



Exceptional new Olympic-grade Fiocchi ammunition

During December, 2017, the holding company of Safari & Outdoor, Inyathi Outdoor suppliers, made some of their newly arrived Fiocchi .22 standard velocity ammunition available for testing, with the intention of assisting SAPF members with high performance target-grade pistol ammunition.

Fiocchi are reputed to be one of the biggest suppliers of rimfire ammunition in the world today, and the Safari & Outdoor stores and the National Cartridge Company in Cape Town have both begun stocking some of their dedicated target-grade .22LR ammunition.

This newsletter is a report-back on the live range testing that I did in the last month of two cartridge versions, the TT Sport and the F300 series.

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Why would Fiocchi have several versions in their new .22 Target-grade range?

As a premium supplier of target-grade ammunition for several decades, Fiocchi understands that different shooting events need different “on-the-range” shooting characteristics, so they have developed an ammo range that is specifically aimed at specific events, and they have tailored each version to deliver individual and quite different shooting performances.

There are thus five specific target-grades in the new range, and they are branded as:

- TT Soft
- TT Sport
- F280
- F300
- F320.

The TT Soft and the TT Sport ranges are for the more common shooting situations, and could be deemed to be ideal for general target use, whilst the F-series are very specifically targeted at the upper-end, high demand events.

I tested the TT Sport series first, since this is deemed to be the general purpose version.

I tested it in both my Browning Match target pistol, my Hammerli Free Pistol and my .22LR hunting rifle, a veteran-grade Mossberg that has been in my family for over 60 years and still is a great performer both in the field and on the 50-M target range.

I specifically tested the TT Sport ammo in both weapon types because it is intended for both rifle and pistol use.

I carried out both velocity and accuracy tests at 25-M and 50-M with the rifle, and 25-M testing with my target pistols.

To provide a realistic comparison, I also fired some other commonly used ammo brands, so that there was a point of reference that would make sense for ISSF shooters.

As things turned out, I did not get to shoot the TT Soft version, the dealer sold his available stock before some could be set aside for my testing, but I did get some F300 ammo for testing, and this specific range was exceptionally impressive when compared to the TT Sport grade.

Some research identified that Fiocchi specifically designed the TT Sport and the TT Soft ammo for both rifle and pistol use, whilst the F280 and F300 ranges are specifically aimed at the Olympic Rapid Fire and Standard pistol events. It turns out that the F320 is best suited to target rifle shooting, where it’s higher velocities encourage better results.

The F-series name is actually a speed range indicator, with F280 meaning a mean average of 280-Meters per second (Mps) velocity, F300 implies 300-Mps, and the F320 should deliver 320-Mps velocities.

My chrono results for the TT Sport ammo testing I did indicate an extremely consistent speed range with very small spread variances, under 60 fps, which is impressive.

The groups achieved with the TT Sport ammo, achieved by two different shooters, also told a story of their own.





The TT sport ammo was reliable, grouped well and certainly out-performed the other ammo brands tested on the same day.

However, I suspect that different pistols might produce different results – by way of example, the Sport grade ammo worked really well in my Browning and in a friend’s S&W 41, and in a Unique 69, but it would not feed well in a Ruger 10/22, which is a bit strange, but true.

A week later, I used the TT Sport ammo in a League Match for both the Free Pistol and the Sport Pistol events, achieving a very creditable 498/600 for Free Pistol, and a good 556/600 in the Sport Pistol event, illustrating the versatility of the ammunition overall.

The best was yet to come however when I received the new F300-range two weeks later.

The F300 range is specifically designed for Rapid fire events such as the Standard Pistol and the Rapid fire pistol events, and the design behind this and the F280 ammo range is reduced velocity which equals reduced recoil!

I put this claim to the test in a full afternoon’s testing, shooting eight 10-shot series of Rapid Fire Pistol and one 20-shot target in the 10-sec format of Standard Pistol.

The Olympic Rapid Fire testing was done by shooting 4 series in 8-seconds, 4-series in 6-seconds and 4-series in 4-seconds – result was astonishing, a 547/600, my best score ever!

