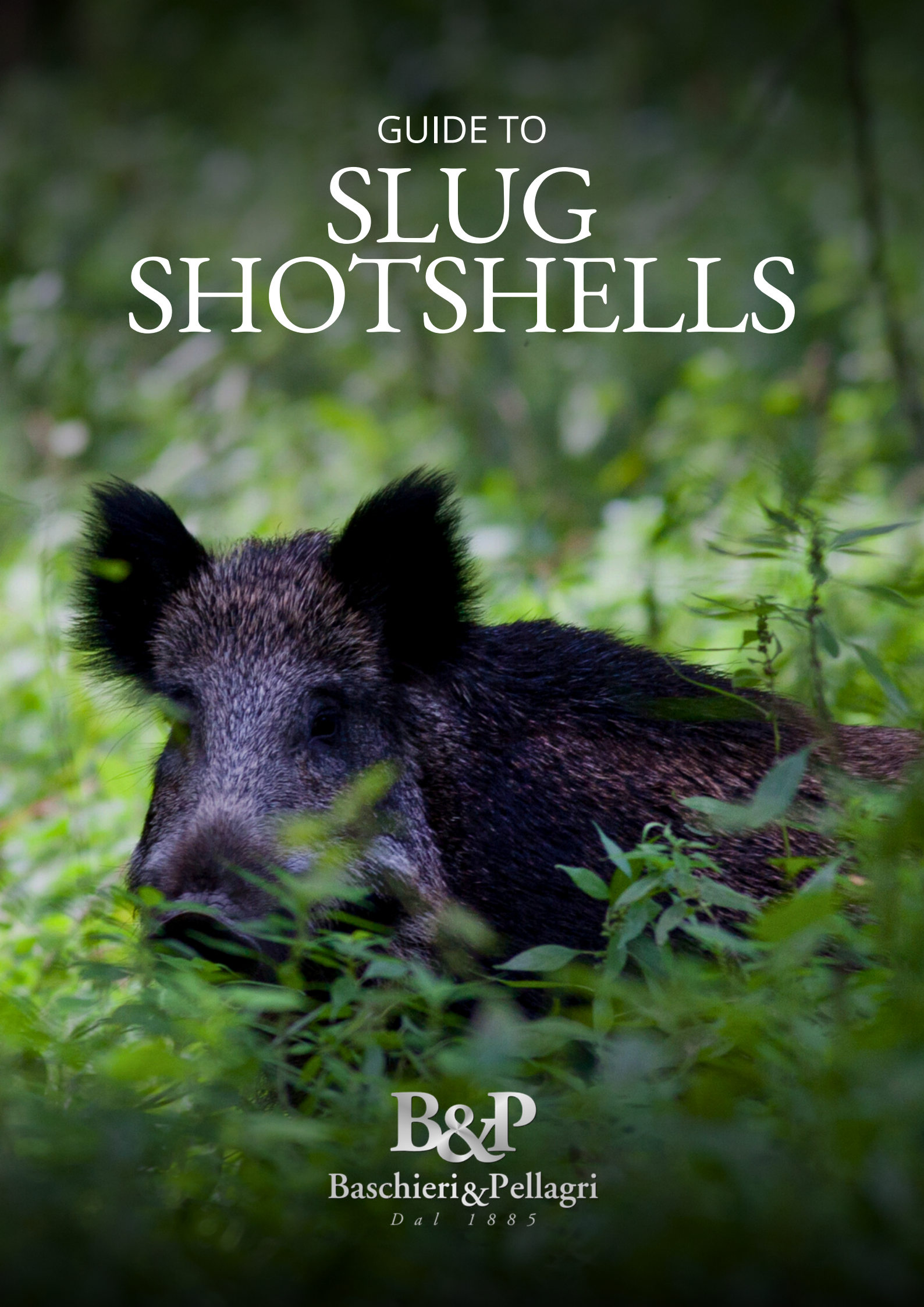
GUIDE TO

SLUG SHOTSHELLS

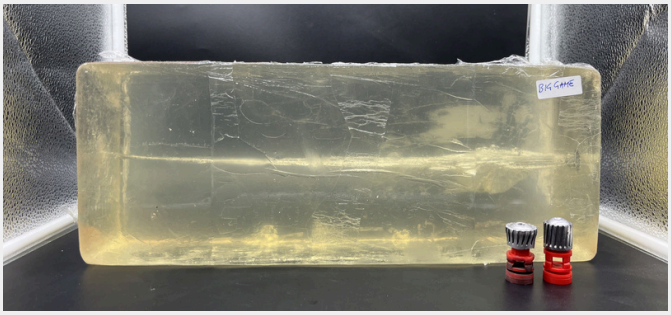


B&P

Baschieri&Pellagri

Dal 1885





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THE BEGINNING

HISTORY OF SLUG SHOTSHELLS

Driven by a constant commitment to quality and innovation, Baschieri & Pellagri has developed a **complete range of slug ammunition for wild boar and large game hunting.** This guide retraces the most significant milestones in the evolution of these products, highlighting a heritage built on performance, innovation, and reliability.

Brenneke Mod. 1930, the beginning.

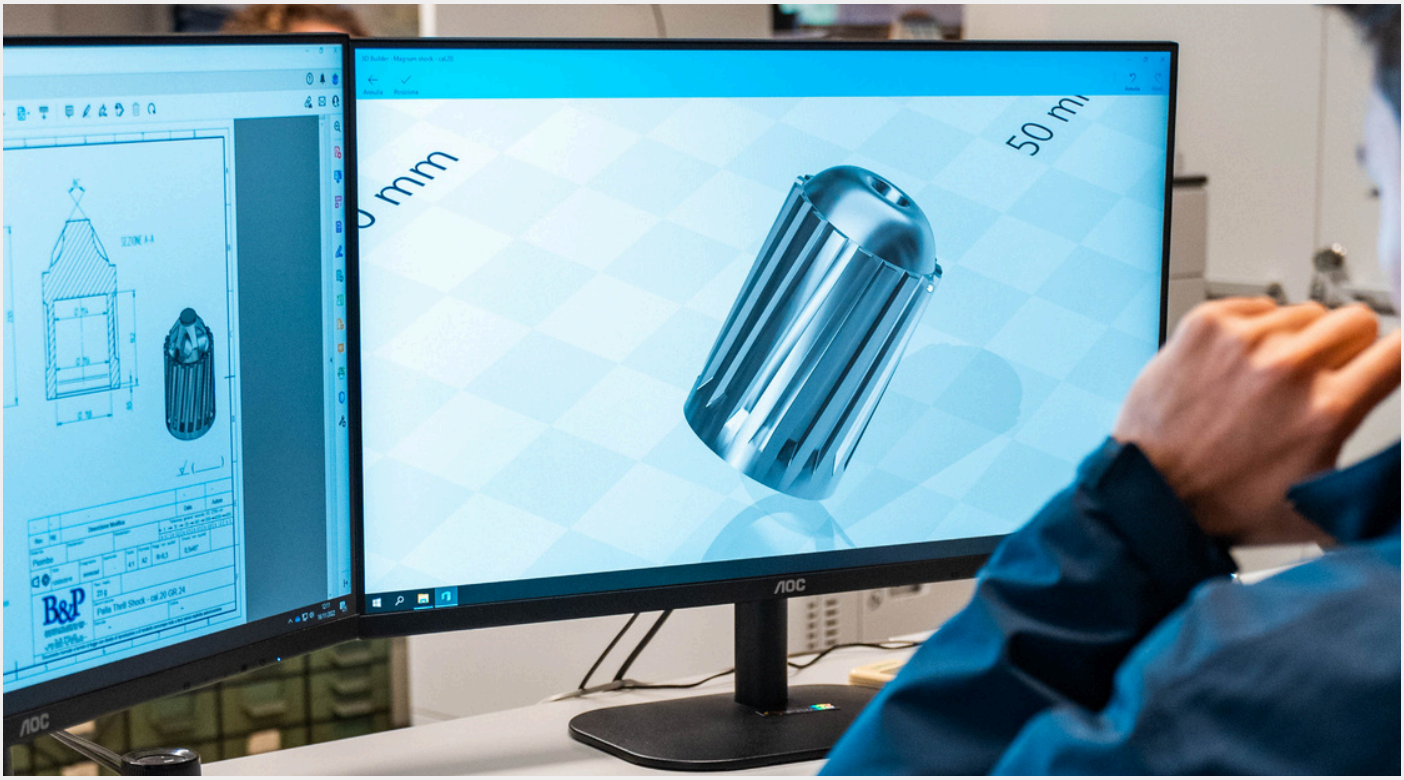
For many decades, the legendary Brenneke Model 1930 was the preferred choice of European hunters. Regarded as **one of the finest shotgun slugs ever developed,** it was the result of German ballistic engineering and offered outstanding accuracy with excellent terminal performance.





The very powerful Stendebach slug.

It was later joined by the Stendebach, a hollow-based slug that offered slightly **lower accuracy but exceptional stopping power.**
Its outstanding terminal effectiveness was due to its instability after impact: as it travelled through the target, it tumbled, producing severe and immediately incapacitating wound channels.



THE ARRIVAL OF B&P

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INSPIRED BY HUNTERS

Over the years, Baschieri & Pellagri has progressively evolved its slug designs, developing modern projectiles that combine the strengths of the two historic European slugs. This led to the **introduction of the Cervo slug,** originally designed in-house, followed by the adoption of the Gualandi Projectile Wad.
From the 1990s onwards, the rapid growth of wild boar populations across Italy attracted an increasing number of hunters to slug hunting.

