



## Member Tested and Recommended Program

Monday, October 05, 2009

Thank you for participating in our “Member Tested and Recommended Products Program.” The Critical Defense 38 Special (+P) 110 gr FTX™ Cartridges have been tested and recommended by the members of the National Tactical Officers Association. Your overall score was a 4.6. The NTOA Member Tested and Recommended logo may be used solely on the specific product that was tested.

Attached with this letter, is the Member Tested and Recommended Logo which can be used on all marketing pieces for this product. Also attached is a copy of the complete reviews that your company can use as well.

Press releases written regarding this product review must be emailed to NTOA for review before release.

Since the review is completed, it will now be added to online Member Tested product database. To make the review complete, please send us a digital image of the product that has been tested. This is now listed on the NTOA’s Member Tested and Recommended online database and review will soon be published in *The Tactical Edge* journal.

Please contact Corey Luby at [advertising@ntoa.org](mailto:advertising@ntoa.org) if you would like to advertise in *The Tactical Edge* journal. Once again, thank you for participating Member Tested and Recommended Program©.

Thank you,

Corey Luby  
800-279-9127x120



Hornady Mfg  
Critical Defense 38 Special (+P) 110 gr FTX™ Cartridges  
Overall Score: 4.6  
<http://www.hornady.com>

TESTER

Tested by a police officer from Michigan

Design 5

Performance 5

Ease of Use

Size

Quality 5

Durability

Storage

Versatility 5

Convenience

Application 5

Comfort

Accuracy 5

Cleaning & Maintenance

Individual Score 5

I recently tested Hornady's new "Critical Defense" ammunition in .38 Special+P.

I chronographed the load and found an average velocity of 830 ft/sec when the 110gr load was fired from a 2" bbl Charter Arms revolver. This was a bit slower than the company spec sheet but about the same as my current .38 Special +P defense load. These figures are based on 10 shots fired 10 feet from the chronograph.

Velocity is important but what I really wanted to see was how the new bullet expanded. I used the old standard of wet phone books with and without jean material in front of the books. In wet phone books the bullets penetrated nearly 7" and expanded perfectly every time, through the jean material and without it. The Critical Defense bullet expanded reliably 100% of the time and never lost its jacket material. Accuracy was outstanding and recoil was very light which helped considerably with my accuracy testing.

I enjoyed testing this ammunition and I will be carrying the Hornady Critical Defense load in my revolver from now on.

TESTER

Tested by a police officer from California

Design 3

Performance 4

Ease of Use 4

Size  
Quality 4  
Durability 4  
Storage 4  
Versatility  
Convenience 3  
Application 4  
Comfort  
Accuracy 4  
Cleaning & Maintenance 4  
Individual Score 3.8

I tested both the Hornady Critical Defense 38 Special FTX and the FTX + P in 110 grain cartridges. Both sets of ammunition were fired using a 2” Smith and Wesson revolver at a range of approximately 8 yards and fired into metal reactive targets. Prior to firing these cartridges I spoke with officers from around the area that I work and determined that most carry a 38 caliber weapon as a back up or an off-duty weapon which is how I chose the hand gun and distance to test this ammunition.

The standard FTX was a solid performer. This round was very accurate and I was able to hold 1’ groups with no fragmentation off of the metal targets. I inspected the round after firing and noted it had good expansion. Out of all of the rounds fired in the standard FTX only one target did not move to the opposite side which may have been based on shot placement.

The FTX + P produced a slightly greater kick. I was able to hold a similar group and each one of the reactive targets to move to the opposite side. Both sets of ammunition left the weapon clean and I was able to extract the spent brass immediately after firing with ease. Although I preferred the standard FTX over the + P due to slightly less recoil that it appeared to produce, both ammunitions performed very well. I would definitely recommend Hornady Critical Defense 38 Special ammunition

TESTER

Tested by a police officer from California

Design 5  
Performance 5  
Ease of Use 5  
Size 5  
Quality 5  
Durability 5  
Storage 5  
Versatility 5  
Convenience 5  
Application 5  
Comfort 5  
Accuracy 5

## Cleaning & Maintenance 5

### Individual Score 5

The Hornady Critical Defense line fills the bill with regard to the ammunition purchaser, who might not necessarily require an ammunition that meets the entire F.B.I protocol.

For the CCW holder, Home Defender or LEO that may choose their own ammunition for off-duty carriage, this ammunition deserves a long hard look.

The loaded cartridges are of superlative quality, with each being the mirror image of the next. One will notice immediately that what would typically be a hollow point or controlled expansion projectile, has the nose or cavity filled with a proprietary soft compound that resembles silicon. What this does is, prevent the nose of the hollow cavity projectile from being filled with clothing material as it passes through this tricky barrier.

Recent shootings involving Law Enforcement Officers and a very leading brand, cutting edge ammunition have proven to provide lack luster results. It would seem that the gaping hollow cavity of this ammunition either works wonderfully or dismally. Oft times the large “cookie cutter” hollow point does a wonderful job of cutting out perfect round holds of clothing material, packing them in the nose of the bullet. This renders the projectile of little worth, more than a full metal jacketed round.

In the Critical Defense line from Hornady the proprietary nose compound allows the material that blocks the hollow point, to act in and of itself as fluid acts on a standard hollow point projectile. It pushes inwardly in a uniform manner, against the pre-serrated nose and jacket material initiating expansion. As the projectile reaches the maximum depth of penetrations, so it reaches the maximum expansion, each and every time. In tissue stimulant, the results were spectacular and boringly regular. The round expanded each and every time, regardless of the barrel length. The propellant used in this cartridge is a premium, high energy low flash Law Enforcement compound. This is a huge plus since most off-duty encounters occur in compromised light.

I tested this ammunition in both the 9mm Luger 115 gr. Offering and the .38 Spl. 110 gr. Even when fired from very short barrels, such as a typical “Chief-Special” revolver or micro pistol, the results were spectacular. I would not hesitate to use this ammunition.