

I'm not a robot



By staff writer: Charles Coker I have been a Barnes bullet user for years, they make a fantastic hunting bullet that has in my experience always worked flawlessly. They are accurate, I have always been able to get under .5" groups hand loading. Terminal performance on game has been flawless, I have never lost an animal with a Barnes bullet. I can count on them expanding just under the hide on entrance, staying together through even heavy shoulder bones and 99.99 of the time get an exit wound. They don't come apart and send lead fragments into the meat either. We have ran the 243 80g TTSX Vortex ammo in an old Sako and it shoots under .5 center to center and has killed numerous deer and hogs. My oldest son got his first buck last year with the ammo. Recently I received a Weatherby Vanguard II in 7mm08 in the Hog Reaper model which sports a lightweight 20" barrel. The 120g TTSX load from Barnes was the first thing I wanted to try in it. For Texas hogs and deer it would make an ideal round out to 300 yards with just a basic duplex reticle and no dialing running a 200 yard zero. Well, that is course if the gun likes it. . . . Well, my first two shots at 50 yards dialing in the scope were touching, that's a good sign! I moved out to 100 and a few adjustments later I was getting what looked like about an inch group at a quick glance with not much effort on my part. Looking good. I dialed in 1.5" high at 100 and rattled off 3 quick shots on steel, I could see the impact all basically making one hit on the target. I walked down and said "pretty good, probably a 1/2" group" My buddy Chad said he thought it was better than that. I checked it with a caliber and it was under .5. center to center avearge was .4 and a nickley covered the group easily. Not bad for a rifle with about a dozen rounds through it and I am sure they can be made even tighter. Very impressed with the ammo and the gun. I know I got lucky finding a load this gun liked right off the bat. . . . But my experience with the Vortex loads in the 243 and two 25-06s has earned my respect and makes them the first choice I go to in factory ammo. For more info on the gun: Been looking a good deer load for my wife's Marlin XS 7. Haven't been happy with bullet performance on game. Most shots less than 70 yards. That's in another thread here. Long story short I figured a Barnes TTXS might be the answer. The length of the 120 grain bullet seemed perfect as the rifle tends to like the 139 grain soft points. I wanted to drive the copper bullet hard. I have some CFE 223 on hand and according to Barnes load data it would drive them fast, making up for any weight difference for a bullet that would retain most of it's weight. I like to work up hunting loads with the Optimum Charge Weight Method. So I did. Starting with 43.5 grain to max, 48.4 grains. Published data. 47.5 grains shot well enough for me less than 1" at 100 yards. What really amazes me was loads from 45.4 grains to max all hit within 1.5" of the average group of those loads. The Hornady American Whitetail 139 gr loads clocked at an average of 2696 for 3 shots before the test and 2636 after the test. Past string from a different chronograph in Sept. of 2022 clocked at an average of 2705. The spread was 94, 38 and 59 respectfully, of course all in FPS. I haven't ran all the data but the loads from 45.4 to 48.4 ran from 3085 to 3286. The max load had a spread of 100 fps. The 47.5 load the spread was on 26 fps with an average of 3170 fps. The 3 other loads had spreads for 12 to 36 fps. I'm going with the 47.5 gr load, now to see if I can duplicate the results. Another thing was I didn't know what to think about one of the bands forward of the case. COAL of 2.800" from load data. Note: This load was worked up for this rifle only. Reactions: Redneckher01, MJ74, Cuybo and 1 other person I wouldn't be concerned about the band being forward of the case in my experience it looks strange but it not going to effect anything. When I was loading the Barnes TSX 130gr in 30.06 i had 2 bands forward of the case and i didn't like the way it looked but it shot extremely well and i killed quite a few deer with it with no issues. I couldn't even get the bullet to shoot until i set the bullet .050 off the lands as Barnes recommended and that left 2 bands forward of the case. Your right in pushing the solid copper hard