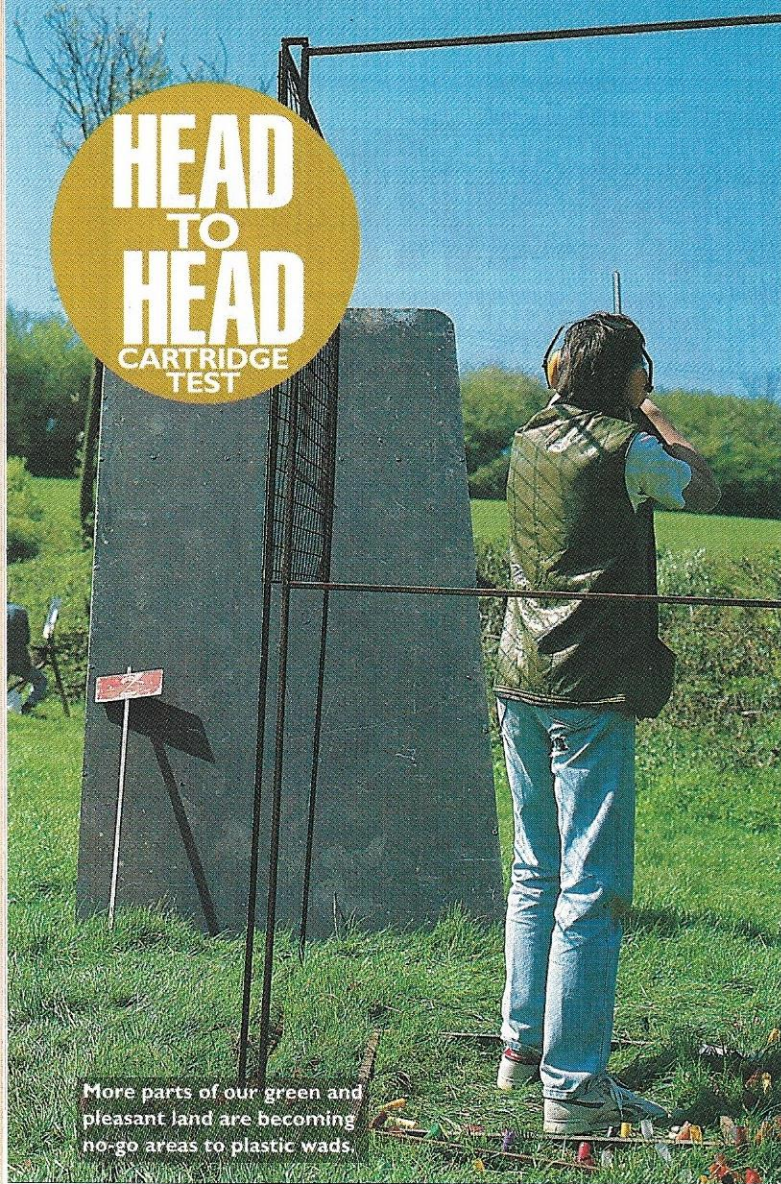


**HEAD
TO
HEAD**
CARTRIDGE
TEST



More parts of our green and pleasant land are becoming no-go areas to plastic wads.

High in fibre

MANY FARMERS WELCOME the presence of a shooting club on their patch. It brings them a little bit of welcome income, in the form of rent - and also provides good security on what may be the farmer's one day off in the week.

They're less pleased, however, if an animal swallows a plastic wad and needs the expensive attention of a vet. But if the shooters use fibre-wadded cartridges there's no problem. Fibre wads get chomped up along with the grass, and the animal's digestive juices do the rest. Complete re-cycling, from one end of the beast to the other!

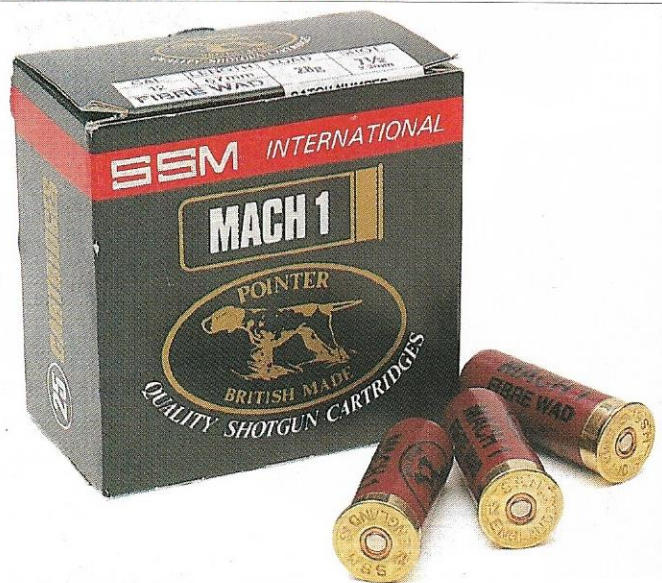
So this month we're looking at three fibre-wadded clay shooting loads - two from Britain and one from Cyprus.

