

The 429360

My affair with the Lyman #429360 mould design started back about 1962 as well as I recall. I'd picked up a couple of Model 1911A1 frames and was having a wad cutter gun built on one by a local pistol smith. I'd been having the hankering for a .44 Magnum for a while and this fellow knew of it. He also knew a fellow that was looking for a accurized M1911A1 and had a Model 29 Smith and Wesson .44 Magnum. He hooked us up and I lost the rights to a M1911A1 and gained a Model 29 Smith and Wesson 6" blue complete with thumb rest target grips and a cigar box full of assorted factory .44 Magnum ammunition.

The thumb rest grips didn't last long on that rig and neither did the cigar box of .44 Magnum ammo. I was hot to start loading for it.

A visit to my local (45 miles away) cast equipment supplier (now, this was before the internet mind you) revealed that the only .44 mould he had on hand was a 429360. Being that it was the "only wheel in town", it went home with me. I cast for years with that mould and shot many thousands of rounds with the 429360 and in my ignorance and due to my lack of skill with the .44 Magnum, I was happy with it.

.44 Magnum guns came and went over the years and the 429360 mould stayed. Finally, I acquired other moulds and found that moulds like the Lyman 429244 and 429421 shot a lot better so the 429360 kind of went to the bottom of the pile.

Later, I bought a scoped Contender with a 10" bull barrel and decided I'd try the 429360 again using the Contender as a test bed. Man, what a surprise. It didn't shoot worth sour grapes. All along, I'd been thinking it was my less than normal skill with a pistol. Having several other .44s at the time, I tried it in all of them again to no avail. It just wouldn't shoot. I'd get good groups and then a gross flyer. At long ranges, I'd get 4 good shots and then a couple of bad flyers.

I decided then and there that I'd fix that mould. I measured the dimensions and it had a small front driving band and was just over .429". I opened up the front driving band to .431"+ as well as all of the other bands. I figured it would shoot well now so I loaded a batch and headed for the range. No improvement in results at all.

I even ordered a second 429360 mould and had the same results. I was stumped

I let things set for a while and got to thinking about hollow points and shifting the center of gravity on it by hollow pointing. Finally, I had my machinist buddy to hollow point it and cast up a bunch. The number of flyers went down and as long as I drove it fast, it shot all right at long ranges for plinking with a minimum of flyers.

Now, I'm shooting a hollow pointed 429360 bullet with all dimensions altered to come within acceptable specifications and I'm still not getting the accuracy that I am with Elmer's old 429421 without all of the hassles. Seems like I just don't know when to quit.



429360 HP with enlarged driving band

I'm of the opinion, and I have talked with several other people on the internet who have the experience in working with cast bullets with the same opinion, that there is a design flaw in the 429360 design that prevents it from giving sterling performance in the .44s.

Based on my extensive experiments and the experiments of others, you're better off to pass on the acquisition of a 429360 for your main .44 Magnum bullet.

Of course, there are probably those that swear by this design and they're welcome to their opinion but I'm not one of them.

Give me Elmer's old 429421 and no hassles.

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