because the Barnes does like velocity and that should be one heck of a good deer load. Mike Reactions: DRS and MJ74 The position of the gas checks makes no difference. Varget or 4895 may tighten up those ES numbers if you have some laying around. Reactions: TobyScreams and DRS The position doesn't matter as already stated. I've got a ruger with the famous long throat. I shoot loads that have a cannelle almost .125" out of the case mouth. It would never chamber in another rifle. Reactions: DRS Mine prefers the 140gr Nosler BT over H-414. It is a proven deer killer, that shoots 1/2 MOA. I tried the 120 grains like you used, but either I did not push them fast enough or my rifle just did not like them. Based on your post, I may need to try again. I loaded 100 rounds of the BTs and have 42 left. I will need to find another powder since H-414 is discontinued and I am out. Reactions: DRS loaded up some for hunting season. Same results . Shot some factory Barnes clocked at a little over 2900 fps. grouped really good though one ragged hole at 100 yards. I'm going with my loads running over 200 fps faster. Let you know how they perform when the wife sends one. Mine prefers the 140gr Nosler BT over H-414. It is a proven deer killer, that shoots 1/2 MOA. I tried the 120 grains like you used, but either I did not push them fast enough or my rifle just did not like them. Based on your post, I may need to try again. I loaded 100 rounds of the BTs and have 42 left. I will need to find another powder since H-414 is discontinued and I am out. If we ever cross paths I've got about 3/4 of a pound of h414 I'll gladly let you have. Please Enable Your Browser's Cookies Functionality Cookies are not currently enabled in your browser, and due to this the functionality of our site will be severely restricted. Web browser based cookies allow us to customize our site for you, save items in your cart, and provide you with a great experience when shopping OpticsPlanet. Your privacy is important to us, and any personal information you supply to us is kept strictly confidential. If you cannot enable cookies in your browser, please contact us — we are always here to help! JavaScript is blocked by AdBlocker or ScriptBlocker We're sorry - it looks like some elements of OpticsPlanet are being disabled by your AdBlocker. Unfortunately we are unable to offer our excellent shopping experience without JavaScript. Please add "opticsplanet.com" and " to whitelist, or disable AdBlocker for this site (please note that we do NOT feature any annoying ads on this website). Thanks! Your Browser is Outdated Unfortunately, we are unable to provide an excellent shopping experience on your browser because it lacks modern functionality needed for us to provide a fast, secure, and enjoyable experience. If you cannot upgrade your browser or use an alternative device to visit us, please contact us at +1-800-504-5897 and we'll be happy to assist you over the phone! HAVEN'T use them yet. Friends have awesome. Groups are great . Best Used for: Would recommend: Yes 0 of 0 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Very accurate. will shoot half moa out of my sons Winchester XPR. Pros: Cons: Best Used for: Would recommend: Yes 0 of 0 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Group was 1" 2-tight and 1-flyer on all 5-3shot groups, gave 3 stars because haven't taken a deer with it yet Pros: Cons: Best Used for: Would recommend: Yes 0 of 1 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Barnes Ammunition is very Accurate and affordable. Thank you optics planet. Pros: Cons: Best Used for: Great ammunition for mid size game. Would recommend: Yes 0 of 0 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Great price on this ammo, unfortunately it did not group well in my remington model 7. Would recommend: No 0 of 0 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Great price on this ammo, unfortunately it did not group well in my remington model 7. Would recommend: No 0 of 0 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Barnes is some of the best ammo out there. It's my go to. Would recommend: Yes 0 of 0 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Great price. Quick shipping. Great sales and coupons. Would recommend: Yes 0 of 0 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Bullets are great and fast delivery, fair pricing! Would