

Sample Report of Forensic Examination

Bullet Comparison and Identification (Individual Characteristics)

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	.380 Auto caliber Lorcin pistol, Model L380, serial number 123456, with magazine
#2	.357 Magnum caliber Smith & Wesson revolver, Model 686, serial number 456789
#3	One bullet/bullet jacket/bullet jacket fragment/bullet fragments, etc.
#4	One bullet/bullet jacket/bullet jacket fragment/bullet fragments, etc.
#5	One bullet/bullet jacket/bullet jacket fragment/bullet fragments, etc.
#6	One bullet/bullet jacket/bullet jacket fragment/bullet fragments, etc.

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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).

Identification of a Bullet with a Submitted Firearm

- Item #3 was identified as having been fired from Item #1.
-OR-
- The Item #3 bullet was identified as having been fired from the Item #1 pistol.

Inter-identification of Bullets with No Firearm Submitted

- Item #3 and Item #4 are .380 Auto caliber bullet jackets which were identified as having been fired from the same barrel rifled with six grooves, right twist. Among the firearms which may produce similar rifling impressions are pistols manufactured or marketed under the brand names Lorcin, Bryco Arms, and Beretta.
-OR-
- Item #5 and Item #6 are .38 Special or .357 Magnum caliber bullets which were identified as having been fired from the same barrel rifled with five grooves, right twist. Among the firearms which may produce similar rifling impressions are .38 Special caliber revolvers manufactured or marketed by Smith & Wesson, and .357 Magnum caliber revolvers manufactured or marketed by Smith & Wesson and Iver Johnson.

(Note: The example immediately above reflects that whenever there is caliber interchangeability, separate cartridge types should be shown when providing list of possible firearms.)

Inconclusive Comparison of Bullet with Submitted Firearm

- Item #5 is a mutilated .38 Special or .357 Magnum caliber lead bullet which was fired from a barrel rifled with five grooves, right twist. Although the rifling impressions in Item #5 are like those produced by the Item #2 revolver, it does not bear sufficient corresponding individual microscopic marks for identification with Item #2. Therefore no conclusion could be reached as to whether or not item # 5 was fired from item #2.
-OR-
- Due to insufficient individual corresponding microscopic marks, it could not be determined whether or not the Item #5 bullet was fired from the Item #2 revolver.

Inconclusive Intercomparison of Evidence Bullets with No Firearm Submitted

- Items #3 and #4 are .380 Auto caliber jacketed bullets which were fired from a barrel or barrels rifled with six grooves, right twist. Although the rifling impressions in Item #3 and Item #5 are similar, these bullets do not bear sufficient corresponding individual microscopic marks for identification with each other. Therefore no conclusion could be reached as to whether or not they were fired through a single barrel. Firearms which produce impressions like those in Items #3 and #4 include, but are not limited to, pistols marketed by Walther, Llama, Sigarms, Sauer, Mauser, Charter Arms, Beretta, Iver Johnson, and Echasa.

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Elimination of Bullets Based on Class Characteristics

- Item #3 is a .380 Auto caliber jacketed round-nose bullet which was fired from a barrel rifled with six grooves, right twist. Due to a difference in rifling characteristics, Item #3 could not have been fired from the Item #1 pistol.
-OR-
- Item #5 and Item #6 were not fired from the Item #2 revolver due to a difference in general rifling characteristics.
-OR-
- Item #5 and Item #6 were not fired through a single barrel due to a difference in general rifling characteristics. (No firearm submitted)

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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