

pansion and we wanted a sort of "flying shotglass" to practically turn itself inside-out on impact so we worked up a home-made punch — the one shown in the photo — with Bob Faber, of Oshkosh, making the punch itself, with the wooden handle added later to prevent scorched fingers. As with most hollow-point moulds, both the mould and metal must be heated to very near the melting point of the metal; otherwise you get premature solidification and unfilled portions of the bullet. Since the metal up in front is hardly more than a sixteenth of an inch thick, it's obvious that you need both heat and a high head of pressure to get it all properly filled out.

The resulting maximum-effort bullet, which we called the "Faber Super-Scooper," proved quite effective in the expansion department ... occasionally, I've cut one-by-ten boards in two with a single shot into the edge ... and it was not nearly as inaccurate as you might imagine. The basic #429352 wadcutter is one of the best target bullets I've ever found for the .44 magnum and the nasal cavity doesn't seem to degrade the grouping ability much. And, if the plain cavity — nearly as big as a small .38 slug — doesn't provide sufficiently abrupt expansion, it is a simple matter to fill the front space with a suitable material such as bullet lubricant, leveling it smooth with a straight-edge. Such a "grease-nose" expands to about the diameter of a quarter, almost instantaneously upon impact and is, probably, the most unfriendly thing that can be fired from a handgun.

At that time, we conducted enough experiments on explosive bullets to convince me that it is NOT the route to take. There is hazard from accidentally setting fires, and from being hit by flying fragments of bullet if it strikes too close to where someone is standing. And you don't dare stack on the velocity for fear of having the bursting charge set off midway up the barrel; the effect of such a happening is problematical but you don't care to find out what would happen by first-hand experience. It seems to make a lot better sense to go the velocity and expansion route instead. Since bullets of the Faber SS type are cast, any desired hardness of alloy can be used and the grease added during sizing lets you go to around 1500 fps with little or no leading problems. With a gas-check, you could go a few hundred feet faster, assuming the cartridge and arm had the capability.

For the .38 and .357 handguns, there's a similar bullet that can be bought ready to use. This is the 148-grain hollow-base wadcutter made by Speer. It has a slight indent at the nose which is precisely the right diameter to permit slipping a .38 gascheck over it to protect the nose when loaded backwards with the cavity to the front. Seating depth should be with the mouth crimped into the grease groove nearest the end containing the cavity, that is, with about 1/16" of lead projecting from the mouth. Naturally, this reduces powder capacity but, with the expansion potential thus afforded, you don't need every last foot of velocity the way you do with conventional bullets.

There are no ready-made hollow-base bullets available for the .41, .44 and .45 sizes but Lyman's #41027 hollow-base wadcutter mould turns out good results with its bullets are loaded backwards, as

described in the December, 1966, issue of GUN WORLD Magazine, page 46; this particular bullet and 12.4 grains of Alcan AL-5 powder gave 1450 fps with the 220-grain Lyman #41027, good for about 1022 ft-lbs of energy ... very little of which would be wasted beyond the intended target.

It's a little harder to cook up a similar load for the .45 sizes. Indeed, the .45 auto does not take too kindly to such shapes since it would tend to cause erratic feeding and chambering. One can, of course, make up a cup-point bullet in .452" diameter on the Armory C-H "Swag-O-Matic" bullet swaging press and a single round, so loaded, can be carried in the chamber, backed up by a magazine full of conventional loads. In the .45 M1917 revolvers, the Lyman/Keith #452423 semi-wadcutter undoubtedly could be set up for a big nose-cavity since it has a generous amount of flat surface up front. This design, incidentally, feeds surprisingly well from the .45 auto in some instances.

Powders giving best results with such bullets are those delivering good velocities with comparatively mild pressures such as Hercules Unique and Herco, DuPont SR-4756 and PB, Alcan AL-120, AL-5 or AL-7, or Hodgdon HS-6 or H-110. Possibly #2400 or 4227 can do well in those calibers having larger case capacities. Consult a reliable reloading manual for the right amount of your selected powder, bearing in mind the condition and construction of the gun in which you plan to fire the loads and don't crowd the maximum levels since most such bullets are seated deeply, thus reducing space available for powder.

**.44/.357 BAIN & DAVIS** For the benefit of members who don't receive GUN WORLD IN HANDGUNS Magazine, in which the topic was written up for the September, 1967, issue, the wildcat cartridge made by necking down the .44 magnum case to .357" proved to perform well, both in the 8-3/8" Smith & Wesson and in a Ruger Hawkeye singleshot with 10" barrel. The Ruger barrel was made entirely by Bain & Davis Sporting Goods (559 West Las Tunas, San Gabriel, California 91776), with a pitch of one in fifteen inches and .357" groove diameter; this seems to deliver excellent results with bullets ranging in weight from 110 to 160 grains. With 11.0 grains of Unique behind the 110-grain Norma .355" jacketed hollow point, the Ruger delivered a 2.75" group for five shots from seventy yards at 1780 fps and 809 ft-lbs. Other loads, as shown in the accompanying table, yielded well over half a ton of energy at muzzle.

LOAD DATA: .44/.357 BAIN & DAVIS (HANDGUNS)

BULLET	POWDER CHARGE	8-3/8" S&W		10" RUGER	
		Ft./sec.	Ft.-lbs.	Ft./sec.	Ft.-lbs.
125-gr Super-Vel JHPt .3565"	12.0 gr Alcan AL-8	1065	315	1120	347
Same	15.0 "	1295	464	1445	579
Same	17.0 "	1430	564	1580	692
Same	19.0 "	1675	780	1960	1068
Same	20.0 " (Max.)	NR	--	2040	1155
115-gr Norma JHPt .355"	21.0 " (Max.)	NR	--	2125	1155
Same	16.0 Herco "	1800	828	1900	922
Same	11.0 Unique (accurate)	--	--	1780	809
160-gr Speer SPt .357"	20.0 Hodgdon H4227	1330	625	1540	840
Same	22.0 "	1430	723	1615	921
Same	24.0 " (Max.)	1510	809	1760	1100
Same	18.0 Hercules #2400	1350	643	1515	810
Same	20.0 " (Max.)	NR	--	1640	953
Same	23.0 IMR-4198	1400	696	1505	807
Same	25.0 " (Compr.)	1490	789	1550	856
Same	18.0 Hodgdon H-110	--	--	1700	1020

NOTES: All primers in this series, Alcan Large Pistol. For use in revolver, maximum overall length of round is 1.600". All cases by Norma; RCBS dies; Pacific prO press. Since we have no control over reloading, no liability is expressed or implied for the use of this data. Maximum loads should be approached with caution or, better, avoided.