

November 2020 Newsletter



DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2020 we will be running a 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, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rangemaster/>.

Snub Revolver Skills Course

This course is meant to be fired with a double action revolver which holds 5 or 6 shots, with a barrel length not to exceed three inches. A speedloader or speed strip may be used for the reload stage. All stages except the reload stage start with the gun holstered as normally carried, in belt, IWB, pocket, or ankle holster—shooter's choice. Except for the reload stage, all stages may begin with a fully loaded revolver. Use an IALEFI-Q, RFTS-Q, or IDPA target for this course.

3 yards Draw and fire 3 rounds, dominant hand only. Switch hands, and fire 2 rounds non-dominant hand only, all in 7 secs.

5 yards Sidestep, draw and fire 4 rounds in 4 seconds.

5 yards Sidestep, draw and fire 4 rounds to the body, then 1 round to the head box, all in 5 seconds.

7 yards Draw and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds.

7 yards Start with one round in the gun, at the ready. On signal, fire one round, sidestep, execute an emergency reload and fire 4 more rounds, all in 9 seconds.

15 yards Draw and fire 3 rounds in 6 seconds.

25 yards Draw and fire 3 rounds in 9 seconds.

30 rounds total 150 points possible

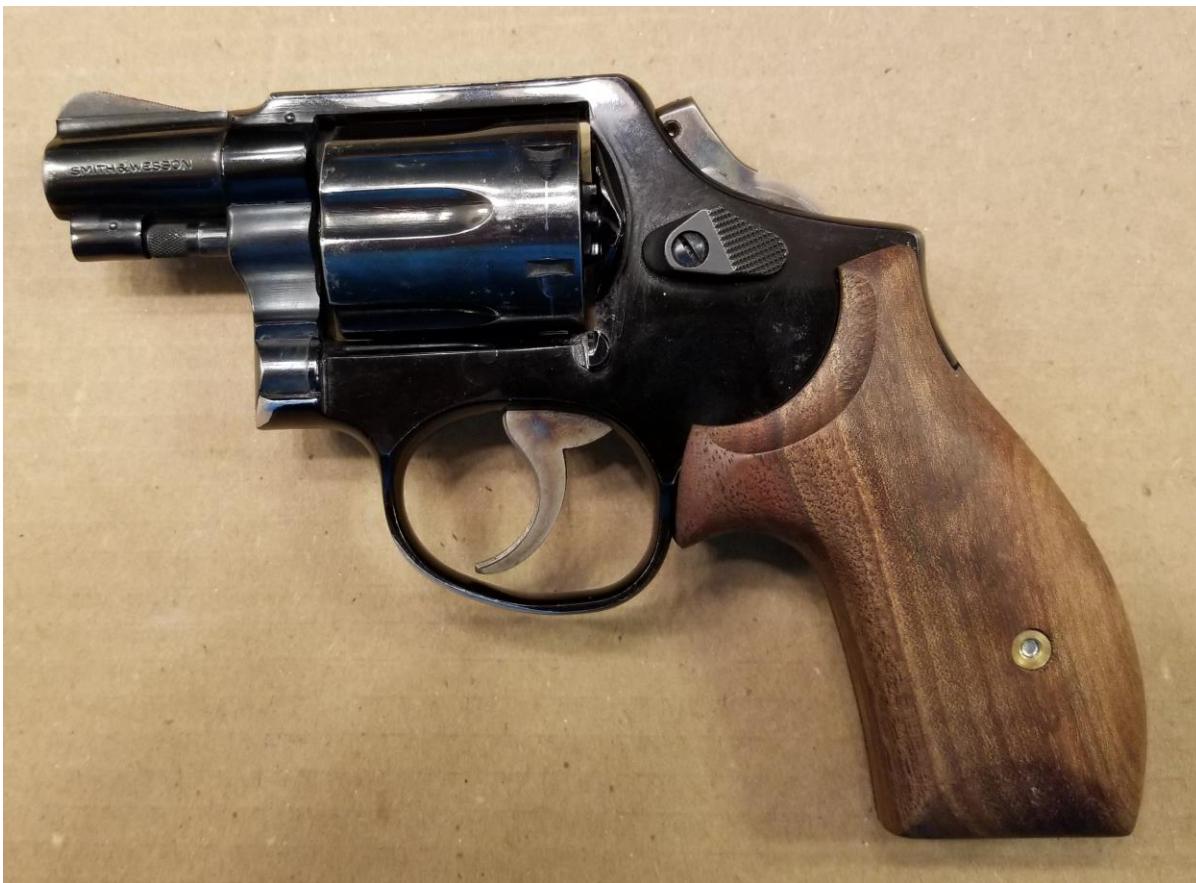
Scoring, depending on target design used:

IALEFI-QP 8" circle and head ring= 5, 10" circle = 4, bottle = 3

RFTS-Q same as above

IDPA target -0=5 points, -1= 3 points, -3= 2 points

150 points possible 120+ to pass (80%)



S&W Model 12 with Ahrends stocks

Lock Your Doors!

