

Different ways of Crimping Heeled Base Bullets

It seems many people shy away from loading Heeled Base Bullets. It's not that big a challenge. Most all of the tools are available for most of the Obsolete Cartridges. Anything from the 22 Long Rifle on up, "Old West Bullet Molds" has just about all one would need. My intention here is to show different ways to accomplish the job, using what you may already have on hand to get the job done. All you need to do is crimp the case into the bullet.

I used the Lee Factory Crimp Die, modified for the 44 Colt Original.



I started with a Lee Factory Crimp Die for the 44-40, cut 1/4" off the base of the die body & made a new collet.



The collet length needed to match case length when in the shell holder as shown.

Ralph Huffaker made a crimp die and mounted it to a set of Lyman Mold Handles.



The .44 Guillotine, an old die body and two pieces of steel with a slight collar in the hole.



I really liked how Larry Potterfield of Midway-USA used the “Hornady Cam Lock Bullet Puller” with a Modified Collet & a Spacer Sleeve for positioning of the crimp.



I have seen crimpers made out of Linemen Pliers & Side Cutters.



As mentioned earlier, for those of you who don't have access to the equipment required to fabricate these items, Old West Bullet Molds has a full line of Molds & Crimp Dies available.



Of course if you contact me with different methods, I'll try to include them on this report.

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