

Headspace for my TDE 44AMP pistol.

Awhile ago we were talking about headspace here on the AMT forum, and I had the idea trying to make it visible, actually see this headspace.... To do so, I took one of my fired 44AMP cases (starline) and cut half of the rear out and put it in the pistol, close the bolt and drop the hammer...

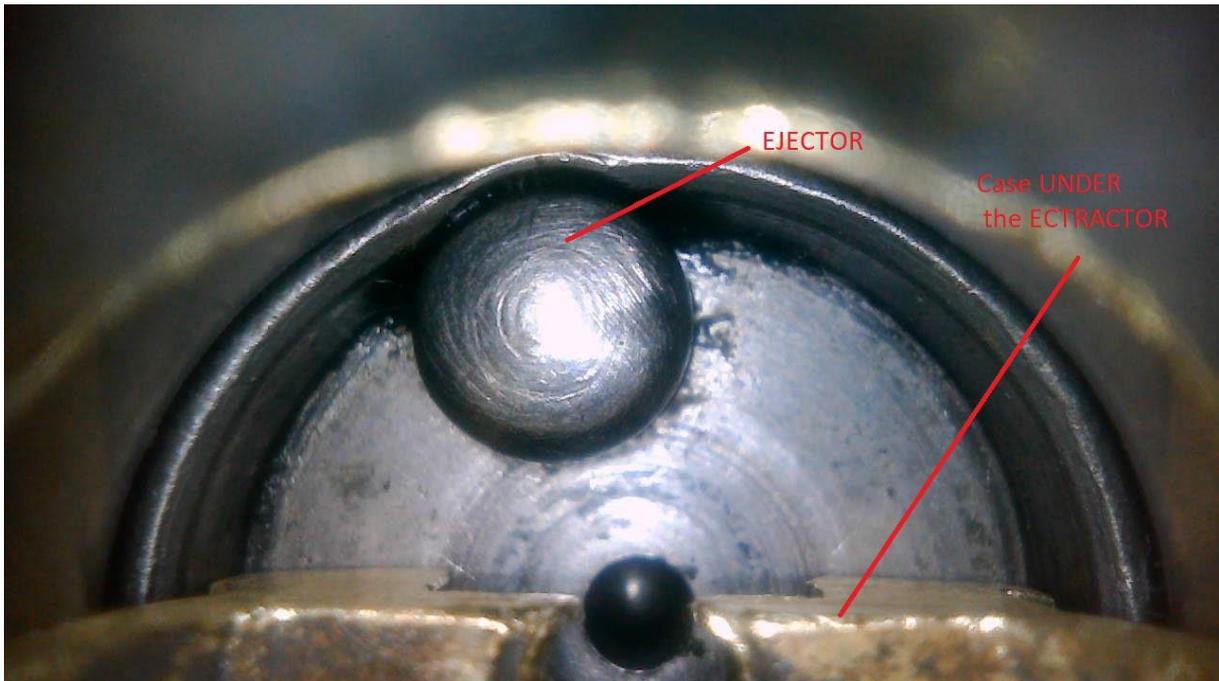


Now I can put the case in the chamber in two different ways, one way with the rim under the EXTRACTOR, or make half a turn and let the case make contact with the EJECTOR.

