



Rock Chucker

Supreme Master reloading kit

Con Kapralos

The reloading of metallic cartridges, be it rifle or pistol, is something many shooters and hunters the world over subscribe to. While reloading of shotgun ammunition, at least here in Australia, has waned during the past 10 years, reloading of rifle and pistol ammunition continues to be popular. Whether as a cost-saving exercise or to tailor an exact load to a particular firearm and application, the benefits are obvious with improved accuracy being the main reason for reloading a metallic cartridge.

There are many manufacturers of quality reloading presses and accessories, most of them based in the US and one of the

biggest and most respected is RCBS. Whether you're a serious target shooter or avid hunter striving for accuracy, RCBS has the tools to make your hand-loading easy and trouble-free. Just check their website and you'll realise RCBS take cartridge reloading seriously.

For the new shooter or hunter, getting into reloading metallic cartridges can be daunting. While most new handloaders will have a mentor to guide them, buying the right equipment can be confusing. Thankfully the folks at RCBS took notice of this and have some excellent reloading kits for those new to the game. One of these is the Rock Chucker Supreme Master kit,

which contains the legendary Rock Chucker Supreme reloading press and accessories to make your start to reloading easy.

The kit up close

Nioa, Australian agent and distributor for RCBS, supplied the kit which arrived in a sizeable and hefty box. The Rock Chucker Supreme press itself is made from cast steel for strength and is heavy - it needs to be to perform its task with accuracy, precision and without compromise.

The kit includes the following: Rock Chucker Supreme press, Nosler 8th Edition reloading manual, M500 mechanical reloading scale (0-500 grain capacity),

Rock Chucker Supreme Master reloading kit

Uniflow powder measure, hand priming tool, Universal case loading block, .17-.60 calibre deburring tool, hex key set, case lube kit (includes case neck lube brushes, lube pad, case lube) and powder funnel. All items are high quality as we'd expect from RCBS and in the traditional green colour synonymous with the brand.

Getting started

The kit contains everything you need to get you going but it's strongly recommended those new to reloading read the supplied manual before proceeding. Upon reading this excellent manual it's evident there are several steps in the reloading process which require some additional equipment not supplied with the kit.

Firstly, a method to clean fired cases is highly recommended as this permits easier re-sizing and less wear-and-tear on your sizing die and can be done with either a vibratory/rotary case tumbler or ultrasonic cleaner. RCBS make some excellent units to suit all requirements and budgets.

Secondly, a method of measuring the metallic case (to ascertain case length in several steps) is mandatory and a vernier caliper is a must to accurately do this. Thirdly, a means of trimming re-sized cases is required and RCBS make an excellent version in the Trim Pro 2 Manual Case Trimmer. Don't forget a set of dies for the calibre being loaded and a shell holder for that case is a must.

All items are simple to use with the supplied instruction manuals and it's imperative the press is set up on a solid, vibration-free bench with ample room available to accommodate the accessories you'll need in the various reloading steps.

Having a designated area to perform the reloading process without interference or distraction is a priority and RCBS make an accessory plate which can be screwed to your bench to which the Rock Chucker Press and other equipment (powder



measure stand, case trimmer etc) can be attached for use and removed when finished. This avoids the need to drill a multitude of holes in your benchtop and enables easy storage of your reloading gear.

The Nosler No.8 reloading manual is excellent. Not only does it take you through the entire process, it looks at troubleshooting problems which may arise when preparing and reloading cases. Added to that it contains load data using Nosler projectiles in a complete range of rifle and handgun calibres as well as a foreword for each calibre. One excellent resource for new reloaders is a series of YouTube tutorial videos by RCBS senior product manager Kent Sakamoto. These

short videos are an excellent training resource and I've watched them numerous times prior to starting my reloading. Mr Sakamoto's wealth of knowledge and expertise with his product base is evident and he makes it easy for new reloaders to follow with his clear and concise demeanour.

If you're new to reloading rifle or pistol ammunition, consider the Rock Chucker Supreme Master reloading kit by RCBS. It retails for around \$850 and is available from all good firearms dealers Australia-wide. More at nioa.com.au. ●

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