

### 45 Auto

The 45 Automatic is among one of the most popular handgun cartridges ever and among the most widely reloaded. John Browning developed the cartridge around 1905 for a prototype service pistol. The 1905 version propelled a 200-grain full-jacket bullet at 900 ft/sec. However, U.S. Army Ordnance wanted a pistol with additional safeties and a heavier bullet. They were still stinging from the poor performance of the 38 Colt cartridge during the Philippine insurrection.

Browning designed a stronger pistol and chose a 230-grain bullet at 850 ft/sec, virtually identical to the 45 Colt cartridge's performance in barrels of equivalent length. The military named the new version, "Pistol, 45-Caliber, Model of 1911." The rest, as they say, is history.

Although born for battle, both the pistol and the cartridge proved popular for target shooting. In a modified M1911, the 45 Auto cartridge is capable of outstanding accuracy. Well-worn military issue pistols seldom let the cartridge reveal its accuracy potential.

The M1911 45 Auto pistol is not as difficult to master as rumor has it. It is a big handful with a pronounced but manageable recoil. The handloader can assemble light target or practice loads to reduce recoil. The Speer® 200-grain lead semi-wadcutter and the 185-grain TMJ® bullets are excellent choices for target practice and Bullseye competition.

For light game hunting or defense, the 185, 200 and 230-grain Gold Dot® hollow points are designed for optimum penetration and expansion. For economical practice, we make our renowned TMJ bullets in the same three weights.

We developed Gold Dot Short Barrel ammo and bullets to address the new generation of sub-compact pistols. The 230-grain Gold Dot Short Barrel bullet has a very large cavity to yield optimum terminal effects when fired from barrels as short as 3¾ inches. It uses the same loading data as the regular Gold Dot of the same weight.

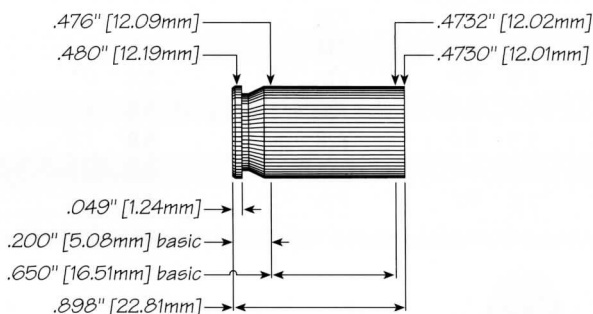
We recommend taper crimping all 45 Auto loads shown. Observe the loading lengths we show for best feeding and do not load shorter than the lengths we list.

In the past few years, a number of factory 45 Auto cartridges were fitted with small primer pockets for lead-free priming. There is no safety hazard in reloading these cases with standard primers but the loads here were developed with standard large pistol

primers. A small primer should have no trouble igniting a 45 Auto charge but may produce slightly less pressure, something to keep in mind when loading target loads. Avoid mixing small- and large-pocket cases when loading for accuracy.

In spite of many new cartridges for semi-auto pistols, the 45 Auto has remained strong. Some pundits predicted that new 9mm and 40 S&W pistols would ultimately "kill off" the 45 Auto and the 1911 but, as with many predictions, this one seems far off the mark. There are more 1911-type 45 Auto pistols on the market today than at any other time.

The industry pressure limit for the 45 Auto is established at 21,000 psi; these loads are within that limit.



**Max. Case Length:** 0.898"  
**Trim-to Length:** 0.888"  
**Max Cart. OAL:** 1.275"  
**RCBS Shell Holder:** #3

**Cart. Case:** Speer  
**Primer:** CCI 300  
**Test Firearm:** SIG P220  
**Barrel Length:** 4.4"

**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.



<b>0.452"</b>	<b>45 LSWC</b>
Weight, grains	200
Ballistic Coefficient	0.078
Sectional Density	0.140
COAL Tested:	1.190"
Speer Part No.	4677

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Red Dot	4.1	749	<b>4.5</b>	831
Herco	5.5	750	<b>6.0</b>	826
SR 7625	4.7	726	<b>5.2</b>	811
Bullseye	4.2	744	<b>4.6</b>	807
H. Universal	4.9	710	<b>5.4</b>	804
231	4.6	739	<b>5.0</b>	803
SR 4756	5.3	728	<b>5.8</b>	800
Unique	4.9	716	<b>5.4</b>	790
700-X	3.8	715	<b>4.2</b>	790

**NOTE:** These loads are not necessarily at maximum pressure. They are held to velocities popular for target shooting.



<b>0.452"</b>	<b>45 LRN</b>
Weight, grains	230
Ballistic Coefficient	0.160
Sectional Density	0.161
COAL Tested:	1.270"
Speer Part No.	4690

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Unique	5.3	764	<b>5.8</b>	849
SR 4756	6.0	783	<b>6.5</b>	848
Herco	5.9	779	<b>6.4</b>	845
Green Dot	4.8	772	<b>5.3</b>	842
Red Dot	4.7	765	<b>5.1</b>	841
700-X	4.3	767	<b>4.7</b>	838
H. Universal	5.2	748	<b>5.5</b>	837
231	5.1	760	<b>5.6</b>	831



