



Technical Newsletter From  
Your Ballistic Technicians  
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## Matchkings and Hunting

by Rich Macholz

Every year we are reminded of the accuracy advantage MatchKings provide by hunters wishing to use them in the field. We don't suggest this application due to thin jackets, hard cores, and small meplat openings.

These design characteristics can cause premature expansion at close range, lack of expansion at extreme range, and a very narrow corridor of terminal performance. It is very difficult to take advantage of the MatchKings accuracy edge in the field under normal hunting conditions. Usually things are not just exactly perfect when that trophy presents itself. That means that odds are good that shot placement, while good, may not be perfect.

### Frequently Asked Questions

By Paul Box

Q. I've just bought a new varmint rifle with a 24" heavy barrel. Should I have this rifle bedded before I start doing load development? A. No, actually if a rifle is inletted properly and has good contact at the recoil lug as well as the shoulder behind the recoil lug and ahead of the magazine cut, and at the tang, accuracy could be very good. If the rifle shoots well with proper load development, disassemble the rifle and if it's a wood

To compensate for this very slight error, a reliable expanding type hunting bullet that transfers all the energy available is a necessity. Therefore, if your .300 Win Mag Ruremchester shoots .4" with 168 grain MatchKings and .8" with 165 grain GameKings, you still have better than minute of a whitetail accuracy with a bullet that was designed for maximum terminal performance.

I've never seen a game animal with a bullseye on it, so X count or score isn't so important as the result of one good shot that gives maximum terminal results.

### Point Blank Range

By Tommy Todd

Point Blank Range is the maximum range you can hold on center of a given target where the bullet will not impact above or below the vital area. For example, your .30-06 shooting a 165 grain SBT at 2700 fps would have a maximum point blank range of 325 yards utilizing a zero at 275 yards using a 10 inch window. This means that the bullet would not miss the vital area of a large deer holding the center of the chest. To establish your

stock, give it two or three coats of tru-oil to make sure the wood is sealed against moisture. If it's a fiberglass stock, nothing is needed inside. Bed the rifle only if your accuracy isn't up to par after load development.

rifles point blank range, chronograph your loads and consult your Sierra (or other) reloading manual for the trajectory of your chosen bullet.

## Chevy Truck Sportsman's Team Challenge

The Sierra/Starline team captured their third consecutive National Championship at the 1997 Chevy Truck Sportsman's Team Challenge during April at Markham Park in Florida. David Tubb, Doug Koenig, and J. Michael Plaxco defeated Team Dillon and Team Texas to win the match. The Sierra/Starline junior team also competed in Florida. This team was made up of three boys ages 13,14, and 15, Eric Bowling, Hunter Pilant, and Cory Galloway, all from Missouri. This team represented Sierra well as they won the Junior Class, captured 5th in the Novice Class (for all shooters who have never competed in a Chevy Truck Challenge before), and 32nd overall in the Sportsman's Class.

## The ABC's of B.C.

by Rich Machholz

The ABC's of B.C. by Rich Machholz "Yeh.....but the B.C. is sooo low" is a common comment. Let's just see how important B.C. is to the hunter. First we'll assume that our shots will be as close as the muzzle and as far as three hundred yards or our best guess at it anyway. I chose the venerable 30-06 with the 180 grain bullet at 2700 fps as our test cartridge using our #2150 SPT, #2160 SBT and #2170 RN bullets. All three bullets are shot at the same velocity (2700 fps) and zeroed for the same yardage (200 yards).

Trajectories at	100 yards	200 yards	300 yards
#2150-180 gr.Spt	+2.0"	0	-8.7"
#2160-180 gr.SBT	+2.0"	0	-8.2"
#2170-180 gr.RN	+2.3"	0	-10.0"

What this means is that regardless of what bullet you're using there is a half inch difference at 100 yards and only about two and a half inch difference at a full 300 yards in down range trajectories. The reality of this is under normal field conditions and positions it would be very difficult to "hold" the differences in the

## X-Ring Back Issues

Seldom does a day go by that we don't get one or more requests for back issues of the X-Ring. Unfortunately, we print only slightly more than we need for a mailing on an issue to issue basis. When that issue is mailed, excess issues are kept and distributed on a first come first served basis. When that issue is gone it is gone, literally! All is not lost however. While it is not practical for us to reprint each issue, we do install them on our web site [www.sierrabullets.com](http://www.sierrabullets.com) where they can be down-loaded and printed.



This trophy Yukon Grizzly was taken with a 7mm 140 grain Pro Hunter by Bill Brotherton of Crescent City, Florida in May 1997. The bear was shot at 150 yards with a 7x57.

three bullets. You can actually ignore the B.C. differences and choose the best bullet for the job regardless of its shape, so long as you have a reliable 200-yard zero. True, you sacrifice about 500 foot/pounds of impact energy at 300 yards and wind drift increases by 6 inches at 300 in a 10-mph breeze in a best to worst comparison but neither are catastrophic. We'll discuss what happens beyond 300 yards in a future issue.

Larry Scharnhorst took his Missouri buck with a 7mm 160 grain SBT in the fall 1996 season. This buck scored 23 Boone & Crocket points and had a score of 194 5/8. Larry shot his buck at Collins, Missouri with a Sako 7x64.



## Bianchi Cup

Congratulations to Bruce Piatt for his victory at the 1997 Bianchi Cup held at the Chapman Academy near Columbia, Missouri in May 21-24. Bruce was shooting the Sierra 9mm, 125 grain JHP's.

## NRA Rifle Silhouette Championships

Congratulations to Antonio Lopez of Albuquerque, NM and Tony Tello of Riverside, CA for their performances at the recently concluded NRA Hi-Power Rifle Silhouette Championships June 19-21 at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, NM. Antonio Lopez won the Standard Rifle championship, using Sierra's 7mm, 150 grain HPBT MatchKings (#1915) at the chickens, pigs, and turkeys, and the 168 grain HPBT MatchKing (#1930) for the 500 meter rams. Tony Tello won the Hunter Rifle championship using Sierra's 6.5mm, 120 grain HPBT MatchKings (#1725).

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