



G00002

1

TITLE

Sub-calibre projectile and method of making such a projectile.



166166

DESCRIPTION5 Technical field

The present invention relates to a composed projectile for subcalibre, in particular fine calibre ammunition, comprising a sabot, a projectile and a driving speculum which, when present in an ammunition is suitable for firearms such as personal defence weapons (PDW), such as pistols, machine guns, but also automatic weapons of carbine type, as well as light support
10 weapons. Further, the invention relates to a cartridge containing such a composed projectile, process for the manufacture of such a composed projectile, as well as projectile.

The object of the present invention is to obtain a composed projectile to be used preferably in a subcalibre ammunition of firearms and lighter offensive weapons, which ammunition meets
15 great demands on performance with regard to penetration ability, range of fire and efficacy in the target.

Further objects are to meet environmental demands such as lowest possible discharge of toxic heavy metals, lowest possible weight, and possibility to use such ammunition without
20 substantial changes of weapon systems in present firearms such as machine guns, pistols, automatic carbines and light support weapons.

Background of the invention

The technical problem today is to obtain a projectile which provides a high penetration ability
25 and this can i.a., be achieved by having a high outlet speed and with high maintained speed in the trajectory as well as a high speed in the target, preferably over a large distance. Such demands can be met only mainly by a projectile having high load, i.e., large mass per cross sectional area.

30 The demands have thus i a , been to obtain an ammunition which can replace 9 mm parabellum ammunition and similar short ammunition types which solve the problem with high load in spite of short length, i.e., high weight per cross sectional area in the moving direction. has high penetration ability. and high impact energy in the target; has short trajectory times with a flat trajectory and. preferably. has a high projectile speed in the target

Standard ammunition is a type of ammunition, which is used by several weapons in a military unit. Today a military fighting unit uses a number of ammunition types due to the use of different types of weapons, such as pistols, machine guns, sniper weapons, light support weapons and automatic carbines, whereby 9 mm, 5.56 mm, and 7.62 mm ammunition types shall be available. If one can solve the problem with standard ammunition it would have been highly desired. From a logistic point of view one should have as few types of ammunition as possible and a desire is thereby to have as few ammunition types as ever possible to distribute to different units. If it would be possible to have the same ammunition in the pistol which is carried by staff personal as in the automatic carbine which is worn by soldiers in the front lines of the fighting unit, much would have been won.

9 mm ammunition has been used for a long time and in particular to machine guns and pistols which are so called firearms of the type personal defence weapons (PDW = Personal Defence Weapon).

The drawback with 9-mm ammunition is that it has only a working range, which is about 200 m whereupon the spreading and ballistics make hits less sure. Due to the soft core of the projectile, large cross sectional area and low impact energy a 9-mm projectile will not pass through modern body shields. The lack of penetration ability provides for the fact that the projectile does not penetrate a modern body shield even after the weapon muzzle.

The present sabot bound projectiles for firearms, of the types mentioned above, have not been able to meet these great demands raised on ballistics and accuracy in firing due to different factor such a lack of support of the projectile by the sabot, and a inferior balance in the trajectory due to deficient separation between projectile and sabot.

US-A-5,175,394 describes an arrangement for a low pressure cartridge - shot gun cartridge with about 80 MPa - where the pressure graph rapidly decreases and where the density of the projectile is not intended to exceed 11.4 (the density of lead). Further, no rotation is transferred to the projectile from the smooth bore. In order to be able to transfer acceleration from a sabot to a projectile this must have a very particular form having a pronounced waist where the sabot will obtain enough large attack-surface against the projectile. This specific

design of the projectile has nothing in common to the present invention where completely different demands are made on the composed projectile, i.e. , sabot and projectile.

5 EP-A-0 375 312 relates to a very ambitious construction what regard the application of fine calibre but does, in no way fulfil the requirement of minimal elongation besides the projectile of its own length. There is only an isolated term - high-density metal - from a sentence that has resemblance whatsoever with the present invention.

