



# JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

## DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2021 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/>.

## **BASELINE ASSESSMENT DRILL**

This is a quick, 20 round course of fire, fired at 5,7, and 10 yards on a B-8 bullseye, or equivalent target. The bullseye on an LTT-1, a B-8C repair center, or an FBI-IP1 bullseye are all essentially the same, and are good for this drill. Only the 10, 9, and 8 rings count. Everything else is a miss. Deduct 10 points for each overtime shot. To be shot from concealed carry.

**5 yards Draw and fire 5 rounds in five seconds**

**5 yards Start at ready, using dominant hand only, 3 rounds in 3 secs**

**5 yards Start at ready, non-dominant hand only, 2 rounds in 3 secs**

**7 yards Start at ready, 3 rds only in the gun. Fire 3 rds, conduct an empty gun reload, and fire 3 more rds, all in 10 seconds.**

**10 yards Start at ready, fire 4 rounds in 4 seconds**

**20 rounds total 200 points possible looking for 180 or better (90%)**



**198 out of 200, shot on May 17, 2021, by Tom Givens.**

**Glock 17, 9mm 124 ball, iron sights**

## **INSPECTION OF CARRY AMMUNITION**

**Ammunition made in the US is of very high quality. American manufacturers, however, turn out tens of millions of rounds of ammunition *each day*. Any product that is made by the millions per day will suffer from defective, out of spec, or damaged specimens and these will find their way into the boxes shipped to your local dealer.**

**Handguns rely completely on quality, in spec ammunition to function. Here are just a few of the things we see go wrong frequently:**

**High Primer-** the primer should be seated just below flush in the base of the cartridge. A "high primer" is one that protrudes above the base of the cartridge. In revolvers this can bind against the breech face, preventing rotation of the cylinder. In autos, this can keep the cartridge from sliding up under the extractor, and keep the slide from going into battery.

**Inverted Primer-** Every now and then we find a cartridge in which the primer was inserted backward or sideways. Won't work.

**Damaged Rim-** The extractor must grab the rim of the cartridge and pull it out of the chamber so it can be ejected. The rim should be uniform, and have no bends, tears, or burrs.

**Damaged Case-** The case may have a big dent in it, or the case mouth may have been caught by the bullet's base when the bullet was seated in the case, tearing the case

**mouth. These will often go into a magazine, but not feed into the pistol's chamber, causing a stoppage.**

**Bullets- We see bullets inserted backwards in the case, or loose in the case, or pushed back too deeply into the case.**

**We see a lot of ammo fired every year and we see these deficiencies in every brand and type of handgun ammunition. Before you trust your life to ammunition, inspect it carefully for the problems described above. I suggest the following for ammo you will actually be carrying:**

- 1 Visually inspect the primers carefully. Be sure every case has a primer, that the primer is seated fully, and the primer is not dented or damaged.**
- 2 Visually, and by feel, check the rim for damage or burrs.**
- 3 Visually check the case, especially the case mouth.**
- 4 Visually check the bullets, then with only finger pressure make sure they are not loose in the case. You should not be able to move the bullet at all with your fingers.**

**Without properly functioning ammunition, your defensive firearm is just a club. Take a few moments to ensure that your ammunition is up to the task.**



## **Birdshot vs Bad Guys- Bad Idea!**

**One of the most often repeated bits of nonsense I run into is the advice to use birdshot in your defensive shotgun for indoor applications. This is very poor advice.**

