

About Shotgun Slugs

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In this newsletter, we will discuss what separates Stars & Stripes Ammunition's slugs from regular factory slugs. We will also discuss what makes a superior slug load, effective range, proper shell length to use, and barrel lengths.

A slug is a single projectile fired in shotguns, as opposed to birdshot or buckshot. To some, shotguns are nothing more than bird guns, or fowling pieces. To others they are a big game firearm. Shotguns are very effective big game firearms when used within their range limitations, and are more effective within those limits than any centerfire rifle or handgun. Shotgun slugs are also used in defensive/combat shotgun ammunition, see our newsletter "About Combat/Defensive Shotgun Ammo" listed on the Stars & Stripes Ammunition website, in the Ammo Education section to learn more about combat shotgun ammo.

If you are unsure as to the application of the slug which best suits your needs, contact us. We will be more than happy to get you set up correctly!

Stars and Stripes Ammunition loads a variety of slugs giving hunters all the choices possible for any hunting that they may want to pursue, but one could not go wrong if they used our DGS series for everything. We offer standard lead slugs in all gauges and discarding sabot slugs in 20ga and 12ga. Our slug loadings are available in all shell lengths, including the 12ga 3-1/2 inch shell! Slug selections are listed on pages 8-12.

We are a firm believer in full caliber, high velocity shotgun slugs due to their effectiveness in the field, but we also produce sabot slugs. Shotgun slugs work very much like any other single projectile type firearm, but shotguns have properties which are unique and give them certain advantages.

It is the sheer mass and cross sectional size of a full caliber shotgun slug which makes it so effective. Even a 20 gauge slug has more weight and size than any fully expanded rifle or pistol caliber projectile.

The high weight of shotgun slugs generally makes them poor choices for high velocity loadings. With higher velocity heavy projectiles comes heavier recoil. Typical factory slugs in gauge calibers larger than 20ga are already at the tolerance level and pain thresholds of most shooters. But velocity is a key factor to projectile lethality and effective range. We load our slugs to higher velocity than factory slugs to increase terminal effectiveness and range. Yet our slugs produce less felt recoil than factory slugs through the use of advanced technology.

The only exception to our high velocity rule are our sabot slugs and customer specified low velocity loadings. We load sabot slugs to lower velocity than most factory sabot slugs. This is due to the above average efficiency of the all copper slugs, and our company policy to produce a slug with uniform ballistics and ignition qualities no matter what the weather conditions. Hyper velocity sabot slugs often lose a lot of velocity and propellant ignition quality in cold weather, where our sabot slugs lose very little velocity and retain excellent cold weather propellant ignition qualities. Most people are hunting with slugs in cold weather, so the factory high velocity advantage negates itself in colder weather to a large degree, and the lack of ignition consistency destroys accuracy. Hyper velocity factory sabot slugs deliver harsh recoil, this is another factor for turning down the velocity in our sabot slugs.

Effective range with full caliber slugs are virtually the same as sabot slugs when fired through the same sighted slug gun platforms, the edge being that all of our full caliber slugs can be fired in smoothbore as well as rifled barrels. For those of you not familiar with sabot slugs, sabot slugs can only be fired in fully rifled barrels or rifled choke inserts; NO EXCEPTIONS!

Anyone who has fired a factory slug load knows one thing; they got hit pretty hard in the shoulder and cheek when they squeezed the trigger. Brutal recoil is always associated with slug loads. But a Stars & Stripes Ammo slug load will never batter you the way factory slug loads do, and they will deliver far better accuracy, velocity, and consistency.

Factory slugs come in three loadings; low recoil, standard, and magnum. Low recoil slug loads are just low velocity loadings. This is the factory way of taming the recoil monster and keeping ammo cheap, but it severely compromises the effectiveness of the load. Standard loads are regular 2-3/4 inch shell lengths at normal velocity. Magnum loadings can be in 2-3/4 inch as well as 3 inch and 3-1/2 inch in 12ga and 10ga. and run a little more velocity than a standard loading.

