

Revolver Handloads

When considering handloads for the .357 for pin shooting, revolver great and highly successful Second Chance competitor Jerry Miculek of Princeton, Louisiana, recommends a heavy bullet of 200 grains driven at 1,000 to 1,100 feet per second. This load tends to penetrate to the rear of the pin without exiting and results in a tendency of the load to pull the pin off the table in a straight line while transmitting its full momentum to the pin. In the past he has employed a cast bullet of his own to clear the pins. However, Speer now offers a 200-grain full-metal-jacket .357 bullet for silhouette shooting that will fill the bill and, as a plus, eliminates the tendency of cast bullets to smoke and obscure the view of the targets in rapid fire shooting.

The current Speer reloading manual recommends that the heavy 180- and 200-grain silhouette bullets be used only in revolvers with cylinders having a minimum length of 1.625 inches. The 686's cylinder measures precisely that. The Taurus 607 and 608 will both accept heavy-bullet handloads for pin shooting. They have a cylinder length of 1.690 inches.