



Norma Varmint fodder, join us as we check out a cross section of one of the big names in ammunition manufacture

Red hot Swedish...

No not that, you sick puppies, but a cross section of Norma Varmint ammo, probably some of the best ammunition in the world!

Pete Moore investigates

Norma ammunition is rated as some of the best you can buy, though over the years this brand seems to have eluded the magazine to a great extent. My only brief contact with it was in Sweden about six years ago where it's manufactured and where I went moose hunting and one of the guides used a 30-06 Tikka and Norma Oryx soft tip to great effect.

However, thanks to Phil Unwin of Norma importers Ruag Ammotec (UK) Ltd I have finally got some ammo with more to follow. This first lot is classed for Varmints and apart from the usual suspects, 222/223 Rem, 22-250 and 243 Win, it also includes 270 Winchester. To us Brits that might seem a bit on the heavy side, but in the USA loads like this

using a 110-grain ballistic tip are popular, as they shoot flat and can carry speed/energy well down range. Ideal, I would imagine, for those long range critters?

It's a Goodun'

With this their Varmint range, Norma only uses Hornady V-MAX bullets, which makes sense to me as they are both popular and effective in factory loadings and also for reloading. So this is what I got:

- 222 Rem, 40-grain
- 223 Rem, 40 and 50-grain
- 22-250 Rem, 50-grain
- 243 Win, 58-grain
- 270 Win, 110-grain

For the UK shooter, probably the most relevant are the middle three, as the good old 222 is not perhaps as popular as it was, though in my opinion it's still an excellent cartridge. And the 270 is not really considered as a varmint round, though one might imagine that for longer ranges or where wind is a problem, the extra grunt will be an advantage.

Test criteria followed my usual format; the load is chronographed for an average velocity and then a number of rounds are disassembled to gauge the consistency of components. Accuracy testing is a little academic as it depends on what rifle it's fired through and the ability of the shooter. As it was I had a custom 223 and 243, heavy barrel, floated, synthetic bedding and trigger job, but the 222, 22-250 and 270 were borrows and of a standard factory build. Suffice to say both the 223 and 243 were printing 1/2" at 100 yards, so we can safely assume that the rest would be doing the same, given a sympathetic rifle.



222 Remington; not as popular as it was but still an excellent cartridge and its light recoil and low signature make it a good choice for moderation

222 Remington (40-grain)

Average velocity	3397 fps
Energy	1024 ft/lbs
Extreme spread	17 fps
Powder	22.1-grains
Bullet	40.3-grains
Price	£80.75



The 40-grain 223 Remington is a real flat shooter that offers a bit more performance over the old 222

223 Remington (40-grain)

Average velocity	3658 fps
Energy	1188 ft/lbs
Extreme spread	23 fps
Powder	25.5-grains
Bullet	40.3-grains
Price	£74