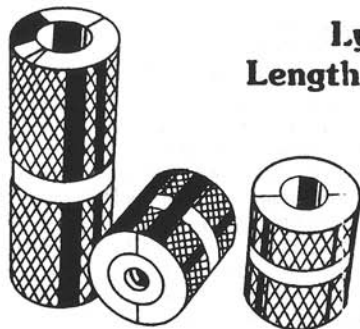


## Lyman Rifle Case Length/Headspace Gauges



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When resizing cases with standard 7/8" - 14 reloading dies, if the die is set to just touch the shellholder, the case may or may not be sized to the correct headspace. Only by using cartridge case gauges can the reloader be sure that the proper headspace is being maintained.

This will increase the life of your brass and more importantly, insure the safety of your ammunition.

The Lyman Rifle Cartridge Case Gauge is a one-piece, non-adjustable cylinder type gauge for checking resized cartridge cases for head space (base to datum line) case length and maximum diameter. These gauges are made with special reamers (not chamber reamers) which give clearance both in front of and behind the shoulder so that contact is made only at the datum line of the shoulder. Datum line is a term used by reamer and gauge makers to describe the reference point of the shoulder.

### CAUTION

Do not hold the gauge in your hands when checking overall length. The gauge is designed to measure overall length with the case head and the end of the gauge resting on the same surface.

### WARNING

Cases which do not meet the proper headspace dimension should not be used. Squeeze their mouths shut with a pair of pliers and discard them.

## DIRECTIONS

Before using the gauge, remove all protective oil from inside the gauge. Next, place a clean, resized cartridge case, mouth first into the gauge and be sure that it is fully seated into the gauge. Now, hold the gauge vertically with case head up and check the position of the case head in relation to the maximum and minimum gauge steps (See Figure 1 below). The head of the case should not be below the lower step or above the upper step. The ideal length for a properly headspaced rifle case should be halfway between the steps or slightly closer to the upper step. A narrow, straight instrument such as a steel scale can be of assistance in checking the level of the case head in the gauge. Place the steel scale on the upper step on the gauge so that it is over the case head. Check to be sure there is clearance between the case and scale. Next, place the scale on the case head so that it is over the lower step and check to be sure there is clearance between the scale and the gauge. Holding the gauge next to a white background while checking the level of the case will aid in seeing clearances.

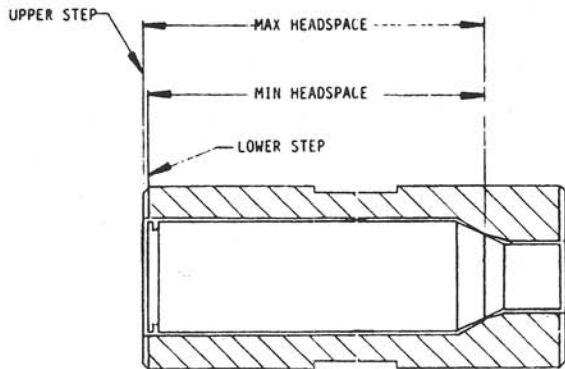


Figure 1

If the case is over the upper step, first check that the diameters are within proper limits. If so, then the resizing die should be screwed further down into the press and another case should be tried. Continue this until the case shoulder has been pushed back far enough to allow the head to drop below the upper step of the gauge.

If the case is below the lower step, the resizing die should be screwed upwards in the press and another case should be tried. Continue this until the case shoulder is in the proper location to allow the case head to be positioned between the upper and lower steps.

After cases have been resized to the proper headspace, their overall length can be checked. With the case inserted in the gauge, stand the gauge on a flat surface with the case head down. The mouth of the case should be between the upper and lower steps for proper overall length. The case will need to be trimmed with a Lyman Universal or Power Trimmer if it is above the upper step. (See Figure 2 below).

NOTE: Some cases will be found that have an overall length which is shorter than the lower step by .010" to .020". These cases can still be used without problems.

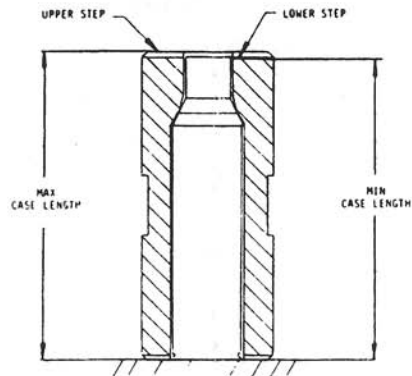


Figure 2