

# ASK DERRICK 2

By Derrick Martin & Barrett Tillman  
Printed in Precision Shooting Magazine

Mindful of Col. William Barret Travis' message from the Alamo, we hereby paraphrase accordingly. To all Americans in the world: Sierra 69-grain .223s appear slightly more wind sensitive than we originally thought. While the 69s remain a good choice, the search continues for a better option. One such is the new eight-ogive design (ogive being the length of the bullet's nose which, unlike Pinocchio's, does not reflect veracity as a function of length.) Spitzers typically run five to eight ogives while low-drag and VLD types run more in the 12 to 15 realm. Among the latter, .223s are offered by Hornady, JLK and Berger though the latter have not yet been tested. Accuracy Speaks, Inc., did however receive an early lot of JLK 75 and 77-gr bullets for test against the 75 Hornady.

With our miraculous setup at Rio Salado Sportsman's Club east of scenic, sprawling Mesa, AZ, we double chronographed the 75 and 77-gr JLKs from Jimmy Knox. They demonstrated ballistic coefficients (BCs) of .390 and .430, respectively. That compares with the advertised Hornady BC of .400. Conversely, Sierra recently revised its 69-gr figure from .339 to .313, yielding a 300-yd figure of .400 at 2800 fps and .310 at 2900 fps. In a 10-mph wind that 69-grain .400 BC equals eight inches deflection versus 10.3 inches for the .310, or about one MOA more. It's not a large difference, but it does represent approximately two-thirds of the scoring ring. How many points do you figure you could put in that space?

As for load development, a prudent man could use the same load for 80-gr bullets and the 75s or 77s. The bullet weight difference is about 6% less, so you get the picture: as long as you're well under 10% differential, you should be OK. BUT: test systematically before arriving at a final decision.

While we're not going to reveal the Secret Rocket Fuel Formula from Mars Needs Women, we will relent somewhat on our preferred Accuracy Speaks, Inc., load. Without being specific, we'll concede that RL-15 with 80-gr Sierras may be compatible with 77-gr JLKs typical of our current short-range load. That chronographs to 2,180 fps with the 80s and 2,780 with the 77s. Admittedly, you could probably get the 77 grainers higher, but most of us lazy oafs prefer to set the powder measure just once.

So: if you want to buy one bullet, buy 75s or 77s to shoot across the course. At 600 yds you're giving up a certain amount to 80s, but you can feel superior with just one type of ammo versus the trouble and complexity of two.

Derrick Martin

For further queries out there in computerland, visit Accuracy Speaks via our E mail address: [ask-](#)

[derrick@accuracyspeaks.com](mailto:derrick@accuracyspeaks.com) We can't respond to every query, but we'll select pertinent subjects for use in further columns.