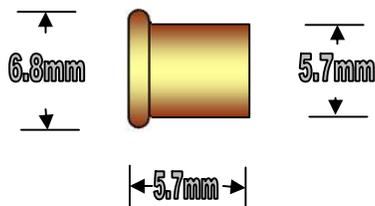


# The Wonderful world of the .22

The .22 calibre cartridge is without a doubt the most successful cartridge ever invented. It is still in production today after 148 years of continuous manufacture. The original .22 cartridge was in fact designed for indoor target shooting and relied on the primer as the form of propulsion. It was not long before some enterprising chap put some powder in the case and applied it to a self-defence weapon. The rest is history as they say. It has appeared in just about every country and in a large range of variations. Some of these are shown below.

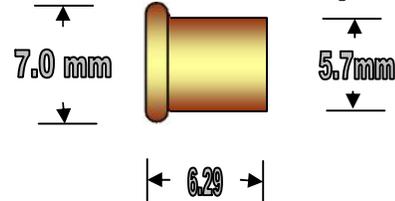
## .22 Bulleted breech cap



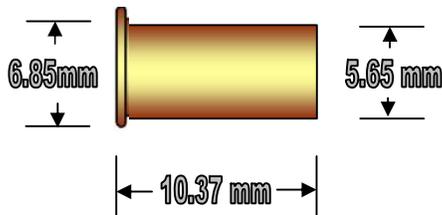
The bulleted breech cap appeared around 1845 and was intended for use in indoor rifles produced by Flobert. Originally the cap was empty and relied only on the primer for propulsion. Later American versions were occasionally loaded with a small quantity of gunpowder.

A similar but slightly more powerful version of the BB cap and in size it falls between the BB and a .22 short. It would seem to have appeared around 1880.

## .22 Conical Breech cap



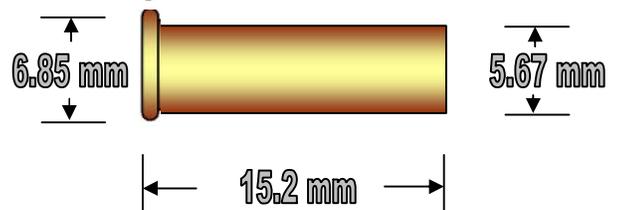
## .22 Short



This cartridge emerged in 1857 and is still in production today. It was originally introduced for use in the Smith & Wesson first model revolver and was intended as a self-defence cartridge. Semi-smokeless powder versions appeared in 1887 and shortly thereafter smokeless powder became the norm. Non-corrosive priming appeared in 1927.

This cartridge appeared around 1871 as a revolver item but very soon thereafter it was being promoted as a rifle cartridge. It is another one of the long lived members of the ammunition fraternity. Its original configuration was 5 grains of GP behind a 29-grain projectile.

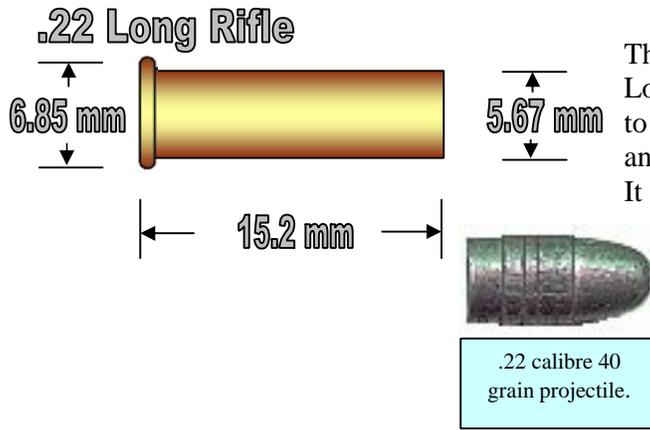
## .22 Long





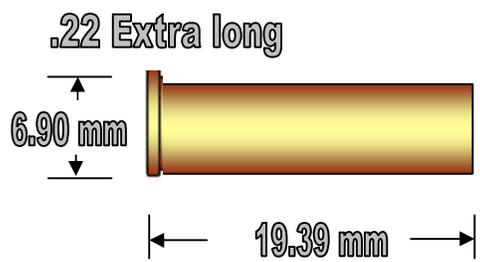
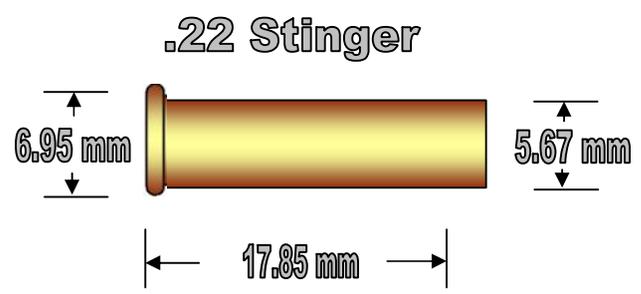
Top. .22 Long,  
Bottom. .22 Long Rifle.

