

Forster Products 308 Winchester Headspace Gauge Set

Forster Products 308 Winchester Headspace Gauge Set Instruction Manual

GO and NO-GO Gauges

1. INTRODUCTION AND PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Forster Products 308 Winchester Headspace Gauge Set provides essential tools for accurately measuring the chamber length of rifles. Proper headspace is critical for both safety and accuracy in firearms. This set includes a 'GO' gauge and a 'NO-GO' gauge, designed to help gunsmiths and firearm enthusiasts verify that a rifle chamber meets industry specifications.

Headspace refers to the distance between the face of the breech and the base of the cartridge when the action is closed. For rimless cartridges, this distance is measured from the bolt face to a datum line on the cartridge shoulder. Excessive headspace can lead to dangerous conditions, such as cartridge case rupture and gas escaping rearward, while insufficient headspace can prevent proper chambering of ammunition.



A pair of precision-machined headspace gauges, labeled 'GO' and 'NO-GO', used for measuring rifle chamber length.



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Headspace Gages

The most reliable way to test rifle chamber length

Detailed view of the 'GO' and 'NO-GO' headspace gauges, showing their markings and precision finish.

2. SETUP AND PREPARATION

Before using the headspace gauges, ensure the rifle is unloaded and safe. Always follow proper firearm safety procedures.

1. **Clean the Chamber:** Thoroughly clean the rifle chamber and bore to remove any carbon, fouling, or debris that could interfere with accurate measurement.
2. **Remove Extractor and Ejector:** For bolt-action rifles, it is generally recommended to remove the extractor and ejector from the bolt face. This ensures that the bolt closes solely on the gauge, without any interference from these components. Consult your rifle's manual for specific instructions on removing these parts.
3. **Inspect Gauges:** Visually inspect the 'GO' and 'NO-GO' gauges for any signs of damage, wear, or foreign material. Ensure they are clean and free of lubricants.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The headspace gauges are used to determine if a rifle's chamber length falls within safe and acceptable manufacturing tolerances.

3.1 Using the 'GO' Gauge

- Insert the 'GO' gauge into the rifle chamber.
- Attempt to close the bolt gently.
- **Result:** If the bolt closes completely and locks without resistance, the chamber meets the minimum specified dimensions. This indicates that the chamber will accept ammunition manufactured to SAAMI (Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute) maximum specifications. A rifle should always close on a 'GO' gauge.

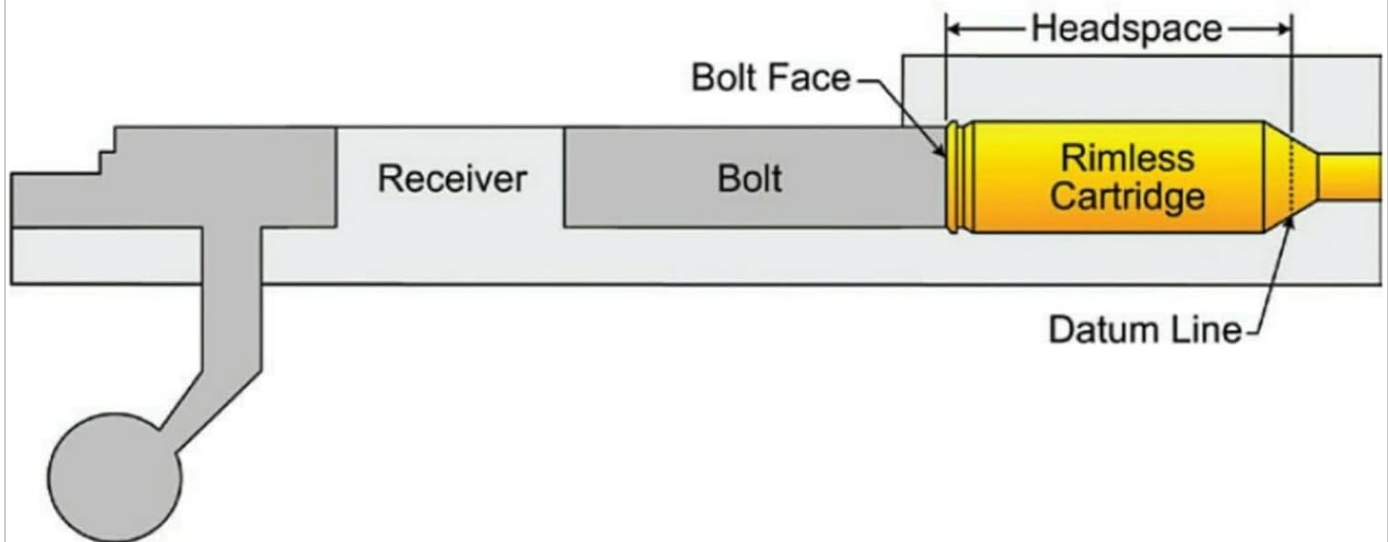
3.2 Using the 'NO-GO' Gauge

- Insert the 'NO-GO' gauge into the rifle chamber.
- Attempt to close the bolt gently.
- **Result:** If the bolt **does not** close completely and lock, the chamber's headspace is within acceptable limits (between 'GO' and 'NO-GO'). This is the desired outcome for a safe and accurate chamber.
- **Important:** If the bolt closes completely and locks on the 'NO-GO' gauge, it indicates that the chamber may have excessive headspace. While it might still be within SAAMI specifications, it suggests the chamber is approaching or exceeding the maximum recommended length. Further investigation with a 'FIELD' gauge (not included in this set) would be necessary to determine if the chamber is dangerously oversized.



