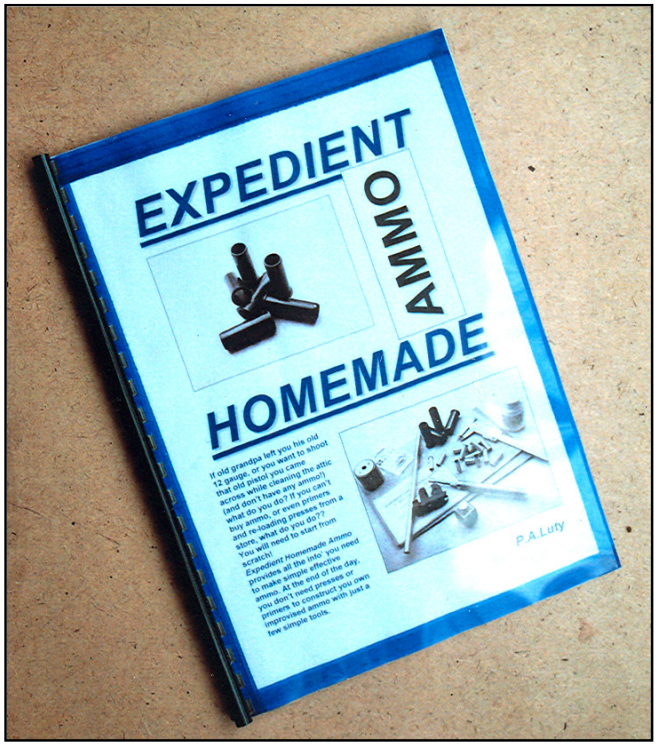
A Selection of Sample Pages from:

'Expedient Homemade Shotgun Ammo'



& *'Expedient Homemade Handgun Ammo'*

Over 100 photos illustrate all aspects of improvised ammunition manufacture.

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The main body of the shell is a simple MDPE pipe stiffener available from any good trade-plumbing outlet. The ones pictured below are used for common blue 25mm MDPE water pipe. The stiffener (from here on referred to as the shell) **is 20.3mm in diameter. The shells inside diameter is 17mm. Pipe stiffeners do vary slightly in dimension from maker to maker so the manufacturing techniques illustrated here are based on the pipe stiffeners I used in the writing of this document. Any 25mm pipe stiffener may be used, but they may require slightly more trimming.**

Common 25mm pipe stiffeners.

A 25mm pipe stiffener shown alongside a standard 12g shell.

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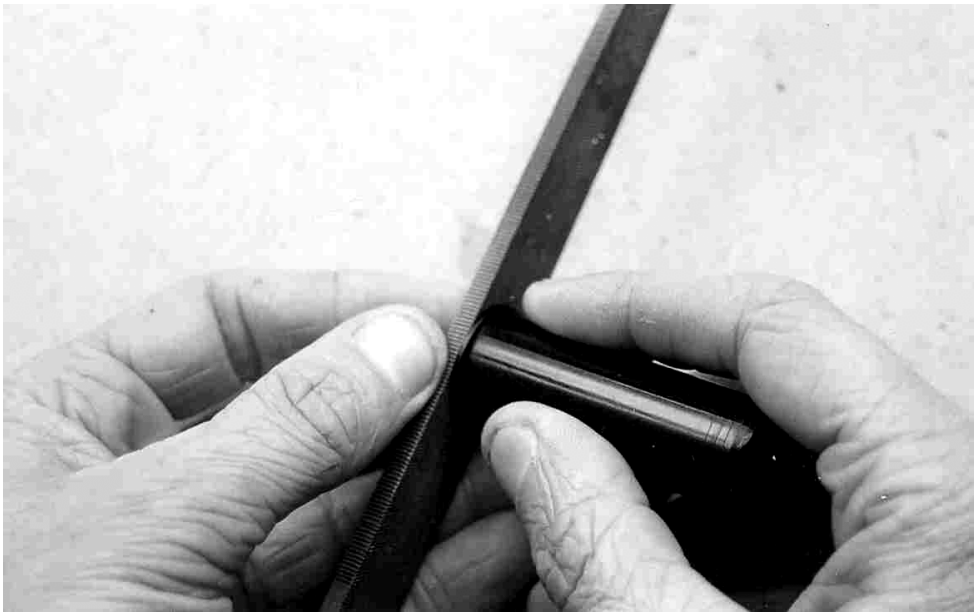
TRIMMING THE SHELL

The first step is to reduce the rim of the shell to a thickness of 1.5mm (or thereabouts) using a flat file. The shell is passed 'back and forth' over the file until the rim is the correct thickness. This is a quick and simple procedure. During the trimming procedure rotate the shell a quarter turn every few 'passes' to ensure the rim is evenly reduced.



Reducing the rim.

Checking the rim thickness. It should be 1-1.5mm

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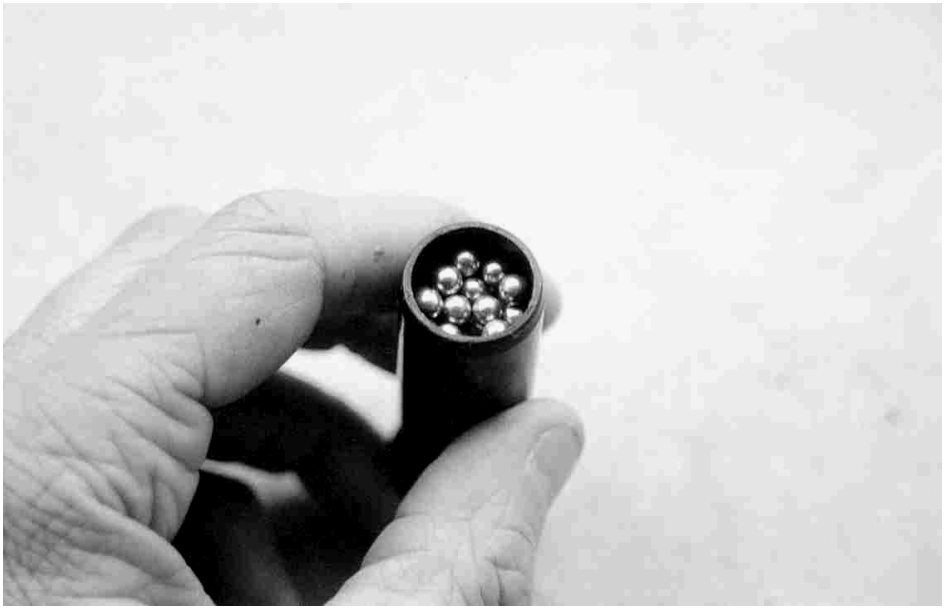
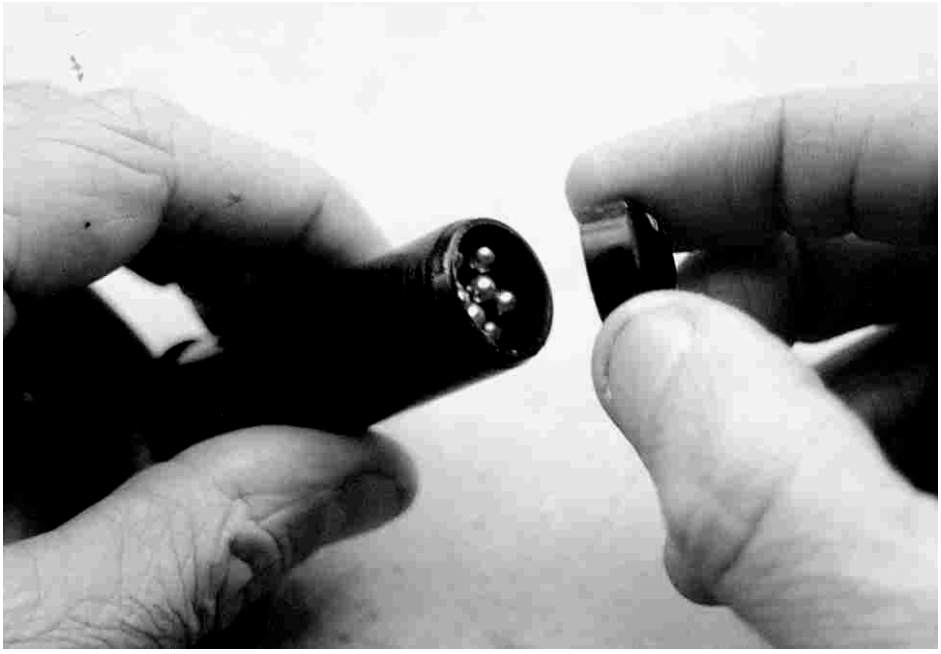
LOADING THE SHOT



