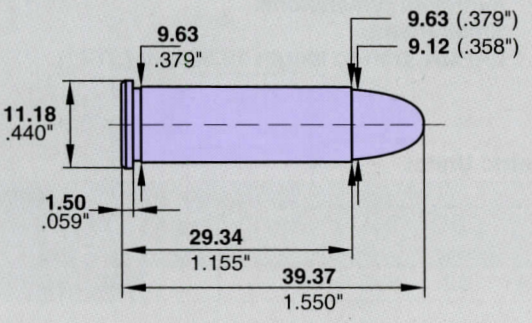
.38 Special

CIP max. dimensions in millimeters (inches)



Country of origin:	**USA**
Year of introduction:	**1902**
Max. bullet diameter:	**9.12 mm (.358")**
Max. cartridge length:	**39.37 mm (1.550")**
Max. shell length:	**29.34 mm (1.155"), trim to 29.10 mm (1.145")**
Max. CIP piezo pressure:	**150 MPa (21750 psi)**

The .38 Special, also known as the .38 Colt Special and the .38 S&W Special, was introduced by Smith & Wesson in 1902 for the S&W Military and Police Model revolver. Colt followed soon by introducing their version of the cartridge, which differs from the original only in the shape of the bullet nose. Today the .38 Special has widely replaced the .38 S&W Colt N.P. from service use and virtually all revolver manufacturers offer this chambering both for sporting and service applications. A number of good-quality lever-action carbines has been chambered for the .38 Special, too.

The .38 Special is widely considered as one of the best-balanced, all-round handgun cartridges ever developed. It is very accurate and is widely used for big bore handgun match shooting. It may be said that the .38 Special represents the same to a handgunner as the .308 Winchester is to the rifleman. The .38 Special can be used on everything from self-defence to plinking and target shooting, with excellent results.

The maximum loads listed in the following .38 Special reloading data represents SAAMI +P loads and should be used only in modern guns designed by the manufacturer for +P chamber pressure. These maximum loads must not be used in guns without +P-certification. For those firearms use starting loads as a maximum loads!

.38 Special

TEST COMPONENTS:

Test barrel: 170 mm (6½"), 1 in 18" twist, manufactured to meet CIP minimum dimensions.

Primers: Small Pistol

Cases: Sako, trim-to length 29.10 mm (1.145")

Reloading Data, Metric Units:

Bullet				Powder	Starting Load			Maximum Load			
Weight	Type	Mfg.	C.O.L.	Type	Weight		Velocity	Weight		Velocity	Pressure
[g]			[mm]		[g]	[grs]	[m/s]	[g]	[grs]	[m/s]	[MPa]
7.1	HP/XTP	Hornady	36.5	N320	0.37	5.7	362	0.41	6.3	403	127.5
				N340	0.42	6.5	363	0.46	7.1	400	127.5
				3N37	0.50	7.7	373	0.55	8.4	414	127.5
				N350	0.46	7.1	374	0.52	8.0	412	127.5
8.0	LSWC	Intercast	36.5	N320	0.31	4.8	329	0.35	5.4	368	127.5
				N340	0.39	6.0	343	0.43	6.6	381	127.5
				3N37	0.43	6.6	346	0.47	7.3	380	127.5
				N350	0.41	6.4	351	0.46	7.2	382	127.5
8.1	FP/XTP	Hornady	36.5	N320	0.34	5.3	318	0.38	5.9	356	127.5
				N340	0.40	6.2	336	0.45	6.9	373	127.5
				3N37	0.46	7.2	340	0.50	7.7	383	127.5
				N350	0.45	7.0	345	0.51	7.9	390	127.5
8.1	FP	Rainier	36.5	N320	0.31	4.7	310	0.35	5.4	345	127.5
				N340	0.37	5.7	325	0.43	6.6	364	127.5
				N350	0.41	6.3	326	0.47	7.2	370	127.5
				3N37	0.43	6.6	333	0.49	7.5	379	127.5
9.1	HP	Speer	36.5	N320	0.32	5.0	291	0.36	5.6	338	127.5
				N340	0.38	5.8	299	0.42	6.4	347	127.5
				3N37	0.43	6.6	308	0.48	7.4	360	127.5
				N350	0.42	6.4	306	0.46	7.1	354	127.5
9.4	LSWC	Intercast	37.5	N320	0.27	4.1	286	0.31	4.7	318	127.5
				N340	0.35	5.3	315	0.39	6.0	356	127.5
				3N37	0.37	5.6	305	0.40	6.2	342	127.5
				N350	0.38	5.8	318	0.44	6.7	363	127.5
9.5	JHP	Speer	35.0	N340	0.32	5.0	281	0.37	5.7	321	127.5
				3N37	0.37	5.7	284	0.41	6.3	326	127.5
				N350	0.36	5.6	284	0.40	6.2	322	127.5
9.6	LWC	Sako	30.0	N320	0.21	3.2	250	0.24	3.7	277	127.5
				N330	0.23	3.6	256	0.26	4.1	290	127.5
				N340	0.25	3.9	263	0.28	4.4	294	127.5
				N350	0.28	4.3	272	0.31	4.8	307	127.5

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INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE WITH CAUTION!

LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED

.38 Special

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Reloading Data, Metric Units:

Bullet				Powder	Starting Load			Maximum Load			
Weight	Type	Mfg.	C.O.L.	Type	Weight		Velocity	Weight		Velocity	Pressure
[g]			[mm]		[g]	[grs]	[m/s]	[g]	[grs]	[m/s]	[MPa]
10.2	HP	Speer	36.5	N320	0.27	4.2	242	**0.31**	**4.7**	**290**	**127.5**
				N340	0.34	5.2	267	**0.38**	**5.9**	**319**	**127.5**
				3N37	0.40	6.1	279	**0.44**	**6.8**	**320**	**127.5**
				N350	0.38	5.9	282	**0.43**	**6.7**	**325**	**127.5**
10.2	FP	Rainier	37.5	N320	0.28	4.3	257	**0.33**	**5.1**	**298**	**127.5**
				N340	0.34	5.3	268	**0.39**	**6.1**	**311**	**127.5**
				N350	0.38	5.9	281	**0.43**	**6.7**	**321**	**127.5**
				3N37	0.39	6.1	282	**0.44**	**6.9**	**326**	**127.5**
10.4	LFN	Intercast	37.5	N340	0.35	5.4	315	**0.39**	**6.0**	**351**	**127.5**
				3N37	0.37	5.7	298	**0.42**	**6.5**	**340**	**127.5**
				N350	0.37	5.7	309	**0.41**	**6.3**	**340**	**127.5**

Reloading Data, English Units:

NOTE: THE LISTED MAXIMUM LOADS ARE SAAMI +P LOADS!

Bullet				Powder	Starting Load		Maximum Load		
Weight	Type	Mfg.	C.O.L.	Type	Weight	Velocity	Weight	Velocity	Pressure
[grs]			[in.]		[grs]	[fps]	[grs]	[fps]	[psi]
110	HP/XTP	Hornady	1.437	N320	5.7	1188	**5.9**	**1230**	**18500**
				N340	6.5	1191	**6.7**	**1229**	**18500**
				3N37	7.7	1224	**8.0**	**1266**	**18500**
				N350	7.1	1227	**7.4**	**1266**	**18500**
124	LSWC	Intercast	1.437	N320	4.8	1079	**5.0**	**1119**	**18500**
				N340	6.0	1125	**6.2**	**1164**	**18500**
				3N37	6.6	1135	**6.8**	**1170**	**18500**
				N350	6.4	1152	**6.6**	**1183**	**18500**
125	FP/XTP	Hornady	1.437	N320	5.3	1043	**5.4**	**1082**	**18500**
				N340	6.2	1102	**6.4**	**1140**	**18500**
				3N37	7.2	1115	**7.3**	**1160**	**18500**
				N350	7.0	1132	**7.2**	**1178**	**18500**
125	FP	Rainier	1.437	N320	4.7	1017	**5.0**	**1053**	**18500**
				N340	5.7	1066	**6.0**	**1106**	**18500**
				N350	6.3	1070	**6.6**	**1115**	**18500**
				3N37	6.6	1093	**6.9**	**1140**	**18500**

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INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE WITH CAUTION!

LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED

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Reloading Data, English Units:

NOTE: THE LISTED MAXIMUM LOADS ARE SAAMI +P LOADS!

Bullet				Powder	Starting Load		Maximum Load		
Weight [grs]	Type	Mfg.	C.O.L. [in.]	Type	Weight [grs]	Velocity [fps]	Weight [grs]	Velocity [fps]	Pressure [psi]
140	HP	Speer	1.437	N320	5.0	955	**5.1**	**1003**	**18500**
				N340	5.8	981	**6.1**	**1030**	**18500**
				3N37	6.6	1010	**6.9**	**1064**	**18500**
				N350	6.4	1004	**6.7**	**1053**	**18500**
145	LSWC	Intercast	1.476	N320	4.1	938	**4.4**	**971**	**18500**
				N340	5.3	1033	**5.6**	**1076**	**18500**
				3N37	5.6	1001	**5.9**	**1039**	**18500**
				N350	5.8	1043	**6.2**	**1089**	**18500**
146	JHP	Speer	1.378	N340	5.0	922	**5.2**	**963**	**18500**
				3N37	5.7	932	**5.9**	**975**	**18500**
				N350	5.6	932	**5.7**	**971**	**18500**
148	LWC	Sako	1.181	N320	3.2	820	**3.4**	**848**	**18500**
				N330	3.6	840	**3.7**	**875**	**18500**
				N340	3.9	863	**4.0**	**895**	**18500**
				N350	4.3	892	**4.5**	**928**	**18500**
158	HP	Speer	1.437	N320	4.2	794	**4.4**	**843**	**18500**
				N340	5.2	876	**5.4**	**929**	**18500**
				3N37	6.1	915	**6.4**	**957**	**18500**
				N350	5.9	925	**6.1**	**969**	**18500**
158	FP	Rainier	1.476	N320	4.3	843	**4.6**	**885**	**18500**
				N340	5.3	879	**5.5**	**923**	**18500**
				N350	5.9	922	**6.1**	**963**	**18500**
				3N37	6.1	925	**6.3**	**970**	**18500**
160	LFN	Intercast	1.476	N340	5.4	1033	**5.6**	**1070**	**18500**
				3N37	5.7	978	**6.0**	**1021**	**18500**
				N350	5.7	1014	**5.9**	**1046**	**18500**

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD - USE WITH CAUTION!

LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED