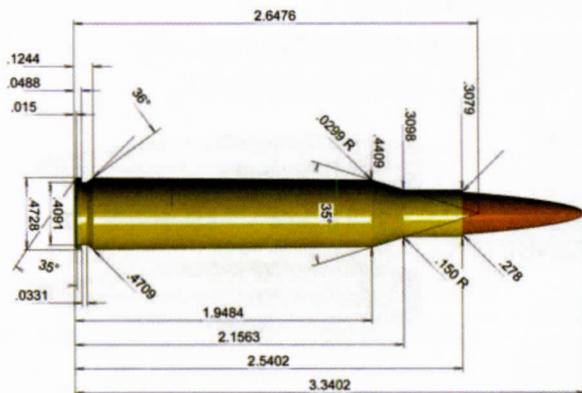


## 270 Winchester



**Case Trim Length = 2.5302**

**Muzzle velocity will increase (or decrease) by approximately 29 fps per inch from a standard 24" barrel.**

### By Richard Mellon

When talk around the camp fire turns to the best all-around cartridge, even the shortest of lists will contain the 270 Winchester. Very few cartridges have attained the legendary status of "classic cartridge" as quickly as the 270. Designed in 1923 and launched in 1925 by

Winchester in the new Model 54 bolt action, the 270 was remarkable in its time for its speed and flat shooting characteristics. The 270 is a full length child of the 30-06 parent case, made by necking the case down to hold a .277" diameter bullet. Although the shoulder angle had been left the same as on the .30-06, the .270's neck is 0.046" longer than the .30-06's. This was the first commercial cartridge to use a .277" bullet, and it is funny that the only bullet that is almost exactly 7mm (7.0358mm) is not even considered a 7 millimeter by most.

Big slow bullets were the cat's pajamas in the early 1900's, and those big bullets were shot from lever guns or single shot rifles. Why, any fool knew that! The 30-06 upset that applecart when it arrived on the hunting scene just shortly after WWI. Not only was the new cartridge packaged in, of all things, a bolt action gun; but it also shot pointed bullets, and that flew directly into the face of the tried and true big bores shooting thumb sized round nosed slugs. The 270 was designed to reach out further than the 30-06, and it certainly had its work cut out for it if it was

# 270 Winchester

going to take the sporting world by storm. But that is exactly what it did.

It is hard to say what the future would have looked like for the 270 if it had been left to sink or swim on its own; it was a pretty radical step for those days. As luck would have it, Jack O'Connor, a popular gun writer of the era, was struck with the performance of the 270 and started singing its praises. Jack wrote about his hunting adventures and exploits with the 270 in the magazine *Outdoor Life*, and his successes convinced many to try the cartridge. Elk were a serious passion for the Idaho born O'Connor, and with the new 270 he discovered he had extended his killing range by hundreds of yards over the traditional lever calibers like the 45/70 and .348 Win. The spire pointed bullets and the high velocity (3140 fps with the original 130 grain loading) gave the 270 a huge advantage over the round nose or flat point bullets that had to be used in the lever actions tubular magazines. Spire point bullets are far more aerodynamic than flat points and move efficiently through the air losing much less speed and energy at all ranges. It wasn't long before the 270 Win became one of the most popular cartridges for elk.

The bolt action rifle was a boon to the cartridge as well; stronger and more accurate than the levers, it was the perfect candidate for reloading and the 270 added more enthusiasts to the flock. In the end, the 270 stood firmly on its own two feet and won over supporters based on performance; a flat shooting, mild recoiling inherently accurate cartridge capable of taking game at long ranges.

Today, the 270 Winchester chambering is available in a mind boggling array of rifles in practically every action configuration, and by every manufacturer. It is a true sign of a classic cartridge when it is one of the chamberings offered with a new rifle line launch.

The most popular bullet weight for the .270 Winchester is undoubtedly the 130 grain load. Factory ammunition velocities generally range from about 2900 fps at the bottom end to 3140 fps at the top end, with the

## 270 Winchester

average around 3050 fps. 90 and 100 grain varmint bullet loads are available with velocities touching 3500 fps for the 90 grain. While the 130 grain remains the flagship of the line, the 140 grain has just enough ballistic superiority to give it my vote as the best weight for the round. Most ammunition companies offer a 150 grain load for the 270, but I'm not a fan of how the heavier bullet handicaps the cartridge.

Handloaders can achieve little velocity gains over today's factory loads, but accuracy can always be improved. A solid performer out of 22 and 23 inch barrels, my favorite powders include H4831, H4350 and Reloader 22.

One thing is certain, when the ballistics of the 270 Win is compared to any of its competition; it becomes embarrassingly evident that we haven't progressed very far in flat shooting rifle cartridge development in the 80 some years since 1925! The 270 Winchester, a timeless classic cartridge is still fresh and competitive today.



