



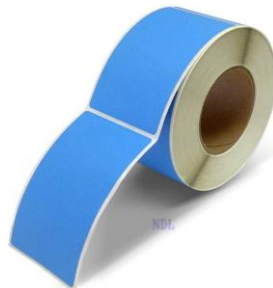
JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER

DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2022 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/>.

The 3X5 Challenge

For this drill, you will need to make your own target. Start with a standard 8 inch diameter paper plate, or a target with an 8 inch circle in it, such as a B-8, IDPA target, etc. In the center, place a 3"X5" shipping label, Post-It note, or index card, oriented vertically. I use a handy self-adhesive 3X5 shipping label I get on rolls of 1,000 from Amazon. (Hat tip to Dave Spaulding for this.) To score, any hit in the 3X5 card is worth 10 points. Hits outside the card, but inside the paper plate or 8" circle are worth 5 points. Simple. 20 rounds total, possible score of 200 points.



5 yards Draw from concealment and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds

5 yards Start gun in hand, at the ready, in dominant hand only. On signal, fire 3 rounds using the dominant hand only, switch hands, and fire 2 rounds using the non-dominant hand only, all in 7 seconds.

7 yards Start with 3 rounds in the gun, in hand, at the ready. On signal fire 3 rounds, conduct an empty gun reload, and fire 3 more rounds, all in 8 seconds.

10 yards Start gun in both hands, at the ready. On signal, fire 4 rounds in 4 seconds.

This is a simple, straight forward skill check, with a pretty demanding accuracy standard. Give it a try and post your results.



I recently shot the drill, and had one of the 10 yard rounds almost get away from me. Let's see yours!

The Snub-Nose Shotgun

During the “War on Crime” during the height of the Gangster/Prohibition period, Congress passed the first sweeping federal gun control law, the National Firearms Act of 1934. This law categorized certain firearms as being “more dangerous” and set up a national registry and a transfer tax on these weapons. Known henceforth as “NFA Weapons”, these included machine guns, submachine guns, short barreled rifles, short barreled shotguns and silencers (suppressors). No, it is not illegal to own any of these weapons. In fact, if you can lawfully purchase a handgun, you can lawfully purchase an NFA weapon. The difference is, the NFA weapon must be properly registered with the ATF; you must apply to purchase it and wait 5-6 months for your government background check to complete; and you must pay a \$200.00 transfer tax, in addition to the cost of the weapon. Once you receive your “tax stamp” from the ATF, you can take delivery of the NFA weapon.

For normal guns, not NFA weapons, this law mandates a minimum legal barrel length of 16 inches for rifles and 18 inches for shotguns. Guns with a barrel shorter than this fall under the NFA regulations and must be registered and tax stamp purchased. Possession of an unregistered firearm with a barrel shorter than specified is a felony, with serious federal prison time and huge fines imposed. It is also a felony under state law in most states.

Over the years I have resisted the temptation to buy a submachine gun or short barreled rifle, as I simply do not have a real world need for one. They are great fun to play with, but serve no real tactical niche for me. A short barreled shotgun

(SBS) on the other hand, does offer some real advantages in a home defense or business hold-up scenario.

My personal SBS is a purpose built Remington 870 Police 12 gauge pump gun, that left the factory as a 14" barrel SBS. This is a compact, fast handling powerhouse that serves as my home defense weapon, and travels with me occasionally. Before we get into the specifications and modifications on this shotgun, let's look at "Why?".

First, as I have written about previously, the pump 12 gauge shotgun would NOT be a first choice as a military weapon. It's limited range, limited ammunition capacity and heavy, bulky ammunition make it unsuitable as a general purpose infantry primary weapon. No big deal to me, I'm not in the military. None of those perceived shortcomings have anything to do with my world and the SBS's anticipated use.