As slug hunting grew in popularity, so did the demand for high-performance slug ammunition.
In response, B&P invested heavily in R&D, launching a project to create an entirely new family of proprietary slug shotshells: **the BIG GAME line.** Developed entirely in-house, this range was designed to deliver outstanding ballistic performance, combining excellent accuracy, high stopping power and exceptional shot stability, even in dense woodland and heavy cover.

2004: THE PALLA B&P IS BORN

The first product in the BIG GAME range, the Palla B&P, was introduced in 2004. Since then, the range has expanded to offer a comprehensive selection of slug shotshells designed to meet every hunting and ballistic requirement. Today, **the BIG GAME line includes 8 different 12-gauge slugs,** each engineered to deliver a specific terminal ballistic performance through controlled energy transfer and optimized penetration.
The range is completed by two additional 20-gauge loads, as well as one load each in 16, 28 and .410 gauge.

The BIG GAME range starts with the lightweight, ultra-fast **White Blackout slug,** engineered to deliver its 3532 joules of energy with devastating efficiency, maximizing hydrostatic shock for immediate stopping power on wild boar.

At the opposite end of the range is the heavy-duty, deep-penetrating 40 g **Black Shock Magnum,** designed to provide outstanding impact energy and maximum penetration. The range also includes a tin slug, **the Lead Free,** to be used in protected areas where lead is banned.

It is a lightweight 22.5-gram slug with an exceptionally high muzzle velocity of 600 m/s, delivering outstanding stopping power, excellent accuracy and minimal risk of ricochet thanks to its extremely high deformability.

The range also includes **the Black Shock,** a standard-pressure load (740 bar) approved for use in older shotguns that have not been proof-tested for higher operating pressures. The range is completed by slug cartridges in **16, 20, 28 and .410 gauge.** In our opinion, no solution is missing.



The general structure of B&P slugs

Each slug consists of two components: **a plastic wad and a metal projectile.** These are securely joined by a central stem located at the front of the wad, which fits tightly into the hollow base of the lead (or tin) slug. This creates an exceptionally strong bond that often remains intact even after impact with the target.





The wad is the component responsible for stabilizing the slug in a smoothbore shotgun. Unlike a rifled projectile, which is stabilized by spin, a shotgun slug achieves stability through the correct relationship between its centre of gravity and centre of pressure. As the slug travels downrange, aerodynamic drag acting on the rear of the wad keeps it aligned with its flight path, preventing it from tumbling in flight. This ensures excellent stability, outstanding accuracy and reliable point-first impact, even at extended ranges.

The following tests were conducted at the Marano di Castenaso facility (Bologna, Italy) under stable weather conditions, with temperatures ranging from 8°C to 12°C and relative humidity of approximately 67%.

These conditions closely replicate those typically encountered during driven and walk-up wild boar hunts throughout Italy. **The ballistic medium used was BaliGel,** conditioned at 4°C before testing. For each test, the gelatin was arranged in two blocks measuring 40 cm and 51 cm in length.

All shotshells were fired using the same shotgun, fitted with a 65 cm barrel and a modified choke (3-star).

The simulated **shooting distance was set at 25 metres**, representing the most common engagement distance in wild boar hunting in the woods. Maintaining identical test conditions for every shotshell ensures a realistic comparison of each load's external and terminal ballistic performance, providing reliable data to support an informed choice.







BIG GAME

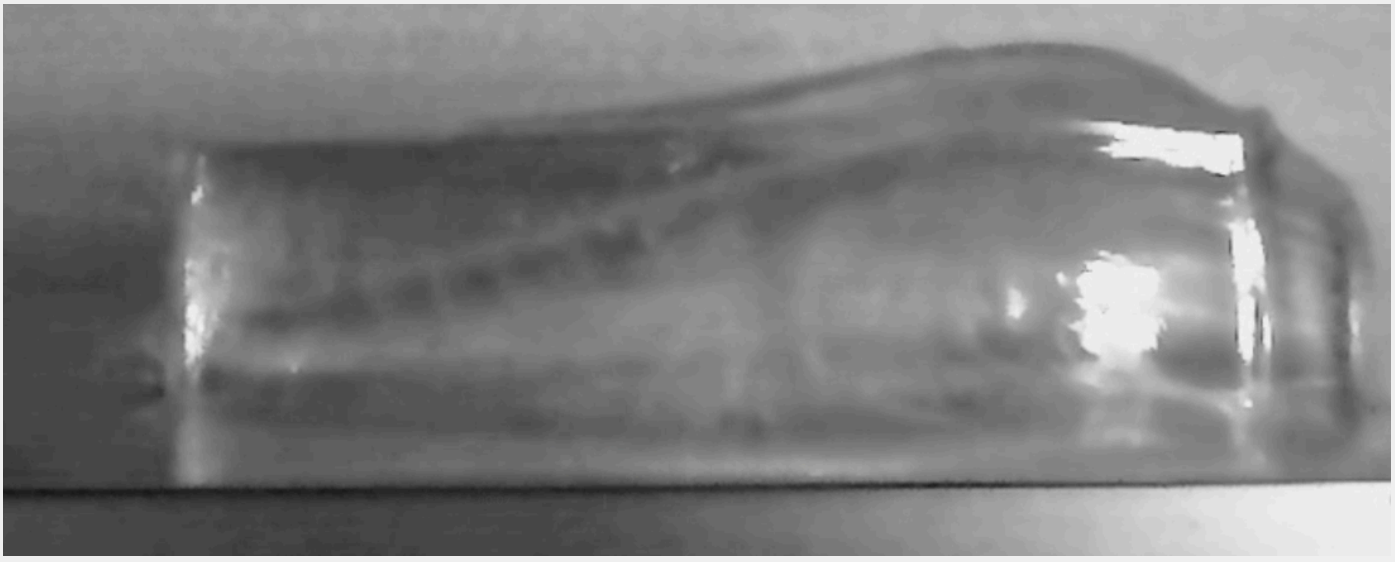
PALLA B&P

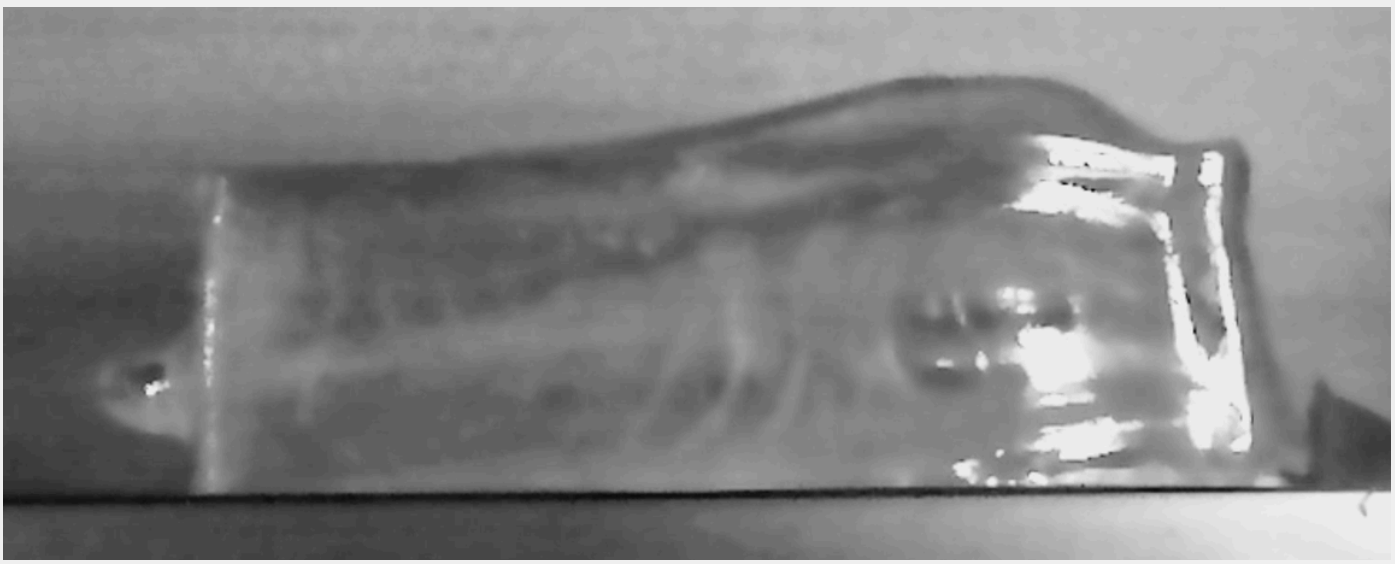
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

WEIGHT 1 ⅛ OZ
CASE 12 2 ¾ INCH | T4 GORDON
VELOCITY 1542 FPS (V1)
MUZZLE ENERGY 3532 JOULE
HOMOLOGATION HP PSF**

This is a traditional slug featuring a hollow, finned lead body fitted with a gas-sealing wad at the rear to ensure an effective gas seal. **Versatile and inherently stable,** its rounded nose profile allows it to pass through vegetation with minimal deflection. The slug's nose design promotes extremely **rapid energy transfer on impact,** delivering outstanding stopping power and immediate incapacitation of the animal.

An iconic lead slug that weighs 1 ⅛ oz and shares the same core design as the Thrill Shock. It achieves a muzzle velocity of 1542 fps and delivers approximately **3532 joules of energy.** Its finned lead body features a rounded nose with a small hollow point, providing two key advantages: excellent stability when passing through dense undergrowth, minimizing deflection, and immediate, highly effective energy transfer on impact. This is clearly demonstrated during ballistic gelatin testing by the pronounced temporary cavity formed in the initial section of the gelatin block. **Penetration is excellent,** although slightly less than that of the Thrill Shock described in the following section. Thanks to its **rapid and reliable stopping power,** even on large wild boar, this slug is particularly well suited to driven hunts and is widely favoured by dog handlers, helping to reduce the risk posed to hunting dogs by wounded game.







