

# 6.5 x 54mm MANNLICHER-SCHOENAUER

## Test Specifications:

Firearm Used: Custom Mauser

Barrel Length: 20"

Twist: 1 x 7 1/2"

## Components:

Case: Norma

Trim-to Length: 2.100"

Primer: Remington 9 1/2

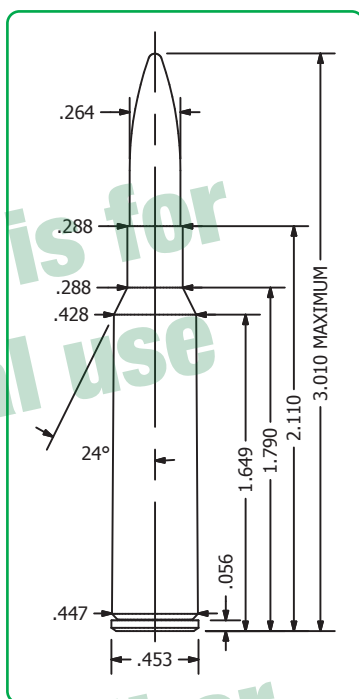
## Remarks:

Unlike its contemporary 6.5mm military cousins, the 6.5mm Arisaka and the 6.5mm Carcano — the 6.5x54mm Mannlicher-Schoenauer has been a popular sporting cartridge. Prior to WWII, all major U.S. ammunition manufacturers produced loaded ammo in this caliber, and its performance was highly regarded. Despite its earlier popularity, metric calibers have traditionally had an uphill fight in the U.S. marketplace. The 6.5x54mm Mannlicher-Schoenauer became a casualty of that battle, and little was heard about the cartridge until Ruger chambered it in a short run of their Model 77 International bolt actions.


The cartridge was designed in 1900 and adopted by the Greek military in 1903. There is also another version of the Mannlicher-Schoenauer, a rimmed cartridge known as the 6.5x54R or 6.5mm Steyr-Mannlicher. According to Sharpe, the rimmed version was intended for the straight-pull Mannlicher boltaction rifles, while the rimless case was intended for conventional turning-bolt designs.



The 6.5mm family of cartridges has enjoyed a good reputation for deep penetration and reliable killing power. Perhaps the greatest praise for the 6.5x54mm came from the late Elmer Keith, one of the most impassioned bigbore advocates this country has ever produced. In Keith's *Rifles for Large Game*, he recommends the cartridge for deer and black bear and mentions that it has been used successfully on grizzlies.

Reloading for the 6.5x54mm is no more difficult than any other military surplus cartridge. Dies are a catalog item from RCBS and several other U.S. manufacturers. However, handloaders may encounter some difficulty finding brass for the Mannlicher-Schoenauer. U.S. manufacturers have long since discontinued the 6.5x54mm, but both Boxer style unprimed cases and loaded ammunition are still available through RWS, Lapua and Norma.








# 6.5 x 54mm MANNLICHER-SCHOENAUER

Bullet Caliber Weight Type							C.O.A.L.
 #1700 .264" 85gr. HP							2.750"
Powder ▾	Velocity >	2500	2600	2700	2800	2900	3000
IMR-3031		32.6	33.8	35.0	36.3	37.5	38.7
BL-C(2)		34.6	36.5	38.4	40.3	42.2	
IMR-4895		35.6	36.6	37.7	38.7	39.8	40.8
IMR-4064		36.3	37.3	38.3	39.4	40.4	41.4
H380		37.4	39.0	40.7	42.3	44.0	45.6
Energy Ft. lbs		1179	1276	1376	1479	1587	1698
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lb	
Accuracy Load	IMR-3031	35.0		2700		1376	
Hunting Load	IMR-4064	41.4		3000		1698	

Bullet Caliber Weight Type							C.O.A.L.
 #1710 .264" 100gr. HP							2.800"
 #1715 .264" 107gr. HPBT MatchKing							2.950"
Powder ▾	Velocity >	2300	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800
IMR-3031		29.7	31.1	32.5	33.9	35.3	36.7
BL-C(2)		30.4	32.5	34.6	36.8	38.9	41.0
IMR-4895		32.2	33.5	34.9	36.2	37.6	38.9
IMR-4064		32.7	34.0	35.3	36.6	37.9	39.2
H380		34.9	36.5	38.1	39.7	41.3	42.9
Energy Ft. lbs		1174	1279	1388	1501	1618	1741
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lb	
Accuracy Load	IMR-4064	37.9		2700		1618	
Hunting Load	IMR-4064	37.9		2700		1618	

# 6.5 X 54mm MANNLICHER-SCHOENAUER

Bullet	Caliber	Weight	Type	C.O.A.L.			
	#1720	.264"	120gr. SPT	2.950"			
	#1725	.264"	120gr. HPBT MatchKing	2.950"			
Powder ∨	Velocity >	2200	2300	2400	2500	2600	2700
IMR-3031		29.5	31.1	32.7	34.3	35.9	37.5
BL-C(2)		31.9	33.7	35.6	37.4	39.2	
IMR-4895		31.7	33.1	34.5	35.9	37.3	38.7
IMR-4064		32.2	33.6	35.0	36.5	37.9	39.3
H380		34.4	36.1	37.8	39.6	41.3	43.0
Energy Ft. lbs		1289	1409	1535	1665	1801	1942
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lb	
Accuracy Load	IMR-4895	35.9		2500		1665	
Hunting Load	IMR-4064	39.3		2700		1942	

Bullet Caliber Weight Type							C.O.A.L.
	#1730	.264"	140gr.	SBT	3.000"		
	#1740	.264"	140gr.	HPBT MatchKing	3.000"		
	#1742	.264"	142gr.	HPBT MatchKing	3.000"*		
*requires a 1x8" or faster twist							
Powder ∨	Velocity >	1900	2000	2100	2200	2300	2400
IMR-3031		27.1	28.6	30.1	31.7	33.2	34.7
BL-C(2)		29.1	30.8	32.5	34.2	35.9	
IMR-4895		28.7	30.1	31.6	33.0	34.5	35.9
IMR-4064		28.7	30.3	31.9	33.5	35.1	36.7
H380		31.4	32.9	34.4	35.9	37.4	38.9
Energy Ft. lbs		1122	1243	1371	1504	1644	1790
Special Load	Powder	Grains		Velocity fps		Energy Ft. lb	
Accuracy Load	IMR-4064	35.1		2300		1644	
Hunting Load	IMR-4064	36.7		2400		1790	