243 Winchester

Dimensions (inches): 0.2430, 0.276, 0.276, 0.455, 20°, 0.409, 0.473, 0.054, 1.560, 1.804, 2.045, 2.710 MAXIMUM
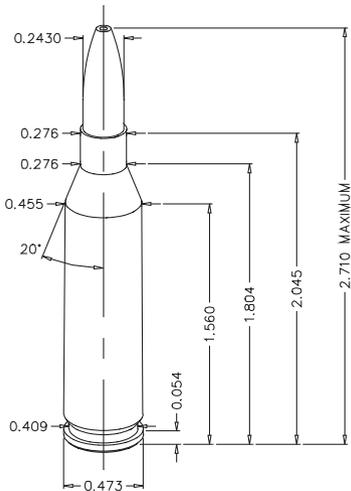
Test Specifications/ Components

Firearm Used: Remington 700
Barrel Length: 22"
Twist: 1 x 9 1/8"
Case: Federal
Trim-to Length: 2.035"
Primer: Fed 210M

Remarks:

Introduced in 1955, the 243 was intended to serve as a true dual-purpose varmint/deer cartridge. Based on the 308 Winchester case, the 243 was the logical result of work done by noted gun writer and benchrest shooter Warren Page. Some years earlier, Page had acquired some samples of the then experimental 7.62mm NATO case, and he necked them down to accept .243" projectiles. Known as the 240 Page Pooper (Warren was rather unique in naming his wildcats), the cartridge proved to be an excellent performer.

The 243 is a tremendously versatile cartridge. With hunting bullets ranging in weight from 60 to 100 grains, the 243 is well suited to game from varmints to mule deer. Sierra's 75 grain Hollow Point and 80 grain Blitz bullets have proven to be devastatingly effective on prairie dogs, 'chucks and coyotes, as well as other similar varmint species.

Although touted as an ideal round for recoil-sensitive shooters, the cartridge's limitations must be recognized. Small-caliber cartridges used for big-game hunting require near perfect shot placement for quick kills, even with the heaviest bullets available. The hunter who recognizes these limitations and is willing to pass up questionable or less-than-perfect shots will be well served by the 243 Winchester.

Within the last few years, the 243 has become popular as a competitive match cartridge. In 1993, G. David Tubb used the 243 to win both the Highpower Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio, and the National Silhouette Championships (both heavy and hunting rifle), at Raton, New Mexico. The Sierra 107 grain HPBT MatchKing that David used in these matches requires a fast-twist barrel to properly stabilize. We recommend this bullet be used in a 1x7" or 1x8" twist for optimum results.

SIERRA
The Bulletsmiths

243 Winchester continued

#1502 .243" 55 gr. BlitzKing
C.O.A.L. 2.630"

#1500 .243" 60 gr. HP
C.O.A.L. 2.600"

Powder↓/Velocity→	3300	3400	3500	3600	3700
Viht N133	35.5	36.5	**37.5**		
IMR-3031	36.2	37.2	**38.2**		
Benchmark	36.6	**37.6**			
H322	35.3	**36.4**			
H4895	37.0	37.7	**38.4**		
IMR-4895	39.7	**40.8**			
Varget	39.7	40.8	41.9	**43.0**	
AA-4064	40.2	41.1	42.0	**42.9**	
IMR-4320	40.4	41.4	42.4	**43.4**	
Viht N140	39.6	40.7	41.8	**42.9**	
BigGame	42.7	43.8	44.9	**46.0**	
RE-15	39.5	40.5	41.5	42.5	**43.5**
H380		43.6	44.8	**46.0**	
760	45.2	46.1	47.0	47.9	**48.8**
IMR-4350	44.9	45.8	**46.7**		
IMR-4831	47.5	**48.5**			
H4831SC	48.0	**49.0**			
Energy/ft.lbs.	**1451**	**1540**	**1632**	**1726**	**1824**

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	**Benchmark**	**37.6**	3400	1540
Hunting Load	**Varget**	**43.0**	3600	1726

