
FORSTER PRODUCTS

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HEADSPACE GAGE INSTRUCTIONS

The Forster Headspace Gage is designed to ensure accurate testing of chamber headspace. Headspace is the distance between the face of the breech and the base of the cartridge when the action is closed. Safety and accuracy are threatened when excessive headspace exists.

For best results with bolt action rifles, remove the extractor from the bolt. The bolt must work freely in the receiver. It is impossible to have the proper feel for a gage if the bolt is tight or sticky.

Insert the proper gage into the action. Attempt to close the bolt on the gage. **CAUTION — Never force the bolt closed on a gage.** A rifle with correct headspace should close easily and without feel on the GO gage, but should not close on the FIELD gage. If it does close on the NO-GO gage, but not on the FIELD gage, the rifle may still be serviceable. However, it is not advisable to use it for best accuracy with factory ammunition. **CAUTION — Any rifle that will close on the field gage may have dangerously excessive headspace and should not be fired under any circumstances.**

Three lengths of Headspace Gages are available per caliber:

- **GO length** — This checks the rifle to see that the chamber will accept the cartridges made to maximum SAAMI specifications.
- **NO-GO length** — This is used by most gunsmiths as a maximum headspace gage when chambering a rifle's headspace dimension. If a rifle closes on a NO-GO gage, it **may** have excessive headspace. If a rifle closes on a NO-GO gage, it may still be within the SAAMI Rifle Chamber tolerance. Next, it should be checked with a FIELD gage.
- **FIELD length** — If a rifle closes on a FIELD length gage, its chamber is dangerously close to, or longer than, SAAMI's specified maximum chamber size. This is the longest of the three gage lengths.

Custom-length Forster gages are available. A grinding fee will apply. Call, fax, or e-mail us with inquiries for special gages.

GO, NO-GO, and FIELD length Headspace Gages are available in the following calibers:

For rimless calibers — 22 PPC, 220 Swift, 222 Rem., 222 Rem. Mag., 22-250 Rem., 223 Rem., 243 Win., 244 Rem., 250 Sav., 25-06 Rem., 257 Rob., 270 Win., 6mm PPC, 6.5 x 55 SKAN, 6.5 x 55 Swede, 7mm-08 Rem., 7mm Mauser, 280 Rem., 284 Win., 30 Carbine M1, M1A1, M2, M3, 30-06, 308 Win., 8mm x 57 Mauser, 358 Win.

For rimmed calibers — 219 Wasp & Zipper, 22 Rimfire, 22 Sav. H.P., 25-35, 275 Mag., 303 Br., 300 Mag., 30-30, 30-40 Krag, 32 Win. Sp., 32-40, 375 Mag., 38-55, 30 Carbine.

Thank you for purchasing a Forster Precision Product. Please wear safety glasses.

Forster Catalogs are available upon request.