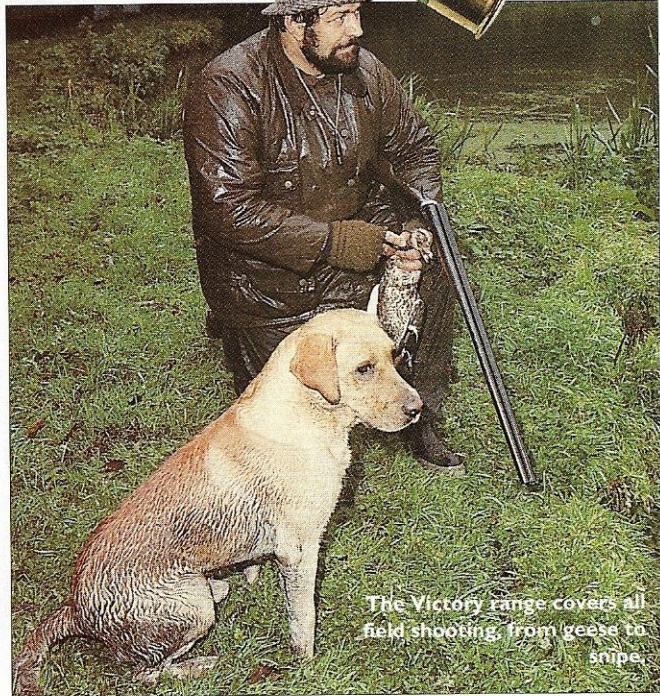


NEW RANGE
CARTRIDGE TEST



The Victory range covers all field shooting, from geese to snipe.

VICTORY in the field

MENTION THE NAME "Victory" and shooters tend to think of a series of sharp-performing competition shells which win their fair share of the big championships both in the UK and world-wide.

Cartridges with names like Challenger, Stryker and Compak spring easily to mind, but there is another side to this Cyprus-based manufacturer. G&L Calibres also make a wide variety of field-shooting cartridges, in weights and shot sizes suitable for virtually everything from snipe to geese.

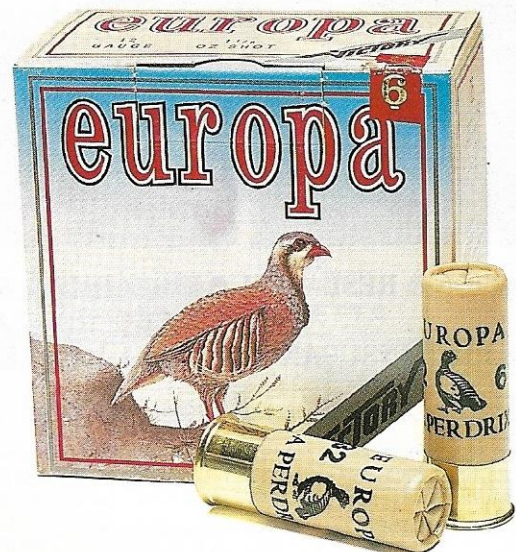
This month we've had a look at three of them: the Mini Magnum in a 40gr no.5 loading, the Europa game with 30gr (1.1/8oz) of No.6, and the game-shooting version of the Challenger with 28gr (1oz) of no.6.

Let's see how they shape up:

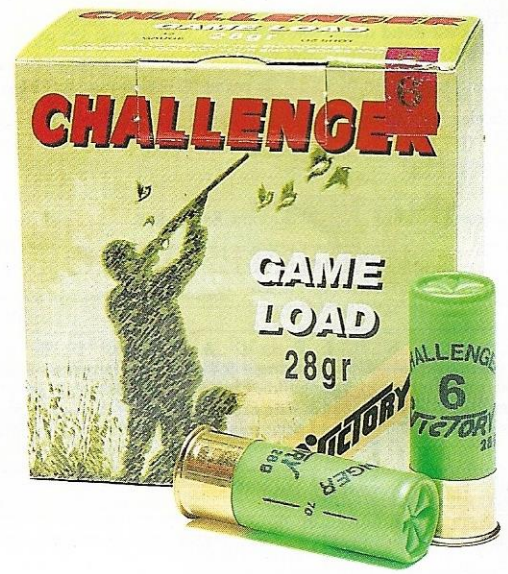
MINI MAG 40 GRAM



EUROPA GAME 32 GRAM



CHALLENGER 28 GRAM



MINI MAGNUMS ARE OFTEN A BIT OF A GREY AREA, SOME being suitable for 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in chambers of normal proof, and others requiring the magnum proof of 1,200 bars. This one falls into the latter category, but thousands of modern guns now conform to the higher proof standard.

