



Choosing

**THE RIGHT
SHOTSHELL
LOAD FOR 10 TYPES
OF UPLAND GAME**

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SHOTSHELL LOAD FOR 10 TYPES OF UPLAND GAME

The guide has three sections:
12 gauge, 20 & 28 gauge, and .410 bore
By consulting simple tables
you'll be able to choose the ideal shot load
and size for 10 types of upland game.







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12 GAUGE

GAME	SHOT SIZE	12 GAUGE LOAD	RECOMMENDATIONS
 Ringnecked Pheasant	4 - 5 - 6	B&P Upland Game or Heavy Pheasant 1 1/4 to 1 7/8 oz.	<p>Pheasant are usually hunted in harvested grain fields and brushy areas bordering them. For early season birds flushed over dogs where shots are typically closer, a IC or Mod choke with the Upland Game load 1 1/4 in 5 or 6 shot will work just fine.</p> <p>For Driven or Tower Shoots where shots at birds will be long, use a tighter choke and step up to the Heavy Pheasant load in 1 3/8 to 1 7/8 ounce load in 4 or 5 to really reach out and knock the bird down. Check out our BLOG on pheasant hunting for tips on getting started.</p>
 Quail	7.5 or 8	B&P Heavy Dove & Quail 1 1/8 oz.	<p>With six species of quail in the U.S. they have a wide distribution. The most popular among the quail is the Northern Bobwhite found throughout the southern states up into the plains. They live in coveys and shooting is quick and close. An IC choke with Heavy Dove & Quail in 8 shot works in most situations. Other species: California, Gambel's, Mountain, Montezuma, and Scaled are found in arid regions of the American southwest. Shooting conditions in the desert can vary from close to birds that flush at far ranges. Heavy Dove & Quail load in 7.5 or 8 will meet your need.</p>
 Ruffed & Spruce Grouse	6, 7.5 or 8	B&P Heavy Dove & Quail or Upland Game	<p>Grouse prefer the thick woodlands of new forest growth. That means most shots are quick and close. It also means you will be shooting through the cover to hit the bird so both quantity of shot and size are important. Early in the season when you encounter young birds that flush close 7.5 or 8 shot in 1 1/8 oz will work.</p> <p>As the season progresses and birds flush at greater distance try going up to a 6 shot still in 1 1/8 or even 1 1/4 oz of shot.</p>
 Hungarian Partridge	6 - 7.5	B&P Upland Game 1 1/4 oz.	<p>Huns are birds of open fields and can sometimes be flushed when pheasant hunting when ranges overlap. They typically don't hold tight for pointing dogs so shot will be at longer ranges.</p> <p>They are not big birds, but because of the range of shots a MOD choke with a high velocity load like the B&P Upland Game in 7.5 shot is ideal</p>

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GAME	SHOT SIZE	12 GAUGE LOAD	RECOMMENDATIONS
 <p>Sharp tailed Grouse</p>	5, 6 - 7.5	<p>B&P Upland Game 1 1/8, 1 1/4</p>	<p>“Sharpies” are mid-sized birds found primarily in the northern plains states and prefer similar habitat as pheasant such as open grain or grassy fields. They live in large coveys and tend to hold tighter for dogs and hunters than pheasant so shots are typically at closer ranges. A good pointing or flushing dog is indispensable when hunting them. They are bigger than Huns but smaller than pheasant. The B&P Upland Game load with 1 ¼ oz. of 5 or 6 shot using a MOD choke will meet your needs.</p>
 <p>Chukar</p>	6 - 7.5	<p>B&P Upland Game</p>	<p>Chukars are mid-sized birds living in small coveys and also have the name Devil Bird for a reason. They inhabit rocky ledges with brush of the southwestern U.S. and run instead of flying when threatened. Hunting chukar is hard on hunters and dogs. A dog is a must when hunting these game birds. Because of the rough terrain a light gun is essential. Since the birds run before flying shots will typically be at longer ranges. A MOD choke with B&P Upland Game in 6 or 7.5 shot will put birds in the bag.</p>
 <p>Dove</p>	6 - 7.5 - 8	<p>B&P Heavy Dove & Quail</p>	<p>Mourning dove hunting kicks off the season in many states. These fast flying migratory darters are normally hunted by groups of hunters as they come into cut grain fields early in the morning or mid to late afternoon. Shooting at early season birds is typically at close range but because of their erratic flight hitting them is still difficult. The B&P Heavy Dove and Quail load in 7.5 or 8 shot with an IC choke is perfect medicine. As the season progresses birds tend to fly faster and higher coming into fields. Switch to the same load in 6 shot with a MOD choke to reach up and hit the birds.</p>




