

Brass Wizard

Here's an unusual tool designed to collect empty cartridge cases without requiring you to repeatedly bend over and pick them up. If you've spent several hours shooting at the range, this can be a great back-saver.

Offered by UniqueTek, Inc., the Brass Wizard consists of a football-shaped wire basket that rotates at the end of a telescoping handle when you gently roll the basket over the ground. Wires are springy and closely spaced to allow expended cartridge cases to enter the cage as it rolls over them.



The openings between the wires then close, capturing the empty brass.

Brass Wizard instructions advise against pressing hard as you roll it

along the ground – it works in sand, dirt, grass and hard surfaces. The instructions also warn users not to jab the basket at recalcitrant cartridge cases or try to extract them from deep recesses in the ground.

Two sizes are available. The model I tested was designed to pick up everything from .22 rimfire to centerfire handgun and rifle cases. The Brass Wizard II is specifically sized to pick up expended shotgun hulls or .50 BMG brass. When the wire basket is filled with 30 to 35 cartridge cases, it can be emptied with the help of a wire “dumper” that clips to the edge of virtually any metal or plastic bucket.

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At the range, the Brass Wizard did a fine job of capturing 9mm and .45 ACP brass, but I was disappointed with its performance on rimfire cases. It spit .22 LR empties out as fast as it picked them up. It also collected a few pebbles and a little dirt, but these were easily removed.

I called Lee Love, UniqueTek CTO and product manager, and asked him why the Brass Wizard wasn't picking up .22 LR brass. He told me that, if centerfire and rimfire cases were clustered together, the centerfire cases caused the collector wires to open too wide to retain rimfire brass.

"The solution is to make two separate passes over the mixed cases," he said. "The first pass will pick up centerfire cases, while the second pass will collect rimfire brass."

I tried this the next time I visited the range. Picking up rimfire brass still required a couple of passes, but it took less effort than bending over and collecting empties by hand.

No one reloads rimfire cases, but this neat retrieval tool is a great help in policing them up. It helps keep your shooting site free of .22 and .17 HMR detritus, as required at many public ranges.

MSRP (with telescoping handle): \$49.95. For more information or to order a Brass Wizard, contact UniqueTek, Inc. online at: www.uniquetek.com.

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