BIG GAME

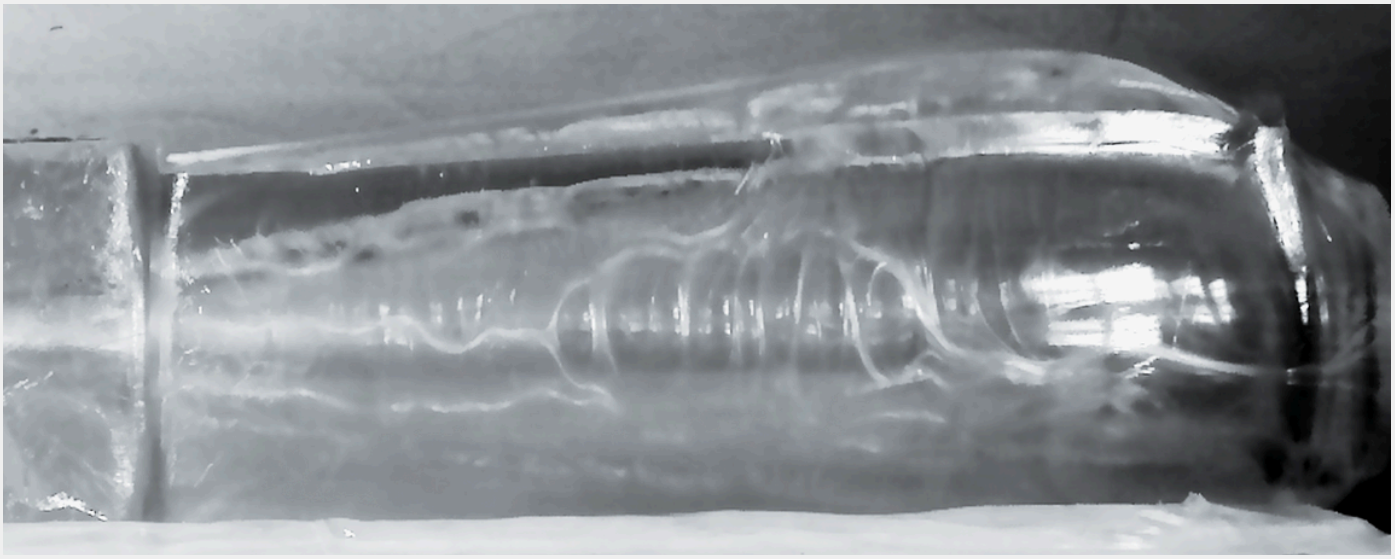
THRILL SHOCK

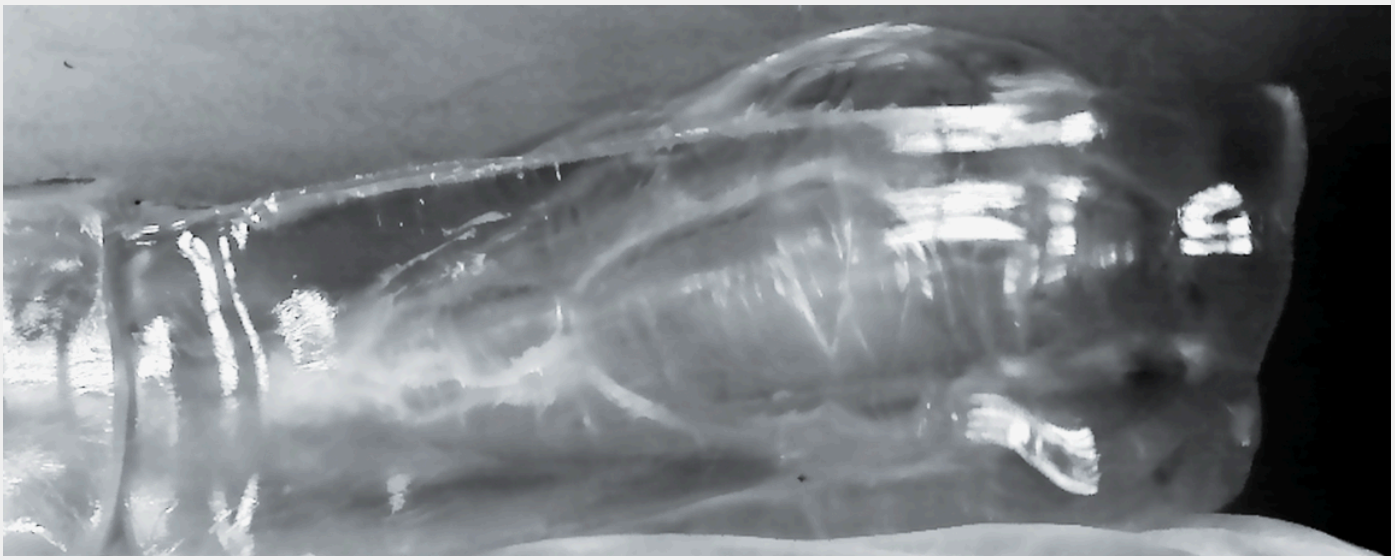
One of Baschieri & Pellagri's most iconic and widely used slugs, it weighs 1 ⅛ oz and features a red wad securely connected to the lead projectile by a central stem.
The projectile consists of a cylindrical body with 18 angled fins and a truncated conical nose incorporating six weight-relief cavities. The nose ends in a flat circular tip, approximately 6 mm in diameter, which provides a stable surface during shotshell crimping.

TECHNICAL FEATURES

WEIGHT 1 ⅛ OZ
CASE 12 2 ¾ INCH | T4 GORDON
VELOCITY 1640 FPS (V1)
ENERGY 4002 JOULE
HOMOLOGATION HP PSF**

This highly accurate and powerful slug achieves a muzzle velocity of approximately 1640 fps and delivers around **4002 joules of muzzle energy.** It offers excellent penetration, while its controlled deformation promotes progressive energy transfer during penetration. Effective even on large game, it maintains outstanding accuracy at **distances of up to 75–80 metres**, making it an excellent choice for hunting within, and even slightly beyond, this range. When fired at an elevation angle of approximately 25° the slug has a maximum range of around 1200 metres. As demonstrated by the ballistic gelatin tests, it penetrates both gelatin blocks while transferring energy progressively throughout its wound path. This **controlled yet powerful energy transfer,** combined with deep penetration, produces exceptional terminal performance and outstanding stopping power on large game.