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GAME	SHOT SIZE	12 GAUGE LOAD	RECOMMENDATIONS
 <p>American Woodcock</p>	7.5 - 8	B&P Heavy Dove & Quail	<p>Woodcock begin their fall migration in northern states to spend the winter in frost free southern states. They prefer soft ground near streams and bogs in thick cover and are often found in similar habitat as ruffed grouse. Woodcock are usually hunted over pointing dogs and hold well for the point. Shots are typically close and in thick cover. Either a SK or IC choke is optimum with B&P Heavy Dove & Quail in 8 shot.</p> <p>Late season, after being shot at through their migration, they tend to flush further away so the same load in 7.5 will work better.</p>
 <p>Cottontail Rabbit</p>	5 - 6	B&P Upland Game 1 ¼ oz	<p>A very popular game to hunt, cottontail rabbits are typically found in thick cover along field edges. You can hunt them without dogs but there is something special about the baying of beagles on fresh rabbit scent.</p> <p>Rabbits are typically running at close range when you shoot but they need a large size shot to stop them. An IC choke with B&P Upland Game in 6 shot is designed just for that purpose. Later in the season change to 5 shot and a MOD choke as their fur thickens and shots may be longer.</p>
 <p>Gray Squirrel</p>	5 - 6	B&P Upland Game 1 ¼ oz	<p>Gray squirrels are plentiful and a popular way to introduce new hunters to the sport. They are usually found in mixed hardwood forest with nut bearing trees like oak and hickory which they feed on.</p> <p>Shots are often taken at squirrels as they run through the treetops. In the early season with leaves still on the trees connecting is even more difficult. Heavier shot is much more effective at bringing the squirrel to bag. Try the B&P Upland Game in 6 shot with a MOD choke. As leaves drop from trees and squirrels are more wary of prey a FULL choke and 5 shot should be the best combination.</p>

NOTE: Although not as popular as the 12 gauge, there is a growing resurgence of the 16 gauge among American upland hunters. Most of the recommendations for the 12 gauge also apply to the 16 gauge. If you shoot a Classic 16 gauge, check out our [F2 Classic](#) line.




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20/28 GAUGE

GAME	SHOT SIZE	12 GAUGE LOAD	RECOMMENDATIONS
 Ringnecked Pheasant	4 - 5 - 6	B&P Upland Game or Heavy Pheasant 1 or 1 1/4 oz.	<p>Pheasant are our largest upland bird and usually hunted in harvested grain fields and brushing areas bordering them.</p> <p>20 ga. - For early season birds flushed over dogs where shot are typically closer, an IC or MOD choke with the B&P Upland load 1 oz. in 5 or 6 shot will work just fine. For Driven shoots where shots may be longer step up to the Heavy Pheasant with a MOD choke and 4 or 5 shot. 28 ga. – These big birds really require a heavy shot load in a tighter pattern with the 28 ga. The B&P Upland Game with 1 oz. of 4 from a MOD choke should bring the birds down.</p>
 Quail	7.5 or 8	B&P Upland Game or Heavy Dove & Quail 1 oz. or 3/4 oz.	<p>The most popular among the quail is the Northern Bobwhite found throughout the southern states up into the plains. They live in coveys and shooting is quick and close.</p> <p>Other species: California, Gambel's, Mountain, Montezuma, and Scaled are found in arid regions of the American southwest. Shooting conditions in the desert can vary from close to birds that flush at far ranges. The 20 or 28 gauge shotgun is preferred by many quail gunners because of their light weight and quick handling. 20 ga. – Tight holding birds and close shots require an open choke and small shot. Early season the B&P Heavy Dove & Quail 1 oz 8 shot in an IC choke works fine. Later in the season when birds tend to flush at longer range the same load in 7.5 shot improves your success. 28 ga. – The 28 gauge may be the ideal shotgun for the close flushing birds and the ideal load is the B&P Dove & Quail with 8 shot through a MOD choke.</p>
 Ruffed & Spruce Grouse	6 - 7.5 or 8	B&P Upland Game	<p>Grouse prefer the thick woodlands of new forest growth. That means most shots are quick and close. It also means you will be shooting through the cover to hit the bird so both quantity of shot and size are important. Grouse hunting requires a lot of walking through thick brush and avid grouse hunters prefer the light weight and quick handling of the 20 or 28 ga. Over/Under or SidexSide shotgun.</p> <p>20 ga. – Early season start out with a smaller shot in the Upland Game load with 1 oz. of 7.5. As the season progresses and birds flush wild at longer range step up to the same load of 1 1/4 oz. of 6 shot.</p> <p>28 ga. – Early season birds are closer so the Upland Game load with 3/4 oz. of shot in 7.5 with a IC/MOD choke is ideal. Later in the season with longer shots step up to the 1 oz. load of 6 shot for those wild flushing birds.</p>

