



RIFLE AMMO 2021



BY DR. MARTIN D. TOPPER

The outlook for rifle ammo in 2021 is a mixed bag. On one hand, you have a rise in crime rates and some far-reaching gun control proposals, both of which are driving up sales, availability and prices of guns, reloading supplies and ammo. On the other, a new flat-shooting 6.8mm cartridge has been jointly introduced by Winchester and Browning, and there are also new loads being introduced for other popular cartridges that upgrade their performance. For the time being, these new products are likely to be in short supply as manufacturers replace depleted inventories of their established products that are in high demand. Hopefully, however, both new and established products will increase in availability in the upcoming months and

prices will begin to gravitate downward toward their pre-panic levels.

BROWNING

6.8 Western: The big news from Browning and Winchester is the 6.8 Western. The Browning version has a 175-grain bullet with a high ballistic coefficient, and propels it at 2,835 fps. This produces 3,123 fpe at the muzzle and makes it well-suited to take deer, large hogs,

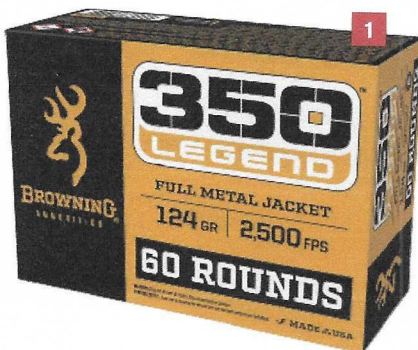


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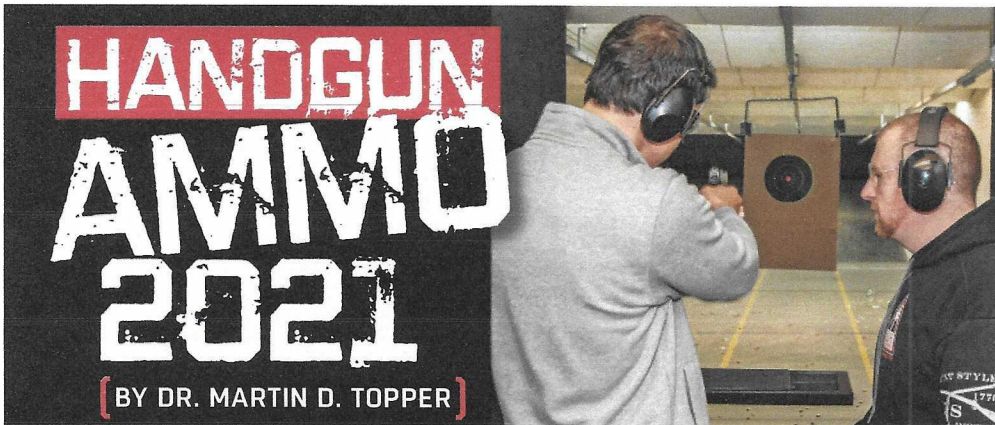
black bear, caribou, antelope and elk at distances that stretch the capabilities of many other 6.5mm and 7mm cartridges. MSRP: TBD.

1. .350 Legend: This year Browning is introducing a 60-round bulk pack for their .350 Legend 124-grain FMJ round. It leaves the muzzle at 2,500 fps, producing 1,721 fpe. It is a good round for general target shooting, competition and tuning up your skills before hunting season. MSRP: TBD.

2. Long Range Pro Hunter: This line of Browning ammo contains Sierra Tipped GameKing boat-tail bullets, which have polymer tips that improve bullet expansion.



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HANDGUN AMMO 2021

[BY DR. MARTIN D. TOPPER]

Approximately 20 million Americans now have concealed carry permits, and millions more keep handguns for home and business protection. In addition, a handgun is the basic firearm of almost every law enforcement agency in the United States. Given this large and competitive market, it's easy to understand why ammunition companies, both here and abroad, frequently develop new and improved handgun ammunition to stay ahead of the competition.

