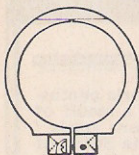


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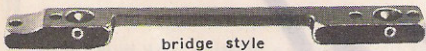


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Conetrol mounts are one of a kind. No other make available today claims to match — let alone surpass — them in streamlined sleekness. Conetrol bases, alone, incorporate windage adjustment yet are projectionless; Conetrol streamlined rings, alone, are split so that they may be taken apart for installation on any scope yet are projectionless.

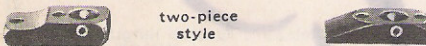
It follows that for sheer grace and beauty the Conetrol is without competition. To contend otherwise is to contend that the knobs, bulges, and bumps comprising connection and adjustment screws on competing mount designs would be there even if the screws did not exist!

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bridge style

### ▼ Custom bases ▲



two-piece style

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# GUNNOTES

Elmer Keith



*Often times, the use of gas-checked and jacketed bullets will result in "gas-cutting" of a revolver's top strap.*

## HANDGUN BULLETS

First the auto pistols. For utter reliability, you had best use jacketed round, or tapered-nose bullets. This is because many lead alloy bullets tend to stick on the ramp and cause jams. I have, however, received letters from users of the Luger and other 9mm pistols who loaded my 160-grain Keith hollow point or hollow base bullets with all bands seated down in the case on top of three grains of Bullseye and claimed excellent accuracy and good killing power on all the smaller game. Bullets, of course, were sized down to .355. Also others wrote of using my 250-grain .45 Colt bullet sized down to .451 ahead of 4.5 to 5 grains of Bullseye or 7 grains of Unique with excellent results.

In both calibers, all bands were seated inside the case friction tight as these guns headspace on the front of the cartridge case. All claimed much better killing power and good accuracy if the bullets were cast very hard, one-to-ten tin and lead or the same equivalent of typemetal.

Next, the S & W and Colt 1917 revolvers made to use the .45 ACP with three shot clips. These guns are rifled

with very shallow grooves, the lands being only .003 high, intended for .45 ACP hard ball. The best load I have found for these guns is my 250-grain bullet cast hard and sized .451 with a good crimp in all of the auto rim cases.

Bullets are cast very hard, sized .451 and used with a charge of 7.5 grains Unique. This makes a good powerful load but some have used 14 grains of 2400 with excellent results.

For the few S & W guns made for the .45 Colt cartridge and the .455 S&W British guns rechambered for the .45 Colt, my 250-grain Keith bullet sized .454 (same as factory loads) is excellent, as these guns have a groove diameter of .457 and also carry five wide and deep lands that displace a lot of metal. They upset to fill beautifully if cast around one to 16 tin and lead or that equivalent. These guns also perform very well with the 250 and 255-grain factory .45 Colt loads.

Modern Colt .45 single actions, the Colt New Frontier and also the Ruger .45 Colt, all have .451 groove diameters and bullets should be sized .451 to fit them. These modern .45 Colts and

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## GUNNOTES

continued from page 10

some of the later ones before World War II will nicely handle a load of 20 grains of 2400 and my 250-grain bullet for the full load. For light practice loads, 5 grains of Bullseye works well, also 7.5 grains of Unique for a slightly heavier practice load. However, it is best to sight any rifle or sixgun for serious useage with just one load as many different bullet weights and different charges shoot to different points of elevation as witness the .44 Magnum with 5 grains of Bullseye. It will print several inches higher than the full load of 22 grains of 2400 and my 250-grain bullet or the factory 240-grain jacketed.

