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LYMAN CARTRIDGE CASE GAUGES

Rifle Case Length/ Headspace Gauges

<u>Caliber</u>	<u>Part No.</u>
.22-250	7832324
*.223	7832323
*.243 Win.	7832322
.270 Win.	7832325
*.308 Win.	7832321
*.30-06	7832320

Pistol Max Cartridge Gauges

<u>Caliber</u>	<u>Part No.</u>
*9mm	7832330
*.40 S&W	7832332
.44 Magnum	7832336
*.45 ACP	7832331

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#7980045



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Pistol Max Cartridge Gauge Instructions



Pistol Max Cartridge Gauge Instructions

The Lyman Pistol Max Cartridge Gauge is a one-piece, non adjustable, cylinder-type steel gauge. These gauges are made with special reamers (not chamber reamers) to maximum cartridge specifications as established by S.A.A.M.I. (Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturer's Institute).

The Lyman Pistol Max Cartridge Gauge checks pistol cartridges for the following:

- Maximum and minimum headspace
- Maximum and minimum case length
- Maximum cartridge diameter
- Maximum cartridge length

A loaded pistol cartridge should fit freely into the gauge. If it does not, one of the important dimensions listed above exceeds maximum.

WARNING

NEVER ATTEMPT TO RESIZE LOADED CARTRIDGES IF THEY DO NOT FIT THE GAUGE, AS THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PRACTICE AND COULD CAUSE THE CARTRIDGE TO IGNITE LEADING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE AND/OR PERSONAL INJURY & DEATH.

DIRECTIONS – RESIZED CASES

Before using the gauge, remove all protective oil from inside the gauge. The gauge can now be used during the case resizing operation. Place a clean, resized pistol case mouth first into the gauge and be sure that it is fully seated. Hold the gauge vertically and check the position of the case head in relation to the maximum and minimum gauge steps (see figure 1). If the head of the case is higher than the maximum step, the case is either too long and needs to be trimmed or some diameter on the case is over maximum specification. It is the reloader's responsibility to determine the cause and correct it. A micrometer and/or dial caliper would be a great help in this regard. In certain instances, it may be found that cartridges fired with maximum loads and/or in a large chamber or a chamber with a large feed ramp, may not fit the gauge after resizing. This is due to the sizing die being unable to fully resize the thick brass just in front of the extractor groove which has been expanded in excess of maximum diameter.

The use of a steel rule or straight edge held over the top of the gauge would aid in determining whether a case was above the upper step. If the rule rests on the case head and light can be seen between the rule and the gauge, the case is too high.

If the head of the case is below the minimum step the case is shorter than S.A.A.M.I. specifications. It is not uncommon to find factory cartridges for semi-automatic pistols that have cases which are shorter than S.A.A.M.I. specifications by up to .005". These factory cartridges do chamber and function correctly at this shorter length, so it is the reloader's discretion whether or not to use these shorter cases.

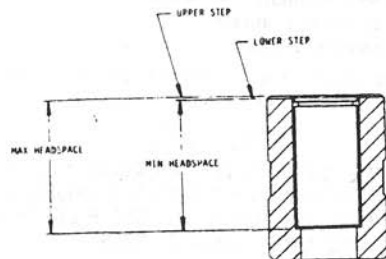


Figure 1

LOADED CARTRIDGES

After the cases are loaded, the gauge should be used to confirm that the cartridges will chamber freely and that they do not exceed the maximum overall cartridge length.

Drop each cartridge into the gauge bullet first and place the gauge on a flat surface so that the cartridge head is resting on the same surface as the face of the gauge (See Figure 2). Check to be sure that the bullet does not protrude from the top of the gauge. If it does, the cartridge exceeds the S.A.A.M.I. maximum cartridge length. During this operation, be sure that the cartridge fully enters, the gauge, as the gauge is checking several dimensions at one time. If the cartridge does not fully enter the gauge, the reloader must determine what the reason for this is. The reloader should look for any of the following problems:

- A heavy crimp that bulges the case
- Too much flare left on the case after expanding
- Oversized bullets or cases
- Lead shavings at the case mouth
- Bent or otherwise distorted rims

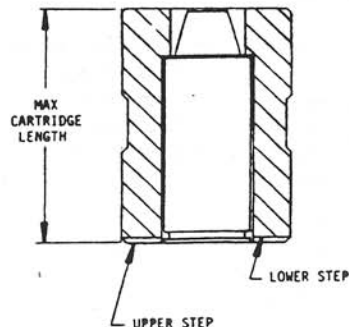


Figure 2