# 270 Winchester

## 130 Grain

Barrel Length = 26"

COAL = 3.340"

*Optimal performance may be achieved in your rifle  
at a different COAL. See page 148 for details.*

### 130 GR MATCH GRADE VLD HUNTING

G1 BC = 0.452 G7 BC = 0.231

Part # 27501 - 1 in 11" twist or faster



*We recommend using G7 BC to achieve the most  
accurate trajectory prediction.*

Powder	Start Load	Approx. Start Vel.	Max Load	Approx. Max Vel.	Approx. Fill Ratio
RE-17	47.5	2837	52.8	3115	88%
H414	49.5	2819	53.5	3036	87%
AA 4350	49.0	2808	54.3	3102	99%
IMR 4350	49.0	2768	54.4	3051	96%
HYBRID 100V	50.0	2849	54.5	3077	102%
H4350	50.5	2795	55.0	3045	96%
IMR 4831	50.0	2791	55.5	3084	98%
NORMA 204	50.5	2786	55.9	3085	96%
RAMSHOT HUNTER	51.0	2820	56.6	3118	96%
RE-19	51.5	2805	57.3	3122	102%
VIHT N160	52.0	2725	57.9	3038	106%
H4831 SC	53.0	2764	59.1	3105	102%
VIHT N560	54.5	2833	60.6	3184	104%
SUPREME 780	56.0	2797	60.8	3067	100%

**For bullet dimensional details, see page 239.**

WARNING - APPROACH MAXIMUM LOADS WITH CAUTION AS ALL RIFLES AND  
RELOADING TECHNIQUES WILL BE DIFFERENT.

*Additional safety information can be found on page 8.*

# 270 Winchester

## 140 Grain

Barrel Length = 26"

COAL = 3.340"

*Optimal performance may be achieved in your rifle at a different COAL. See page 148 for details.*

### 140 GR MATCH GRADE VLD HUNTING

G1 BC = 0.487 G7 BC = 0.248

Part # 27502 - 1 in 11" twist or faster



*We recommend using G7 BC to achieve the most accurate trajectory prediction.*

Powder	Start Load	Approx. Start Vel.	Max Load	Approx. Max Vel.	Approx. Fill Ratio
VARGET	43.0	2672	48.0	2923	88%
RE-17	46.5	2754	51.5	3007	87%
H414	48.0	2714	52.1	2931	86%
AA 4350	47.5	2711	52.6	2985	94%
IMR 4350	47.5	2672	53.0	2954	94%
HYBRID 100V	48.5	2742	53.0	2962	100%
H4350	49.5	2720	53.6	2942	94%
NORMA 204	49.0	2685	54.0	2955	94%
IMR 4831	49.0	2716	54.2	2984	97%
RAMSHOT HUNTER	49.0	2700	54.7	2995	91%
VIHT N160	48.5	2532	55.6	2900	99%
RE-19	50.5	2733	55.9	3020	101%
H4831 SC	51.5	2673	57.3	2989	101%
RE-22	52.5	2728	58.3	3045	102%
VIHT N560	53.5	2777	58.5	3058	100%

**For bullet dimensional details, see page 239.**

WARNING - APPROACH MAXIMUM LOADS WITH CAUTION AS ALL RIFLES AND RELOADING TECHNIQUES WILL BE DIFFERENT.

*Additional safety information can be found on page 8.*

# 270 Winchester

## 150 Grain

Barrel Length = 26"

COAL = 3.340"

*Optimal performance may be achieved in your rifle  
at a different COAL. See page 148 for details.*

### 150 GR MATCH GRADE VLD HUNTING

G1 BC = 0.531 G7 BC = 0.272

Part # 27503 - 1 in 10" twist or faster



*We recommend using G7 BC to achieve the most  
accurate trajectory prediction.*

Powder	Start Load	Approx. Start Vel.	Max Load	Approx. Max Vel.	Approx. Fill Ratio
RE-17	45.0	2647	50.3	2908	86%
IMR 4350	46.0	2637	51.2	2905	92%
H414	47.0	2627	51.2	2842	85%
AA 4350	46.5	2624	51.6	2888	92%
HYBRID 100V	47.5	2662	51.8	2865	99%
H4350	48.5	2635	52.7	2855	93%
NORMA 204	48.5	2628	53.0	2863	92%
IMR 4831	47.5	2605	53.2	2888	95%
RAMSHOT HUNTER	48.0	2619	53.7	2901	90%
VIHT N160	50.5	2605	54.7	2816	97%
RE-19	49.5	2646	54.9	2927	99%
H4831 SC	50.0	2592	55.7	2897	99%
RE-22	51.5	2669	57.2	2923	101%
VIHT N560	52.5	2699	57.4	2966	97%

**For bullet dimensional details, see page 239.**

WARNING - APPROACH MAXIMUM LOADS WITH CAUTION AS ALL RIFLES AND  
RELOADING TECHNIQUES WILL BE DIFFERENT.

*Additional safety information can be found on page 8.*