

# Barnes Reloading Manual Number 4

by Jim Berndt

Barnes Bullets, one of the most innovative producers of hunting bullets, released their *Barnes Reloading Manual Number 4* earlier this year.



This update of the Barnes manual differs significantly from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, reflecting the substantial changes in the Barnes line since the original publishing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition in 2001. The X-Bullet® (smooth shank version) has been phased out in favor of the Triple-Shock™ X-Bullet; the Barnes Burner VLC™ varmint bullet has been replaced by the new Varmint Grenade™. The entire XLC™ Bullet line has been phased out while the Tipped TSX™ and Maximum Range™ X-Bullets have been added. Overall, the changes to the Barnes line show dedication to continued refinement of the hunting bullet.

In addition to changes in the Barnes bullet line, the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition also reflects a significant change to the list of cartridges in the reloading data section. The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition contains, by my count, data for 83 rifle cartridges, 17 handgun cartridges and 3 muzzleloader calibers. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition contained data for 88 cartridges with no separate handgun section and 3 muzzleloader calibers – so it is obvious this 4<sup>th</sup> Edition represents a significant expansion of the data from Barnes. About 21 cartridges have omitted from the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition; those omitted tend to be some of the less popular proprietary cartridges and a few others that have been steadily declining in popularity, including: .222 Remington Magnum, .250-3000 Savage, .300 Dakota and .450-400 3”.

Additions to the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition include, most notably the 17 new chamberings in the handgun section. The handgun cartridges chosen for inclusion in this manual tend toward those well-suited for hunting, such as: .221 Remington Fireball, .44 Remington Magnum, .45 Colt (Ruger and TC) and 454 Casull

In keeping up with current trends, many of the 17 new rifle chamberings in this Edition are the popular new short-action magnums as well as the introduction of 4 big-bore rifle calibers new to Barnes. New chamberings to this edition include, among others: .243 WSSM, 7mm RSAUM, .375 Ruger and .505 Gibbs.

In addition to changes in the cartridge list, Barnes has also changed format of the data section. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition showed a bullet drop comparison chart and a bullet energy comparison graph at the opening of each cartridge's data; these graphics have been done away with in the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition has added a more detailed cartridge drawing to each section and color graphics. One other format change is that the ballistics tables, formerly at the end of each cartridge section, has now been moved to the end of the manual. The overall result of these format changes, in my opinion, is a cleaner looking and easier to read manual.

The article portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition manual is considerably expanded over previous Editions as well. The sections on company history, products and basic handloading technique from previous Editions are still there, but many new articles have been added, some by notable authors such as Craig Boddington, Sam Fadala and others.

With all of the new bullets in the Barnes line, I consider the *Barnes Reloading Manual Number 4* essential for anyone reloading Barnes bullets today. For more information contact Barnes Bullets at [www.barnesbullets.com](http://www.barnesbullets.com).

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