*I do not like gas checks on any six-gun bullet. They are O.K. for auto pistols or rifles but they do not upset to fill revolver chamber mouths when fired. They allow gas to escape past them and blow the lube out of the lubricating groove and also greatly increase gas-cutting on the top strap at the barrel and cylinder joint. On Whites laboratory chronograph they averaged 3000 psi more pressure than plain base or hollow-base bullets. They are just as useful as two tails on one hound dog in a sixgun, though, admittedly, they will scrape lead out of a leaded barrel.*

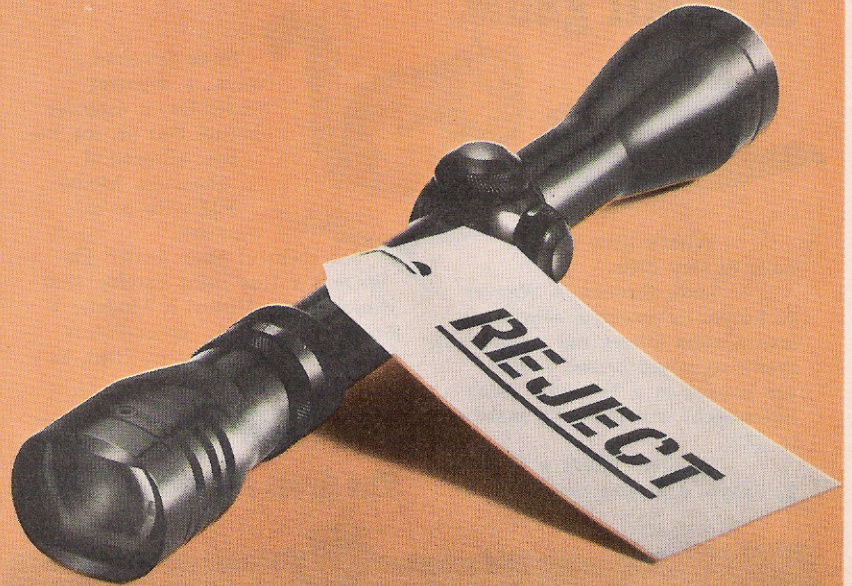


**After receipt of the first two S&W .41 Magnums produced, Author found that about 19 to 20 grains of 2400 behind his Hensley & Gibbs cast 220-grain slug proved to be an excellent performer.**

I designed my bullets with a full width, full diameter band in front of the cartridge case, to true up the round in the chamber, and also to cut down the jump from cartridge case to barrel throat. All three bands are the same width and diameter. Now, only Hensley & Gibbs make them that way, though R.C.B.S. and SAECO have original samples to cut new cherries for bullets of this design.

Back in 1925 I designed some .44 Special and .45 Colt bullets for Belding & Mull at Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. The .44 Specials had one wide grease groove, a good deep crimp groove and a very blunt round nose like the old .41 Colt, or the 200-grain Western Super

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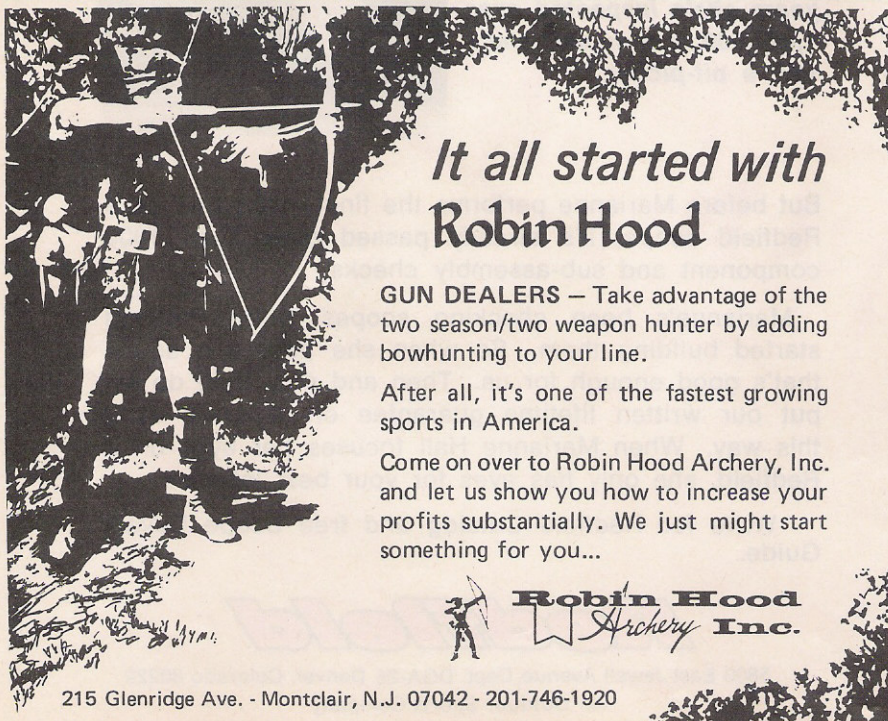
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## GUNNOTES