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GAME	SHOT SIZE	12 GAUGE LOAD	RECOMMENDATIONS
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Hungarian Partridge</p> </div>	<p>6 - 7.5</p>	<p>B&P Upland Game 1 oz.</p>	<p>Huns are birds of open fields grass and grain fields living in large coveys and can sometimes be flushed when pheasant hunting when ranges overlap. They typically don't hold tight for pointing dogs so shot will be at longer ranges. They are not big birds, but because of the range of shots a MOD choke is preferred. Hunting Huns requires a lot of walking so many hunters prefer the 20 or 28 gauge for their light weight.</p> <p>20 ga. – Because of their small size, large shot size isn't needed. Hunters do need to compensate for their long range flushing by using a higher velocity load like the Upland Game with either 1 ¼ or 1 oz. of shot in 7 shot.</p> <p>28 ga. – The same rules apply as for the 20 gauge. Smaller shot is great for the Hun so the Upland Game with 1 oz. of 7.5 shot from a MOD choke will help put birds in the bag.</p>
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Sharp tailed Grouse</p> </div>	<p>4 - 5 - 6</p>	<p>B&P Upland Game 1 or 1/4 oz.</p>	<p>“Sharpies” are mid-sized birds found primarily in the northern plains states and prefer similar habitat such as open fields as pheasant. They are bigger than Huns but smaller than pheasant. They live in coveys and tend to hold tighter for dogs and hunters than pheasant so shots are typically at closer ranges. A good pointing or flushing dog is indispensable when hunting them.</p> <p>20 ga. – Even though they flush relatively close to the gun, their size means heavier loads and larger shot. Your Heavy Pheasant load will work here or switch to the Upland Game load with 1 ¼ oz. of 5 or 6 shot.</p> <p>28 ga. – The Upland Game load is perfectly matched for pursuing Sharpies. The 1 oz. load with either 4 or 6 shot will work and also take the occasional pheasant along the way.</p>

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GAME	SHOT SIZE	12 GAUGE LOAD	RECOMMENDATIONS
 Chukar	6 - 7.5	B&P Upland Game	<p>Chukars are mid-sized birds living in small coveys and also have the name Devil Bird for a reason. They inhabit rocky ledges with brush of the southwestern U.S. and run instead of fly when threatened. Hunting chukar is hard on hunters and dogs.</p> <p>Because of the rough terrain a light gun with tight chokes is essential. Most avid Chukar hunters prefer the light weight of a 20 or 28 ga. for long walks in steep terrain.</p> <p>20 ga. - Chukar are about the size of a Bobwhite Quail so large shot size isn't important as much as the amount of shot and velocity for long range shooting. Try the Upland Game with 1 ¼ oz. of 7.5 for these far flushing birds.</p> <p>28 ga. - Again, smaller shot size is preferred. It is best to step up to the Upland Game with a full ounce of 7.5 shot to bag these elusive birds.</p>
 Dove	6 - 7.5 - 8	B&P Heavy Dove & Quail	<p>Mourning dove hunting kicks off the season in many states. These small bodied, fast flying migratory darters are normally hunted by groups of hunters as they come into cut grain fields early in the morning or mid to late afternoon.</p> <p>Shooting at early season birds is typically at close range but because of their erratic flight hitting them is still difficult. This is even more challenging with the 20 or 28 gauge gun.</p> <p>20 ga. - The B&P Heavy Dove & Quail load with 1 oz. of 7.5 or 8 shot with an MOD choke is perfect medicine.</p> <p>28 ga. - B&P's Heavy Dove & Quail is just the medicine you need to handle these fast flying birds with a small gauge. The 15/16 oz. of 7.5 or 8 shot will bring birds to the bag.</p>
 American Woodcock	7.5 - 8	B&P Upland Game	<p>Woodcock begin their fall migration in northern states to spend the winter in frost free southern states. They prefer soft ground near streams and bogs in thick cover and are often found in similar habitat as ruffed grouse.</p> <p>Woodcock are usually hunted over pointing dogs and hold well for the point. Shots are typically close and in thick cover. Hunters prefer light weight, quick handling shotguns and the 20/28 gauge is just right.</p> <p>20 ga. - Close range shots at these small birds require open patterns and small shot. The Upland Game load with 1 oz. of 7.5 shot works just right.</p> <p>28 ga. - Same as the 20 gauge but step down to 3/4 ounce of 7.5 for close in shoots.</p>

