

444 MARLIN

Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Marlin 444S

Barrel Length: 22"

Twist: 1 x 38"

Components:

Case: Remington

Trim-to Length: 2.215"

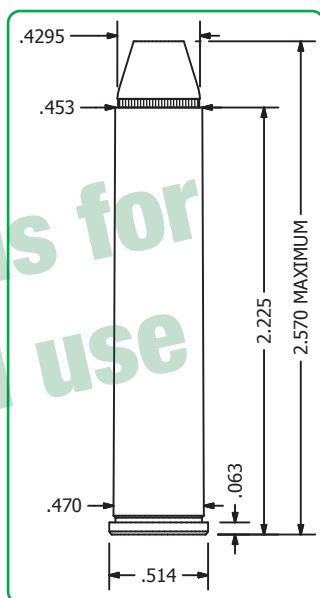
Primer: Remington 9 1/2

Remarks:


In mid 1964, Marlin introduced a new cartridge intended for close to medium range big game hunting. Dubbed the 444 Marlin, the new round was chambered in a variant of their highly successful Model 336 and was a long, straight wall, rimmed design reminiscent of some of the old black powder express cartridges developed in the 1870s. In spite of the physical resemblance though, similarities to the older cartridges end there. The 444 is a thoroughly modern design, capable of driving a .429" diameter 240 grain bullet up to 2300 feet per second. This type of performance makes it one of the more potent cartridges ever developed for a lever action rifle. Delivering considerably more punch than some of our other traditional brush cartridges, Marlin's big 444 easily outclasses the popular 30-30 Winchester and the 35 Remington. The 444 is quite capable of handling the largest North American big game, as long as shots are limited to moderate range, are accurately placed, and appropriate bullets are selected.


Loading for the 444 presents no unusual problems. Suitable propellants for the 444 include a range of fast burning rifle powders, such as IMR 4198, and Reloder 7. Most of these powders tend to be quite easy to ignite, making the use of magnum primers unnecessary. The straight wall case design of this cartridge dictates a high bullet pull for best ignition and accuracy.

Lightweight bullets like the 180 and 210 grain JHC can be used in the 444, but are best reserved for plinking and target practice. Designed to expand at 44 Magnum velocities, they are simply too frangible for the speeds attained by the potent 444 Marlin. The 240 grain JHC bullet is probably best for deer sized game, while the 250 grain FPJ will provide deeper penetration on thick skinned game, such as bear and boar. Cannelure placement on the 300 grain JSP precludes its use in the 444 Marlin, unless loaded directly into the chamber and used as a single shot. Like any ammunition to be used in a tubular magazine, a firm crimp is required to prevent bullet shift under recoil.





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| Bullet Caliber Weight Type | | | | | | C.O.A.L. |
|---|------------|----------|--------|--------------|---------------|----------|
|  #8600 .4295" 180gr. JHC | | | | | | 2.535" |
| Powder ▾ | Velocity > | 2300 | 2350 | 2400 | 2450 | 2500 |
| A 5744 | | 42.3 | 43.3 | 44.2 | | |
| IMR 4198 | | 47.7 | 48.6 | 49.5 | 50.4 | 51.4 |
| RE 7 | | 50.1 | 51.1 | 52.1 | 53.0 | |
| H322 | | 55.0 | 55.9 | 56.8 | 57.6 | |
| Energy Ft. lbs | | 2114 | 2207 | 2302 | 2399 | 2498 |
| Special Load | | Powder | Grains | Velocity fps | Energy Ft. lb | |
| Accuracy Load | | IMR 4198 | 50.4 | 2450 | 2399 | |
| Hunting Load | | IMR 4198 | 50.4 | 2450 | 2399 | |