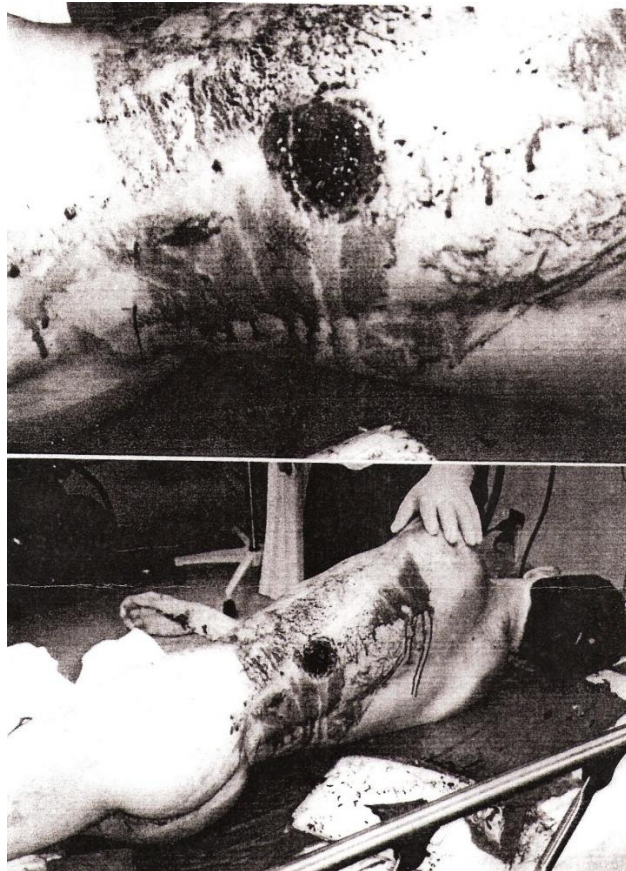
**As the name "birdshot" implies, these tiny shot pellets are for hunting birds. Birds are very lightly constructed, with hollow bones and little mass, as their muscular effort in furiously beating their wings is what keeps them in flight. Gravity isn't just a good idea, it's the law! Whenever a bird is unable to strongly and rapidly beat its wings, gravity takes over and the bird plummets to Earth. A few pellets of birdshot are not even what usually kills the bird, it's the rapid deceleration trauma when it hits the ground at 35 miles per hour. All the birdshot pellets have to do is cut a tendon, or a nerve trunk, or damage a flight muscle, and down the bird comes.**

**Individual pellets of #8 birdshot are .09" in diameter and weigh only 1.07 grains (there are 7,000 grains in a pound). Number 7 1/2 birdshot pellets are .095" in diameter, and weigh only 1.25 grains. Contrast that to a 00 Buck pellet, at .33" and 53.8 grains. A full grown dove only weighs about four ounces. I weigh 220 pounds. It would take 880 doves to equal my body weight. To me, that makes it obvious that tiny birdshot would not be suitable for defending against a human attacker.**

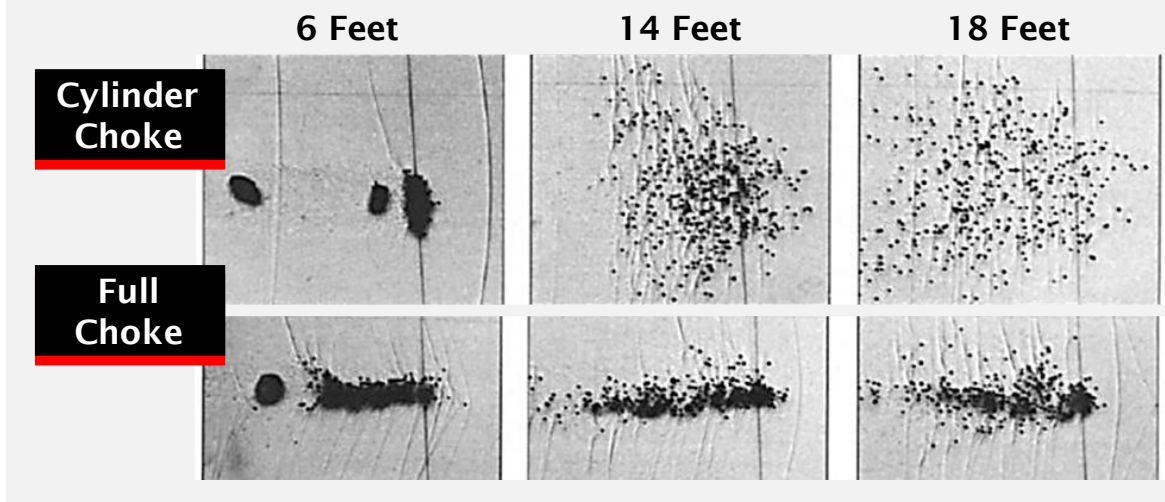
**Out to approximately 6 to 8 feet (feet, not yards) a flying charge of birdshot from your typical shotgun is still tightly packed together as a single, pre-fragmented projectile. That "clump" of birdshot will make a huge entry wound and often have devastating results. The**

