



An Evolution: Speer's Gold Dot CarryGun

The class-leading terminal performance of Speer's Gold Dot has been adjusted for compact and subcompact handguns. The result is a new product which features an optimized G2 bullet design and is fittingly named CarryGun.

Speer's Gold Dot family of ammunition has been the leading choice of law enforcement professionals for almost three decades because it offers exceptional terminal performance and unfailing reliability. Last year, Speer began offering their Gold Dot G2 ammunition—which had previously only been available to law enforcement—to the public. This year the company is adding new Gold Dot CarryGun ammo to their lineup which features a new version of the G2 bullet. Optimized for compact and subcompact pistols, Gold Dot CarryGun ammo offers the same industry-leading performance and exceptional barrier performance shooters expect from Gold Dot G2 ammunition out of smaller, lighter concealed carry firearms.

The Well-Known Gold Dot Story

In the wake of the 1989 Miami shootout during which law enforcement bullets failed to adequately penetrate and neutralize the attackers, the FBI set out to develop a method by which to evaluate bullet performance and ensure that duty ammunition offered sufficient energy, expansion, and penetration capabilities. That test became known as the FBI protocol test.

Speer introduced Gold Dot in 1991, and it was a revolutionary step forward in bullet design. Until that point, duty bullets were made of a lead core with a drawn jacket and hollow point nose cavity to initiate expansion. Speer opted to use a different technique: they would fuse a pressure-formed lead core to a plated jacket. This design created a molecular bond between the jacket and the core and virtually eliminated any risk of bullet separation. In doing this, Speer not only set a new standard in duty bullet performance but also ushered in the age of bonded bullets. The company called the process UNICOR construction.

The bonded design also helps Gold Dot bullets retain weight and transfer energy effectively, even when fired through barriers—one of the factors that allowed Gold Dot bullets to perform well in FBI protocol tests for decades. The UNICOR design not only allows Gold Dot Bullets to expand and create massive wound channels but also penetrates very well through a variety of barriers. What's more, plating the copper onto the lead core allows for precise control over jacket thickness. This offers Speer the ability to provide consistent jacket thickness and, in turn, to improve accuracy. The plating process also allows Speer engineers the flexibility to customize jacket thickness for each individual load.

The 2nd Generation Gold Dot Duty Bullet

Gold Dot G2 is a recent evolution from original Gold Dot, aimed at achieving better FBI-protocol test scores than its predecessor.

Both the standard Gold Dot and the new Gold Dot G2 bullets utilize UNICOR construction, but the G2's unique design is an evolutionary step forward in duty bullet protocol performance. Rather than the traditional hollow point design of the Gold Dot, the G2 bullet features a shallow cavity in the nose of the bullet that is filled with durable elastomer. This prevents barrier materials from filling the nose cavity of the bullet which, in turn, may inhibit expansion. This provides more consistent performance through tough barriers like wood and steel.

“Gold Dot is a more traditional hollow point design,” said Federal Handgun Ammunition Product Manager Chris Laack. G2 is a different style of bullet, and its combination of a shallow nose cavity, new skiving, and an elastomer-filled nose cavity allow it to excel in the most difficult barrier tests.

“What the G2 does is keep things like plywood from filling the hollow cavity and preventing other tissue from entering the hollow point cavity and causing it to open,” Laack said. “It just prevents that hollow point from getting plugged. It's important on some of those harder barriers like plywood or steel where steel can kind of deform the nose of the bullet and collapse the hollow point in on itself. Our G2 design prevents that from happening.”

Fissures cut into the bullet cause the G2 to expand reliably and transfer energy effectively while maintaining straight-line penetration, and that's what has allowed Speer's Gold Dot G2 to achieve the highest FBI protocol evaluation scores of any ammunition ever tested.

“The presence of a proprietary elastomer helps ensure proper expansion through barriers,” said Laack. “Simply put, we evolved Gold Dot G2 to work even better through barriers than the original proven Gold Dot.”