recommend: Yes 0 of 0 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Bullets are great and fast delivery, fair pricing! Would recommend: Yes 0 of 0 found the following review helpful. Was it helpful to you? Yes | No You said this review was not helpful. Would you like to change your vote? Report Abuse Share Joined Jul 18, 2019 Messages 28 So after reading (mostly here) about the 7-08's capabilities on elk with the right bullet, my sons and I decided we'd use the ttxs 120 with the idea it would serve double duty on both whitetail and elk. My son shot a decent buck last week with the bullet traveling about 3100. Deer was 120-130 yds and my son was prone - so slight upward angle. The bullet entered side of the neck about 10" below the head, and came to rest just under the skin in the off shoulder. The bullet mushoomed perfectly. I'm a little shocked that it didn't go through an elk. My son on a whitetail, and am now questioning whether it will be adequate on an elk. Any thoughts are appreciated. Joined Mar 17, 2014 Messages 343 Location NE Wyoming Maybe I am not picturing the correct path of the bullet on the deer. I picture that the bullet entered in front of the rear shoulder and high, then traveled through the off shoulder (bone) to the hide. Perhaps that isn't the case and makes my next statement moot. Anyway, My mind says that is roughly 10-12" of penetration and through some pretty dense muscle and bone. I think that the bullet performed pretty well considering. My Dad would say "politicians, clowns and bullets do funny things," and I would chalk the performance up to shot placement and that scenario. I would think that the 120 grainer out of the 7mm-08 should work pretty well on elk given better shot placement. I say this as I assume that the shot taken was meant as a frontal shot and my experience with elk is that they have thicker hide, more hair and obviously more muscle. Given that, the same shot on an elk might not end up as cleanly as it did with this whitetail. Short answer is that it is adequate. If anything, I would suggest a heavier bullet but also understand the performance of Barnes as well as the confidence one has or can get with a rifle that shoots accurately. To me the bullet performed as advertised and many sing the praises on elk when using a similar bullet weight and velocity in different calibers. If you have doubts, look to make changes next year and shoot a bunch to find what you and your rifle(s) like best. If elk is still the quarry for this year, don't push the limits on yardage, make a good shot and I bet you will like the dual animal load. Let us know how it goes. Reactions: awildswanger Joined Mar 4, 2017 Messages 1,901 Location Colorado On elk with the right bullet.....and shot placement. Gotta have both parts of the equation in place on elk. No quartering to neck shots. Broadside, double lung you've got an elk killing combination in the 7-08 with that ttxs. Reactions: Rmusgrove, MeatMissile, 7rem and 2 others. Joined Mar 6, 2013 Messages 3,391 No other 7mm-08 bullet is going to penetrate better so if you have doubts it's about the cartridge, both bullet and cartridge are plenty capable when velocity is kept high (I would say 22-2300 fps or more). Shot placement is also key especially with smaller cartridges. Broadside only, no quartering shots on elk. Reactions: awildswanger, AK Skeeter and Newtsavage. Joined Sep 20, 2018 Messages 7,571 Location In someone's favorite spot I've carried a 7mm-08 for several elk hunts and I've taken a lot of deer with one. But out of an abundance of caution, I rerebarreled a Savage LW Storm to 30-06 for this year's elk hunt just to put my mind at ease. It only weighs 4 oz. more than my 7mm-08, but it carries quite a bit more punch. I wanted the option to take quartering shots out to 500 yards if that's all I got. I still have no doubt about the 7mm-08's capability on elk - too much proof to deny that. But for a shot like you describe, on elk, I want the '06. Reactions: Blandry and awildswanger. Joined Feb 27, 2012 Messages 16,504 Location Colorado Springs Maybe I am not picturing the correct path of the bullet on the deer. Me too. So the bullet entered the "side of the neck on an upward angle" and ended up "just under the hide on the offside shoulder"???? Reactions: MarkOrtiz. Joined Jul 18, 2019 Messages 28 Appreciate the comments. I left out some