

Cartridge Rolling the Smitty way.

I roll for a Sharps, but the same round works in my musket.

Items I use:

- 100 sheet pad, Fine Bond Writing Paper, 6 in x 9 in.
- Computer Diskette box for 3.5 inch diskettes
- Rolling tube
- Powder flask
- Brass measure
- Cartridge template
- FFFg powder

Make yourself a template and use it to cut cartridge blanks from the pad of paper. The 3.5" diskette box is just the right size to hold your blanks, and protects them if you pack them with you. Use the brass measure to measure out 60 grains of FFF powder. I also cut the loading tube on the powder flask to hold the 60 grains so that when I fill the tubes, I don't have to measure each time. I put my finger over the end, open it until it fills, and pour it into the tube. Now when you load the Sharps and cut the end, you wind up with about 55 grains, a good enough load for a bang and smoke, and what the National Park Service requires.

The rolling tube was made from a brass measure, with the ends removed. It makes a nice cartridge and it fits in the same box as the blanks you made. Put it on the blank as shown in the diagram (I'm right-handed) and roll it away from you. Make sure to leave about "1/4" inch or so of paper sticking out. Twist that and push that end up into the tube once you have it rolled up, and you end up with a nice tube. I took a "1/2" inch board, drilled holes in it and attached it to the underside of the lid to my ammo box to hold the blanks. Stand the blanks up, and pour in your powder. Pick one up, pinch it near the top of the powder, and give it a twist n tuck. One down, 499 to go.