BIG GAME

WHITE BLACKOUT HV

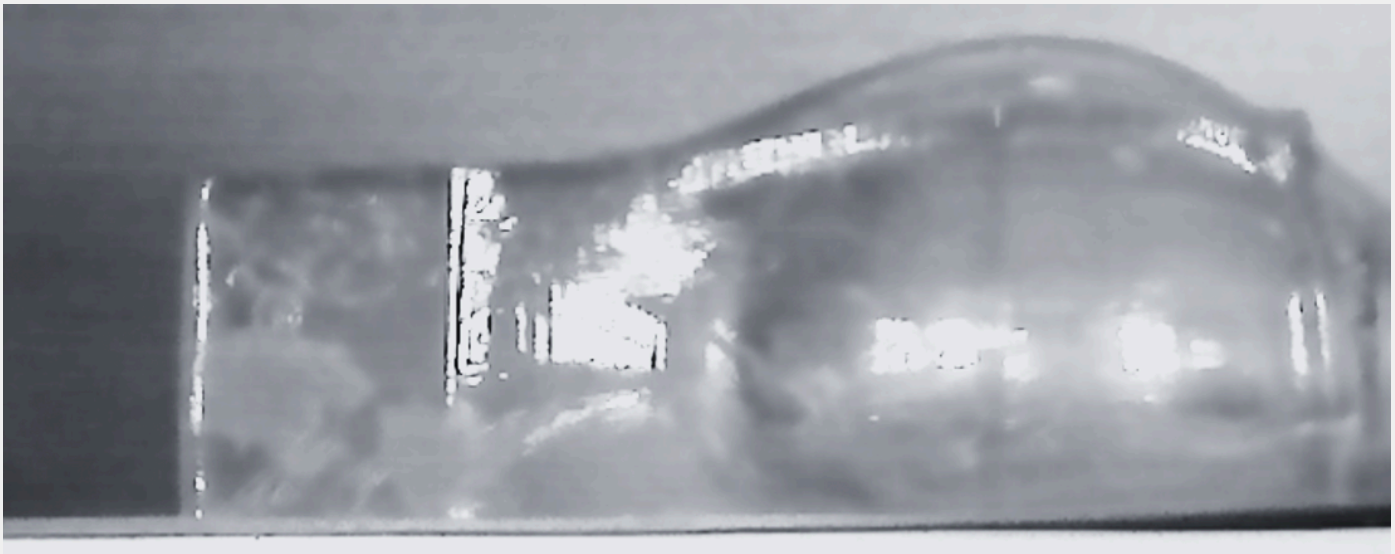
TECHNICAL FEATURES

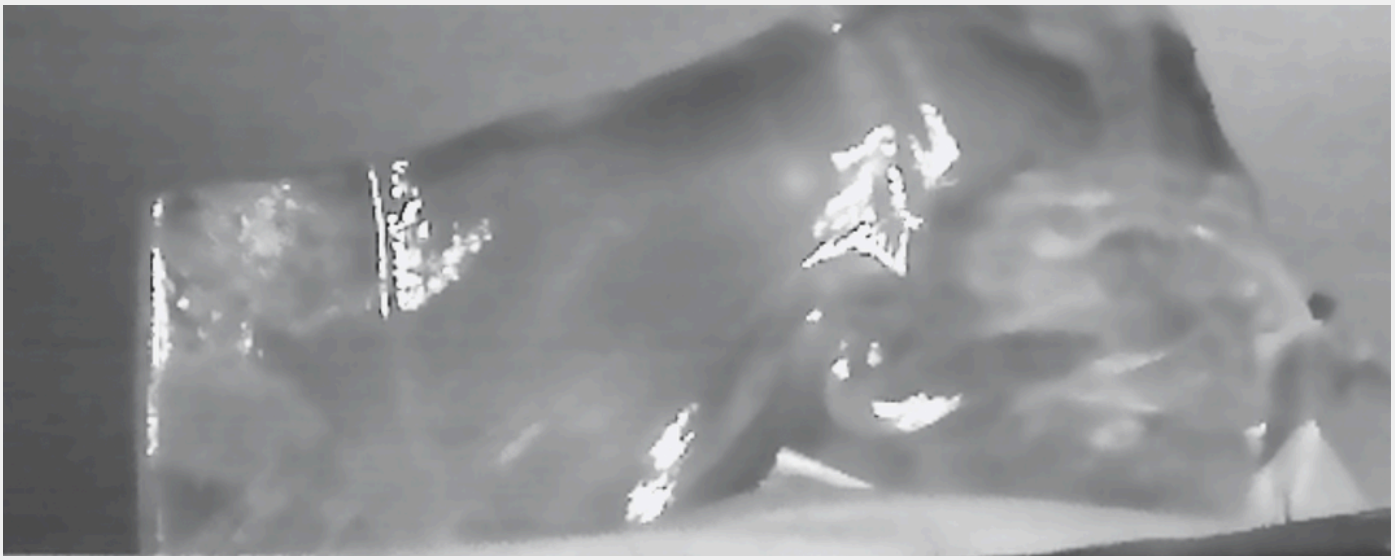
WEIGHT 1 OZ
CASE 12 2 ¾ INCH | T4 GORDON
VELOCITY 1870 FPS (V1)
ENERGY 4552 JOULE
HOMOLOGATION HP PSF**

This 1 oz lead slug features a hollow, finned lead body with a small hollow point designed to initiate controlled deformation and, in many cases, fragmentation due to its extremely high impact velocity. The ogive is coated with a distinctive **white low-friction finish**, making the slug instantly recognizable.

Lightweight and exceptionally fast, this slug was engineered to maximize impact energy and achieve **extremely rapid energy transfer** for immediate stopping power. It reaches a muzzle velocity of approximately 1870 fps and delivers around **4552 joules of muzzle energy.** Upon impact, its controlled fragmentation produces an intense and wide distribution of energy, clearly demonstrated in ballistic gelatin by the large temporary cavity formed in the initial section of the block.

Its greatest strength is its ability to deliver immediate incapacitation of the animal through **exceptional terminal performance** and rapid energy transfer. For this reason, it is particularly **recommended for hunting in dense woodland** and thick cover, where shooting distances are typically very short.







BIG GAME

BLACK SHOCK

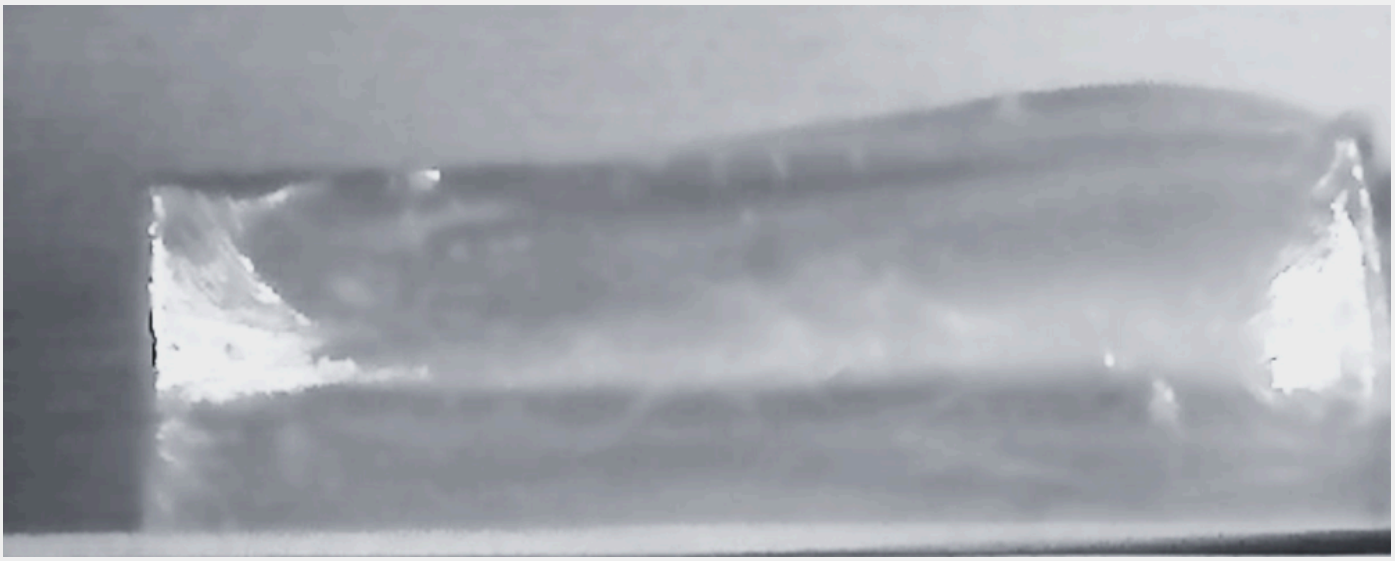
TECHNICAL FEATURES

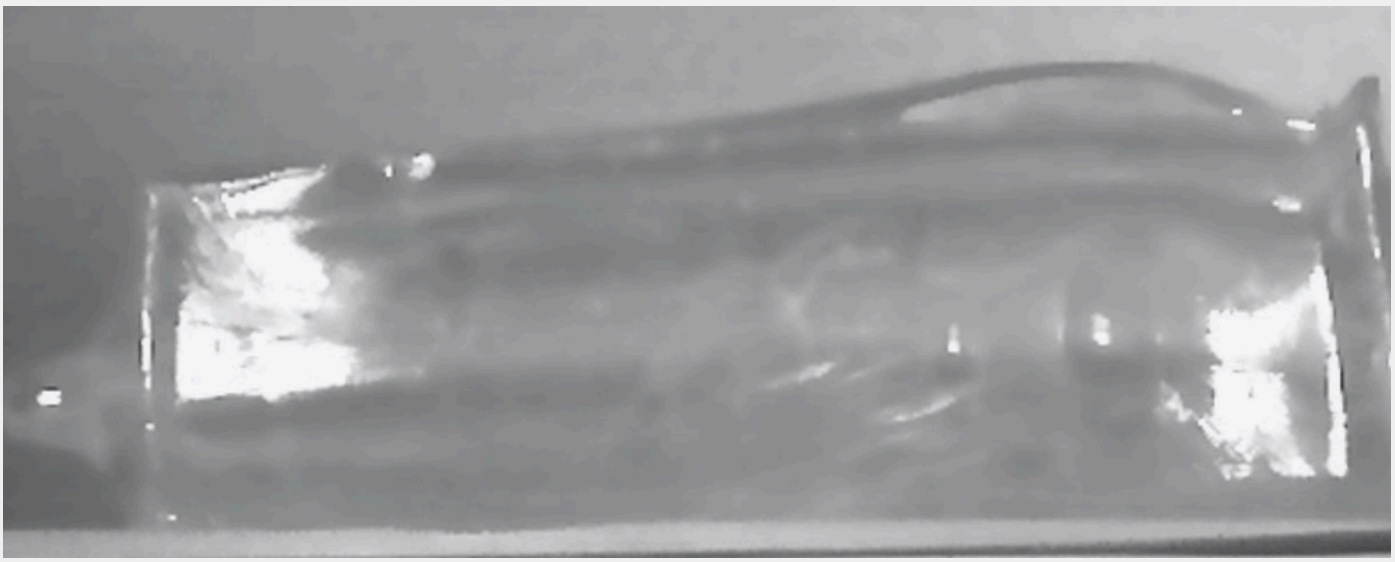
WEIGHT 1 ⅛ OZ
CASE 12 2 ¾ INCH | T4 GORDON
VELOCITY 1492 FPS (V1)
ENERGY 3316 JOULE
HOMOLOGATION ST PSF*

Sharing the same design as the Thrill Shock, this 1 ⅛ oz lead slug features a black gas-sealing wad securely connected to the lead projectile by a central stem. The projectile consists of a cylindrical body with 18 angled fins and a **truncated conical nose** incorporating six weight-relief cavities. It differs from the Thrill Shock only by its black low-friction coating and its deliberately lower muzzle velocity.

These two features were intentionally designed to make this slug suitable for running boar competitions as well as hunting. The black low-friction coating minimizes lead fouling in the barrel, helping to maintain consistent accuracy even during the extended shot strings typical of competitive shooting. Weighing 1 ⅛ oz, it delivers approximately **3316 joules of energy,** combining controlled energy transfer with deep penetration. Despite its competition-oriented design, it also performs **exceptionally well in hunting applications.**

This shotshell is loaded to **standard pressure** and is therefore suitable for use in shotguns proof-tested to standard C.I.P. specifications (PSF*), including many older firearms, provided they are in good mechanical condition.







