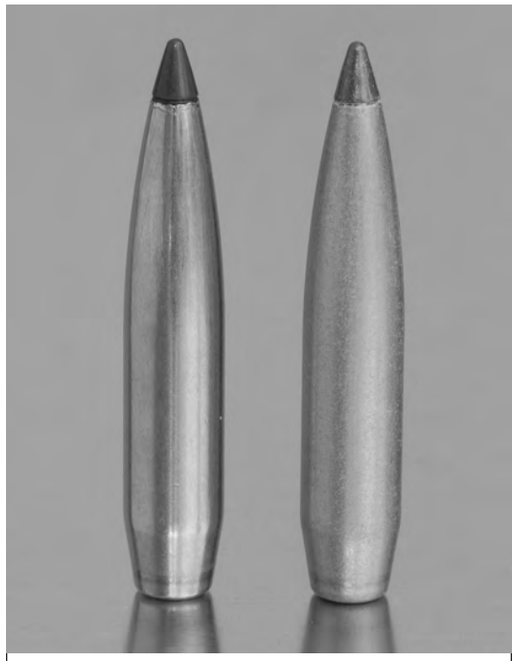
There's a 73-grain Berger BT *[center] that some think is a nice gap-filler between the 68/69 and the 75/77. It's a fair amount shorter than a 77 and does indeed stave off wind drift better than a lighter bullet. BC is alleged .365. Sierra 77 and 69 are on either side.*



Not much to see. *The bullet on the right is coated with* ***boron-nitride*** *and this may prove to out-moly moly. This coating outgases at a much higher temperature and doesn't burn up into anything harmful. It's also virtually clear and way on less messy. Time will tell. I've shot some, as have (a certain branch of) USAMU, as have a few others, and all have reported decidedly moly-like results with zero reasons against. The only trick here will be getting it on the bullet you want to shoot. It's a commercial process, and really has to be; environmental controls are key, as is the application procedure. Superior Shooting Systems Inc. does it.*

Primer seating always needs to be done thoroughly, especially in an AR15. No primer should ever be as tall as flush with the case base. It should be under that by a good 0.005 inches. Check them. A high primer not only may influence bolt closing and produce sluggish ignition, but it could get touched off that much easier when the floating firing pin taps off it.

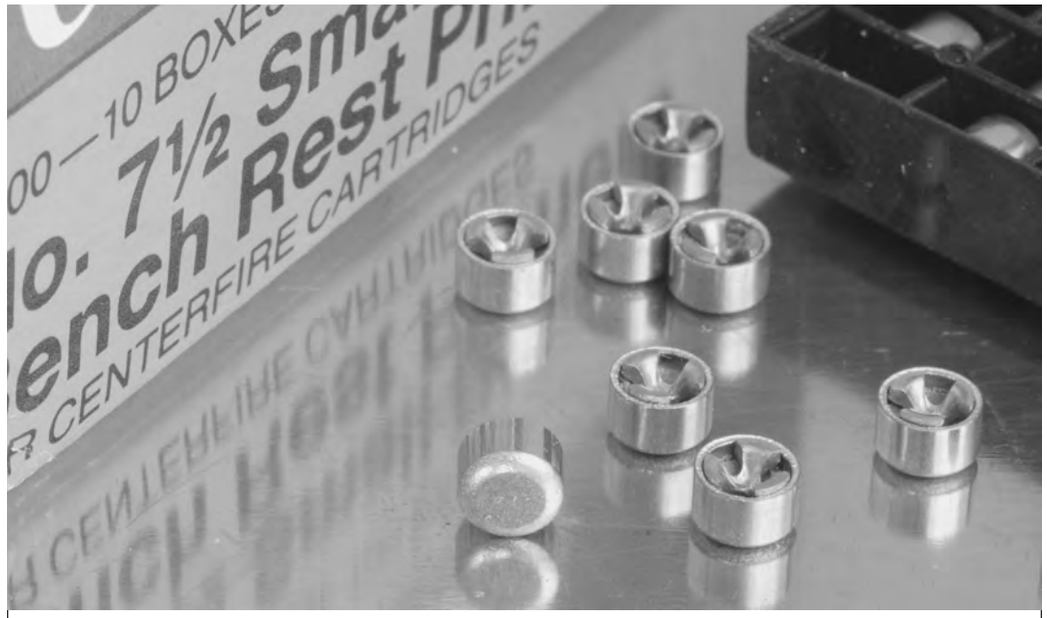
I've been using a bench-mounted priming tool in place of the hand-squeezer varieties I trust that much more. The reason is ease of primer seating and reduced tedium. The less leverage there is in a priming tool the better you can feel the seating, and it takes a good while to get used to just how much pressure is needed using a hand-held-tool. Most folks leave the primers a little high for a time until they get used to using such a device. If anyone is operating a progressive press or otherwise using a high-leverage priming device, I strongly suggest uniforming primer pockets as insurance against an improperly-seated primer, which here means one that's not fully seated.

PRESSURES

Here it is. The warnings. I strained my brain coming up with virtually everything I could come up with to say on this topic in Handloading For Competition, and I was pretty sure nothing was left out. Then. There's now actually more to say, but a review is coming next.

The first and foremost is to know what the fool you're doing. If you don't then don't do it.

Reduce any charge you have been given by anyone, me included, by one full grain of propellant and work up from there only after determining that there's no reason you shouldn't bump up the charge to a heavier weight.



Remington 7-1/2 primers *are tougher than the others, and they demonstrate that by holding up to more pressure than the others. My long-stood favorite, WW-brand, fell out of favor with myself and others for only this reason. Despite, on good authority, having once (years ago) being represented as patently identical to a Lake City primer in cup composition, WW do tend to fail easier than Remington. I still like WW primers and still know they deliver great on-target results, but my own tests have shown that velocity deviations are as good with the Remington, and there's zero doubt they will contain a whopping lot more pressure. Most importantly, groups are as good as all. Another primer worth trying is the CCI BR-4. It seems to work well with most stick propellants, especially the slower-burning ones, and is admirably durable. Federal is still, and always has been, a little sensitive to impact; I don't think they are good for any rifle with a floating firing pin. AR15s have floating pins.*

The "rule," and this is as best as I can operate being all dogmatic and all, is to work up two-tenths of a grain at a time and come off a half grain at a time.

Again: *If you encounter a symptomatic pressure-induced experience, then back off a half-grain. Not a tenth grain, or two-tenths, but a half-grain. If you see another showing of excessive pressure, then back off another half-grain. Then figure out what is the matter. Possibilities include the suggested load being too far over pressure to start with, or there's some reason your combination doesn't tolerate as much pressure as the one from which the given load originated.*

There are decided differences in barrels and chambers and, no joke, big differences in component lots, or there can be. This batch of propellant may be a good (enough) deal different than the other that was used to work up the original figures. Primers too, and cases, and sometimes even bullets can make that much difference, which is enough difference.

After time most folks will figure out where their loads stand with respect to edginess. The closer they are to the edge the more seriously they should take the advice to confirm good and equal standing following purchase of a new component lot, no matter which component it is. This is a main reason to purchase components in volumes adequate to go through at least a full season of practice and matches.

I spent an inordinate amount of time in another book talking about pressure signs and how to inter-