A superior slug load is one that combines 4 aspects into the load; low recoil, high velocity, consistent and uniform accuracy/velocity, and clean positive functioning. Factory ammo usually has at least one of these aspects. Rarely more than two. Stars & Stripes Ammunition slug loads combine all 4 aspects into our slug ammunition.

Factory slug loads are made to be one thing above all others; cheap. It isn't that the major factory brands do not want to make great ammo, just that the economics of producing millions of rounds of ammo prevents it. Custom slug loads do cost more than factory ammo, but you get what you pay for. If you are looking for something special in the way of shotgun slugs, then you have come to the right website! Here is what makes our shotgun slug ammunition stand above the rest.

SLUG LOAD COMPONENTS

The heart of our slug loads are the advanced slugs. Our lead slugs are made from hardened alloyed lead. Hard alloyed slugs resist deformation during the violent payload setback during the firing cycle and flight through the barrel. Hard alloyed slugs offer

decided terminal advantages over softer pure lead slugs, namely the elimination of slug failures from breaking up. Our sabot slugs are lead free all copper hollow points which are superior to lead cored sabot slugs. Homogeneous copper slugs do not break up and deliver superior accuracy and terminal performance over lead cored sabot slugs.

Due to the harsh recoil associated with high velocity slugs, Stars and Stripes' slugs use a special inertial damper type wad in our slug loadings and special clean burning progressive propellants to reduce felt recoil to levels lower than other slugs on the market, making our slugs very pleasant to shoot.

Waddings in shotgun slug ammo are what separate the slug from the propellant. Wads also serve other functions and are under incredible stress when a shotshell is fired. The wad connects the driving force of the rapidly expanding propellant gases to the slug. Our wads have two main functions; A super efficient gas seal and recoil reducing inertial damper. A third function which only applies to rifled barrels is to engage the rifling to spin the projectile, also known as a sabot.

Our gas seal is designed to handle the large volume bulky propellants and spacious hulls required to create a superior slug load. Our gas seals are a domed skirted design which seals any bore, regardless of throat shape or oversize bore condition, or if rifling is present in the barrel/choke. The domed shape also facilitates a more efficient and complete burn cycle. The seal creates a perfect gas seal to the barrel, allowing very high velocity in almost all weather conditions and complete propellant burn for less residual ash. Interrupted burn cycle is the number one cause of load failure in shotguns, and is at its worst in weather colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit. A compromised, or inappropriate gas seal is the culprit 99% of the time.

Most factory ammo uses a plastic gas seal of some kind, most work OK as they are the flat gasket type, not the specialized skirt seals used by Stars & Stripes Ammunition which positively seals any bore. Some cheaper brands and imported ammo may use older nitro card natural fiber gas seals. Nitro cards are an inferior seal material for any high velocity or heavy shot charge loading.

The inertial damper in the middle of the wad column reduces felt recoil by spreading out the recoil impulse over a longer duration of time and enhances velocity by allowing the slug to be accelerated smoothly and progressively through the barrel without interrupting the propellant burn cycle. The inertial damper must also keep the gas seal from tipping during the firing cycle which will compromise the burn cycle, and it must support the G forces of accelerating the slug.

Most factory slug loads do not use an advanced inertial damper. Instead, factory slug loads use fiber card wads to separate the slug from the gas seal. These cards are made of hard natural fiber and have little recoil damping ability. This is one of the reasons factory slug loads develop such harsh recoil. The jolting sudden acceleration produced by this wad when the shotgun is fired deforms a soft lead slug and ruins any possibility of a uniform or consistent accuracy.

Sabots are designed primarily for use in rifled barrels or rifled choke inserts, but there are some smoothbore applications. Sabot, pronounced 'say-bo', is a correct gauge caliber wadding which carries a sub caliber projectile through the shotgun barrel. For the most part, an aerodynamic light weight conical projectile is loaded into a sabot. A sabot engages the rifling in a barrel giving spin to the slug, then separates and drops away from the slug a few inches after leaving the barrel. Light weight small caliber sabot slugs offer flatter trajectories than full caliber, full weight slugs, but are inferior to full caliber slugs in terminal performance, with one exception, due to their smaller size. The exception being the Barnes SGS sabot slug. Sabots also apply to our roundball and Foster slugs, but these are nearly full caliber, and certainly full weight slugs. Where space allows, we use an inertial damper, or damping type filler between the sabot and gas seal to reduce felt recoil.

