

## **Stars & Stripes Ammunition**

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### **About Speer Bullets**

Speer Bullets is one of the largest bullet manufacturers in the world. Vernon Speer founded the company in Lewiston Idaho in 1944. The first products made were 22 caliber jacketed bullets made from reclaimed 22 rimfire brass cases, a unique solution for making bullets in the war days of the early and mid 40s when anything to do with shooting was nearly non-existent to the public. Since then the company has grown considerably and has been acquired by Omark Industries in 1975.

One of the trademark bullets manufactured by Speer is the Grand Slam series of bullets. This was one of the first bullets to use advanced designs for controlling bullet expansion and reduce bullet failures. Speer also offers a broad line of technically unique and effective bullet designs for the shooting and hunting consumer.

In the current product line, Speer manufactures both rifle and pistol bullets as well as empty pistol shot capsules. The products are; Hot-Cor, Boat Tail in both spitzer soft point and hollow point design, TNT, Mag Tip, Grand Slam, Trophy Bonded, African Grand Slam, African Grand Slam Tungsten Core Solid, Gold Dot, Uni-Cor, Standard jacketed Lead Core, and TMJ.

#### **HOT-COR**

Hot-Cor bullets use a manufacturing process unique to Speer. Hot-Cor bullets were the first bullets to address the issue of core/jacket separations, which are the leading cause for bullet failures.

In a regular jacketed lead core bullet, the core is formed separately from the jacket, thus requiring assembly and some level of lubrication to make this process efficient. It is this lubricant and the minute amounts of air trapped between the jacket and core that causes oxidation and subsequently makes it easier for the core to slip in the jacket, causing bullet failures upon impact. The Hot-Cor bullet eliminates this by having its core poured into the jacket in a molten state. This molten lead welds itself to the gilding metal jacket, permanently locking the core and jacket together.

Hot-Core bullets are intended for large big game. Speer advertises that these bullets are intended for the upper end of your rifle and cartridge's killing capability. Hot-Cor bullets are available in calibers 6mm to .45.

### **BOAT TAIL**

Speer standard boat tail bullets are a more lightly constructed bullet using regular swaged lead cores and are intended for lighter game than the Hot-Cor, where bullet breakup isn't as prominent of a problem. These bullets are available in both spitzer soft points and hollow points, and are available in calibers .22 to .375.

### **TNT**

TNT bullets are strictly varmint bullets. They feature a thin fluted jacket and a broad hollow point for reliable explosive expansion at a broad range of velocity. TNT bullets will yaw and break up immediately upon impact with the target, they are not recommended for any big game hunting. TNT bullets are also not intended for the blistering velocities obtainable by the hyper performance cartridges. TNTs work best at a velocity range of 1800 fps to 3400 fps. They are available in calibers .22 to .30.

### **MAG TIP**

Mag Tips were developed in the early 1970s and today are an intermediate step between the Hot-Cor and the Grand Slam bullets. They are assembled using the Hot-Cor process, but use a substantially heavier jacket. These jackets are fluted at the nose for a reliable expansion at the lower end of the velocity window spectrum. The jackets are also the full length of the core to protect the bullet tip from damage in the rifle magazine. This damage from battering can happen even in rifles having only modest recoil, and robs a bullet of its aerodynamics and accuracy. These bullets are intended for heavier game animals, and are available in calibers 7mm, .30, and .416.

### **GRAND SLAM**

The Grand Slam bullets share a similar jacket to the Mag Tip, but that is where the similarities end. Grand Slams are intended for use on heavy game, and they are robustly designed for that task.

The Grand Slam uses two different cores. The base core is a hard lead alloy that is swaged into the jacket. The jacket is then partially folded down over this core, effectively locking it in place, and a softer lead core is poured in using the Hot-Cor process, welding the front core to both the jacket and the harder base core. This bullet usually retains more weight than a typical partition bullet. Bullets in .24 and .25 caliber have only one soft core poured in using Hot-Cor.

Grand Slams are available in calibers 6mm to .375.