If I reach for a firearm in a home invasion or similar emergency, I want real power, the ability to drop an aggressive grown man who may be hopped up on drugs or alcohol, and who poses an immediate deadly threat, and drop him NOW! Nothing beats a 12 gauge shotgun in this role. At close range, against un-armored opponents, a charge of 00 Buckshot is devastatingly effective. I've been investigating shootings for over four decades. I have very rarely seen a shotgun shooting that took more than one round. In those rare cases, it was because the first hit was peripheral. I have never seen a close range shotgun shooting incident that required more than 2 hits to do the job. Eight or nine 00 Buck pellets striking virtually simultaneously overload the

nervous system of the person struck, and each pellet creates its own wound channel. Since the shotgun is usually a one serving per customer weapon, its limited ammo capacity does not bother me.

Another advantage of the shotgun in an urban environment is a compressed downrange danger zone. At maximum, buckshot pellets will only travel 750-800 yards. Contrast that to as much as two and a half miles for rifle bullets and a mile for handgun bullets.

So, a shotgun is my first choice for close range interpersonal conflict management. Why an SBS? The shorter gun has a couple of real advantages. First, when working doorways and corners it is far easier to maneuver than a standard length shotgun. In fact, with the SBS, my muzzle does not project any further ahead of me than does a handgun muzzle, if both weapons are held at Low Ready. Second, there is very little forward of my hands for an adversary to grab in close quarters. Disarming me would be much more difficult with the SBS than with a full length shoulder gun. Finally, the shorter gun is handier and swings quicker, making for fast handling.



The patterning ability of the shotgun is not determined by barrel length. The shorter barrel will pattern just as well as a longer gun, and just as with the full size gun you need to check various loads and find the one your gun likes. My 14 inch barrels (I have 2) both came from the factory with Modified chokes, which handle most buckshot loads well and shoot slugs with acceptable accuracy. With my preferred buckshot load, my shorty shotgun has no trouble keeping all the pellets of buckshot inside the chest area of a Rangemaster-Q target at 15 yards, which is what I need and expect from a home defense shotgun.

My personal gun has some modifications to suit me. Here is my reasoning behind them.

First, the factory butt stock was replaced with the Mag-Pul synthetic butt stock. With all the spacers removed, this gives me a perfect length of pull. The Mag-Pul stock, shortened by the removal of the spacers, fits me perfectly, which makes the gun faster handling but also minimizes felt recoil. In a recent practice session, I fired over 100 rounds of buckshot and slugs with no discomfort or bruising.

My SBS has a Wilson Combat one-shot magazine extension. This makes the magazine capacity five rounds, giving me six rounds in a fully loaded gun. That's a lot of buckshot! The one-shot extension does not protrude past the shorty's muzzle and does not make the gun muzzle heavy.

On the outer side of the Mag-Pul butt stock, I glued on a strip of heavy duty Velcro, to which I attach a five round cartridge card for reloading. If the cartridge loops get worn or loose, I can just peel off that card and slap on another. I normally keep the gun at home with four rounds in the magazine tube, to prevent over-compressing the magazine spring. With four rounds in the gun and another five on it, I feel I have enough ammo to handle any reasonably foreseeable emergency.

In the magazine tube is a high visibility follower. This helps me see at a glance whether there are rounds in the magazine. It is