continued from page 13

Police .38 Special. The .44 Specials  
were in 260 and 280-grain weights with  
the .45 Colt featuring a 260-grain  
weight. They shot very well at 20 yards  
but I never could do much with them  
at long range, so, I dropped the design  
and came up with the Ideal 429421 for  
Lyman, followed by .45 Colt, .45 Auto  
Rim and .357 bullets. The latter from  
which the .357 Magnum was later de-  
veloped as a result of the 200 bullets I  
sent to Major Wesson who had Win-  
chester load them. My original design  
featured a "square-cornered" grease  
groove. The new round cornered grease  
groove design does not hold as much  
lubricant as my original. Hensley &  
Gibbs still make my true mould design  
that has proven best over a great many  
years of testing.

In the .44 Special, I loaded my 250  
grain, 429421 bullet, ahead of 18.5  
grains of 2400 in the old balloon head  
cases and, before the advent of 2400,  
used 12 grains of No. 80 powder. These  
proved the best and most powerful .44  
Special loads beating the .45 Colt badly  
for velocity and killing power. Later,  
when the solid head cases were devel-  
oped, I used 17 grains of 2400 behind  
my 250-grain solid or 235-grain hollow  
point or hollow base. I killed two mule  
deer at 200 yards with the former and  
one at 250 yards with the 235-grain hol-  
low base bullet from a 4-inch S&W.  
The bullets did not expand at all at that  
range but, on jack rabbits under 100  
yards, the big slug simply exploded  
courtesy of the hollow point. We used  
to have jack rabbits in profusion here  
and I killed 125 of them in three days  
shooting while testing one of the first  
.357 Magnums that Major Wesson gave  
me. With factory loads I could not be  
certain of a hit over 75 yards; however,  
I had a lot of .38 Special cases loaded  
with my 160-grain hollow point bullet  
backed by 13.5 grains of 2400. These  
were superbly accurate at long ranges  
and I killed one jack at a measured 180  
yards off hand as the jack stood up on  
his hind feet.

This .38 Special load with my 160-  
grain hollow point bullet usually cut  
two-inch holes through the big bunnies  
up to 75 yards but, at long range, they  
failed to expand.

Next, after some 30 years work, I fi-  
nally persuaded Carl Hellstrom of S&W  
to bring out the .44 Magnum. Since its  
introduction it has proven the finest of  
all the big sixgun loads for defense or  
game killing. When the first gun out of  
the factory arrived, I used a load of 22  
grains of 2400 and my 250-grain bullet.  
I also used the same charge for the 235-  
grain hollow base or hollow point and  
have never seen any reason to deviate  
from this load with powders or bullet



weights. It has proven to be the most accurate of all, for me, at extreme ranges. The load is also a good killer. In recent years I have simply used the 250-grain solid as I killed another big mulie buck at 250 yards and the hollow point 235-grain slug did not expand. It simply cut .44 caliber holes. The 250-grain solid and 22 grains of 2400 is the only load I use in my .44 Magnums.