### **TROPHY BONDED**

Trophy Bonded bullets are a premium bullet intended for the upper killing range of your rifle. This bullet is superb for once in a lifetime hunts and or dangerous game. The Trophy Bonded bullet is manufactured from a solid bar of gilding metal with the lead core fusion bonded to the bullet shank. This bullet has high weight retention due to the majority of the bullet mass being comprised of solid copper. Trophy Bonded bullets are available in calibers 22 to 45.

### **AFRICAN GRAND SLAM (AGS)**

AGS bullets were created to address the unique issues of African game hunting. AGS bullets have a jacket that is machined from a solid bar of gilding metal, then deep drawn to form the thinner frontal section. A series of locking grooves are machined into the inside of the jacket shank and the core is poured in using the Hot-Cor process. These bullets are designed on the principle of retained length to provide proper penetration and bullet stability in tissue mass, which is a more realistic method of tuning and gauging bullet performance.

AGS soft points are available in .416 and .45 caliber

### **AFRICAN GRAND SLAM TUNGSTEN CORE SOLID (AGS SOLID)**

The AGS solid is not a true solid, but a FMJ bullet design, being that it has a core material different than that of the outer jacket. The AGS Solid is machined from a bar of solid gilding metal and has a rod of Tungsten inserted and locked in place for the core material.

Tungsten being one of the hardest and densest metals known makes a very rigid and “solid” bullet that is capable of tremendous penetrating characteristics. Tungsten, being denser than lead, makes a bullet that is more compact than normal for its weight. This is of definite benefit to limited capacity cases like 458 Win Mag.

AGS Solids are available in only two calibers, .416 and .45.

### **UNI-COR**

Uni-Cor bullets use a manufacturing process unique to Speer pistol bullets. These pistol bullets have a jacket that is grown one molecule at a time onto the lead bullet core!

These bullets start life as a pure lead swaged core, and then the jacket is ‘grown’ onto this core by a special electro-chemical plating process. This ‘growing’ process makes a bullet that is unmatched for core/jacket integrity and accuracy.

Regular copper plated bullets just have a built up copper plated shell, and this plating is easily stripped off under high velocity in the barrel during firing, and during high stress impacts. In a test conducted by Speer, a 9mm Uni-Cor bullet was fired across the edge of a steel plate at 1150 fps, yet the jacket remained tenaciously attached to the bullet fragments!

### **GOLD DOT**

Gold Dot bullets are part of the Uni-Core family and are available in hollow point and soft point designs.

Gold Dot hollow point bullets were designed to meet the stringent pistol bullet performance standards set by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for their service

ammunition. These bullets meet the FBI barrier penetration requirements and typically retain better than 95% of their unfired weight when fired into ordinance gelatin.

Gold Dots are the best standard lead core defense and tactical bullets on the market, and indeed they will out penetrate any of the low mass, hyper velocity pre-fragmented bullets. This type of performance is what truly saves a life in the real world outside of ballistic ordinance gelatin.

Pre-frags show some impressive wound channels due to the fact that a bullet failure, or breakup, is designed into the bullet. While this mass of secondary projectiles is exceptionally lethal when it finds its way into a vital area, they can't work if the bullet hits bone and blows up outside of the vital area, or if the bullet doesn't have enough mass to penetrate heavy clothing, bone, or barriers. Gold Dots are available in all pistol calibers, .25 to .50.

### **TMJ**

TMJ bullets are Totally Metal Jacketed bullets, and are part of the Uni-Cor family. TMJ bullets address the accuracy robbing characteristics of the open base on regular FMJ bullets. An FMJ bullet is open at the base, and upon firing the high pressure gas behind the bullet can deform its base and cause a loss of accuracy.

TMJs have a closed base and can't suffer from base deformation. TMJ bullets are naturally intended for the match bullet market, but are also a perfect choice for those seeking top accuracy from their fine pistols. An added benefit to this completely covered lead core is that no lead is exposed upon firing or bullet impact with the target, meaning that no airborne lead contamination can result from the use of this bullet and a lead free primer. This is a plus when doing extensive indoor shooting. Some states have laws requiring any ammunition being fired indoors to be of a "lead free" or encapsulated design.

TMJs are available in regular truncated cone design as well as a semi-wadcutter and silhouette match designs. They are available in most popular calibers.

### **STANDARD LEAD CORE**

These soft point bullets use the standard assembly process of inserting a swaged lead core into a bullet jacket

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