

REDDING RELOADING EQUIPMENT

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS REDDING COMPETITION BULLET SEATING DIE

Congratulations! You have just purchased the finest precision bullet seating die available. With proper care you should receive years of service and satisfaction from this die.

To get the most from your new competition seating die, please take a few minutes to read the following instructions.

INTRODUCTION

The REDDING COMPETITION bullet seating die has many unique features that you should become familiar with.

The patented design has an internal sliding sleeve and bullet seating stem that is totally independent of the micrometer depth stop. This allows the use of extremely tight manufacturing tolerances which is not possible with other dies of this type.

The seating stem is ground to exactly the same diameter as that of precision match quality jacketed bullets. The bullet guiding bore is honed to perfectly match the bullet diameter and seating stem. The fit approximates that of an air bearing, so cleanliness is very important. (See DISASSEMBLY AND CLEANING.) The chamber is cut in the same manner as a match rifle barrel using removable pilot chambering reamers.

It is important to note that the tolerances in this die are so tight that brass from an oversize or otherwise out of spec chamber may be sticky. You may also discover certain lots of brands or jacketed bullets that are oversize at the heel or out of round and may bind in the bullet guide.

In general, if you find components that do not fit properly – do not use them! This die **is not** intended for use with cast bullets or compressed loads.

To become more familiar with the operation of this die you will undoubtedly want to take it apart to have a look inside.

DISASSEMBLY AND CLEANING

Disassembly may be accomplished in the following manner: the entire micrometer may be removed from the die body by grasping the knurled portion of the die body in one hand and the knurled base of the micrometer sleeve in the other. Twist counterclockwise and the micrometer assembly will unscrew from the die body. The return spring, sliding chamber sleeve and seating stem will now slide out of the die body for inspection. Keep all parts clean and free of abrasive dust and residue. If cleaning becomes necessary, simply wipe all sliding parts with a good grade of bore solvent and follow with a light application of quality gun oil. Upon re-assembly, check to be sure that all parts slide freely.

It should not be necessary to further disassemble the micrometer assembly and its screw threads **should not** be lubricated. The hole in the top of the micrometer barrel **is not** an oil hole. It provides access to the micrometer

adjustment set screw. (See MICROMETER ADJUSTMENT .) This set screw **should not be** lubricated. To do so would adversely affect the tension that maintains its adjustment.

SET-UP AND OPERATION

The REDDING COMPETITION seating die may be used in any reloading press with 7/8" – 14 threads. When installing the die in your reloading press it is **very important** to allow a **slight clearance** between the shellholder (in its uppermost position) and the threaded outer die body.

Damage to the die body may result from the shellholder making contact under the forces possible in a reloading press. Under these conditions the die body may eventually become swaged to the point that the internal sliding sleeve no longer functions.

The best set-up procedure is as follows: Place the shellholder and press ram in the uppermost position. Screw the die in place until the threaded die body makes contact with the shellholder: (This will compress the sliding sleeve fully.) Then turn the die body counterclockwise until the micrometer graduations are in front for easy reading. This method will allow from .020 to .070 clearance and protrusion of the sliding chamber sleeve.

Lock the die in this position by means of the 7/8 – 14 lock ring provided.

MICROMETER ADJUSTMENT

The micrometer is adjustable for bullet seating depth with each increment equal to .001", i.e. each full revolution of the micrometer barrel equals .050.

The micrometer assembly also has an adjustment feature that you may desire to use for your favorite setting. To adjust the micrometer reading in relation to any seating depth, use the following procedure.

Insert a 3/32 hex key through the hole in the top of the micrometer barrel to engage the hex socket of the internal set screw. This is the set screw that makes contact with the seating stem. Counterclockwise adjustment will decrease the bullet seating depth while clockwise adjustment will seat the bullet deeper without changing the micrometer setting.

CASE PREPARATION

To get the most from the precision built into your new REDDING COMPETITION bullet seating die you should become familiar with some of the basic case preparation procedures used by benchrest and other competition shooters.

Uniformity is the secret ingredient.

This subject could consume an entire book, but the point here is that your brass cases must be uniform in thickness and temper in order to remain straight through firing, resizing, and bullet seating. At the very least your cases should be segregated by lot and **sorted for uniformity**.

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