**problem is, beyond that distance of 2-3 steps, the shot spreads out into a pattern of tiny individual pellets that do not have the mass or energy to penetrate enough to reach vital organs.**

**In one of the accompanying photos, there is a photograph of a person shot at a measured 6 feet with birdshot. The entry wound is 2.5" in diameter, and as you can see, the recipient is quite dead. Had he been just a few steps further away, however, the result would have been far less life threatening. As the other photo shows, by the time birdshot has traveled the length of a car, the clump of shot has broken apart and spread out into a cloud of tiny, fly-weight pellets that are not capable of the same type of damage.**

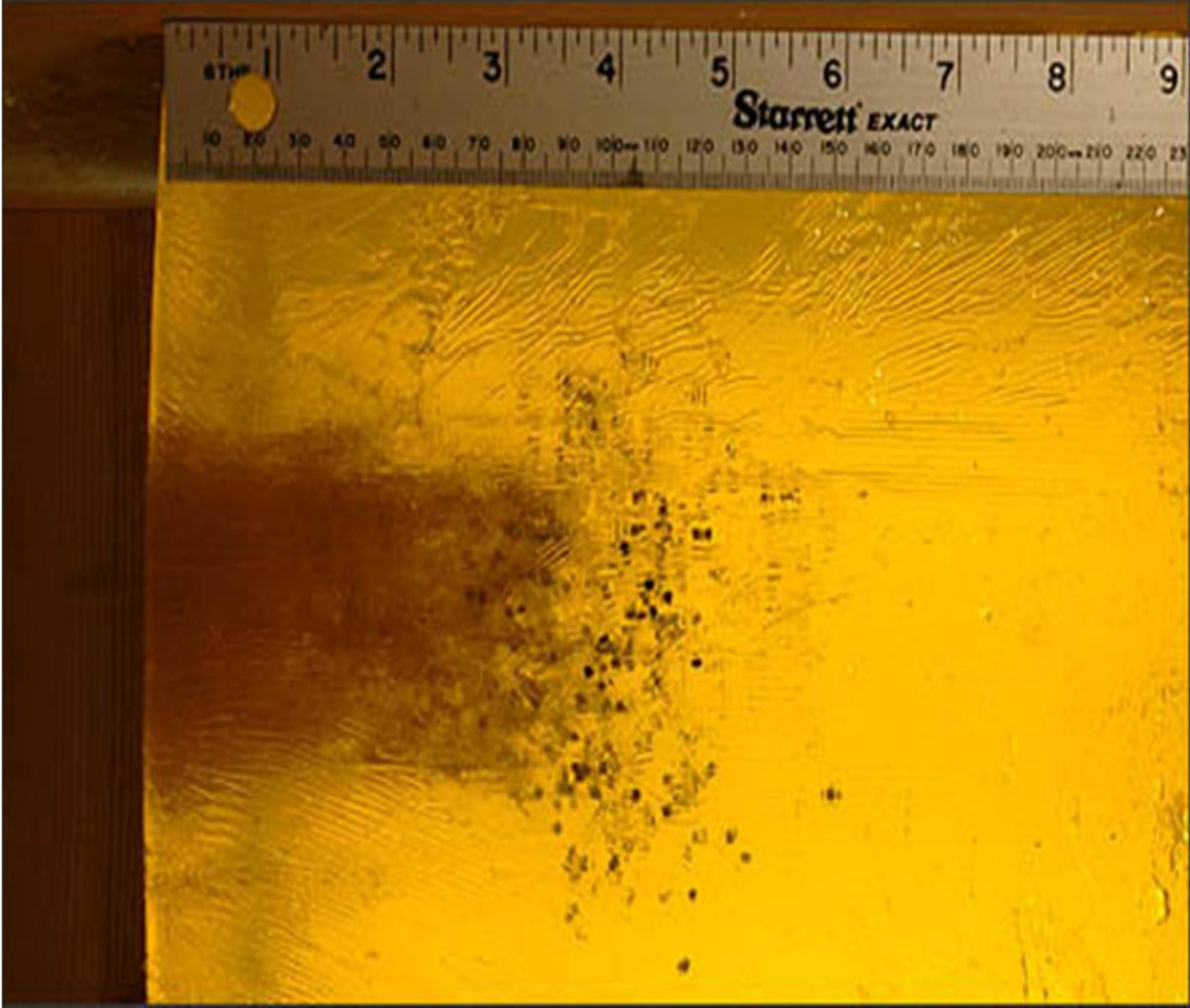


## Birdshot in Flight



**My Tundra is 18 feet long. At just the length of my truck, birdshot has become separated into tiny, flyweight pellets incapable of the penetration through clothing and skin we must have to be effective.**

**There is also a photo of a charge of #8 birdshot fired into a block of ballistic gelatin at a distance of 3 yards (9 feet). This was a block of bare gelatin, no clothing or other barriers involved. Notice that the main damage occurs in the first 3 inches of penetration, and by 4-5 inches of penetration the pellets have all stopped. The penetration would be even less with heavy clothing, an arm in the way, or any other obstruction. In addition, getting all the way through the tough, elastic skin of a human is equivalent to about 3.5" of penetration in the underlying tissue. This is why birdshot typically ends up just imbedded in the muscle tissue just under the skin.**



**(continued)**





**One reason this bad advice lingers on is the belief that birdshot won't penetrate walls. Unfortunately, this is not true. Drywall offers very little resistance, and even light birdshot will go right through it and blind a person in the next room. There is no ammunition suitable for stopping an attacker that won't go right through interior walls, regardless of ammunition type. Your best bet is to actually hit your assailant with whatever you fire at him.**

**Which brings us to birdshot's true value to the defensive shotgunner, which is PRACTICE! There is no need to shoot up expensive premium buckshot loads at paper targets to practice mounting and manipulating the defensive shotgun. Cheap birdshot is fine for most of this practice, and its low cost tends to encourage practice, which is the basis of all skill. Use birdshot on the range, and stoke your scattergun with buckshot for the real thing.