

LUCKY 13.0 Common problems

AVOIDING A FEW UNAVOIDABLE EVENTUALITIES

This isn't going to be a "troubleshooting" guide of epic proportions because following along with the ops and processes, using the suggested tooling, there's not a lot that can go wrong. But sometimes even when everything is right, things can go awry. We all make mistakes. There can be a few confounding or at least perplexing eventualities that will arise.

This entire book, I like to think, is a guide to troubleshoot quality ammunition. And that's done by doing it right in the first place.

You might forget or overlook putting lube on a case. Well. **Lube each case, each time.** Talked earlier about stuck case removers and here's to hoping you never see one. Lube a case over each time it's run through. Don't think it hangs on.

Ooopsie on the propellant charge. Don't do that. Check two or three times before calling a meter "set." This was gone over thoroughly. Oh, and read the load two or three times, and check your scale setting at least that many times as well. A mistake like that can be disastrous. Too little propellant from some variety of overt mistake can likewise create huge problems. Pay special attention to propellant supply level when using a meter. Fortunately, loading most of the propellants wisely suitable for .223, .308, or most other popular rifle cartridges, it's easy to notice a short charge. The propellant is, or should be, easily visible within the case neck. It's a real issue with pistol loading: some of those propellants don't reach halfway up the inside case walls.

Same advice goes for indexing to any recorded setting. Powder meters, bullet seaters, anything. Just give it two sober checks before proceeding to shuck away. I've put the wrong setting on a bullet seater a few times... I learn all this the hard way, I freely admit, and here's to hoping you can learn from me.

The wrong load. So what do you do if you realize there's been a mistake made in a batch of ammunition? Of course, it depends on the mistake and what it might mean. If it's not over-pressure, it's probably best to just go ahead and

shoot it up and reuse the cases again. With the right load, right settings this time around. If it's a bullet seated too deeply, same advice.

As long as safety is not a concern, just shoot it. But there are times when that's not wisely possible.

Breaking down a loaded round requires removing the bullet. Of course, there are tools. **Bullet pullers** are tedious, as you might imagine. They also purport to allow for the reuse of bullets, but I sho don't take that seriously. Removing a bullet, having already been seated, and then reseating it, there's bound to be some compromise somewhere, or more, in the bullet integrity, accuracy at the least. The grip of the puller isn't going to be benignly harmless either.



Bullet pullers grip the bullet in the jaws of a collet, tightened using a handle or nut, and then withdraw the case, dislodge the bullet. Simple. This is a Forster but all are similar. The honking screw on the lock ring is to resist movement when tightening the collet.

Before you pull a bullet, set it a little deeper. Makes this way on easier. Adjust the seating die down another five or ten thousandths. It breaks the "seal" whether it's really a seal or not.

Sooty cases. You might see sooty case necks and shoulders. That's common, and that's not really a problem. The reason is pressure, lack of it, that has then