

Big Lube™

TM

www.biglube.com

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Bulletin

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The supplier saga continues!

Back when DD decided to make black powder supplies a small internet business, there was only one mold maker that would/could produce the Big Lube™ bullet profiles in bullet molds. That was LEE Precision, of Hartford, WI. Also, to my knowledge, they are the only company that has ever manufactured the Big Lube™ mold designs. Back then, as now, all Big Lube™ molds are strictly a "custom order" item. The policy at LEE was, and remains, cash up front for any and all custom mold orders. The minimum order to avoid the \$100.00 "setup fee" is 25 identical molds. That was not too bad because LEE always delivered my orders in 60 days or less, even though their official statement guaranteed only 120 day delivery.

Lee has, and keeps all the tooling after they make a "custom" order after you've paid for it.

Now, things have changed. LEE is now taking a full SIX MONTHS to deliver "custom" orders after they are paid in full up front.

Dick Dastardly Black Powder Supplies tries hard to keep all the molds on the Big Lube™ web site in stock. However, it's becoming more and more difficult and expensive to maintain sufficient inventory.

With a half year lead time, it's difficult to maintain a functioning inventory of the full Big Lube™ product line. I've taken to buying a Hundred molds at a time, but with Eleven different mold designs, that's a lot of inventory. Make that read Dick's 401K sitting on the shelf.

LEE has, and keeps all the tooling after they make a "custom" order. The cost of that tooling is part of the \$100.00 "setup" fee. Each new order for less than 25 copies, is charged another \$100.00 "setup" fee. That's double dipping from my point of view.

I have been looking at other mold makers including one in Germany. Prototypes are on their way to me now. Testing will follow. Watch my web site for developments.

DD

Brass Sorting **I asked, you answered.**

I ran a survey on several of the wires and got some surprising answers. The question I asked was "*Who sorts their brass, and why?*". This question was qualified as being restricted to brass that would be reloaded for SASS matches. I'm thanking the pards here that answered with a vote. Your input is tabulated and you can draw whatever conclusions you would like.

I don't sort my brass ----- 12%
I sort some of my brass, but not all of it----25%
I sort my brass by manufacturer----- 63%
None said they sort their brass by weight - -0.00%
I sort my brass by trim length----- 15%

Ok, I know, I know, that adds up to more than 100% but the trim question wasn't mutually exclusive. When tabulating the results I tried to quantify some of the answers that didn't actually vote but that made comments. In other words I read their input and put them in the box that fit best. This isn't science but it gives us a pretty good idea of who is doing what as far as sorting their brass before reloading.

Just because I feel qualified to comment here, I'll tell you what sorting I do, and why. I sort by Caliber, that's a given. This is when I discard any defective or split cases.

I sort by manufacturer if I'm loading a batch of high precision ammo for those situations where my shooting might be improved with higher accuracy. This ammo gets it's own box and a color coded headstamp. All my other ammo is simply loaded and boxed. I date the boxes and note any significant load data.

Big Lube™ bullets loaded over a compressed powder charge of Holy Black are plenty accurate for the bulk of stages normally encountered. SASS shooters are more concerned about consistent feeding and ejection reliability. For those hard to hit targets I go to my specially marked ammo. Big Lube™ bullets tend to shoot very accurately, but any edge is appreciated when there are small or distant **Bonus** targets. . . . DD