

Sample Report of Forensic Examination

Cartridge Case and Shotshell Examination

(Fired and Unfired)

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	.32 Auto caliber Mauser pistol, Model HSC, serial number 089399, with magazine
#3	12-gauge Winchester shotgun, Model 50, serial number 456789
#4	Cartridge case
#5	Cartridge case
#6	Shotshell casing
#7	Shotshell casing
#8	Cartridge
#9	Cartridge
#10	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).

Fired Cartridge Case and Shotshell Casing Examination Result Sample

Identification of a Fired Cartridge Case with a Submitted Firearm Based on Firing Pin Impression, Breech Face Marks, or Chamber Marks

- Item #4 was identified as having been fired in Item #1.
- Item #6 and Item #7 were identified as having been fired in Item #3.
- OR-
- The Item #4 cartridge case was identified as having been fired in the Item #1 pistol.
- The Item #6 and Item #7 shotshell casings were identified as having been fired in the Item #3 shotgun.

Interidentification of Fired Cartridge Cases with No Firearm Submitted Based on Firing Pin Impression, Breech Face Marks or Chamber Marks

- Item #4 and Item #5 are .380 Auto caliber cartridge cases which were identified as having been fired in a single firearm.
- OR-
- Item #4 and Item #5 are .380 Auto caliber cartridge cases which were identified as having been fired in the same firearm.

Inconclusive Comparison of a Fired Cartridge Case with Submitted Firearm

Due to insufficient corresponding individual microscopic marks, it could not be determined whether or not the Item #4 cartridge case was fired in the Item #1 pistol.

Identification Based on Extractor and/or Ejector Marks

- The Item #4 and the Item #5 fired cartridge cases were identified as having been loaded into and extracted from the Item #1 pistol. Due to a lack of sufficient corresponding microscopic characteristics, no conclusion could be reached as to whether or not they were fired in the Item #1 pistol.

Inconclusive Intercomparison of Cartridge Cases with No Firearm Submitted

- Items #4 and #5 are .380 Auto caliber cartridge cases marketed by Federal Cartridge Company. Both bear limited microscopic marks of value for comparison purposes. Due to a lack of sufficient corresponding individual microscopic marks, it could not be determined whether or not Items #4 and #5 were fired in the same firearm.

Cartridge Case with No Firearm Submitted

- Item #5 is a fired .380 Auto caliber cartridge case of Winchester manufacture. It is noted that Item #5 bears microscopic marks of value for comparison purposes should a suspect firearm be recovered.

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Elimination of a Cartridge Case Based on Differences in Class Characteristics

- Item #5 is a fired .380 Auto caliber cartridge case which bears microscopic marks of value for comparison purposes. Item #2 is a .32 Auto caliber pistol. Due to dimensional differences, Item #5 could not have been fired in the Item #2 pistol.
- Item #5 is a fired .380 Auto caliber cartridge case which bears microscopic marks of value for comparison purposes. Item #1 is a .380 Auto caliber pistol of marketed by Colt. Due to the differences in the shape and size of the firing pin impressions produced by the Item #1 pistol, the Item #5 cartridge case was not fired in the Item #1 firearm.
- Due to differences in the size and shape of the firing pin impressions in the Item #4 and Item #5 cartridge cases, they were not fired in the same firearm.

Unsuitable for Comparison

- Item #4 is a fired 9mm Luger caliber cartridge case of Federal manufacture. Item #4 bears no microscopic marks of value for comparison purposes.

Unfired Cartridge Case and Shotshell Examination Result Sample

- The Item #8 and Item #9 cartridges were identified as having been loaded into and extracted from the Item #1 pistol.
- Item #10 is an unfired 12-gauge shotshell that bears mechanism marks like those produced by the Item #3 shotgun. However these marks are insufficient for identification with Item #3. Therefore it could not be determined whether or not Item #10 was loaded into and extracted from Item # 3.
- The Item #8 cartridge was identified as having been loaded into and removed from the Item #1 magazine.

Note: When reporting results for unfired ammunition, it is important not to overstate the significance of these identifications.

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)

[Return to Users Guide.pdf](#)

[Link to Sample Worksheet.pdf](#)