info I felt wasn't really pertinent, but maybe it is. The buck was broadside, head angled just slightly to his left. My son ran approx 400 yds or so to get in position then went prone. Ground was level, buck standing, hence the slight upward trajectory. So breathing hard, adrenaline, etc. The shot was aimed for the lungs, but either one of two things - either he pulled the shot, or his scope got knocked off. I'm betting it was the first case, but we're gonna shoot again in a couple days to verify the scope. Either way, the bullet entered the side of the neck, and stopped just under the skin and forward the point of the off shoulder. The bullet just fell to the ground during skinning. So I have to think it deflected for some reason to end up where it did. I was just expecting that it would have went in one side and out the other. Maybe I just had some unreasonable expectations? Joined Mar 28, 2017 Messages 11,226 Location Morrison, Colorado I would say it did a perfect job. I'd also venture to guess you would have had more penetration at a lower velocity/further distance. If I saw that expansion and result I would be happy. We actually shoot these and the 139gr GMX in factory loads and I wouldn't hesitate to send either at an elk. Joined Mar 4, 2013 Messages 1,292 Location WY I probably wouldn't try to push that bullet on a hard angle quartering away. There isn't a broadside or frontal angle I wouldn't smash that thing through though. Joined Aug 30, 2012 Messages 7,618 Hornady makes a 139 gr GMX that would be a slight better choice for elk imo, assuming they shoot well. Joined Mar 6, 2013 Messages 3,391 Hornady makes a 139 gr GMX that would be a slight better choice for elk imo, assuming they shoot well. With Mono's speed is king, 20 grains of weight on the bullet doesn't mean anything. GMX is the hardest of the mono bullets to open up and being heavier the slower muzzle velocity is not worth the extra weight. I have no idea why Hornady makes that 139 factory ammo because it's not a good combo for anything over a few hundred yards. You can get yourself in trouble quickly with that bullet in a 7mm-08 and not realize you have gone past the opening speed of the bullet. Barnes advertises 1800 fps minimum impact and it's pretty widely accepted 2200 fps is a good performance minimum. GMX advertises 2000 fps minimum, not as much data on true performance minimum but it's over 2200 fps. Hornady advertises 2910 fps muzzle (i'd be shocked if it hit that) and 2360 fps at 300 yards (Absolute max performance window), 400 is 2190. I like gmX bullets and they worked well for me but in moderate size cartridges and mono bullets you have to step down in weight. 139 is close to top end for cup and core 7mm-08 bullet. The Barnes factory VorTx advertises 3005 fps and from what I have seen out of Barnes ammo I wouldn't doubt it hits that, seems very hot to me in the few factory offerings I have shot. Reactions: MeatMissile, Mike D Texas, LaneNebraska and 3 others. Joined Sep 11, 2015 Messages 1,793 Just another anecdote, since that is all I have. I've shot quite a fair pile of deer with copper bullets, from 120 TSX up to 180 TTSX. The only one I can think of not passing entirely through a deer was a 180 grain TTSX out of a 35 Whelen on a very conventional shot through the body cavity (no major bone or muscle). This was a closer shot (less than 100 yards) and the bullet opened up beautifully and was against the far side hide. It makes sense that under conditions were there is excellent velocity to open the bullet maximally, is when you get the least penetration. I shot a caribou with the same bullet at several hundred yards and got complete pass through even though there was bone contact and the cross section of the animal was a lot larger. Again, just anecdotes, but in sum my experience is they tend to penetrate well. I'd stick with the 120s and shoot for more conventional shots. Reactions: awildswanger. Joined Aug 30, 2012 Messages 7,618 I have to disagree here. With Mono's speed is king, 20 grains of weight on the bullet doesn't mean anything. GMX is the hardest of the mono bullets to open up and being heavier the slower muzzle velocity is not worth the extra weight. I have no idea why Hornady makes that 139 factory ammo because it's not a good combo for anything over a few hundred yards. You can get yourself in trouble quickly with that bullet in a 7mm-08 and not realize you have gone past the opening speed of the bullet. Barnes advertises 1800 fps minimum impact and it's pretty widely accepted 2200 fps is a good performance minimum. GMX advertises 2000 fps minimum, not as much data on true performance minimum but it's over 2200 fps. Hornady advertises 2910 fps muzzle (i'd be shocked if it hit that) and 2360 fps at 300 yards (Absolute max performance window), 400 is 2190. 