

## Ammo Improvements

**THERE HAS BEEN A BIANCHI TREND** toward lighter and faster bullets to decrease wind effect, recoil, and the effects of lead error on the mover. Unfortunately, my 686 doesn't shoot lighter bullets accurately enough.

My load of choice for accuracy has been 5.6 grains of Bullseye powder with a 158-grain jacketed soft point in a .357 Magnum case. This load has a 135 power factor. This 686 revolver does not get comparable accuracy with the shorter .38 Special case, probably due to a long bullet jump into the throat. The .357 case, on the other hand, has excessive volume for the faster burning powders that burn cleanly in the reduced pressure loadings of 120 power factor loads.

Recently, there have been introductions of some fast-burning powders with high bulk that might provide accuracy in this large case with light bullets. I plan to experiment with Accurate Arms 5744 to see if the requisite accuracy level can be reached with that brand.

Though my 1:14 twist barrel has served me well, I may replace it with one of a slower twist rate of 1:16 or 1:18 to accommodate lighter bullets. However, I'm hopeful the less expensive option of handloading for the light loads will eventually solve the problem.