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 Cottontail Rabbit	6 - 7.5	B&P Upland Game	<p>A very popular game to hunt, cottontail rabbits are typically found in thick cover along field edges. You can hunt them without dogs but there is something special about the baying of beagles on fresh rabbit scent.</p> <p>Rabbits are typically running at close range when you shoot but they need a large size shot to stop them. The 20 or 28 gauge is a great choice for rabbit hunting because of their quick handling ability.</p> <p>20 ga. – Start the season with the Upland Game 1 oz. 6 shot with a MOD choke. Late in the season bring the cottontail down with the same load of 1 ¼ oz. of 5 shot.</p> <p>28 ga. – The shot sizes are the same as the 20. gauge with either ¾ ounce in early season or 1 ounce late season.</p>
 Gray Squirrel	5 - 6	B&P Upland Game	<p>Gray squirrels are plentiful and a popular way to introduce new hunters to the sport. They are usually found in mixed hardwood forest with nut bearing trees like oak and hickory which they feed on.</p> <p>Shots are often taken at squirrels as they run through the treetops. In the early season with leaves still on the trees connecting is even more difficult. Shot can typically be at longer ranges.</p> <p>20 ga. – Your best combination for squirrel is a FULL choke with a heavy load of 1 ¼ oz. of 6 shot in the Upland Game load.</p> <p>28 ga. – Don't hold back on shot weight here. Go with the full 1 oz. of 6 shot through a full choke to put squirrels in the game bag.</p>

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.410 BORE

The .410 is in a special category of its own. Due to the low shot volume it is not suitable for all upland game. However, in the right conditions many hunters find it a challenging sport with some game under special circumstance. Here are some of those we find useful.

GAME	SHOT SIZE	.410 LOAD	RECOMMENDATIONS
Quail	8.5	B&P Upland Game	Most quail are shot at close range over pointing dogs. This is particularly true on shooting preserves. The .410 is quite capable of hitting quail under these circumstances. The B&P Upland Game 3" shell with ¾ oz. of 8.5 shot is a good option for shooting preserve quail hunting.
American Woodcock	8.5	B&P Upland Game	Another small bird that holds well for a pointing dog. They are typically found in tight cover but their flight pattern means shots are typically within 25 yards. Well within range of the .410. Again for this close in shooting the Upland Game 3" with 8.5 shot performs well in putting birds in the bag.
Cottontail Rabbit	4.6	B&P Upland Game	Much of the .410s early popularity can be attributed to small game hunters chasing rabbits. Rabbits are typically running at close range when you shoot but they need a large size shot to stop them. When hunting over a pack of beagles hunters can position themselves to get close shots at running bunnies. Try the 3" Upland Game with 6 shot in the early season and step up to 4 shot later in the year.
Gray Squirrel	4.6	B&P Upland Game	Many of today's adults remember starting their hunting life with a .410 shotgun in an oak bottom for squirrel. It is still a popular option for those same reasons. Using the right tactics, a hunter can get close enough to squirrels oak or hickory trees to bring them down with a load of Upland Game 3" 4 or 6 shot.



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