Factory sabots are very similar to our sabots and work exactly the same way, the technology both of us use is a direct offshoot from the US Military as used in high velocity anti-tank kinetic penetrators. We just scale down the technology to fit in your shotgun. Factory sabots use hard fiber cards between the sabot and gas seal. Most factory sabot slugs use lead cored pistol type projectiles. However, there are a few companies loading all copper projectiles similar to our own.

We use specialized propellants which are best suited for high velocity slug loads. Our propellants deliver less muzzle blast than conventional factory slugs. This is important since slugs are frequently fired in short barreled shotguns where muzzle blast is most intense. Muzzle blast is a key factor to shooter comfort and how your body perceives recoil. These propellants are also modern, super clean burning in nature, and have great cold and warm weather performance.

Factory slug loads are loaded with that propellant which produces the most uniform internal ballistics over a broad range of conditions for the load produced. The criteria for a factory selecting a propellant is driven more by economics than by that which absolutely works best. Saving a few pennies per round produced adds up over millions of rounds. So even if powder A is the best, powder B will get the nod if it costs less and still delivers acceptable results.

All of this is nothing without the hull, or shell, to hold it all together. We use only NEW modern Fiocchi Riefenhauser design hulls for our slug loads. Riefenhauser type hulls are spacious in internal volume, allowing plenty of room for all the bulky components of a slug load. These hulls have water proofed primers and are roll crimped shut for a classic look and superior performance. Roll crimps are harder to apply, but they deliver more consistent shotshell performance than the star, or fold crimp. Our primary hulls are made by Fiocchi and 99% of our loads will use this brand. Where Fiocchi hulls aren't applicable, we use that brand which is best suited for the application.

Factory slug loads always uses the hulls made by that producing company. None of the factory hulls are junk, but some are better than others. Factory slugs always use a roll crimp as this is the only hull closure which will deliver the uniform internal ballistics required for accurate single projectile firing. Something to be aware of if purchasing

custom slugs by another company is to be sure they are using a hull which is suitable for a slug load to begin with and closed with a roll crimp, it is critically important to overall load performance.

So now you know what goes into a superior load and the difference between Stars & Stripes Ammunition's slugs and factory slugs. Let's concentrate a little more on the slugs. The next few pages will discuss our slugs, effective range, chokes, and shell lengths.

EFFECTIVE RANGE

Small caliber slugs in the right gauge caliber can be effective out to 50 yards on deer sized game or personal defense. The exception being the 410 Bore which is really too small for deer hunting. Large caliber slugs are generally effective to about 100 yards for big game hunting and defensive/combat use. Whether your shotgun has a sighting system, or uses the conventional bead at barrel's end will largely determine your maximum effective range. Sightless shotguns are only as accurate as the hunter can point their firearm and become ineffective for any shot much beyond 50 yards due to sighting errors. With open sights you can double effective range, and optical sights can add more yardage to your range with the right slug under ideal conditions.

Optical sights, or scopes, have some benefits over open rifle sights. Even a 1.5x magnification allows more precise shot placement than is possible with open sights of any kind. Scopes with large objective lenses are also better for low light situations as found at twilight hours due to the scope's ability to collect light making the viewed image brighter.

Custom slug loadings generate considerably more accuracy than factory slugs in any type of shotgun, and hunting with a modern shotgun equipped with optical sights can increase your range of use and effectiveness. If your shotgun allows easy barrel change outs, you may want to consider obtaining a slug barrel with sights on it. Some large caliber slugs can be effective out to 150 yards, or more, under ideal conditions in a shotgun using optical sights and a rifled barrel. Due to their very curved trajectories, shots beyond 100 yards become increasingly difficult with open sights and this is where optical sights and rifled barrels have an advantage. While slugs are short range ammunition, all slugs carry lethal energy beyond 200 yards, so care must be used when using slugs just as you would use when hunting with a rifle or handgun.

