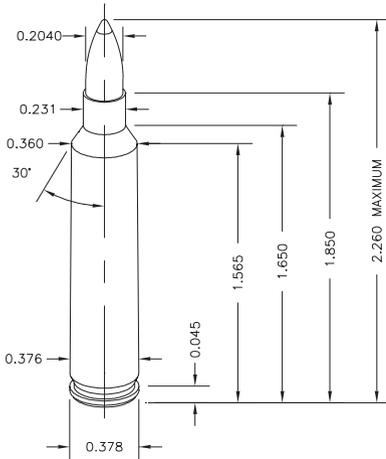


204 Ruger



Test Specifications/ Components

Firearm Used: Savage Model 10

Barrel Length: 26"

Twist: 1 x 12"

Case: Hornady

Trim-to Length: 1.840"

Primer: Fed 205M

Remarks:

Introduced in 2004, the .204 Ruger joins a select group of cartridges that top the 4,000 fps mark. The round is the result of collaboration between Ruger Firearms and Hornady Ammunition, their second such venture. Initially offered in Ruger's Model 77 bolt-action and Number One single

shots, Savage has begun to chamber for the .204 as well. Filling the gap between the ubiquitous .22 caliber centerfires and the diminutive .17s, the .204 is a dedicated varmint cartridge.

The .204 Ruger is based on the old .222 Remington Magnum. Moving the shoulder forward and sharpening its angle gives the new round a slight, but definite capacity edge over any similar wildcats based on the .223 Remington case. The result is a cartridge that handily cracks the 4,000 fps barrier in its factory loadings. Handloaders can approach this level of performance through judicious powder selection, but will find it difficult to better the factory velocities. In our range testing, the cartridge has proven itself capable of delivering outstanding accuracy, fully equal to the more established .22 caliber offerings. Hodgdon's H322 has become one of our favorites in this cartridge, delivering good velocities and pin-point precision.

Sierra has introduced two .20 caliber bullets suitable for the new cartridge. At 32 and 39 grains respectively, they span the range suitable for small to medium varmints quite nicely. Both are BlitzKing designs, utilizing our own acetyl resin tip for devastating terminal performance. While the cartridge has seen limited field use thus far, it has all the attributes to make it an outstanding performer.

204 Ruger *continued*

#1032 .204" 32 gr. BlitzKing C.O.A.L. 2.250"

Powder↓/Velocity→	3500	3600	3700	3800	3900	3950	4000
IMR-4198	21.7	22.3	22.9	23.5			
XMR-2015	24.5	25.0	25.6	26.1	26.7	27.0	
IMR-3031	24.6	25.0	25.4	25.8	26.2		
Benchmark			26.0	26.6	27.3	27.6	27.9
RE-10X	22.8	23.5	24.2	24.9	25.6	26.0	26.3
H322			25.2	25.7	26.2		
H4895	25.8	26.3	26.8	27.2	27.7		
IMR-4895	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.3	
Varget	26.0	26.7	27.4	28.1	28.8		
IMR-4064	26.3	26.7	27.1	27.5			
XMR-4064	26.8	27.2	27.6	28.0			
Viht N140	26.0	26.8	27.6				
RE-15	27.4	27.9	28.4				
Energy/ft.lbs.	871	921	973	1026	1081	1109	1137
	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.			
Accuracy Load	Benchmark	27.3	3900	1081			
Hunting Load	Benchmark	27.9	4000	1137			

#1039 .204" 39 gr. BlitzKing C.O.A.L. 2.250"

Powder↓/Velocity→	3200	3300	3400	3500	3600	3700
IMR-4198	20.0	20.7	21.3	22.0		
XMR-2015	22.8	23.5	24.2	24.9	25.6	
IMR-3031	23.3	23.8	24.3	24.8	25.3	
Benchmark	23.3	23.9	24.5	25.1	25.7	
RE-10X	21.6	22.3	23.0	23.7	24.4	25.1
H322	22.7	23.2	23.7	24.2		
H4895	24.1	24.7	25.3	25.9	26.5	
IMR-4895	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5
Varget	25.0	25.6	26.2	26.8	27.4	28.0
IMR-4064	25.2	25.7	26.2	26.7	27.2	
XMR-4064	25.5	26.1	26.7			
Viht N140	24.9	25.5	26.2	26.8	27.5	
Viht N150	25.5	26.0	26.6	27.1	27.7	
RE-15	25.6	26.2	26.8	27.4	28.0	
Energy/ft.lbs.	887	943	1001	1061	1123	1186
	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.		
Accuracy Load	XMR-2015	25.6	3600	1123		
Hunting Load	RE-10X	25.1	3700	1186		

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION

LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.