

250 SAVAGE

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Universal

Barrel Length: 24"

Twist: 1-10"

Components:

Case: Hornady

Trim-to Length: 1.900"

Primer: WLR

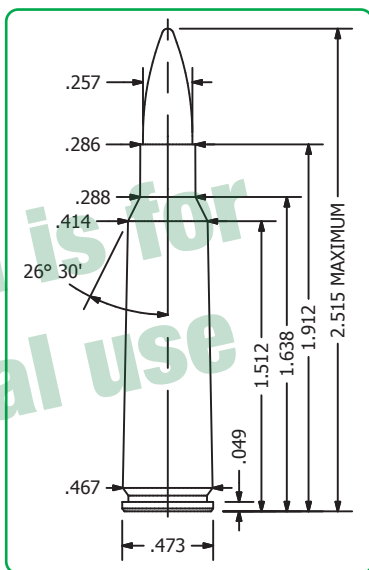
Remarks:

The 250/3000, also known as the 250 Savage, was our first commercial cartridge to break the 3000 fps mark. While this isn't much of an accomplishment these days, muzzle velocities of 3000 fps were simply unheard of in 1915 when Savage debuted the round. When the cartridge was introduced as the 250/3000, it remained the fastest factory cartridge on the market for many years.



Designed by Charles Newton in the early 1900's, the 250/3000 was initially chambered in Savage's Model 99 lever action rifle. Because it was designed for deer sized game, Newton intended the cartridge to push a 100 grain bullet to around 2800 feet per second. Marketing won out, however, and bullet weight in the factory loading was reduced to 87 grains in order to crack the then magical 3000 fps barrier. While Newton was quite correct in his recommendation of the 100 grain bullets for use on big game, this isn't much of a concern to an avid handloader. Reloaders can load the Savage with bullets weighing from 70 grains for varmints to 120 grains for big game. Realistically, 100 grain bullets are probably the best choice for deer sized game. The 87 grain spitzer and 90 grain HPBT bullets work well for varmints, and are adequate for deer and antelope if shots are placed precisely.

Today, a big game cartridge that generates 3000 fps is pretty much taken for granted. The 250 Savage, which held its own for several decades, faded in popularity when the 243 Winchester came on the scene. After taking a back seat to the newer developments for several years, interest in the Savage seems to be on the rise again. Remington produced a run of their "700 Classic" series chambered for the 250 several years ago, which introduced it to a new generation of shooters. Savage and Ruger have also had rifles chambered for it. The little Savage remains an excellent cartridge, giving good accuracy, mild report and only a flea bite of recoil. The 250 Savage is a good little cartridge, and still has a place in the game fields today.




It also was the base for many wildcats, some of which have been tremendously successful, namely the 22-250 Remington.






750 SAVAGE

		Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.	
		#1605	.257"	70gr.	BlitzKing	2.510"	
		#1600	.257"	75gr.	HP	2.450"	
Powder ▾	Velocity >	2800	2900	3000	3100	3200	3300
RE 10x		27.8	28.7	29.7	30.9	32.3	
Benchmark		29.3	30.4	31.6	32.8	34.1	
H335			31.2	32.7	34.0	35.2	
A 2460			32.2	33.4	34.6	35.8	
IMR 8208 XBR			31.7	33.1	34.4	35.6	36.6
TAC			30.7	33.0	34.7	35.9	
Exterminator		29.5	30.4	31.4	32.7	34.3	
A 4064		32.5	34.0	35.3	36.5	37.5	
Power Pro Varmint				32.7	34.7	36.4	37.7
RE 15		32.3	33.5	34.7	35.9	37.2	38.4
Varget		32.7	33.9	35.0	36.3	37.6	38.9
AR Comp				31.9	33.4	34.7	36.0
Energy Ft. Lbs		1218	1307	1399	1493	1591	1692
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lbs	
Accuracy Load	Benchmark	34.1		3200		1591	
Hunting Load	IMR 8208 XBR	36.6		3300		1692	




