40 Smith &Wesson

The 40 S&W is a relative newcomer to the semi-auto pistol arena. Smith & Wesson and Winchester jointly announced the cartridge in January of 1990.

The 40 S&W resulted from law enforcement interest in the potent 10mm Auto cartridge. Administrators considered full-power 10mm ammo too powerful for typical police applications and 10mm pistols tended to be large. To remedy this, the 10mm was loaded lighter to fire 180-grain bullets at 980 ft/sec. This modification reduced recoil and gave excellent ballistic performance but did not address the issue of pistol bulk for plain-clothes officers or those with small hands.

What they wanted was a more powerful cartridge that fit the smaller 9mm pistol frame. Winchester developed a shortened 10mm loaded to the law enforcement velocity specification (180-grain bullet at 980 ft/sec). Operating pressures and loaded cartridge length of the 40 S&W are essentially the same as the 9mm Luger. Thus a cartridge having energy levels approaching the 45 Auto cartridge was available in a package not much different from standard 9mm pistols.

The new combo was an immediate success. Factory ammunition is available with a wide choice of bullet weights and types. Speer offers three weights in the Gold Dot hollow point for hunting and defense, and in its TMJ line for plinking and target practice.

Gunwriter Charles Petty has done extensive accuracy testing with the 40 S&W. He found that quick-burning powders seldom give top accuracy unless downloaded and that propellants in the middle range of burning rates performed best. Our tests here at Speer substantiate Petty's findings.

The first 165-grain factory loads were reduced-pressure loads for law enforcement but the current practice is to load 165-grain bullets to full pressures. The 165-grain loads here reflect that trend. However, several of our 165-grain start loads meet the 980-ft/sec velocity level of the older "40 Lite" loads and are so marked. As such, they are quite useful for accuracy loading and to reduce recoil in the newer 40-caliber subcompacts.

The trend to ultra-compact 40 S&W pistols for concealed carry meant the 40 suffered the same problems in short barrels as the 45 Auto—jacketed hollow points that expand nicely in longer barrels did not behave as well at sub-compact pistol velocities. This led Speer to develop Gold Dot Short Barrel ammo and component bullets. The 40-caliber

0.401"	40-180 FN	40-180 CM
Weight, grains	180	180
Lead Alloy	hard	hard
Ballistic Coefficient	0.143	0.135
Sectional Density	0.181	0.181
COAL Tested:	1.560"	1.575"
RCBS Mould No.	82066	82306

Cowboy ACTION SHOOTING DATA

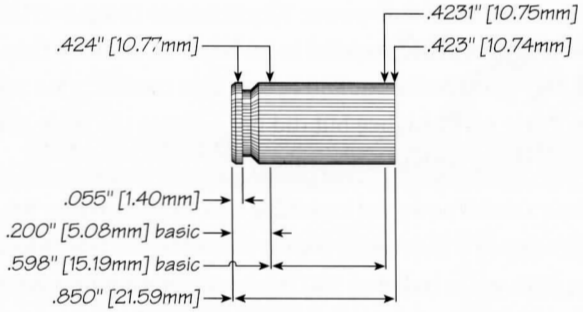
	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
Propellant	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Unique	6.4	776	**7.4**	846
TiteGroup	4.9	771	**5.5**	829
AA No.2 Impr.	5.1	744	**5.7**	828
Red Dot	4.3	726	**5.2**	817
Bullseye	4.5	726	**5.3**	810
Viht. N350	7.8	772	**8.4**	808
AA Nitro 100	4.3	691	**5.0**	805
H. Universal	6.5	759	**7.0**	789
700-X	4.6	754	**5.1**	789
American Select	4.6	732	**5.2**	788
231	5.2	694	**6.0**	781
Trail Boss	4.9	717	**5.4**	744

NOTE: *We sell bullet moulds, not cast bullets. These bullets were cast in RCBS moulds. Contact your dealer for more information on the RCBS line of premium bullet casting equipment, or visit on the Internet at www.rcbs.com.*

*Maximum Loads should be used with CAUTION • C = Compressed Load • *Magnum Primer used with this powder.*

180-grain Gold Dot Short Barrel hollow point has a greater cavity volume than other Gold Dots for excellent expansion at short-barrel velocities.