Load the shot.

After pressing the nut cap firmly into place, load a charge of lead shot (or steel BB's) into the mouth of the shell until the top of the load is just below the shell mouth. I loaded a charge of fifty five or so steel BB's.
Now insert another nut cap (*open end into the case*) and press in firmly.



Insert nose cap.

If necessary, adjust the amount of shot to allow the cap to be inserted to the correct depth.

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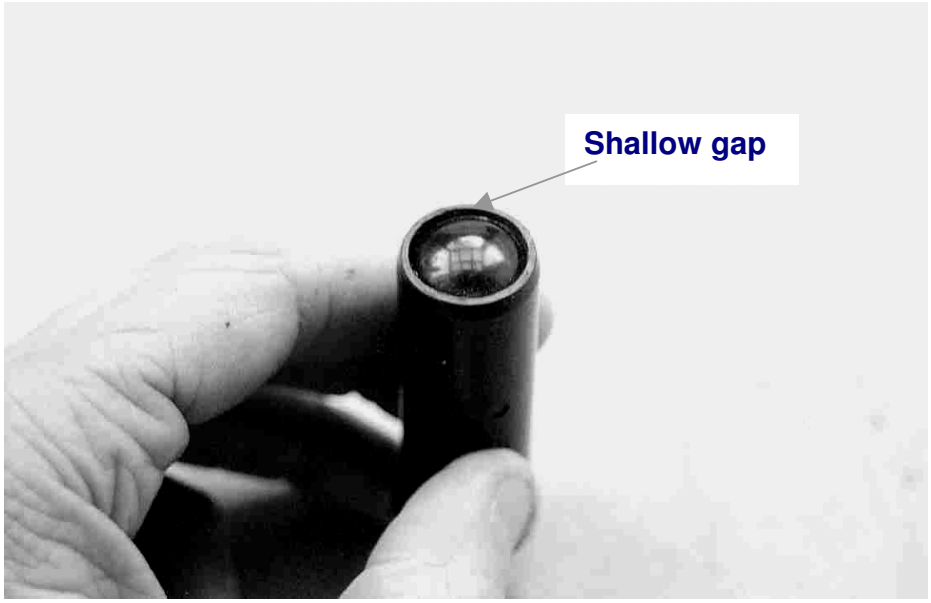
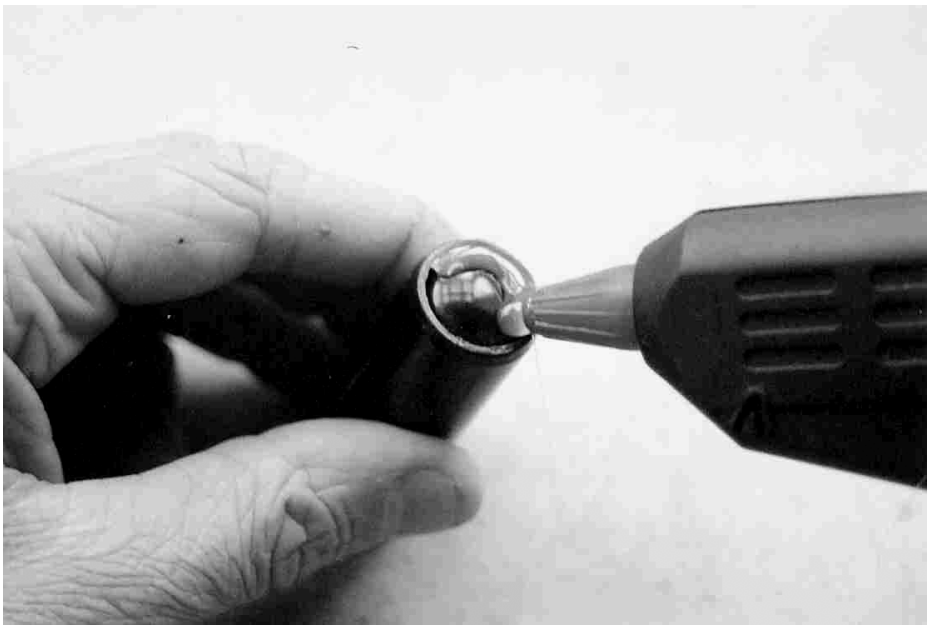


