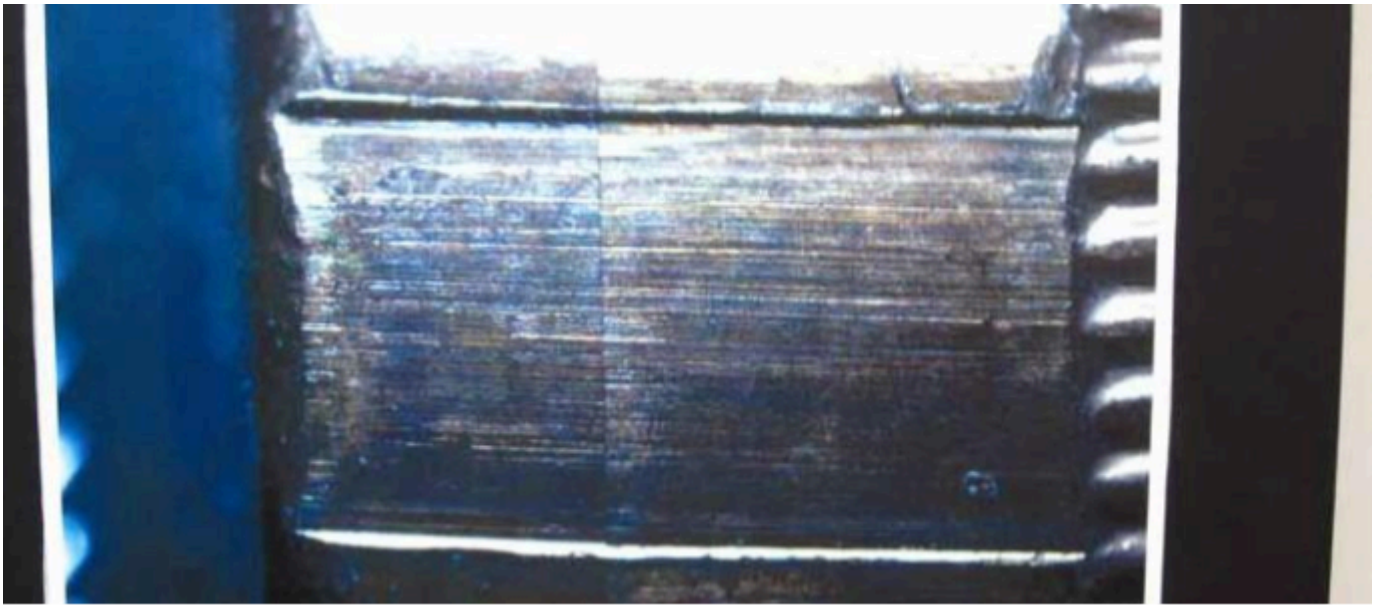


# Barcode Ballistics

By Terri Bradford

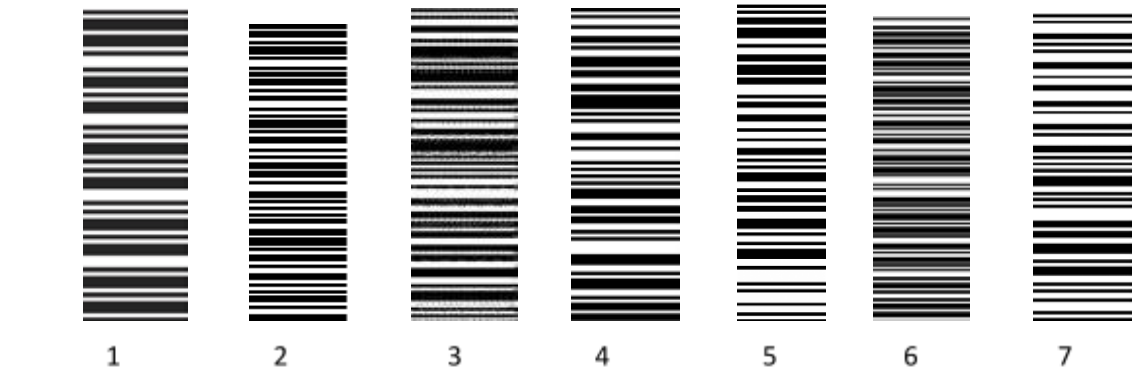
The barcode ballistics lab was created to give my students some practice on matching striations before they went online and attempted to use the virtual comparison microscope found at www.firearmsid.com. In previous years, I noticed that my students were having problems matching striations between two bullets. I wasn't sure if the problem was lack of patience or actually having problems matching up the patterns of light and dark which make up the striations. Looking at the striations, they reminded me of bar codes and I had an idea. What better way to practice than using something that my students are familiar with?

I looked for and found a variety of bar codes, some similar and others very different, to use that my students could practice matching. I scanned in the barcodes and created the activity seen on these pages. It was interesting to watch how each student went about matching the bar codes.

The students that cut out the bar codes from the student sheet carefully (leaving no white around the edges) had the best success since they could actually get them close enough to the test standards to show the continuation of the pattern. As I was circulating around during the activity, this was a suggestion that I made often. Some students forgot that they could rotate the bar codes 180° and were frustrated that they could not find a match. Some students cut all of the bar codes out at once and attempted to match them. This method was frustrating since a slight breeze would blow the bar codes off the sheet, mixing them up and they would have to start again. Other students would cut out one bar code at a time and then glue it down.

Whatever their method, the students became adept at looking for pattern recognition. I often referred to this activity as students were using the virtual comparison microscope to match fired and test standard bullets, reminding them that they were looking for patterns of light and dark. This activity served as a great introduction to striation pattern recognition as we began our study of ballistics. This activity took about 40 minutes and requires the student worksheets, scissors and glue sticks.

**Neatly cut out the following barcodes and match them with the ones on the other page.**



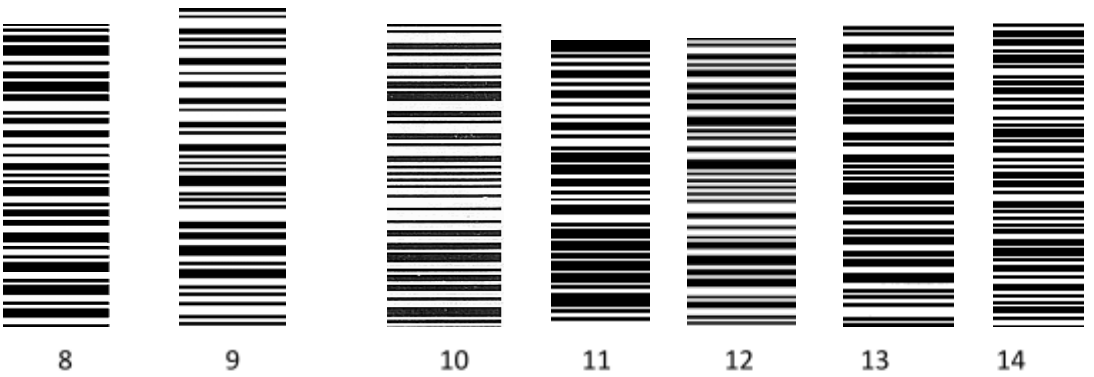




---

**Neatly cut out the following barcodes and match them with the ones on the other page.**



# Barcode Ballistics

**Name** _____

Find the matching bullet barcodes. Place it right next to its match on the line to the right.