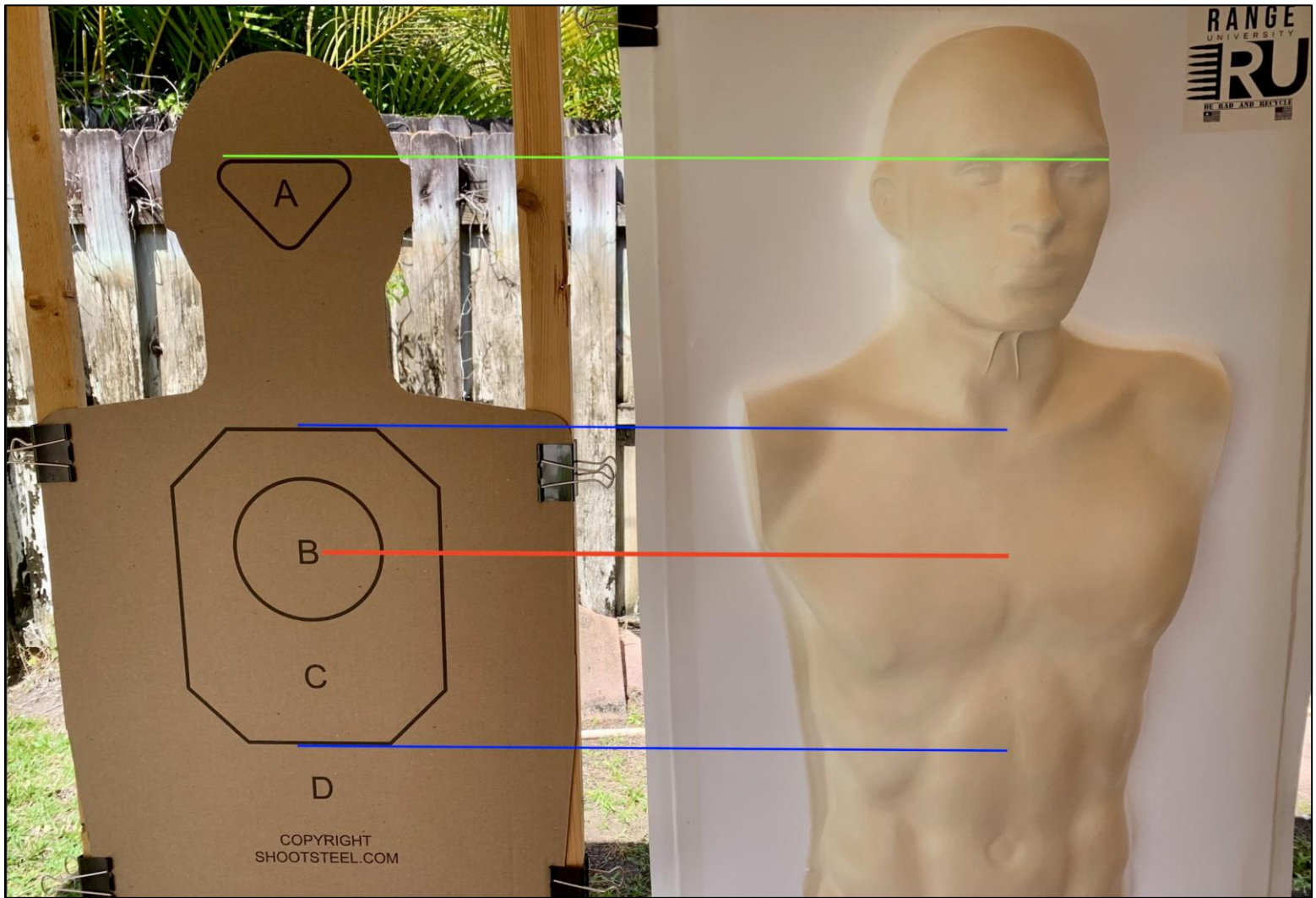
also more sturdy than the flimsy followers that come in many shotguns today.

Finally, both of my barrels have sights, similar to regular pistol sights. Since most of my training and practice is done with handguns, I want a similar sighting system on my shotgun. This simplifies training and prevents confusion under stress.

