

# Case Care Is Key To Good, Safe Loads

A new trimmer makes quick work of cases for all your reloading needs.

THE MOST IMPORTANT component of the centerfire handload is the cartridge case. It is the case that holds the entire enterprise together. If the case is bad the handload is bad; no matter what brand or manufacturer of case you use if you do not pay strict attention to the cartridge case and its maintenance you put firearm and yourself at risk.

Brass is "worked" during firing and during the process of constructing ammunition. Over time, this working (expansion and resizing) can weaken the cartridge case to the point of failure and we see the results of this in head expansion, opening up of the primer pocket, stress cracks in the neck and shoulder area and so forth. In the process of firing, with the extreme temperature within the chamber and rock-solid constriction of the breech face and chamber walls, the case has only one way to go to relieve the stress, and that is to flow forward into the throat of the chamber. If the brass case has been properly trimmed and is of proper length for the chamber in question this is no problem; if the case was too long to start with and the closing of the breech or camming action of the bolt has forced the mouth of the case to turn down into the bullet, then pressures will spike and what was considered a safe load becomes a serious accident.

Trimming needs to be fairly precise and even across the mouth of the case; if

it is not then there will be an uneven pressure on the base of the bullet as it exits the chamber. This can cause the bullet to yaw and engage the rifling of the barrel at an angle causing microscopic damage to the bullet. This will appear as decreased accuracy as the bullet may spin or fly erratically between the muzzle and the target.

Trimming the cartridge case is performed after any resizing operations and in many instances after the primer has been replaced since on most reloading presses resizing and priming are done at the same time. In some instances, however, I have resized and deprimed cases, then cleaned (or tumbled) and inspected them, before trimming and repriming them.

I have used a hand-turned RCBS case trimmer for this chore for 99 percent of my handloading since 1972. Recently RDZ Products sent me their case trimmer set and I gave it a workout on a pile of 6mm Remington cases. When I agreed to look at the trimmer (which I have returned to the manufacturer, as with all items I accept for test and evaluation) I did not know anything about it and had not read any previously published material about it. I did not know that this particular trimmer is in reality a trimming jig that must be mounted on a drill press. The kit includes the jig base, the cutter and arbor, an Allen wrench and small pin used to tighten the jig, and a set of 9 pilots.



The RDZ Case Trimmer sets up on a drill press and makes quick work of piles of brass. If there is a downside to the product it is that cases must be unprimed when they are trimmed.

My drill press is a bench model and has a compound vise on the press table. I mounted the trimmer base in the vise (the trimmer jig is drilled for 3/8-inch bolts, so it may be bolted to the press table), put the pilot in the cutter, mounted the cutter in the provided arbor and put this into the press chuck. There are no shell holders provided with the jig so I mounted an RCBS shell holder in it, placed a sized but unprimed case in the shell holder, and positioned the jig in the vise so the cutter pilot slipped into the case mouth. There is a knurled wheel on the jig that must be turned to raise a pin that fits into the primer pocket to hold the case so it will not turn

Winchester NOT A Name But AMERICAN LEGEND Winchester NOT A Name But AMERICAN LEGEND Winchester NOT A Name But AMERICAN LEGEND

## SPECIALIZING IN WINCHESTERS PARTS

### Bucjingham's Antique Winchesters

**Buy • Sell • Trade**

**501 Eaton Brazil Road, Trenton, TN 38382**

O.G.C.A. Life    T.G.C.A. LIFE #96    H.G.C.A. LIFE

N.R.A. LIFE MEMBER    D.A.C.A LIFE MEMBER

**Days 731-559-4169 Cell 731-431-7350 Nights 559-4357 FAX 731-559-4367**

Winchester - Orig. and American. Made Repr. Parts 100% guarantee, stock made like orig. ones all needed is install and shoot. Lots of orig. barrels, sights, screws, new repro, barrel, made like original. Have some 300+ original barrels, special orders parts - SASE on all inquiries for Models listed ONLY.

Parts List - 50 + pages (15 pages of technical schematics). \$12.00 Foreign Country ..... \$17.00

**Bucjingham's - The First and Last Stop For Winchester Parts!**

New Barrels Made - State Of The Art Hot Blue, Rust Blue or Hot Water Blue. Only Models Listed Above

1866

1873

1876

1885

1886

1887

1892

1890

1894

1895

1897

1901

1906

Mod. 67's

Mod. 37's

Winchester NOT A Name But AMERICAN LEGEND Winchester NOT A Name But AMERICAN LEGEND Winchester NOT A Name But AMERICAN LEGEND



under the cutter. Once this is done, the jig can be tightened down on the press table and aligns the cutter with the case. One must set the length of cut. Using an unprimed case of the proper length I set the stop on the press so the cutter would stop at the proper depth. Since the pin that holds the case and keeps it from turning under the cutter must enter the primer pocket the case cannot be primed before trimming.

