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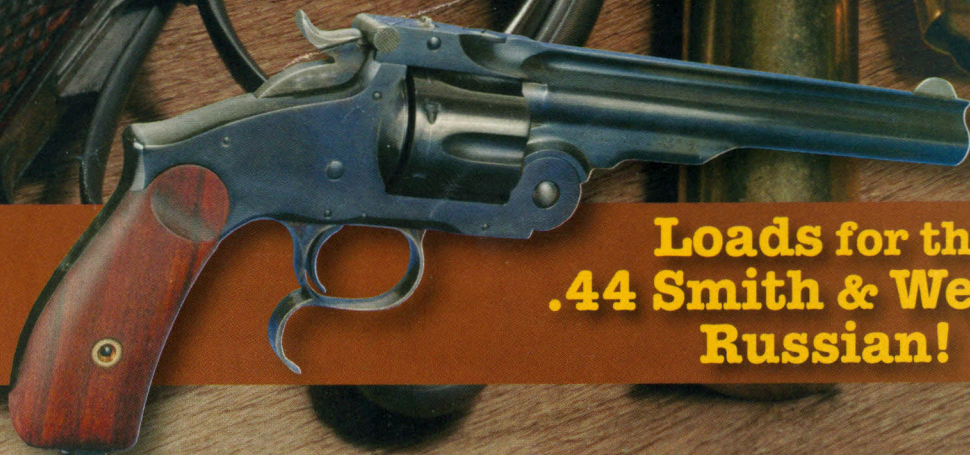
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ALLIANT POWER PRO 300-MP LOADS

BULLETS & BRASS

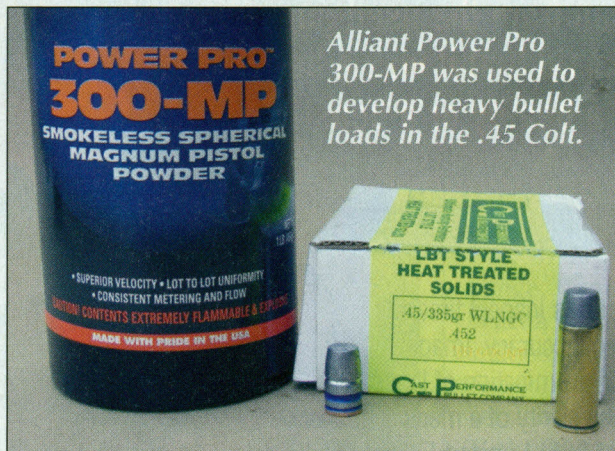
by Brian Pearce

Q: I have been a subscriber to your fine magazines for many years and always enjoy your writing. I was disappointed though by a couple of your recent articles. I know you are a fan of the .45 Colt (I am too), so I was surprised you didn't include load data for that cartridge in your testing of Alliant Power Pro 300-MP. I have a Ruger Bisley so chambered, and this powder looks very interesting. Do you have any load data for this gun and cartridge, specifically with 330- to 345-grain bullets?

Also, I am handloading for my 9mm Browning High Power and my Smith & Wesson Model 66 .357 Magnum with a 2½-inch barrel. I keep hearing that some powders produce less muzzle flash and blast than others (and you indicated that in a recent article), but no one seems to want to tell us what those powders are. I would like to find a powder for defensive use in my 9mm and .357 Magnum that does not produce so much flash and blast. Any suggestions? Thanks so much.

– B.C., via e-mail

A: Originally I was going to include +P data for the .45 Colt us-



Alliant Power Pro 300-MP was used to develop heavy bullet loads in the .45 Colt.

ing Alliant Power Pro 300-MP, but editorial space would not permit. For example, all loads/cartridges that I did include were within SAAMI pressure guidelines, but the .45 Colt would have exceeded industry pressure and cartridge overall length guidelines. Thus, it would have required additional explanation in the form of what guns were suitable, etc., and there simply wasn't space.

