

16 Gauge 7/8 ounce loads

By Tom Ceretto

For several years 16 gauge aficionados have lamented the demise of the Winchester WAA16 wad for loading 7/8 ounces of lead in their 16 gauge shotguns. Down Range Manufacturing of Hastings, Neb., has heard the clarion call and started manufacturing a clone of the old WAA16 wad. Kevin Lewis, Downrange Wad's jack-of-all-trades, recently sent me pressure gun data on the new 16 gauge wad.

Now those of you who want to shoot any of the competitive sports can do so with a nice, light recoiling load in the "Sweet Sixteen." I had a 16 gauge Remington pump some years ago that was quite light and I used the old 7/8 ounce 16 load when I could get them for grouse hunting and skeet.

Ron Reiber, product manager at Hodgdon, did the development loads for the new wad with International Clays and good old IMR PB, a powder I really like. Dick Quesenberry will be doing the same with Alliant powder soon and when those loads are available I will publish them for you.

If you own a vintage 16 gauge I would recommend that you stay with loads at 7.500 psi or less, especially if you have a re-proofed Damascus shotgun. If you have a modern shotgun, any of the loads listed would be fine to shoot through it. A friend of mine, who was fortunate enough to buy a lot of WAA16 wads before Winchester stopped selling them, really likes the 1,200 fps PB load for skeet, sporting clays and upland bird hunting with his old A. H. Fox side-by-side.

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 16.4 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,150 fps @ 6,200 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 17.4 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,200 fps @ 7,200 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 18.3 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,250 fps @ 8,200 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 15.8 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,150 fps @ 6,200 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-Pert

Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 16.9 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,200 fps @ 7,300 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 18.0 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,250 fps @ 8,300 psi

The following PB loads are a favorite of several friends of mine to shoot through their vintage side-by-sides.

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 18.0 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,150 fps @ 6,100 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 19.1 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,200 psi @ 6,900 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 20.2 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,250 fps @ 7,700 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 17.4 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,150 fps @ 5,900 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 18.7 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,200 fps @ 6,800 psi

Case: 16 ga. Winchester X-PERT
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 20.0 gr. IMR PB

Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,250 fps @ 7,600 psi

Any of the following loads are good choices for modern 16 gauge shotguns. The Remington SP case is a bit higher pressure than the Winchester X-PERT, but it loads very nicely with the Down Range DR16 wad.

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 14.8 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,150 fps @ 8,800 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 15.7 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,200 fps @ 10,100 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 16.6 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,250 fps @ 11,300 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 14.7 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,150 fps @ 9,300 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 15.6 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,200 fps @ 10,500 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 16.5 gr. Inter. Clays
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,250 fps @ 11,500 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 15.9 gr IMR PB
Wad: DR 16

Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,150 fps @ 7,500 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 17.0 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,200 fps @ 8,800 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 18.1 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,250 fps @ 9,900 psi
Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Remington 209P
Powder: 19.2 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,250 fps @ 11,300 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 15.9 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,150 fps @ 7,400 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 17.1 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,200 fps @ 8,900 psi

Case: 16 ga. Remington SP
Primer: Winchester 209
Powder: 18.2 gr. IMR PB
Wad: DR 16
Shot: 7/8 oz. lead
1,250 fps @ 10,100 psi

There are more loads than those I have listed that Ron has developed and they will be on Hodgdon's web site soon. I apologize for taking up an entire column with 16 gauge data, but if you do not own a 16 gauge you cannot imagine how long 16 gauge owners have been waiting for the new 7/8 ounce wad and loading data for it.