Many people insist on using the small gauge calibers for hunting outside the class capabilities they were intended for and it is not advisable. While smaller gauge calibers under 20 gauge are OK for deer hunting, the 410 should be passed over for such hunting. In comparison, a 357 Magnum handgun has more killing potential than a 410 Bore slug, and a 357 Magnum is considered marginal at best for deer hunting. There are better gauge calibers than the 410 Bore for deer hunting. But if you insist on using the 410 Bore, rest assured that a Stars & Stripes Ammunition 410 Bore slug will outperform a factory slug by a considerable margin!

A common mistake with shotguns when a person owns more than one type of ammunition for their firearm is accidentally firing the wrong loading for their hunting.

Be absolutely certain you are taking birdshot into the field when going bird hunting. Slugs carry a long way, and while not as far as a rifle or pistol bullet is capable of traveling, it would be a tragedy to mistakenly launch a slug into the next field while shooting at a bird on the wing and kill or injure another person.

All of our slugs are loaded with a top card labeled "SLUG", or with the hull mouth open to show the slug for added safety. As an added precaution, our most common gauge caliber slug, the 2-3/4 and 3 inch 12 gauge, are loaded into a clear see through hulls for added safety and ease of load identity.

BARRELS AND CHOKES

Shotgun and slug technology has advanced considerably since the 1980s. We now have fully rifled shotgun barrels and the ability to mount optical sights on our shotguns. Modern sabot slug ammunition requires the use of a rifled barrel, no exceptions. And while most shotguns will still be sold with smoothbore barrels, a rifled barrel can deliver accuracy gains from almost any slug. Slug barrels are heavier in design and come equipped with rifle sights or a cantilever mount for a scope.

Barrel length has very little effect on slug velocity and accuracy, and with that in mind a 20 to 23 inch barrel will deliver the best velocity from any load. If you choose to use a short 18 inch barrel, slug velocity will not suffer very much. Sighted slug barrels are always short length barrels 18 to 23 inches in length.

Chokes are designed to modify a shot pattern by squeezing the shot column together to a predetermined amount of compression before the shot leaves the barrel, slowing the outward dispersal of the shot. Chokes for the most part are useless for slug applications. A slug is a single projectile and too much choke will destroy slug accuracy. The only chokes applicable to slugs are Improved Cylinder and the modern interchangeable threaded insert with rifling in it called a rifled choke.

Chokes are located in the last few inches of your barrel, or are interchangeable threaded inserts as found in modern barrels. Essentially, the choke compresses the shot column by tapering down to a smaller size than your true bore diameter, squeezing the shot together as it passes through this constriction. A choke will also compress a slug the same way, but beyond a few thousandths of an inch compression will grossly deform the slug and destroy accuracy.

Choking of a shotgun barrel presents definite problems for slugs, and is another area of hunting big game with a shotgun which causes confusion. Most modern slugs can be safely fired through any choke so don't worry about using a modern slug with your choke, but it is best to use the more open chokes whenever possible. While it is highly unlikely that a constrictive choke will enhance accuracy, only testing out different chokes in your shotgun will tell, and this can only be accomplished in a barrel using interchangeable choke inserts.

Like people, all shotguns are different and it is advisable to do field testing to verify how your particular firearm is going to shoot with your slug and at the range you intend to use

it at. What worked best in our test shotguns may not hold any merit for your application, so get to the range and do some practicing.

Chokes found in shotguns from least constrictive to most constrictive are; Rifled(Rif), Cylinder(Cyl.), Skeet Cylinder(Skeet Cyl.), Improved Cylinder(Imp. Cyl.), Improved Modified(Imp. Mod.), Modified(Mod), Modified Full(Mod. Full), Full, and Extra Full (aka Turkey).

Rifled choke is a special rifled choke insert for modern barrels. This choke is designed to be a low cost alternative to purchasing a new rifled barrel. Rifled chokes are suitable for all smoothbore and sabot slugs. While not delivering the accuracy of a rifled barrel, they offer some accuracy gains over a smoothbore barrel.

Cylinder choke is a barrel without any constriction, it is true bore diameter from chamber end to muzzle. This choke, or lack of, is OK for all smoothbore slugs.

