

insurmountable, exists in the fact that the re-design of the original .44/.357, while serving to minimize or completely eliminate some of the difficulties of case sticking and back-up within the chamber, created a relatively short neck in which to seat bullets. It is still possible to firmly seat a bullet of relatively substantial length and, with appropriate care, introduce just the right amount of crimp. The operation does require more care than with the original version.

The overall length of your loaded round will best be determined by the type of bullet you select and the point at which you elect to place the crimp. The crimp should be fairly substantial. It is an excellent idea in this regard to fit the reloads to your individual gun as you make the initial settings of the dies. I found it necessary, for example, to adjust the resizing die so that its bottom would come into firm contact with the top of the ram. Maximum full-length resizing is necessary in order to allow the cartridge to seat all the way into the chamber. Otherwise, difficult cylinder rotation will be the result. Another comment on the matter of crimping might include a caution against over-crimping with cast bullets. Accuracy will suffer as a result of too much crimping. It is best to use no more than a slight roll crimp with cannellured bullets. Uncannellured types, such as those bullets of half-jacket construction, can often be seated so as to effect a slight roll crimp immediately above the junction of the copper jacket and lead nose. If, in revolver use, you find that bullets are backing out, increase the amount of crimp, but only after checking a few test rounds for easy chambering. In the foregoing regard, it is well to remember that the problem of bullets moving out of their seated position is essentially applicable to heavy loads with proportionately heavy recoil. In moderate loadings with no more than light crimping, it is seldom a factor.

A number of guns, both long and short varieties, are ideal hosts for the .357/.44, each offering a substantial improvement in ballistic performance. Some, especially in the revolver category, are not sufficiently thick in the cylinder to allow for re-chambering within the limits of safe practice. Others, because of shortcomings in frame or action strength are equally unsuitable. It is therefore suggested that you call or write to Bain & Davis Sporting Goods, 559 W. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel, CA 91775, for information regarding the advisability of the conversion. The price is right: About \$30 at this writing, plus the cost of the Ruger. Complete .357/.44 die sets are available from RCBS, P.O. Box 1919, Oroville, California 95965, at \$29 a set. It all adds up to a minimum expenditure for an uncommonly great reward in terms of handgun cartridge power and versatility.

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