10 US-A-4,653,404 relates to a construction, which requires a relatively thick bottom/supporting disc of the sabot behind the projectile. The contact area of the sabot against the projectile is restricted to the cylindrical jacket surface which, moreover, is broken by the splitting indents. This leads to an unprotected projectile point, which moreover creates a feeding problem in automatically charged weapons. Further the risk of projectile oscillation in the barrel having this short guidance, which can give troublesome effects not only on the trajectory, but also on
15 the barrel. This is well known problem in the circuit of people skilled in the art using this construction with regard to the splitting of the sectors, which supposes that the material breaks completely symmetrically in order not to disturb the projectile at the separation. The latter is not the least important at strongly shifting temperature conditions. The supporting disc has to be applied already at the moulding of the sabot, which apparently makes the
20 product more expensive and reduces production capacity.

US-A-5,339,743 is apparently intended for a low-pressure system such as a shotgun. However, it is stated on unknown grounds, that the sabot with its projectile requires and obtains a rotation transferred from the barrel. In col. 2, line 17 it is stated the "copper slug"
25 whereby thus it is said that the material of the projectile is copper having a substantially lower density than the preferred projectile of the present invention. A further aid to help the sabot to withstand the gas pressure is the two elements being placed between the driving charge and the sabot. Such aids are not necessary at the present invention, which further reduces the cost in connection with the production, furthermore it prolongs the projectile.

30

Description of the present invention

It has now surprisingly turned out possible to be able to solve this problem by means of the present invention which is characterized in that the cartridge comprises a projectile made of a metallic material, preterably of high density, and

that the length of the composed projectile does not substantially exceeds the length of the projectile.

Further characteristics are evident from the accompanying claims.

5

By means of the present invention shorter projectiles can be obtained which in the end can make it possible to create a more compact, shorter cartridge which in turn can lead to a more compact, lighter weapon.

- 10 By means of the present invention the use of high density metal materials in a projectile of a cartridge is made possible which projectile seen from a load point of view at comparable normal values has a form which is better than the basic form, has a V_0 , i.e., speed at the muzzle which exceeds the speed of said type of ammunition, has a V_{400} which exceeds the one of said ammunition type, has a E_0 , i.e., hitting energy at the muzzle which exceeds the
- 15 one of said ammunition type, and a E_{400} which exceeds the one of said ammunition type as well. By means of the invention one can fire projectiles having a high density which maintains speed and energy. The high-density favours reduced speed reduction.

- The invention will be described more in detail in the following with reference to the
- 20 accompanying drawing, which shows a preferred embodiment, however, without being restricted thereto.

FIG. 1 shows a cross-section along the longitudinal axis of the upper part of a cartridge having a composed projectile in accordance with the present invention;

- 25 FIG. 2 shows a side view of a sabot used in a composed projectile in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 3 shows a sabot according to Fig. 2 in a cross-section along its longitudinal axis;

FIG. 4 shows a sabot according to Fig. 2 in a perspective view;

FIG. 5 shows a side view of the parts of a composed projectile;

- 30 FIG. 6 shows a side view of a composed projectile according to the invention;

FIG. 7 shows the composed projectile according to Fig. 6 in a cross-section along its longitudinal axis;

FIG. 8 shows a side view of the projectile according to the invention;

FIG. 9 shows a view from behind of the projectile according to Fig. 8;

FIG. 10 shows a perspective view at an angle from behind of the projectile according to Fig. 8.

FIG. 11 shows a driving speculum contained in the composed projectile in a cross-section through its longitudinal axis:

5 FIG. 12 shows the driving speculum according to Fig. 11 seen in a perspective view from above; and

FIG. 13 a composed projectile with its casing during a firing event.

1 denotes in general a cartridge comprising a casing 2 made of e.g., aluminium which casing
 10 in the present embodiment, has a push bottom with the same diameter that corresponds to a 9-mm parabellum (9 x 19 mm). The casing 2 receives in its bottom part a percussion cap of a conventional type (not shown), which percussion cap at a hit is intended to fire an amount of powder 4 placed in the inner space of the casing 2. The casing 2 has, in its upper part, a neck
 5 which is compressed with a shrinkage 16 to receive a composed projectile 6 having a
 15 diameter of 6.5 mm. The casing 2 further has an extractor slot (not shown) adapted to conventional extractors.

