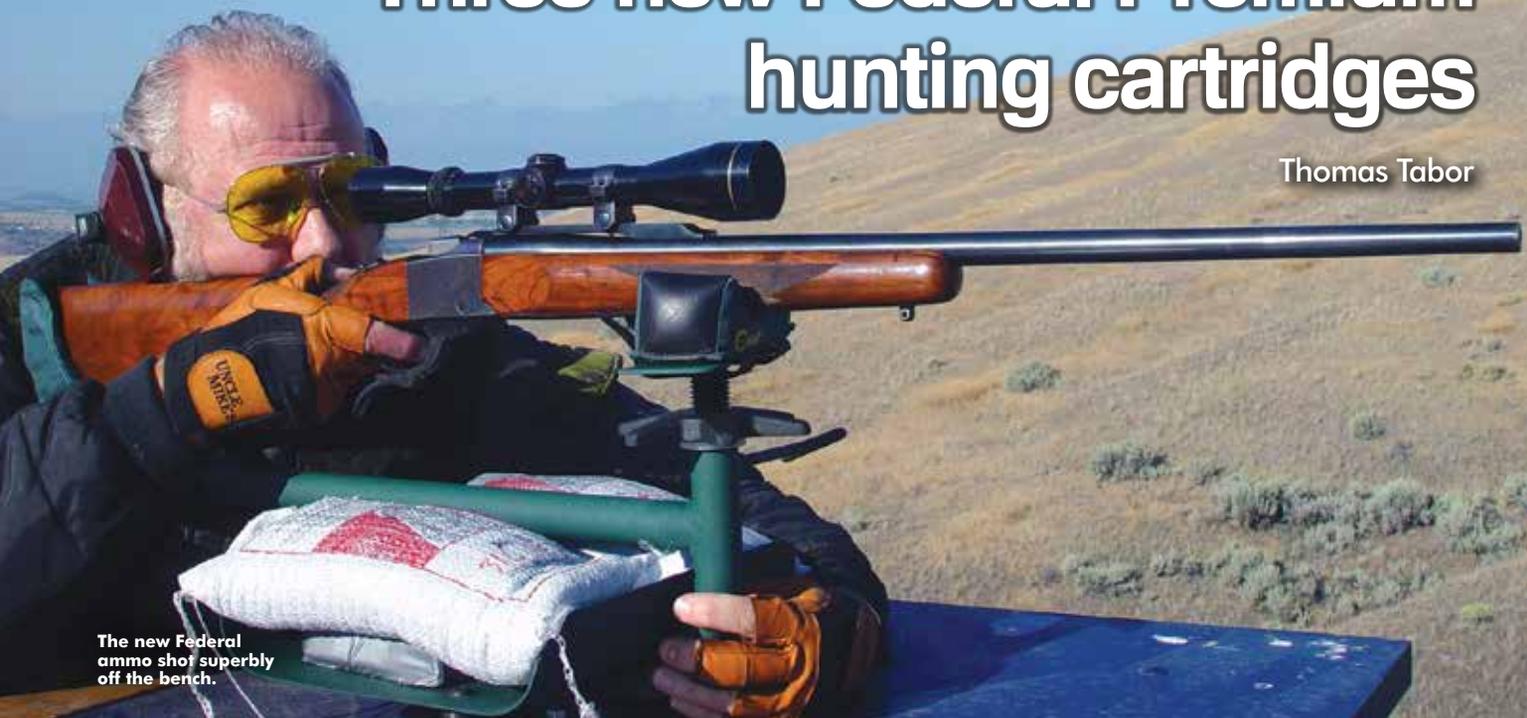


Three new Federal Premium hunting cartridges

Thomas Tabor



The new Federal ammo shot superbly off the bench.

It wasn't that long ago if a hunter wanted to shoot high-quality hunting bullets he or she had no choice but to handload their own ammunition and I have a gunroom full of handloading equipment and supplies to support that assertion.

While I still handload a considerable amount of hunting ammunition, today there's a very viable alternative for hunters as it's now possible to buy factory-loaded ammunition of the highest quality. A classic example can be found in Federal Premium's new line of hunting ammo, a series of cartridges including three categories of shells based on the type of bullet used including Barnes' Triple-Shock X, Berger's new Hybrid Hunter and the Nosler AccuBond.

In each of these the vast majority of the traditional centrefire rifle rounds are included as well as several magnum calibres

and in some cases bullets of varying weights are offered.

Barnes Triple-Shock X

The Federal Premium loads containing Barnes' highly favourable Triple-Shock X bullets consist of 14 cartridge calibres in 18 bullet weights. The Triple-Shock X is a solid copper bullet with no lead core or jacket to shed and because copper is lighter than lead, these bullets typically carry higher ballistic coefficient values which equates to flatter trajectories and an ability to buck the wind better than more traditional jacketed/lead-core bullets. Their deep hollow-point design is meant to encourage a faster rate of expansion and better mushrooming capabilities and their grooved shank helps minimise barrel fouling and promote a higher degree of shooting accuracy.

