



Member Tested and Recommended Program

Monday, September 28, 2009

Thank you for participating in our “Member Tested and Recommended Products Program.” The Critical Defense 38 Special 110 gr FTX™ Cartridges have been tested and recommended by the members of the National Tactical Officers Association. Your overall score was a 4.27. 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 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 110 gr FTX™ Cartridges
Overall Score: 4.27
<http://www.hornady.com>

TESTER

Tested by a police officer from Ohio

Design 4

Performance 3

Ease of Use 4

Size

Quality 5

Durability

Storage

Versatility

Convenience

Application

Comfort

Accuracy 4

Cleaning & Maintenance

Individual Score 4

Tested Product: Hornady Critical Defense .38 Special 110gr FTX ammunition

The product arrived packaged in a 25 round box, racked in a common plastic grid-type tray. Initial inspection revealed no discrepancies between the individual cartridges, either case or bullet. The actual projectile consisted of what appears to be a copper jacketed hollow point with a red polymer tip insert.

For testing I used a Charter Arms .38 Undercover equipped with a 2" barrel.

I fired several 3 round groups at 7, 15, and 21 ft. and found the Hornady on par with all of the premium .38 ammunition that I have previously tried. At 7 and 15 ft three out of four groups had all 3 holes touching.

I measured the unfired bullet diameter as .358" on my average quality calipers. Unfired, the bullet weight was 7.23 grams on an average to lower range metric scale.

For my testing I prepared a wetpack made of four Cleveland phone books banded together, then soaked overnight. It approximates a consistent, semi-dense medium fairly well.

I fired two Critical Defense rounds into the pack, as well as one .40 S&W Winchester 180gr SXT from my G22 for comparison, though I realize they are not in the same league.

Round #1 performed less than optimal, deforming into an angular asymmetrical slug. It

penetrated to a depth of 3.4”, taking a downward diagonal route to its final rest. The recovered bullet weight was 6.9grams, with the diameter at the largest point being .431”.

Round #2 performed as I imagine the manufacturer designed it to: perfect peel back of the copper jacket, perfect mushrooming of the lead core. The polymer tip was still aligned with the center of the slug. It had a neat, uniform appearance. Final weight was 7.1grams with a diameter of .491”, and a penetration depth of 3.51”.

The .40 weighed 11.3grams, with a diameter of .865 from the tip of one copper petal to the opposite, and penetrated to a depth of 5.35”.

Overall, the Hornady Critical Defense .38 seemed to be a capable option for the caliber, despite the less than perfect performance of Round #1.

TESTER

Tested by a police officer from Connecticut

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 item I was selected to test was the Hornady Critical Defense .38 Special 110 Grain FTX Cartridge. One of the first things that I noticed and like about this cartridge was the flexible tip on the projectile itself. At first glance it resembles a piece of red pencil eraser stuck into the bullet. This material protrudes slightly from the nose of the bullet and as such has the benefit of protecting the rim of the bullet from becoming deformed should you carry a spare speed loader in a jacket pocket or somewhere other than a case designed for that purpose.

I still carry a five shot revolver in an off-duty status and the .38 Special is ideal for this. The expansion of the bullet itself was measured by myself shooting into small fruit melons and produced dramatic effects. The recoil was consistent with a standard .38 Special load and there was no noticeable difference in the carbon fouling from other loads. There really wasn't anything that I did not like about this product.

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