The difference between the Long and the Long Rifle is simply the projectile weight and length. The Long is a 29grain and the Long Rifle is a 40grain. The cases are, within normal dimensional tolerances, the same. The differences are obvious when the projectiles are compared as can be seen at the left.



This cartridge arrived around 1887 and is the .22 Long case fitted with a 40-grain projectile. It has to be the most popular cartridge ever produced and has been made in all manners of variations. It also is capable of some unbelievable accuracy.

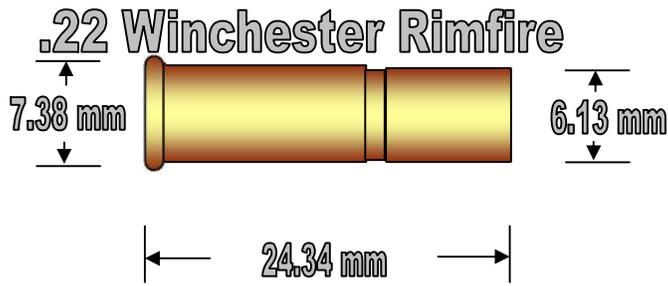
This cartridge is an attempt to improve the ballistics of the Long Rifle cartridge and it was introduced by CCI in 1977. It is simply the Long Rifle case lengthened by 2.53mm and reducing the weight of the hollow point projectile to about 32 grains. It should be noted that these dimensions are subject to some large variations.



This cartridge was introduced around 1880. It utilizes the same 40 grain projectile as found in the original Long Rifle set in a longer case. It was never as popular or as accurate as the Long Rifle cartridge.

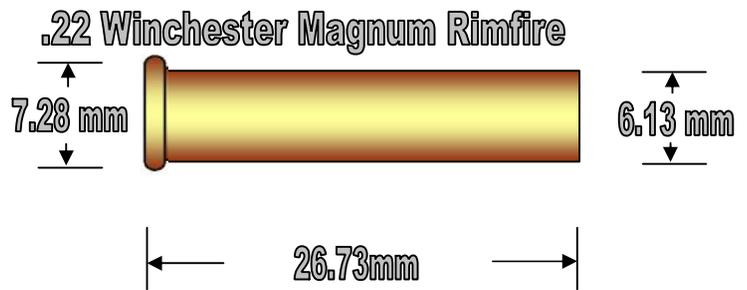


.22 Extra Long



This cartridge was introduced for the Winchester model 1890 pump-action rifle thus it was provided with a flat tipped projectile. Round nosed projectiles of this period were for the .22 Remington Special and they are interchangeable with the WRF. The projectile on this cartridge is of the flat-based variety unlike the normal heel-type used in most other .22 cartridges.

Introduced in 1959 by Winchester but other weapons companies jumped on the bandwagon and developed weapons for it. It is essentially a lengthened .22 WRF and is one of the most potent rimfire .22 cartridges around.



This cartridge was used only in the Winchester model 1903 semi-automatic rifle. The dimensional differences were intended to prevent the use of gunpowder filled cartridges in the semi-auto mechanism.



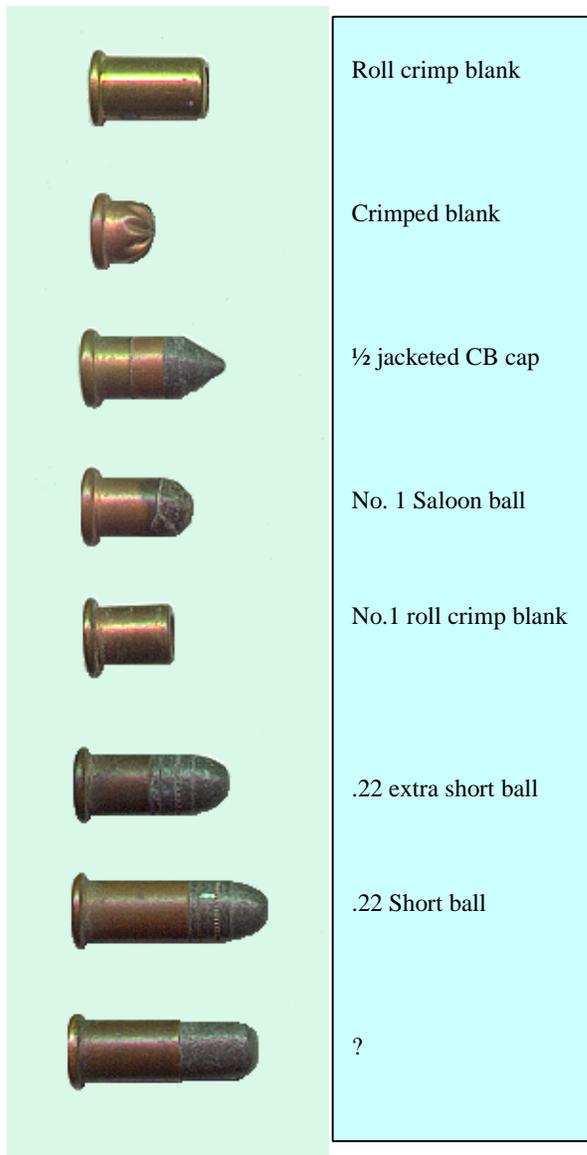
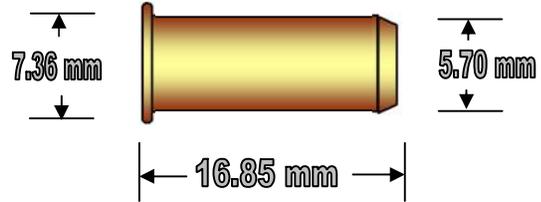
.22 Winchester Magnum