The composed projectile 6 comprises a projectile 7, a sabot 8 and a driving speculum 13 arranged to the lower end of the sabot 8. As mentioned the composed projectile 6 comprises
 20 on one hand a projectile 7, and on the other hand a sabot 8. The projectile 7 is substantially designed pointed of a material, preferably a high-density material, such as a wolfram alloy having a density of 17.5 g/cm^3 . It shall, however, be noted that also other, more conventional materials, such as lead, iron, depleted uranium, brass jacketed lead core, and other metals can be used as a projectile 7. In the actual example the projectile 7 has a diameter of 4.0 mm. The
 25 projectile comprises two main parts, viz. a rear part 7A, which is cylindrically designed, and a front part 7B, which is conical or ogivally designed. The task of the front part 7B is to control the projectile and to prevent wobbling thereof in the barrel and the trajectory. The main parts 7A and 7B have about the same length, i.e., each their half. The rear-facing end 20 of the rear part 7A has a number of recesses 21 to the formation of slot containing end surface or cross or
 30 star formed end surface. The pattern of this rearward facing end surface is not restricted to such forms as given but may comprise any frictional pattern which can be brought into encroachment with a driving speculum in accordance with below. The projectile 7 is totally or substantially totally enclosed by a sabot 8. Between the top or front end 11 of the sabot and down along the jacket of the sabot 8 to in level with or shortly below half the length of the

core projectile incisions 12 which are through-going, through-cutting, preferably radially directed, in such a way that the upper part of the sabot 8 between the top 11 is divided into suitably four to eight, materially separated sectors 24. The through-going incisions 12 are made with minimal reduction of material and preferably no material reduction at all so that the sabot 8 can enclose the projectile 7 to a maximum and prevent leakage into the inner of the cartridge 1 of e.g., any moisture. The sectors support each other symmetrically and prevent any asymmetrical overlapping/abutment. The front part 11 of the sabot 8 is well drawn out to the formation of shoulders. This means that the sabot has got an almost cylindrical form which on one hand guides well in the barrel and on the hand guides the front end of the projectile. The lower part of the sabot 8 with its projectile 7 receives a driving speculum 13 which restricts the sabot/projectile 8, 7 from the charge of powder 4. It is hereby of importance that the driving speculum 13 is an integrated part of the composed projectile 6, that the driving speculum 13 is a pressure surface for the charge of powder, that the driving speculum 13 tightens through the bore of the weapon so that the disintegration of the sabot 8 does not start within the bore. The driving speculum 13 which is made of metal such as aluminium has a thickness which is enough to withstand the pressure forces existing between projectile and driving speculum during a firing event and can be some to a few millimetres, has a cylindrical collar 18 being arranged above a indented cylindrical lower part 22 of the sabot to the formation of an integrated part of the sabot 8. The core projectile 7 is preferably indented/lightly conical ended in the area closest to the sabot 8/driving speculum 13 to admit a non-influenced separation of sabot and core projectile. The conic degree 23 means that the sabot at the movement of the composed projectile through a barrel is not pressed to a too a high abutment against the rear end of the projectile by means of the bars of the barrel. The sabot is embossed by the bars but as the material is elastic the grip of the sabot on the projectile ceases at the muzzle. The driving speculum being of metal is, however, permanently embossed why its grip via the sabot remains intact and thus the release by means of the conic degree or in any other way is of value to obtain a good release of the projectile. The corresponding can be obtained as the sabot is made conical diverging rearward at its inside. The conic degree means the core projectile has an end diameter, which is some to a few tens of a millimetre less than the diameter of the cylindrical part of the core projectile.

The projectile 7 has preferably a density which exceeds the density of lead, suitably exceeding 12 g/cm^3 , preferably exceeding 15 g/cm^3 and is more preferably as mentioned, made of a wolfram alloy having a density of 17.5 g/cm^3 .

A sabot 8 allows for a large attack surface on the composed projectile in the bore/barrel but gives a small attack surface in the trajectory as the sabot is released in the muzzle. Therefore the barrel of a weapon can be made shorter as one still obtains a high V_0 . Another advantage
5 having a sabot is that one can obtain a projectile, which has no direct geometrical binding to the barrel but can have other forms which are optimal to other purposes. For example the proportions between conic and cylindrical form unessential in the present invention with regard to the barrel situation ad one obtains a larger freedom to create an optimal projectile.

