

# SK Pistol Match test

By Val Wadsworth, Blenheim

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The SK range of .22 target ammunition is familiar to most NZ smallbore shooters. Made by Nammo, the same company which manufacture the more expensive Lapua ammunition, SK is the lower priced end of their range, including SK Magazine (Tens in a Tin), Standard Plus, and Rifle Match. Nammo also produces SK Pistol Match, at about the same price as Rifle Match. There are reports that Pistol Match also performs well in smallbore rifles, so this test set out to compare Pistol Match with other similarly priced SK and Eley ammunition.

Firstly why should Pistol Match be different to Rifle Match? In theory Pistol ammunition might use faster burning powders, to develop sufficient velocity in a short barrel. This would usually be done by either changing the powder, or producing the powder in smaller grains, for faster burning. However my untrained eye was unable to see any difference in the powder removed from two cartridges. What a faster burning powder will do in a longer rifle barrel is a matter for further investigation, comparative velocity testing of the two variations in a rifle would be interesting. Ultimately the best way to find out what the difference is between rifle and pistol ammunition is would be to ask Nammo.



Testing was carried out on the RSA test bench, a lightweight sliding recoil unit. It is my view that any bench testing should be done on a comparative basis, using different ammunition in the same session. This means absolute group size is not the critical factor. Each bench rig will shoot slightly differently, the RSA rig may not be as good as some but it has the advantage of being fast to set up.

Ammunition chosen for testing was SK Standard Plus, SK Rifle Match, SK Pistol Match, Eley Sport, Eley Club, and RWS Club. All fall in the \$165 to \$210 per 1000 price range. A control group of selected Eley Match was used for comparison.

Four different rifles were used, my own Feinwerkbau 2700, which is a known quantity, and three RSA club rifles; a near new Walther KK300 Blacktec, a mid-weight entry level rifle, an Anschutz 1807 barrelled action on a Walther KK300 stock, and an Anschutz 1811 barrelled action on a Walther KK300 stock. All were shot in 10 shot groups with fouling shots between groups, but no barrel cleaning.

Group sizes were assessed by the outside diameter (mm) which all shots fitted within, using a circle template, and groups were averaged across the four rifles for each ammunition. Two series of 10 shot strings were shot through the FWB, and one series for each of the other rifles. Note that the first string of Eley Club through the FWB was an old batch, and was difficult to chamber, producing a ragged group, so this was replaced with a newer batch, and the first group discounted. RWS Club was a late addition, so was not shot through the FWB.

The results are shown in the table below;

	SK Std	SK RM	SK PM	E. Sport	E. Club	E Match	RWSClub	Average
FWB 1	13.5	11.5	9.5	10	<del>13.5</del>	8		11
FWB 2	9.5	10.5	11.5	11	10	9		10.2
Blacktec	9.5	8	8.5	10.5	12	8.5	9.5	9.5
1807	11	11	10.5	10.5	10.5	8.5	12.5	10.6
1811	12	13	11.5	10.5	11.5	9.5	12	11.4
Average	10.5	10.6	10.5	10.6	11	8.9	11.3	

What does this tell us?

Firstly the control group of selected Eley Match shows that all rifles were capable of reasonable groups, and was the best ammunition in all rifles except the Blacktec, which also performed very well with SK Rifle Match and Pistol Match.

Average group sizes for each ammunition were surprising close, with the exception of the much higher priced selected Eley Match. The SK Pistol Match produced a couple of good groups, as did the other SK lines. Interestingly the much maligned Eley Sport was very consistent, with no outstanding groups, but no rough groups either, just average groups across all rifles.

Despite firing 330 rounds it may be argued that even this test was not extensive enough, as can be seen from the differences between the first and second series with the FWB. Tests with different torques, different cleaning regimes and so on would be nice, if only one had the time.

