

# MAMBA OAL gauge

**Device to measure maximum overall cartridge length (OAL) in the chamber of your rifle**



- The maximum overall cartridge length, OAL for short, is measured from the base of the case head to the tip/ogive of the bullet with the ogive of the bullet just touching the lands of the rifle barrel. It is described as "kissing the lands";
- If we know the maximum OAL, we can load the cartridge so that it fits into the chamber correctly. We can then also control the jump of the bullet to the grooves;
- By measuring the maximum OAL correctly, we could even measure erosion that is caused by the throat being burnt away.



## How to determine your OAL for reloading:

- Use the MAMBA OAL gauge to accurately measure the maximum OAL for your rifle and components;
- Place the straight shank of the bullet in the case neck to a length equal to the diameter of the bullet (for example 6mm for .243, etc.), the one calibre seating rule. Remember to discount the boat tail. The boat tail usually goes deeper into the case past the neck and shoulder junction;
- If necessary, shorten the OAL until the cartridge fits into you rifle's magazine without the tip of the bullet pressing against the sidewall of the magazine, to avoid the bullet tip being damaged;
- If necessary, shorten the OAL even further until the jump to the lands is at least 0.5 to 1.0mm;
- This completes the OAL process and you may proceed to finding the "sweet spot" load for your components.

**When utilizing the full case neck for bullet support, the case neck tension would be more uniform, which in turn adds to uniformity between rounds. Not so?**

**We cannot be absolutely sure that the OAL gauge was seated fully into the chamber, and MUST therefore check the measurement of the OAL gauge by using the rod method.**

