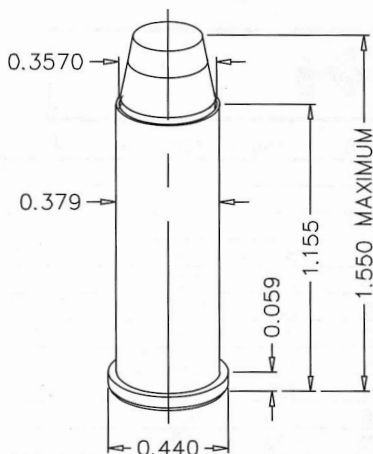


38 Special



Test Specifications/ Components

Firearm Used: Smith & Wesson K-38

Barrel Length: 6"

Twist: 1 x 18 3/4"

Case: Starline

Trim-to Length: 1.150"

Primer: CCI-500 & *CCI-550

Remarks:

Introduced in 1902, the .38 Special has become one of our all time classic revolver cartridges. The case itself is an outgrowth of the old .38 Long Colt, infamous for its failure to effectively stop the charging Moros during the Philippine insurrection of 1898-1901.

Although the army shifted back to a .45

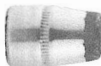
caliber sidearm as a result of this experience, the .38 Long Colt underwent a major face lift as well. Doomed to obsolescence as a military cartridge, it spawned what was to become the most popular revolver cartridge ever; the .38 Special.

With legions of police officers and target shooters, the .38 Special is probably the most frequently reloaded revolver cartridge in the United States. After serving as our number one police cartridge for many decades, it has begun to slip from favor for law enforcement duties. It is slowly being replaced by more powerful numbers such as the .357 Magnum, and pistols offering greater fire-power such as the 9mm Luger. However, even in the face of newer advancements, the .38 is still the standard issue duty weapon for a great many law enforcement agencies.

The .38 Special has earned a well deserved reputation for superb accuracy. It is an incredibly well balanced cartridge, working well with a wide variety of component combinations. For this reason, it is generally regarded as the easiest of all handgun cartridges to reload. In this respect, it is an ideal first cartridge for the novice handloader. Fast to medium-fast burning powders, such as Bullseye, 231, and Unique are generally excellent choices for the .38 Special. As with any other cartridge to be used in a revolver, the .38 Special requires a roll or profile crimp for best results. Despite its age, the .38 Special is still one of the most versatile and useful cartridges in existence, and will be with us for many years to come.

38 Special continued

#8300 .357" 110 gr. JHC Blitz
C.O.A.L. 1.450"



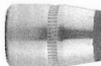
Powder/Velocity→	1000	1050	1100	1150	1200
Bullseye	4.8	5.1	5.4		
231	5.2	5.6	6.0		
AA-No. 2	5.6	5.8			
Viht N320	5.1	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.4
AA-No. 5		8.6	8.8	9.0	9.3
Unique	5.8	6.2	6.6	7.0	
*HS-6		6.7	7.3	7.9	8.5
Viht N340	6.2	6.5	6.8	7.1	7.3
Viht 3N37	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.8	8.1
*Blue Dot	8.8	9.2	9.6	10.0	10.4
Energy/ft.lbs.	244	269	295	323	352

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	Unique	6.6	1100	295
Hunting Load	*HS-6	8.5	1200	352

#8310 .357" 125 gr. JSP
C.O.A.L. 1.450"



#8320 .357" 125 gr. JHC
C.O.A.L. 1.450"



Powder/Velocity→	900	950	1000	1050	1100	1150
Bullseye	4.6	4.9	5.1			
231	4.8	5.3	5.8			
AA-No. 2	5.0	5.3	5.6			
Viht N320	4.8	5.1	5.4	5.7	5.9	
AA-No. 5	6.4	7.0	7.6	8.2		
Unique	5.2	5.6	6.0	6.4	6.8	
Univ. Clays	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	
WAP	6.7	7.0	7.4	7.8		
*HS-6	6.6	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.8	8.1
*Blue Dot		8.4	8.9	9.4		
IMR-4227	13.5	14.2				
Energy/ft.lbs.	225	250	278	306	336	367