250 SAVAGE

		Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.		
		#1610	.257"	87gr.	SPT	2.475"		
		#1615	.257"	90gr.	HPBT	2.450"		
		#1616	.257"	90gr.	BlitzKing	2.515"		
Powder ▾	Velocity >	2600	2700	2800	2900	3000	3050	3100
RE 10x			28.0	29.3	30.5	31.7		
Benchmark			29.3	30.6	31.9	33.5		
A 2460	29.1	30.4	31.7	32.9	34.2			
IMR 8208 XBR		30.6	31.9	33.1	34.3	34.8		
TAC		31.0	32.2	33.4	34.4			
H4895			31.1	32.5	33.8	34.5		
IMR 4166 End.	30.6	31.8	33.0	34.2				
A 2230		29.5	31.2	32.5				
Exterminator		30.2	31.5	32.8	33.9			
A 4064	30.3	31.8	33.1	34.3	35.4			
Power Pro Varmint			32.0	33.6	35.0	35.7	36.3	
RE 15		31.6	33.0	34.4	35.7	36.3		
Varget			33.6	34.8	36.0	36.6		
IMR 4320	30.1	31.4	32.7	34.0	35.2			
H380		33.7	35.4	37.1	38.6	39.2	39.9	
AR Comp			30.8	32.3	33.7	34.3		
Energy Ft. Lbs		1306	1408	1514	1624	1738	1797	1856
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lbs		
Accuracy Load	Varget	36.6		3050		1797		
Hunting Load	Power Pro Varmint	36.3		3100		1856		

750 SAVAGE

Bullet Caliber Weight Type					C.O.A.L.				
	#1620	.257"	100gr.	SPT	2.510"				
	#1625	.257"	100gr.	SBT	2.510"				
	#1628	.257"	100gr.	HPBT Match	2.515"				
Powder ▾	Velocity >	2300	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800	2900	
A 2460				29.2	30.7	32.0	33.1		
IMR 8208 XBR				28.4	29.8	31.1	32.6		
H4895				27.9	29.3	30.7	32.1		
A 2495				29.5	30.9	32.3	33.7		
IMR 4166 End.			28.3	29.6	30.9	32.2	33.5		
A 4064				29.7	31.0	32.4	33.8		
Power Pro Varmint					30.6	32.1	33.6		
RE 15					31.2	32.6	34.1	35.8	
Varget					31.0	32.6	34.1		
IMR 4320				29.8	31.0	32.4	33.9		
H380					33.6	35.2	36.7		
IMR 4451 End.		31.5	32.9	34.3	35.7	37.0	38.4		
A 4350				33.3	35.0	36.6	38.1	39.4	
H4350			31.2	32.6	34.0	35.5	37.1	38.6	
RE 16				33.1	34.6	36.0	37.4	38.8	
RE 17			31.4	33.0	34.5	35.9	37.1	38.2	
Energy Ft. Lbs		1174	1279	1388	1501	1618	1741	1867	
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lbs			
Accuracy Load	H4350	38.6		2900		1867			
Hunting Load	RE 15	35.8		2900		1867			
Sierra does not recommend MatchKing bullets for hunting applications.									

250 SAVAGE

	Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.			
	#1630	.257"	117gr.	SBT	2.515"			
	#1640	.257"	117gr.	SPT	2.515"			
	#1650	.257"	120gr.	HPBT	2.515"			
Powder ▾	Velocity >	2250	2350	2450	2550	2600	2650	2700
H4895			27.1	28.8	30.4			
A 2495			28.1	29.7	31.0	31.6		
IMR 4166 End.			28.6	29.9	31.3	32.1		
A 4064			28.9	30.4	31.8	32.4		
RE 15				30.5	31.8	32.5	33.1	
Varget			28.6	30.4	31.9	32.6		
IMR 4320			29.2	30.5	31.7	32.3		
H380				32.7	34.2	35.0	35.7	
IMR 4451 End.	31.7	32.9	34.3	35.7	36.4			
H4350				32.7	34.2	34.9	35.6	
RE 16				33.0	34.4	35.1	35.8	36.6
RE 17				32.7	34.1	34.9	35.6	36.4
AR Comp			26.6	28.2				
Energy Ft. Lbs		1315	1434	1559	1689	1756	1824	1894
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lbs				
Accuracy Load	H4895	30.4	2550	1689				
Hunting Load	RE 16	36.6	2700	1894				

