

257 WEATHERBY MAGNUM

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Universal

Barrel Length: 24"

Twist: 1-10"

Components:

Case: Weatherby

Trim-to Length: 2.539"

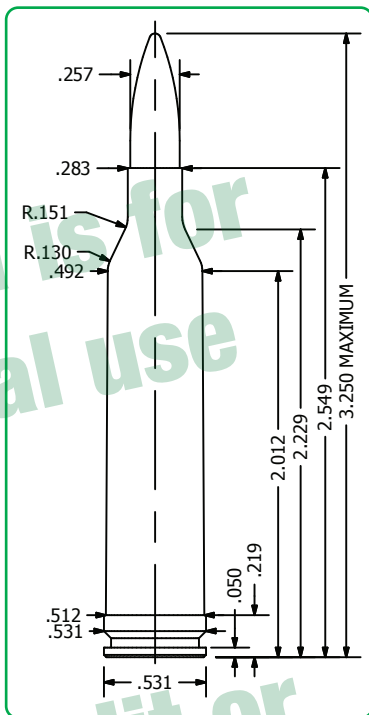
Primer: WLRM

Remarks:



Like most of its Weatherby brethren, the 257 is based on the 300 Holland & Holland belted magnum case. Designed by Roy Weatherby, the 257 Magnum was introduced in 1944. Weatherby wisely chose to reduce the case to 2.549 inches rather than leaving the case full length. Considering the parent cartridge, this shortened case still provides about all the powder capacity that can be effectively used in a 25 bore. Weatherby describes the 257 as a "big game rifle as well as the most powerful long range varmint rifle ever designed." This isn't just advertising hype. The 257 is an awesomely potent round for any medium game application.

In the last few decades the term "magnum," or the presence of a belt, has meant little when describing a cartridge's performance potential. The 257 Weatherby Magnum is a pleasant exception to this trend. It is a true magnum by any definition and easily the most potent quarter bore cartridge ever marketed. With like bullet weights in similar barrel lengths, it is capable of providing a solid 200 feet per second more velocity than its closest competitor, the 25/06 Remington.

Now for the assets and liabilities, which is the essence of any extremely high velocity, small caliber cartridge. The flat trajectory is a definite asset when taking long shots. On the down side, such velocity makes bullet selection critical when the rifle is used at short ranges. Shot placement becomes particularly critical with cartridges like Weatherby's 257, and angles requiring penetration through heavy shoulder bones are best avoided. Like most cartridges with a low expansion ratio, the 257 is at its best with slow burning powders. With a very large selection of slow burning powders now available, the 257 Weatherby has finally been able to reach it's true potential. This is particularly true with the 100, 117 and 120 grain bullets. When fed a proper combination of bullet and powder, the 257 is adequate for any North American big game, except big bears.






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Bullet		Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.				
	#1605	.257"	70gr.	BlitzKing	3.125"				
	#1600	.257"	75gr.	HP	3.125"				
Powder ▾	Velocity >	3300	3400	3500	3600	3700	3800	3900	
H4350			55.0	57.2	59.3	61.4	63.5		
RE 17			55.7	57.5	59.7	62.1	64.8		
Hybrid 100V		52.1	54.6	56.9	59.1	61.1	63.0		
H4831sc		61.6	63.3	65.3	67.5	69.8	72.4		
IMR 7828ssc		63.9	66.2	68.3	70.1	71.7	73.0		
RE 26				70.1	73.6	76.2	77.8	78.5	
Energy Ft. Lbs		1692	1796	1904	2014	2127	2244	2364	
Special Load		Powder	Grains	Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lbs			
Accuracy Load		RE 17	64.8	3800		2244			
Hunting Load		RE 26	78.5	3900		2364			

