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Michael Bussard

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Ammo Encyclopedia, 3rd edition

Michael Bussard : Ammo Encyclopedia, 3rd edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ammo Encyclopedia, 3rd edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Deserves top ranking...By TolkienFanFirst let me say that I have been reading this type of book since the 1960's. I spent a lot of time in the trade (firearms..) and have carved out my own little niche of space that suits me. I read a lot of these books each year. Some are pretty good, others not so much so. I will admit that this 3rd edition of Ammo Encyclopedia is the first one I have owned (although I have read through a couple of others..). I have found it thoroughly enjoyable and a tremendously useful text.I currently own and use Ammo Ballistics 4--For Hunters, Shooters, and Collectors, 4th Edition: Ballistic Data out to 1,000 Yards for over 169 Calibers and over 2,400 ... for Hunters, Shooters, Collectors) (as well as an earlier version..) and find that the 'Ammo Encyclopedia' is very complementary in nature to that fine publication. I also own Cartridges of the World: A Complete and Illustrated Reference for Over 1500 Cartridges which is more a direct comparison to this effort. I believe that this book 'Ammo Encyclopedia, 3rd Edition' is probably better at what it does than COTW. There are several things about this book that intrigue me. There is a very nice historical treatise in the front that covers almost anything you would want to know about ammunition and its development over the years...to include manufacturers, propellants, projectiles, primers, and cases (including shotshells..!!), as well as a fairly complete discussion of ballistics (interior, exterior, and terminal..). This reads like a true compendium of information that is not only "nice to know" but that all gun folks SHOULD know. In addition, the treatment of the individual cartridges is also very nicely done. Each one has a complete line drawing of dimensions and a discussion of the history and any changes the cartridge has undergone.In all books of this kind there are some things that are a little confusing at times. I would say

that some of the cartridges are placed in the wrong sections perhaps, maybe..... but everything is well indexed (and cross-indexed..), so it is relatively easy to find. One of the things I really like about this book is the way the information is presented. Each major division is treated to its own chapter. Chapter 47 is "Centerfire Sporting Handgun - Current" and Chapter 48 is "Centerfire Sporting Handgun - Obsolete." Within the chapter each cartridge is given its own heading and includes the following topical information: (Example: 9mm LUGER) ALTERNATE NAME(S); RELATED CALIBER(S); CARTRIDGE HISTORY; CARTRIDGE DESCRIPTION; CARTRIDGE BALLISTICS; CURRENT MANUFACTURER(S); GENERAL COMMENTS; and TECHNICAL COMMENTS. This format is followed almost exactly for each and every entry in the book. There may be the odd occasion when a specific heading does not apply, but for the most part every cartridge has all of those entries. Then, at the end of each chapter, before moving on to the next major division, there is a section on ballistics listing bullet weights, types, velocities and energies out to practical distances. So far I haven't found any GLARING errors although the odd spelling blunder or typical reference error may occur. I have found this effort very easy to read and understand. It contains a LOT of information and appears to be well conceived. Is it "perfect"?? No, of course not. But if you want the latest and best presented information on sporting ammunition, this might very well be the best choice. In comparing this effort to 'Cartridges of the World'.....there is no comparison. This one wins on every count. Worth 5 stars, because I think it is the best available. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, but 4th Edition is now in print. By Monac
This is a very good reference on individual cartridges, plus a fine explanation of how ammunition is manufactured today, and how the process of design and manufacture has evolved. It also touches on colorful bits of history or important milestones, such as the evolution of chronographs to measure bullet velocity. It merits the title of "Encyclopedia", and Mr. Bussard's writing is generally a pleasure to read. I did notice the omission of a couple of obscure cartridges (the 8mm Bergmann Simplex pistol round, and the 11.35mm Madsen machine gun round), but it includes many more that I had never heard of. HOWEVER, THE FOURTH EDITION OF THIS BOOK IS NOW IN PRINT, AND THERE IS NO REASON TO PAY THE ABSURD PRICES BEING ASKED AS OF 12/28/2013. I apologize for shouting. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Rod Astl As expected.

The 3rd Edition of the Ammo Encyclopedia by Michael Bussard has been expanded to over 900 pages and now includes ballistic charts for most popular rimfire and centerfire ammo. The ammunition industry's newest cartridges have also been added, and many sections have been updated with additional information, charts, and images. If you are a shooter, hunter, or even an ammunition collector, this newest 3rd Edition will provide you with the most up-to-date information, facts, and ballistic charts ensuring you will make the right ammunition choices for your particular needs. Without question, this latest edition of the Ammo Encyclopedia is the most comprehensive book ever published on the wide variety of both new and older ammunition!

At Hornady, it's extremely important for us to keep up with recent developments on ammunition and also compare our new products to those released in the past. One of the best resources for this wide variety of both old and new ammunition is the Ammo Encyclopedia in its 3rd Edition, which now includes ballistic charts on most handgun and rifle cartridges. --Steve Hornady President, Hornady Manufacturing Company
I received my 3rd Edition Ammo Encyclopedia last week and I must say it is all I expected and much more. I have bought several ammo and/or cartridge books over the years, but this one produced by Blue Book is the best yet. It answers questions not found in other books I have. It is also set up better and information is found much easier. The 3rd Edition Ammo Encyclopedia is worth every cent I paid for it, and I will certainly let my friends in the gun business know about this find! Keep up the good work! --Chief (ret.) Jean F. Pouliot, Fairfield ME Police Dept.
About the Author
Well known firearms and ammunition industry figure Michael Mike Bussard has been a familiar face for more than forty years. His areas of expertise include firearms and ammunition design, research and development, ballistics, marketing, sales, advertising, promotion, and consulting. During his career, he has been employed by such companies as Federal (twice), Norma, Israel Military Industries, Fiocchi, RUAG, Sierra Bullets, SIG, Barrett, and Sturm Ruger. Mike has also served as a technical consultant to many ammunition manufacturers including PPU, Swartklip, Brenneke, Precision Ammunition, Olympic Ammunition, Mossberg, HK, and Steyr. Mike has designed five new cartridges, numerous individual loads, and several complete product lines (such as Federal's Premium line), in addition to three handguns and two rifles. During his career, Mike has also worked with government agencies such as the U.S. Army Advanced Marksmanship Training Unit, Navy Shooting Team, Marine Corps Shooting Team, U.S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Border Patrol, U.S. Army Materiel Command, California Highway Patrol, Illinois State Police, and many other law enforcement agencies, in addition to assisting the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team. For more than ten years, Mike worked on the technical staff of the American Rifleman magazine, and he became the Technical Editor. He is the author of numerous magazine articles, manuals, and two books, including The NRA Firearms Sourcebook. He also edited the 7th Edition Cartridges of the World.