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# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS  
FOR THE **REAL** WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*  
**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

GunDigest® PRESENTS

# CONCEALED CARRY CLASS

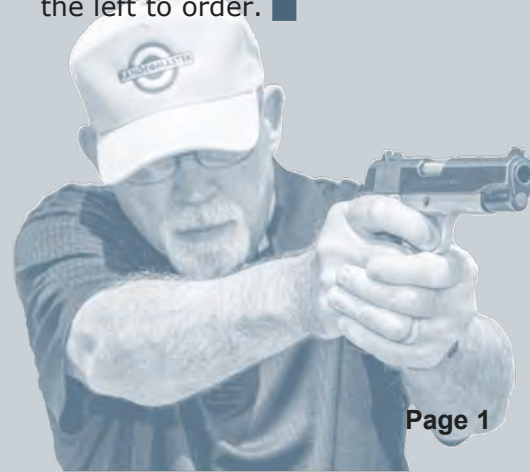
THE ABCs OF  
SELF-DEFENSE  
TOOLS AND  
TACTICS



TOM GIVENS

*It's Here!*

Rangemaster is proud to announce the release of a fifth book by Tom Givens. It's called *Concealed Carry Class: The ABCs of Self-Defense Tools and Tactics*. This new text is a must-have for anyone who carries or is considering carrying a firearm for self-defense. Its 30 chapters and nearly 300 pages are full of large photos and clear explanations of every concept that Tom covers. In addition to his now-famous complement of "software" and "hardware" topics, Tom includes practice courses of fire and recommendations for further training and reading. The book is now available for immediate delivery from Gun Digest, both in paperback and as a digital download. Just click the image to the left to order. ■



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# HOMICIDE NUMBERS: UP OR DOWN?

The media are fond of claiming that violent crime, specifically murder, is on the decline in the US. But there's a difference between crime tallies (which are raw numbers) and crime *rates* (which are measured per capita). Perhaps more importantly, the data most often cited is largely incomplete.

Each year, the FBI puts out the "Uniform Crime Report" (UCR) for the previous year. The media represents this report as a factual, accurate summary of violent crime in the US for the preceding year. It is nothing of the sort. The UCR is a **voluntary** reporting system, and many police departments around the country do not report their statistics to the FBI. You have to remember that there are roughly 10,000 law enforcement agencies in the US, comprised of municipal police, sheriff's offices, state agencies, and federal agencies. Many small-town police departments with 10 to 15 officers (or less) cannot afford to have someone assigned to a desk to fill out government reports that are not mandated. Some medium and large cities refuse to report their statistics, as they do not want the public to see them. Thus, the crime numbers in the UCR are under-reported.

Curious about this, Rangemaster staff instructor John Hearne recently compared the FBI UCR homicide numbers with the same report from the CDC (Centers for

Disease Control). He looked at the reports for several years and found this. The table below compares the number of reported homicides published by the CDC and the FBI.

Year	CDC	FBI	Difference
2017	19,510	15,129	25.3%
2016	19,362	15,296	23.5%
2015	17,712	13,750	25.2%
2014	15,872	12,270	25.6%
2013	16,259	12,253	28.1%

The average difference between CDC and FBI numbers is 25.54%. Also, note the 19% increase in murders from 2013 to 2017, going by the FBI numbers, and the 17% increase going by the CDC's figures. Either way, the number of homicides rose in that five-year interval.

So, year after year, the FBI UCR shows 25% fewer murders than the CDC is aware of. This is just another example of why we all should view media summaries with skepticism and do our own research when planning for our personal safety and security. ■



When students train with me for the first time, they are usually quite surprised the first time I produce a full-size Glock 17 from beneath casual clothing, mainly an un-tucked polo shirt or fishing shirt. The holster is not only quite concealable, it is very comfortable and lightning fast. For several years now, that rig has been an IWB #3 from JM Custom Kydex in Reno, Nevada. The owner of JMCK, Tony Mayer, is a well-trained shooter and serious gun toter, who knows how to make a proper all-day concealed carry rig.

The IWB #3 is available with a myriad of options, including different cant angles, different height sweat guards or no sweat guard, and several belt attachment options, including split soft loops, split fixed loops, a clip, etc. Tony also offers a package deal on an IWB #3 holster and two single magazine pouches like I use. The links are listed below, or just click the images for more information.

