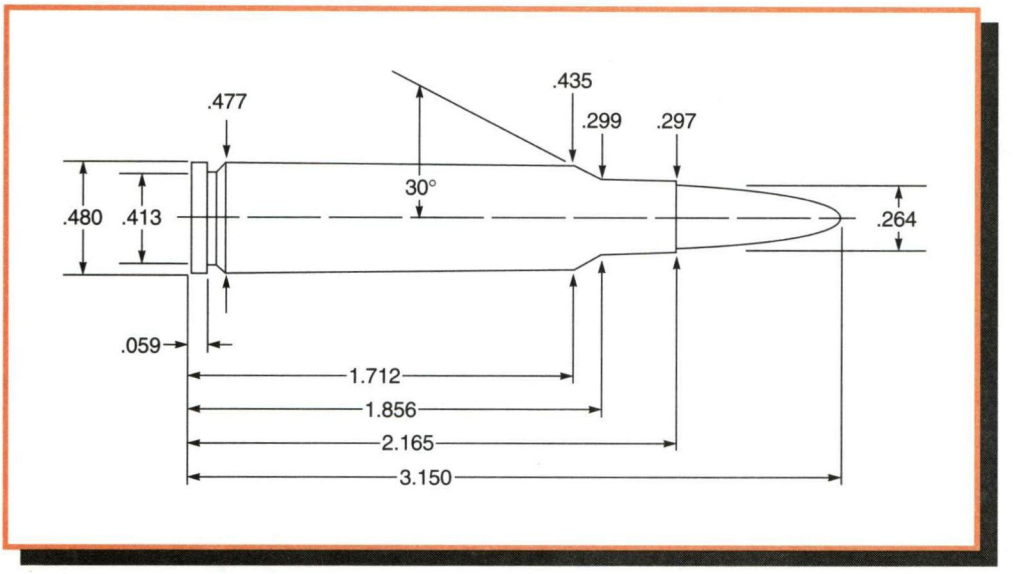
6.5 x 55mm Swedish Mauser



Comments:

This was for many years the least known of the Mauser military cartridges to American shooters. Recent importation of large numbers of inexpensive — and well made — Swedish Mausers have popularized this fine old cartridge as never before. The accuracy of many of these rifles rivals that of currently produced factory models. Indeed, most American rifle manufacturers have added this chambering in the past few years. Scandinavian hunters have used this cartridge for many years on game as large as moose as well as a match cartridge. Its combination of excellent accuracy and low recoil have found favor with American shooters as well. The 6.5x55 suffered for many years due to the lack-or great expense-of factory ammo. Shooters loading for the Swede should not under any circumstance attempt to form brass from 30-06 cases. Case diameter of the 30-06 runs .008" to .010" smaller than the Swedish cartridge. Such reformed cases will bulge dramatically when fired, or worse.

All major ammunition manufacturers currently offer loadings for this caliber as well as bulk brass so such case forming operations are unnecessary. Although well made, shooters loading for any of the M94, M96, or M38 Swedish military rifles should work up loads cautiously, observe for pressure signs, and back off accordingly should any arise. The same warning applies to any Norwegian issue Krag-Jorgensen rifle one may be loading for. SAAMI established a Maximum Average Pressure (MAP) of 46,000 CUP in deference to design of these older military actions. Powders in the medium to medium-slow range usually give the best results. IMR-4895 and IMR-4064 usually produce excellent results with bullets up to 140-grains. Many surplus rifles show variation in the groove diameter and the Swedish Mausers are no exception. Shooters should slug their bore and size accordingly.

Test Components:

Cases . . . . . .Federal
Trim-to Length . . . . . .2.155"
Primers . . . . . .Federal 210
Primer Size . . . . . .Large Rifle
Lyman Shell Holder . . . . . .No. 27
Jacketed Bullets Used . . . . . .Sierra HP #1710, 100 gr.
Nosler Ballistic Tip #26120, 120 gr.
Hornady SP, #2620, 129 gr.
Sierra HPBT, #1740, 140 gr.
Hornady RN, #2640, 160 gr.
Cast Bullets Used . . . . . .(sized to .264" dia)
*gas check bullets *#266469, 140 gr.
*#266673, 150 gr.