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Bullet		Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.			
	#1610	.257"	87gr.	SPT	3.200"			
	#1615	.257"	90gr.	HPBT	3.150"			
	#1616	.257"	90gr.	BlitzKing	3.250"			
Powder	Velocity	3100	3200	3300	3400	3500	3600	3700
H4350		54.6	56.5	58.7	61.0	63.6		
RE 16		55.5	58.5	61.1	63.2	64.9		
RE 17			57.3	59.8	62.2	64.5	66.7	
Hybrid 100V	51.8	54.5	57.0	59.1	61.0	62.6		
RE 19	62.9	65.2	67.3	69.1	70.6	71.9		
H4831sc			66.4	68.4	70.5	72.7		
IMR 4955 End.	60.7	60.0	61.6	65.4				
N165		68.0	69.6	71.2	72.7	74.2		
RE 23			64.8	66.4	68.2	70.1		
IMR 7828ssc		66.4	68.6	70.5	72.0	73.3		
IMR 7977 End.		68.7	70.3	72.0	73.6			
H1000			71.7	73.3	74.9	76.5		
RE 26		68.1	69.6	71.1	72.5	73.7	74.9	
Magnum		71.2	72.8	74.4	76.0	77.7		
Energy Ft. Lbs		1856	1978	2103	2233	2366	2503	2644
Special Load		Powder	Grains	Velocity fps	Energy Ft. lbs			
Accuracy Load		H4350	63.6	3600	2503			
Hunting Load		RE 17	66.7	3700	2644			

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Bullet Caliber Weight Type							C.O.A.L.	
	#1620	.257"	100gr.	SPT			3.200"	
	#1625	.257"	100gr.	SBT			3.200"	
	#1628	.257"	100gr.	HPBT Match			3.200"	
Powder ▾	Velocity >	3000	3100	3200	3300	3400	3450	3500
H4350				55.3	57.5			
RE 16			52.6	55.1	57.6	60.0		
RE 17			52.0	53.5	55.5	58.0		
Hybrid 100V	50.1	52.2	54.4	56.6	58.9	60.0	61.1	
H4831sc					64.7	67.3		
IMR 4955 End.			56.2	58.0	60.0			
N165				62.2	67.3	70.2	70.9	
RE 23					62.0	64.5		
IMR 7828ssc			60.4	62.9	65.3	67.5	68.5	
IMR 7977 End.	60.8	63.3	65.6	67.8	69.9	70.8		
H1000			63.3	65.8	68.3	70.8	72.0	73.1
RE 26				64.2	66.3	68.4	69.3	70.3
Magnum	64.1	66.1	68.2	70.4				
Energy Ft. Lbs	1998	2133	2273	2418	2566	2642	2720	
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lbs		
Accuracy Load	IMR 7828ssc	68.5		3450		2642		
Hunting Load	Hybrid 100V	61.1		3500		2720		
Sierra does not recommend MatchKing bullets for hunting applications.								

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Bullet		Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.			
	#1630	.257"	117gr.	SBT	3.200"			
	#1640	.257"	117gr.	SPT	3.200"			
	#1650	.257"	120gr.	HPBT	3.250"			
Powder	Velocity	2650	2750	2850	2950	3050	3150	3200
H4350					51.3	54.2		
RE 16				48.2	51.1	53.8		
RE 17				48.5	51.1	53.6	56.0	
Hybrid 100V				50.5	52.9	55.1	57.1	
H4831sc					56.5	59.1	62.1	
IMR 4955 End.		51.2	53.4	55.7	58.0	60.3		
RE 23			53.6	56.4	59.2	61.9		
IMR 7828ssc					58.2	60.8	63.2	64.3
IMR 7977 End.		58.1	61.0	63.7	66.1	68.2	69.2	
H1000						60.1	63.2	64.5
RE 26				56.2	58.8	61.4	64.0	65.2
Retumbo				58.3	60.0	62.5	65.6	67.4
Energy Ft. Lbs		1824	1964	2110	2260	2416	2577	2660
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lbs		
Accuracy Load	IMR 7828ssc	64.3		3200		2660		
Hunting Load	Retumbo	67.4		3200		2660		