

AMMO101 | PISTOL



HOW IT WORKS

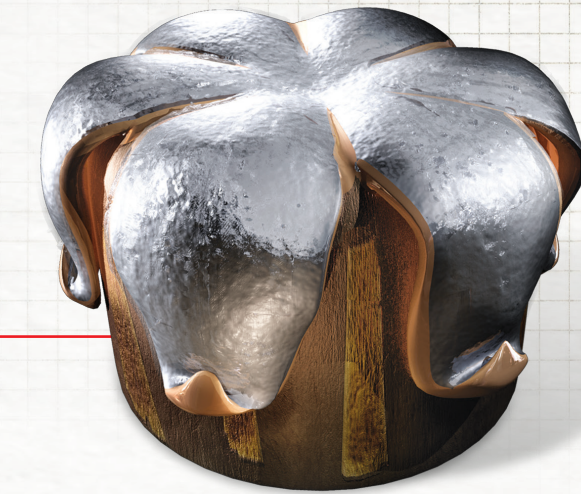
- 1** As the trigger is pulled, the primer is struck, creating a spark that ignites the powder.
- 2** Gas converted from the burning powder rapidly expands in the cartridge, forcing the bullet out of the cartridge and down the barrel.
- 3** The rifling in the barrel causes the bullet to spin as it exits the barrel and travels downrange.

THE POWDER

Smokeless powder is a type of propellant that burns cleaner and more consistently, resulting in less fouling in the barrel.

THE BULLET

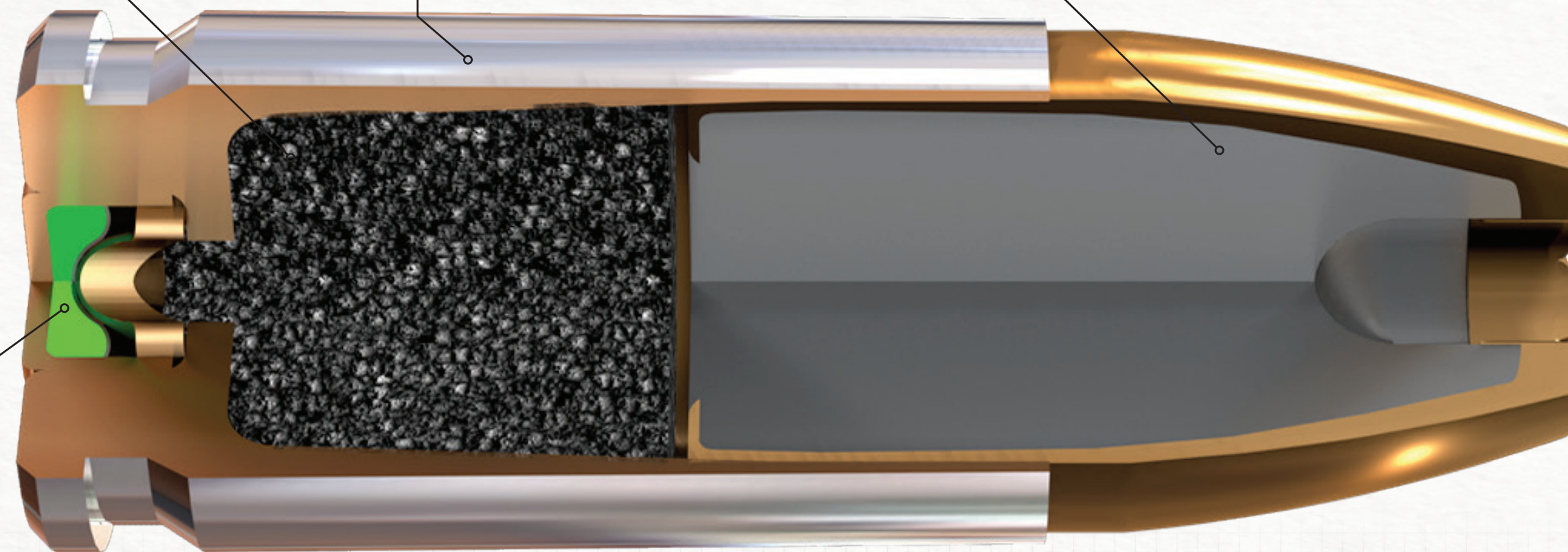
Designed with specific performance in mind, different bullets can produce varying degrees of expansion, penetration and accuracy. Modern bullets are typically a lead core with a 'jacket' around them made of a harder material like copper or copper alloy to reduce barrel fouling.



A jacketed hollow point bullet after impact. Notice the petals that form upon expansion.

THE SHELLCASE

The shellcase holds all the components together and is most commonly made of brass or steel. This illustration shows a nickel plated shellcase.



THE PRIMER

The primer is responsible for igniting the powder - a high quality primer ensures reliability and consistency shot after shot.

COMMON USES



PERSONAL DEFENSE

Increasingly, handgun owners are buying ammunition with special technology, specifically designed for personal defense.



TARGET SHOOTING

High-volume shooting competitions and indoor ranges allow the shooter hours of enjoyment and practice.



HUNTING

While not as commonly used as rifle or shotgun ammo, handgun offerings with special technology in larger calibers allow hunters to enjoy the added challenge of pursuing game with a handgun.*

CALIBERS

Handgun calibers are determined by the inside diameter of the barrel they're shot from. These sizes range from as small as .22 to as large as .50 caliber. Popular cartridges are .22 LR, .380 Auto, 9 MM, .38 Special, 40 S&W and 45 Auto.*



*Cartridges are not shown in actual size

WHERE TO SHOOT

Ranges are staffed with skilled professionals and instructors who can offer new shooters advice on the basic skills and rules of safe gun handling. If you're looking for a range, search our comprehensive directory to find a location near you. Winchester.com/Where-to-Shoot



*Always consult your local hunting regulations before going afield.