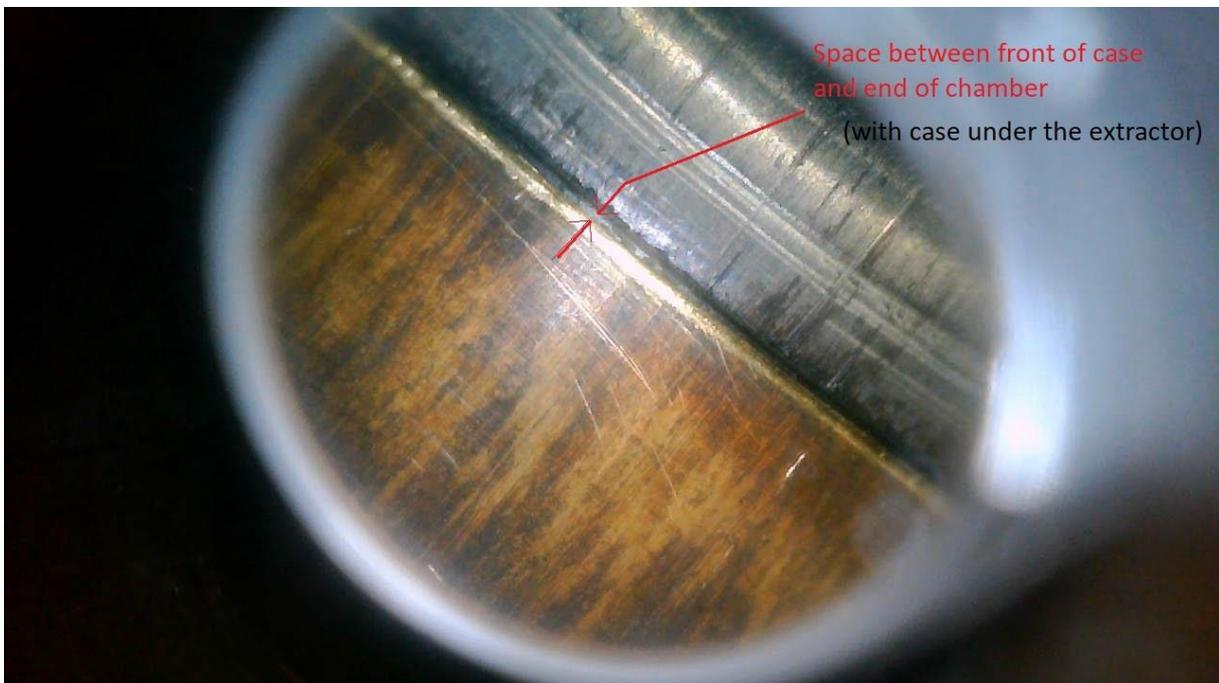
Test 1. When the case is under the EXTRACTOR claw, the casehead will be pulled all the way back to the boltface. Since half of the case is cut away, the ejector will not push the case forward. That should be NO headspace. Now comes the fun part, when I put the borescope into the barrel I can really see how the case sits in the chamber !



A few notes on the picture above, my borescope is only .20 in diameter so it is not easy to get it exactly in the center of the cal. 44 bore. That's why the bore and case looks eg shaped... Not much important for this anyway, the interesting part is the view from inside the case. Pushing the borescope deeper into the case, this is what I see:



At the above picture you can see that the EJECTOR is not at all in contact with the case and the EXTRACTOR pulls the case all the way back against the boltface. Now this looks as this case has NO headspace at all. However, if I return the borescope back to the mouth of the case, I have a good view on how deep the case sits into the chamber.



Now what you see above is NOT the "headspace", but it with this cutaway case setup, it should actually be pretty close the same measurement. Also not to forget is that the borescope is not show the real dimensions, it's a magnification.