<b>0.451"</b>	<b>45 TMJ Match SWC</b>
Weight, grains	185
Ballistic Coefficient	0.090
Sectional Density	0.130
COAL Tested:	1.275"
Speer Part No.	4473

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
231	5.0	717	5.5	807
Red Dot	4.5	758	4.9	803
700-X	4.3	731	4.7	798
Unique	5.0	671	5.8	796
Bullseye	4.5	770	4.9	795
AA No. 5	7.2	691	8.0	793
SR 7625	5.1	705	5.6	793
HP-38	4.9	730	5.4	792
PB	5.0	719	5.5	770

**NOTE:** These loads are not necessarily at maximum pressure. They are held to velocities popular for target shooting.

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



0.451"	45 GDHP	45 TMJ FN
Weight, grains	185	185
Ballistic Coefficient	0.109	0.094
Sectional Density	0.130	0.130
COAL Tested:	1.200"	1.200"
Speer Part No.	4470	4476

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Power Pistol	8.2	939	9.5	1047
AA No. 5	9.5	956	10.6	1034
Unique	7.3	904	8.2	1015
700-X	5.8	889	6.5	997
H. Universal	6.9	851	7.7	991
Bullseye	5.7	874	6.4	986
SR 7625	7.0	810	7.8	981
AA No. 2	6.0	850	6.7	970
231	6.6	837	7.4	954
AA No. 7	10.8	825	12.0	947
American Select	5.5	834	6.2	941
HS-6	8.9	832	9.9	926
Viht. 3N37	8.1	804	9.0	915
WSF	6.9	814	7.7	885



0.451"	45 TMJ FN	45 TMJ Match SWC	45 GDHP
Weight, grains	200	200	200
Ballistic Coefficient	0.102	0.128	0.138
Sectional Density	0.140	0.140	0.140
COAL Tested:	1.200"	1.275"	1.200"
Speer Part No.	4471	4475	4478

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Blue Dot	9.4	877	10.5	1010
Unique	6.5	860	7.3	984
H. Universal	6.3	829	7.0	967
HS-6	8.5	823	9.5	956
Viht. N340	6.3	818	7.0	953
Power Pistol	7.0	823	8.3	952
Bullseye	5.2	845	5.8	934
WSF	6.4	824	7.2	934
Viht. 3N37	7.3	769	8.2	910
AA No. 5	8.1	798	9.0	900
AA No. 7	9.9	791	11.0	891
231	5.6	769	6.3	857

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0.451"	45 Colt JHP
Weight, grains	225
Ballistic Coefficient	0.169
Sectional Density	0.158
COAL Tested:	1.200"
Speer Part No.	4479

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Blue Dot	9.0	814	10.0	935
Power Pistol	7.3	814	8.2	920
Viht. N350	7.2	797	8.0	907
Unique	6.4	835	7.2	906
AA No. 5	8.1	773	9.0	887
AA No. 7	9.7	736	10.7	877
WSF	6.3	774	7.0	860
Bullseye	5.0	782	5.6	856
H. Universal	5.8	725	6.5	845
HS-6	8.0	740	9.0	841
Viht. 3N37	7.2	730	8.0	840
231	5.4	787	6.0	787



<b>0.451"</b>	<b>45 TMJ RN</b>
Weight, grains	230
Ballistic Coefficient	0.153
Sectional Density	0.162
COAL Tested:	1.260"
Speer Part No.	4480

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Power Pistol	7.0	806	8.1	916
Viht. N340	5.5	760	6.3	872
HS-6	7.8	773	8.5	863
231	5.6	789	6.2	858
H. Universal	5.5	730	6.3	841
Bullseye	5.2	779	5.7	840
Red Dot	4.8	770	5.3	839
Unique	5.5	728	6.5	832
700-X	4.6	710	5.1	815

**SAFETY NOTICE:** Do not use these loads with the 230-grain Gold Dot HP (#4483). Gold Dot loads are in the next data block.

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





0.451"	45 GDHP SB	45 GDHP
Weight, grains	230	230
Ballistic Coefficient	0.148	0.143
Sectional Density	0.162	0.162
COAL Tested:	1.200"	1.200"
Speer Part No.	4482	4483

Propellant	START CHARGE		MAXIMUM CHARGE	
	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec	Weight, grs	Muzzle Velocity, ft/sec
Blue Dot	8.1	796	9.0	893
Power Pistol	6.3	759	7.4	881
HS-7	8.5	724	9.5	849
Viht. N340	5.4	709	6.1	836
Viht. N350	6.3	730	7.1	826
700-X	4.5	748	5.0	818
Bullseye	4.5	742	5.0	812
H. Universal	5.4	704	6.0	806
Unique	5.4	721	6.0	806
HS-6	7.2	702	8.0	799
SR 7625	5.4	664	6.0	796
AA No. 7	8.6	690	9.6	794
AA No. 5	7.0	687	7.8	792
231	5.0	683	5.6	765

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