**

## **Becoming a Firearms Instructor**

**There is an enormous need in this country for education about firearms and their use. Entertainment such as television and movies, along with anti-gun press and politicians leave the average American with no clue about the real use of firearms, either for recreation or more serious functions. Now, all fifty States in the US have some form of a civilian handgun carry permit system, and in many states as much as 10% of the population has a carry permit. Add to that millions and millions of citizens who have guns in their homes. In the past several years gun sales have sky-**

rocketed, and most of the buyers are first time gun owners according to NSSF research. All of this creates a real need for local, grass roots training opportunities accessible to the average person.

For the purposes of this article, I'm going to divide the target population into two groups. One group are what I call "serious students". These are people who recognize the enormous responsibilities attached to carrying a firearm. They seek to become truly competent, and to become capable of defending themselves and their loved ones against armed sociopaths. They seek knowledge and skill, and practice to hone their craft. These people will make the commitment in time, money and resources to attend major fixed facility schools like Gunsite or Thunder Ranch, and/or to seek out traveling instructors like John Farnam, Mas Ayoob, Dave Spaulding, or us. These "serious students" comprise a tiny fraction of gun owners, unfortunately. I travel all over the country teaching and attending various training events, and I see a lot of the same faces everywhere I go. The pool of truly serious students is depressingly small.

The other group I'll call "casual students". These are the typical carry permit holder, or the person who owns a gun to defend the home, or the shooter who goes to the range once or twice a year as a form of recreation. These folks make up the vast majority of gun owners in this country, and they have a desperate need for basic firearms training, for their own safety and that of those around them. This is the group that needs easy local access to competent basic instruction. That's where you come in.

To prepare yourself to help these folks become responsible gun owners, there are a number of steps you can take to ensure your success. The first is something aspiring trainers

often overlook, which is to learn about public speaking. Join Toastmasters, or some local civic organization, and learn to comfortably deliver a speech on some topic in front of an audience. Communication skills are critical. As a trainer, it doesn't matter how much you know about a subject if you cannot effectively transfer that knowledge to a student.