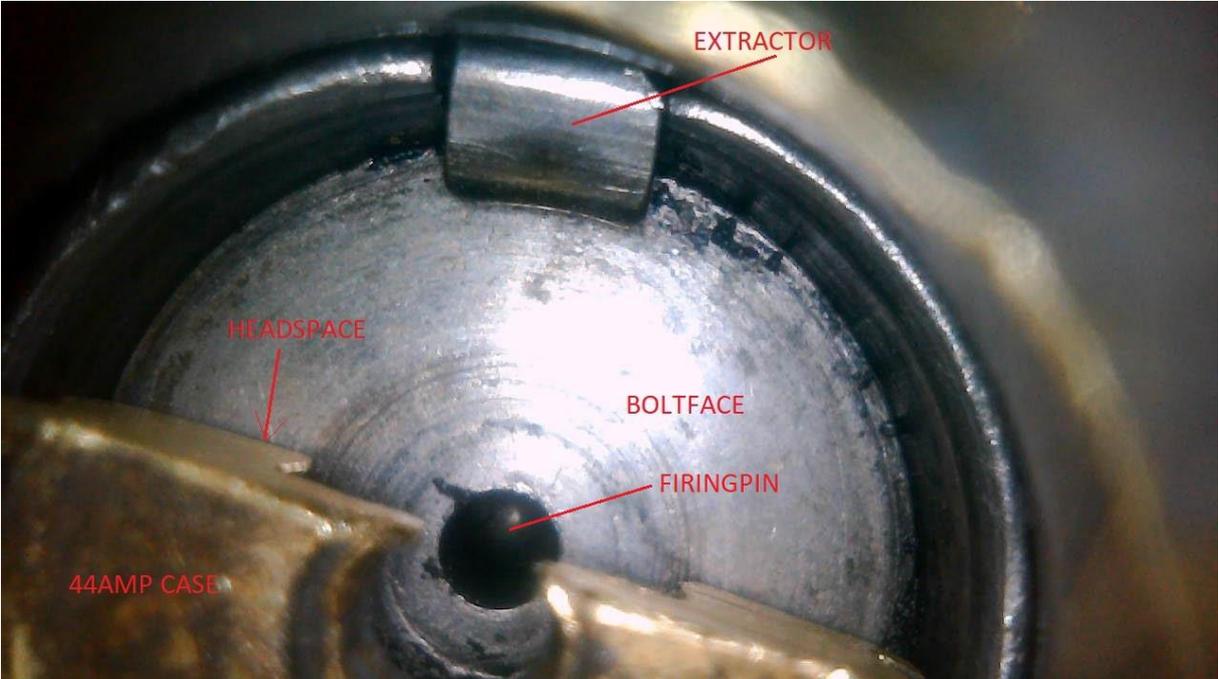
Now to really see the headspace, I have to try the next setup....

Test 2. The picture below I turned the cut case 180° in the chamber so the EJECTOR is pushing against the casehead. With this setup, the case should be pushed all the way forward into the chamber since the EXTRACTOR has nothing to hold onto.



Also interesting to see is that the firingpin is not past the boltface, even if the hammer is down.

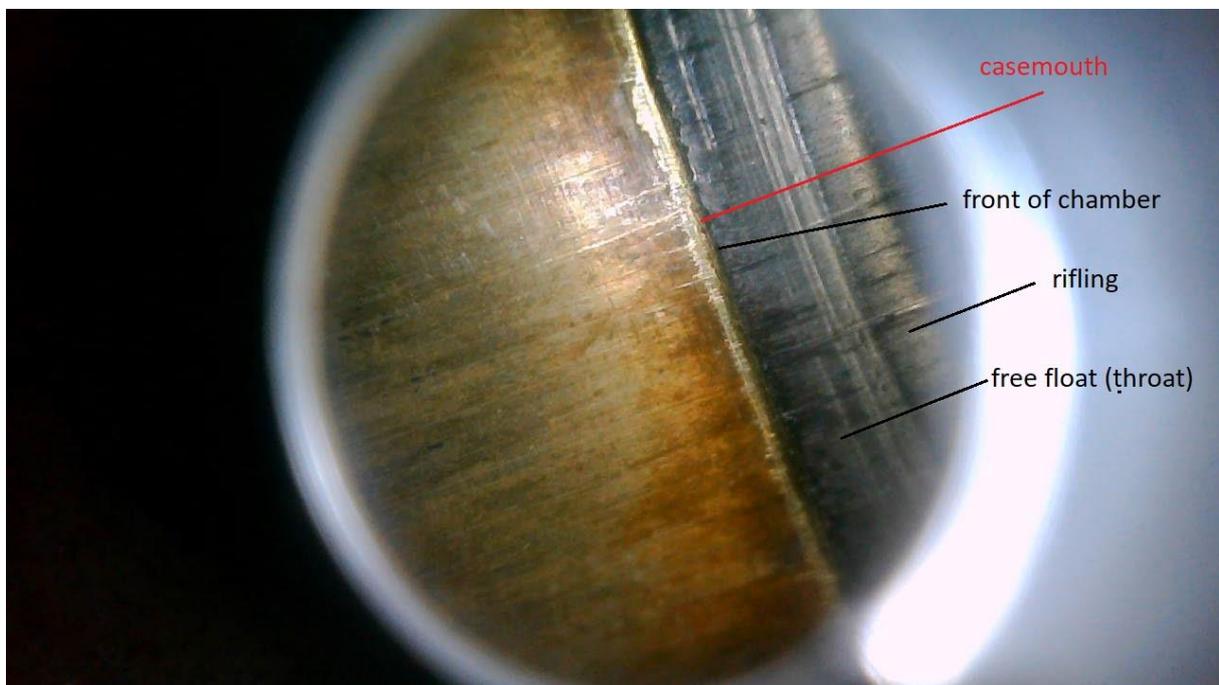
Now this is how the headspace looks like. Not easy to see, but since my borescope is only .20 diameter, half the case of this 44AMP is gone, I should be able to push it in deeper...