## THE GIVENS PACKAGE

[jmcustomkydex.com/p/TOM-GIVENS-PACKAGE-G19.html](http://jmcustomkydex.com/p/TOM-GIVENS-PACKAGE-G19.html)

## THE IWB #3

[jmcustomkydex.com/p/IWB3.html](http://jmcustomkydex.com/p/IWB3.html)



# ALTERNATE Shooting Positions

In the typical US self defense shooting, all shooting will be done from a standing position. There is usually no time to move to cover, assume a lower position or do anything but get on the sights and start making hits. As with all things, however, there are exceptions and we need to be prepared to deal with them.

From 1935 until 2013, the FBI's Practical Pistol Course and its NRA police competition cousin included firing from prone. This was a hold-over from early training at Quantico by Marine shooting instructors, who were primarily riflemen. In military action, most casualties are caused by flying shrapnel and debris from explosive ordnance. Artillery shells, mortar rounds, aerial bombs, RPG rockets, grenades, mines and IED's account for almost all serious casualties. Thus, in the military on first contact everyone goes prone, if possible. "I'm up and moving, he sees me, I'm down"—is the infantryman's mantra. That's great for opponents 100 to 300 meters away. At 10-15 feet, however, this won't work.

In our world of close-range self-defense, prone has a lot of drawbacks. It is slow to get into and out of, it greatly restricts our mobility, and restricts our vision. On hard, even surfaces like concrete and asphalt, it makes us vulnerable to rounds hitting in front of us and skipping into us.

Unless combined with very low cover, prone is probably not a great idea in the close-range urban environment.

The original PPC also included shooting from sitting, but again this is an attempt to adapt rifle training to pistol use. Sitting can be slow and awkward to get into and is slow to get up from, restricting our mobility.

In our world, the alternate position most often used will be some form of kneeling position. The various

kneeling positions have several advantages: they are quick to get into and out of; they offer enhanced stability; they lower your profile, making you a smaller target; they offer better visibility than prone; and they conform well to cover that is too short to use from a standing position. Also, they can make you harder for an assailant to spot initially, as most people scan visually at eye level. This last one applies when the opposition is not targeting you yet, as in an active shooter event where you are present. A kneeling position can also be used at close range to direct fire upward, to reduce the risk to bystanders who might be behind the intended target.

There are three basic variations of the kneeling position. These are: braced kneeling, double kneeling; and speed kneeling. Each has its own tactical niche, and each has benefits and drawbacks.

## Braced Kneeling

Braced kneeling is an adaptation of the rifleman's position, and offers enhanced stability for more accuracy, IF done correctly. To assume a proper Braced Kneeling Position, the shooter must step forward and across to a line extending forward from the gun side foot to the target. The shooter sits on the gun side heel, bracing the flat back of the support arm elbow on the flat portion of the knee. Upper body geometry stays pretty much the same as in Standing, so the gun is the same distance from the face, resulting in the same sight picture.

In training, we see braced kneeling done improperly pretty often. First, if the shooter simply steps forward with the support side foot, the handgun must be held on target with muscular tension, which gets shaky quickly. If the shooter steps across in front of the gun side foot, that places a "column of bone" beneath the gun, supporting the



## Alternate Shooting Positions

Continued  
from  
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handgun with skeletal structure (forearm, elbow, knee, lower leg), which is much more stable. Next, the support side elbow should be placed forward, on the flat portion of the support side knee. Avoid having the point of the elbow perched atop the knee. Finally, arm geometry must stay consistent. If the handgun is brought too close to the face, the rear sight notch becomes way too wide, and misses result.

## Double Kneeling

Double kneeling is assumed by rocking the shoulders back as the gun is drawn, to prevent crashing the knees into the ground too hard. As the gun is drawn, sit on both feet, with your butt on your heels. From the belt up, body geometry is exactly like when Standing. You can lean out slightly from either side of low cover, like a large concrete planter, and deliver accurate fire with minimal exposure.

## Speed Kneeling

Speed kneeling offers no real accuracy enhancement but lowers your profile quickly. You can get into/out of it very quickly. Just step forward with the support side foot and drop. From the belt up it's just like standing.

