

GUN TESTS REPORT CARD SUMMARY

Grizzly Ammunition 180-grain Cast Performance Lead Wide Flat Nose Gas Check GC357M180, \$23.49/20

A lot of the early work on game done with the 357 Magnum was done with a load similar to this one. Penetration and accuracy cannot be faulted. This one is also a strong choice for use for protection against bears. At \$1.17 per round, is a better buy than the similar Cor-Bon Hunter round at \$1.85 a round.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A+ (BEST BUY)

Cor-Bon Hunter 180-grain JSP HT357180BC-20, \$36.99/20

This load gave sterling accuracy and met every criteria for penetration. If we were venturing into bear country and were limited to the 357 Magnum revolver, it would be loaded with a hot load like this one. In the final analysis, the two loads that were designed to offer great penetration did so. The other loads were tested in a way that outstretched their capability. Just the same, the quest for an anti-bear load can leave nothing to chance.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A+

Buffalo Bore 158-grain JHP 19C, \$26.99/20

This load gives excellent accuracy. The Buffalo Bore load exhibited the greatest penetration of any expanding-bullet load. If you demand expansion, this is it. For anything short of bears — the big cats and feral dogs — this is a credible choice that gives a great amount of horsepower at \$1.35 a round.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Black Hills 158-grain JHP M357N3, \$37.99/50

The Black Hills 158-grain JHP offered first-class accuracy, a good balance of expansion and penetration, and was controllable. At 76 cents a round, it may

be the right pick for shooters who want a round that carries every day but which will also protect them in the field.

GUN TESTS GRADE: A

Federal Classic Hi-Shok 180-grain JHP C357G \$20.49/20

It is possible that with different criteria — no bears — this \$1.02-per-shot load would have been a winner. But it was outclassed in the penetration department.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

Speer Gold Dot 158-grain JHP 23960 \$22.09/20

The 158-grain Gold Dot, \$1.11 per shot, was simply not at its best from a short-barrel revolver. This one is quite accurate, but it doesn't offer anything not offered by loads with greater expansion.

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

Cor-Bon's 100-grain Pow'RBall PB357100, \$21.99/20

Federal's 130-grain Hydra-Shok PD357HS2 H, \$25.99/20

Winchester USA 110-grain JHP Q4204, \$26.99/50

These rounds clearly didn't offer enough penetration to match up with the 180-grain rounds at the top. But we said at the outset we recognized they were designed for a different job. For the purposes of this test, however, we can't recommend them. The Winchester rounds at 54 cents each were more affordable compared to the Pow'RBall at \$1.10 a shot and the Hydra-Shok at \$1.30 a round.

GUN TESTS GRADE: C

Written and photographed by Bob Campbell, using evaluations from GUN TESTS team testers. GT