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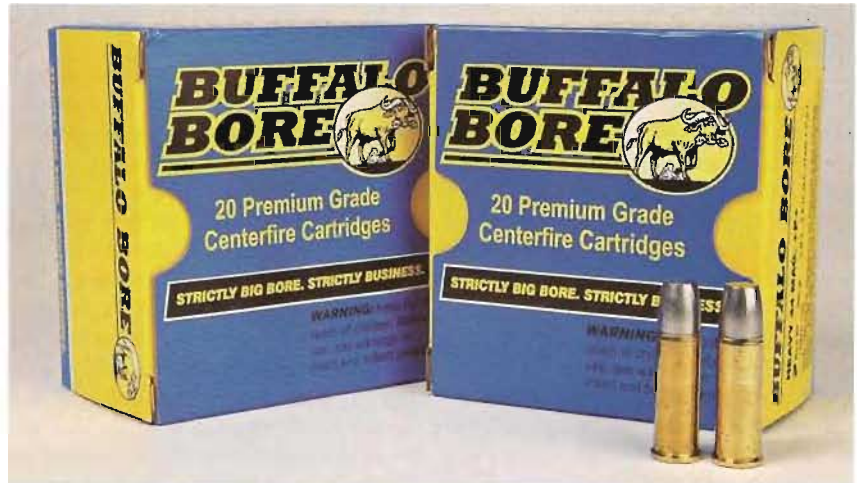
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Buffalo Bore Heavy 44 Mag +P+

Buffalo Bore has a history of pushing the envelope of older, traditional cartridges with mediocre performance into uncharted territory. It develops high-energy loads for both big-bore handguns and rifles by using heavy-for-caliber bullets pushed at high velocities or lighter-weight ones at the same or slightly higher velocities. For the recoil shy or faint of heart, Buffalo Bore offers a few regular and lower-recoil loads, however, its heavy, maximum-pressure, full-power ammunition is its bread and butter.

One of Buffalo Bore's newest loads is its Heavy 44 Mag +P+. Compared to average factory .44 Magnum ammunition, Buffalo Bore posts nearly double the energy, and a significant increase in velocity as well. Listed as launching a hefty 340-grain, Lead Bullet Technologies flat-nose, gas-check bullet at 1,478 feet per second and delivering 1,649 foot-pounds of energy, Buffalo Bore has reached a new plateau for the .44 Magnum cartridge.

But with the increased performance comes increased overall cartridge length and pressure, making this ammunition suitable only for those guns stout enough to handle the higher pressures. However, if you have one of the specified models, it's worth checking out. For handguns this ammunition should only be used in Ruger Super Redhawk, Taurus Raging Bull and Dan Wesson revolvers. The beefy cylinders on those revolvers are capable of handling the higher pressures, and they have the length to accommodate the extra-long, heavy bullets. Ruger's Super Blackhawk and Freedom Arm's Model 83 single-action revolvers are strong enough, but their cylinders are too short. The overall length of the 340-grain Buffalo Bore round is 1.752 inches, compared to other, more common 240-grain loads with an overall length of 1.60 inches. Although the difference seems miniscule, that .152 inch can lead to a lot of problems in a revolver. The Thompson/Center Encore, Winchester Model 94, "Modified" Marlin 94, New England Firearms Handi Rifle and any falling-block action rifle chambered for the .44 Magnum will shoot this ammo. By "Modified" Marlin 94, this means the rifle has been re-barreled with a 1:20 twist



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Buffalo Bore's Heavy 44 Mag +P+ ammunition offers performance near that of the .454 Casull. But the increased performance comes at a hefty cost, including stout recoil and limited firearm options.

Accuracy Tests

Buffalo Bore Heavy 44 Mag +P+

Five, separate groups of five shots fired from a Ransom Rest at 50 yards, measured in inches

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Average
2.25	1.125	1.5	2.5	1.5	1.775

Failures to fire: None

because the factory 1:38 twist will not properly stabilize these heavy bullets.

I opted to test the ammo in a Ruger Super Redhawk Model KSRH-9, double-action revolver with a 9½-inch barrel. To ensure the utmost accuracy, I mounted a Burris 1.5-4x20 mm handgun scope using the supplied rings. By using a scope I could ensure the revolver in the Ransom Rest remained in the same position and could make minor adjustments as needed.

First, I fired 10 consecutive shots through an Oehler Model 43 chronograph. The average measured 1,478 feet per second, exactly what was posted on Buffalo Bore's website. But my velocities were attained with a 9½ inch barrel rather than a 7½-incher used by Buffalo Bore. The Oehler system calculated the recoil to be 19.3 foot-pounds, which necessitated wearing a thick, padded shooting glove. For comparison, a factory 240-grain load produces approximately 10.3 foot-pounds of recoil.

To test the ammunition's true capability I shot five, five-shot groups at both 25 and 50 yards. At 25 yards the groups averaged 1.075 inches. Groups at 50 yards were impressive, averaging 1.775 inches.

Specifications

Manufacturer: Buffalo Bore Ammunition Company, Dept. S1
P.O. Box 40, Carmen, ID 83462
(208) 756-8085
www.buffalobore.com
Type: Heavy 44 Mag +P+
Caliber: .44 Magnum
Bullet Type: LBT-LFN GC
Cartridges Per Box: 20
MSRP: \$29

This load is designed to work on large, tough, thick-skinned game such as bear, elk and moose. The hard-cast LBT-LFN-GC bullet is designed to penetrate deep, break bones and inflict maximum damage. It would be an excellent round when hunting dangerous game or when in their habitat, where raw stopping power is needed.

Taking the path less traveled sometimes leads to great things, and Buffalo Bore's new Heavy 44 Mag +P+ ammunition is proof of this. It offers shooters the best of all worlds; heavy bullet, high velocity, pinpoint accuracy and near .454 Casull performance. Had Elmer Keith had these loads back in his time, I'm sure he would have felt the same.

—Aaron Carter