

# THE RIGHT SLUG FOR YOUR SLUG GUN



■ By Michael Ware

**It won't be long now** and we'll all have buck fever. I know no matter how many times I go hunting with my family, I always manage to get that rush when the 'king konger' shows himself. While I deer hunt in Missouri at our family farms during rifle season, there have been times that I was sure General Patton and all that follow were coming over the hill towards my Iowa house in December. It is slug gun season folks.

First thing's first. We need to establish the two common slugs available. Forster and Brenneke are lead projectile types and are very similar. They both are used in smooth bore barrels with the Brenneke style slug having a wad attached to the base. While you see Brenneke brand slugs on the market, oddly they are Forster style in manufacture with no wad physically attached to the slug base. The firearms world is full of crazy stuff like that, so get used to it. Forster slugs are known for the small angular veins that spin the projectile as it travels down the smooth bore. The other common slug is the sabot. Pronounced incorrectly by 95% of the English speaking world, it is {sa'bō} as in "SAT" in a chair while shooting a "BOw"... I've waged the sabot pronunciation war for a long time, but that habit is a hard one to break. Most importantly, the sabot slug requires a rifled barrel.

Smooth bore barrels are a pretty simple way to go and have managed to harvest some really great game in humane fashion over the years. There is much ado about velocity and whether faster is better or a slower velocity is more desirable. The fact is, I see too many hunters worry about things like this. It isn't uncommon for hunters to search and search for a certain level of velocity all while skipping the most important part of hunting – sight in coupled with ammo consistency. Some barrels are simply going to like a certain

brand and velocity of slug over others. This is especially true in rimfire rifles, and slug guns are no different. I recommend buying three or four kinds of slugs, sighting your weapon in diligently, and weighing the cost vs. accuracy of each so you can make a good buying decision. Tear the part number off of the cardboard corner of your favorite box if you have to, so when you shop you'll be getting the same ammunition for your hunt that you tested at the range.

Rifled barrels require a tad more thought, but not much. Rifled slug barrels tend to range from 1/28 twist to 1/38 twist. This means a 1/28 twist barrel allows a projectile to complete a 360 degree rotation in 28 inches of barrel length. It is simply a rate of circular motion, just like 30MPH is in relationship to your car tires. Sabot slugs of lighter weight tend to need a slower twist rate for peak performance. Sabots of larger sizes need a more

aggressive and faster twist rate to remain spin stabilized, thus providing accuracy. So a heavier weight like the Remington 385gr

Accutip may require a 1/28 twist barrel where a lighter weight like the Hornady 300gr SST may need something closer to 1/35 or so. Again, the firearm oddity creeps in occasionally. I have seen cases where over

a length of 50, 100, and even 150 yards the rules went out the window and low weight slugs were utilized in fast twist barrels with great accuracy. This isn't the rule, but crazier things have happened. Go figure.

This all boils down to making a good choice by buying a few different brands, staying consistent in your testing, and duplicating those results by buying the same slug part number when it comes time. If you do this, you'll be a leg up on other hunters. There are no absolutes in hunting, so hit the store, then the range, and get your act together. When you bag your 'king konger' this year, give him a wink and tell him I sent you. 🦌

**RIFLED SLUG BARRELS  
TEND TO RANGE  
FROM 1/28 TWIST  
TO 1/38 TWIST.**



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