| Bullet Caliber Weight Type | | | | | | C.O.A.L. |
|---|------------|----------|--------|--------------|---------------|----------|
|  #8620 .4295" 210gr. JHC | | | | | | 2.535" |
| Powder ▾ | Velocity > | 2200 | 2250 | 2300 | 2350 | 2400 |
| A 5744 | | 40.8 | 41.7 | 42.6 | | |
| IMR 4198 | | 46.3 | 47.2 | 48.1 | 49.0 | 49.7 |
| RE 7 | | 48.7 | 49.9 | 51.1 | 52.2 | |
| H322 | | 51.1 | 53.0 | 54.8 | | |
| Energy Ft. lbs | | 2256 | 2360 | 2466 | 2575 | 2685 |
| Special Load | | Powder | Grains | Velocity fps | Energy Ft. lb | |
| Accuracy Load | | IMR 4198 | 49.0 | 2350 | 2575 | |
| Hunting Load | | IMR 4198 | 49.0 | 2350 | 2575 | |

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| Bullet Caliber Weight Type | | | | | | | C.O.A.L. |
|---|------------|--------|------|--------------|------|---------------|----------|
|  #8605 .4295" 220gr. FPJ Match | | | | | | | 2.535" |
| Powder ∨ | Velocity > | 2100 | 2200 | 2250 | 2300 | 2350 | |
| A 5744 | | 39.7 | 41.8 | | | | |
| IMR 4198 | | 44.6 | 46.4 | 47.3 | 48.2 | 49.0 | |
| RE 7 | | 47.8 | 49.8 | 50.8 | 51.8 | | |
| H322 | | 50.4 | 53.0 | 54.2 | | | |
| Energy Ft. lbs | | 2154 | 2364 | 2473 | 2584 | 2697 | |
| Special Load | Powder | Grains | | Velocity fps | | Energy Ft. lb | |
| Accuracy Load | IMR 4198 | 48.2 | | 2300 | | 2584 | |
| Hunting Load | IMR 4198 | 48.2 | | 2300 | | 2584 | |

| Bullet Caliber Weight Type | | | | | | | C.O.A.L. |
|---|------------|--------|------|--------------|------|---------------|----------|
|  #8610 .4295" 240gr. JHC | | | | | | | 2.535" |
| Powder ∨ | Velocity > | 2000 | 2100 | 2150 | 2200 | 2250 | 2300 |
| A 5744 | | 37.9 | 39.1 | 40.3 | | | |
| IMR 4198 | | 41.3 | 43.5 | 44.6 | 45.7 | 46.8 | 47.9 |
| RE 7 | | 44.5 | 45.7 | 46.9 | 48.1 | 49.3 | |
| H322 | | 48.2 | 50.2 | 51.2 | 52.2 | 53.2 | |
| Energy Ft. lbs | | 2131 | 2350 | 2463 | 2579 | 2697 | 2819 |
| Special Load | Powder | Grains | | Velocity fps | | Energy Ft. lb | |
| Accuracy Load | IMR 4198 | 46.8 | | 2250 | | 2697 | |
| Hunting Load | IMR 4198 | 46.8 | | 2250 | | 2697 | |

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| Bullet Caliber Weight Type | | | | | | C.O.A.L. |
|---|------------|--------|--------------|---------------|------|----------|
|  | #8615 | .4295" | 250gr. | FPJ Match | | 2.535" |
| Powder ▾ | Velocity > | 2000 | 2100 | 2150 | 2200 | 2250 |
| A 5744 | | 38.5 | 40.0 | | | |
| IMR 4198 | | 42.3 | 44.3 | 45.3 | 46.3 | 47.3 |
| RE 7 | | 44.7 | 47.1 | 48.2 | 49.4 | |
| H322 | | 49.0 | 51.0 | 52.1 | | |
| Energy Ft. lbs | | 2220 | 2448 | 2566 | 2686 | 2810 |
| Special Load | Powder | Grains | Velocity fps | Energy Ft. lb | | |
| Accuracy Load | IMR 4198 | 46.3 | 2200 | 2686 | | |
| Hunting Load | IMR 4198 | 46.3 | 2200 | 2686 | | |

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