

Rangemaster Firearms Training Services
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AUGUST 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/> .

F.A.S.T. (Fundamentals, Accuracy & Speed Test)

designed by the late Todd Green, an excellent trainer

Range: 7 yards

Target: 3×5 card (head), 8" circle (body)

Start position: weapon concealed or in duty condition with all holster retention devices active; shooter facing downrange in relaxed stance with arms down at sides

Rounds fired: 6

Shooter loads gun with a total of two rounds. On start signal, shooter draws and fires two rounds at the head target; performs a slidelock reload; and fires four rounds at the body target.

Both rounds to the head must be in the 3X5 card, and all four rounds to the body must be in the 8" circle to pass.

Todd designed a special coin that was awarded to anyone who shot this clean in under 5 seconds, a daunting task. I think shooting it clean in 6-7 seconds with real carry gear is an admirable goal. Give it a try.



I recently started a practice session with this drill, after a month without practice due to travel. Cold, concealed under a shirt, I shot it clean in 6.18 seconds. That won't win a FAST Coin, but I'll take it. Let's see yours!

New Beretta 1301 LE Range Report

I've had a Beretta 1301T ever since right after they came out. Mine has been 100% reliable and shoots well. Lynn's gun was an older 870P, but she shot my Beretta recently and confiscated it. She said I should order a new one for myself, so I did.



I got the 1301LE version with fixed 6 shot magazine. I recently received the new one and had a brief range session with it. I fired about 60 rounds of buckshot and slugs with no issues. The first 5 rounds out of the box were Winchester Ranger low recoil slugs, fired off the bench at 25 yards. I just wanted to see if the sights were close. To my surprise, 4 rounds hit the 3" paster and the 5th round miss was my fault entirely. I then patterned the gun with four types of buckshot.



Somewhat to my surprise, the best buck load in this particular gun was Federal #1 with Flite Control. Federal Flite Control 8 pellet 00, Fiocchi 9 pellet 00, and Winchester Ranger 8 pellet all patterned well, but the #1 load stood out (see photos). That load does not do so well in Lynn's 1301, which shows why it's important to pattern each individual shotgun.



All shooting that day was with the "Cylinder" choke tube installed. There was an "Improved Cylinder" tube included with the gun. I'll pattern with that tube at a later range session.



Engaging Moving Targets with the Handgun

By Tom Givens

When the bullets start flying, the feet start working! During gunfights it is very common for participants to run toward cover, run toward exits, or simply run because they are being shot at. Therefore, the ability to reliably hit a moving target is an important skill in the defensive gunner's repertoire. Before learning to hit moving targets with a handgun, your students should first be made aware of some basic principles that will apply.

First, they need to forget much of what they may have learned in the past when wing shooting ducks and geese or clay birds with a shotgun. To hit these aerial targets the shooter must swing ahead of the target, a process called "leading". That's lead (leed), not lead (led). This is because game birds fly very quickly. A dove can hit 40 miles per hour, so a fair bit of lead ahead of the bird is needed to assure that the flight path of the bird and the flight path of the shot charge intersect. Human beings cannot move nearly that fast. At typical defensive distances, a human target cannot move fast enough to need any appreciable amount of lead.

The reason people miss moving targets with the handgun is not lead, but rather it is stopping the swing the instant the gun fires. This invariably results in the bullet passing right behind the intended target. This is caused by a chain of events that most people don't really think about until it is pointed out to them.

When your brain makes the decision to fire the handgun, the shot does not take place instantaneously. Rather, a whole series of events has to take place, as follows:

The command impulse has to travel down the spinal cord from the brain to the finger;

The trigger finger's muscles have to contract;

The trigger has to move through its arc, which may be a half inch of travel;

The sear has to release the hammer or striker, which then must move forward to strike the primer;

The primer has to detonate, lighting the powder charge, which has to burn and generate gas pressure; so that

The bullet is kicked loose from the cartridge and accelerated down the barrel until it exits; and then

The bullet must fly from the gun to the target.

