

POWDER—Commonly used term for the propellant in a cartridge or shotshell.

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

RELOADING POWDERS—Propellant powders offered to individual consumers for loading small arms ammunition. Also called Canister Powders.

RELOADING PRESS—A mechanical device for hand-loading metallic cartridges or shotshells.

PRESSURE—In a gun, the force developed by the expanding gases generated by the combustion of the propellant.

CHAMBER PRESSURE—That pressure in a gun generated by the expanding propellant powder gases after ignition. Normally measured by means of piezoelectric transducers or crusher gauges.

PRIMER—An ignition component consisting of brass or gilding metal cup, priming mixture, anvil and foiling disc.

BATTERY CUP PRIMER—1) A flanged metal cup having a flash hole at the bottom end. 2) An ignition component using a battery cup as a holder for the other elements.

CENTERFIRE PRIMER—A cartridge initiator which is assembled central to the axis of the head of the cartridge case and which is actuated by a blow to the center of its axis as opposed to rimfire, which must be struck on the circumference of the cartridge head.

PRIMER CUP—Brass or copper cup designed to contain priming mixture.

NON-CORROSIVE PRIMER—A primer which does not contain chemical compounds that could produce corrosion or rust in gun barrels.

PRIMER PELLET—The explosive component of a primer.

PRIMER POCKET—A cylindrical cavity formed in the head of a metallic centerfire cartridge case, or in the head of a shotshell, to receive an appropriate primer or battery cup primer assembly.

RIMFIRE PRIMER—A type of primer found in the circumferential cavity of a particular type of ammunition. Usable only with rimfire guns.

PRIMER SEATING—The insertion of a centerfire primer or battery cup in the head of a cartridge case or shotshell. Properly seated, it should be flush or below face of the head.

PRIMING MIXTURE—A combination of explosive and/or pyrotechnic type ingredients, which when pressed into a cup or spun into the rim cavity of a rimfire shell, will explode or deflagrate from the impact of a firing pin and ignite the propellant in a cartridge or shotshell.

PROJECTILE—An object propelled from a firearm by the force of rapidly burning gases or other means.

FLAT NOSE PROJECTILE—A projectile which is flat at its forward end.

POINTED PROJECTILE—A projectile that is designed with a pointed profile.

PROJECTILE ROTATION—The spinning motion that is imparted to a projectile due to engagement with the rifling in the barrel of a firearm as it is driven down the barrel. The rate of spin rotation