Dispense and Weigh a Charge

Insert case into shell holder/shell plate, verify hopper is turned on by turning counterclockwise, raise the ram and dispense a charge.

Remove charged case, empty charge on to the scale pan to determine the weight. If charge is light or heavy, see next step for adjusting the drum.

If you are using the Auto Drum on a turret press, it is best to take a charge from the normal loading sequence. The reloading operations postle the powder measure and cause the powder to pack more efficiently into the powder measure and will result in a slightly higher charge with some powders.

Adjust Charge

Charge is Light

Each key facet is about 1/10 of a grain. For example, if you are 3/10 of a grain light, rotate key counterclockwise 3 key facets to increase the charge. This will back out the metering rod and place back into drums storage bracket.

Charge is Heavy

If charge is heavy, rotate the key clockwise to decrease the charge.

Large Capacity Quick Change Drums

NOTE: when you dispense large charges, allow enough time for metering drum to empty. Cartridges like the 300 Win Mag can take up to 3 seconds to fill.

Rule of thumbs: allow 1 second per cc for charging and dispensing the powder charge.

Remove the Key

Continue to dump charges and verify. Once it’s set to your desired charge or slightly less, remove the key from the metering rod and place back into drums storage bracket.

Helpful Tips

After removing the hopper, there will be some residual powder inside the powder measure where the hopper installs and where the drum installs.

To prevent cross contamination across powder types, you want to make sure this residual powder is removed. The powder measure incorporates a no leak groove that will accumulate fine grain powders, make sure that is cleaned as well. Leave the graphite that is built up on the surface of the drum and inside the measure, this acts as a lubricant.

Troubleshooting

If you are experiencing leaking powder

Remove the drum, clean any residual powder off drum and inside casting. Re-install and tighten clamp knob so that there is no clearance between the drum and the die cast body. (Hint: use a strip of paper as a feeler gage)

Inconsistent Powder Charges

On large charges, you may not be allowing enough time for the drum to empty. Pause at the top of the press stroke. Allow about 1 second for every 10 grains of powder.

The powder measure hasn’t been conditioned adequately. Run a hopper full of powder through the measure to coat surfaces with powder or dust the metering surfaces with powdered graphite.

Check powder through expanding plug, drop tube and Powder Measure riser for oil residue. Push a clean tissue through to remove any residual oil.

CAUTION

Be certain you have the correct type and amount of powder.

Safety Scale Product # 90681

The safest practice when selecting a load is to choose a powder type and charge that nearly fills the case. This will prevent an accident from occurring as a double charge would overfill the case alerting the user of a double charge occurred. This is especially important when loading fast burning powder in handgun cases.

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Thanks for purchasing the Auto-Drum Powder Measure. This is an automatic case actuated drum powder measure. The Auto-Drum includes two infinitely adjustable drums. These will accurately and reliably drop charges from 1 to 80 grains of powder. Mached body with labyrinth groove mates to the precision molded nylon drums, providing a leak free fit with the finest powder. An elastomer wiper inside the body of the measure prevents powder shearing and works great with difficult metering extruded powders. The hopper incorporates an on/off valve making powder changeover fast and convenient.

1. Select Appropriate Drum
   The Auto-Drum normally ships with the small drum installed. The small drum is adjustable from zero to 40 grains, and the large drum is 35 to 100 grains. The large drum can be fitted with the supplied reducer plug to provide a range of 3 to 40 grains. The large drum can be converted to small capacity drum. Remove the plug from the drum, install into the metering rod. This is a semi-permanent change because it is a press fit into the metering rod. Slide it into the metering rod, and push firmly home with finger. Once installed, the minimum capacity is reduced to about 3 grains, suitable for the tiniest cartridges.

2. Adjusting charge using adjustment key
   Each of the quick change drums includes a key that you insert into the adjusting screw to make your adjustment. Each facet of the 10 sided key represents .01cc or about a 1/10 grain for the average powder. Light, fluffy powders are going to be less and more dense powders are going to be slightly more. On average, it is 1/10 of a grain per facet.

3. Use Lee Dipper or Safety Scale
   Before installing the drum, you can roughly preset the measure using a weighed charge or a charge from an appropriate dipper.

4. Install Auto-Drum into press
   - Install Drum into Measure to Drop Charge & Verify
     Install the drum with the metering rod facing downwards towards drop tube, aligned with the hopper on the Auto-Drum measure. Tighten the drum screw adequately to prevent powder leakage, yet still allow full drum rotation.
   - Attentions before installing powder measure, be sure your expanding plug/drop tube and powder measure riser have no oil residue. Push a clean tissue through to remove any residual oil.