

Can I use scrap lead instead of lead wire, for cores?

Yes. Corbin builds multi-cavity, adjustable weight core moulds in all calibers. Cast cores are easier and faster to make than cast bullets, since there are no rings or grooves in them. The moulds can eject out the top, like a car engine block using pistons and cylinders, instead of being split and hinged. You can also extrude lead wire with Corbin LED-1 extruder kits with the CHP-1 Hydro-Press.

Can I make partitioned bullets?

Yes you can. An even *better* design is the bonded core, where the lead and jacket are chemically combined into an alloy junction. The lead can't separate from the jacket, and peels back with it every time, giving very high retained weight at extreme expansion.

Telescoping different calibers of jackets together over a core, or using multiple cores and jackets within one outer "skin" are just two of the thousands of possible designs you can make at home, even better than partitions.

What is the minimum equipment to get started?

For calibers between .14 and .458, you can use the CSP-1 S-press and -S type dies. If you plan to use cast cores or medium lead hardness, select the Mega Mite (CSP2), used with -H type dies.

A lead, gas-checked, half-jacketed, or Base-Guard™ bullet can be made in a single die (LSWC-1-S or -H). Add either a spool of lead wire, and a core cutter, or else a core mould (for scrap lead). Use Corbin Swage Lube to extend die life and help prevent sticking.

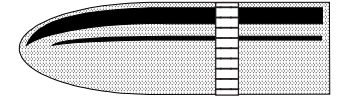
For jacketed rifle or handgun with flat base and open tip, choose a 3-die set (FJFB-3-S or -H) in flat base, or additional dies for the rebated boattail and lead tip styles. (You can always add the RBT and LT tooling later.)

What information do I need to learn swaging?

Corbin publishes several books which give hundreds of examples, photos, and experiments. The best single book is *HB-9-E (Handbook of Swaging, No. 9, E-book)*. The complete collection of books is available in a package called "BP-7", at a special price. Reading before you order can save you time, money, and possible frustration. Every step is simple. The possible combinations are limited only by your imagination!

Swage dies let you explore your ideas while others just speculate. But like anything else, it pays to learn by reading, so you know the basics, the available tools, and their capabilities. Once you know what is available, the best teacher is experience! Corbin equipment makes the experience easy and fun... and, if you wish, profitable! We can help you become a custom bullet supplier to the world.

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Questions about Swaging?

What is bullet swaging?

Bullet swaging is the process of forming either lead or jacketed bullets by applying pressure to material trapped inside a precise die cavity, so that it will flow at room temperature and become the same shape as the die. Pressures as high as 150,000 psi are routinely generated in the diamond-lapped dies, expanding lead like soft putty and stretching the jacket like a rubber balloon, until it is stopped by the punch ends and cavity wall.

No heat is used, so the bullet remains at a constant temperature during the process. Swaged bullets can be 100 times more precise (round, repeatable, and constant weight) than the best cast bullets. From one to six dies may be used, depending on the complexity of the bullet desired. Different dies are used in sets for various jobs, such as adjusting the core weight, shaping the ogive, or forming a boattail or partition. A set of dies makes one diameter, but many weights and styles just by changing adjustment or technique.

What kind of bullets can be swaged?

With the right Corbin Swage System, you can make ANY bullet that you can imagine! Hard lead, soft lead, jacketed rifle or handgun, shotgun slugs and airgun pellets, hollow base wadcutters and partitioned big game bullets—swaging gives you the design power experimental labs have at their disposal, making it possible for you to develop bullets that have never been made before. Corbin builds several models of presses, using different sizes of dies, to handle everything from .104 caliber to 20mm cannon. Some bullet designs require the powerful Hydro-Press and -H type dies, while others can be made using the S-press.

Can I make both jacketed and lead bullets?

Yes. Corbin builds several kinds of dies that are made to speed the production of all-lead pistol and paper-patched rifle styles, as well as the amazing Base-Guard™ lead bullets (which require no lubrication, and eliminate leading with soft lead). Lead bullets with a shoulder between shank and nose can be made in a single stroke of the press, in a "lead semi-wadcutter" die. Bullets that have a smooth ogive without a shoulder require at least two dies (a "core seat die", CS-1, and a "point form die", PF-1). First the core is seated into the jacket, then the ogive is formed in the second die. Lead tips and rebated boattails use additional dies.

Can I use my existing reloading press?

