

Thunder from the East



Undoubtedly effective, this 180 Kg tusker was taken with a 7x64mm firing a 158-grain 7mm GROM bullet

Tomo Svetic MD of Artemis Hunting in Croatia considers Prvi Partizan's premium GROM bullets and ammunition

In terms of hunting bullets the majority choice is soft point (SP), hollow point (HP) or ballistic tip (BT). These do well on most thin skinned game; though can be over destructive on meat. For bigger animals and harder targets, such as wild boar and the larger African species, a premium bullet is perhaps a better choice. Here the construction is stronger, so it can penetrate, expand and pass through tougher/larger animals without breaking up. Also these can be surprisingly good on the smaller/

standard species too, as they provide good knock down and pass-through abilities with minimal tissue damage.

OK maybe a bit over kill for the UK, but if you are going abroad for harder targets then it's better to go over, rather than under gunned... If you look at any decent ammunition manufacture's product list you will see a premium range of ammunition for just such a purpose. Understandably it's expensive, certainly when compared to the more standard recipes. A reasonably new name to this area is Prvi Partizan

(PPU) of Serbia with their GROM, which as I discovered is a highly cost effective option to the big US and Western European makes.

Why GROM?

I say this as I'm a Professional Hunter and managing director of my own hunting agency (Artemis Hunting) in Croatia. I have tried most premium brands from the top names and in some case was less than impressed by both price and performance. So I decided to see what the GROM had to offer.



for many species and I have used it on roe, fallow, red deer, moose, wild boar, bear and mouflon in my chosen calibre of 30-06 Springfield.

Testing times

The 30-06 was giving an average of 2630 fps/2611ft/lb and proved deadly. Even though the speed is not that great it is a very well balanced cartridge and proved effective regardless of barrel length. On roe at ranges from 30 – 180m on a shoulder shot the bullet gave a perfect pass through with an exit hole of around 2 cms. This increased to around 5 cms when bone was hit as it produced secondary projectiles, though generally meat damage was minimal. With mouflon, the result was the same, when shooting up to 200m. I was more curious about wild boar, because they are tough, aggressive, unpredictable and can when hit with the wrong bullet soak up damage like you might not believe...

Most boars were shot with great success using this caliber. All bullets penetrated well and showed acceptable energy transfer and knock down ability. The exit hole was up to 150m in some cases and even driven boar dropped inside an 80m circle. The biggest animal shot was a 205 kg male at 180m; it stopped in its tracks with a broken shoulder and heavily damaged lungs. In two seasons, more than 200 boars were taken with this cartridge. Approximately 90% ran on about 30m and only a few bullets were found under the skin on the opposite side to the aim point that did not exit.

After firing more than 600 rounds of GROM in various weights

Left the 8x57mm uses a 185-grain GROM, right he 30-06 the slightly lighter 170-grain version

and calibres it proved itself a good performer on all species and its ability on smaller deer was especially good; certainly better than a standard soft point and similar.

Plus/minus

In the factory ammo I found the powder PPU uses is very dirty and also as the GROM's lead core is not bonded you can get core/jacket separation. This however appears not to affect internal performance, though might account for the quite large exit holes I found on some animals shot with it.

In terms of performance I used a CZ 550 bolt-action in 30-06 Springfield. PPU quotes a velocity of 2667 fps from a 24" test barrel; the CZ has a 23.6" tube and was averaging 2630 fps. Over the chronograph it gave an extreme spread of 50 fps and muzzle energy of 2611 ft/lbs. For factory ammo this is acceptable.

Accuracy-wise the CZ was printing 1.5" groups at 100 yards from 1:12 twist barrel. Not amazing but more than adequate. Though with a Barnes TSX 150 - grain this rifle is capable of producing 0.70" groups at this distance. However, as is often the case, the rifling twist and bullet rate need to be compatible to get top performance.

Though of little relevance to the British hunter I also tried the 30-06 load in my Benelli Argo R1 semi-automatic rifle, which is a type we can own in Croatia. It was shooting 1-1.5" groups at 100 yards from its 20", 1-11" twist barrel.

In terms of price GROM appears highly competitive, certainly when compared to the more common brands of American and European premium ammunition and for that matter reloading bullets too. Overall I am most impressed by it, as its consistent ability over a number of seasons does not disappoint...

Henry Krank imports GROM into the UK in the following calibres 308 Winchester, 30-06 Springfield and 8x57JS. They also bring in the three reloaders bullets too. If however, you want something like 300 Win Mag etc then give them a bell, as they will be able to get it in.

We Reckon...

- More bang for your buck
- Does what is says on the tin
- Cheap reloader's bullets

170-grain GROM recovered from a boar, occasionally I encountered core separation, but it did not seem to make any difference to the effectiveness of the bullet



Bullets for the reloaders are available in three calibres and weights- 7mm (158-grain), .30" (170-grain) and 8mm (185-grain)

Prices

- Ammunition £56 per 100 (308, 30-06 and 8x57)
- Bullets per 100 7mm (158-grain) £18, 30 cal (170-grain) and 8mm (185-grain) £19.20
- Contact Henry Krank & Co Ltd, 0113 256 9163

PPU have been around a long time and produce all manner of ammunition from 9mm Parabellum to match hollow point, so they know a thing or two about the business. The ('thunder' in Serbian) GROM uses a solid copper bullet with a long, slim, lead-filled hollow point cavity. Outwardly it looks like a standard round nose soft tip. The idea as with any premium design is strength, effective expansion and good mass retention.

GROM is offered in three calibers 7mm, .30" and 8mm for the reloader and weights of 158, 170 and 185-grains accordingly. It's also available as factory ammo in the following calibers 7x57mm, 7x57mm R, 7x64mm, 7mm Rem Mag, 308 Win, 30-06 Springfield, 300Win Mag and 8x57JS. I found it a good choice