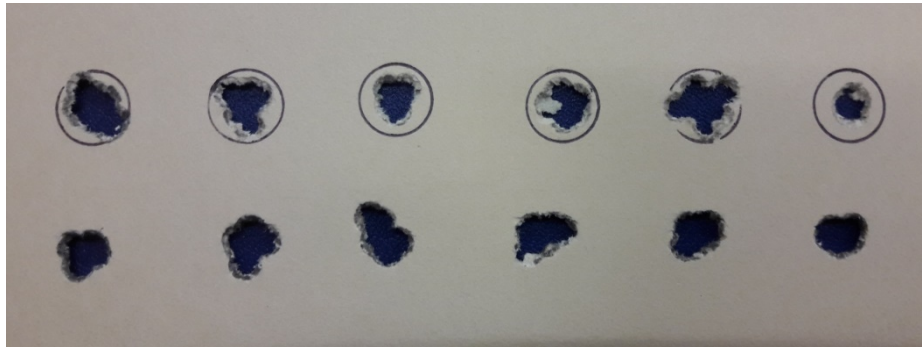
What the test does show is the importance of working to find ammunition which suits your own rifle, and that may not necessarily be the most expensive ammunition. In a game where reducing your group size by 1mm could bring big improvements for most shooters, not trying different ammunition options is not trying to improve yourself.

The availability of SK Pistol Match as another lower priced ammunition option can only be a good thing, and would be worth trying, it may just work for you!

The pictures below show the actual groups shot in the order listed in the table.

**Groups for FWB 2700. Group order SK Std, SK RM, SK PM, Eley Sport, Eley Club, Eley Match.**

**Circles shown are 13mm diameter, the size of the 10 ring.**



**Groups for KK300 Blacktec (top), 1807 (middle), 1811 (bottom).**

**Group order SK Std, SK RM, SK PM, Eley Sport, Eley Club, Eley Match, RWS Club.**



# Evaluation of SK Pistol Match

by Robbie McNair, Dannevirke



I was really pleased to be able to test some new ammunition for TSNZ. Jackie mentioned that indications were that SK Pistol match was producing the same if not better results than SK Rifle match, I was really intrigued as we have 3000 rounds of SK Rifle match in our safe which goes really well through our Anschutz rifles.