10 The sabot 8 is provided with a peripherally, radially extending shrink indentation 15, which shrink indentation 15 is in encroachment with the indented forward edge of the casing, the shrinkage 16. The through-going cuts 12 also have such a length that they pass up to and including this peripherally running shrink encroachment 15. Hereby the cuts 12 run so far down along the sabot 8 that they connect to the cylindrical part of a projectile being received
15 in the sabot for the intention to maximise the release of sabot/projectile from each other at the foldout after the muzzle of a barrel. The material thinning of the shrink encroachment hereby secures an exact, predetermined foldout of the front part of the sabot after exit of the bore. The front sectors of the sabot 8 supports each other simultaneously as they orient symmetrically to each other and thereby avoid asymmetric support of the projectile.

20 At the shrink encroachment there are two peripheral lines defined as well. viz., a first line 25 which is the deepest part of the shrink encroachment 15 and where the sabot has its largest material thinning and around which a foldout of the sabot will take place, and a second peripheral line 26 to which the cuts 12 extend. This second line coincides with the restriction
25 line of the shrink encroachment itself.

The sabot 8 is attached in a casing by means of contraction whereby the contraction between the shrink encroachment 15 and the shrinkage 16 of the casing is made in such a way that there is created a suitable resistance for releasing the composed projectile from the casing
30 which guarantees an even and balanced pressure building from shot to shot. The contraction will prior to firing keep the sectors of the front part 11 of the sabot together, as well.

In another embodiment the lower part of the sabot 8 can be provided with a bulge and a track which match an inwardly radially directed bulge provided in the collar 18 of the driving

speculum 13, whereby the track receives said bulge. Hereby it is obtained a tight joint between the sabot 8 and its driving speculum 13 as well, so that no powder gases will pass between the projectile and the sabot.

5 The composed projectile, and then essentially the sabot 8, has such a design that the composed projectile has a substantially cylindrical form which is achieved by means of the fact the shoulders, front part 11, of the sabot 8 is drawn out. Hereby a maximal guiding and transfer or rotation is obtained in a bore provided with bars, and thereby in the future the stability of the projectile in its trajectory. Further, the form increases the presumption to
10 transfer rotation to the projectile as the contact surfaces are maximal between sabot and projectile, which is also decisive for the rotation the projectile will obtain in its trajectory. The form with drawn out shoulders gives a mass accumulation, which is high and thereby provides for a high centrifugal force for the foldout of the sabot. This geometry secures a feeding in magazine and cartridge sliding chute as well.

15

The sabot 8 is suitably made of a polyamide or a polyolefin, such as polyethylene HD or polypropylene by means of conventional polymer forming technique. One requirement hereby is that the polymer is tough and strong. The requirement is basically that the sabot shall open efficiently along a radial jacket line, the first peripheral line 25, in or in direct connection to
20 the peripheral shrink encroachment 15, down to the second peripheral line 26, and that the sabot 8 keeps together after foldout so that no sector is released and continues in an uncontrollable way. After the muzzle a foldout sabot falls quickly to the ground on one hand due to the braking effect as provided by the foldout sectors, on the other hand by the low content of kinetic energy of the sabot as such. Asymmetric opening of the sabot shall be
25 avoided as this can lead to the fact that the projectile after having left the sabot obtains a wobbling in the trajectory. Further the sabot 8 shall be completely tightening in the barrel of the weapon from which a cartridge containing the composed projectile is fired and has a substantially closed front end 11 outward-forward.

30 At firing of the present cartridge 1 at first a pressure will be built up in the casing before the composed projectile is released from the shrink encroachment by means of the gas pressure on the driving speculum. When the composed projectile is going to move forward the first event is that the driving speculum is pressed against the rear end of the projectile and is thereby embossed by this to a frictional and/or key interference with the projectile. The load is

thus transferred to the projectile and sabot to such a degree that the composed projectile is released from the casing. The composed projectile is brought into the bore and wherein at first the sabot is guided by the bars and starts to rotate in a controlled manner by means of the bars. In a moment before the driving speculum reaches the bars the projectile and the driving
5 speculum have not really obtained a rotation, and in any not the same rotation as the sabot. The sabot is hereby on one hand one unit and the projectile and the driving speculum on the other hand one unit seen from a movement point of view. When the driving speculum reaches the bars the guiding of the bars of the driving speculum will be transferred to the projectile as well via said "friction or interference joint" and the rotation in the bore will be completely
10 transferred to the core projectile whereby the whole composed projectile from a rotation and movement point of view will become one unit, whereupon the composed projectile is driven through the bore.