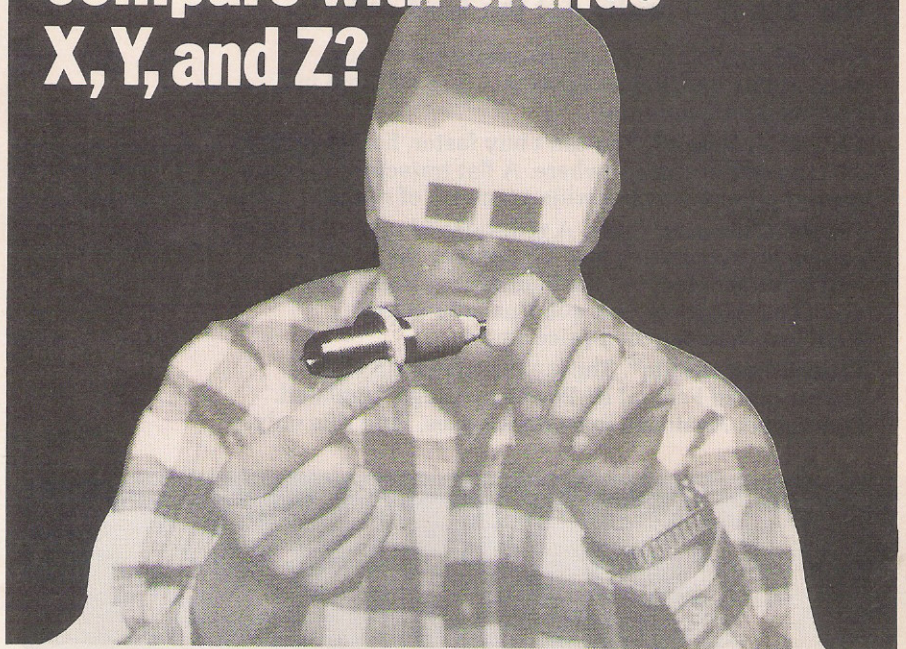
Later, when Bill Jordan and I gathered the arms and ammo companies together and got the .41 Magnum. I designed a 220-grain bullet for it. It is an exact copy of my 429421 .44 bullet and I worked up to 20 grains of 2400 in the two guns S&W sent me and have used it ever since with excellent results on both game and target. I also killed five caribou with these little 4-inch guns. Some S&Ws seem to do better with 19 grains of 2400 and my Hensley & Gibbs 220-grain slug cast hard while others do better with 20 grains of 2400 as is the case with my Ruger.

Hard-cast bullets sized to .410 in the .41 Magnum and .429 in the .44 Special and .44 Magnum seem to do best for accuracy and killing power. When you turn a sixgun on big game you need penetration first and, second, a full-caliber hole through the intended target. I have yet to recover one of my 250-grain .44 Magnum slugs from any mule deer of the many killed with it. I had a report from a man in Darby, Montana who had killed four black bear—each broadside shots—and all bullets exited on the off side. So, I think all game shooters are best off with hard-cast bullets (of my design) that will penetrate and cut full-caliber holes through the game. They should also strive to place their shots in the spine, brain or shoulders. You get no leading whatever from any bullet cast hard along with 2400 power; however, if you use heavy charges of Bullseye or Unique—which fuze the base band—you will get leading and also plating of the front of cylinder with melted bullet metal.

Hollow-base bullets are hard to cast as you must allow ample time for the bullet to harden before opening the moulds. No doubt they are the best of all when it comes to reducing gas-cutting of the top strap at barrel and cylinder junction, as the pushing gas is more confined in the slug than thrown out at the barrel and cylinder joint. In this respect, I have found both jacketed and gas check bullets cause more gas cutting of the top strap.

Today we have jacked soft point and even jacked soft hollow points available in the .41 and .44 Magnums. All jacketed bullets are hard on barrels and usually 5000 of them will damn well wear out the barrel throat and also cause some gas cutting of the top strap. On big game these hollow point soft points seldom give enough penetration for raking shots or even shoulder shots.