That's a lot of stuff going on. Although the increments of time involved may be very small (micro-seconds) once we add them all up it becomes an appreciable amount of delay between the decision to fire and the actual launch of the bullet. So, if you stop your swing as your brain says "Fire!", your bullet will get to the point where the target WAS, not where it is now.

Many larger police firing ranges have "runners", mechanical moving target systems that move a silhouette target along a track or on wires to allow trainees to learn to keep the gun swinging. You may not, however, have access to such a system. No problem. All you have to do is learn to keep the gun moving while you track the sights and work the trigger smoothly. This can be easily done with a static target array, as illustrated.

Set up three to four targets in line abreast of each other, fairly closely spaced (see photos), at 5-6 yards as a starting point. Fire 1 round at each target, working your way across so that all targets are engaged in one continuous string. Your shots should not

sound like “1.....2.....3.....4.....”, but instead, should simply sound like “1,2,3,4”. Another way to describe it is thus: all four shots should sound like they are being fired at one stationary target in a 4 shot string”. Shoot from left to right, and right to left. Once you can do this smoothly, fire 2 rounds per target. Again, the goal is to have eight consecutive shots that sound like an eight shot string on one target, not like four pairs.

“1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8”, rather than “1,2.....3,4.....5,6.....7,8”

The key here is to learn to track your front sight as the gun moves. When the front sight rises in recoil, bring it down on the next target to be engaged, rather than bringing it back down on the last target.

Work on this a bit, and at pistol engagement distances no one will be able to move fast enough to keep from being hit by your gunfire, unless they are running so flat out that they pose no threat to you, anyway.



INTERESTING HOMICIDE NUMBERS FROM THE BJS

I have been saying for a long time that the number of murders in a community tells you nothing about the level of violence in that community. This is due to modern trauma care. If you are shot, stabbed, or bludgeoned in a big city, the local trauma center will almost certainly save you if can just get there a little bit alive.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics recently released some numbers that prove my point. These pertain to 2018, a recent and typical year.

Homicides by Firearm	14,000
Non-Fatal Firearms Victimizations	470,800

So, only 2.9% of “firearm victimizations” proved fatal. Another way to put that is, there were 33.6 non-fatal victimizations for every fatal one. This is why the murder rate is not a good barometer of crime.

TARGET ENHANCEMENT

I recently found a way to make my favorite cardboard target even better! I really like the cardboard silhouette from Shoot Steel Targets (shootsteel.com). This improvement, however, will work with any cardboard or paper silhouette.

ONLINELABELS.COM sells self adhesive blank shipping labels in sheets or rolls, in various sizes and colors. I found a label that is 8”X5”, in light tan. This is just about perfect as a human vital zone. Since they are self adhesive, you just peel them off and stick them directly onto your target, no glue or staples. They come 2 to a sheet, and a couple of hundred would take up almost no space.

The item number is OL131TC. Here is a pic of one placed on a cardboard target. This makes a great target, anatomically speaking.



Ankle Holsters

Many of us carry a small handgun as a second, or back-up gun, in addition to our larger, primary pistol. There are a number of solid reasons for this practice.

First, I teach all over the US, and everywhere I go I see good quality, well maintained handguns break during classes. By “break” I do not mean malfunction. I mean a part in the gun literally fails, putting the gun out of action. If your firing pin, extractor, takedown latch, etc breaks, the gun is a paperweight until you can procure and install a new part. If it happens in classes, it may happen in a fight. If your primary gun becomes non-functional, a second gun could be a literal life saver. Second, you can give the back-up gun to a trained but unarmed companion. Sometimes when I pick up a colleague at the airport, I loan them my BUG until we get to the hotel and he can unpack and put on his own sidearm. Third, while seated and seat-belted in a car, an ankle gun may be more readily accessible than a gun on your belt.

There are a number of ways to carry this secondary handgun, and over the years I have settled on ankle carry for mine. Here are my reasons for this decision.

