

☹ Cheap \$hot

by Jim Berndt

Maximizing the use of versatile powders

Reloading is a great hobby and one of the most obvious ways to save money while shooting more. Open any reloading manual and you will see a wide array of powders recommended for every cartridge. Like many reloaders I load for a variety of firearms, from shotguns through large-bore rifles and have accumulated a variety of powders over the years. As a good reloading manual will show, applications for some powders span a wide range of seemingly dissimilar cartridges. Usually these versatile powders are in the medium-burning range.



Ask 5 experienced reloaders “What is the single most useful powder?” and you will likely get 5 different answers. I reload for 12 gauge shotgun, .22 Hornet, .30-06, 7mm-08, .308 Winchester, .45-70 Government and several others. For several of these cartridges I make both maximum velocity jacketed bullet loads and reduced-velocity cast bullet loads.

I have found that I can satisfy pretty much all of my reloading needs with two very versatile powders: Accurate Powder’s 2015 and Alliant’s Unique. A2015 is a great medium burning rate powder producing excellent results in cartridges based on the .308 parent case as well as being the most accurate powder in my .45-70. While not producing the highest velocities in the .22 Hornet or .30-06, 2015 produces acceptable velocity for my uses and accuracy is very good.

Applications for Unique are just as its name suggests, unique. From shotshells to pistol to light rifle loads, Unique is a suitable powder for all of them. I have found it to be fine for my 12 gauge target and light hunting loads as well as excellent for reduced-velocity cast bullet loads in most of my rifle cartridges.

For more information:

Alliant Powder
www.alliantpowder.com

Accurate Powder
www.accuratepowder.com

Since I am relying on these two versatile powders for the bulk of my reloading, am able to save some money by purchasing 8lb containers at a lower cost per pound and reduce the amount of space I need for powder storage. These two are my all-around favorite powders; depending on what you shoot your two may be different. Regardless of what you shoot, you can save on powder costs by identifying and using a couple of versatile powders for most of your reloading.

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