Here are the best pictures of the borescope all the way to the boltface:

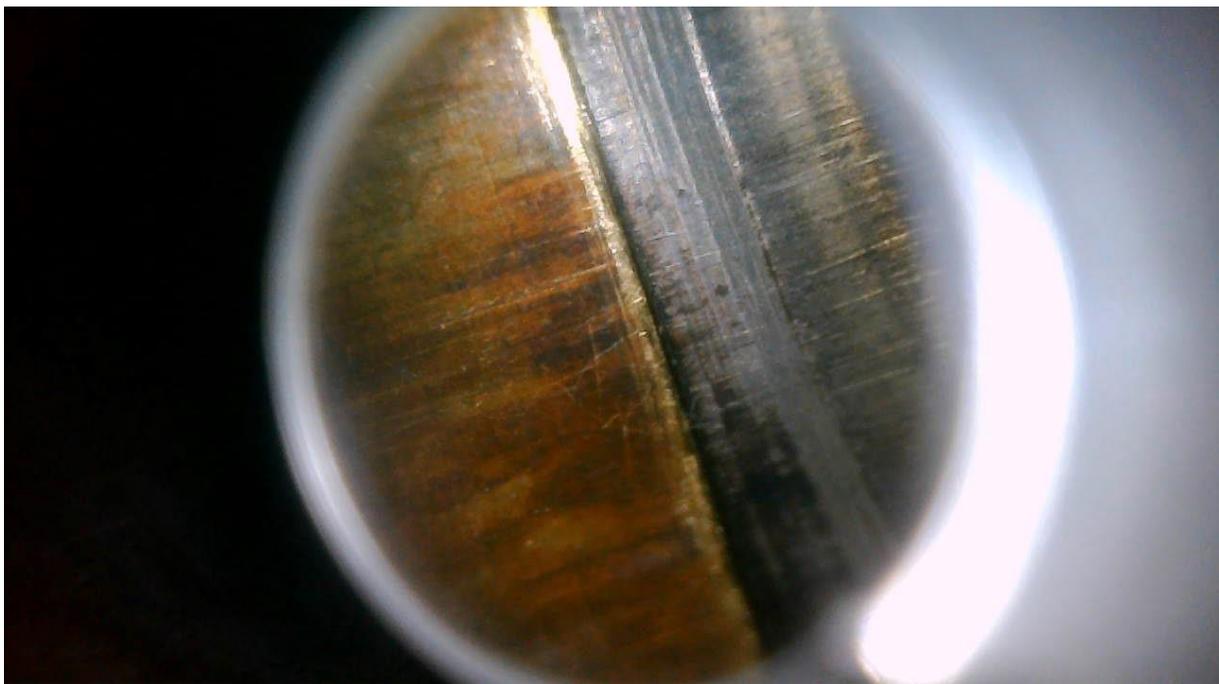


Still very hard to see, but let's see how much "play" the casemouth has in the chamber.



The above picture show that the case sits tight against the front of the chamber due to the pressure of the EJECTOR.

Below the 180° opposite side.



So, that means that my cases are trimmed very close the maximum length for my pistol.

Luc V.