250 SAVAGE ACKLEY IMPROVED

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Savage Model 11

Barrel Length: 26"

Twist: 1 x 10"

Components:

Case: Winchester

Trim-to Length: 1.900"

Primer: Remington 9 1/2

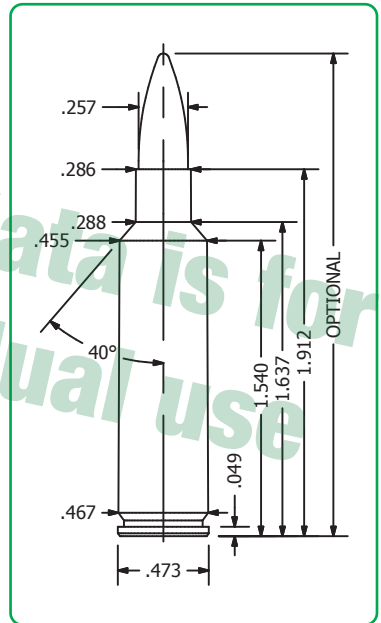
Remarks:

In comparing the various Improved chamberings, it is apparent that some cartridges benefit more from this treatment than others. The cartridges that stand to gain the most are generally those with shallow shoulder angles and somewhat exaggerated body taper in their design—cases like the 250 Savage. Introduced in 1915, the 250/3000 (as it is



commonly known) is a classic but hardly a modern design. It was no surprise when wildcatters turned their attentions to Savage's 25 caliber offering. As a result, there are different versions of the 250 Savage Improved. In terms of performance, there is little to differentiate them, but the shooter needs to ensure that dies are appropriate for the particular chambering in their rifle.

With about 10 percent more case capacity than the parent case, the 250 Improved generates an appreciable increase in performance. In addition, the more modern case configuration tends to reduce the need to trim and provides more positive headspacing. All things considered, it is a worthwhile candidate for a wildcatter. In fact, the 250 Savage Improved is the cartridge Sierra uses for accuracy testing in the 257 bore size. For several years now, we have been using the Ackley version for our daily quality control testing. Producing a good combination of accuracy and velocity (while being significantly easier on the barrel than most other large capacity 25 caliber cartridges), it performs this task quite well.



It is equally at home in the hunting fields. With sufficient velocity to take on deer size game, it can do double duty as a varmint cartridge. Sierra produces a good range of 25 caliber bullets to tackle anything from prairie dogs to large deer. Reloading dies are a catalog item from RCBS, Redding and several others, making this a very user friendly wildcat. It's a good little cartridge, and one that warrants serious consideration by anyone thinking about a medium range hunting rifle. RL 15 is an excellent choice in this cartridge for both velocity and accuracy.






250 SAVAGE ACKLEY IMPROVED

Bullet Caliber Weight Type				C.O.A.L.				
	#1600	.257"	75gr.	HP	2.480"			
	#1605	.257"	70gr.	BlitzKing	2.480"			
Powder ▾	Velocity >	3200	3300	3400	3450	3500	3550	3600
IMR 3031		36.8	37.8	38.8	39.3			
A 2460		37.7	38.8	39.9				
H4895		37.9	39.0	40.1	40.6	41.2		
IMR 4895		38.4	39.4	40.4	40.9	41.4		
Varget		38.5	39.6	40.7	41.2	41.8	42.3	
IMR 4064		38.9	39.9	40.9	41.4	41.9		
A 2520		38.1	39.1	40.1	40.6			
IMR 4320		40.0	41.1	42.2	42.8	43.3		
RE 15		38.8	39.9	41.0	41.5	42.1	42.6	43.2
760		44.7	45.8	46.9	47.4	48.0		
Energy Ft. lbs		1705	1813	1925	1982	2040	2098	2158
Special Load		Powder	Grains	Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lbs		
Accuracy Load		RE 15	42.1	3500		2040		
Hunting Load		RE 15	43.2	3600		2158		