As a result of your inquiry, I developed sample .45 Colt loads using Power Pro 300-MP. I must emphasize that these loads have not been pressure-tested, but they proved safe in a large .44-size frame Ruger Blackhawk .45 Colt

Bisley test gun and should only be used in that model or modern guns of similar or greater strength.

All indications are that maximum loads are producing something less than 32,000 CUP, which is generally considered (even scientifically) the

safe working limit for Ruger .45 Colt revolvers built on the large frame. They should never be used in the New Vaquero or New Model Blackhawk revolvers built on the smaller .357-size frame.

Observations to the following data include that as the Power Pro 300-MP charge increased, the extreme spread for five shots decreased, with 25.0 grains having a 31-fps spread. With the heaviest load listed, Starline cases fell from the chamber as the muzzle was pointed upward. Accuracy was good, particularly with 24.5- and 25.0-grain powder charges. Be certain to use CCI 300 Large Pistol standard non-magnum primers. I used a 335-grain LBT WLN-GC bullet fired from a 7½-inch barreled Ruger New Model Blackhawk Bisley .45 Colt.

charge (grains)	velocity (fps)
22.0	1,111
23.0	1,163
24.0	1,246
24.5	1,288
25.0	1,319

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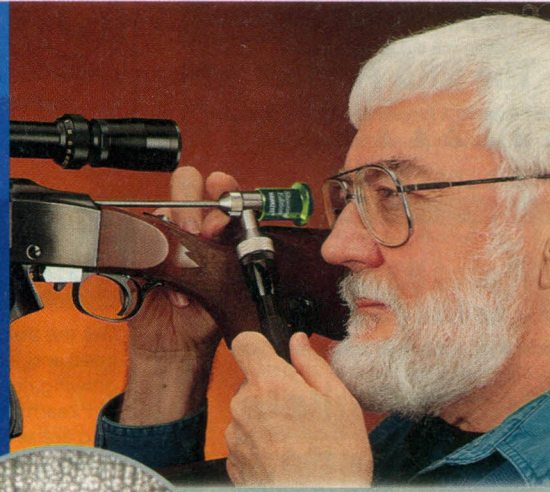
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one of the lowest flash, magnum revolver cartridge powders. By the nature of both cartridges, there will still be notable muzzle report, but it will be considerably less than that of many other canister-grade powders.

MORE LOADS WITH POWER PRO 300-MP

Q: Regarding your column on handloading with Alliant Power Pro 300-MP, you stated to the effect that all loads were within SAAMI specs. How do you know? It was a good article, except you never tested the .357 Magnum with 180-grain Hornady XTP or Laser Cast bullets of the same weight. Do you have any such data?

— B.H., via e-mail

A: All loads were pressure tested in a reputable ballistics lab and found to be within industry pressure guidelines. As a result of your inquiry, I developed a .357 Magnum load. Oregon Trail Bul-

let Co. does not offer 180-grain Laser Cast or True Shot bullets, so the LBT 187-grain FNGC was chosen. Loads were fired from a Ruger GP100 with a 6-inch barrel, using Starline cases and CCI 500 primers. Those results — using Power Pro 300-MP — are as follows: 16.0 grains at 1,228 fps; 17.0 grains at 1,366; and 17.5 grains at 1,410.

While the above loads have not been pressure tested by a lab, all indications are that they are within SAAMI pressure guidelines, but I would consider the 17.5-grain charge absolute maximum. Be certain to use CCI 500 standard non-magnum primers, or charges must be reduced. As always, start with the 16.0-grain load, making certain it is safe in your gun before working up to the maximum charges. You can use this same data with the Hornady 180-grain HP-XTP bullet but be certain to use the lower crimp groove or excessively high pressures will result.

SIZING DIES

Q: I am writing to comment on your column "Bullets and Brass" in *Handloader* No. 274 (October-November 2011). A question from G.S. of Boise, Idaho, asked about chambering issues with .38-40 and .44-40 handloads in a revolver. You suggested sending fired cases and the die set back to RCBS, and they would probably grind the sizing



Shellholders are heat treated, but for only a few minutes, which leaves a hard, thin shell about .005 inch thick.