

# .38 Special +P

Since its introduction in 1899, the .38 Special has protected a century's worth of cops, been the queen bee of target cartridges and gracefully transitioned from black to smokeless powder. It has taught generations of kids like me to reload and shoot.

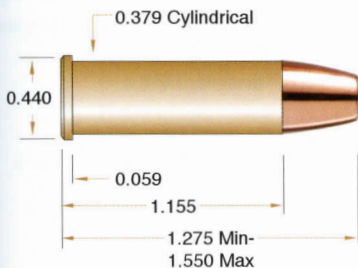
With automatic pistols the current rage, we tend to overlook the huge number of Smith & Wesson "J" frame revolvers riding in countless pockets nationwide. While some consider the .38 Special an antique, it continues to protect good people on a daily basis.



Can you shoot +Ps in your .38 Special revolver? The term +P refers to ammunition that is loaded to higher than standard pressure levels. Many manufacturers aren't clear on this. A friend called one and asked the question. The first time he called he was told he could—but a second call got the opposite answer. You obviously can shoot them, since the cartridge is exactly the same size. The real question is, should you? It might be best to carry small, lightweight revolvers loaded with +P rounds for defense, but practice with standard-pressure loads.

Loading the cartridge is typically a piece of cake with either lead or jacketed bullets. Problems arise only when someone tries to make a magnum out of it.

—Charles E. Petty



Case: Winchester

Primer: WSP

Case Trim Length: 1.145"

Barrel Length: 7.7"

Twist Rate: 1:18.75"

\*Roll crimp the case mouth into the cannelure.

\*These loads are only suitable for use in firearms designed to handle .38 Spl +P loads or chambered for the .357 Magnum.

