

# 32 Super NRA Centerfire Gun




It all started with an EBAY ad for 1911 grips. I bought them without a project.

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Then I got to thinking about the 32acp Pardini barrels I have done for friends. There really wasn't a comparable 1911 platform gun/cartridge for NRA Centerfire. All of the typical guns were still recoil operated and mid-size cartridges (i.e. 9mm, 38 Super, 38 Special, etc). There were no small blowback cartridge/guns like a Pardini. So I got to thinking harder.....



NOTE-

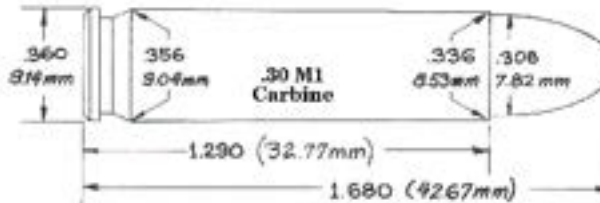
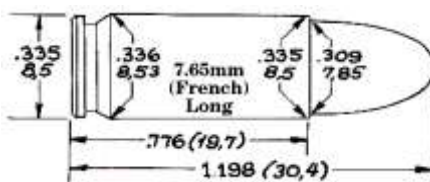
Apologies, I didn't take photos while I was working this stuff out. Generally, I figure stuff out on the first project, and then if/when I do another, I take photos and do the Powerpoint for publication. I will show what I did and talk about how I did it, but I don't have many photos in progress. This Powerpoint is not meant to be a detailed "How To", it is an outline of the project. If I make another gun, I will detail procedures and give dimensions, etc.

**CONSIDERATIONS**- At this point, it was all theoretical and a way to occupy my mind while not sleeping.

- 1) Needs to be fixed barrel blowback operated.
- 2) Should be same power range as 32acp (i.e. 80-100gr bullet at 800-900fps).
- 3) 32acp is too short to work in 1911 frame, the cartridge comes out of the magazine before the bullet enters the chamber. This means the cartridge can escape the gun without chambering.
- 4) What case and then what magazine to use?
  - a. I originally decided on 7.65 French Long/30 Pedersen cartridge(GOOGLE for details). It was long enough to work in 1911 frame and could be loaded down to 32acp velocities. Searching for brass became problematic, Starline used to make it, but (Post Covid) has no schedule to restart production. Some custom manufacturers offer to make them from 30 Carbine or 32 S&W Long, by lathe turning at \$4-6 each. I have a lathe and could do it, but it seemed like a lot of work, especially when I would need several hundred.
  - b. I expected I would have to make magazines and planned to make them from bar stock aluminum in offset halves to be held together with screws. This project was a mental exercise and I had no real plans for quantity production, so two handmade magazines weren't daunting.

## CASE and CARTRIDGE

I initially intended to use 7.65 French Long/30 Pedersen brass, but it got expensive and complicated. So I decided it would be simpler (and cheaper) to cut down 30 M1 Carbine brass and make my own cartridge. The 7.65 French Long would require turning the base of the case to remove the taper and establish a diameter, the 32 S&W Long would require turning off the rim and cutting an extraction cannellure. I decided to just cut the M1 Carbine brass to .900 OAL(the same as 38 Super, hence 32 Super).



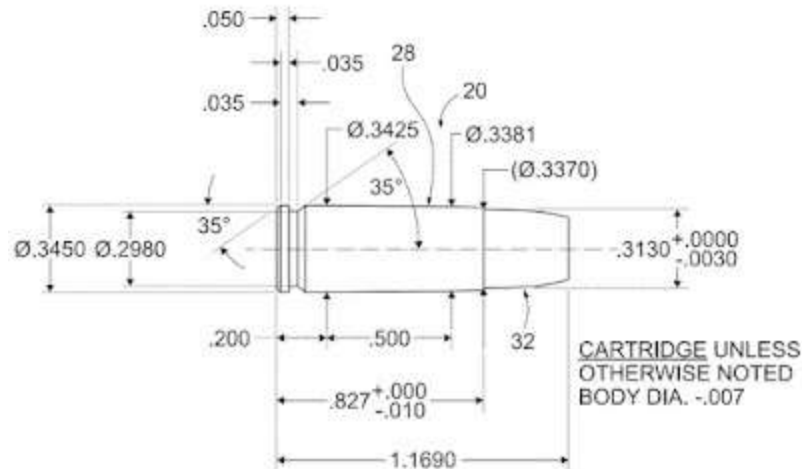
I cut to .020 over on the lathe and then trimmed to length on the mill.