Optimized for Compact Carry Guns

Gold Dot G2 is a duty round and, as such, is designed to perform in full-sized handguns. However, many personal defenders and concealed-carry permit holders prefer to carry more discreet handguns with shorter barrels. To meet those preferences, Speer created Gold Dot CarryGun loads designed specifically for use in compact and subcompact carry guns.

“The new Gold Dot CarryGun takes the idea of the G2 duty bullet and applies it to everyday carry-type firearms,” Laack said. “We took the G2 design and that purpose of working through all those barriers and applied it to compact handguns.”

To accomplish this, the team at Speer developed modified, lighter Gold Dot G2 style bullets that would reach optimum velocity in short-barreled pistols. With Gold Dot CarryGun ammunition you can expect the same performance that made the Gold Dot and Gold Dot G2 famous—reliable expansion and exceptional barrier penetration—from lighter, smaller, carry pistols.

“We said to ourselves: If we are going to make a bullet that is designed to be as barrier blind as possible with excellent terminal performance, could we make it work with the more limited velocity potential in a short barrel?” Laack said. “The answer was Yes. To do this, each of the bullets in CarryGun are completely redesigned versions of G2. As a result, they have slightly lighter grain weights. This way, we can get a little more velocity out of them. We also redesigned the shallow cavity and did several other modifications to optimize it for common carry guns.”

Speer's Gold Dot CarryGun bullets are lighter than standard G2 duty bullets, allowing the engineers at Speer to fine-tune these loads—each specific caliber individually—for outstanding

performance out of short barrels. The Gold Dot CarryGun 9mm load utilizes a 135-grain bullet instead of the 147-grain bullet in the Gold Dot G2 duty ammunition. The .40 S&W Gold Dot CarryGun ammo fires a 165-grain bullet as opposed to the 180-grain offering from the G2 duty load. Finally, the .45 Auto +P CarryGun bullet weighs in at 200 grains instead of the 230-grain G2 duty bullet.

The Gold Dot G2 has already proven to be a top performer FBI test protocol for duty bullets, and Laack said that the Gold Dot CarryGun using its modified G2 bullet is capable of that same class-leading performance from compact and subcompact handguns.

A New Breed of Defense Bullet

“Gold Dot CarryGun is going to be the highest-scoring protocol round out of a compact gun ever,” he said. “We are seeing really great results shooting it through FBI protocol.”

Most shooters believe that a defensive bullet—any defensive bullet—will perform well in typical self-defense situations. But a duty bullet that is designed for and optimized to a full-sized duty pistol may not perform to the same standard from a short-barreled carry or backup gun. By taking the Gold Dot G2 bullet and customizing it to function in short-barreled defense pistols Speer has created a self-defense load truly optimized for the guns in which it will be carried.

Speer Gold Dot CarryGun offers not only the best bullet for self-defense but adds features that ensure this ammunition will perform reliably under any conditions. That begins with the use of quality nickel-plated cases that feed reliably. That’s coupled with advanced powders that perform consistently and a sealed CCI primer that are sensitive and reliable. With so many high-end features it’s clear that Speer’s new Gold Dot CarryGun ammunition will help redefine the CarryGun market the same way that the company’s Gold Dot G2 has become the standard for duty pistol performance.

For 2020, Speer will launch three new Gold Dot CarryGun offerings: a 9mm load firing 135-grain Gold Dot G2 HP, a .40 S&W load with a 165-grain Gold Dot G2 HP, and a .45 Auto +P version with a 200 Grain G2 HP. All three will be sold in 20-round boxes, and MSRPs range from \$28.99 to \$33.99.

There’s no room for compromise in a self-defense situation. When lives are on the line you must rely on your self-defense ammo to perform flawlessly, and Speer’s Gold Dot CarryGun does just that.

Speer ammunition can be found at dealers nationwide or purchased online direct from Speer. For more information on Speer Gold Dot CarryGun ammunition and all of Speer’s products, or to shop online, visit www.speer-ammo.com

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