What I identified was that the F300 ammo delivered a significantly reduced recoil, so it felt like I was gaining about ½-sec on every series, because I was not fighting nearly so much to recover from the pistol’s recoil after every shot.

To test my theory, I then shot a 20-shot 10-sec Standard Pistol target with the F300 ammo, and promptly delivered my best ever score in this leg of the Std Pistol discipline, a 185/200!

Again, it seemed that my recovery between shots was far superior and easier to manage than with other ammo types.

I was so surprised by the seemingly better pistol handling, I decided to shoot a further 4 series of 4-seconds using the more standard TT Sport ammo.

The difference was immediate – I actually lost a 2 shots on the last target because I was too late twice!

Recoil recovery took much longer with the higher velocity TT Sport ammo, (340-Mps, V 300-Mps), so the proof was definitely in the pudding!

Note:

In subsequent testing of the F300 ammo a week later, I did have three malfunctions, where the cases did not extract fully, which is a bit concerning.

It could be that my Browning was a bit dirtier, but it could also mean that the lower velocity needed some fine-tuning of the recoil spring on my Browning.

I will do further testing and advise in due course.

We are working on getting preferential pricing for the Fiocchi ammo and will advise shortly.

We thank Inyathi for the test ammo they so willingly provided.

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The 50-M Rifle ammo test targets groups on the left.



The F300’s 10-sec Std Pistol target on the right!

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Fiocchi TT Sport Standard Velocity Target-grade .22LR Test summary

Mossberg .22 rifle				
Ammo Type ---->	Swartklip Blue & white box	Lapua Pistol King	Swartklip White box: Rifle Match	Fiocchi TT Sport
1	1 170	1 061	1 155	1 132
2	1 121	1 056	1 085	1 122
3	1 112	1 042	1 056	1 132
4	1 106	1 061	1 045	1 131
5	1 131	1 062	1 074	1 122
6	1 111	1 064	1 112	1 121
7	1 124	1 054	1 083	1 121
8	1 148	1 061	1 105	1 136
9	1 121	1 075	1 089	1 116
10	1 096	1 064	1 161	1 132
High - fps (Mps)	1 170 (376 Mps)	1 075 (327 Mps)	1 161 (354 Mps)	1 136 (346 Mps)
Low - fps (Mps)	1 096 (334 Mps)	1 042 (327 Mps)	1 045 (318 Mps)	1 116 (340 Mps)
Avg - fps (Mps)	1 124 (341 Mps)	1 060 (323 Mps)	1 097 (334 Mps)	1 127 (343 Mps)
Variance	74	33	116	20

Hammer Pistol .22LR				
Ammo Type ---->	Swartklip Blue & white box	Lapua Pistol King	Swartklip White box: Rifle Match	Fiocchi TT Sport
1	1 171	1 095	1 110	1 209
2	1 126	1 100	1 106	1 168
3	1 130	1 085	1 091	1 151
4	1 111	1 093	1 105	1 173
5	1 126	1 081	1 125	1 151
6	1 135	1 086	1 105	1 190
7	1 135	1 091	1 092	1 161
8	1 142	1 084	1 073	1 175
9	1 126	1 082	1 100	1 160
10	1 134	1 093	1 104	1 171
High - fps (Mps)	1 171 (376 Mps)	1 100 ((335 Mps)	1 125 (343 Mps)	1 209 (368 Mps)
Low - fps (Mps)	1 111 (338 Mps)	1 081 (330 Mps)	1 073 (327 Mps)	1 151 (350 Mps)
Avg - fps (Mps)	1 134 (345 Mps)	1 089 (332 Mps)	1 101 (335 Mps)	1 171 (357 Mps)
Variance	60	19	52	58

Browning Match Pistol .22LR	
Ammo Type ---->	Fiocchi TT Sport
1	941
2	1 020
3	986
4	976
5	1 018
6	1 016
7	1 061
8	1 024
9	1 034
10	975
High - fps (Mps)	1 061 (323 Mps)
Low - fps (Mps)	941 (287 Mps)
Avg - fps (Mps)	1 005 (306 Mps)
Variance	120 / 85