BIG GAME

BLACK SHOCK MAGNUM

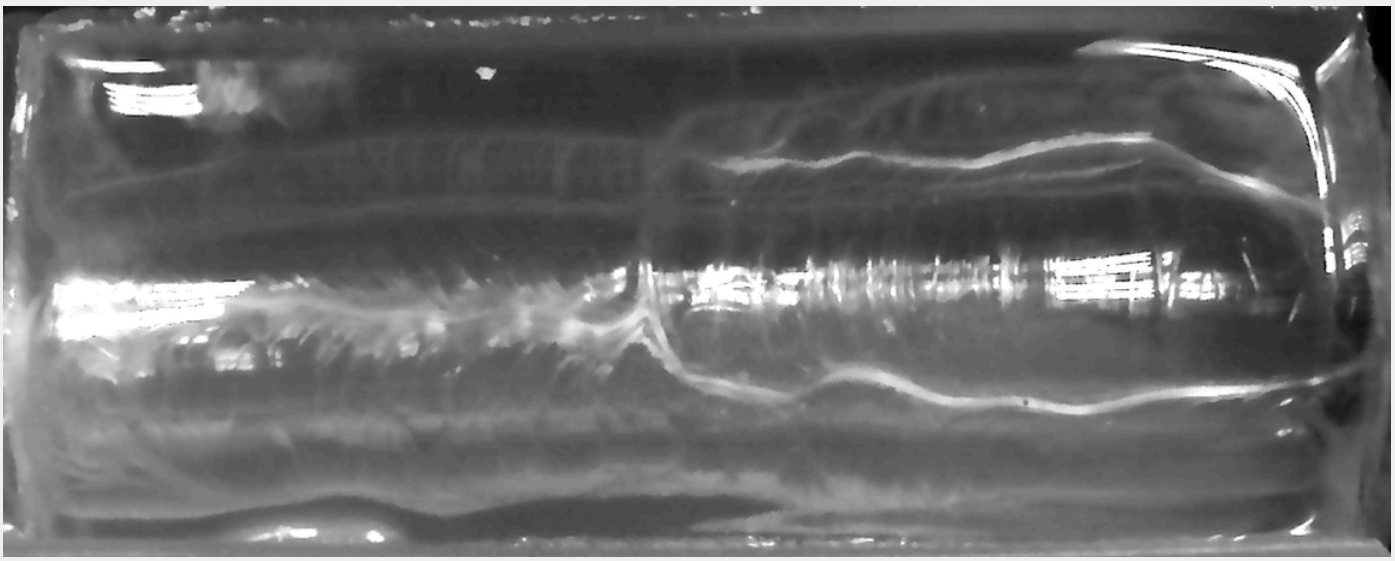
TECHNICAL FEATURES

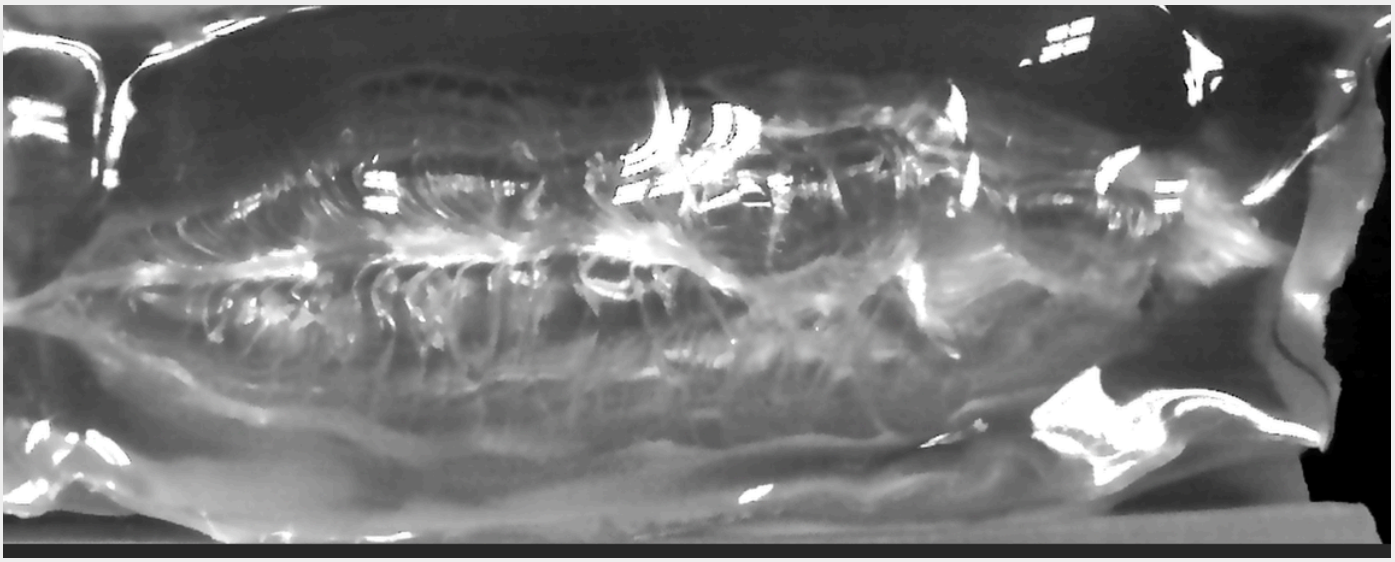
WEIGHT 1 2/5 OZ
CASE 12 3 INCH | T4 GORDON
VELOCITY 1509 FPS (V1)
ENERGY 4228 JOULE
HOMOLOGATION HP PSF**

The heaviest and longest slug in the BIG GAME range, it shares the same design as its 1 ⅛ oz counterpart and features the same black low-friction coating. Weighing 1 2/5 oz and achieving a muzzle velocity of 1509 fps, this 12 3 inch Magnum load is **specifically engineered to maximize penetration,** making it the ideal choice for the largest and toughest game.

Its **exceptional penetrating capability** is clearly demonstrated in ballistic gelatin, where the slug passes through the first block with only limited deformation. Designed for the largest and toughest game, it delivers deep, highly effective wound channels and **outstanding stopping power.**

Its high sectional density also provides excellent performance against heavy bone while maintaining a stable trajectory through dense vegetation. During ballistic gelatin testing, it achieved the deepest penetration of any B&P slug tested, producing a consistent wound path throughout the full length of both BaliGel blocks. The black low-friction coating minimizes barrel fouling, helping to maintain **consistent accuracy even during extended shot strings.**







BIG GAME

HYPER SHOCK

TECHNICAL FEATURES

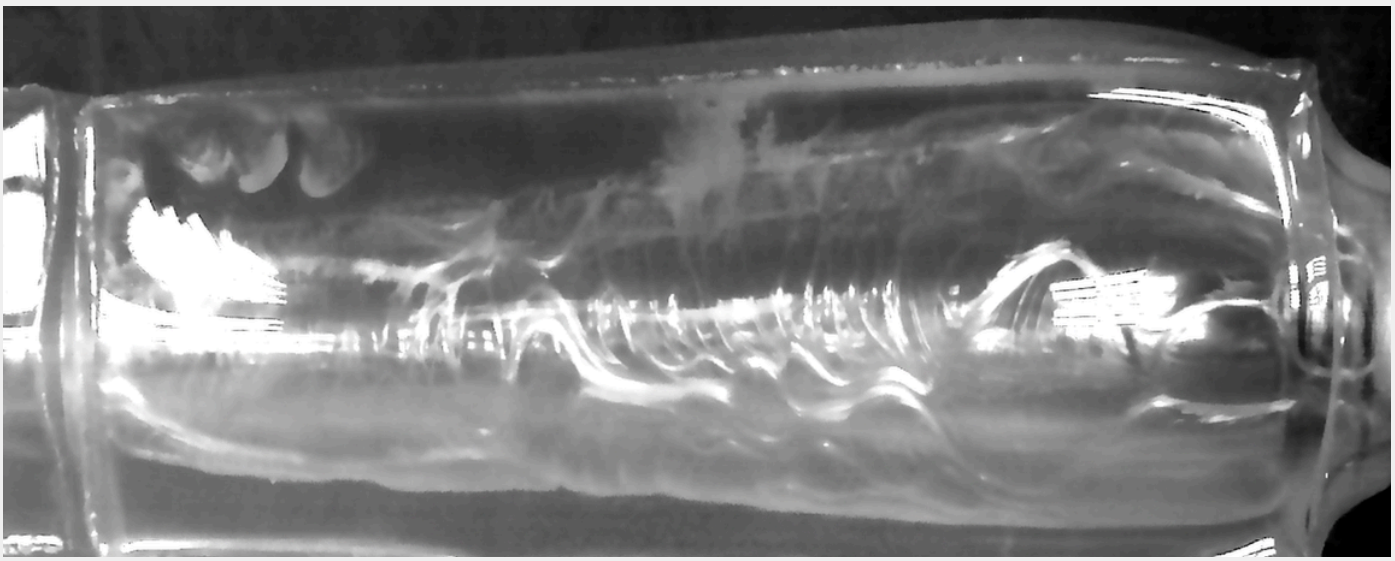
WEIGHT 1 ¼ OZ
CASE 12 | 2 ¾ INCH | T4 GORDON
VELOCITY 1558 FPS (V1)
ENERGY 3953 JOULE
HOMOLOGATION HP PSF**

