

# First Gear | Ammunition—These Aren't Your Daddy's Cartridges

by Frank Winn, Guns & Gear Editor - Sunday, May 8, 2016



Photo credit: Darren Parker

## Shell Shock Technology

Might as well get it out there right up front: We think Shell Shock Technologies is about to shake things up in the ammunition world.

*Big time.*



*Sub 1" 10-shot groups were no problem at middling ranges.*

The Westport, Conn., firm showed First Gear their NAS<sup>3</sup> Two-Piece Shell technology a couple of weeks ago through the auspices of the ever-hospitable [Richard Abramson](#) of the [Centennial Gun Club](#). Despite electric glee—Richard assures us we hid it well—we raced home with the provided samples and shot them in every 9 mm we could round up. It was hard not to be impressed from every perspective, and there are a whole lot of those.

The big one is that they shoot just great. We tried our samples in several [Glocks](#), a [Springfield XD](#), a Grand Power [X-Calibur](#), a [Kimber](#) and a [JP PCC AR](#). Almost as important, if you really like to shoot (and hence, handload), the cases are the reloader's dream made real—magnetically retrievable.



*As handloaders, our minds reel at the versatility of externally, permanently colored cases. [Photo credit: Darren Parker]*

A laundry list of other great qualities fill out the rest of those perspectives. While you'll need a die swap to handle the nickel alloy body of the case, it will pay off: The discharges are cool on ejection, need less resizing due to higher tensile strength, and are fabulously consistent in internal capacity. H.P White Laboratories data shows a 10-round string of [Berry's 124s](#) over [Titegroup](#) with 3 ft./sec. overall variation. Think that might provide an accuracy boost? We do, too.

Our friends in law enforcement and armed services may hear about these soon, as well. At 50 percent lighter in weight, these will ride noticeably lighter on the belt or in a mag pouch. Finally, how about visually certain ammo ID from either end of the cartridge, to say nothing of hidden characteristics? Everybody knows about "green tip" and other variations of bullet coloration, but the "two-piece" business includes a nickel-plated, *colorable* aluminum base to the SST case. Bullets could be identical, but loads, powders, *whatever* can now be keyed to a color that doesn't rub off.

We know, we know: As soon as we know where to get more of them, you will, too.

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