Some training in teaching methodology, the theory of adult learning, and class preparation would be of great benefit. For this, there are several sources. The oldest and the most widely recognized source is the NRA. Frankly, the Basic Pistol Shooting Instructor certification is very weak, and I do not consider it adequate preparation to teach anything beyond a Boy Scout Camp familiarization outing. The newer instructor courses for Personal Protection in the Home, and Personal Protection Outside the Home are great improvements, and would go a long way toward getting you ready to deliver instruction. If you are in law enforcement, the LE side of the NRA house offers detailed five day courses that can put you much further down the path toward competency as a trainer.

In addition to the NRA, some of the better known private training organizations offer instructor development courses. The Firearms Academy of Seattle, Paul Howe's CSAT school, Dave Spaulding, and Rangemaster all offer three to five day programs to prepare shooters to teach other shooters according to that particular school's doctrines.

In addition to training geared specifically toward instructor development, take as many shooting courses as you can from a variety of trainers. There are enough well respected and highly competent traveling trainers now that regardless of where you live, there are solid training opportunities available to you. It is important to be exposed to different training styles. As a trainer, you may explain something to a

**new shooter three or four ways, and he still doesn't get it. Then, when explained one more way, the light bulb comes on and learning takes place. The best way to have several ways to explain technique is to see how different trainers put forth the information. I have been teaching firearms use for over forty-five years, and I still make a point of attending at least one course taught by someone else every year so I can steal, err... research their methods.**

**Once you have had a solid foundation in shooting technique, competitive shooting can go a long way toward helping you find out what works well and what doesn't under a bit of pressure. Shooting for score in front of peers let's you develop the ability to function under some stress and provides a great way to see how a gun, holster or carry method works under more realistic conditions than a static range session. Shooting in IDPA or USPSA matches will boost both your gunhandling and shooting skills and your confidence in those skills.**

**Next, find an experienced, competent instructor with verifiable credentials and a good reputation and apprentice under him. Assist with classes, for free if necessary, to observe and learn. Watch how he runs a firing line, how he manages time, how he explains and demonstrates concepts to the students. I assure you, you will learn more behind the line as an AI than you will as a student in class.**

**Finally, attend some training conferences to network with other trainers, pick their brains, and generally broaden your training horizons. There are the Warrior's Conference (formerly the 1" to 1,000 Yards Conference) in Nevada, the Rangemaster Tactical Conference , the annual ILEETA convention, the annual IALEFI conference, and others.**

**For years, the Latin motto of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers was "Qui docet, discet". In English,**

“Who teaches, learns.” The very best way to master a subject is to learn to teach it. Become a trainer and you will become a better shooter, all the while performing a vital public service.

NRA Law Enforcement Instructor Training  
[www.nrahq.org/law/](http://www.nrahq.org/law/)

NRA Civilian Firearms Instructor training  
[www.nrahq.org/education/training/instructor.asp](http://www.nrahq.org/education/training/instructor.asp)

Toastmasters [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)

Paul Howe [www.combatshootingandtactics.com](http://www.combatshootingandtactics.com)

Rangemaster [www.rangemaster.com](http://www.rangemaster.com)

## **UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS**

Aug 14-15 Advanced Instructor Development, Nashville, TN  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tn-tickets-101235558280>

Aug 20-21 Combative Pistol, Dahlonega, GA  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-ga-tickets-101753505474> **sold out**

Aug 22 Defensive Shotgun, Dahlonega, GA  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-defensive-shotgun-ga-tickets-101753651912> **sold out**

**Sept 17-19 Pistol Instructor Dev., Red Hill Range, Martin, GA**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-ga-tickets-101013492074>

**Oct 1-3 Master Instructor Course, McLoud, OK**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-ok-tickets-101013835100>

**Oct 8-10 Shotgun Instructor, White Hall, AR**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-112318704268>

**Practical Tactical Class, (below) with low light firing module.**



# TACTICAL CONFERENCE 2022

The 2022 Tactical Conference in Dallas, Texas, is now **sold out**. There will be no more tickets this year. If you missed out, register early next year for the 2023 event.

For those that registered, Thank You! See you in Dallas.





