

DRAM EQUIVALENT—The accepted method of correlating relative velocities of shotshells loaded with smokeless propellant to shotshells loaded with black powder. The reference black powder load chosen was a 3 dram charge of black powder, with 1 1/8 oz. of shot and a velocity of 1200 fps. Therefore, a 3 dram equivalent load using smokeless powder would be one with 1 1/8 oz. of shot having a velocity of 1200 fps or 1 1/4 oz. of shot and a velocity of 1165 fps. A 3 1/4 dram equivalent load might have 1 1/8 oz. of shot and a velocity of 1255 fps. Abbreviated "Dram Equiv."

DRIFT—The deviation in flight of a bullet from the center line of the bore due to the gyrational spin of bullet imparted by the rifling.

BULLET DROP—The vertical distance a bullet has fallen, under the influence of gravity, at any point in its flight path. The distance is measured from a point on its path to the straight line from axis of the bore to target.

DUST COVER—A cover over the ejection port of a firearm to reduce the possibility of the entrance of foreign matter into the action.

EJECTION—A device which expels cartridges or fired cases from a firearm.

EJECTOR—A device which expels cartridges or fired cases from a firearm.

PROJECTILE ENERGY—The capacity of a projectile to do work, commonly expressed in the foot-pounds, joules or kilogram meters. Sometimes called Bullet Energy.

TERMINAL ENERGY—Projectile energy at the time it strikes a target. Sometimes called Striking Energy.

EXTRACTION—The act of withdrawing a cartridge or fired case from the chamber of a firearm.

EXTRACTOR—Device for withdrawing the cartridge or fired case from the chamber.

FIREARM—An assembly of a barrel and action from which a projectile is propelled by products of combustion.

FIRING PIN—That part of a firearm mechanism which strikes the primer of a cartridge to initiate ignition.

FLASH HOLE—1) A hole pierced or drilled through the center of the web in the primer pocket in a metallic cartridge case. 2) The hole in the end of a battery cup primer used in shotshells.

FLOOR PLATE—The bottom of a fixed box magazine. May be hinged or immovable.

FORE-END—The forward part of a one or two piece stock. Sometimes called Forearm.

FREE BORE—A cylindrical length of bore in a firearm just forward of the chamber from which the rifling has been removed. Associated with bullet jump.

GAS CHECK—A metallic cup attached to the base of some lead alloy bullets.

GAS OPERATED—An automatic or semiautomatic type firearm in which the propellant gases are used to unlock the breech bolt and then to complete the cycle of extraction and ejection. This is accomplished usually in conjunction with a spring which returns the operating parts to battery.