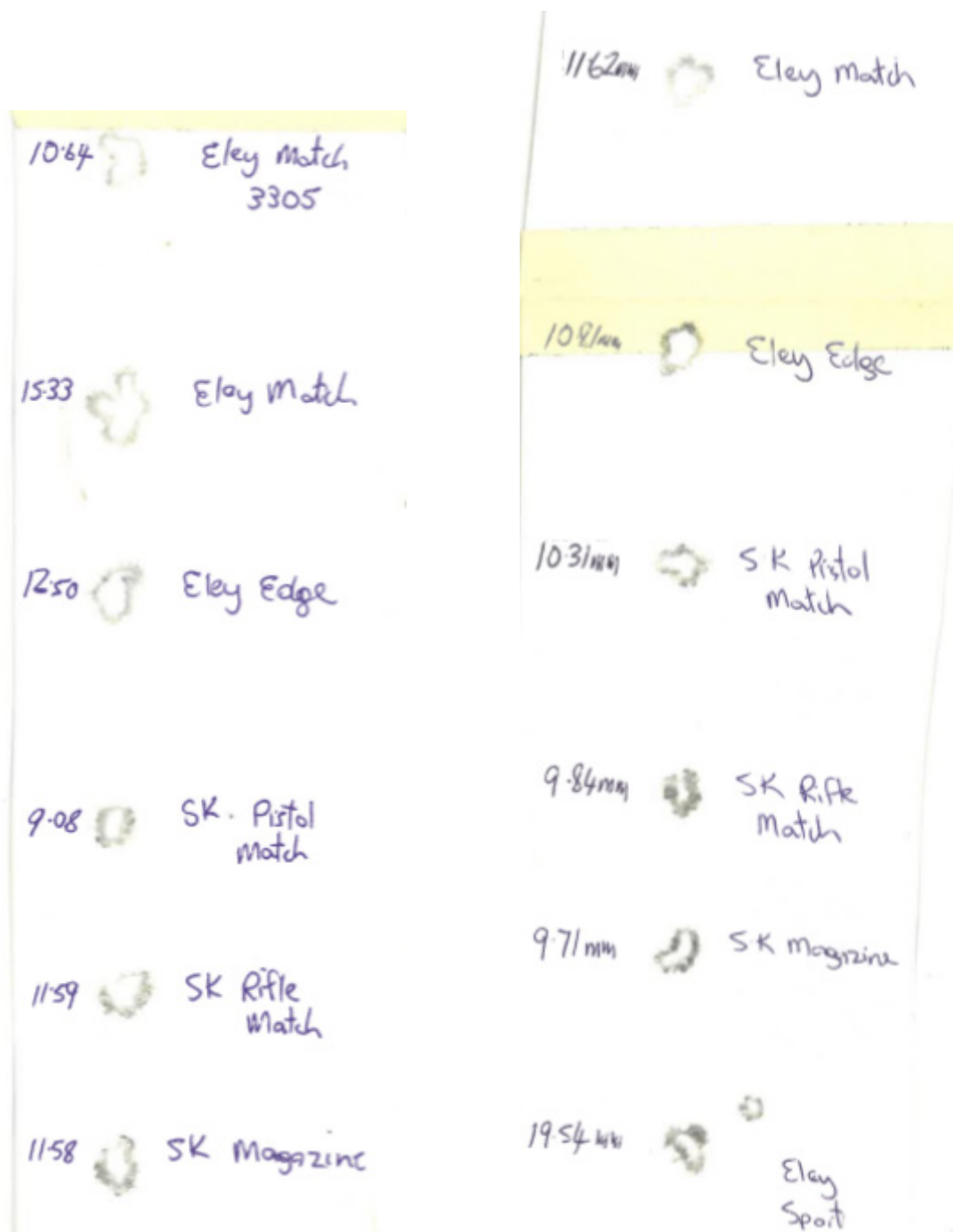
My background - I do a lot of batch testing on our family's rifles and also a lot of friends and also Association and Club members equipment as well. I shoot 10 shot groups at 23 yards at the back of the Dannevirke range. So for a rifle/ ammunition combo to shoot indoor 100's groups need to be under 12.5mm and 8.3mm for 100.10 capability.

I decided to use a wide range of ammunition to get a fair indication of the ability of the rifle being tested. The 3 x test rifles were a mixture of our own rifles and club rifles.

Results were very interesting-

	Anschutz 2013	Anschutz 1807	Anschutz 1907	Total Group Size
SK Magazine	9.8mm	11.9mm	10.0mm	31.7mm
SK Rifle Match	10.5mm	13.3mm	10.8mm	34.6mm
<b>SK Pistol Match</b>	<b>10.1 mm</b>	<b>10.5mm</b>	<b>9.3mm</b>	<b>29.9mm</b>
Eley Sport	17.3mm	12.4mm	15.1mm	44.8mm
Eley Edge	10.8mm	13.35mm	9.2mm	33.35mm
Eley Match	11.4mm	12.0mm	9.3mm	32.30mm

Some groupings from testing (number on the left is group size outside to outside in mm)



**Conclusion** – The SK range of .22 target shooting ammunition offers excellent value for money, often performing better than ammunition twice its price. The new SK Pistol Match is a very good line of target ammunition by the look. I fired off over 100 rounds and never got any flyers or misfires. In all the Ammunition I tested it grouped consistently in the top 3 and was the best overall 3x rifles tested. One thing to note about this ammunition it has a muzzle velocity around 955 F/S which is 100 F/S lower than most other similar target ammunition and a noticeably softer recoil when live firing (which I like).

I am sure if sold by TSNZ it would be purchased by TSNZ members looking for a very good value for money option of top line target ammunition.