Skeet Cylinder choke has just a slight amount of constriction and is designed for rapidly opening patterns needed for skeet competition. Skeet Cyl. isn't normally found in hunting applications, but can be used for this role. This choke is OK for all smoothbore slugs and can enhance accuracy and velocity by improving barrel gas seal and forcing the slug to center itself in the bore.

Improved Cylinder is the choke which has the best benefit for slugs. This choke size has a few thousandths of an inch of restriction. Imp. Cyl. choke is OK for all smoothbore slugs and can enhance accuracy and velocity by improving barrel gas seal and forcing the slug to center itself in the bore.

Improved Modified choke is OK for all smoothbore slugs. This choke can under certain circumstances enhance accuracy. This works when a undersized slug is used in the load, like commonly found in a factory slug.

Modified choke is a middle ground choke but is getting too restrictive for slugs. Except for the most undersized slugs, this choke will deform the slug and ruin accuracy.

Modified Full choke is too restrictive for slugs. In all but rare occasions slug accuracy will suffer with this choke type.

Full choke is the most constrictive choke that can be safely used with slugs. Accuracy suffers with this choke.

Extra Full, or Turkey choke is the most constrictive choke. It is not recommended to fire any slug through this choke. Slug deformation will be extreme, and a pressure spike, which under certain circumstances could be unsafe can occur when firing a slug through this choke.

Once upon a time, external variable chokes were popular, and many older shotguns are equipped with these twist type variable chokes. Poly Choke was the major manufacturer

of this style choke. The Poly Choke uses a collet with fingers to compress the shot charge before it exits the choke. Set your Poly Choke, or similar collet style variable choke, to Cylinder, or Improved Cylinder if there is no Cylinder setting. Under no circumstances should you fire a slug through any adjustable constriction tighter than Imp. Cyl. You run the risk of possibly causing damage to the choke device by using the more constrictive settings with slugs. Do not confuse a Poly Choke with the modern interchangeable choke inserts.

SHELL LENGTH

Shell length is only a minor concern for most people. Standard shell lengths are 2-3/4 inch, 3 inch, and 3-1/2 inch. Other shell lengths exist, and we do make slug loads for those lengths as well.

If the shell length is suitable for your chamber, you can use it even if it is shorter than the chamber. We have found that the shell length which fills the entire length of your chamber will most often produce the best accuracy being the slug doesn't have to jump unsupported from the shell mouth to the barrel forcing cone. Longer shell lengths also allow higher velocities with equal weight slugs. Under no circumstances should you use a shell length longer than the markings on your shotgun!

STARS & STRIPES AMMUNITION SLUG SELECTIONS

DANGEROUS GAME SLUG (DGS)

As mentioned previously, shotgun hunting is on the rise, and it is on the rise for all types of big game hunting. There are people going to hunt Africa and Asia with their shotguns, and people are hunting large heavy game here in America more frequently with their shotguns. Due to the size and sometimes the disposition of heavy and dangerous game, a very specialized slug must be used if the hunter is going to be successful.

The DGS series of slugs are not just for dangerous game, they are also our premier slug for all big game hunting. This slug in 12ga is suitable for virtually all game with the exception of some of the largest African varieties. The performance level of the DGS series outclasses any discarding sabot and all factory rifled slugs. DGS slugs have outstanding accuracy in both smoothbore and rifled barrel applications.

The DGS also has superb capabilities as a law enforcement and personal defense slug due to its superior barrier penetrating qualities. While it is no AP projectile, it will certainly punch through windshields, car doors, and household obstacles better than any of our other slug loadings.

The DGS is a one piece unitized slug with a permanently attached afterbody which stabilizes the slug in flight and is also a technologically advanced inertial damper and gas seal. These slugs are the most powerful slug loadings we offer, yet they feel like a lighter field load when fired. This benefit is a significant advantage for hunters and law enforcement alike.

DGS slugs are suitable for smoothbore and rifled barrels.

Effective range is 100 to 150 yards on virtually any game found depending on gauge caliber and slug weight.

Available in 12ga., 16ga., and 20ga.