250 SAVAGE ACKLEY IMPROVED

Bullet Caliber Weight Type								C.O.A.L.	
	#1610	.257"	87gr.	SPT					2.500"
	#1615	.257"	90gr.	HPBT					2.500"
Powder ▾	Velocity >	2800	2900	3000	3100	3200	3300	3400	
748			37.6	38.9	40.2	41.5			
A 2460		34.3	35.4	36.5	37.6	38.7	39.8		
H4895		34.0	35.2	36.4	37.6	38.8	40.0		
IMR 4895			35.3	36.5	37.7	38.9	40.1		
Varget		34.6	35.8	37.0	38.2	39.4	40.6		
IMR 4064			35.7	36.8	37.9	39.0	40.1	41.2	
A 2520		34.0	35.2	36.4	37.6	38.8			
IMR 4320			37.2	38.2	39.2	40.2	41.2		
RE 15			35.4	36.7	38.0	39.3	40.6	41.9	
760			41.3	42.4	43.5	44.6	45.7	46.8	
H414			40.6	41.8	43.0	44.2	45.4	46.6	
IMR 4350		39.5	40.8	42.1	43.4	44.7	46.0		
H4350		39.8	41.1	42.4	43.7	45.0	46.3		
Energy Ft. lbs		1514	1624	1738	1856	1978	2103	2233	
Special Load		Powder	Grains	Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lbs			
Accuracy Load		IMR 4320	40.2	3200		1978			
Hunting Load		RE 15	41.9	3400		2233			

250 SAVAGE ACKLEY IMPROVED

		Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.	
		#1620	.257"	100gr.	SPT	2.515"	
		#1625	.257"	100gr.	SBT	2.515"	
		#1628	.257"	100gr.	HPBT Matchking	2.515"	
Powder	Velocity	2700	2800	2900	3000	3100	3200
A 2460		32.8	34.3	35.8	37.3	38.8	
H4895		32.8	34.3	35.8	37.3	38.8	
IMR 4895		33.4	34.8	36.2	37.6	39.0	
Varget		34.1	35.3	36.5	37.7	38.9	40.1
IMR 4064		34.7	35.9	37.1	38.3	39.5	
A 2520		32.9	34.6	36.3	38.0		
IMR 4320		35.6	36.9	38.2	39.5	40.8	
RE 15		33.5	35.0	36.5	38.0	39.5	41.0
H380		37.2	38.8	40.4	42.0		
760		37.2	39.5	41.8	44.1		
IMR 4350		39.2	40.4	41.6	42.8	44.0	
H4350		38.5	40.0	41.5	43.0	44.5	
Energy Ft. lbs		1618	1741	1867	1998	2133	2273
Special Load	Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lbs			
Accuracy Load	RE 15	41.0	3200	2273			
Hunting Load	Varget	40.1	3200	2273			

750 SAVAGE ACKLEY IMPROVED

Bullet		Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.		
	#1630	.257"	117gr.	SBT	2.515"		
	#1640	.257"	117gr.	SPT	2.515"		
	#1650	.257"	120gr.	HPBT	2.510"		
Powder ▾	Velocity >	2500	2600	2700	2800	2850	2900
A 2460		31.8	33.4	35.0	36.6		
H4895		31.4	33.0	34.6	36.2		
IMR 4895		32.1	33.4	34.7	36.0		
Varget		32.3	33.7	35.1	36.5	37.2	
IMR 4064		32.3	33.8	35.3	36.8	37.6	
IMR 4320		33.3	34.8	36.3	37.8	38.6	
RE 15		32.1	33.7	35.3	36.9	37.7	38.5
H380			36.9	38.6	40.3		
760		35.6	37.1	38.6	40.1	40.9	41.6
H414		35.6	37.4	39.2			
IMR 4350		36.7	38.1	39.5	40.9	41.6	42.3
H4350		36.2	37.7	39.2	40.7	41.5	42.2
Energy Ft. lbs		1623	1756	1894	2036	2110	2184
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lbs	
Accuracy Load	H4350	42.2		2900		2184	
Hunting Load	IMR 4350	42.3		2900		2184	