Cap in position.

The nut cap in position, effectively sealing the mouth of the shell and holding the shot charge in place. A bit of experimentation should be carried out by the loader as to how much shot is needed to allow the cap to be fitted correctly. As shown above, a shallow 'V' shaped gap should exist around the cap after fitting.
To finish off our improvised 12g shell it is only necessary to glue the cap in position using a hot glue gun. The one I am using here cost a mere £2.99. It is perfectly adequate for the job. Ensure the gun is fully heated and place a bead of glue around the mouth of the shell.



Applying the glue.

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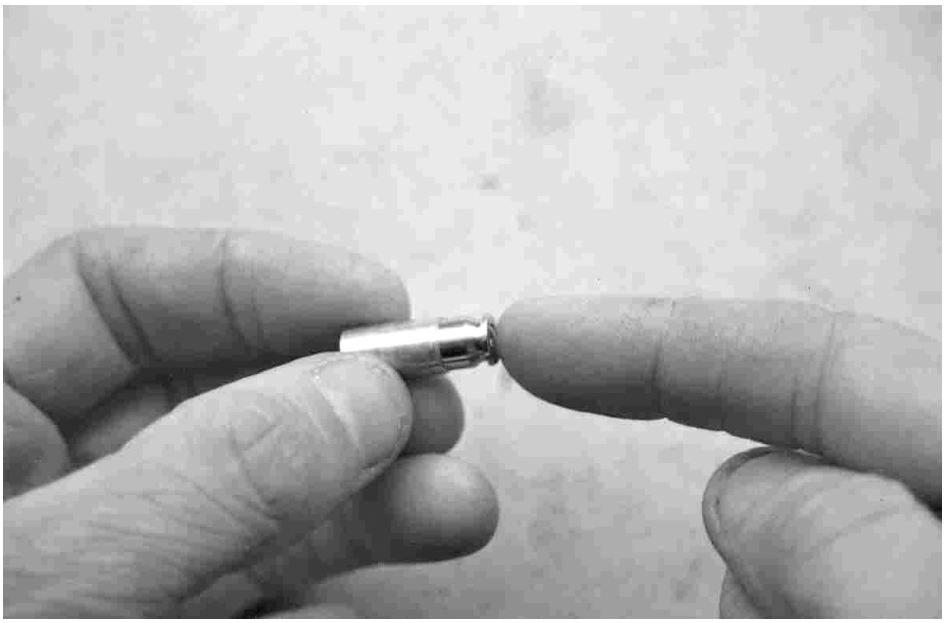
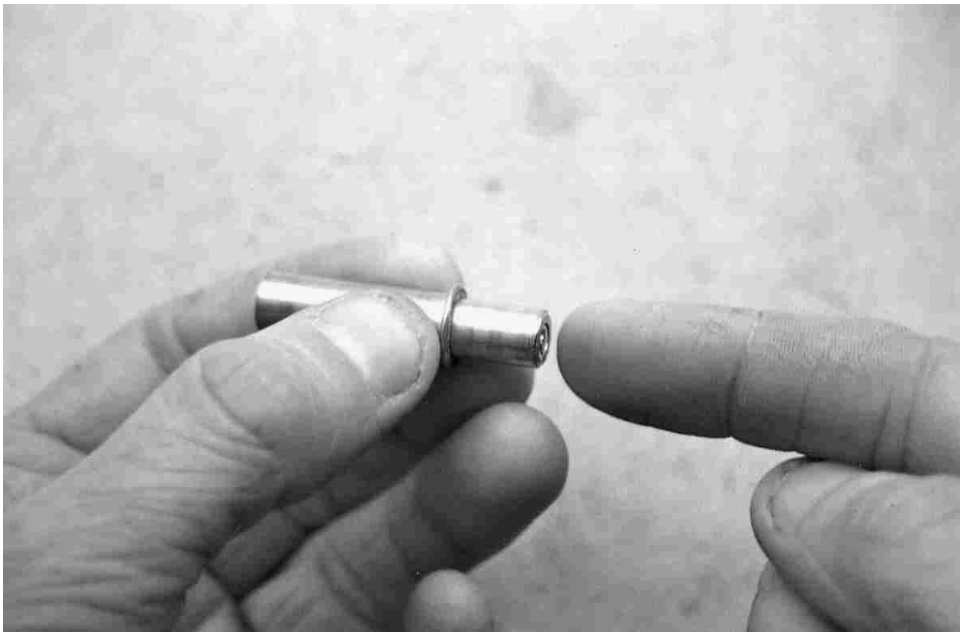