This happened five years ago in Indianapolis, but the lessons are 100% applicable today. A young woman was brutally raped and murdered in her own home at 7:00am by two intruders.

The young woman's husband left their home shortly after 6:00am to go to a local gym. He told police he left the front door of their home unlocked. When he returned two hours later he found his wife raped and near death, shot in the back of the head. It appears that the perpetrators of this atrocity had just burglarized a home two doors down from the Blackburn's home.

It is likely that the suspects saw him leave, and just as likely that they saw him fail to lock the door. They simply entered the home and committed their heinous crimes.

There are a number of lessons here. First, no time of day and no neighborhood are "off limits" to violent crime. It appears the suspects in this case had broken into two or three other homes in the same neighborhood between 5:30am, and 7:00am, stealing money, a laptop computer, clothing and other items. A few years ago, a student of ours was forced to shoot an intruder who kicked in the front door and entered the student's home at 6:30am. Our student had to transition from getting his kids ready to go to school to shooting an intruder, in just seconds.

Next, lock your damn doors! It doesn't matter what time of day it is, or that you will only be gone briefly. If an intruder has to break down a door to enter, that gives you warning and time to arm yourself. If they can just walk right in through an unlocked door, there is no delay, no noise to alert you and no time to react. Third, use your alarm system. Again, a burglar alarm won't keep an intruder out, but it alerts you that you have a problem, making a response possible.

Now, here's something to think about. In the Indianapolis case, the husband told police he deliberately left the door unlocked. He didn't want to be bothered carrying keys when he walked to the nearby gym to work out. That combination of laziness and willful naivete cost his wife her life. As far as I'm concerned, he should be charged with Reckless Endangerment, which is exactly what he did. "But I don't want to live in fear.", the wide-eyed sheep says. Locking your

doors is not living in fear, any more than wearing a seat belt in traffic or having a fire extinguisher in your home is. Locking your doors is simply taking a reasonable precaution against a real and foreseeable threat.

This is a perfect example of a preventable tragedy. Complacency and willful naivete combine to get decent people killed.



**Surveillance photo from Pompano Beach, FL, home invasion.
If the door is unlocked, they just walk right in. At least make them break in, to cause noise and a delay so you can mount an effective defense.**

Ignorance can be cured, stupid cuts to the bone.

Here is the dictionary's definition of ignorance:

Ignorance noun

ig·no·rance | \ 'ig-n(ə-)rən(t)s \

Definition of *ignorance*

: the state or fact of being ignorant : lack of knowledge, education, or awareness

As you can see, saying someone is “ignorant” is not an insult. It is a statement of fact. Lots of people are ignorant of many subjects, but when it comes to violent crime, many people are what I call “willfully ignorant”. They don’t know, and they don’t want to know.

You will often read comments on social media that it is unreasonable, or paranoid, or silly to carry a concealed handgun on a routine, daily basis, because your need for that gun is “a one in a million chance”. **Wrong**. Here are some facts from the US Bureau of Justice Statistics, part of the Justice Department.

First, the BJS completed a study in 1987 that concluded that among US citizens who were 12 years old in 1987, 83% would be the victim or intended victim of a violent crime in their lifetime. That’s four out of every five people. (Note that is lifetime, not per year.)

More recently, the annual BJS report for 2017 showed the following numbers, for just that one year:

Total Violent Crimes- 5,612,670 (includes unarmed assaults)

Rapes, female victim- 393,980

Robbery- 613,840

Aggravated Assault- 993,170

Serious violent crime involving injury to the victim- 643,760

Stranger Violence (Victim and offender unknown to each other) 2,034,100

The 2019 numbers came out in October. Counting **ONLY** four major crimes, Murder, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, and Rape, there were a total of over Two Million of them. That’s 5,517 of those four crimes PER DAY.

So, the odds are not “one in a million”, they are “one in a few dozen”. If we only consider Aggravated Assault and no other violent crimes, there were an average of 2,721 Aggravated Assaults **per day** in 2017. The FBI’s definition of Aggravated Assault is “an unlawful attack involving serious bodily injury to the victim, or the use of a deadly weapon or other means likely to cause death or serious injury”. In other words, that’s almost 3,000 times each day someone tries to kill someone else in this country. Taking sensible precautions against something that common is not being paranoid, it’s being smart.