## .22 Remington Automatic.

This cartridge was introduced in 1914 for use in the Model 16 semi-auto rifle. The same purposes were intended with this cartridge as with the Winchester version.

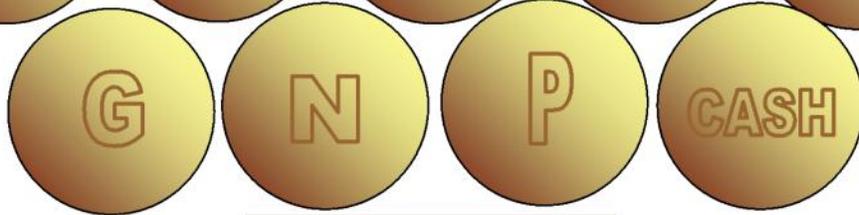
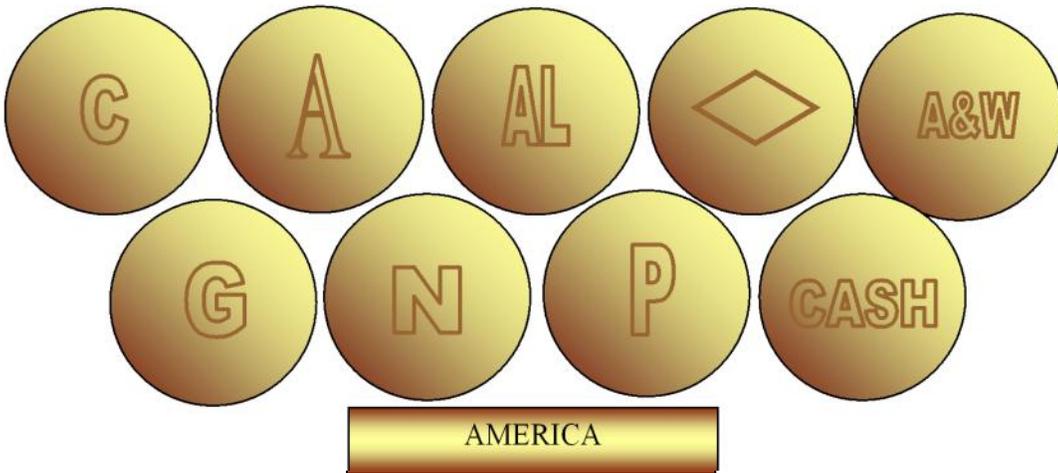


.22 Remington Auto

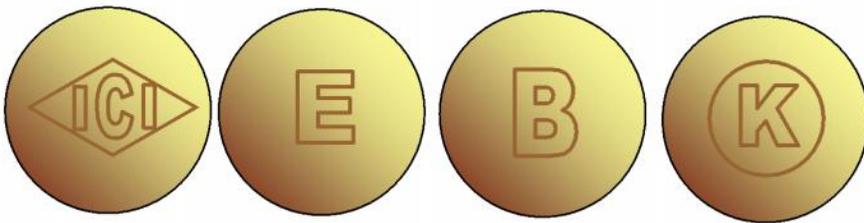


A group of .22 Shot cartridges.

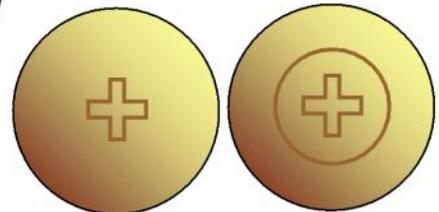
## SOME REPRESENTATIVE HEADSTAMPS



AMERICA



BRITAIN



SWITZERLAND



FRANCE



CANADA



GERMANY



RUSSIA



ITALY