

# .410 Powder & 20 Gauge Loads

*By Tom Ceretto*

In last month's issue I did a column on Alliant's new 300MP .410 bore powder. When I penned the column I mentioned that I had no experience with it, but the numbers looked quite promising. Since I do not load the .410 bore very often I gave some to a friend of mine, Jack Tans, to try out. Jack loads a lot of .410 bore and I knew he would load some before I would get a chance.

His report was very positive and that made me load a few too. Jack liked the velocity and low pressure numbers 300MP generated and was also impressed with the cleanliness of 300MP. You must remember that the term "Clean .410 bore powder" is a bit of an oxymoron. What Jack meant, and I later discovered for myself, is that it is quite a bit cleaner than most powders used for loading the Idiot Stick. It seems the only thing holding back higher velocities with 300MP is the capacity of the case; you run out of room before pressures force you to scale back.

Velocities that high might not send skeet shooter into paroxysms of joy, but would make the sporting clays shooters among you into nirvana. Now I wonder if it could at all be used in the 28 gauge. I think I will have a chat with Dick Quesenberry at Alliant about that. Dick might not be too receptive about doing that because Alliant Pro Reach already does a very respectable job of driving 20 and 28 gauge loads at quite high velocities, but I will try.

Lately I have been getting a fair number of requests for more information on 20 gauge 3/4 ounce loads. I don't know if this renewed interest is because of the price of lead shot or if shooters have discovered they are quite deadly low recoil loads. Whatever the reason I am always willing to oblige readers of Skeet Shooting Review. The first letter is from Jeff who addressed the letter to magazine editor Susie Fluckiger.

*Dear Susie,*

*I enjoy Tom Ceretto's column every month in Skeet Shooting Review. I know he has advocated over the years the merits of shooting 3/4 ounce 20 gauge for skeet. His recent column informed me of the new Claybuster 3/4 ounce wad for this purpose, but only as a replacement for the Winchester WAA20 wad. I currently load Winchester AA20 hulls with 3/4 ounce of lead shot using the following recipe:*

*Case: 20 ga. Winchester AAHS*

*Primer: Win. 209*

*Powder: 12 gr. Hodgdon International Clays*

*Wad: Win. WAA20*

*Shot: 3/4 oz. lead*

*1,150 fps @ 10,100 psi*

*My question is, why can't I find a formula for Federal Top Gun 20 gauge target loads that use the same components as my Winchester loads? In fact, I can't find any 3/4 ounce loads for Federal Top Gun 20 gauge hull. I called Federal this morning and they informed me that they don't have a 3/4 ounce formula for their 20 gauge Top Gun hull. I loaded up a few Federal Top Gun hulls with the above formula and they loaded perfectly. Is there any way to test pressure and velocity so I can start using these outstanding Federal hulls, of which I have accumulated a ton?"*

One of the reasons might be that Alliant and Hodgdon just might not have done any testing, as of yet, with 3/4 ounce loads in Federal 20 gauge hulls. The problem might also be that the Federal 20 gauge case is much roomier than the Winchester and Remington hulls and that makes it more difficult to obtain a proper wad column with the Federal hull than with Remington and Winchester hulls, which have a smaller capacity. I should probably not tell you this, but if you are happy with the Federal load you are presently loading, use it. I am sure the pressure numbers with your load are quite low and it is probably safe to use. I also believe velocity might be lower in the Federal hull than the Winchester hull, but I cannot swear to that. I will see if I can prod someone to develop a few 3/4 ounce loads for the Federal 20 gauge hull. If I can, I will publish it in *Skeet Shooting Review*.

Another email I received is from Don on almost the same subject:

*I thought that a while back I saw some 3/4 ounce 20 gauge loads in your column in Skeet Shooting Review, but seem to*

*have misplaced my copy. Would you have those still? I use Winchester and Remington hulls, Claybuster wads and Winchester 209 primers.*

I am beginning to feel that I have overdone the subject of 3/4 ounce 20 gauge loads, but maybe I am wrong, so I will list some one more time to oblige Don.

## **ALLIANT LOADS**

Case: 20 ga. Remington STS  
Primer: Remington 209P  
Powder: 13.5 gr. American Select  
Wad: Remington RXP20  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,200 fps @ 10,300 psi

Case: 20 gauge Remington STS  
Primer: Remington 209 STS  
Powder: 14.0 gr. Green Dot  
Wad: Remington RXP 20  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,200 fps @ 9,960 psi

Case: 20 ga. Remington STS  
Primer: Remington 209P  
Powder: 14.0 gr. Green Dot  
Wad: CB1078-20  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,200 fps @ 9,810 psi

Case: 20 ga. Remington STS  
Primer: Remington 209P  
Powder: 15.0 gr. Green Dot  
Wad: CB1078-20  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,250 fps @ 10,510 psi

Case: 20 ga. Winchester AAHS  
Primer: Winchester 209  
Powder: 14.0 gr. American Select  
Wad: CB1078-20  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,200 fps @ 10,540 psi

Case: 20 ga. Winchester AAHS  
Primer: Winchester 209  
Powder: 14.0 gr. Green Dot  
Wad: CB1078-20  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,200 fps @ 9,930 psi

Case: 20 ga. Winchester AAHS  
Primer: Winchester 209  
Powder: 15.0 gr. Green Dot  
Wad: CB 1078-20

Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,250 fps @ 10,860

## **HODGDON LOADS**

Case: 20 ga. Remington STS  
Primer: Winchester 209  
Powder: 12.0 gr. International Clays  
Wad: Winchester WAA20\*  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,150 fps @ 9,000 psi

Case: 20 ga. Remington STS  
Primer: Winchester 209  
Powder: 13.2 gr. Int. Clays  
Wad: Winchester AA20\*  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,200 fps @ 10,400 psi

Case: 20 ga. Winchester AAHS  
Primer: Winchester 209  
Powder: 12.0 gr. Int. Clays  
Wad: Win. WAA20\*  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,150 fps @ 10,100 psi

Case: 20 ga. Winchester AAHS  
Primer: Winchester 209  
Powder: 13.0 gr. Int. Clays  
Wad: WAA20\*  
Shot: 3/4 oz. lead  
1,200 fps @ 11,700 psi

\*CB 1078-20 can be substituted for a WAA20 wad.

All of the loads listed are in current Alliant and Hodgdon reloading guides. When you request recipes from me you need to list hull, primer, wad and powder. Otherwise I am in limbo.