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Joined Apr 22, 2012 Messages 7,733 Location Chugiak, Alaska Several years ago my son killed a very large cow moose using that exact caliber/bullet (factory Barnes). Broadside double lung shot(although a little bit high), at about 50 yards, it didn't fall right over, but it also didn't require a second shot. I have no doubt that round would easily kill an elk given that it was a well-placed shot and not at an incredibly far distance. Sent from my iPhone using Tapatak Reactions: awildswanger, AK Skeeter, OXN939 and 4 others. Joined Mar 28, 2017 Messages 11,226 Location Morrison, Colorado I have to disagree here. With Mono's speed is king, 20 grains of weight on the bullet doesn't mean anything. GMX is the hardest of the mono bullets to open up and being heavier the slower muzzle velocity is not worth the extra weight. I have no idea why Hornady makes that 139 factory ammo because it's not a good combo for anything over a few hundred yards. You can get yourself in trouble quickly with that bullet in a 7mm-08 and not realize you have gone past the opening speed of the bullet. Barnes advertises 1800 fps minimum impact and it's pretty widely accepted 2200 fps is a good performance minimum. GMX advertises 2000 fps minimum, not as much data on true performance minimum but it's over 2200 fps. Hornady advertises 2910 fps muzzle (i'd be shocked if it hit that) and 2360 fps at 300 yards (Absolute max performance window), 400 is 2190. I like gmX bullets and they worked well for me but in moderate size cartridges and mono bullets you have to step down in weight. 139 is close to top end for cup and core 7mm-08 bullet. The Barnes factory VorTx advertises 3005 fps and from what I have seen out of Barnes ammo I wouldn't doubt it hits that, seems very hot to me in the few factory offerings I have shot. In a 20" Vanguard we get 2829fps for the Hornady GMX Superformance, and 2891 for the Barnes. . In a 20" preferred barrel Tikka, the former gets 2889. I haven't put the Barnes through that barrel yet. Joined Jul 31, 2017 Messages 690 Location Oakley, CA shoot that exact bullet in my daughters 7/08ai at 3150 fps. We have actually had the opposite happen meaning seemed as if wasn't expanding fast enough. Double lung on a small blacktail at 160 yds ran at least 100 yds upon skinning and gutting I expected lungs to be jello looked like someone shot an arrow through it. Later that trip blew through both shoulders of a hog at 110 and same year an antelope at 270 hog fell where he stood antelope took a few steps but it just seemed to hard. Once her recruiting is over and can hunt again im goin to load 131 Hfs for it. Joined Jul 18, 2019 Messages 28 You guys have given me lots to think about here. I think the comment that hits me the most is from Kimber7man - sample size is too small. I think the sons and I will be ok with this bullet, just need some more personal experience and confidence. Shot placement is always paramount - as explained the impact point was unintended. I think I also had the unrealistic expectation that NOTHING was gonna stop that bullet. Had to pull my head out of the clouds about that. Thanks for all the input, it's very much appreciated. Reactions: Stalker69 and Kimber7man. Joined Sep 20, 2018 Messages 7,571 Location In someone's favorite spot Curious how you're getting 3100 fps. out of a 7mm-08 with the 120 TTSX. Mine are running a 2900 with a moderate load and 20" barrel. So far, my experience with this bullet on whitetails is exactly what I expected, which is to say the bullet does it job when I do mine. As for Barnes bullets in the 7mm-08, I like the little 120 TTSX, but I'm far more impressed with the 139 LRX out of my rifle. Nearly the same velocity with much better downrange ballistics and a lower minimum velocity for expansion. If I take my 7mm-08 after elk, the 139 LRX will get the job. I'm reserving the 120 TTSX's for whitetails.