

Q&A: Vital•Shok® Trophy Bonded® Jacketed Soft Point, 10mm Auto

Q: The 10mm Auto hasn't enjoyed the popularity of most other hunting and personal defense handgun loads. What is the cartridge's background?

A: "Early on it was adopted by law enforcement as a ballistic improvement over existing duty rounds. Although it performed well, the FBI considered the recoil too heavy and some of the guns available at the time were not robust enough to handle the recoil, so most manufacturers watered down their 10mm Auto offerings to produce ballistics almost identical to the 40 S&W."—Mike Holm, Ammunition Product Line Manager

Q: If the 10mm Auto fell out of favor because of harsh recoil, why develop the new Vital-Shok™ Trophy Bonded Jacketed Soft Point load?

A: "There's a dedicated group of shooters who love the original, full-power 10mm Auto. They know and accept the recoil. In fact, they want it because it means they're using the platform to its full potential. The new Vital-Shok load takes complete advantage of the caliber's true capability and offers the muscle needed for deer, bears and hogs."—Mike Holm, Ammunition Product Line Manager

Q: What sort of velocity and energy difference can shooters expect over typical commercial 10mm Auto offerings?

A: "The load features a 180-grain bullet that leaves the muzzle at 1,275 feet per second, compared to the usual 1,030 of typical commercial offerings. It also delivers 650 foot-pounds of energy—an increase of more than 50 percent. This puts it roughly between the 357 Magnum and 41 Magnum."—John Swenson, Senior Product Development Engineer

Q: How does the Trophy Bonded JSP's construction differ from other handgun hunting loads and how does it improve performance?

A: "We basically took our Trophy Bonded® Bear Claw® rifle bullet design and converted the appropriate elements and features from it to a handgun equivalent. Its heavy jacket features a formed inner profile that preprograms and controls expansion to penetrate deep, open up consistently and maximize its retained weight. When you combine that with the full-power ballistics, you get knockdown power that's never been seen in 10mm Auto loads."—John Swenson, Senior Product Development Engineer

Q: Is the Vital-Shok 10mm Auto Trophy Bonded JSP a suitable personal defense round?

A: "Absolutely. Although the penetration achieved with this round is on the high end of what is required for personal defense, its expansion and terminal performance would certainly do the job in a personal defense situation."—Mike Holm, Ammunition Product Line Manager