Press the primer into the sleeve.

After de- burring one end of the sleeve we can bond the primer and sleeve together. The outside of the sleeve is coated with a high strength retainer such as 'bearing adhesive' and the primer inserted into the sleeve. Do not use 'Super Glue'.



Insert the priming assembly into the case.

The priming assembly can now be inserted into our .38 case. Retainer is now applied to the outer circumference of the sleeve and the assembly inserted into the .38 case, as shown in the above photo.

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Finished .38 cases

For the simple manufacture of moderate quantities of .38 cases, the tube and ring method is perhaps ideal for the hobby gunsmith. Once the necessary quantity of tube sections are cut and trimmed to their correct length, cases can be manufactured quiet quickly.

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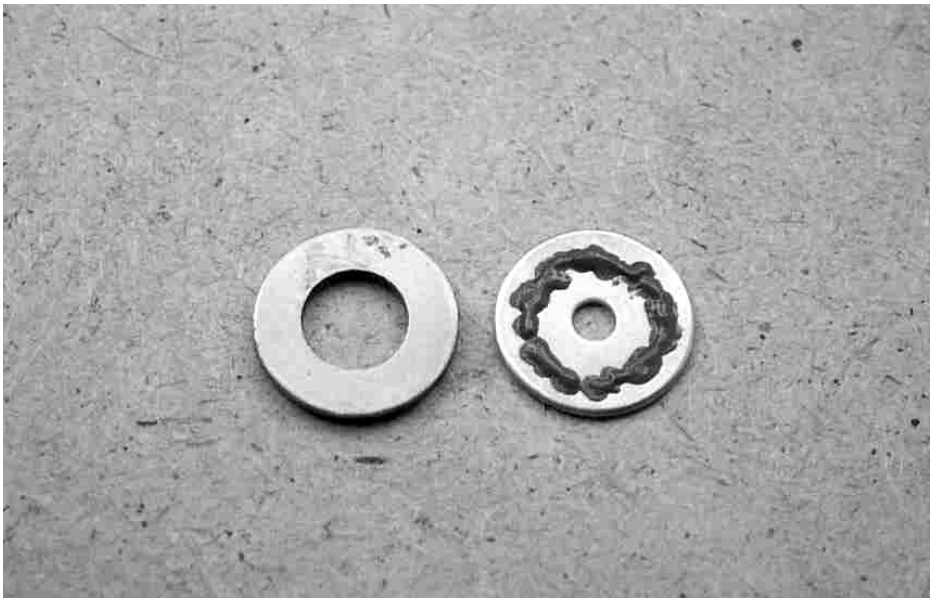
THE SHELL HOLDER