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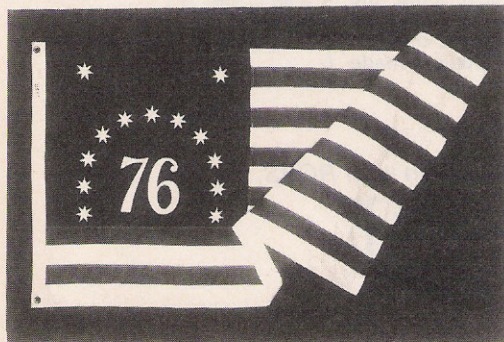
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### GUNNOTES

continued from page 15

After killing some 12 sharks once with my 4-inch .44 Magnum (using my home grown loads of 22 grains of 2400 and 250-grain hard cast bullets) I ran out of ammo and a friend gave me a box of commercial 240-grain hollow point soft points. I proceeded to hit several sharks by holding a foot below and forward of the fin projecting out of the sea. The soft point hollow points hit the shark but failed to penetrate his tough hide and ricocheted out and skipped across that California portion of the Pacific.

They were very accurate but simply expanded when they hit the water and never penetrated the sharks at all. One man in our group was using one of the more popular .30-caliber Magnums and 180-grain soft nose ammo. I told him it was useless for sharks but he did not believe me. I showed him a shark fin at 60 yards and he placed his high velocity soft nose exactly, but the only result was a big spout of water and the fin did not even go down. I then placed a 250-grain slug from my 4-inch .44 Magnum in exactly same place and the shark came up rolling in a welter of blood with the other sharks moving quickly after him.

Recently, a man wrote me of experiments he made in water with all manner of expanding rifle bullets of high velocity as well as my .44 Magnum load using 22 grains of 2400 behind my 250-grain bullet. They had a tank nine feet long with a plastic baffle in front to allow bullets to go through but still retain the water. The rear end of the tank had a two inch baffle of the same material and an air space to the metal at the back of this open-top water tank. Expanding rifle bullets soon stopped in the nine feet of water. When they tried my .44 Magnum sixgun load it went through the first baffle, the nine feet of water, through the two inch rear baffle and made a big dent in the back of the tank; showing conclusively, how much more water a big sixgun slug at only 1400 fps would penetrate than a high velocity expanding rifle bullet. Many people don't realize that such a hard bullet in a heavy sixgun load will penetrate a lot more big game meat and bones than will their high velocity rifle projectiles.

Bob Petersen shot a big Alaskan moose in the chest using the half-steel jacket soft nose Norma ammo that penetrates much better than our domestic jacketed soft point .44 Magnum loads. It went clear back to the kidneys. He also dumped his big Brown bear and record Polar bear with his nickel plated 6½-inch S&W and these same Norma loads. Norma ammo, with only the flat of the point showing lead exposure, will penetrate far better than other commercially loaded soft points.



Erv Malnairck, the old Idaho and Montana guide, has killed more elk with a sixgun than any man I know. He sticks to my load of 22 grains of 2400 and hard cast 250-grain bullets, and with good reason.

Today, most of our commercial bullet makers all produce swaged lead alloy bullets for the various popular sixguns. These bullets are usually very soft and are wonderful for light plinking or target loads, but they will not stand up to high-velocity loading as they are too soft and will often lead the guns.

It is a sad mistake to try to get high velocity out of such soft bullets and especially with hot fast powders like Bullseye and Unique as they fuzze the base band and lead plate the front of the cylinder; especially in .357 caliber. If you are going to use these fine soft-swaged bullets then do so with light loads and you will have excellent results; however, if you want powerful heavy loads then cast bullets from Hensley & Gibbs or other moulds that will give the best results. My bullets cast hard and sized .410 for the .41 Magnum and .429 for the .44 Special and .44 Magnum give no leading whatever when used with 2400. They can be obtained from Accuracy Bullet Co., 2443 41st Ave., San Francisco, Cal; Markell of same city; Ken Lomont of 4421 So. Wayne Ave., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46807, and many other custom bullet

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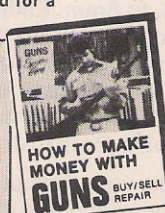
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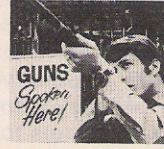
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**MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY**

North American School of Firearms, 4500 Campus Dr., Dept. NN016 Newport Beach, CA 92663.