Now I returned to the reloading press and resized and deprimed my cases. Once complete I turned to the drill press/trim jig setup and went through 50 cases very quickly, much faster than if I had been using my old hand-turned trimmer. The only fly in the ointment was that now I had to prime the cases, whereas using the old manual trimmer the cases would have been primed during the sizing and depriming operation, since the manual trimmer uses a collet arrangement to hold the base of the case and with it one can trim primed cases.

The RDZ case trimmer set is heavy-duty, extremely well made and from what I can see virtually indestructible. If you have a drill press and especially if you handle a lot of cases at one time I can see where it would be a fine addition to the reloading room.

You may contact RDZ at [www.rdzproducts.com](http://www.rdzproducts.com) for more information.

#### GDTM

Send your questions to Walt Hampton at [hamptwcwj@msn.com](mailto:hamptwcwj@msn.com) or write him at 341 Horse Ford Lane, Independence, VA 24348.

For a signed, first edition copy of Walt's book, "Tales From Buck Mountain," send \$20 to the address above. Be sure to include your mailing address.

To shop for books on handloading, please visit [www.gundigeststore.com](http://www.gundigeststore.com) or call 1-800-258-0929.

CHOCTAW CASINO RESORT

# GUN SHOW

FEBRUARY 11 & 12

CHOCTAW EVENT CENTER

## BUY, SELL & TRADE YOUR FAVORITE GUNS.

ALL STATE AND FEDERAL FIREARMS REGULATIONS MUST BE OBSERVED!  
BRING YOUR OWN GUNS TO SELL OR TRADE  
ALL GUNS MUST BE UNLOADED!

ADMISSION

\$6

EACH DAY

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

**SHOW HOURS**

SATURDAY, FEB. 11  
8AM - 5PM

SUNDAY, FEB. 12  
11AM - 5PM

FOR INFO CALL 580.931.8645  
EVA.GONZALEZ@CHOCTAWCASINOS.COM  
FAX#: 580.931.8294

CHOCTAW CASINO | RESORT CHOCTAWCASINO.COM



**ATF Machinegun.Com** by Franks Gun

*The Midwest's Premier  
Class III Dealer*



**MODEL 37 WATER  
COOLED MACHINE GUN**  
**\$15,500**

**1928 BRIDGEPORT  
THOMPSON**

**\$20,000**



**BERRETTA BM  
59 .308**  
**\$10,700**



**WE BUY MACHINE GUNS!**  
**SINGLE PIECE OR COLLECTIONS**  
**FREE APPRAISALS**  
*(and we make it easy!)*

**Up to 80% of retail paid**

- Free Appraisals
- Overnight funding
- We will do all paperwork
- Brokerage service available
- We pay shipping
- Call us for a free informal appraisal of your machine guns
- We specialize in estates and collections

### ★ ★ CURRENT INVENTORY ★ ★

STEN MK 2.....\$3,800	BENELLI ENTRY POLICE SBS.....\$790
AR 180 LAFRANCE.....\$8,000	SMITH 76.....\$6K
MM13.....\$3,800	STERLING BY ERB.....\$7K
BERRETTA BM 59 .308.....\$10,700	GROUP IND. UZI.....\$7K
AMERICAN 180.....\$8,500	JAPANESE TYPE 11.....\$7,500
HK 33.....\$12,200	1928 BRIDGEPORT THOMPSON . \$20K
COLT M16A1	CHAUCHAUT C AND R ORIGINAL
MODEL 37 WATER COOLED MACHINE GUN.....\$15,500	.....\$5,950
M10 45 WITH SILENCER.....\$3,500	COLT 21/28 THOMPSON \$27K
COLT 639 RARE.....\$22K	JAPANESE TYPE 11.....\$9,900
M2 CARBINE.....\$4,500	HUNGARIAN STYLE AK 47'S.....\$950
HK 51 SEAR GUN.....\$17,500	ROMANIAN STYLE AK 47'S
M1A THOMPSON.....\$6,500	ROMANIAN STYLE AK 47 WITH FOLDING STOCK

LEGAL MGS ONLY

All ATF rules apply



**417-850-1649**  
**CALL TODAY**

**Frank's Guns**

[www.atfmachinegun.com](http://www.atfmachinegun.com)

to experience the most professional machine gun dealership anywhere