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

243 Winchester continued

#1507 .243" 70 gr. BlitzKing
C.O.A.L. 2.670"

#1505 .243" 70 gr. HPBT MatchKing
C.O.A.L. 2.625"

#1510 .243" 75 gr. HP
C.O.A.L. 2.625"

Powder↓/Velocity→	3000	3100	3200	3300	3400
IMR-3031	33.7	34.8	35.9	**37.0**	
Benchmark	34.7	35.3	35.9	**36.5**	
H322	32.8	33.8	**34.8**		
H4895	35.0	35.8	**36.6**		
IMR-4895	36.0	37.0	38.0	**39.0**	
Viht N135	34.6	36.2	37.8	**39.4**	
Varget	36.7	37.8	38.9	40.0	**41.1**
IMR-4064	35.8	37.0	38.2	**39.4**	
AA-4064	37.2	38.2	39.2	**40.2**	
IMR-4320	37.5	38.5	39.5	**40.5**	
Viht N140		37.4	**38.6**		
BigGame	38.9	40.0	41.1	**42.2**	
RE-15	36.6	37.7	38.8	**39.9**	
H380	39.6	40.8	**42.0**		
760	41.4	42.4	43.4	44.4	**45.4**
AA-4350	42.3	43.3	44.3	**45.3**	
IMR-4350	41.6	42.6	43.6	**44.6**	
IMR-4831	43.7	44.9	**46.1**		
H4831SC	44.3	45.6	**46.9**		
Energy/ft.lbs.	**1499**	**1600**	**1705**	**1813**	**1925**

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	H322	33.8	3100	1600
Hunting Load	**Viht N140**	**38.6**	3200	1705

Sierra does not recommend MatchKing bullets for hunting applications.

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

243 Winchester continued

#1515 .243" 80 gr. SBT Blitz
C.O.A.L. 2.635"

#1520 .243" 85 gr. SPT
C.O.A.L. 2.650"

#1530 .243" 85 gr. HPBT
C.O.A.L. 2.650"

Powder↓/Velocity→	2800	2900	3000	3100	3200
IMR-3031	32.6	33.8	35.0	36.2	**37.4**
748	33.8	34.9	**36.0**		
H4895	32.8	34.1	**35.4**		
IMR-4895	34.5	35.6	36.7	**37.8**	
Varget	34.7	35.8	36.9	**38.0**	
IMR-4064	34.1	35.4	36.7	**38.0**	
AA-4064	34.9	36.4	**37.9**		
IMR-4320	35.8	36.8	37.8	**38.8**	
Viht N140	34.1	35.7	**37.3**		
BigGame	37.2	38.2	39.2	**40.2**	
RE-15	34.2	35.7	37.2	**38.7**	
H380	36.7	**38.2**			
760		40.0	**42.0**		
IMR-4350	39.6	40.9	**42.2**		
RE-19	41.6	43.0	44.4	45.8	**47.2**
IMR-4831	41.7	43.1	**44.5**		
AA-3100	43.1	**44.2**			
H4831 SC	42.3	43.8	**45.3**		
Energy/ft.lbs.	1479	1587	1698	1813	1932

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	**Viht N140**	**37.3**	3000	1698
Hunting Load	**IMR-4064**	**38.0**	3100	1813

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

243 Winchester continued

#1535 .243" 90 gr. FMJBT
C.O.A.L. 2.650"

Powder↓/Velocity→	2700	2800	2900	3000	3100
IMR-3031	31.0	32.4	33.8	**35.2**	
IMR-4895	33.0	34.4	35.8	**37.2**	
Varget	33.1	**34.4**			
IMR-4064	32.8	34.1	35.5	36.8	**38.1**
IMR-4320	34.0	35.2	36.4	37.6	**38.8**
BigGame		36.4	38.1	**39.7**	
RE-15	32.5	33.8	35.1	36.4	**37.7**
H380	35.2	36.6	**38.0**		
Viht N150	33.1	34.6	**36.0**		
IMR-4350	37.6	39.0	40.4	**41.8**	
AA-4350	38.1	39.3	**40.4**		
RE-19		41.2	42.5	**43.8**	
H4831SC	40.7	42.0	43.2	44.5	**45.7**
RE-22	40.0	41.4	42.8	**44.2**	
Energy/ft.lbs.	1457	1566	1680	1798	1920

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	RE-15	36.4	3000	1798
Hunting Load	**RE-19**	**43.8**	3000	1798

Mike Chastaine of Torrance, CA, shot this large coyote with Sierra's 6mm 80 grain Blitz in his custom 243 Winchester.