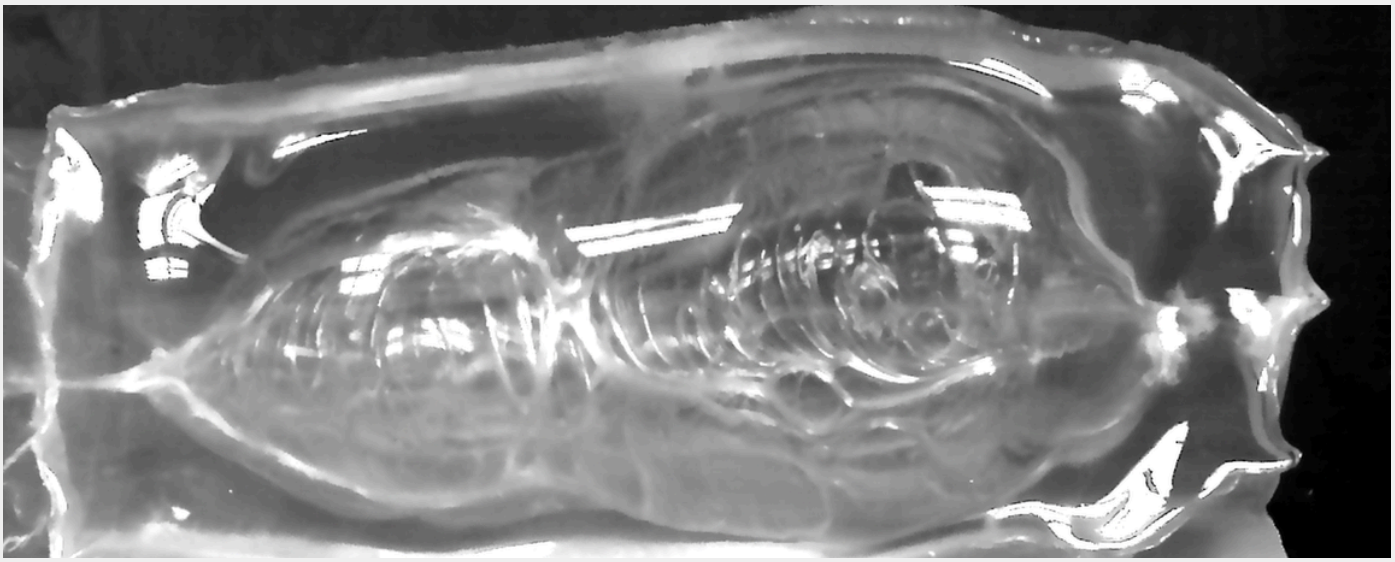
One of the latest additions to the B&P BIG GAME range, this 1 ¼ oz slug is **engineered for the largest and toughest game.** Its robust construction and thick frontal section provide excellent structural integrity and deep penetration. The slug features a low-friction coating and is propelled at 1558 fps, delivering approximately 3953 joules of muzzle energy for outstanding terminal performance.

Its expansion in ballistic gelatin is particularly impressive. The Hyper Shock combines **exceptional penetration with powerful** yet progressive energy transfer, producing both a large temporary cavity and deep terminal effect.

Its outstanding terminal performance makes it an excellent choice, not only for wild boar, but also for large, tough game species. It was specifically developed for the **most demanding hunting situations,** where deep penetration and maximum energy transfer are essential.

In addition to its hunting applications, the Hyper Shock is suitable for protection against dangerous wildlife where local laws permit. Its combination of deep penetration, structural integrity and stopping power makes it **effective for use against large predators,** including bears and certain big cats.







BIG GAME

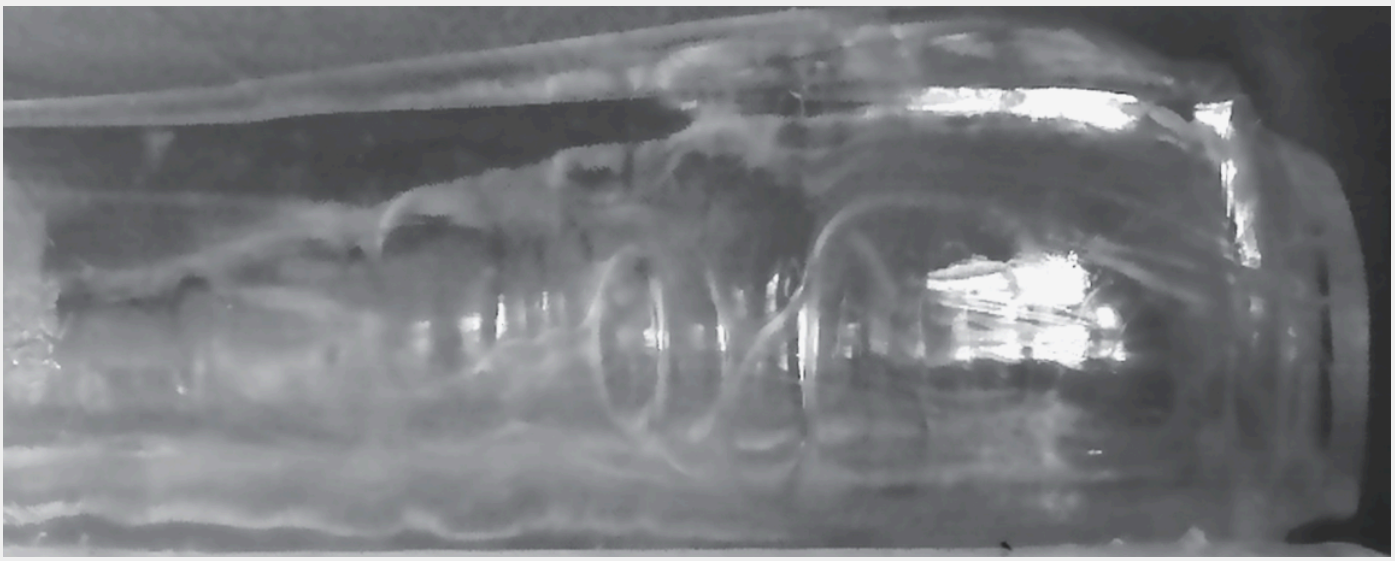
RED SHOCK

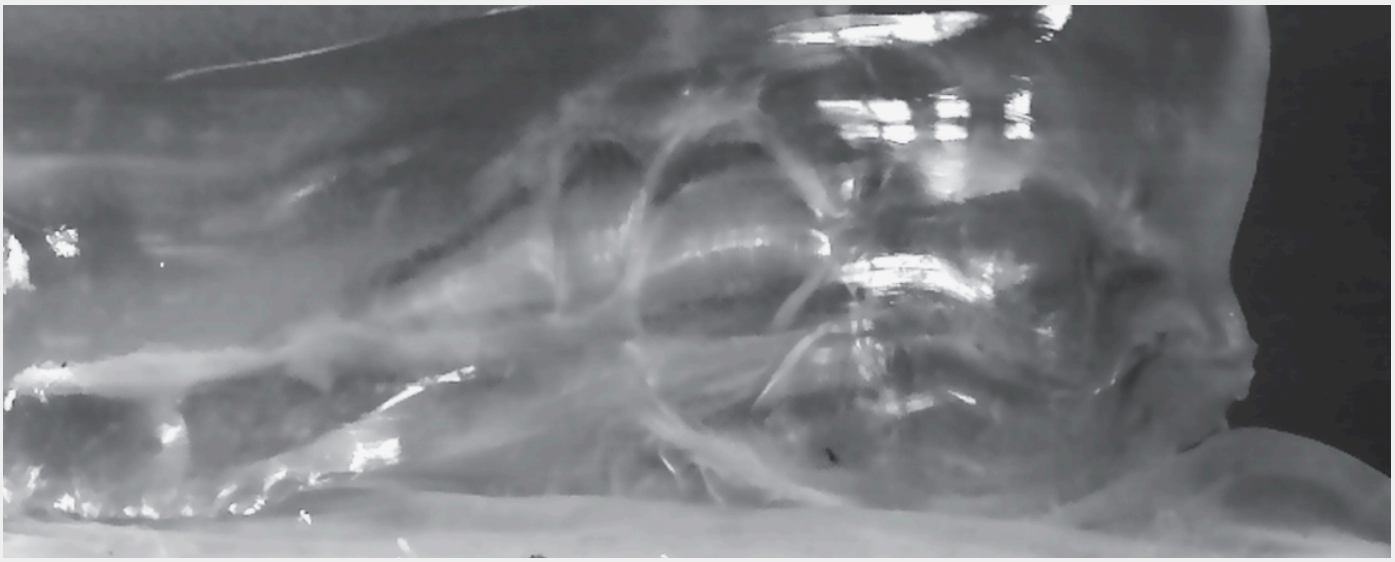
TECHNICAL FEATURES

WEIGHT 1 ¼ OZ
CASE 12 | 2 ¾ INCH | T4 GORDON
VELOCITY 1509 FPS (V1)
ENERGY 3757 JOULE
HOMOLOGATION HP PSF**

This heavy, solidly constructed 35.5 g lead slug is propelled at 1509 fps, delivering just under 3757 joules of muzzle energy.
It features a distinctive red low-friction coating, from which it takes its name, helping to minimize barrel fouling and maintain consistent performance.
Its short, rounded nose profile, more pronounced than that of the B&P Slug, promotes **rapid energy transfer on impact,** delivering excellent stopping power.

Its overall design is similar to that of the B&P Slug, making it particularly **well suited to hunting in dense woodland** and thick cover. Despite its rapid initial energy transfer, it still provides deep penetration, making it highly effective on large and tough game.
Ballistic gelatin testing reveals a terminal performance profile comparable to that of the B&P Slug, with a similarly sized temporary cavity relative to projectile mass. The Red Shock combines **rapid energy transfer with deep penetration,** delivering excellent stopping power.
Its balanced ballistic performance makes it an ideal choice for hunting in Italian woodland and moderately dense cover, where encounters with large,
heavy-bodied game are possible.







