

Sample Report of Forensic Examination

Characterization and Evaluation of Fired Projectiles

(Shotshell Projectiles)

(wadding, pellets, buckshot, slugs, buffer material)

To: _____ (e.g., Chief of Police) Report Date: _____
_____ (address)
_____ (city, state, zip)

Attn: _____ (e.g., Detective) Agency Case No: _____

Re: _____ Suspect Name Lab File No: _____
_____ Victim Name
_____ Type of Violation

Examination Requested: Firearms Identification

Items of Evidence Received

The following items of evidence were received from _____ (insert agency) in a sealed condition by _____ (registered mail, FedEx, UPS, etc.) on _____ (insert date) by _____ (insert title and name):

Item #	Item Description
#1	Shot pellets
#2	Shot pellets
#3	Wad
#4	Shotshell
#5	Shotshell
#6	Shotshell
#7	Shotshell
#8	Shotshell
#9	Shotshell
#10	Wad
#11	Rifled slug fragments
#12	Shot pellets
#13	Shot pellets
#14	Shot pellets
#15	Lead fragments
#16	T-shirt
#17	Shotshell

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Results of Examination

See the following sample report using the above noted evidence items.

Reports should also indicate if any submitted items were not examined and why (e.g., as a result of a conference with the lead investigator).

Wadding Materials

- Item #3 is a 20-gauge shotshell wad of Remington manufacture. Items #4 through #9 are 20-gauge shotshells manufactured or marketed by Remington. Items #4 through #9 were disassembled in the laboratory and their wads compared to Item #3. The shot wads in Items #4 through #9 are like the Item #3 wad in all observable physical characteristics.
- Item #10 appears to be a 12-gauge fiber wad which cannot be further characterized as to source.

Shot Pellets / Buckshot

- Items #1 and #2 consist of forty-eight and eleven shot pellets, respectively. Based on size and weight, these shot pellets appear to be No. 6 shot. It is noted that the Item #7 shotshell casing was originally commercially loaded with No. 6 shot. Therefore, the Item #1 and Item #2 shot pellets could have originated from the Item #7 shotshell casing. It is further noted that the Item #4 through Item #9 shotshells are commercially loaded with No. 6 shot.
- Items #12, #13 and #14 consist of seven, five and three shot pellets, respectively. These shot pellets appear to be No. 2 Buck based on size and weight.

Shotgun Slugs

- Item #11 consists of three rifled slug fragments. Based on their remaining observable physical characteristics, these fragments are consistent with shotshell ammunition manufactured or marketed by Federal.
- Item #15 consists of two lead fragments that could have originated from a rifled slug and which could not be further characterized as to gauge or source.

Buffer Material

- The Item #16 T-shirt was examined visually and microscopically for the presence of trace materials. White particulate material was found which is consistent in its appearance with Super Grex buffer material used in some types of Winchester shotshell ammunition. It is noted that this particulate material was also found to be consistent in its physical characteristics with the buffer material found in the Item #17 Winchester shotshell, which was partially disassembled to facilitate examination.

Note: This examination of physical characteristics would logically be followed by an instrumental examination of the evidence and comparison with a standard in order to fully address the potential represented by the evidence.

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Disposition of the Evidence

The submitted items will be retained in this laboratory until called for by a representative of your agency.

-OR-

The submitted items will be returned to your agency by (*registered mail, FedEx, UPS, etc.*).

(Signature/ Title)

(Quality assurance officer)

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