

Set Up the Iron Press Kit

John:

Well, we're excited to kick off a new series of reloading tips with Hornady. And for this series of entry level tips, we're going to be using the lock and load iron press kit. Everything in this kit gets you started on the right foot. You don't have to buy the kit. But Hornady is trying to make it easy for you?

John:

You can buy all of these things individually if you choose. Now, from there I've got it set up here in my workstation, and that's the first part of this tip is paying attention to how you've laid it out on the bench. So here is the iron press, here is the powder drop, and then here is my batch process tray.

John:

All of it is right here in order and placed for a reason so that I can keep up with the steps as I move through them. And that's why I've invited Seth Swerczek from Hornady to be my subject matter expert and our guide to getting started in reloading. Seth I've got some once fired six millimeter arc brass Where do we start?

Seth:

Well, you want to start with an inspection process. Brass is reusable, but it has a service life. So you want to look for dings, dents, scratches, maybe some cracks, signs of overuse. And the next you want to check the length with a set of calipers. Brass stretches every time you shoot it. So you want to make sure it's within its tolerance for length.

Seth:

And that length is referenced right here in the reloading manual. And you can trim it if necessary. Yep.

John:

Part of that inspection process then leads into the next step, which I'm sure is cleaning it.

Seth:

You have to clean brass. You definitely don't want to use dirty brass because that debris could one scratch the sizing die, which we're about to use, or it could scratch the chamber in your firearm. So you want to clean brass and you can do it one at a time with the rag. But for high volume stuff like us, this vibratory tumbler works great.

Seth:

You can do high volumes of brass and you can get it really clean.

John:

Obviously available from Hornady, but not included in the kit. The one thing Seth did mention that is included in the kit that's vital that reloading handbook it.

Seth:

That's right, John. You have to have a reloading handbook whether you're a novice or a seasoned veteran. A handbook like this has all of the steps on how to reload internal and external ballistic information, plus all of the reloading data for Hornady bullets and the various powders that we've tested.

John:

You see the kit is valuable.

Seth:

All right. So we've got 20 pieces of clean brass. The next step. So we've got to set the sizing dye. First step is to clean the sizing dye and degrease it and install the proper shell holder. Now, to set up for a full length resize, you simply run the ramp to the top of the stroke and thread the dye down until it stops threading in.

Seth:

You set the lock ring and that dye is now set for full length resize. Next, you have to lubricate the brass. Brass. If you don't lubricate it could get stuck in the dye. Now you can use a paste lube like this. I like to use the aerosol. It's quick, it's efficient. You give your cases a spray, spraying from the other side.

Seth:

I let that evaporate. Next, Take your breath into the shell holder. Run it to the top of the stroke. It will full length resize and kick out that spent primer. When you come down, you've got to successfully full length three size case with no primer. Now the sizing dye set in the lock and load bushing. It's set forever. Never has to be reset and you've got 19 more cases to do.

John:

Excellent. Thanks, man. Hey, a transcript of this whole tip, plus links to everything we've shown you is available at shooting USA dot com.

<https://www.hornady.com/reloading/presses/lock-n-load-iron-press#!/>

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