However, 2021 is a rather unusual year. Concern that the pandemic could cause social unrest, the existence of political violence in some large American cities and the possibility of more restrictive gun control legislation have combined to cause a run on ammunition in most parts of the country. The result is that most ammunition companies are back-ordered from six to 18 months, and many stores and websites are out of stock on most types of centerfire handgun ammunition. When ammo is available, it frequently sells for two to three times the MSRP. Given the demand for



their current products, it isn't surprising that many manufacturers have had little time to develop new loads, and this is especially the case with handgun ammo.

That said, here are some new offerings for 2021.

BARNAUL AMMUNITION

1. Barnaul FMJ: MKS Supply of Dayton, Ohio, imports Barnaul ammunition from Russia. The latest load in the MKS line is

a steel-cased, 151-grain subsonic load that leaves the barrel at 850 fps and is designed to work well with a broad variety of suppressed pistols. MSRP: TBD. barnaulammo.com

BROWNING

2. Browning X-Point Defense: Browning has announced five new loads in its X-Point Defense line. X-Point JHPs have X-shaped polymer inserts that serve to prevent the hollow point from clogging with clothing and promote rapid expansion and quick transfer of energy to the target. The loads include a 95-grain .380 ACP at 1,000 fps that delivers 211 fpe, a 147-grain 9mm at 1,000 fps with 362 fpe at the muzzle, a 180-grain .40 S&W at 1,020 fps and 416 fpe, a 230-grain .45 ACP at 920 fps with 432 fpe, and a 180-grain 10mm Auto at 1,225 fps that delivers a very respectable 599 fpe. MSRP: TBD. browningammo.com

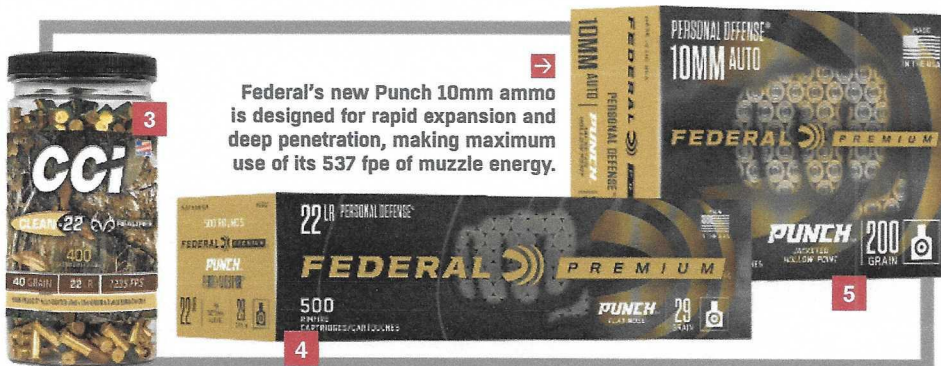
CCI

3. Clean-22 Realtree: This high-velocity .22 LR target and plinking load has 40-grain bullets that have tan, green or black polymer jackets. The bullet is designed for maximum accuracy, and the load's polymer-coated projectiles help ensure reliable functioning in semi-auto firearms. The coating also significantly reduces copper and lead deposition in the bore and leaves little or no polymer firing residue. MSRP: \$44 per 400-round bottle. cci-ammunition.com

FEDERAL PREMIUM

4. Punch .22 LR: This year Federal has introduced a .22 LR cartridge specifically designed for personal defense. Its nickel-plated, lead-core bullet develops 1,070 fps and just under 74 fpe from a 2-inch barrel. This light and fast flat-nose projectile is designed for straight, deep penetration. This maximizes the utility of the .22 LR in backup guns or in primary firearms, especially for people who are not comfortable with the recoil of centerfire handguns. MSRP: \$10.

5. Punch 10mm: Federal's new Punch round in 10mm has a skived hollow-point cavity with deep notches and a soft lead core for rapid expansion, while it penetrates deeply. Initial velocity is 1,100



Federal's new Punch 10mm ammo is designed for rapid expansion and deep penetration, making maximum use of its 537 fpe of muzzle energy.