

Cartridge Acronyms and Abbreviations

Cartridge designs are typically given names that are a combination of numerical designations and letters or words. The numbers usually describe some dimension of the bullet or case. The letters and words usually, but not always, indicate the person, persons, or company which developed the cartridge design.

This list deciphers some of the common abbreviations and acronyms involved. This list typically provides one or two examples of cartridges which use each abbreviation or acronym.

<u>Acronym or Abbreviation</u>	<u>Examples</u>
ACP - Automatic Colt Pistol	.45 ACP or .32 ACP
AE - Action Express	.41 AE or .50 AE
BR - Bench Rest Remington	6mm BR or 7mm BR
B&D - Bain and Davis	.357 B&D or 44 B&D
G&A - Guns & Ammo Magazine	.40 G&A or .460 G&A
H&H - Holland & Holland	.375 H&H
H&R - Harrington & Richardson	.32 H&R Mag.
IHMSA - International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association	7mm IHMSA
JDJ - J. D. Jones	.375 JDJ
JRS - John R. Sundra	7mm JRS
LC - Long Colt	.38 LC
LR - Long Rifle	.22 LR
Mag - Magnum	.357 Mag or .44 Mag
mm - millimeter	10mm or 7mm Mag
NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization	7.62 NATO or 5.56 NATO
Para. - Parabellum (sometimes Pb)	9mm Para.
PPC - Pindell-Palmisano Cartridge	.22 PPC or 6mm PPC
Rem - Remington	.223 Rem or .35 Rem
Ren - Charles Rensing & Jim Rock	.270 Ren
RF - RimFire	.22 RF
Spl. - Special	.38 Spl. or .32 Win Spl.
Sprg. - Springfield Armory	.30-06 Sprg.
S&H - Sharpe & Hart	7x61 S&H
S&W - Smith & Wesson	.40 S&W or .32 S&W
STA - Shooting Times Alaskan	
STE - Shooting Times Easterner	
STW - Shooting Times Westerner	7mm STW
TCU - Thompson/Center (Wes)Ugalde	7mm TCU or 6mm TCU
TSW - Team Smith & Wesson	.356 TSW
WCF - Winchester Center Fire	.25-20 WCF or .32-20 WCF
Win - Winchester	.308 Win or .32 Win Spl.
WMR - Winchester Magnum Rim fire	.22 WMR

Items of Note

- 7.62 NATO and .308 Win are equivalent in size
- 5.56 NATO and .223 Remington are equivalent in size
- From a latin expression "si vis pacem, para bellum," meaning, "if you would have peace, prepare for war."
- 9mm Para., 9mm Luger, 9mm NATO, and 9x19mm all use equivalent cases, however, 9mm NATO military ammunition is loaded to substantially higher pressures than most commercial varieties
- 22 RF usually refers to one or more of: .22 Short, .22 Long and .22 LR.
- Wildcat cartridges developed by Shooting Times Magazine/Layne Simpson

What the +P and +P+ Used in Cartridge Names - Each cartridge for which firearms are chambered has a standard working pressure. Firearms chambered for a given cartridge must be able to withstand the pressure that that cartridge produces. Some modern firearms are significantly "over built", and can tolerate pressures higher than those generated by the cartridge for which they are chambered. The **+P** and **+P+** ratings were developed to take advantage of the greater strength built into these guns.

WARNING! – You should always follow the ammunition approved by the manufacturer of the gun.

+P appended to a cartridge name, indicates that the loaded cartridge will generate pressures higher than the industry standard for that cartridge when it is fired.

+P+ appended to a cartridge name, indicates pressures even greater than those generated by +P designated ammunition will occur when fired.

+P and **+P+** loads for .38 Spl. produce pressures that fall between those of standard .38 Spl and .357 Magnum, therefore some manufacturers have approved the use of .38 Spl. ammunition designated **+P** and **+P+** in .357 Magnum revolvers.