

# 458 WINCHESTER MAGNUM

## Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Savage Model 116

Barrel Length: 21 1/2"

Twist: 1 x 14"

## Components:

Case: Federal

Trim-to Length: 2.490"

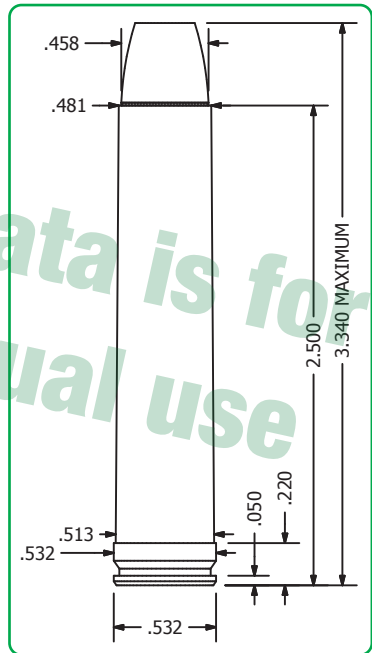
Primer: Fed 210

## Remarks:


Introduced in 1956, the 458 Winchester Magnum has become a modern replacement for many of the older big bore "Nitro Express" cartridges. Intended to provide ample power for the largest and most dangerous African game, the 458 has been used to take elephant, cape buffalo, rhino, and a host of lesser big game species. Because of its short Overall length, the 458 can be chambered in standard (30-06 length) actions, as can its cousins, the 264 and 338 Winchester Magnums. The belted design assures positive headspacing and smooth feeding in a bolt action, whereas many of the old express cartridges are of rimmed design. Due to feeding difficulties, these big rimmed cartridges are better suited to double rifles.

The 458 has been very well received in Africa, where it is in widespread use among professional hunters, rangers, and game control officers. Although it was never really envisioned for North American game, it has also been widely accepted by guides in Alaskan bear country. Although it is possibly overpowered for such applications, it is a reassuring presence when the quarry is dangerous and the ranges are short. Based on the number of 458 Winchester Magnum rifles sold in this country, it appears that only a small percentage are destined for Africa or Alaska. There is, and always has been, a contingent of shooters who just enjoy a powerful rifle for its own sake.

Dimensionally, the 458 Winchester is quite similar to several black powder cartridges. The 45-90 Winchester and the 45-100 Sharps are two examples. Most of these earned excellent reputations on North American game, ranging in size from deer and antelope to bear and buffalo. For use on lighter game, the 458 can easily be downloaded to duplicate the performance of these old buffalo hunters, as well as smaller cartridges like the 45-70 Government. Sierra's 300 grain 45-70 flat nose hollow point was designed for the lower velocities of these cartridges, and is best used only with reduced loads in the 458 Winchester. Careful handloading with this bullet can turn the 458 into an outstanding short range brush cartridge.



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Bullet Caliber Weight Type		C.O.A.L.					
		#8900	.458"	300gr.	HP/FN	2.930"	
Powder ∨	Velocity >	2200	2300	2400	2450	2500	2550
Viht N120		58.5	61.5	64.5	66.0	67.5	
H4198		60.3	62.5	64.7	65.8	66.9	68.0
IMR 4198		57.7	60.1	62.5	63.7		
RE 7		60.9	63.7	66.5			
IMR 3031		70.2	72.8				
IMR 4895		72.0	75.4				
<b>Energy Ft. lbs</b>		<b>3224</b>	<b>3523</b>	<b>3836</b>	<b>3998</b>	<b>4163</b>	<b>4331</b>
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lb			
<b>Accuracy Load</b>	RE 7	66.5	2400	3836			
<b>Hunting Load</b>	H4198	66.9	2500	4163			

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