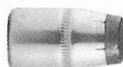
	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	Unique	6.0	1000	278
Hunting Load	*HS-6	8.1	1150	367

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION

LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

38 Special continued

#8325 .357" 140 gr. JHC
C.O.A.L. 1.450"



Powder†/Velocity→	850	900	950	1000	1050
Bullseye	4.5	4.8	5.1		
231	4.9	5.2	5.6		
AA-No. 2	4.6	5.0	5.4		
Unique	5.6	5.9	6.2	6.4	
Univ. Clays	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.6
AA-No. 5	7.3	7.6	7.9	8.1	
*HS-6	6.0	6.4	6.7	7.1	7.4
Viht 3N37	6.4	6.6	6.9	7.1	7.4
*Blue Dot	7.4	7.8	8.2	8.6	
Viht N350	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	7.0
*2400		9.7	10.4	11.0	
IMR-4227		12.2	12.8	13.4	
Energy/ft.lbs.	225	252	281	311	343

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	AA-No. 5	7.9	950	281
Hunting Load	*HS-6	7.4	1050	343

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

38 Special continued

#8360 .357" 158 gr. JHC
C.O.A.L. 1.450"



#8340 .357" 158 gr. JSP
C.O.A.L. 1.450"



Powder/Velocity→	750	800	850	900	950	1000
Bullseye	3.4	4.1	4.9			
231	4.1	4.5	4.9			
AA-No. 2	4.2	4.5	4.8			
AA-No. 5	6.6	6.8	7.1	7.4		
Unique	5.0	5.4	5.7	6.1		
Viht N340	5.0	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.2
*HS-6		5.6	6.0	6.4	6.8	7.2
*Blue Dot		7.4	7.8	8.2		
Viht N350	5.4	5.7	6.1	6.4	6.7	7.1
*2400			8.9	9.6	10.3	
*296			10.6	11.1	11.6	12.1
IMR-4227		10.4	11.2	12.0	12.8	
Energy/ft.lbs.	197	224	253	284	317	351

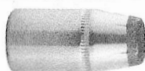
	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	Unique	5.7	850	253
Hunting Load	*HS-6	7.2	1000	351

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION

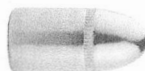
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

38 Special continued

#8365 .357" 170 gr. JHC
C.O.A.L. 1.450"



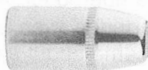
#8350 .357" 170 gr. FMJ Match
C.O.A.L. 1.450"



Powder+Velocity→	750	800	850	900	950
Unique	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.5	
*HS-6		5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0
Viht N340	5.0	5.2	5.5	5.7	6.0
*AA-No. 7	7.8	8.1	8.4	8.7	9.0
Viht N350	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.5
*Blue Dot			6.9	7.3	7.7
*2400		9.2	9.9	10.6	
*296			10.8	11.4	11.8
IMR-4227		11.2	11.7	12.2	
Energy/ft.lbs.	212	242	273	306	341

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	Unique	5.3	850	273
Hunting Load	*AA-No. 7	9.0	950	341

#8370 .357" 180 gr. FPJ Match
C.O.A.L. 1.430"



Powder+Velocity→	700	750	800	850
Unique	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.3
Viht N340	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.6
*AA-No. 7	7.3	7.6	7.9	8.3
Viht N350	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.4
*Blue Dot	6.2	6.5	6.8	7.1
*2400	8.0	8.4	8.8	9.1
*296		9.1	9.6	10.1
IMR-4227	9.7	10.1	10.4	10.7
Energy/ft.lbs.	196	225	256	289

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	*AA-No. 7	7.9	800	256
Hunting Load	*296	10.1	850	289

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.