

Above: Lapua's 48-grain ammo (right) ruptured when we shot it in the Briley STC rifle. The two cases on the left show bulging on top. Obviously, the four middle cases blew out just above the rim.

Malfunction Junction

As part of our accuracy and chronograph testing, we record misfires, hangfires, stovepipes, and failures to feed. We had major problems with the Briley Manufacturing Model STC when we began chronographing the Lapua Scoremax 48-grain ammo.

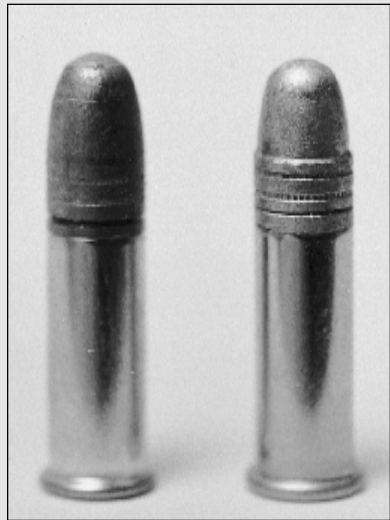
This new rimfire ammunition is marketed for "sportshooting, biathlon and hunting" uses. Also, it is said to give "excellent performance in boltaction rifles," the box says. It fires a 48-grain lead bullet at around 1,100 feet per second. The bullet is 20 percent heavier than the 40-grainers found in the other ammo.

When we began shooting the Lapua fodder in the Briley gun, we noticed a very loud report and fire and debris shooting out the side of the action. Chronograph readings dropped from 1,100 fps to 700 fps. When we examined extracted brass, we noticed holes had been blown out through the cases just above the rims. We returned the gun to Briley. Briley moved the chamber forward and re-did the extractor cut.

We believe higher pressures developed in the Lapua case—the result of a slightly larger powder charge pushing a heavier bullet—

was enough to rupture the case when the extractor cut exposed too much unsupported brass.

After the modifications, the Briley gun performed on par with the others with the Lapua ammo. We experienced no other problems with feeding or reliability in any of the guns with any ammo.



Above and below: New Lapua Scoremax 48-grain ammo is said to give "excellent performance in bolt-action rifles," the box says. The Scoremax fires a 48 grain lead bullet (left) that is 20 percent heavier than the 40-grain bullets (right) found in other .22 Long Rifle brands.

