

Hodgdon Powders

We at Team Blaster have been using Hodgdon powders even before they were one of our sponsors. They make excellent performing, temperature insensitive powders that meter well and are consistent from lot to lot through our experiences. Hodgdon powders, unlike some others, can also be found at almost any gun store that sells reloading supplies so if you ran out there won't be a problem to find more powder locally.

The Team uses 3 types of powder from Hodgdon's Extreme line of rifle powders right now. I will give a brief overview of each but for more detailed information and load data go to Hodgdon's website at www.hodgdon.com

First is Varget. We all love Varget in our .308s. It has performed well with 168, 175 and 178grn bullet weights in the past but we all currently use it with the Hornady 178 AMAX. We have no problems getting 2700fps + from our 22-24" barrels using Varget. Varget is a medium burn rate powder that is good for varied calibers from .223 to .308 and more. We have shot it in 90+ degrees at sea level to temps in the single digits at 3500 feet ASL and it has not failed to perform in the accuracy department but more importantly it has been consistent as far as temperature changes. That is a major plus when selecting a powder and a contributing factor as why we use it. Other powders in the line that will work with a .308 are Benchmark and H4895.

The next powder is H4350. I use it for my .243. Like Varget it is temperature insensitive but it also gives excellent velocities in bullet weights from the 105 AMAX to the 115 DTAC. H4350 can easily send a 115 DTAC out at velocities of 3000 fps and more in some cases. H4350 though is not only for the .243 but it can be used in a wide variety of cartridges from the 6mm Remington to the 300WM and 338WM as well as others. It is a slower burning powder than Varget and falls between Varget and H4831 on the burn scale.

The last powder from the Hodgdon Extreme line used by the Team is H1000. We use this for a couple different calibers. Tony and Kevin use H1000 in their 6 CM cartridges as it gives a better case fill and the slow burn rate is reported to give better barrel life while still giving excellent velocities from the 6 CM. H1000 is pushing those 105 AMAX bullets out at around 3100fps from their 6 CMs. We also use H1000 in our 300WM rifles with the Hornady 208 AMAX bullets. Out of a 26" barrel H1000 can easily send the 208 AMAX out the muzzle at 2950fps. As mentioned H1000 is a slow burning powder with only Retumbo being slower in the Hodgdon line up. It works well in the big magnums but also in some smaller calibers as seen by my teammates.

If you are looking for an excellent line of powders that will perform for you no matter what the temperature or cartridge and bullet combination then look at the Hodgdon Extreme line of powders and you will find what you need.