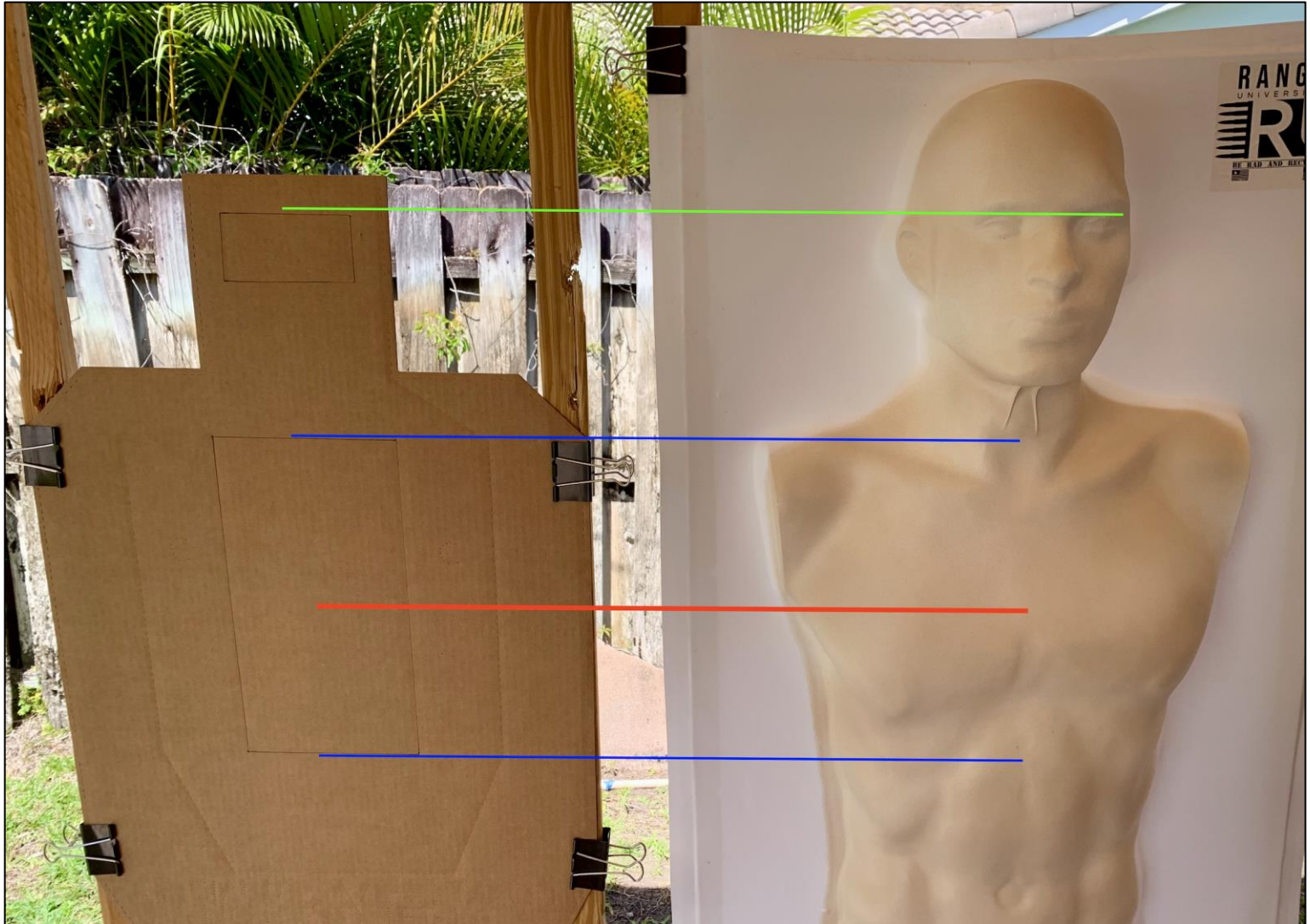
The complete package, starting with a new gun, cost just a tad over \$1,000.00. That's a lot cheaper than a reliable AR type rifle, and to me the shotgun is actually a far better choice in my circumstances. If my need for the gun included engagements at 200 meters, or the ability to carry 300 rounds of ammo on me, the AR would be a better choice. Neither issue applies to me. The old saying, "Mission drives the gear train" is 100% true. Look at what you actually need to accomplish and choose your weaponry accordingly.

