

# INSTRUCTIONS



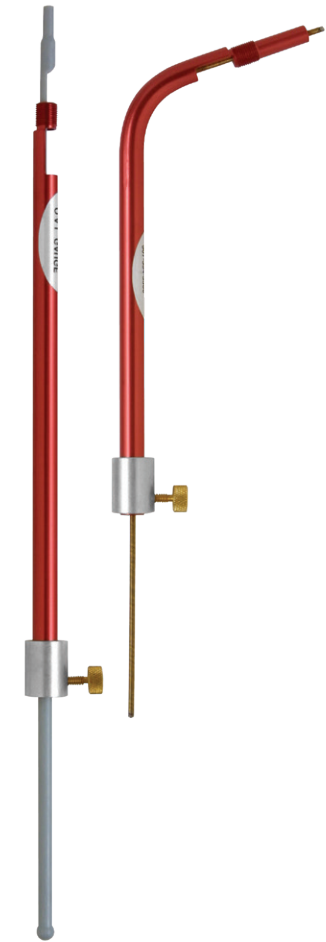
**Hornady**<sup>®</sup>

Lock-N-Load<sup>®</sup>

# O.A.L. GAUGES

Lock-N-Load<sup>®</sup> Curved OAL Gauge  
Item No. C1550

Lock-N-Load<sup>®</sup> Straight OAL Gauge  
Item No. C1000



## Achieve *precise* bullet seating depth:

### *One of the best kept secrets to accurate reloading.*

Precisely regulating the bullet seating depth and the resulting “jump” to the rifling is widely regarded as fundamental to improved accuracy. A few thousandths of an inch adjustment between the bullet and the rifling can make the difference between just so-so accuracy and real tack-driver performance.

The OAL (Overall Length) Gauge is universally acclaimed as the most accurate, easy-to-use and reliable method of obtaining that critical relationship.

### TWO O.A.L. GAUGE MODELS

Either model fits any modified case.

#### **C-1000 Straight Model** – For all

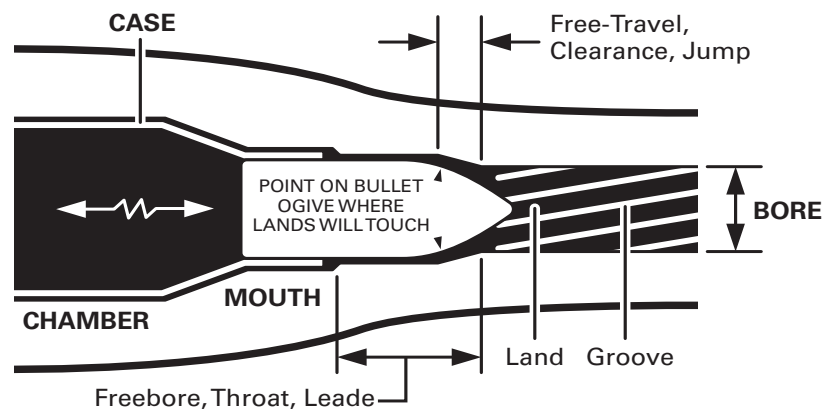
bolt action and single-shot firearms, or any firearm with straight-line access to the chamber. This model is preferred, as it is most precise and user-friendly.

#### **C-1550 Curved Model** – For all autoloader, lever-action, or pump action rifles.

Also fits bolt action and single shot firearms. Inserts into chamber through the ejection port.

## How to use the OAL Gauge

1. Verify barrel and chamber are clean.
2. Chamfer/deburr both the inside and outside of the modified case mouth to enable bullet to slip freely.
3. Chamber the modified case and close the bolt to verify you are using the proper case. The bolt should close freely without distorting the case. **DO NOT FORCE THE BOLT CLOSED.**
4. Remove the modified case from the chamber.
5. Check your bullets for length uniformity. Variations of .010" or more will produce irregular O.A.L. results.
6. Thread the modified case onto the O.A.L. Gauge and slip a bullet into the case mouth.
7. With the bolt removed, slide the Gauge assembly forward snugly into the chamber.



8. Gently slide the Gauge's internal bullet push-rod (plunger) forward to ease the bullet into contact with the lands. With a little practice, you can feel the contact of the bullet against the origin of the rifling. Tighten the brass thumbscrew, which will lock the push-rod and bullet in place. Then remove the assembly from the gun.
9. Remove the assembly from the gun. To remove the assembly intact, gently push the assembly out using a wooden dowel or cleaning rod inserted from the muzzle. When removing the assembly from the chamber, the bullet will often slip out of the case mouth.

There is no need to repeat the procedure; simply place the bullet back into the case neck, where the bullet adjustment rod remains correctly positioned.

10. The gauge has a measuring port located directly under the case head. This port allows your caliper blade to rest on the case head, providing easy measurement of the longest possible bullet/case combination that will fit into the chamber. It is now easy to transfer this measurement to the rounds produced by your seating die. For example, if you set up your seating die to produce rounds .020" shorter than the O.A.L. gauge model, you will have a .020" jump to the rifling.



## WARNING

- Do not place modified cases in a media type polisher.
- Do not outside neck-turn modified cases. Case necks can be reduced using an emery cloth.
- Excessive jump (over .040") will most often result in a loss of accuracy. However, each gun will have its own preference and it is up to the handloader to determine optimal bullet jump by range testing the ammo.
- Seating bullets with zero jump should only be attempted by experienced handloaders with proper tools to safely complete this task.
- If other bullet models or weights are chosen, the O.A.L. Gauge process will need to be repeated for each unique bullet.
- Some firearm magazines will not accept a round loaded to an O.A.L. as suggested by the rifling. Be sure to compare the measured O.A.L. with the length of the magazine and adjust accordingly.
- Some chambers will have excess freebore, either from being shot out, throated, or as a result of the chamber or bullet design. This could cause the bullet to exit the modified case before reaching the lands of the rifling.
- After using the O.A.L. Gauge, always check the bore and remove any obstructions before firing.

## MODIFIED CASES (sold separately)

To use the OAL Gauge, you will need to purchase a Modified Case to fit your firearm's chamber and thread it onto the Gauge. Hornady offers interchangeable Modified Cases in all common sizes (scan QR code). These specially prepared Modified Cases are threaded at the case head and have a .002" oversized neck to accept the same bullets you intend to load. This is critical – as the OAL Gauge dimensions obtained will be accurate to .001". Results such as this cannot be attained with other brands that use a simulated bullet with an arbitrary shape.

Modified Cases are readily available to fit popular rifle chambers (sold separately). All are within SAAMI specs. Or, any of your brass, including wildcat sizes, can be custom modified at our factory for use with either gauge. Call 800-338-3220 for details.

Scan this QR code for a list of Hornady® modified cases.



[hornady.com/qr/mc](https://hornady.com/qr/mc)

### Hornady Manufacturing Company

P.O. Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68802-1848  
[hornady.com/contact](https://hornady.com/contact)

Made in the U.S.A.  
 23HMC0029 | 05/2023