

or shells of a given caliber or gauge. Rifles, handguns or shotguns that are designed to fire magnum cartridges or shells may also be described with the term "magnum".

METALLIC CARTRIDGE—Ammunition having a metallic cartridge case.

CARTRIDGE NECK—The reduced diameter cylindrical portion of a cartridge case, extending from the bottom of the shoulder to the case mouth.

RIMFIRE CARTRIDGE—A flange-headed cartridge containing the priming mixture inside the rim cavity.

RIMLESS CARTRIDGE—A centerfire cartridge whose case head is of the same diameter as the body and having a groove cut forward of the head to provide the extraction gripping surface.

RIMMED CARTRIDGE—A cartridge having a rimmed or flanged head that is larger in diameter than the body of the case for extraction gripping purposes. May be either rimfire or centerfire.

SHOT CARTRIDGE—A centerfire or rimfire cartridge loaded with small diameter shot.

SMALL BORE CARTRIDGE—General term applied in the United States to rimfire cartridges. Normally used for target shooting.

WILDCAT CARTRIDGE—Cartridges that have never been commercially manufactured and made available to the public.

CASE—Refers to cartridge or shotshell case. Shortened through common usage.

BELTED CASE—A cartridge case design having an enlarged band ahead of the extractor groove. This type construction is generally used on large capacity magnum-type cartridges.

CASE LIFE—An expression of the number of times a case can be reloaded and fired.

CASE MOUTH—The opening in the case into which the projectile or shot is inserted.

CASE MOUTH CHAMBERING—A reaming operation performed on cartridge cases prior to reloading, to provide a taper at the case mouth for ease of bullet seating.

CASE SHOULDER—The section of a bottleneck cartridge case connecting the main body of the case and the smaller diameter neck.

CENTER OF IMPACT—The center of a shot pattern or target made by a series of rounds fired at the same aiming point.

CHAMBER— 1) In a rifle, shotgun or pistol, the part of the barrel bore that has been formed to accept a specific cartridge or shell. 2) In a revolver, the holes in the cylinder that have been formed to accept a specific cartridge.

CHARGE—The amount, by weight, of a component of a cartridge (i.e., priming weight, propellant weight, shot weight).

POWDER CHARGE—The amount of powder by weight in a cartridge case.

CHECKERING—A diamond-like pattern in the wood, plastic or metal components of a firearm for ornamentation or improved gripping.