BIG GAME

LEAD FREE

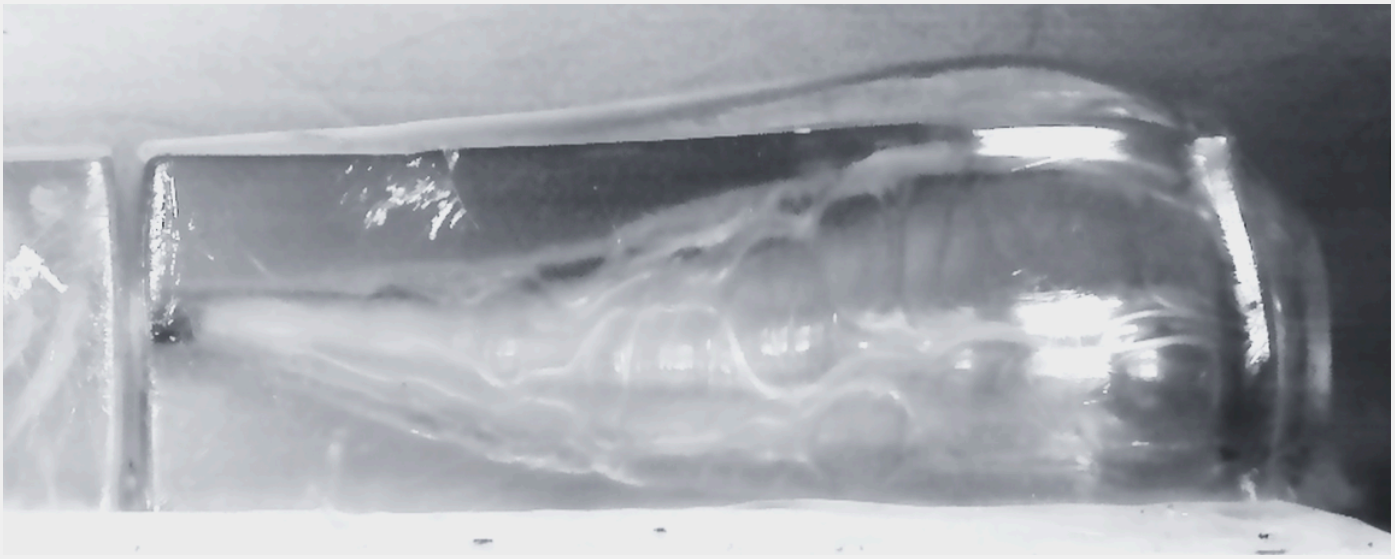
This lead-free slug is manufactured from a tin alloy, whose lower density results in a lightweight 4/5 oz projectile. Propelled at 1968 fps, it delivers approximately 4052 joules of muzzle energy despite its low weight.

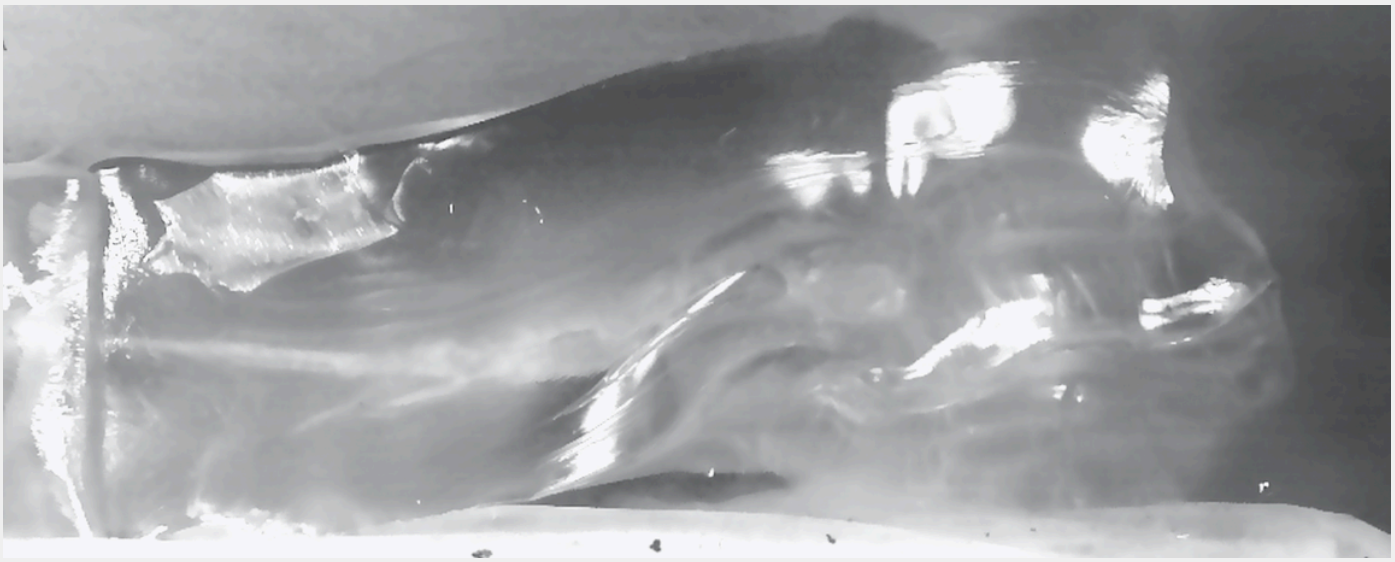
It was specifically developed for use in areas **where lead ammunition is prohibited**.

TECHNICAL FEATURES

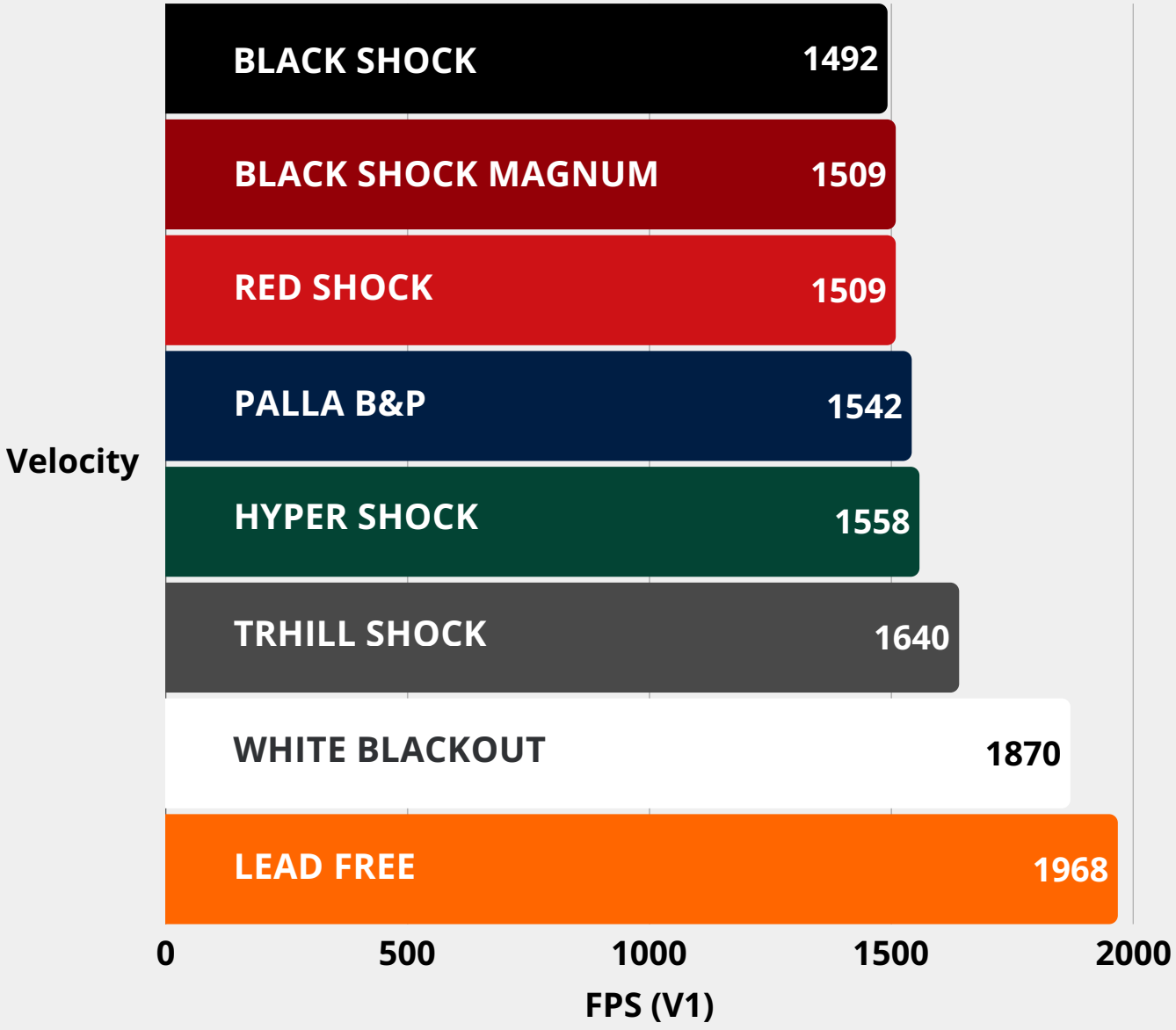
WEIGHT 4/5 OZ
CASE 12 | 2 ¾ INCH | T4 GORDON
VELOCITY 1968 FPS (V1)
ENERGY 4052 JOULE
HOMOLOGATION HP PSF**

This slug was specifically developed for hunting in areas where the use of lead ammunition is prohibited.
Its **exceptionally high impact velocity** delivers outstanding terminal performance, producing effects more comparable to those of a rifle bullet than a traditional shotgun slug. Rapid energy transfer provides excellent stopping power, particularly at short ranges. It is ideally suited for hunting in woodland and dense cover, where short-range shots are the norm. Thanks to its flat trajectory, it remains highly effective at **distances of up to 50–60 metres**.
Ballistic gelatin testing demonstrates huge expansion in the initial section of the block, where the slug transfers virtually all of its kinetic energy.

