1)
- CIP Compliant

From TulAmmo:

“The cartridge 223 Rem...is used for sporting and hunting shooting through bolt-action and semi-automatic carbines. The cartridge keeps its qualities under various climactic and weather conditions independent of the season and at the temperature range from -20 [degrees Celsius] to +50 [degrees Celsius]. The cartridge case is bottle-shaped with non-projecting flange.”

Distance (meters)	Velocity (meters per second)	Energy (energy expended joules)	Trajectory (centimeters)	Wind Drift (wind speed of 4 meters per second, in centimeters)
50 meters	759 meters per second	1383 energy expended joules	0	1 centimeter
100 meters	709 meters per second	1206 energy expended joules	-2 centimeters	3 centimeters
150 meters	661 meters per second	1049 energy expended joules	-5 centimeters	8 centimeters
200 meters	616 meters per second	911 energy expended joules	-10 centimeters	15 centimeters
250 meters	573 meters per second	788 energy expended joules	-16 centimeters	24 centimeters
300 meters	532 meters per second	679 energy expended joules	-26 centimeters	35 centimeters
350 meters	494 meters per second	586 energy expended joules	-38 centimeters	49 centimeters
400 meters	459 meters per second	506 energy expended joules	-54 centimeters	67 centimeters
450 meters	428 meters per second	440 energy expended joules	-74 centimeters	87 centimeters
500 meters	399 meters per second	382 energy expended joules	-99 centimeters	111 centimeters

Browning Ammunition 223 Remington 50 grain BXV

Features

- Polymer tip for flatter trajectory
- Superior down-range velocity
- Predator and varmint hunting use
- Rapid energy transfer
- Reliable, consistent expansion
- New, reloadable brass
- Ballistic coefficient 0.242

From Browning Ammunition:

“BXV Predator and Varmint Expansion is designed to rapidly transfer energy and dispatch predators and varmints quickly. The polymer tip improves ballistic coefficient resulting in flatter trajectory and higher downrange velocity.”

Distance (yards)	Velocity (feet per second)	Energy (foot-pounds)	Trajectory (inches)
Muzzle	3400 feet per second	1283 foot-pounds	-1.5 inches
100 yards	2897 feet per second	990 foot-pounds	0*
200 yards	2610 feet per second	756 foot-pounds	-2.4 inches
300 yards	2262 feet per second	568 foot-pounds	-10 inches
400 yards	1942 feet per second	419 foot-pounds	-24.4 inches
500 yards	1653 feet per second	303 foot-pounds	Unavailable
			*100 yard zero

Which firearms manufacturers make 223 Remington rifles?

After more than fifty years in production, there are practically endless supplies of firearms manufacturers making rifles chambered in the cartridge, including ARs, bolt-actions, and even lever-actions. Those include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sons of Liberty Gunworks
- Ruger
- Mossberg
- Winchester
- Henry Repeating Arms
- Smith and Wesson
- SIG Sauer
- FN Herstal
- Savage Arms
- Thompson Center
- Windham Weaponry
- Rossi
- Howa
- Remington Arms (RemArms)
- Daniel Defense
- Springfield Armory
- Heckler and Koch
- Colt
- Anderson Manufacturing
- Palmetto State Armory
- Del-Ton
- Browning
- Rock River Arms
- CMMG
- Bushmaster
- DPMS
- Black Rain Ordnance
- Weatherby
- CZ-USA

Who makes 223 Remington barrels?

Wilson Combat makes a variety of barrels including this 223 Wylde. (Photo credit: Wilson Combat)

Choosing the right barrel for your 223 Remington takes some research and experience. Before deciding on a barrel length or twist rate, stop and consider what you need the gun to do and go from there. Numerous manufacturers make barrels, including:

- Aero Precision
- Bear Creek Arsenal
- Ballistic Advantage
- Proof Research
- Criterion
- Wilson Combat
- Rise Armament
- JP Enterprises
- Rosco
- Acme Machine
- Airborne Arms
- Faxon Firearms
- Daniel Defense
- Thompson Center
- Griffin Armament
- Guntec USA
- AR-Stoner
- Luth-AR

Which manufacturers make 223 Remington Components?

Lower receivers like this one from Aero Precision are available stripped and complete for your 223 Remington. (Photo credit: Aero Precision)

Building your own rifle chambered in 223 Remington takes a lot of parts (anywhere from 60 to 100, depending on its configuration). There are a lot of companies producing various components, including:

- Aero Precision
- Palmetto State Armory
- Stag Arms
- Colt
- Luth-AR
- Vltor
- Odin Works
- Acme Machine
- Anderson Manufacturing
- Timney Triggers
- Elftmann Tactical
- Black Rain Ordnance
- Double Star
- Remington Arms

- Savage Arms
- Grey Ghost Precision
- SilencerCo
- ZEV Technologies
- Yankee Hill
- Rock River Arms
- Sharps Bros.
- POF
- Franklin Armory
- CMMG
- Seekins Precision
- Spikes Tactical

Frequently Asked Questions

Can you shoot 5.56x45mm through a 223 Remington barrel?