Reloading the 40 S&W is no different from reloading the 45 Auto. As with other semi-auto cartridges, taper crimping is recommended. Note that the 40 S&W uses small pistol primers compared to the 10mm, which uses large primers. The loads shown do not exceed the industry pressure maximum of 35,000 psi.



Max. Case Length:	0.850"	**Cart. Case:**	Speer
Trim-to Length:	0.840"	**Primer:**	CCI 500
Max Cart. OAL:	1.135"	**Test Firearm:**	Smith & Wesson M4006
RCBS Shell Holder:	#27	**Barrel Length:**	4"

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE: *These loads were developed and tested for safe use in HANDGUNS. Not all loads may be suitable for use in a carbine or rifle chambered for this cartridge. If loading for a carbine or rifle, choose from among the loads developing the highest handgun velocities and load just a few rounds. Thoroughly test this small sample in your firearm in slow-fire mode, insuring that you achieve proper feeding and ejection. Be certain that all bullets exit the barrel; watching the target for each bullet strike is the best way to know that the load produces sufficient gas volume for a longer barrel.*

0.400"	40/10mm TMJ FN	40/10mm GDHP
Weight, grains	155	155
Ballistic Coefficient	0.125	0.123
Sectional Density	0.138	0.138
COAL Tested:	1.120"	1.120"
Speer Part No.	4399	4400

	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
Propellant	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Blue Dot	10.0	1113	**11.0**	1221
Power Pistol	8.0	1112	**9.0**	1213
Unique	7.2	1048	**8.0**	1207
H. Universal	6.2	995	**7.0**	1159
TiteGroup	5.4	1011	**6.2**	1144
AA No. 5	7.9	956	**8.7**	1116
WSF	6.7	981	**7.5**	1090
AA No. 7	10.0	984	**11.0**	1089
Viht. N350	6.8	858	**7.6**	1061
HS-7	9.0	921	**10.0**	1051
231	5.8	867	**6.5**	1038
HS-6	7.3	786	**9.0**	1033
Bullseye	5.4	905	**6.0**	1023
American Select	5.0	931	**5.6**	1001
AA No. 2 Impr.	5.8	840	**6.5**	956

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0.400"	40/10mm TMJ FN	40/10mm GDHP
Weight, grains	165	165
Ballistic Coefficient	0.135	0.138
Sectional Density	0.147	0.147
COAL Tested:	1.120"	1.120"
Speer Part No.	4410	4397

	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
Propellant	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Viht. N350	6.7†	989	**7.5**	1106
HS-7	9.0	1008	**9.8**	1085
WSF	6.2	1007	**6.8**	1082
Power Pistol	7.0†	978	**7.8**	1081
H. Universal	5.7†	999	**6.2**	1074
AA No. 5	7.6	916	**8.5**	1067
Unique	6.2	882	**7.2**	1064
HS-6	8.0	1012	**8.5**	1060
AA No. 7	9.6†	951	**10.5**	1041
TiteGroup	5.0†	957	**5.4**	1035
231	5.8†	955	**6.3**	1031
Bullseye	5.3†	949	**5.8**	1022

NOTE: *Loads marked "†" approximate 165-gr law enforcement loads ("40 Lite")*

0.400"	40/10mm GDHP SB	40/10mm TMJ FN	40/10mm GDHP
Weight, grains	180	180	180
Ballistic Coefficient	0.148	0.143	0.143
Sectional Density	0.161	0.161	0.161
COAL Tested:	1.120"	1.120"	1.120"
Speer Part No.	4401	4402	4406

	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
Propellant	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
HS-7	8.3	894	**9.3**	1027
700-X	5.0	953	**5.5**	1020
Blue Dot	8.0	922	**8.9**	1018
Power Pistol	6.2	890	**7.2**	1013
Unique	6.0	849	**6.7**	1000
Viht. N350	6.2	804	**6.9**	987
SR 7625	5.4	884	**6.0**	981
AA No. 7	8.7	895	**9.7**	972
AA No. 5	7.0	791	**7.8**	969
Viht. 3N37	6.6	841	**7.2**	960
HS-6	7.3	786	**8.2**	942
Bullseye	4.9	783	**5.5**	929
TiteGroup	4.0	793	**4.7**	917
H. Universal	5.3	802	**5.9**	904
Amer. Select	4.3	770	**5.1**	865

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