## Hornady Bulletin Board

# Varmint hunting with confidence

"I have shot one chuck at 332 yds. (by speedometer) with your 60 gr. bullet in my 22-250 Remington Varminter. I'm also very well pleased with the 75 gr. 6mm bullets, as they are sure killers. Very few chucks even move when I hit them with these Hollowpoint bullets. They're very accurate, too. My Remington Varminter 6mm put 3 of these bullets in a 1-hole group at 100 yds.



*Clark S. Smith*

Clark S. Smith  
CALIFORNIA



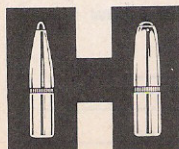
6mm 75 gr. HP

Mr. Smith's glowing report on the success of his Hornady bullets is impressive. However, if you really want to be impressed, try them yourself. There are 25 devastating Hornady bullets for varminters, all the way from 17 cal. to 8mm. Each bullet is designed to do a specific job, whether you're shooting the latest in varmint rifles or just an ordinary hunting rifle. Hornady varmint bullets have inner-grooved jackets for immediate and violent expansion on impact—precision manufacturing techniques for optimum accuracy—& Secant Ogive Spire Point for greater efficiency.

Take a tip from Clark Smith. Make your next purchase the red and white Hornady box and know the real pleasure of varmint shooting with the utmost confidence.



You can get  
Hornady bullets  
in Factory  
Ammunition.  
Ask your dealer for  
Frontier cartridges.



96 bullets for handloading.  
Write for information.

## Hornady Bullets

P.O. Box 1848, Dept. GA-2, Grand Island, Nebr. 68801.

### GUNNOTES

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makers too numerous to mention. Such hard-cast bullets will give best results so get yourself a good mould, preferably of my true design and roll your own.

Size bullets to the groove diameter of your gun, cast them hard and you will never experience any leading with 2400 powder or light to moderate loads of fast powders. I hope this will help answer the many inquiries that I receive weekly by phone or mail.

### FOGGED SCOPES

At present, most rifle scopes are filled with nitrogen and are less apt to fog up, but, it can and does occur with older scopes. Never bring a cold scoped rifle into a warm camp or cabin if it is an older model telescopic sight. It will simply fog. Fogging is nothing more than condensation within the scope tube and, when fogged up, you have no definite aiming reticle.

Fogging is likely to occur if you are out all day in a hard rain or wet snow storm, or, if you bring a cold scope into a suddenly "warm atmosphere" as in the case of a cabin or tent as mentioned above. Many old Sourdoughs, for this reason, will hang their rifles outside instead of bringing it into a warm camp in very cold weather. If brought inside in a case, and very gradually thawed out, a scope is not as likely to fog.

Bill Watson and I once saddled up our horses for a deer hunt out of Kriley's ranch on Panther Creek. It had been a cold night and I left my rifle against the east side of the house while saddling my hay burner in the sun. When I picked it up and slipped it into the Boyt scabbard I noticed it was well fogged. As we rode over to our hunting ground I held it in the shade and this eliminated some of the fogging.

As expected, a big mulie buck bounced across our path and stopped broadside at a distance of 200 yards. I told Bill that if I did not shoot to go ahead and take the buck with his open sights. As I looked through my scope I could see the buck's nose and forefeet so I placed the horizontal wire for a lung shot with the verticle wire just back of his forefeet. I hit him through the lungs perfectly and the job was done in quick order.

As stated previously, most scopes made today are nitrogen filled and will not fog when treated with normal care; however, the fact still remains that when a scope does fog up you are out of luck unless you have a good set of iron sights available. This is another good reason for having iron sights and a Pachmayr swing mount on rifles that may be used in inclement weather. Believe me, a bad snow storm or driving rain can make a scope impossible, especially if it is of older manufacture.