Test Specifications:
(Velocity Only)

Firearm Used . . . . . .Swedish Mauser M38
Barrel Length . . . . . .24"
Twist . . . . . .1-7½"
Groove Dia. . . . . .264"

6.5 x 55mm Swedish Mauser

100 gr. Jacketed HP
2.850" OAL

BC: .259
SD: .205

Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure
IMR-4895	39.0	2671	—	43.5	3027	—
IMR-4064	39.5	2654	—	44.0	2990	—
Varget	35.0	2351	—	39.0	2693	—
N150	37.0	2419	—	41.0	2745	—
N550	39.5	2399	—	44.0	2728	—
AA2700	41.5	2441	—	46.0	2790	—
H-414	45.0	2724	—	50.0	3034	—
XMR-4350	43.0	2407	—	48.0	2784	—
RX19	**46.0**	**2612**	—	51.0+	2939	—

129 gr. Jacketed SP
3.035" OAL

BC: .445
SD: .264

Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure
IMR-4895	35.0	2301	—	39.0	2567	—
IMR-4064	**36.5**	**2355**	—	40.5	2602	—
H-414	39.5	2343	—	44.0	2570	—
N160	41.5	2353	—	46.0	2600	—
N560	43.5	2352	—	48.5	2603	—
XMR-4350	41.0	2235	—	45.5	2547	—
RX19	41.5	2355	—	46.5	2615	—

160 gr. Jacketed RN
3.035" OAL

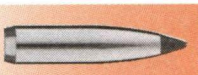
BC: .283
SD: .328

Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure
H-414	37.0	2108	—	41.0	2314	—
N160	38.7	2125	—	43.0	2347	—
N560	41.5	2162	—	46.0	2370	—
XMR-4350	39.5	2065	—	44.0	2330	—
RX19	38.7	2061	—	43.0	2317	—
IMR-4831	38.7	2100	—	43.0	2339	—
XMR-3100	39.5	2003	—	44.0	2269	—
H-4831SC	41.5	2166	—	46.0	2388	—
RX22	41.5	2129	—	**46.0**	**2361**	—

#266673
150gr. (#2 Alloy) 3.025" OAL

BC: .305
SD: .307

Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure
AA#9	13.0	1472	—	17.0	1724	—
2400	13.0	1444	—	18.0	1726	—
SR-4759	**16.5**	**1608**	—	24.0	2044	—
IMR-4227	17.5	1619	—	25.0	2044	—
XMP-5744	18.0	1605	—	27.0	2136	—
IMR-4198	18.0	1627	—	26.0	2079	—
RX7	18.0	1619	—	27.0	2108	—



120 gr. Jacketed Ballistic Tip
3.000" OAL

BC: .458
SD: .246

Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure
IMR-4895	37.0	2474	—	41.0	2762	—
IMR-4064	36.0	2406	—	40.0	2643	—
Varget	35.0	2383	—	39.0	2606	—
N150	36.5	2431	—	**40.5**	**2652**	—
N550	39.5	2497	—	44.0	2747	—
AA2700	40.0	2413	—	44.0	2652	—
H-414	40.0	2379	—	44.5	2664	—
XMR-4350	41.5	2374	—	46.0	2657	—
RX19	43.0	2459	—	48.0	2740	—

140 gr. Jacketed HPBT
3.050" OAL

BC: .526
SD: .287

Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure
IMR-4895	32.5	2177	—	**36.5**	**2370**	—
IMR-4064	33.5	2188	—	37.5	2410	—
Varget	33.5	2251	—	37.0	2440	—
H-414	37.5	2222	—	41.5	2455	—
N160	39.5	2273	—	44.0	2512	—
N560	42.0	2300	—	47.0	2574	—
IMR-4350	37.5	2180	—	42.0	2455	—
XMR-4350	39.5	2163	—	44.0	2445	—
RX19	40.0	2234	—	44.5	2521	—
XMR-3100	41.0	2162	—	45.5	2475	—
H4831SC	41.5	2258	—	46.0	2508	—
RX22	42.3	2275	—	47.0	2576	—

#266469
140gr. (#2 Alloy) 2.925" OAL

BC: .323
SD: .286

Powder	Sugg Starting Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure	Max Load Grains	Velocity fps	Pressure
AA#9	12.5	1479	—	16.5	1765	—
2400	12.5	1435	—	17.0	1741	—
SR-4759	13.0	1375	—	25.0	2199	—
IMR-4227	**17.0**	**1630**	—	25.0	2098	—
XMP-5744	18.5	1674	—	25.5	2111	—
IMR-4198	15.0	1443	—	26.0	2091	—
RX7	15.0	1425	—	27.0	2182	—

Note: Loads shown in shaded panels are maximum.
Loads shown in bold designate potentially most accurate load.
\+ Designates a compressed powder load.