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5229
P865
318
260



Australian Outback Ammo

During the recent austere period of ammo shortages in the United States, the folks “down under” provided another source for two of the most popular centerfire rifle cartridges. Currently, Australian Outback has two .223 Remington loadings and three .308 Winchester offerings available, and they are being imported to the U.S. by DKG Trading.

Australian Munitions also manufactures cartridge cases,

primers, and propellant. ADI (a division of Australian Munitions) makes several propellants that are loaded by many U.S. handloaders. The new Australian Outback ammunition comprises a special mix of components targeted directly at the U.S. market. The brass, primer, and powder are manufactured in Australia, but the company wisely decided to top each round with a premium U.S. brand and type bullet.

FEATURES

One .223 load features Sierra’s popular 55-grain polymer-tipped BlitzKing bullet. The second uses the Sierra 69-grain MatchKing HPBT. The .308 Winchester loads include Swift’s 150-grain Scirocco II BTS, Sierra’s 165-grain GameKing SBT, and Sierra’s 168-grain MatchKing HPBT bullets.

One interesting thing I picked up on when reading the product brochure is the firm’s claim

of “Extreme Performance—Whatever The Weather.” They base that claim on the unique chemistry of ADI’s proprietary propellants. According to the company, they’re formulated to assure consistent internal ballistics over an extreme temperature range (5 to 125 degrees Fahrenheit). Coupled with achieving maximum safe velocities, the vertical bullet displacement at typical hunting ranges is greatly reduced. This

AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK AMMUNITION PERFORMANCE

Ammunition	Velocity (fps)	Standard Deviation (fps)	100-Yard Accuracy (in.)
.223 Rem., CZ 527, 23.5-in. Barrel, 1:9-in. Twist			
Australian Outback 55-gr. Sierra BlitzKing	3128	13	1.04
Australian Outback 69-gr. Sierra MatchKing	2784	19	0.91
.223 Rem., Ruger MKII Target, 26-in. Barrel, 1:12-in. Twist*			
Australian Outback 55-gr. Sierra BlitzKing	3167	15	0.82
Australian Outback 69-gr. Sierra MatchKing	2840	22	----
.223 Rem., Sun Devil SD-15, 20-in. Barrel, 1:9-in. Twist			
Australian Outback 55-gr. Sierra BlitzKing	3050	24	0.80
Australian Outback 69-gr. Sierra MatchKing	2734	18	1.00
.223 Rem., Ruger SR-556, 16.12-in. Barrel, 1:9-in. Twist			
Australian Outback 55-gr. Sierra BlitzKing	2883	27	1.19
Australian Outback 69-gr. Sierra MatchKing	2604	13	1.21
.308 Win., Ruger MKII Target, 26-in. Barrel, 1:10-in. Twist			
Australian Outback 150-gr. Swift Scirocco II	2854	13	1.34
Australian Outback 168-gr. Sierra MatchKing	2792	6	0.85
.308 Win., Sun Devil SD-308, 20-in. Barrel, 1:9-in. Twist			
Australian Outback 150-gr. Swift Scirocco II	2784	11	1.56
Australian Outback 168-gr. Sierra MatchKing	2707	13	1.01
.308 Win., Ruger SR-762, 16.12-in. Barrel, 1:10-in. Twist			
Australian Outback 150-gr. Swift Scirocco II	2649	12	1.70
Australian Outback 168-gr. Sierra MatchKing	2591	10	1.07
.308 Win., S&W M&P10, 18-in. Barrel, 1:10-in. Twist			
Australian Outback 150-gr. Swift Scirocco II	2689	15	1.61
Australian Outback 168-gr. Sierra MatchKing	2635	11	1.44

*Current Ruger Hawkeye Varmint Target .223 rifles have 1:9-in. twist rifling.

NOTES: Accuracy is the average of three, five-shot groups fired from a sandbag benchrest. Velocity is the average of 15 rounds measured 8 feet from the guns' muzzles.

is possible because the Outback Ammunition peak pressures are minimally affected by temperature variations.

PERFORMANCE

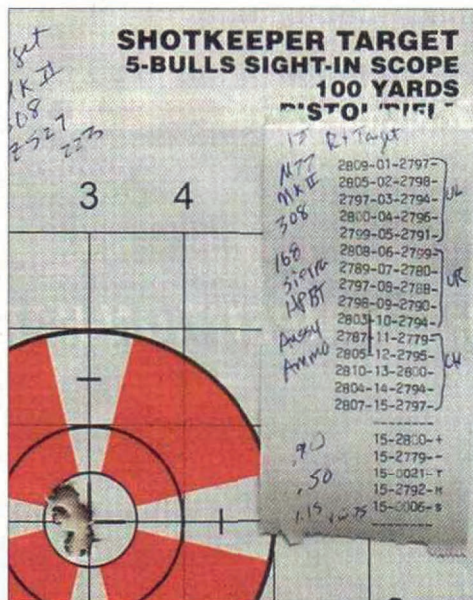
I obtained 100 rounds each of the .223 and .308 loads. As you can see in the chart, I selected representative rifles, including bolt actions and AR-style semiautos. Each was topped with similar, high-magnification scopes and fired from a benchrest at targets placed at a distance of 100 yards.

I did the shooting for this report in late February and early March, so I couldn't verify the extreme temperature performance, but I could see if function followed form, i.e. if the ammo performed on par with my visual impression. As the chart indicates, they do—if the rifle and shooter's capabilities are complementary.

As I suspected, the 69-grain Sierra was too long to stabilize in the slow twist of my older model Ruger MKII Target bolt action. A couple of rounds in the

groups I fired managed to stay together at almost the same point of impact; however, the rest scattered randomly over 4 or 5 inches. However, all in all, the .223 groups hovered near 1 MOA.

As the accompanying photo shows, the Ruger bolt-action Target rifle liked the .308 Winchester match load. The results would have been even better if one wayward bullet (which could've been operator error) in another group hadn't bumped the average up 0.10 inch.



Australian Outback ammunition produced excellent accuracy and consistent velocity.

Handloaders will have another source for excellent once-fired brass. After resizing, trimming, etc., the average weight of 154 of 160 .223 cases was 91.3 grains, +/- 0.5 grain. Likewise, most of the .308 cases averaged 174.6 grains, +/- 1.0 grain. The .223 case weight compares to typical Remington and Winchester products, while the .308 brass is on the heftier side similar to Federal and Norma.

Australian Outback ammo is competitively priced, especially considering the quality and extra logistical expenses of shipping bullets halfway around the world. The .223 loads are less than \$20 a box, and the .308 ammo runs about \$10 more. It's worth every penny! **ST**