The case is black and lightly ribbed, with a 16mm brass head, and is closed with a six-star crimp. Shot is carried in a simple but effective plastic cup of Victory's own manufacture, and the powder is a sage-green flake.

We recorded a muzzle velocity of 1,480 ft/sec with no.5 shot and a down-range, observed figure of 1,213 ft/sec. This was achieved at the robust pressure of 900 bars.

Shot was true to English size, and passed our hardness check with a crush value of 32 per cent.



● VERDICT

Super for high ducks, and geese in larger shot sizes. Best shot through a heavy gun to soak up the recoil.

The Mini-Magnum shot cup.

SPECIFICATION

LOAD: 40 gram
SHOT (size): English 5
SHOT (crush): 32%
POWDER: Sage green flake
WAD: Victory plastic cup
MIN. CHAMBER: 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
CASE (size): 70mm
CRIMP: 6 star,
PRESSURE: 900 bar
VELOCITY Muzzle: 1,480 ft/sc
VELOCITY Observed: 1,213 ft/sc
PRICE (Approx): £150 per 1,000

THIS IS A FULL-PRESSURE, HIGH pheasant load available in either felt or plastic wad configurations. With a velocity that puts many trap shells to shame, it would be super for those really high, challenging birds.

The pale brown, lightly-ribbed case has a 16mm brass head, and is sealed with a six-star crimp. Shot sizes available are 1 to 10, making it suitable for almost anything that flies - from geese to snipe. We tested the shell with size 6 shot, and recorded a muzzle velocity of 1,429 ft/sec, and a down-range, observed figure of 1,128 ft/sec. Pressure of the felt-wadded version was close to the maximum of 740 bars, with the plastic wad shell a little lower.

The shot was round, well polished and true to English size. In hardness terms, we recorded a crush value of 35 per cent, which is a nice compromise. It allows for good patterns, but also expends its energy within the bird.



● VERDICT

A great high-pheasant load for modern guns in good condition, and also highly suitable for ducks out to the limits of sensible sporting range.

Shot is a nice compromise for bird shooting.

SPECIFICATION

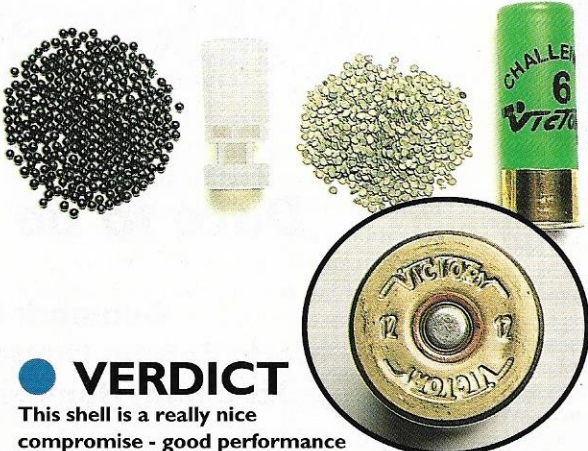
LOAD: 32 gram
SHOT (size): English 6
SHOT (crush): 35%
POWDER: Green flake
WAD: Felt and Plastic
MIN. CHAMBER: 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
CASE (size): 70mm
CRIMP: 6 star
PRESSURE: 738 bar (felt wad)
VELOCITY Muzzle: 1,429 ft/sc
VELOCITY Observed: 1,128 ft/sc
PRICE (Approx): £120 per 1,000

IF YOU FANCY SOMETHING A LITTLE more gentle than the two loads listed above, yet still need top performance, then this is the one to try. After all, an ounce of no.6 will kill game and ducks at sensible ranges.

The shell is assembled in a bright green case with a 16mm brass head and, again, is sealed with a six-star crimp. Plastic and felt wads are available and, on the plastic version, there's space in the case for a good compression area.

Muzzle velocity is 1,399 ft/sec, and down-range speed is 1,133 ft/sec. In other words, it's still as quick as a good trap shell, and the pressure is 544 bars. This makes it suitable for any gun with 70mm (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in) chambers.

The shot was the same nice compromise as that in the Europa, while the powder is a pale green disc.



● VERDICT

This shell is a really nice compromise - good performance and a sensible pressure. It will bag a lot of game and ducks this coming season.

Victory shells all have distinctive head-stamps.

SPECIFICATION

LOAD: 28gram
SHOT (size): English 6
SHOT (crush): 35%
POWDER: Pale green disc
WAD: Plastic and Felt
MIN. CHAMBER: 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
CASE (size): 70mm
CRIMP: 6 star
PRESSURE: 544 bar
VELOCITY Muzzle: 1,399 ft/sc
VELOCITY Observed: 1,133 ft/sc
PRICE (Approx): £105 per 1,000