No, you cannot. Although they may appear identical, 5.56x45mm NATO should not be fired through a 223 Remington barrel.

Can you shoot 223 Remington through a 5.56x45mm barrel?

Yes, you can. The two cartridges have the same exterior dimensions, but they do have internal differences. 223 Remington, which is a lower pressure cartridge, is safe to fire through a 5.56x45mm NATO barrel.

What is 223 Wylde?

223 Wylde is a chamber designed by Bill Wylde. He invented the hybrid chamber for the purpose of creating a more accurate option than 5.56x45mm NATO that was capable of firing both 223 Remington and 5.56x45mm NATO. Wylde accomplished that by giving it the external dimensions and lead angle of 5.56x45mm NATO and the freebore diameter of 223 Remington. The 223 Wylde chamber created a more precise barrel than 223 Remington or 5.56x45mm NATO barrels.

Can you shoot 223 Remington through a 223 Wylde barrel?

Yes, you can. 223 Wylde barrels can run both 223 Remington and 5.56x45mm NATO ammunition.

Can you shoot 5.56x45mm through a 223 Wylde barrel?

Yes, you can. 223 Wylde barrels can run both 5.56x45mm NATO and 223 Remington ammunition.

What is green tip ammo?

Green tip ammunition is often marketed as armor-piercing, but it's not. Also, it's 5.56x45mm NATO, not a 223 Remington load.

Can I convert my AR-15 to 223 Remington?

223 Remington is the most common chambering for AR-15 platform rifles. If your rifle isn't already chambered in this cartridge, you can change the barrel and bolt carrier group (if necessary) to run it.

Do all AR-15s take 223 Remington?

No, they do not. AR-15s are manufactured chambered in a wide number of cartridges including 223 Remington, 5.56x45mm NATO, 223 Wylde, 300 BlackOut, 224 Valkyrie, and 6.5 Grendel.

Do AR-10s take 223 Remington?

No, they do not. The AR-10 platform was designed for larger cartridges such as 308 Win, 6.5 Creedmoor, 22-250 Remington, and 300 Winchester Magnum.

Is it a wildcat cartridge?

No, it is not. It is an official SAAMI and CIP cartridge.

Does the cartridge work in AR-10 platform rifles?

No, it does not. It was designed for AR-15 platform rifles.

Are there 223 Remington bolt-action rifles?

Yes, there are. Many firearms manufacturers produce bolt-action rifles chambered in this cartridge.

What was the parent cartridge?

222 Remington

What company designed the cartridge?

Remington Arms, which worked in collaboration with Fairchild Industries and engineers.

Does the military still use it?

No, they do not. The United States Military typically uses 5.56x45mm NATO.

Do all ammunition manufacturers make this cartridge?

No, they do not. However, it's accurate to say the vast majority of ammunition manufacturers produce the cartridge.

Who makes the best 223 Remington?

That depends on the use. There are so many different loads on the market your choices are practically endless. When choosing a load, first consider what you're going to use it for, remembering that different barrels will have varying results depending on the load used.

Is steel-cased 223 Remington good?

This tends to be a matter of opinion, but as a general rule, it is best not to use steel-cased ammunition in your 223 Remington rifle.

Can I hunt with it?

Yes, you can. Check your local laws first because there are some states that don't allow hunters to use 223 Remington on certain game, such as whitetail deer.

Which animals can I hunt with 223 Remington?

You can hunt a wide variety of animals with 223 Remington ammunition. It's a great choice for varmints such as coyotes and can also be used on feral hogs and whitetail deer, depending on the state. It's most well-suited to animals and predators the size of whitetail deer and smaller.

Is this cartridge good for home defense?

Yes, it is a popular choice among gun owners who use their AR-15 rifles or pistols for home defense. Although over-penetration is a concern for some, the reality is that almost every cartridge on the market is capable of over-penetrating walls and doors.

Is it a good performer for precision shooting?

No, it is not, or at least it is not for long-range precision shooting. 223 Remington rifles can certainly be precise as long as you understand and work within its distance capabilities.

What can the cartridge be used to do?

It can be used for numerous applications including target shooting, hunting, and home defense.

Is there a recommended twist rate for rifles chambered in 223 Remington?

When it was first designed in the 1960s, 223 Remington was made with an accompanying twist rate of 1-in-12 (5.56x45mm NATO was originally made with a 1-in-14 twist rate). However, as time has passed and technology has advanced, changes have been made regarding twist rate recommendations. Today twist rate possibilities range from 1-in-7 to 1-in-12. The answer to the question is that it depends on the barrel quality and the ammunition being used.

What is the best barrel length for 223 Remington?

The best barrel length for this cartridge depends on its use. Guns chambered in 223 Remington have different barrel lengths depending on whether they're bolt-action pistols, AR pistols, carbines, or rifles. Longer barrel lengths tend to get the highest level of velocity and energy out of the bullet when it is fired, but shorter barrel lengths don't necessarily lose too much velocity and energy to be solid performers. It all depends on what you want to do with the gun in question.