Pocket carry just has too many limitations. It is damn near impossible to draw a gun from a pocket holster while seated, whether in a car or at a desk or table. We spend way too much time seated, especially in the car, for this carry mode. In a tangled hand to hand fight, pocket carry would be difficult to draw from. It is also very difficult to get a gun out of a right front pocket with the left hand, and vice versa.

Some people simply wear the back-up gun on the belt, on the support side, with the primary gun on the dominant hand side. My

belt already has enough stuff on it, so I don't care much for this mode, either.

Carrying a handgun in a well designed ankle holster solves many of these issues. The ankle gun is actually quite easy to access while seated. While driving, a gun on the inside of the left ankle (right handed person) is quite easily accessed by the right hand. A well made ankle rig is comfortable and discrete.

There are several very well designed and well made choices among ankle holsters. Over the years I have tried several, and have settled on some that are very comfortable, adequately secure, protect the pistol from the elements, and allow rapid acquisition. My favorites include the ankle holsters from Ritchie Leather, Ken Null, DeSantis, and Galco.

If I had to rank them in order of preference, the Ritchie and Null rigs would be tied for first place. Both use Velcro fasteners to secure the holster to your lower calf. Both use precise molding to secure the handgun quite well, while allowing a very quick presentation. Both have a compressed felt backer on the holster, to protect your leg . In classes, I routinely set up a double feed in my primary handgun and demonstrate dropping my primary handgun and drawing my BUG from one of these ankle rigs in under two seconds, from "Go" signal to first shot.

My next choice is the DeSantis rig. This is an elastic rig that closes with Velcro. In the revolver version, an ingenious bit of leather sits behind the trigger guard to keep the gun in place until you grasp it and pull firmly. This is a very comfortable and fast ankle set-up. The Galco version has a thumb-break security snap and very lightweight construction. Both the DeSantis and Galco holsters have a sheepskin pad behind the holster to cushion your leg.

Ankle carry works best with handguns that weigh around one pound, or very little more. Among revolvers, the Airweight Smith & Wessons like the Model 642 and the Colt Cobra or Agent are perfect for this role. In autopistols, the S&W Shield and the Kahr P9 fit the bill quite well. Wear the thing for three or four weeks and you'll hardly notice it is there from that point on. You may never need that back-up gun, but if you do, you'll need it very badly.



UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

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>

Sept 9-11 Shotgun Summit, Dallas, Texas

Sept 16-18 Instructor Course, Culpeper, VA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-158247082283>

Oct 22-23 Annual Instructor Conference

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-rangemaster-instructor-conference-tickets-264941676687>



TAC CON TRAINER PROFILES

Each month I plan to highlight one of the professional trainers who will be presenting blocks at the 2023 Tactical Conference.

This time we are extremely pleased to announce the participation of Lou Ann Hamblin. <https://loukatactical.com/instructors/>



Lou Ann proudly served the law enforcement profession for 22 years before retiring. Lou Ann has had many roles during her law enforcement career to include uniform patrol, bike patrol, undercover narcotics and prostitution operations, and a temporary assignment with a DEA Task Force. She holds a Master's degree in Human Performance Technology and Instructional Design from the University of Michigan. For the last twenty years Lou Ann has specialized in training female officers, having trained over 3,900 in pistol alone, and is a certified firearms and defensive tactics instructor in a variety of disciplines.

Lou Ann conceptualized the nationally recognized Building Warrior Women® training event for women in public safety that has been publicized as the finest leadership and survival skills training for female officers in the United States. She instructs nationally and internationally in the areas of instructional leadership, training for specialty units to include survival training for school resource officers, female specific, police cycling operator and train-the-trainer level classes.

Her national conference presentations include: The American Society for Law Enforcement Trainers (ASLET), The International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA), The International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA), and The International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI), Rocky Mountain Women in Law Enforcement (RMWLE), Tactical Strength and Conditioning (TSAC), the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) conferences, and the International Association of Women Police (IAWP).

We are proud to have trainers of Lou Ann's caliber present at Tac Con.