The photos on the previous page show these positions being used properly. Find the ones that work best for you and give them a bit of practice from time to time. You may find that your build, back injuries, etc may preclude using braced kneeling. If so, double kneeling is almost as stable and probably will work much better for you. Find the position that works for you. ■

People often ask us where they can obtain the targets we use in Rangemaster training courses. Below are some of our favorite targets and their sources. Click the images to visit the websites where you can purchase them.

# Rangemaster Training Targets

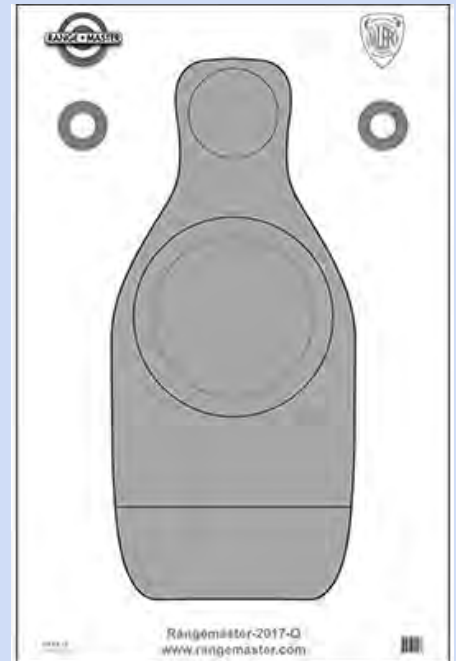
### B8 Bullseye Repair Center

ActionTarget.com



### Rangemaster Silhouette: The RFTS-Q

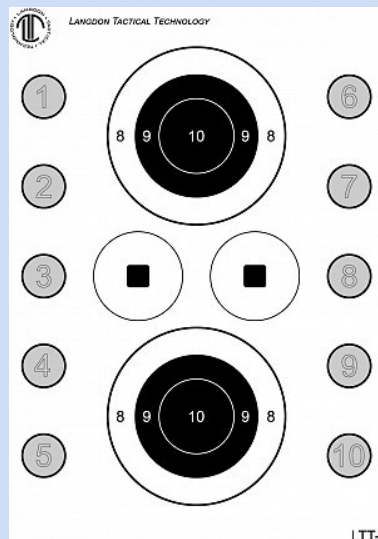
ActionTarget.com



### LTT-1 Target from Langdon

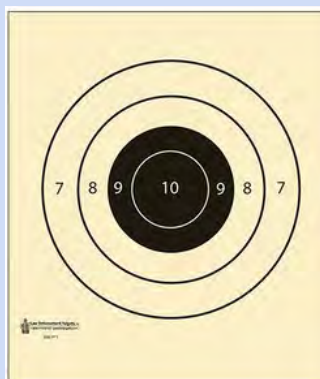
Tactical Technologies

National Target Company



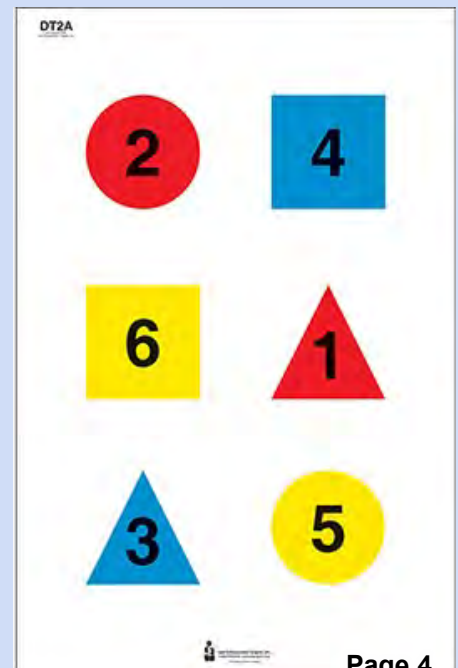
### FBI-IP-1 Bullseye

ActionTarget.com



### Casino Drill: The DT-2A Discretionary Command Training Target

ActionTarget.com





# UPCOMING CLASSES

Sign up today at [rangemaster.eventbrite.com/](https://rangemaster.eventbrite.com/)

## Jan 10-12

Establishing a  
Dominance Paradigm  
Nashville, TN  
(SOLD OUT)

## January 22-23

Advanced Firearms Instructor  
Development Course  
Homestead, FL

## January 24-26

Master Firearms Instructor  
Development Course  
Homestead, FL

## February 22-23

Combative Pistol  
Bandera, TX  
(near San Antonio)