Can I reload 223 Remington?

Yes, you can. It's best to reload brass that was new when you bought it. Reloading previously remanufactured cartridges is higher risk. Steel case rounds should not be reloaded at all.

Is 223 Remington better than 5.56x45mm?

It isn't better or worse than 5.56x45mm NATO. It is a lower-pressure cartridge than 5.56x45mm NATO, so it doesn't have the same velocity you'll get from the 5.56x45mm NATO. Both have their uses, and 223 Remington is usually more affordably priced.

Can I build my own 223 Remington?

Yes, you can. There are endless options for components to build a rifle or pistol chambered in this cartridge. A build can vary quite a bit in the quantity of parts. For example, an AR-platform rifle or pistol can have anywhere from 60 to 100 parts depending on its specific configuration.

What is the SAAMI maximum pressure of 223 Remington?

55,000 psi.

What is the CIP maximum pressure of 223 Remington?

62,366 psi.

Is 223 Remington better than 224 Valkyrie?

The cartridges have vastly different applications. 223 Remington has been around decades longer and performs its best at shorter distances than 224 Valkyrie. The 224 Valkyrie was made to

produce a flatter trajectory and perform better at longer distances than many other cartridges in the AR-15 platform.

What magazines do I need for 223 Remington?

[Standard AR-15 magazines](#) work with 223 Remington ammunition.

What's so special about 223 Remington?

It has a long, involved history, which makes it interesting. It's also managed to maintain its popularity in the AR-15 world practically since its inception. In addition, it's a versatile cartridge with a lot of uses.

Was 223 Remington or 5.56x45mm NATO made first?

223 Remington was designed before 5.56x45mm NATO.

What bolt face is 223 Remington?

0.384 inches.

Is 223 Remington the same as 5.56x45mm?

No, it is not. The two cartridges have the same external dimensions but different internal dimensions. 5.56x45mm NATO chambers have throats that are 0.125 inches longer than those of 223 Remingtons. This is because 5.56x45mm NATO is designed to be a higher-pressure round than 223 Remington and that tiny fraction of additional space allows 5.56x45mm NATO to hold more powder. That higher pressure is why 5.56x45mm NATO cartridges should not be used in guns specifically chambered in 223 Remington.

What caliber is 223 Remington?

22 caliber.

Is there a 223 Remington handgun?

Yes, there are handguns chambered in the cartridge.

Is there a 223 Remington bolt-action pistol?

Yes, there are bolt-action pistols chambered in this cartridge.

How long has the cartridge been around?

It was designed in 1962 and mass production to the public market began in 1964.

What is the case capacity of 223 Remington?

28.8 grain H2O

What is the minimum trim length for 223 Remington?

1.750 inches.

What is it good for?

You can use this cartridge for everything from target shooting to hunting to personal defense.

Will it work in an AR-15?

Yes, it works in AR-15 platform rifles. It's what the cartridge was designed to do.

What is 223 Remington Magnum?

The cartridge you're probably thinking of when you mention "223 Remington Magnum" is the 222 Remington Magnum. That cartridge was designed in 1957 by Remington and is a different cartridge entirely than 223 Remington and 222 Remington.

What is the difference between 223 and 223 Remington?

Many people refer to 223 Remington simply as "223." It's important to remember it isn't the only cartridge on the market with the "223" designation, though. 223 Ackley Improved—also known as 223 AI, 223 Improved 40, and 223 Remington Ackley Improved—is favored by many rifle shooters. Also, 223 Remington and 223 Ackley Improved are entirely different cartridges.

Is it a good cartridge for deer hunting?

There are many deer hunters that use their 223 Remington rifles for whitetail and blacktail deer. As with any game animal, shot placement matters a great deal. Because the cartridge has a smaller bullet than bigger rounds such as 308 Winchester, it will not create such a large wound cavity. In addition, in some states it is illegal to deer hunt with 22 caliber bullets such as the 223 Remington. If you choose to hunt deer with it, take care to understand and work within the limitations of the cartridge.

Will 223 Remington kill a feral hog?

Yes, it can. Feral hogs are extremely tough, so it is accurate to state it tends to be more difficult to kill a hog with one shot from this cartridge than it is with larger cartridges and calibers like 308 Win. When hog hunting with this cartridge, be precise with shot placement and remember its distance limitations. This is true when doing any hunting, of course.

Is 223 Wylde worth the money?

Whether 223 Wylde is worth the money depends on what you're expecting from your rifle. If superior precision is your priority, 223 Wylde barrels can be worth the investment. They can run both 223 Remington and 5.56x45mm NATO ammunition with greater accuracy and precision than barrels chambered in the compatible cartridges.

Is 223 accurate in a 5.56 barrel?

You lose some stability when running it through a 5.56x45mm NATO barrel, but it can be accurate. Remember, accuracy is different than precision. For the best possible accuracy—and precision—from your 223 Remington, consider using a 223 Wylde barrel.