Comparison of Common Cardboard Targets

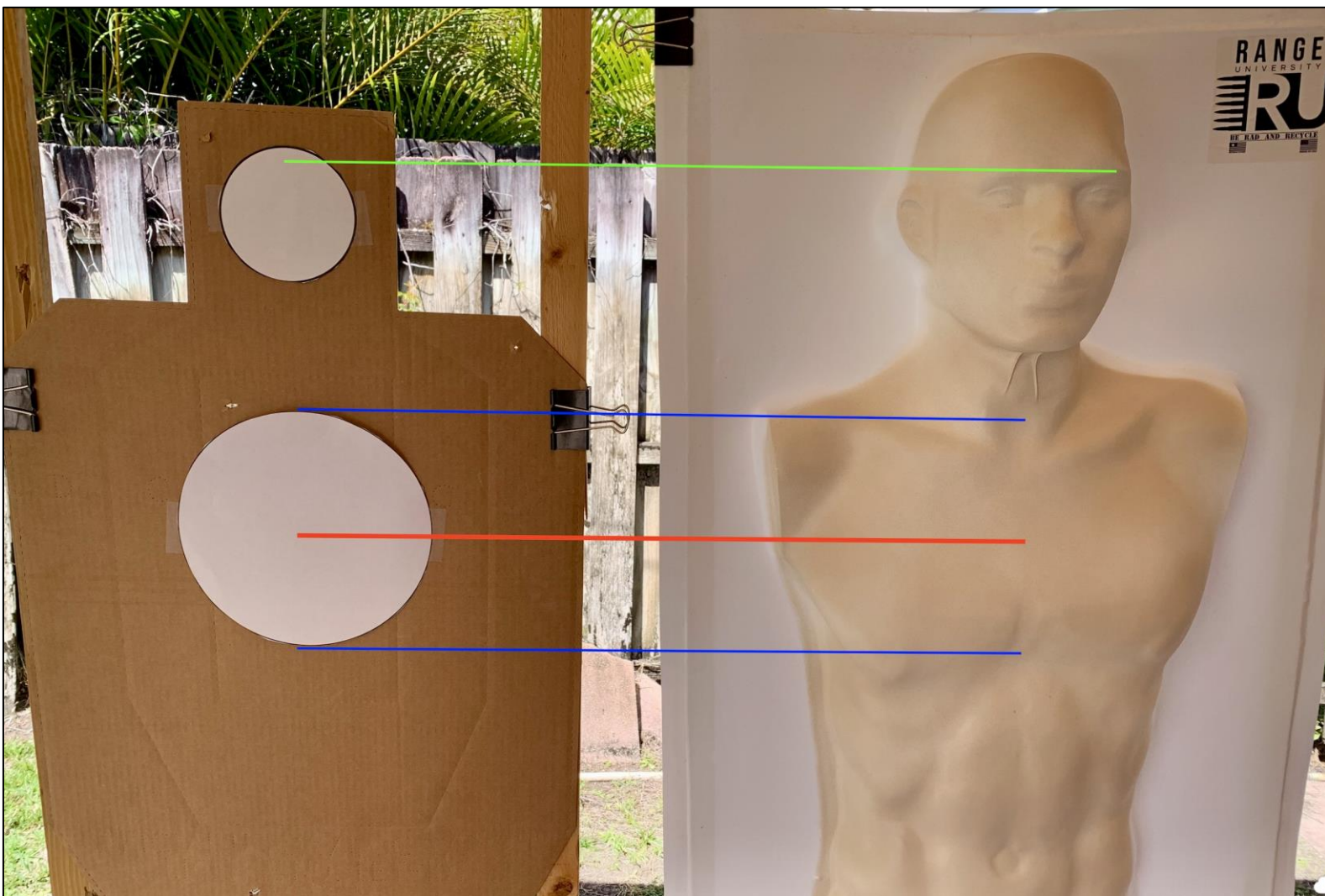
Our friend and Rangemaster certified firearms instructor Karim Manassa put together this very useful comparison of three commonly used cardboard silhouette targets: the Shoot Steel target, the IPSC/USPSA target, and the IDPA target. Note the comparison to actual human anatomy. Of these, the Shoot Steel target is my favorite, available from ShootSteel.com



C zone's 9" width corresponds well to 3D's nipple to nipple chest width. Overall great torso target zone both vertically and horizontally, hitting all the vital areas. Most accurate ocular cavity zone, as this area includes the eye sockets and upper nasal opening. Other excellent design features include having an actual neck and human shaped head for realism and proper proportions.



A zone's 6" width is too narrow while C zone's 12" width is too wide. Overall torso target zone is great vertically, but lacking horizontally in terms of providing good balance to the vital areas. Also, ocular cavity zone shape and size is on the smallish side. Lack of a neck or human shaped head impedes more realistic training.

