


# .243 Winchester

.243 Winchester			
			
.243 Winchester cartridge			
<b>Type</b>	Rifle		
<b>Place of origin</b>	USA		
Production history			
<b>Designer</b>	Winchester		
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Winchester		
<b>Produced</b>	1955		
<b>Variants</b>	.243 Winchester Improved (Ackley)		
Specifications			
<b>Parent case</b>	.308 Winchester		
<b>Bullet diameter</b>	.243 in (6.2 mm)		
<b>Neck diameter</b>	.276 in (7.0 mm)		
<b>Shoulder diameter</b>	.454 in (11.5 mm)		
<b>Base diameter</b>	.471 in (12.0 mm)		
<b>Rim diameter</b>	.473 in (12.0 mm)		
<b>Case length</b>	2.045 in (51.9 mm)		
<b>Overall length</b>	2.7098 in (68.83 mm)		
<b>Rifling twist</b>	1-10		
<b>Primer type</b>	Large Rifle		
Ballistic performance			
Bullet weight/type	Velocity	Energy	
55 gr (4 g) BT	4,058 ft/s (1,237 m/s)	2,012 ft·lbf (2,728 J)	
65 gr (4 g) BT	3,746 ft/s (1,142 m/s)	2,026 ft·lbf (2,747 J)	
75 gr (5 g) HP	3,447 ft/s (1,051 m/s)	1,979 ft·lbf (2,683 J)	
90 gr (6 g) SP	3,203 ft/s (976 m/s)	2,051 ft·lbf (2,781 J)	
105 gr (7 g) BT	2,986 ft/s (910 m/s)	2,080 ft·lbf (2,820 J)	
<i>Source(s): Hodgdon [1]</i>			

The **.243 Winchester** is a popular sporting rifle cartridge. Initially designed as a varmint round, it is now more frequently Wikipedia:Manual of Style (dates and numbers) used on varmints such as coyote, medium to large game

such as blacktail deer, whitetail deer, mule deer, pronghorn, black bear, and wild hogs. However, due to the smaller caliber bullet used, its suitability for large animals is dependent on skill level and the hunter's ability to make a clean and accurate shot. The .243 is based on a necked down .308 cartridge case.

## History



.243 Winchester Improved (left) and .243 Winchester (right)

This cartridge was first introduced in 1955 for Winchester's Model 70 bolt-action and Model 88 lever-action sporting rifles and quickly gained popularity among sportsmen worldwide.<sup>[2]</sup> Just about every major manufacturer offers rifles chambered in .243.

It was a ground-breaking development of the day, combining a very useful combination of lightweight (70 to 85 grain bullets) optimized for long-range performance for varmint hunters (groundhogs, coyotes, prairie dogs) and 90 to 105 grain bullets suitable for game up to the size of deer and pronghorn antelope. Its predecessor in the Winchester line-up and very similar .257 Roberts could have easily been selected to accomplish the same tasks, was not available factory loaded with either lighter, varmint-weight pills or pointed, long range spitzer (pointed) bullets, so it never achieved the popularity of the newer round.

Remington also saw the 6mm (.243") family as suitable for this dual-purpose use and introduced their version, the .244 Remington, in the same year (1955) based upon the .257 Roberts necked down to accept .243 bullets up to 90 grains in weight. The Winchester round remains available today whereas the .244 Remington, later renamed the 6 mm Remington with the introduction of 100 grain bullets, is far less popular even though it can push all bullet weights slightly faster with maximum loads due to the larger capacity case. The fact that the .243 Win was originally offered in a 1 in 10" rifling twist rate, a rate better able to stabilize heavier 100 and 105 grain bullets, versus the .244 Remington's 1 in 12" twist (hence the 90 grain factory offering) was also a factor in their popularity.

Since the enactment of the Deer Act 1963 in the United Kingdom, which stipulated a minimum bullet diameter of .240 in., together with minimum levels of muzzle velocity and bullet energy, the .243 is now perceived as the entry-level caliber for legal deer-stalking. Firearms that would normally be chambered in .308 Winchester/7.62x51mm NATO are sometimes available in .243 in countries – such as France and Spain – whose regulations restrict or forbid private ownership of so-called military calibers.

In a non-sporting context, bolt-action rifles chambered for the .243 were utilized by the Los Angeles Police Department's Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) unit during its early years.<sup>[3]</sup>

P. O. Ackley created an improved version of this cartridge called the .243 Winchester Improved (Ackley).<sup>[4]</sup> Like other improved cartridges, this created a steeper shoulder and blew the sides out, giving about 10% more powder capacity, and some small improvement in velocity. Both versions of the .243 cartridge are good for hunting deer.

## Performance

The .243 produces a velocity of 2,960 feet (902.21 m) per second with a 100-grain (6.6 gram) projectile from a 24-inch (610 mm) barrel. Commercially loaded .243 ammunition is available with bullet weight ranging from 55 grains (3.6 g) up to 115 grains (6.8 g). Twist rate of barrel is the major deciding factor in which bullets to use, 1:10 being the most popular as it is sufficient to stabilize up to 100-gr. bullets. However, for VLD (very low drag)-profile and bullets heavier than 100 gr., a 1:8 or 1:7 (for 115-gr. VLD bullets) is necessary.

## References

- [1] [http://data.hodgdon.com/cartridge\\_load.asp](http://data.hodgdon.com/cartridge_load.asp)"
- [2] Cartridges of the World 8th Edition, Book by Frank C. Barnes, DBI Books, 1997, ISBN 0-87349-178-5
- [3] Hunting and Fishing in WV. (27 June 2009). In *theintermountain.com*. Retrieved 15 September 2010 from <http://theintermountain.com/page/content.detail/id/519830.html?nav=22>
- [4] Handbook for Shooters & Reloaders vol I, Book by P.O. Ackley; Plaza Publishing, 1962, ISBN 978-99929-4-881-1 p.305

## External links

- .243 Winchester Cartridge Guide (<http://www.6mibr.com/243win.html>) by AccurateShooter.com
- Cartridge Dimensions (<http://www.stevespages.com/jpg/cd243winchester.jpg>)



(Left to Right) .223 Remington, .243 Winchester, .308 Winchester

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