The embossment of the rear end of the projectile into the driving speculum leads to an active co-operation between sabot, projectile, and driving speculum. At the muzzle the sabot is
15 foldout in a controlled manner by division along the cuts 12 down to and inclusive the shrink encroachment 15. The function of the sectors is hereby to control the foldout of the sabot 8 to a peripheral line in a symmetric way which minimises the risk that the foldout of the sectors of the sabot does not take place in a completely symmetric way, which would create a disturbance of the separation phase. The peripheral line 25 is defined, in accordance with
20 above, by the material thinning of the shrink encroachment and creates hereby a "hinge" or "hollow of the knee" along the jacket of the sabot. The geometry can thereby suitably be designed in such a way in the shrink encroachment when the sectors are completely folded out that their contact surfaces meet under the formation of an angle of about 90° to the longitudinal axis. This also guarantees the equality of the foldout. The sectors are thus folded
25 out in a fan-shaped way and will then be an efficient air brake, which results in the rapid decrease of the rotation of the sabot and forward movement. The sabot is drawn off from the projectile by means of the difference in speed, which projectile continues in its trajectory towards the target. By means of the rotation the separation between sabot and projectile will become gyro-stabilised which results in that the projectile will obtain an extraordinarily
30 stable, continued trajectory without any tendency of wobbling or oscillation.

The projectile 7 is released from the foldout sabot 8 in connection with the muzzle and continues in its own trajectory. By means of the construction of the projectile and the relatively high V_0 of the projectile a very flat projectile trajectory will be obtained.

Conclusively, the present invention provides a sabot enclosing a core projectile, which sabot protects and supports this projectile completely, which sabot efficiently separates from the projectile by folding out along a defined line, the shrink encroachment, a driving speculum
5 which actively co-operates with the projectile to transfer rotation to the projectile and the sabot and which closes the sabot and forms a rear tightening, and which, finally, allows the composed projectile to be brought together by introducing the projectile from behind, whereupon the driving speculum is attached from behind.

10 The invention is useful in most applications but is best utilised in proportionally small/short cartridges when the composed projectile is only slightly longer than the core projectile 7. It will also stand very high gas pressures. The invention is further suited particularly well in conventional cartridges as the point of the projectile can be made pointed.

15 As a difference from prior art the present invention has a separate metallic driving speculum. Such a solution means to the fact that the strength becomes higher than using a polymer, provides a condition for mounting of the composed projectile from behind, as well as it faces a "patterned" projectile rear end 20 to secure transfer of rotation.

20 By applying a shrink contraction between the neck of the casing and the shrink encroachment 15 an even and balanced building-up of pressure in the casing at the firing of the powder load which compensates for the relative light projectile and the relatively low friction of the sabot and the driving speculum in the bore.

By adopting the outer-geometry to the geometry of an ordinary 9 x 19 mm ammunition, as in
25 the example above, the present cartridge can be used in a number of weapons adapted to such ammunition, whereby in the general case there is only a need for changing the barrel from calibre 9 mm to calibre 6.5 mm.

The present composed projectile, i.e., the driving speculum + sabot + projectile can be
30 adapted to present fire arm calibres whereby the composed projectile can vary from 4 to 15 mm and have a projectile calibre of 2 to 12 mm.

By combining the above composed projectile and using aluminium at the production of the casing there is an environmental alternative to use brass where heavy metals can dissolve

when the casing is left in the terrain. However, the choice of material is not restricted to aluminium but can be any other suitable casing material such as brass, steel. Aluminium gives, however, a 60 % weight reduction and a comparable reduction when it comes to production costs.

5

By means of an optimal choice of composed projectile and casing according to the example above when producing a cartridge, a soldier can carry up to 4 times as much cartridges of the present invention compared with e.g., a 5.56 mm NATO cartridge, within the requirements of a certain weapon and weight of ammunition

10

The present invention is in no way restricted to the above given example but is only restricted by the accompanying claims and the variations as the one skilled in the art being guided thereof can obtain.