## IRONY and EXASPERATION

Two weeks after I made 200 rounds of brass, chambered my barrel and modified my 30 Carbine Dies, Federal announced their new 30 Super Carry cartridge which (of course) does everything I wanted to do, but in a factory case, with dies, reamers, etc. available commercially. Go Figure.

## FEDERAL 30 Super Carry



Factory ammunition is loaded MUCH too hot for my intended purpose, but it would be convenient to have brass, reamers and dies that I didn't need to make. Oh well.....

Things get a little easier to visualize if you think of this as a larger “ Bob Marvel” type conversion.

## BARREL

This is a fixed barrel conversion, the barrel has to sit in the unlocked “DOWN” location on the frame. Like where the slide is on a normal recoil operated gun during recoil or when feeding. Most conversions use the slide stop to retain the barrel, but then have to find a way to draw the barrel against the slide stop to make it rigid in the frame (ala Bob Marvel). I have done many ramped barrel conversions for IPSC and Bullseye pistols, so I decided to cut the frame for a ramp and then use a screw to attach the barrel to the frame. I made a trunion and then screwed the barrel into the trunion.



## BARREL



I used a section of a Remington 700 barrel (300 Win Mag, 1-10 twist), as this was a test gun to figure out process and see if/how it would shoot. Barrel is 6 inches long with four .070 muzzle slots as brake. I chambered it with a boring bar, the only tedious part was setting the .010/.900 taper for the cutoff M1 Carbine case. Throat was cut 3 deg per side and sized to clear 110gr Round Nose M1 Carbine bullet seated to 1.300 to fit in magazine.

## SLIDE

You can't use a regular 1911 slide because the firing pin and extractor are located for the locked "UP" position and would miss the primer and case rim on the fixed barrel. Knowing that I would have to make a slide I used a slide casting that was in my junk box. I don't remember where I got it. As I worked on it, I discovered there were no straight, square or parallel surfaces ANYWHERE! It was a nightmare and if I ever make another of these guns, I will make the slide from bar stock.



## SLIDE

I made a breech face for the new cartridge and silver soldered it into a recess I cut in the slide.



I then laid out and cut an extractor slot , drilled pivot pin hole and spring recess and made an extractor.

Extractor, EJECTOR & 7.65 Rule, throat  
and chamber

## RECOIL SPRING and GUIDE



I made a reverse plug and guide rod. The guide rod fit into the recoil spring and has a stop washer at the rear. Guide rod screws into the barrel trunion. I also drilled a .062 hole in the guide rod for a retaining pin for assembly/disassembly.

## MAGAZINES and FEEDING



I kind of lucked out on this one. I expected I would have to make magazines, but I found that a factory 38 Super magazine would hold the case and the case sat high enough to feed straight into the chamber. I didn't even cut a feedramp under the chamber. I just cut a 30deg bevel into the edge of the chamber.

## AMMUNITION, VELOCITY and FUNCTIONING

I wanted to duplicate 32acp class performance (i.e. 80-100gr bullets @ 800-900fps). I have several pounds of Unique and Bullseye left over from my former pistol shooting career (40 years ago), so all testing was with those powders. I know there are newer (better) powders, but I gotta use this stuff up. I found a 1978 Lyman Cast Bullet Data Book with 32 S&W Long data, case capacities and bullet weights were similar, all initial testing was from this data. I had some 84gr cast .309 bullets and loads were from 1.5-3.5gr of Unique and 2.5-3.0gr of Bullseye. Velocities are in BLUE ink.



I was surprised that all loads, even the lightest load (1.5gr Unique) functioned the pistol. I intend to install a stronger recoil spring once I select a final load. I plan to use 110gr 30 Carbine jacketed bullets for both 25 and 50yd matches.

## RELOADING

I BOUGHT A USED SET OF 30 CARBINE RCBS DIES FROM EBAY

1. The Sizing Die will work unmodified. I did need to move the decapping pin from another die set to decap while sizing.
2. I had to shorten the Decapping and Expanding Plug and remove the decapping pin and holder from the Expander Plug. The Decapper hit the bottom of the case before the Expander could open up the shorter case.
3. I shortened the Seating Die about .450 to seat and crimp the shorter case



## RELOADING

For now reloading is on RCBS Rockchucker while loads are sorted out. Once loads are selected, I will set up Dillon 550 for 32 SUPER.

Mr. Poltorak of <https://www.photoescapeinc.com> was kind enough to make me a custom Powder Transfer Unit/ Powder Funnel for the 32 SUPER.

Many thanx to him and a hearty recommendation to you folks that might want a 32 SUPER of your own.