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

243 Winchester continued

#1540 .243" 100 gr. SPT
C.O.A.L. 2.650"

#1560 .243" 100 gr. SBT
C.O.A.L. 2.650"

Powder↓/Velocity→	2500	2600	2700	2800	2900	3000
IMR-3031	29.6	31.0	32.3	33.7	**35.0**	
H335	28.6	31.1	**33.6**			
IMR-4895	31.6	32.8	33.9	35.1	**36.2**	
Varget	31.2	32.7	**34.1**			
IMR-4064	30.7	32.1	33.5	34.8	**36.2**	
AA-4064	31.3	33.2	**35.0**			
IMR-4320	32.0	33.5	35.0	**36.5**		
BigGame	32.5	34.4	**36.2**			
H380		32.8	**35.3**			
760		36.0	37.6	**39.2**		
AA-4350	36.2	37.5	38.7	**40.0**		
IMR-4350	35.2	36.8	38.5	40.1	**41.7**	
RE-19	37.0	38.5	39.9	41.4	**42.8**	
IMR-4831	37.3	38.7	40.2	41.6	**43.0**	
AA-3100	38.9	39.9	40.9	**41.9**		
H4831 SC	38.0	39.4	40.8	42.1	43.5	**44.9**
RE-22	38.0	39.5	40.9	42.4	**43.8**	
Energy/ft.lbs.	**1388**	**1501**	**1618**	**1741**	**1867**	**1998**

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	**AA-4064**	**35.0**	2700	1618
Hunting Load	**IMR-4064**	**36.2**	2900	1867

Norman Johnson of Wisconsin took these three large red foxes and a coyote with his 243 and Sierra's 80 grain Blitz.

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

243 Winchester continued

#1570 .243" 107 gr. HPBT MatchKing
C.O.A.L. 2.850"

(requires 1x8" twist or faster)

Powder↓/Velocity→	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800	2900
Varget	30.4	31.9	**33.3**			
IMR-4064	29.4	30.8	32.1	**33.5**		
IMR-4320	30.8	32.1	33.3	**34.6**		
H380		33.2	34.5	**35.8**		
AA-4350	33.8	35.3	36.7	**38.2**		
IMR-4350	34.8	36.0	37.2	38.4	39.6	**40.8**
H4350 Ext	34.3	35.6	37.0	38.3	**39.6**	
RE-19	36.7	38.0	39.4	40.7	42.1	**43.4**
IMR-4831	36.8	38.1	39.3	40.6	**41.8**	
AA-3100	37.8	39.1	40.5	**41.8**		
H4831 SC	36.5	37.9	39.4	40.8	**42.2**	
Viht N165			39.0	**42.5**		
RE-22	36.6	38.0	39.4	40.7	42.1	**43.5**
IMR-7828	38.8	40.0	41.3	42.5	**43.7**	
H1000		40.7	42.6	44.4	**46.3**	
Energy/ft.lbs.	**1369**	**1485**	**1607**	**1732**	**1863**	**1999**

	Powder	Grains	Velocity	Ft. lbs.
Accuracy Load	IMR-4350	39.6	2800	1863

Sierra does not recommend MatchKing bullets for hunting applications.

Bernard Austin of Metarie, LA, took this 9-point, 130 Boone & Crocket buck with the 100 grain SBT at the Nail Ranch, Albany, TX, in 1999.

INDICATES MAXIMUM LOAD – USE CAUTION
LOADS LESS THAN MINIMUM CHARGES SHOWN ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.