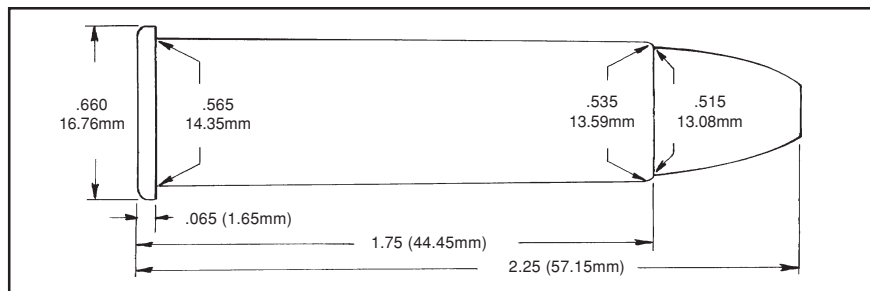


.50-70 GOVERNMENT

The .50-70 Government was the U.S. Military rifle cartridge from 1866 to 1873. It was the first centerfire cartridge in general use by the U.S. Military.



It was used in various models and modifications of the single shot Springfield rifle and was also chambered in the Remington Rolling Block single shot rifle, as well as a large variety of sporting arms of yesteryear.

The .50-70 was a very effective cartridge on the American bison and other large game but its limitations as a military cartridge led to the development and adoption of the .45-70 Government in 1873.

Although at one time quite popular as a sporting cartridge, very few rifles chambered for this cartridge remain in use and if not for recent offerings of reloadable boxer primed cartridge cases from sources such as Dixie Gun Works, they would be relegated to the role of wall hanger. There are also currently available replicas of the 1874 Sharps chambered for the .50-70 Government.

The pressure limit set for the .50-70 Government was arrived at by firing 65 grains of FFg black powder and a 550 grain cast bullet. This produced a pressure of 22,500 P.S.I.

This data is intended only for firearms safe for use with smokeless propellants.

.50-70 GOVERNMENT				
Gun	C. SHARPS	Max Length	1.750"	
Barrel Length	28"	Trim Length	1.730"	
Primer	FC 215	OAL Max	2.250"	
Case	DIXIE	OAL Min	--	

Bullet	START LOADS			MAXIMUM LOADS			P.S.I.	Cartridge Length	Comment	
	Powder	Grains	Vel.	Powder	Grains	Vel.				
425 (L) SP	5744	27.0	1249	5744	30.0	1419	18,200	2.275"	* LY515141	
	1680	27.0	1189	1680	30.0	1351	14,200			
	2015	36.0	1274	2015	40.0	1448	16,800			
	2495	45.9	1272	2495	51.0	1445	9,500			Compressed
	4350	46.8	1085	4350	52.0	1233	15,700			Compressed

Bullet	START LOADS			MAXIMUM LOADS			P.S.I.	Cartridge Length	Comment
	Powder	Grains	Vel.	Powder	Grains	Vel.			
550 (L) FN	5744	22.5	1063	5744	25.0	1208	18,600	2.200"	RCBS
	1680	25.2	1139	1680	28.0	1294	16,400		
	2015	30.6	1101	2015	34.0	1251	18,300		
	2495	37.8	1210	2495	42.0	1375	17,000		
	4350	43.2	1041	4350	48.0	1183	18,200		
BAR 400 SP	2015	49.5	1627	2015	55.0	1849	19,400	2.315"	*

Please note that a firm crimp is necessary for good powder ignition.

* Over Recommended Maximum OAL