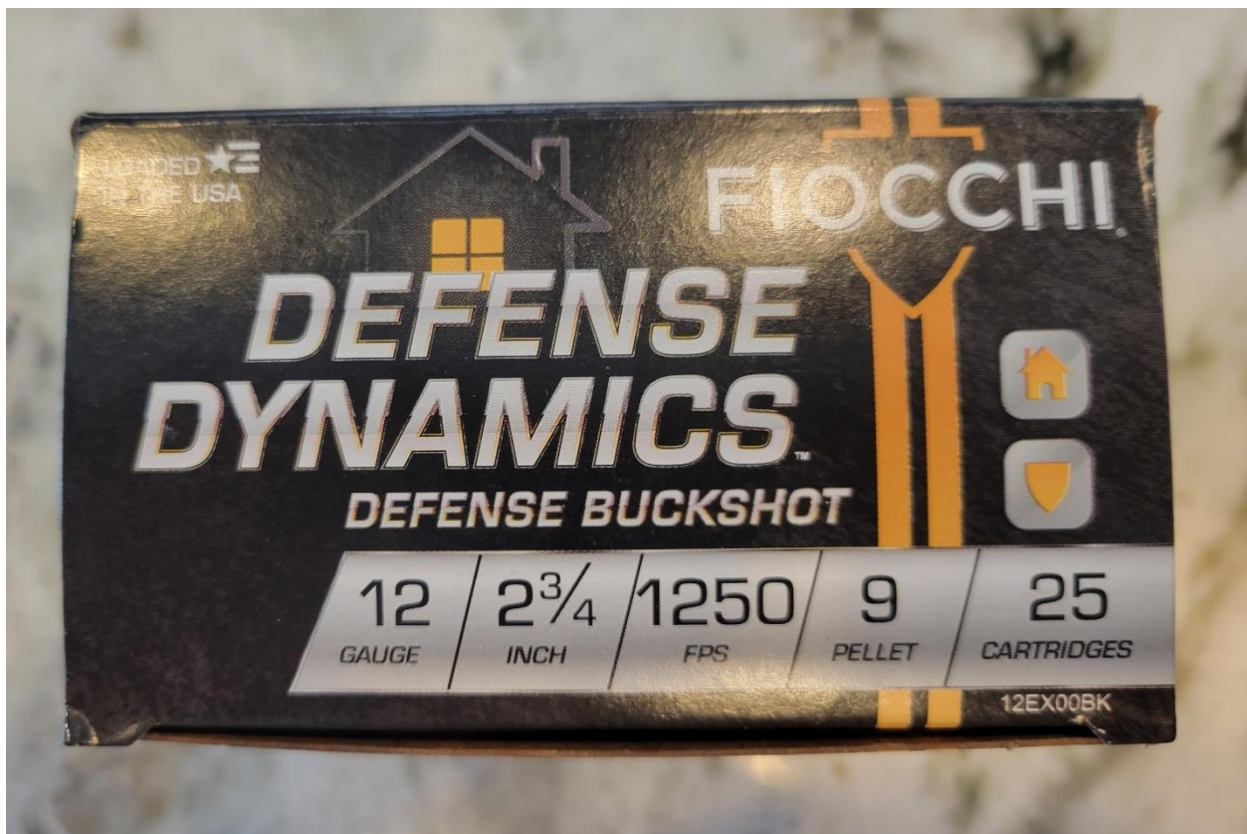


A zone's 8" width corresponds well to 3D's nipple to nipple chest width, but 8" is too short vertically while C zone is too tall vertically. Overall torso target zone is great horizontally, but lacking vertically in terms of providing good balance to the vital areas. Also, ocular cavity zone shape and size is just too large. Lack of a neck or human shaped head impedes more realistic training.

NEW BUCKSHOT OFFERING, GOOD STUFF!

My go to 00 buck load is Federal Low Recoil 8 pellet 00 with the Flite Control wad. I have a modest stockpile of this stuff, but I know it can be very difficult to find at times. Students often ask me about acceptable alternatives to this load when it is unavailable. In my guns, Winchester Ranger LE Low Recoil 8 pellet 00 has done very well, and is actually the load my 14" 870 prefers.