ROUNDBALL SLUG

Long before the discarding sabot rounds and the lead rifled slugs most of us are all too familiar with, there was the solid lead roundball, which dates back to the earliest days of smoothbore muskets. These balls were common in shotgun ammo, until the 1930s, but had some undesirable problems.

These older bore sized balls could easily damage the thin, soft shotgun barrels of the day if they had any type of choke. Balls that were undersized to fit through a choked barrel were often very inaccurate due to extreme slug deformation during the firing cycle and flight through the barrel, thus the demise of the round ball loadings.

Stars and Stripes Ammunition loads solid ball type slugs with a modern twist to make them safe and accurate for any choke. Roundballs are affordable, very effective, and offer deep penetration, and are perfectly suitable for smoothbore barrels. These balls will pass through any choke, even full choke, with no worries of barrel damage. Our roundball slugs are suitable for any barrel/choke type, including rifled barrels.

To overcome the choke problem, we use an undersized ball that rides in a plastic discarding carrier which keeps the ball centered in the bore, and allows the choke to squeeze in without ever touching the ball. The other benefits of using the plastic cup are improved accuracy since the ball will not be deformed during its flight through the barrel and choke, and it will not be rolling or tumbling when it exits the barrel.

In a rifled barrel, or rifled choke insert, the slug carrier will engage the rifling adding spin stability and accuracy to the roundball.

Effective range averages about 50 yards in unsighted smoothbore barrels, with 100 yards being the upper limit for shotguns with rifled barrels, sights, and experienced shooters. Many old timers swore by this slug for use in heavy brush at close range.

This slug is usable on all big game the exception being large African species and dangerous game.

We load roundball slugs in all gauges.

AQ FIN STABILIZED SLUG

The AQ slug is a fin stabilized semi roundball. The construction of this slug is very close to a Foster type and is permanently affixed to a finned afterbody which imparts a much more positive spin on the slug than any of the rifled foster slugs ever achieve.

The AQ slug is a smoothbore specialist slug and must never be fired in a rifled barrel or rifled choke.

Effective range is out to 100 yards. This slug is suitable for deer class game.

The AQ is only available in 12 gauge.

LIGHT GAME SLUG (LGS)

Light Game slugs are similar to their large bore DGS cousins except they are a round ball slug attached to the plastic afterbody. These slugs offer light recoil and improved accuracy, just like their large bore cousins.

LGS 28ga. slugs are suitable for small game up to smaller deer sized game, but are not effective on anything larger than smaller deer. The 410 Bore LGS is only suitable for small game and varmints.

Effective range is about 50 yards for the LGS28, and 35 yards for the LGS410.

Available in 28ga. and 410 Bore.

FOSTER SLUG

Foster slugs are known to most shotgunners as 'Rifled Slugs'. These slugs were specifically designed to overcome the problems being encountered with solid round balls used in choked barrels in the early 20th Century. These slugs are a soft skirted lead projectile which is hollow throughout most of its length. This hollow interior allows the slug to squeeze through any choke without damaging the barrel. Foster slugs are proportionally nose heavy so they fly straight without any rifling spin to aid in accuracy.

We only offer Foster type slugs in 10 gauge as we do not have a DGS slug available for the Big Ten at this time. This slug in 10 gauge can handle just about any game encountered due to the sheer mass of the projectile. Fosters can be fired through both smoothbore and rifled barrels.

When used in a shotgun with sights, they are usable out to 100 yards, give or take.

LIMITED BORE CONTACT (LBC)

The LBC slug is the same slug as the DGS slug except that it is slightly undersized to fit inside an isolating sabot carrier. This slug does not have the attached afterbody of the DGS, with the inertial damper being part of the carrier.

LBC slugs have the same capabilities of the DGS. See the above listing for the DGS Slug to learn more.

Effective range is about 100 yards.

Available in 12ga only.

SABOT SLUG

The last slug type is the modern and innovative discarding sabot type. These are truly modern shotgun projectiles and must be fired in a rifled barrel for best results. Rifled chokes can also be used, but a fully rifled barrel is best. Under no circumstances can our sabot slugs be fired in a smoothbore barrel.

