

I'm not robot!



























they have problems largely overlooked today. A clean hit in a vital area with a .22 means Brunswick stew on the table, and no mistake. But also means a sharp "CRACK" sound foreign to the woods, and a while before the alarm fades and lets one hunt effectively again. More often than not, it also means more or less bloodshot meat loss from over expansion of the high (er) velocity bullet. And that's with good shot placement. But poor bullet placement WILL occur, if only because the dang squirrel moves just as the trigger is pulled. Poor placement results in unnecessary suffering and considerably more disturbance in the woods from the squirrel's struggles, from a second shot, or from the sound of the hunter rushing to deal with the situation. I actually have jtwinf #4 Rolling Blocks; One in .22 LR, and the other in .32 Long, which enables me to make a good comparison of the two rounds. It has been my experience that the .32 RF (or loads duplicating it) is a much superior hunting round in the woods. Granted, it does suffer from a rainbow trajectory, but you'd be surprised how little difference that makes in the woods, where shots at small game seldom exceed 35 or 40 yards, and frequently occur at 10 or 20 yards. And the lower velocity prevents bloodshot meat. The .32 caliber has well over twice the cross sectional striking area of .22's, which seems to offer considerably greater allowance for 389 aiming error (or just bad luck). A squirrel hit with a .32 seldom struggles at all. It's usually a jsnap# from the rifle and a resulting pthump# as the squirrel hits the ground as dead as a doornail. And that's another advantage of the slow .32 round: The low velocity doesn't require the higher pressures that give a .22 such a sharp report. Shoot a .32, and the sound is much like a small twig falling to the ground. There is essentially no disturbance of the woods. Yes, I like .22's, and I still own - and use - a barrel full of them. But that doesn't mean I can't see their limitations. And yes, I still use them in the woods in spite of those limitations. But for a delightful fall woods ramble and for sheer pleasure, I find the .32's a refreshing change of pace, and a much better overall choice. And the reloads that duplicate their performance lets me pre-learn# the feel and handling of a deer rifle while sharpening my hunting skills. FIELD REPORT-SOFT NOSE CAST HUNTING BULLETS Bill McGraw I'm no expert, just very curious as to what can be done with cast bullets. There were only 3 white tail deer involved (I missed 2 standing shots) and 2 were shot with a custom 90 gr SP (very sharp nose point) 25 cal at 2775 MV; one shot, running toward me, a small doe, the shot went thru from the left shoulder, shattered the shoulder and left lung, exited the gut, and reentered the ham on opposite side, shot thru the ham and appeared to have not tumbled. The shot was at 35 Yds; I watched her run from a ditch 200 Yds away, and when no buck came out, I shot the doe (12X scope) and she passed by me 5 ft. left of me and dropped behind me a few yards. I went downrange hoping to find the bullet base but no luck. I took a good look at the "autopsy" for the bullet track. It appeared the soft nose did its job on the shoulder and left lung (nose and bone fragments went into the lung). I suspect the soft nose opens up at entry at the hide. Second big doe was shot thru spine, a standing shot at 70 Yds, so dark I couldn't see the crosshairs in the 12X scope, and had to center the lighter colored hide in the center of the scope and hit high on the spine. The 30-30 6-point buck shot was printed in TFS as "Hunters Tails" in '85 or so; that was another 2nd running shot at 35 Yds, thru the lungs and the nose separated and pierced the offside ribs with a much larger hole than the base did, about 4" apart, so didn't deviate much after the nose separated (31141). He ran 75 Yds and left a large blood trail. I had loads for my '03 Springfield sporter 30-06 and Mauser '98 308 Win. But never had a shot. Glenn Latham and I have discussed the necessity of the soft nose CB. It appears that even a fully heat treated CB will work well if the MV is high enough to upset the nose and a FN will work even better than a RN or SP. Bullet placement is of more importance. Glenn has shot at least one muley with a heat-treated, no soft