

f vou're a reloader it's important to check all fired pistol and rifle cases on a regular basis, not only for cracks and deformed primer pockets, but also the length. Generally, a case length check is done with a set of calipers but an easy way is with the Lyman E-Zee Case Gauge.

Trimming cases is often ignored by handloaders. Brass flows when exposed to high temperature and repeated firings, making it too long to headspace properly when not trimmed back to the correct length.

It's important all cases are the same length as the case mouth must be parallel, so when it enters the resizing die the mouth must pierce the neck sizing constriction at the same bevel for consistent concentricity, important when shooting long distance and especially in benchrest competition.

Another reason is that all bullets must be seated at the same neck section to help accuracy, especially when crimping, while case length must be also be correct for proper head spacing. Proper crimping and consistent bullet seating are impossible when lengths vary from case to case.

I prefer to check my cases after they're resized, because when full length resizing the case is stretched and pushed back into

its original form. This will slightly lengthen it and it may be too long after the neck is pushed and stretched a little during resizing.

The E-Zee Case Gauge makes checking cases quick and simple. The gauge is machined to maximum case lengths as recommended by SAAMI - all you do is place the fired case inside the marked laddered section. If it doesn't fit inside the chosen calibre you need to trim it and don't forget that after trimming cases you must chamfer and deburr the mouths before priming, powering up and seating the bullet.

After trimming the cases check them routinely after every firing - regular trimming is recommended for magnum rifle cases and when using hot loads. There's no hard and fast rule for this but it's something you should be doing at least every three reloads when reloading your own ammunition.

The Lyman E-Zee Case Gauge is a simple and accurate instrument to measure case length for both unfired and fired shells. It offers quick visual checks, making it easy to sort individual cases out that require trimming, and it accurately measures up to 70 different calibres of the most popular cartridges.





The back has more case length

Made from steel plate it measures 125 x 265mm, is fitted with a nail hole and has both metric and imperial measures with white letters highlighted against a black background on both sides. My dealer's price was \$40. More at lymanproducts.com or nioa. com.au •