Effective Dry Practice, by Tom Givens

"Dry firing" or "dry practice" consists of practicing firearms manipulations without the presence of any live ammunition. There are a couple of excellent reasons for engaging in this practice. For one thing, the rising cost of ammunition and the time burden of traveling to and from a live fire range often limits the amount of practice we can get. More practice equals more skill. Dry work can be accomplished in your own home and with no expenditure of ammunition, so there is zero cost.

Second, dry work is actually a better way to ingrain many skills. Without live fire, the shooter does not have the noise of a weapon's discharge, the noise of other shooters' guns firing, flying brass, reciprocating slides and the myriad other distractions on a typical firing range. Quiet, mentally focused dry work is an excellent way to learn the feel of your trigger, for instance, or to perfect your presentation from the holster.

Since you will be handling a real gun in your home there are certain precautions you will need to observe. Here is a checklist for you. Make a ritual out of going down this checklist every time, and before long these will be habits.

1. Dry practice should only be conducted in one designated, established area, and nowhere else in your home. That area should have a "safe wall", that is a wall that will actually stop bullets in the event of an unintended discharge. A brick exterior wall or a stone fireplace can work, or you can use a body-armor vest as a back-stop. Do not dry fire toward an interior drywall.
2. When you enter the dry practice area, clear the gun and remove ALL live ammunition from the area. This includes loaded magazines or speedloaders, rounds in your pocket, or rounds in the desk drawer. Take all live ammunition to another room, then come back and clear your gun again.
3. You will need a target, which is simply an object to aim at while you dry practice. You can use an actual commercial target, a hand drawn reduced scale target, or something similar. Don't use an expensive or important item or the house pet! Remember to place the target on the safe wall or body armor backstop.

4. A session of mentally focused practice should probably not last more than ten to fifteen minutes. If you try to stretch the session out, you will tend to get bored and sloppy. Sloppy practice is worse than no practice. Remember our goal is to rack up a huge number of correct repetitions over time, to build reflexive skills. "Muscle memory", kinesthetic programming, conditioned reflexive responses, and habit all actually mean the same thing. All are born of consistent repetition.
5. If you get interrupted during the session by a phone call or other distraction, start all over again, back at step 1. Failure to do this is an invitation to disaster, unintentionally using a loaded gun for dry work.
6. There are two points in this process where there is actually a danger of an unintended discharge. Those two points are the very beginning and the very end of the session. Failure to clear the gun, move all ammo out of the room, and then clear the gun again can result in an unwanted discharge. The most common error seems to be finishing the session, loading the gun, and then saying, "Just one more rep." When the session is over, say out loud to yourself, "This session is over. No more practice." Leave the dry fire area for a while. Later, go back, load the gun and say out loud to yourself, "This gun is now loaded." At that point, it can be safely put back in the holster, or wherever you keep it.

New Rangemaster Target Available

Around 1920, Colt introduced possibly the first commercially available silhouette training target. The "Colt's Police Silhouette" was a black silhouette of a 6 foot tall, 180 pound man, 1:1 scale, drawing a gun from his right hip. Unlike many modern silhouette targets, this one has arms, a neck, and ears, making it look much more like a human. The NRA later designated this target the B-21, and it has seen widespread use all over the country in police training.

I wanted to commemorate the 100th birthday of this target, so I had Action Targets make me a modernized version that still pays homage to the early days of combative pistol training. The RFTS-Q2 uses the original Colt body, but in a neutral gray color, rather than stark black. The scoring lines are subdued. The silhouette is reduced in size to about 80% of the original. In

the chest there is an 8" circle, and there is a 4" circle in the head, centered between the ears. There is a visible belt line, as a reference for shooters who are at The Ready. I've used this target in a couple of classes now, and I like it.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan 21-23 Pistol Instructor Development, Homestead, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-fl-tickets-99755840404>

Jan 24-25 Advanced Pistol Instructor, Homestead, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-fl-tickets-99757148316>

Feb 12-14 Pistol Instructor Development, Leesburg, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-fl-tickets-100960062264>

Feb 20-21 Combative Pistol, Ruskin, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-fl-tickets-100974683998>

April 9-11 Pistol Instructor Development, Bandera, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tx-tickets-102857140476>

Don't delay. Many of these courses are already half full, and the Tactical Conference is sold out for 2021.



Firearms Instructor Development Course, Nashville, TN, Oct 2020



Firearms Instructor Development Course, Martin, GA, Oct 2020