15

CLAIMS

1. Composed projectile for subcalibre projectile comprising a sabot (8), a projectile (7) and a driving speculum (13),

characterized in

- 5 that the composed projectile (6) has geometry, which is substantially cylindrical,
that said composed projectile comprises a projectile made of a metal material,
that the length of the composed projectile (6) is not substantially longer than the projectile (7),
that the sabot (8) is arranged to substantially enclose the subcalibre projectile (7),
10 that the sabot (8) has a front part (11) which is divided into at least four sectors (19), which sectors (19) are arranged to fold-out a part of the sabot (8) in a controlled manner,
that the sabot (8) at its upper part is provided with through-going cuts (12) running from its periphery and up to a projectile receiving space, which cuts are arranged to run from the front end (11) of the sabot (8) to essentially to the level of a shrink encroachment (15),
15 that the sectors (19) of the sabot are arranged to be rapidly fold-out from the main geometry of the sabot (8) with a bending direction of said shrink encroachment (15) in a controlled manner,
that the projectile (7) at its rear end has a rearward conical ending, and
that the driving speculum (13) has a substantially cylindrical collar (18), which is arranged to
20 enclose a corresponding cylindrical contraction at the rear end of the sabot (8).

2. Composed projectile according to one or more of claim 1,

characterized in

- that the projectile (7) at its rearward facing end (20) has a patterned surface to produce a
25 friction and/or interference joint with said driving speculum (13) to support transfer of rotation from the movement of the composed projectile (6) through a bore/barrel.

3. Composed projectile according to claim 2,

characterized in

- 30 that the projectile (7) at its rearward facing end (20) has one or more recesses (21) which are arranged to cooperate with said driving speculum (13) to support transfer of rotation from the movement of the composed projectile (6) through a bore/barrel.

4 Composed projectile according to claims 1-3,

characterized in

that the sabot (8) has a peripherally running shrink encroachment (15) arranged to receive a contraction (16) of a casing receiving said sabot.

5 5. Composed projectile according to claims 1-4,

characterized in

that the sabot (8) is designed to be able to be fed in all types of weapons.

6. Composed projectile according to claims 1-5,

10 **characterized in**

that the projectile is made of a high-density material.

7. Composed projectile according to claim 6,

characterized in

15 that the density of the metal material exceeds the density of conventional projectile materials.

8. Composed projectile according to claim 6,

characterized in

that the projectile (7) has a density of at least 12 g/cm^3 , preferably at least 15 g/cm^3 .

20

9. Composed projectile according to claim 8,

characterized in

that the projectile (7) is made of a wolfram alloy having a density of at least 17.5 g/cm^3 .

25 10. Cartridge having a subcalibre projectile,

characterized in

that comprises a composed projectile in accordance with claims 1-9.

11. Cartridge according to claim 10,

30 **characterized in**

that the composed projectile having a calibre of 4 to 15 mm is introduced in a casing (2).

12. Cartridge according to claim 11,

characterized in

that the composed projectile is introduced in a casing (2) of metal.

13. Cartridge according to claim 12,
characterized in

5 that the casing (2) is made of aluminium.

14. Cartridge according to claim 12,
characterized in
that the casing (2) is made of brass.

10

15. Cartridge according to claims 10-14,
characterized in

that casing (2) and composed projectile (6) are arranged to be able to be fed in all types of
weapons.

15

16. Process for the manufacture of a composed projectile according to claims 1-9,
characterized in that a projectile (7) is introduced from behind into a sabot (8) whereupon
the sabot is sealed by means of a driving speculum (13).

20 17. Process according to claim 16,
characterized in that the driving speculum (13) seals the sabot (8) by being thread over the
rear end of the sabot (8).

25 18. Projectile for subcalibre ammunition and being part of a composed projectile according to
claims 1-9,
characterized in

that it comprises a front conical or ogival part and a rear, substantially cylindrical part,
whereby the rearward facing surface (20) of the rear part is provided with a patterned surface
to provide a friction or key interference with a driving speculum intended to cooperate with
30 the projectile.