PRECISION BULLET SEATING

Want to consistently duplicate or make easy adjustments to seat bullets precisely and not spend $200 to $400 for some commercial dies?

I won't get into the specifics of reloading, BUT, the following should be considered:
1. Consult SAAMI specs for any commercial caliber for tolerances and basic dimensions.
2. Measure your chamber so you have a few specific reference dimensions, namely:
   - Head space
     (ie; SAAMI for a 223 Remington it is 1.4636" min / 1.4756" max @ shoulder diameter of 0.330")
   - Breech face to groove and bore diameter. (Make a modified case from a fire formed case to measure locations)
     (ie; SAAMI for 223 Remington (groove diameter 0.224") is 1.812" and (bore diameter 0.219") dimension is 1.857")
   Note: Your actual dimensions will be in the range but will be different!

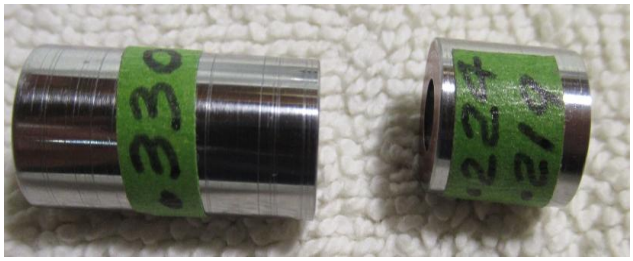
DIE ATTACHMENT FOR BULLET SEATING

Competition bullet seating dies may set you back over $200. The following will do the job just as well and only cost me $4.00 (for the indicator) and a little work. Suggest you measure each die and bore the bottom such that you can use inserts to attach over the knurled part of the die. Also make the bottom portion longer (say 1") such that you can utilize the full range of the indicator.

The one bellow was made from a piece of 1 1/2" Al bar stock , opened on two sides so you can make seating adjustments, has two set screws to attach the die and indicator. I found an indicator is easier to use than a micrometer head. In use just get the bullet seated (say 1/8" or so), measure the bullet seating at some specific reference , adjust seating based on desirable bullet jump.

Additionaly two simple gauges can provide case headspace dimension and precise bullet to bottom of case measurements. Again you could spend another $ 200 - $300 for competition dies. Use with electronic calipers since you can measure the gauge and reset the readout for a direct measurement.

For example the two gauges below are for a 223 Remington. One is bored to 0.330” to measure case headspace post resizing or firing of the cartridge. The other has two bores, one side is 0.224” diameter and the other side is 0.219” diameter. Not reamed, but bored very accurately and they are symmetrical with perpendicular faces!



You will find that the dual bored gauge actual allows you to check the ogive of a bullet and provides for a defined seating reference. BTW, cheap bullets really vary a lot, ogive differences as much a 0.020 in length. Quality bullets are within 0.004” or better.

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