CARTRIDGE TEST

HULL CHEVRON FIBRE



POINTER MACH 1



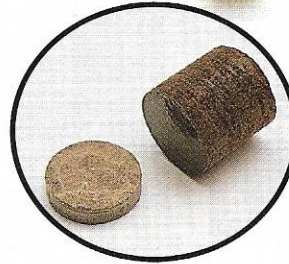
VICTORY CHALLENGER FELT WAD



THIS IS A VERY SHOULDER-KINDLY load - but don't be fooled by its low muzzle velocity of 1,182 ft/sec! It's quite enough for club clays, and the patterns are super good. Nine-metre observed figure is 990 ft/sec, and pressure is 635.1 bars. Consistency is fantastic: less than 30 ft/sec over the test batch.

The shell is loaded in a translucent green 67mm case with an 7.5mm head, although it requires a 70mm chamber.

Exterior of the case is lightly ribbed, and seal is with a six-star crimp. The one-piece wad has a thick over-powder card beneath it, and the powder is a pale grey flake. Shot is true English 7½, round and well-polished, with a crush value of 32 per cent - good competition shot.



● VERDICT

A super shell for clays out to medium range. Just what the clubman ordered!

Just what the farmer ordered - a cow-friendly wad.

SPECIFICATION

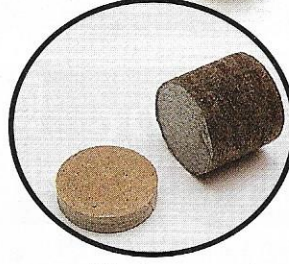
| |
|---|
| LOAD: 28 gram |
| SHOT (size): English 7½ |
| SHOT (crush): 32% |
| POWDER: Pale grey coloured flake |
| WAD: Fibre + over powder card |
| MIN. CHAMBER: 2½ |
| CASE (size): 70mm |
| CRIMP: 6 star |
| PRESSURE: 635.1 bar |
| VELOCITY Muzzle: 1,182 ft/sc |
| VELOCITY Observed: 990 ft/sc |
| PRICE (Approx): £ 90 per 1,000 |

THIS IS A GOOD ONE IF YOU HAVE a game gun and shoot occasional clays, because the 67mm burgundy-coloured case can be shot through 2½in. chambers. It has an 8mm brass head, is virtually smooth on the outside, and is closed with a six-star crimp.

Like the Hull shell, the fibre wad has a thick over-powder card, and the propellant is a very fine-grained grey powder which provides a pressure of 587.9 bars.

Shot was generally spot on size for English 7½, and the few slightly undersize pellets were nothing to worry about. Crush value was 37 per cent.

Muzzle velocity was 1,381.2 ft/sec, with an observed figure of 1,146.9 recorded 9 metres down-range.



● VERDICT

A great all-rounder, and a super shell for those shorter chambers.

Whatever next - grass flavoured wadding material!

SPECIFICATION

| |
|---|
| LOAD: 28 gram |
| SHOT (size): 7½ |
| SHOT (crush): 37% |
| POWDER: Grey fine grained powder |
| WAD: Fibre + over powder card |
| MIN. CHAMBER: 2½ |
| CASE (size): 67mm |
| CRIMP: 6 star |
| PRESSURE: 587.9 bar |
| VELOCITY Muzzle: 1,381.2 ft/sc |
| VELOCITY Observed: 1,146.9 ft/sc |
| PRICE (Approx): £ 110 per 1,000 |

● WAD

THE WAD ISN'T FELT; IT'S FIBRE - a pernickerty point to make about the Cyprus-made shell which was the fastest in the trio. It clocked a muzzle velocity of 1,416.9 ft/sec, and a down-range observed figure of 1,115.5. That's top-line trap shell performance. Pressure was a relatively lively 661 bars.*

Case is 68mm, requiring 70mm chambers, and is mid-green with a lightly-ribbed surface and a deep, 16mm brass head. Seal is with a six-star crimp, and propellant is a sage-coloured, round flake.

The shot - glory be for an imported cartridge! - was true English 7½, and was a good sample with a crush value of 34 per cent. Under it was a single-piece wad with no supplementary cards.

* Manufacturer's figures.



● VERDICT

A good shell for those longer targets.

Victory has chosen to use fibre, not felt, in its load.

SPECIFICATION

| |
|---|
| LOAD: 28gram |
| SHOT (size): English 7½ |
| SHOT (crush): 34% |
| POWDER: Sage round flake |
| WAD: Single piece fibre wad |
| MIN. CHAMBER: 2½ |
| CASE (size): 70mm |
| CRIMP: 6 star |
| PRESSURE: 661 bar |
| VELOCITY Muzzle: 1,416.9 ft/sc |
| VELOCITY Observed: 1,115.5 ft/sc |
| PRICE (Approx): £ 115 per 1,000 |