

Stars & Stripes Ammunition

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About Barnes Bullets

Barnes Bullets manufactures standard jacketed lead core bullets, the revolutionary X bullet, and true solids. Founded in the 1930s by Fred Barnes, Barnes Bullets has always been one of the top performing bullets sold.

Today, Barnes is known more for their X bullets and the bronze solids than their Original design. However, Barnes also manufactures 3 lines of lead cored bullets: the Original, VLC, and Varminator. They also make X pistol bullets, and the Expander X shotgun slug. New for 2003 is Triple Shock X bullet for rifle calibers.

X Bullet

The X bullet is completely unlike any other hunting bullet sold today. It is made from 100% pure copper and has no lead core. Due to this unique homogenous construction, this bullet cannot suffer the number one reason for bullet failure, and that is core jacket separations, which causes a total bullet failure.

The X bullet features a specially designed spitzer style hollow point and internal nose cavity, which allows rapid expansion upon impact, yet typically retains better than 98% of its original unfired weight. The bottom of the nose cavity arrests any further expansion. Once fully expanded, this bullet takes on the familiar X shape, from which it gets its name.

X bullets are tough and can withstand the rigors of even the most challenging of African safaris and dangerous game hunting. Due to near 100% weight retention, hunters can rely on deep straight line penetration of the target from virtually any angle with this bullet.

Barnes X bullets offer superior long range ballistics and match quality accuracy often only found in benchrest bullets. Due their extremely high weight retention after impact, a lighter than normal bullet can sometimes be suitable, giving higher velocities and flatter trajectories without any loss of killing capability.

X bullets are available in both flat base and boat tail configurations, in calibers 22 to 50.

Also available in the X design are pistol bullets and a discarding sabot shotgun slug. These projectiles use the same X bullet technology, but are purposely engineered for their intended firearms applications and the lower velocities associated with these firearms. X pistol bullets are available in calibers 9mm to .50. The Expander slugs are available in 12ga and 20ga.

XLC

XLC bullets are the same as the regular X bullets but have a hi tech blue dry film lubricant baked onto the bullet. This coating offers the benefits of reduced friction with the bore. This in turn reduces the amount of barrel fouling and increases velocity up to 300 fps in some calibers. XLC bullets are available in both flat base and boat tail designs. For that extra boost of velocity without running light magnum pressures, as found in some other premium brands of factory ammo, choose the XLC loadings.

XLC bullets will not attract dirt as the coating is dry. The coating also is not easily rubbed or scratched off.

Another benefit to using the XLC bullet is that unlike moly coated bullets, you **DO NOT** have to use any special bore preps to get immediate benefits from the bullet! Moly coated bullets require special moly bore preps to realize their benefits right away. The XLC has no such requirements, other than a clean bore.

XLC bullets are available in calibers 22 to 50.

Triple Shock X

Triple Shock X, or TSX, bullets incorporate the advantages of the XLC coated bullets into a non-coated design. Its added benefits are lower operating pressures, increased velocities, and less barrel fouling. The lower pressures and reduced fouling come as a result of the innovative three ring driving band bullet shank, which limits bullet contact with the bore. It also has a newly redesigned nose cavity which transmits more shock energy to the game animal upon impact, and delivers 28% more penetration than the best lead core bullets. Triple Shock is available in calibers 22 to 45, in both boat tail and flat base designs.

Solid

Barnes' solids are true solids being they are made from a homogenous bronze alloy. True mono-metal solids cannot bend, rivet, fish tail, or break up like traditional FMJ-RN solids do. A traditional solid is nothing more than a FMJ lead core bullet, and they are inferior to any mono-metal solid.

Original

The Original dates back to 1932. It is a premium controlled expansion lead core bullet made by pressure forming pure copper tubing around a pure lead core. The Original is a round nose design and is available in limited calibers and weights from .270 to .45.

VLC and Varminator

The VLC is a match grade bullet for target and varmint use which features Barnes' dry film lubricant. This lube cannot be rubbed off and dramatically lowers pressures and barrel fouling, and allows higher velocities. This coating also doesn't require any special bore preps like Moly coated bullets, to gain its benefits. Currently only available in 6mm (243) caliber.

The Varminator is the same bullet as the VLC but doesn't have the dry film lubricant. Both the VLC and Varminator have scored nose cavities and thin tapered jackets to ensure explosive expansion at almost any velocity. These bullets are only available in .224 and 6mm calibers.

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