



1. Clean and inspect fired cases. Discard any cases with split necks, heavy ejector marks on the case head or stretch marks ahead of the web area.



3. Since case capacity varies from one brand to another, sort out different head stamps and reload cases from only one manufacturer at a time. Note the difference in case wall thickness, web thickness and flash hole shape in the .243 Winchester cases shown here. These variations can affect velocity, pressure and consistency, so it is best to work up loads for each group separately.



2. If you're loading handgun cartridges, it is a good idea to clean the cases before reloading. Vibratory or rotary drum cleaners do a good job, and give you cases that will perform better in your handgun.



4. Using a nylon bristle case neck brush, clean the inside of the neck to remove any powder residue.



5. Lightly lubricate cases with a lube pad, with your fingers or by spraying. Be careful to avoid excess lubrication which will result in small dents in the case. Do not lubricate the shoulder of rifle cases. Segregate lubed cases for the next step.



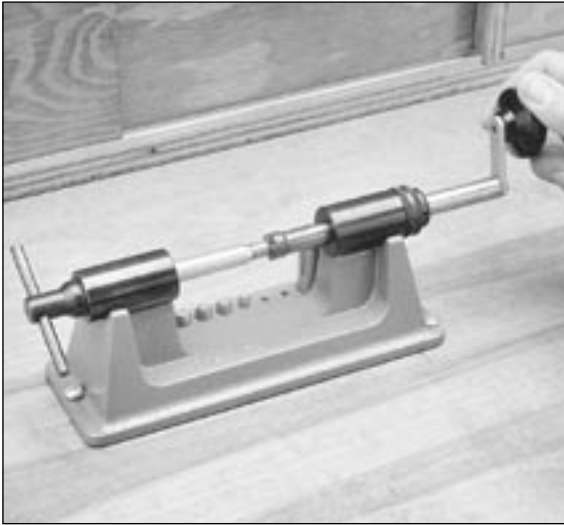
6. Insert a lubed case into the shellholder in the press holding the resizing die. Make sure it is fully in the slot, then with a slow, deliberate stroke, pull the operating handle through its complete range.



7. You should feel the sizing, depriming and interior neck sizing (expander ball) operations. Only moderate force should be required. Wipe cases clean with a rag to remove lubricant, then place in the loading block separate from the unsized cases. Also remove any lubricant from your hands so you don't contaminate your primers.



8. Using a caliper, gauge the cases for proper length as shown in the loading data in this Guide.



9.  
If the case is longer than specified, trim it to the proper length with a case trimmer which can be set up to produce the exact size case specified.



10.  
With a deburring tool, remove rough edges from the inside and outside of the case neck.



11.  
Remove any carbon from the primer pocket with a primer pocket cleaner.



12.  
If you're loading handgun or straight-walled rifle cartridges, the next operation is belling the case mouth. Most handgun die sets include a third die, called an expander die. Set up this die according to the manufacturer's instructions. Handgun case mouths must be expanded slightly to ease bullet seating and to prevent collapsing the case.



13. To prime your cases, remove the resizing die from the press. If your press has a priming arm, place a primer in the cup, then push it into the recess in the ram. Seat the primer with a firm, consistent pressure until you feel the primer touch the bottom of the pocket. You should be able to feel a slight resistance. If the primer seats without resistance, it is an indication the primer pocket is worn and the case should be discarded. Otherwise, the primer may dislodge during firing.



14. If you're reloading in large batches, a priming tool will speed things up. Priming tools have a long tube that holds a large quantity of primers, and places them on a priming arm without handling the primers individually.



15. Check each primed case to be sure the primer is fully seated. Primers should be slightly recessed from surface of the case head.



16. Charging the case with powder is one of the most important and critical operations in reloading. So great care must be taken to follow load data and drop the precise amount of powder specified in the data.



17.

Once you have selected the proper load from the data, set up your reloading scale to weigh precisely the right number of grains. Remember, your powder scale will weigh powder down to the closest 1/10th of a grain in weight. A powder trickler is handy for adding minute amounts of powder to a load to get the exact weight you want.



19.

If you are developing bench rest loads, you may wish to weigh each load separately. Or you can drop powder directly from the powder measure into the case for faster production. However, it is a good idea to check-weigh your loads periodically to check the accuracy of the powder measure.



18.

Most reloaders use a powder measure, also called a powder thrower. This device can be adjusted simply to drop a specified amount of powder. As you set it up, weigh the powder after dropping it into the scale's pan. Keep adjusting the powder measure until it consistently drops the right load. If you are using one of the coarser extruded powders, drop 10 loads in a row and weigh each one to make sure the powder is metering properly and the loads are consistent before charging your cases.



20.

After you have charged a loading block full of cases, "eyeball" them to spot any missed or overly filled cases.



21. Install and adjust the bullet seating die according to manufacturer's instructions. See Page 34 for tips on Proper Bullet Seating. Most bullet seating dies provide for crimping the case into the bullet's cannelure groove, if one is present. Since most handloaders prefer not to crimp except where it is required, you should adjust the seating die to provide about 1/16" clearance between the shellholder and the face of the die. This will assure no crimping will take place when the bullet is seated. Make sure the case is fully pushed into the shellholder to assure the case is properly aligned under the die.



22. Place the bullet in the case mouth and guide it up into the die while you pull the handle all the way down to seat the bullet to its predetermined depth. The cartridge is now complete.



23. When you have finished reloading your cartridges, identify them by date, bullet, powder type, charge, primer and overall cartridge length. Keep different batches separate, especially if you're working up different loads.