The Triple-Shock X bullet is a good choice for different types of hunting and I've used them for many years while targeting roos and deer-sized game all the way up to the largest and toughest of species like Asian water buffalo. In virtually every instance I've found these bullets expand well and penetrate deep, yet always hold together to retain almost 100 per cent of their weight no matter what impediments they encounter along the way.

As such they've become one of the favourite hunting bullets for medium to large-sized game and the component parts are some of the best available, including Barnes' finest nickel-plated brass and Gold Medal primers.

Berger Hybrid Hunter

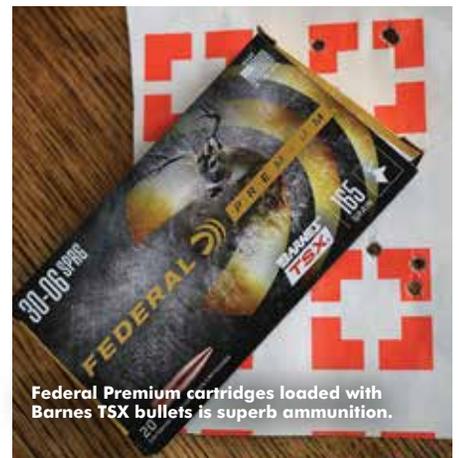
For many years Berger has been heavily



This target is typical of many shot using Federal Premium 30-06 ammunition loaded with 180gr Nosler AccuBond bullets.



Federal Premium ammunition loaded with the Berger Hybrid Hunter produced great groups.



Federal Premium cartridges loaded with Barnes TSX bullets is superb ammunition.

Three new Federal Premium hunting cartridges

involved in the production of projectiles for target shooters, their bullets typically designed to possess low-drag, high ballistic coefficient values and potential for pinpoint accuracy, and the company has brought those same traits and characteristics to brand new hunting bullet the Hybrid Hunter. In this case the construction is the more traditional lead-core/copper-jacketed hollow-point design, its hybrid nose which combines tangent and secant ogive features helping enhance its abilities as a hunting bullet.

The new Federal Premium ammunition loaded with Berger Hybrid Hunter bullets has been loaded to tight specifications and includes Gold Medal primers, nickel-plated brass and specialised propellants. Ten loads are currently available in 10 standard and magnum calibres.

Nosler AccuBond

Shortly after the development of the Nosler AccuBond bullet a company official told me that while Nosler Partition bullets were primarily designed for hunting the largest and toughest of game animals, they were working on one that would target slightly smaller, thinner-skinned game.

The AccuBond was apparently produced with those objectives in mind but no-one should underestimate its potential on large and tough game animals - I once took a huge African bull eland weighing upwards of a ton with my 375 H&H loaded with a 260gr AccuBond bullet. A single shot through its shoulder and lungs at 100m did the trick, meaning its head was bound for the wall of my trophy room.

The bullet penetrated the animal's huge shoulder, stopping just under the skin on the opposite side, the retrieved bullet retaining



Federal Premium is offering some of the best hunting bullets in its factory-loaded ammunition.

65 per cent of its original weight and mushrooming perfectly. Since the introduction of this bullet I've successfully harvested a vast array of medium to large-sized animals and have always been happy with the AccuBond's performance.

The AccuBond bullets loaded in this new Federal Premium ammunition come with a white-coloured polymer tip, a feature which helps encourage quicker bullet expansion upon impact and increases the ballistic coefficient value. It's a boat-tail design with tapered copper jacket that's thicker at the base and thinner as it approaches the tip.

The AccuBond Federal Premium ammunition is currently available in 15 calibres and 17 loads (three of which are in 30-06) and those cartridges include many standard hunting calibres as well as five magnums.

The way I see it

There are clear advantages in handloading your own cartridges but when it comes to high-quality factory-loaded ammunition, you may find the new Federal Premium line-up hard to beat. Whether you're after an Asian water buffalo pushing a ton in weight, or a bull red stag of lesser weight but with an



There's no jacket shed with the total copper construction of Barnes TSX bullets.

Berger's Hybrid Hunter is more traditional with a lead core and copper jacket.

The heavier rear of AccuBond's jacket helps ensure better mushrooming.

equal amount of stamina and bullet resistant endurance, the bullets now being offered in this premium hunting line of ammunition are sure to see the job done.

With this ammunition being new to the market I've only had the chance to test it on my firing range, but when the chance presents itself it will be accompanying me on future hunting trips. ●

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Variable Phone Adapter

SWAROVSKI OPTIK VARIABLE PHONE ADAPTER (VPA) is compatible with most smartphones on the market. The adapter quickly and easily connects SWAROVSKI OPTIK spotting scopes or binoculars with your phone to create a super telephoto lens, allowing you to capture detailed close-ups.

Attaching the VPA is incredibly easy. Use the clamps to adjust the width and height of the adapter to the size of your smartphone and the position of the camera attach the correct adapter ring to the corresponding eyepiece cup in the screwed-in position. No special tools are needed. The anthracite-coloured adapter is light yet rugged thanks to the use of fiberglass-reinforced plastic.

For more information visit www.swarovskioptik.com

See them at the SSAA SHOT Expo, Melbourne Oct 19,20



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