Today I tried some Fiocchi "Defense Dynamics" buckshot, a fairly new offering. It comes in 25 round boxes, and if you go by the box's stock number it is 00 Buck. 50 rounds of it functioned flawlessly in my Beretta 1301, and recoil was very mild. I would try 100 or so of these in a Benelli or a Remington 11-87, as they may be too light to reliably function those specific autoloaders.



I patterned the load by shooting 3 rounds into a ShootSteel silhouette at 15 yards. I pasted a 3" dot in the middle of the chest for a precise aiming point, to check point of impact and see how the pattern would be distributed around it. The composite pattern was well centered and a decent size for 15 yards (see photo).



I also fired 2 rounds on a paper silhouette at 25 yards. All of the pellets stayed inside the silhouette (see photo).



I dissected a round and found some interesting things. There are 9 pellets in the payload, and they are round and concentric. They appear to be nickel plated, which hardens the surface, helps

prevent deformation while accelerating down the bore, and increases penetration. They are not, however, 00 pellets. Real 00 is .33" in diameter, whereas my trusty micrometer measured these at .30", which is actually #1 Buck. Not a big deal, just something to note.



The wad is a modern, plastic compressible, "shock absorber" type wad, again to cushion the pellets on ignition of the powder charge. There are plastic "fingers" integral in the wad, to prevent contact between the pellets and the shotgun's bore.



I found several sources for this ammo today, at what are currently very reasonable prices. See

<https://ammoseek.com/ammo/12-gauge/Fiocchi-shotgun?sl=2%203%2F4&ss=00-Buck&ikw=defense%20dynamics>

Expertise.

Be careful who you buy emergency life support equipment from. To make a quality, useful, effective and comfortable concealment holster requires a designer/maker who is more than just a Kydex bender. Here are two excellent examples.

Tony Mayer is the owner of JM Custom Kydex (<https://www.jmcustomkydex.com/>). He was at Tac Con this year as a participant. A week later, he was in a class of mine in another part of Texas, working with the revolver. A couple of years ago, he was in a Combative Pistol Course of mine, and won the Casino Drill Coin for that class, using one of his holsters fully concealed.

Sarah Hauptman is half of the Phlster (<https://www.phlsterholsters.com/>) holster team, with her husband Jon. This year she made the Ladies' Shoot-Off at Tac Con, using their own Enigma holster.

These two wear a gun concealed 12-14 hours a day, every day, they train regularly, and they know what sets a good holster apart from the

sea of trash out there for sale. Remember them the next time you need good, solid, proven gear.



Sarah, showing great form in the Ladies' Shoot-Off, Tac Con 2022, and Tony receiving his Casino Coin in a Combative Pistol Course.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15-17 Instructor Course , Top Gun, Memphis, TN (indoors)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-147010936669>

July 22-24 Instructor Course, Royal Range, Nashville, TN (indoors)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158244502567>

Aug 5-7 Firearms Instructor, Shreveport, LA (indoors)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-144277908107>

Aug 17 Defensive Shotgun, One Day, Xenia, OH

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-day-defensive-shotgun-course-tickets-158244761341>

Aug 18-20 Firearms Instructor, Xenia, OH

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158245363141>

Aug 26-28 Firearms Instructor, Pittsburgh, PA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158247662017>

Rangemaster branded clothing, can koozies, and other items are now available for purchase on our website. See

<https://www.storefrontier.com/rangemaster>

Useful Shotgun Modification

One of the useful modifications we HIGHLY recommend is the replacement of the crappy plastic factory supplied magazine tube follower with a high quality all steel component. This will aid smooth feeding in your shotgun and prevent the magazine from getting bound up, putting the gun out of action as a repeater. Our favorite is the version from Vang Comp. I have one in all of my serious shotguns.

<https://www.vangcomp.com/product/vcs-stainless-steel-magazine-follower/>



Three Green Ops instructors at our shotgun instructor course at Homestead, Florida, April 2022