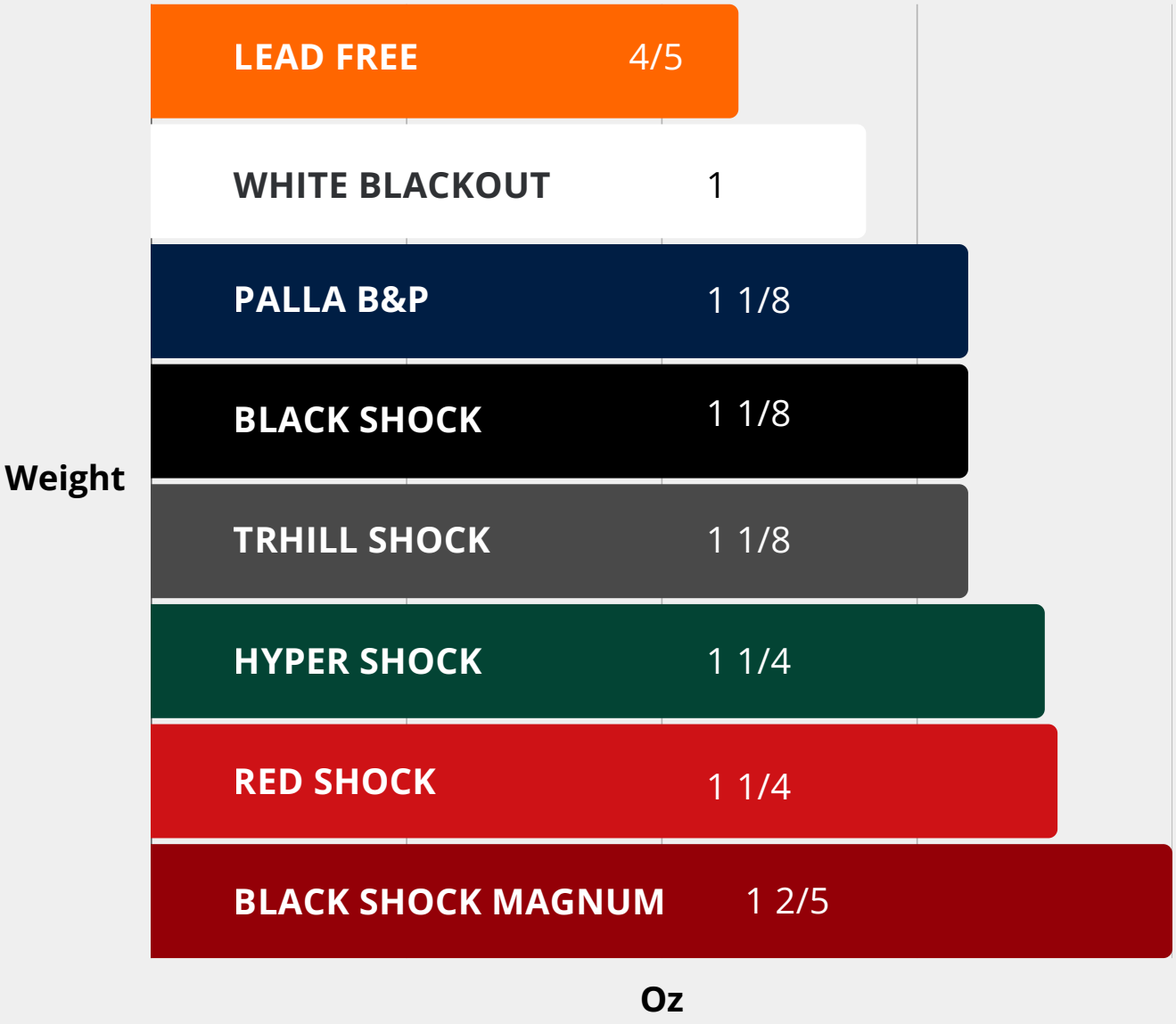




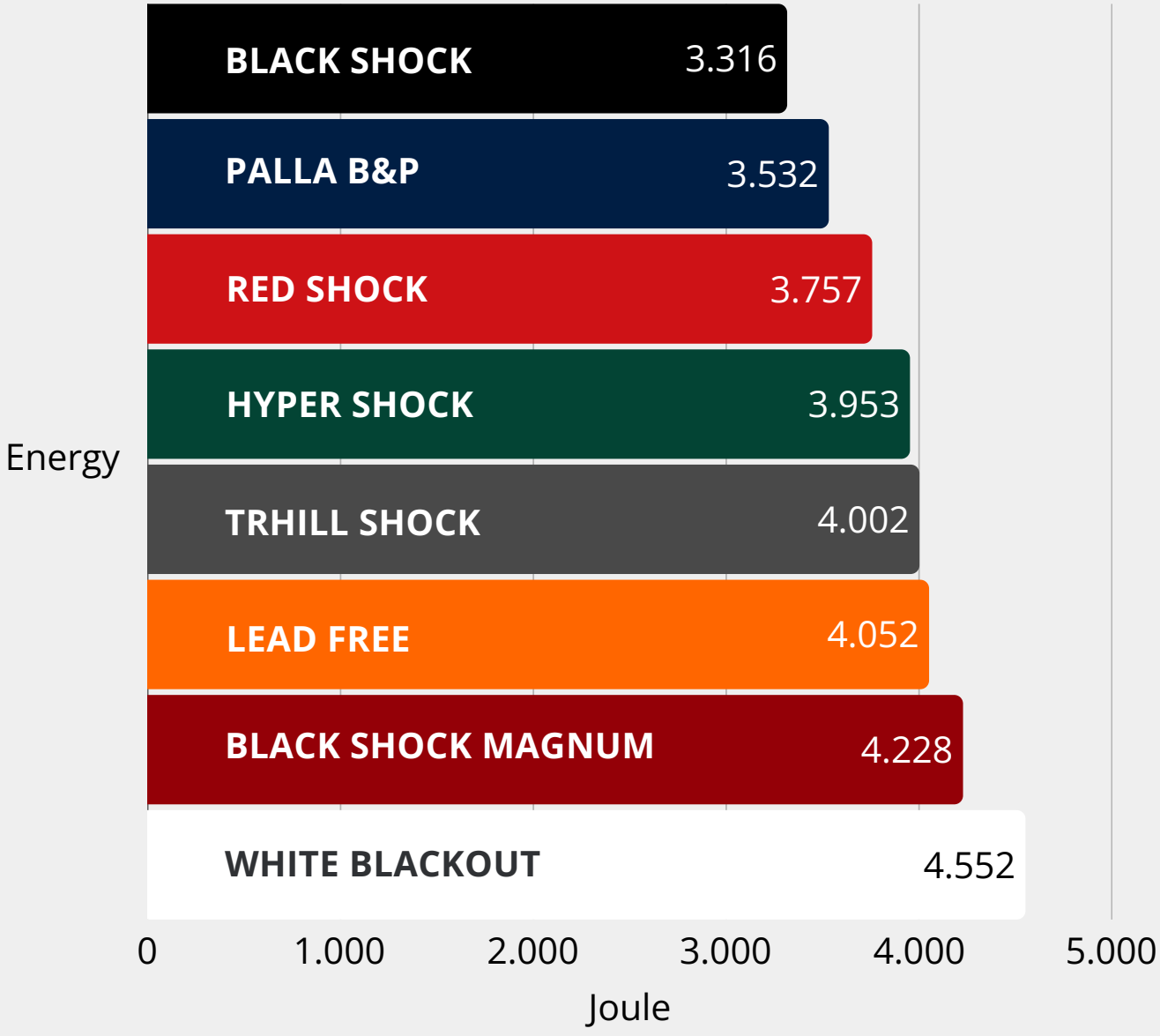
TEST RESULTS IN NUMBERS: THE VELOCITY



TEST RESULTS IN NUMBERS: THE WEIGHT



TEST RESULTS IN NUMBERS: THE ENERGY



After reviewing the test results, one might ask why the BIG GAME range includes as many as eight different slug designs. The answer lies in the wide variety of hunting environments and situations encountered in the field. Differences in vegetation density, open terrain, rocky ground, and the potential risk of ricochets all require slugs with distinct ballistic characteristics. For this reason, **Baschieri & Pellagri has developed a comprehensive range** offering different combinations of deformation, penetration, and energy transfer to suit a variety of hunting conditions and game sizes. During a single driven hunt, for example, hunters may encounter anything from a young wild boar weighing only a few dozen kilograms to an old solitary boar exceeding 150 kg. The range also includes a high-performance lead-free slug, allowing hunters to use smoothbore shotguns effectively in areas where the use of lead ammunition is prohibited, without compromising terminal performance.





CONCLUSIONS

Tests like these are essential for gaining a clear understanding of the characteristics and performance of different slug shotshells. By interpreting the results **in light of your own hunting needs and conditions,** you can make informed decisions and select the most suitable load for your application.
To complete the process, we also recommend pattern testing with your own shotgun. This final step will ensure that your firearm and ammunition work together as an optimized ballistic system, **giving you complete confidence in the field.**



Baschieri & Pellagri

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