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Rimless Cartridges

Headspace is the distance between the bolt face and a datum line (determined by SAAMI) where the front of the cartridge rests on its shoulder when the bolt is closed

An illustration depicting the concept of headspace in a rimless cartridge, showing the bolt face, receiver, bolt, cartridge, and datum line.



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Choosing the Correct Headspace Gage

Available in three lengths, in order from shortest to longest:

- **GO:** Minimum chamber dimensions. If a rifle closes on a GO gage, the chamber will accept ammunition that is made to SAAMI maximum specifications. The GO gage is essential for checking a newly-reamed chamber in order to ensure a tight, accurate, and safe chamber that will accept SAAMI maximum ammo.
- **NO-GO:** Maximum headspace we recommend for gunsmith's chambering new bolt-action rifles. This is not a SAAMI-maximum measurement. If a rifle closes on a NO-GO gage, it may still be within SAAMI specifications, or it may have excessive headspace. To determine if there is excessive headspace, the chamber should then be checked with a FIELD gage.
- **FIELD:** The longest safe headspace. If a rifle closes on a FIELD gage, its chamber is dangerously close to, or longer than, SAAMI-specified maximum chamber size. FIELD gages are slightly shorter than the SAAMI maximum in order to give a small safety margin.

A visual guide explaining the definitions and uses of GO, NO-GO, and FIELD headspace gauges for rifle chambers.

4. MAINTENANCE

Proper care and maintenance will ensure the longevity and accuracy of your Forster Products headspace gauges.

- **Cleaning:** After each use, wipe the gauges clean with a soft, lint-free cloth to remove any residue or fingerprints.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a very light coat of rust-preventative oil to the gauges before storage, especially in humid environments.
- **Storage:** Store the gauges in their original protective packaging or a dedicated case to prevent damage from impacts or abrasion. Keep them in a dry, temperature-stable environment.
- **Avoid Dropping:** These are precision instruments. Dropping them can alter their dimensions and compromise their accuracy.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

Understanding potential issues and their implications is crucial for safe firearm operation.

- **Bolt Does Not Close on 'GO' Gauge:**

This indicates that the rifle chamber is too tight or short. Do not force the bolt. This condition can lead to ammunition not fully chambering or excessive pressure if forced. Consult a qualified gunsmith for inspection and correction.

- **Bolt Closes on 'NO-GO' Gauge:**

This suggests that the rifle chamber has excessive headspace. While it might still be within SAAMI maximum specifications, it is a warning sign. This condition can lead to unsafe operation, including case head separation and gas leakage. It is strongly recommended to have the rifle inspected by a qualified gunsmith. A 'FIELD' gauge (not included in this set) would be used to determine if the headspace is dangerously beyond SAAMI maximums.

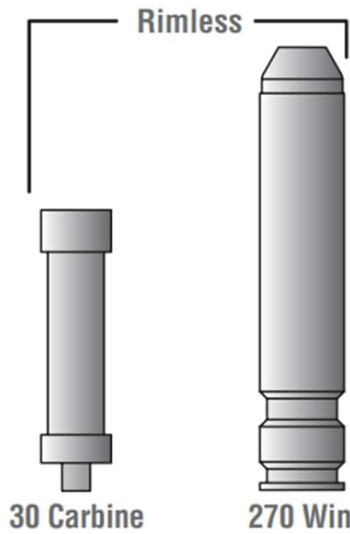
6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Product Type	Headspace Gauge Set (GO and NO-GO)
Caliber Compatibility	.243 Win., .260 Rem., 7mm-08, .308 Win., .338 Fed, & .358 Win.
Material	Top-quality, hardened steel
Precision	Precision ground to ANSI and SAAMI tolerances; Headspace tolerance of ± 0.00015 inches
Inspection	Thoroughly inspected with NIST-certified measurement tools
Package Dimensions	5.98 x 2.76 x 1.18 inches
Weight	2.89 ounces



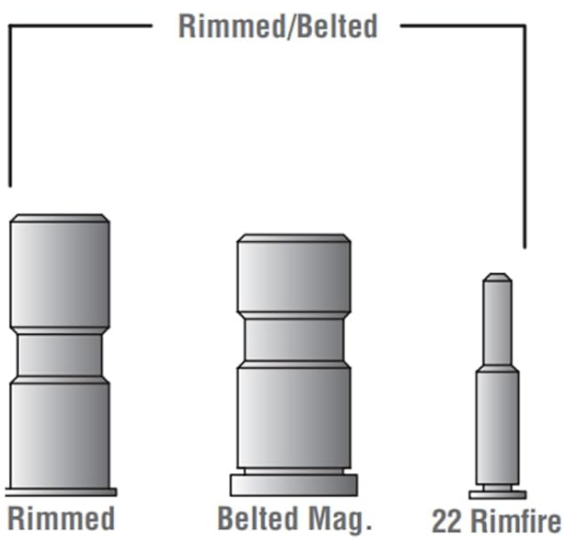
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- Over 85 cartridge rifle chambers

- Three lengths for most calibers



- Precise to $\pm 0.00015''$

An image showcasing different types of headspace gauges for various cartridge designs, including rimless, rimmed, and belted, highlighting the product's versatility.

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information regarding your Forster Products 308 Winchester Headspace Gauge Set, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Forster Products website. For technical support, product inquiries, or assistance with any issues, please contact Forster Products directly through their official channels.

