

Norma Products

Reviewed by
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Norma in Sweden produces some of the finest components and loaded ammunition in the world. Founded in 1902 they built a solid reputation upon military small arms manufacture for over 50 years before expanding into ever growing sporting markets.

Today Norma still produces top quality ammunition and components for the discerning sporting shooter. Be it hunting or target, Norma has something to offer. When I first started shooting back in the 1980s, Norma was all the rage and their excellent soft point projectiles were the gold standard with many serious hunters. Likewise, red tins of Norma powder were commonplace on many reloading benches and Norma brass was very common. Supply dwindled over the years until the New Zealand Ammunition Company took over importing Norma products once more.

A visit to their warehouse was an education. While practically ignored in New Zealand for many years, or sadly relegated to a small niche, Norma has continued to expand their line of not only projectiles and powder but loaded ammunition to boot. Their Oryx soft point might be the entry level offering but even it boasts a bonded core projectile. In my favourite hunting calibre, 30/06 Springfield, I can choose from FMJ for practice through to plastic tipped projectiles for use on lighter animals, right up to 200 grain heavies designed for large game.

Norma offers their excellent Diamond line of match projectiles as well as high-tech expanding projectiles for large or dangerous game, then right on down to the humble full-metal jacket.

Reloading powders

The following powders are now on offer in New Zealand once again (note: powder equivalents by no means infers that one powder may be exchanged for another. Such listings simply reflect relative quickness or burning rate. All loads should be developed via working up and watching for pressure signs).

Name Similar to

N200	AR2207 / Reloader 7
N201	IMR4320
N202	Vitavouri N140
N203-B	Reloader 15
URP	H4350
N204	H450
MRP	Reloader 25

As you can see, Norma has a powder for just about anything. However, of most interest is the common mid-range used by cartridges such as the .260 Remington, 7mm/08 and .308 Winchesters. Rounds such as these are well covered by Norma with N202, N203-B, URP and N204. These powders occupy a similar slot as do ADI's AR2206H, AR2208 and AR2209. What this means for the handloader looking for top performance is that Norma appears to fill several gaps in the powder chart. If you are looking for the best performance in any cartridge, Norma is well worth looking into.

Norma Oryx Hunting ammo

The Oryx range of hunting ammunition boasts top quality components. I recently was sent a box of 165 grain Oryx ammo from The New Zealand Ammunition Company to test in my 30/06 R93 Blaser. The projectile is a bonded lead core semi-point flat base at a listed 2900 fps. Three-three shot groups gave me 2840 fps in my 23.5" barrel with an average group size of 19mm. It also shot bang-on (pun intended) with my usual 165 grain Hornady interlock and 168 grain Amax loads at 100 yards. No doubt the blunter tip would cost you a little in long range performance but for a do-it-all hunting load at short to medium (300 ish) ranges, it would be very hard to beat. I shot a deer with this load at 20 feet and can attest to the projectile staying together and exiting just as I expected.

Pulling one round apart revealed good but not brutal neck tension and 60.2 grains of extruded powder, possibly some commercial form of Norma MRP, that filled the case to the projectile base providing a slightly compressed loading. Comparing the brass to brand new Norma stock, they appeared in run out and weight to be identical so your empties are well worth saving.

The Oryx range is well suited to most New Zealand hunting situations and well worth a look.



Two of the best. Norma powder is back once more.



Oryx hunting ammo is a quality made product that suits a lot of New Zealand hunting.