Although the sabot slug existed as far back as 1898, it was just a smaller than bore diameter slug with a special shape to resist flipping in flight and were usable in smoothbore barrels. These slugs rode through the barrel in the familiar discarding sabot.

Enter the modern discarding sabot shotgun slug; these shotgun projectiles must be spun like rifle or pistol bullets to be accurate and require the use of a rifled barrel, or in the very least a rifled choke insert.

Sabot slugs offer flatter trajectories making longer shots easier. Sabot slugs are nothing more than heavy pistol bullets or jacketed muzzle loader sabot bullets riding in a correct gauge size sabot.

A note on Sabot Slugs. Although a 45 caliber bullet weighing 250 grains seem large by today's standards, they aren't and the lead core bullets have relatively poor sectional density. Sectional density is an important factor of bullet penetration. Velocity of these slugs is not any higher than an equivalent caliber magnum handgun and game should be limited to deer class game with 45 caliber sabot slugs. Fifty caliber slugs are larger in cross sectional area and heavier in weight. The 50s can be used on most North American big game.

Due to the size and space occupied by a sabot, our sabot slugs do not incorporate inertial dampers in the load like our full caliber slugs. Where possible, we use natural fiber spacers which will dampen out some of the recoil energy. One exception on this does exist and that is our 20 gauge 3 inch sabot loading. The 3 inch 20ga load combination has enough space to allow the inertial damper, which cuts felt recoil dramatically.

BARNES "X" TYPE SLUG

A recent and outstanding entry into the sabot slug market is the Barnes "X" slug. This slug uses the same "X" bullet technology as used in Barnes' rifle and pistol "X" bullets. The "X" slug was designed as a shotgun slug from the beginning. It uses a hollow point design and is made of a homogeneous copper material, making it a lead free projectile. The two projectile types are the SGS and MZ. The SGS is a large bore 12ga slug of nearly full bore caliber size and weighs a full ounce. The MZ is constructed the same as the SGS, but it is a lighter and smaller diameter slug.

The SGS and MZ slug have a huge hollow frontal cavity which makes them effective at lower shotgun velocities. These slugs have superior sectional density over lead core bullets of equivalent caliber and weight, and deliver better accuracy than all other sabot slugs and superior terminal performance due to nearly 100% weight retention, and

quicker expansion, even at lower velocities. Barnes "X" Slugs are available in 20ga and 12ga.

The SGS slug is the superior slug over the MZ. It is larger in diameter and has more mass. This larger cross sectional area and weight make it more efficient at longer ranges and suitable for all but the largest and most dangerous game. Unfortunately, it looks as if Barnes may discontinue manufacturing the SGS slug, so it may disappear from our lineup.

The MZ slug is Barnes' Muzzle Loader "X" bullet. This slug is designed to work at the velocities produced by modern magnum powered inline muzzle loaders. Shotguns deliver the same range of velocity as the inline muzzle loaders, and we have incorporated this projectile into our sabot shotgun ammunition. We use a specially designed sabot with this projectile.

The MZ is smaller in diameter and lighter in weight than the SGS, so it doesn't have the same range of capabilities. There are two diameters to choose from in 12ga; 45 Cal. and 50 Cal. And one in 20ga; 45 Cal.

The SGS and MZ slugs are effective to about 150 yards. The SGS can be used on most heavy game. The MZ is a little more limited due to its smaller caliber and slightly lower mass.

Weights available are 1oz for the 12ga SGS, 250gr for the 45 Cal. MZ, and 325gr for the 50 Cal. MZ.

Available in 12ga and 20ga only.

LEAD CORE SABOT SLUG

The other projectiles used in our sabots are lead core 45 and 50 caliber pistol bullets designed for magnum velocities. These bullets are a little more economical than the Barnes projectiles, but they are inferior in performance. Never the less, these lead core bullets are fine deer class projectiles for budget priced custom sabot shotgun ammunition.

250gr and 300gr 45 Cal. bullets and one 325gr 50 Cal. bullet are the only options available for these slugs.

Game should be limited to deer size.

Effective range is around 100 yards.

Available in 12ga and 20ga only.

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