## March 6-8

Defensive Shotgun  
Instructor  
Leesburg, FL

## March 14-15

Combative Pistol  
Ruskin, FL

## March 27-29

Tactical Conference  
Dallas, TX  
(WAITING LIST)

## April 3

Defensive Shotgun  
Lincoln, TX

## April 4-5

Combative Pistol  
Lincoln, TX

## April 24-25

Combative Pistol  
Northern Georgia

## April 26

Defensive Shotgun  
Northern Georgia

**Eventbrite**

## May 11-12

Advanced Firearms Instructor  
Xenia, OH

## May 13

Defensive Shotgun  
Xenia, OH

## May 15-16

Combative Pistol  
Garrettsville, OH

## May 17

Defensive Shotgun  
Garrettsville, OH

# SAVE THE DATE



# NORTHWEST REGIONAL TAC CON



July 24-26, 2020

Firearms Academy of Seattle ♦ Onalaska, WA

**W**e try to keep the Tactical Conference centrally located in the US, so as many practitioners as possible can attend. But there are several committed students of The Art in the Pacific Northwest as well. To accommodate them, we will again be holding a regional conference at The Firearms Academy of Seattle (FAS) in the summer of 2020. FAS is located between Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. It's a very nice training facility with numerous ranges and a modern classroom.

The dates are July 24-26, 2020, Friday through Sunday. This will be a smaller event than the national conference,

with about 100 attendees, plus staff and trainers. We have an impressive array of trainers presenting two-hour and four-hour blocks of instruction, including live fire with handgun, shotgun and carbine; classroom instruction on a variety of topics; and hands-on training in empty hands skills and immediate trauma care.

The trainers include Tom & Lynn Givens, Massad Ayoob, Marty Hayes, John Farnam, John Holschen, Lee Weems, John Hearne, John Murphy, Gabe White, Tiffany Johnson, Karl Rehn, Cecil Burch, Sherman House, Belle McCormack, and more. That's more than 15 well respected trainers

presenting instruction over three full days of training!

You may attend whichever non-shooting blocks you desire, and as many blocks as time allows over a three-day period. Live-fire training blocks will be assigned prior to event time to prevent overcrowding. There will also be a defensive pistol match running concurrently with the training events.

Attendance is open to adults who believe competent training is important and who wish to advance their knowledge of the defensive arts. Advance registration is required. ■

**For more information, please see [rangemaster.eventbrite.com](https://rangemaster.eventbrite.com/).**

# Drill of the Month:

## Baseline Skills Assessment

Throughout 2020 we will be continuing our Drill of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The goal is help motivate folks to get to the range and actually shoot their defensive weapons, and to have some fun in the process.

Each month we'll post a drill or a short course of fire. You are encouraged to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page: [facebook.com/groups/rangemaster](https://facebook.com/groups/rangemaster).

This year I'm going to post the same drill in January and again in December. This gives you a chance to set a baseline in January, and then check your progress in December. Let's go shooting!



### Baseline Skills Assessment Drill

Use a B-8 repair center, FBI-IP-1 bullseye, or the bullseye on an LTT-1 target, scored as printed. This drill is intended to be shot cold, from concealed carry. The strings of fire are listed to the right.

The entire course is only 20 rounds, for a total possible score of 200 points.

*Good luck!*

#### 5 yds:

Draw and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds, using both hands.

#### 5 yds:

Start gun in hand, at Ready, in dominant hand only. Fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds.

#### 5 yds:

Start gun in hand, at Ready, in non-dominant hand only. Fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds.

#### 7 yds:

Start gun in hand, loaded with 3 rounds only. Fire 3 rounds, conduct an empty gun reload, and fire 3 more rounds, all in 10 seconds.

#### 10 yds:

Start gun in hand, at Ready. Fire 4 rounds in 4 seconds.

Here are some brief informational articles from trusted, vetted, knowledgeable sources. This is solid information. This month's contributions are from Greg Ellifritz (Active Response Training) and Claude Werner, The Tactical Professor.

**RECOMMENDED READING**

Click the titles to read the articles.

- 1) "Living With Guns," by Claude Werner
- 2) "Flying With Guns," by Greg Ellifritz
- 3) "Five Tips for Making Online Sales Transactions Safer," by Greg Ellifritz

*Happy New Year!*  
from Rangemaster