For some bullets, yes. But reloading presses have no built-in ejection, half the leverage or less, and far less precise alignment. Bullet swage presses are designed around the die, which works best if it is made to fit into the ram, not the press head. Corbin swaging presses are from 200% to 500% stronger than the largest reloading presses. All use steel construction with roller bearings. All have automatic ejection, vastly superior alignment, and much greater leverage with a shorter stroke than any reloading press.

For most lead bullets, or jacketed semi-wadcutter, or the jacketed 223 and 6mm 6-S flat base designs, you can use a type -R die set to make excellent bullets in your reloading press. Corbin builds the 7/8-14 thread Pro-Swage dies for reloading presses. If the catalog number ends in -R, it works in a standard reloading press!

Where do I get jackets and lead wire?

Corbin supplies all materials for bullet making, including tools so that you can make your own jackets and lead wire at home, perhaps even selling them to others to help pay for your own bullets! For well over a decade, shooters around the world have made free bullets from fired .22 cases and scrap lead, using Corbin tools in the .224 and .243 (6mm) calibers.

You can also buy commercial jackets and spools of lead wire, or make your own with Corbin jacket-maker sets and lead extruder kits. We supply lead wire, core moulds, wire cutters, extruders, jacket making kits, lubricant, copper tubing and flat strip for making jackets, and jackets ready made! Corbin has been the premier one-stop shopping center for bullet makers for decades. You can make every component yourself, or buy them ready to use. The choice is yours!

How accurate a bullet can I make?

Olympic target shooters, world champion sportsmen and security agency sharpshooters rely on the accuracy of hand-built bullets made with Corbin equipment. Over 400 brands of commercial bullets received their start with a Corbin die set, which can be made with extremely close tolerances because there is no heat build-up, or any other degradation inherent in high speed mass production.

Corbin dies are purchased by defense agencies, armament labs, and major bullet makers to do experimental high precision work. You can make better bullets than you can buy, because you control exactly what goes into making them. You can tailor the design and weight to your precise needs, instead of settling for what marketers wish to sell to “the average shooter”. Precision is the essence of swaging. There is no method of making a better bullet than with Corbin swaging systems.

How fast is swaging, compared to casting?

Swaged bullets are *much* faster to make, comparing the same styles of bullet. A lead swaged bullet can be finished in one pull of the press handle. Most jacketed styles take from 2 to 4 pulls of the handle using different dies: a matter of seconds per bullet! There is no waiting for lead to melt, no sizing, lubing, or clean-up. Casting produces a fairly high number of rejects and requires far more preparation than swaging.

You can decide to swage five bullets to try a new idea, and have them done in minutes. If you use lead wire, swaging can be both faster and safer than casting. You can use scrap lead, and an adjustable-weight core mould, which is faster than a split bullet mould. Most people who swage their own bullets first thought it would be too much work or time. Now, they'd never consider going back to casting!

What does a swaged bullet cost?

You can swage anything from a .14 air-gun pellet to a 20mm cannon shell: the price for materials can vary widely. Many swaged bullets cost nothing for materials: you can pick up free .22 cases and scrap lead at the range, and produce excellent centerfire rifle bullets. You can also make bullets that are unobtainable at any price, because no one makes them but you. There may be cheaper bullets that you can buy, compared to the material cost of making a superior bullet yourself. But then again, if cost is all that matters, a slingshot uses the ultimate cheap projectile: *rocks*. Performance is the main reason for swaging bullets. Otherwise, why own quality guns?

Your cost will typically be less than *similar quality* factory bullets by 20% to 90%. Some surplus bullets cost less than the high quality materials to make a swaged bullet. But they seldom perform in the same class. A bullet made from a fired .22 LR case and scrap lead costs zero cents! A partitioned, heavy wall .475 Nitro bullet might half the price of a similar factory bullet -- but you can make any weight or style you wish, even in hard to find calibers.

A swaged rebated boattail .50 BMG or 20mm projectile might cost you 50 cents for materials. But try to find one “downtown” at any price! If you do, the price may be over 3 times as much. You get the last laugh when people who don't know about swaging pay high prices some discontinued “high performance” bullet, while you can make it or a better design whenever you wish.

Most of the new “hot” designs were being made by home bullet swagers years before they were “discovered” by mass producers. After all, Corbin been supplying the ideas and tools to handloaders for over 45 years. The best ideas usually come from individuals, not committees!