nose, bullet with success; it was short range and hivel. I did no wet paper or bottled water test media; that's a hell of a lot of trouble. I did test the soft nose (HT-Q, NA) bullets, 25, 30, and 35 cal. on dirt berms at 50 to 300 Yds. When the CB was only HT-Q, it shot into 18+" into hard dry Mississippi buckshot dirt at 50 Yds (measured with a steel rod); I could not recover these. The NA CB's upset quickly, made a much bigger entry into the dirt yet only penetrated 12"; recovered shanks were only of the non-annealed part of the bullets. At 300 yd I recovered most of them; the noses mushroomed classically as expected, did not separate from the shank. I shot some 358009's (1900 MV) at 150 Yds into some hard, small gravel-like dirt in Wyoming with the 35 Whelen and 358009; the HT-Q bullets exploded and left only a cup-shaped hole filled with lead splattered particles; the HT-Q, NA bullets penetrated a few more inches and the shank of the bullet was recovered in the dirt. My assumption there is that the soft nose acted like a shock absorber to allow the shank to penetrate 390 further; otherwise, the HT-Q bullet shank either disintegrated on the hard dirt or it bounced back out of the ground. Joe, feel free to include in your book Bill McGraw "Somewhere South of Chicago" HOW TO MAKE SOFT NOSE CAST HUNTING BULLETS Bill McGraw I've read about several ways to make a soft-nosed hunting bullet and considered the difficulties of the two-part mould for nose and base, or casting a soft lead alloy into the nose cavity before pouring the base with a harder alloy. These two certainly will work, but seem to be either too expensive (different moulds for each caliber) or unreliable in keeping the two parts glued/bonded together after firing. For most purposes, any WW alloy of 12-14 BHN as cast can be reliably shot at 18002000 FPS and will serve most hunters. 30-30 Win. does well in this case. For the higher MV's up to 2850 FPS, the CB alloy must be heat-treated to 28 BHN at a minimum for WW and Pb mixtures. An 8 BHN alloy of 2:1 ratio of Pb: WW will heat-treat to 28 BHN, then the nose may be annealed back to the original 8 BHN for the hunting CB. Straight WW alloy can be used but the nose anneal will be no lower than the as-cast BHN of 12-14. I heat-treat the pre-sized and gas-checked CB's in the oven at 450F for 45 min. and quench quickly in water. A small container such as a coffee percolator filter (aluminum with the bottom perforated) is what I use for the CB container in the oven, but a small 6.5 oz. tuna can may be used as long as the bottom is perforated (don't cut your fingers handling such). I fill a 1 quart plastic pail with tap water for quenching. Once the 45 min. time is reached, carefully use an oven mitt to pick up the container and quickly place, not drop the container in the water. Insure the quench is done quickly. These bullets must be aged at least 24 hours, 72 is better. Once aged, verify if the BHN is minimum 28 BHN with a proper tool. Without the tool (LBT or other), just cut samples of non-HT and HT samples with side cutting or wire cutters to verify the HT bullets are harder. To anneal the noses, I place one CB into a small container (a metal jar cap) of water to cover the body of the bullet, leaving the nose uncovered. The water is the heat-sink. I use a grain alcohol flame, but a gentle propane flame, even a butane cigar torch lighter will work. Heat the bullet nose for about 5 seconds; a larger mass nose may take longer. Do not melt the nose. If the nose is a FN, place a drop of water on the nose; when the water boils off, the bullet nose is annealed. Use the same timing in seconds for each bullet nose. You may then want to verify the base and nose BHN. The nose should be the original BHN prior to HT and the base may lose 3-4 BHN; I consider 24 BHN as a minimum for hi-vel loads. Remove that CB and repeat with another. The water may get hot but does not seem to make any difference; you may add cooler water. Allow the bullets to dry; then they are ready to lube with your favorite lube and load. No more than 20 annealed-nose bullets are needed for any hunting season. I normally used only 5 nose-annealed with 15 others without nose-anneal when I hunted. In a pinch, the non-annealed bullets will hunt if a proper hit is made; A FN CB is usually better than a RN or SP. Sighting in and testing the accuracy (