Before our newly primed cases can be charged with powder it is necessary to make a simple shell holder. To make the shell holder we require two washers. Both washers are 1" in diameter. One washer must have a ¼" hole and the second a ½" hole. The two washers must be soldered together and for this we require some solder paint and our gas torch. Again, I am using a pencil torch due to its small size and more accurate flame. The photo below shows the complete shell holder and a handmade .38 case ready for loading.

Shell holder materials.



Washers ready to solder.

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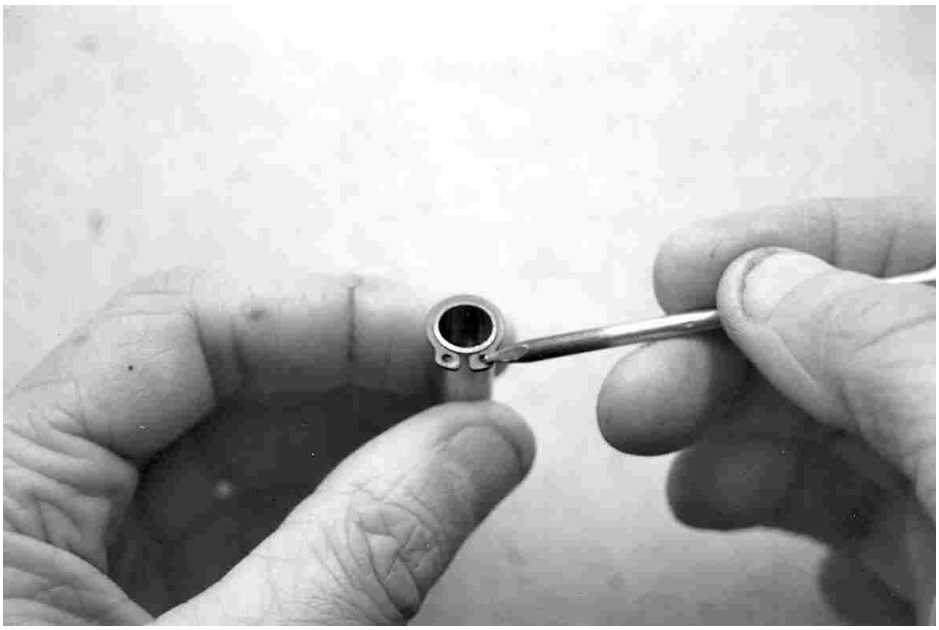
As an alternative to using the brass curtain ring for the case rim we can use a simple 10mm diameter circlip, as shown below.

Attach the clip.

The circlip is attached to the case using a pair of circlip pliers. It can be fitted by hand but it is easier with the correct tool. The clip is attached to the very end of the case.



Apply the solder.

Apply solder paint to the clip circumference and solder the clip in place. It is possible to shoot these cartridges in a revolver without actually

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soldering the clip providing the clip is tight enough but tension of the clips do tend to vary so it will be down to trial and error as to whether you use solder or not. I would strongly advise doing so to make the clip as secure as possible.

Clip attached.

The two clip plier holes will need to be filed or ground away once the rim is fitted to allow the round to be loaded into a revolver cylinder.
If the plier holes are not removed the cartridge will still chamber but only with the clips open side facing outwards away from the cylinders axis.
It will be obvious to those readers with a knowledge of revolver and cartridge design history that the circlip is reminiscent of the half moon clips used for loading the .45 acp auto pistol cartridges in revolvers.
Our improvised version works just as well !

ORDER NOW
WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

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