

Rangemaster Firearms Training Services

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MAY NEWSLETTER

Drill of the Month

Throughout 2024 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/>.

Armada Standards

My personal vehicle is a Nissan Armada, which is 18 feet long. This entire drill is to be shot at 18 feet (6 yards), the length of my vehicle. This is an incredibly common engagement distance in real life defensive shootings.

Target- B8, B8-C or FBI-IP1. Scored as printed, except anything further out than the 7 ring is zero points.

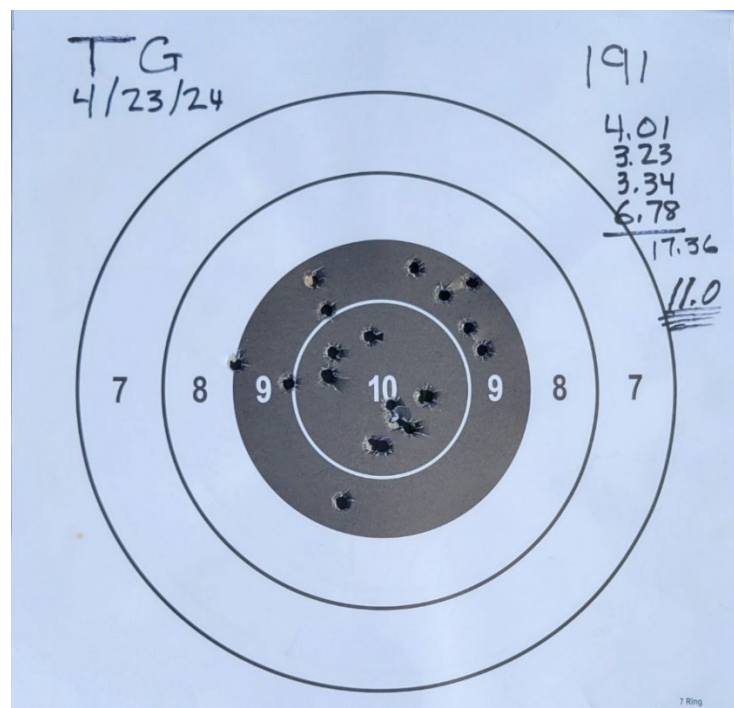
Hit factor scoring- record the time for each string.

Total points divided by total time = score.

- Both hands, draw and fire 6 rounds.
- Start at Ready, gun in dominant hand. Dominant hand only, 4 rounds.
- Start at Ready, gun in non-dominant hand. Non-dominant hand only, fire 4 rounds.
- Start with 4 rounds in the gun, holstered. On signal draw, fire 4 rounds, reload immediately, and fire 2 more rounds, using both hands.

20 rounds total. 200 points possible. Par score is 8. Your goal is a score higher than 8, the higher the better. I shot this in late April, getting a score of 11. Demo video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8IYOPVhcUQ>



Shoot a Wheelgun?

It is pretty well known that I do not advocate the revolver as a primary sidearm. I have reasons, such as:

1. Bulky for the number of rounds available;
2. Much too limited ammo capacity. In today's world 5 or 6 small or medium caliber bullets may not be enough.
3. It is extremely difficult to reload under stress in a survivable time frame with real concealed carry gear, not range gear.
4. Malfunctions require time and tools to fix.

Basically, I don't carry a revolver for the same reason I don't ride a horse to work or communicate via telegraph. There are better choices, and my life or the life of a loved one is at stake.

That said, it doesn't mean I "don't like" revolvers, or that I can't run one. In March I had a Master Instructor Course coming up soon, which included a day of revolver work. I hadn't had a practice session with a revolver since the last Master class, so I thought I'd break one of mine out and knock the rust off. I started out shooting the card drill: 5 rounds at 5 yards, this time starting at a true Low Ready. I got all 5 rounds into a tight little group in 2.53 seconds. I then shot the current Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Qualification Course, scoring 249 out of a possible 250. So, I guess I can still shoot a revolver.



By the way, the revolver used was one of my favorites, a “Hanen Special” or “Dayton Special”. A four-inch barrel K-38. This one belonged to a retired LAPD officer who carried it on duty, and it has a glass smooth double action trigger. It’s one of my favorites.



Is Crime Up or Down?

The mainstream media desperately wants you to believe that crime is trending downward in the US. The exact opposite is true. Here are some facts.

<https://crimeresearch.org/2024/04/the-collapse-in-law-enforcement-as-arrest-rates-plummet-people-have-been-less-willing-to-report-crime/>

.22's for Self Defense?

Recently, I have noticed a number of posts on gun forums and Facebook pages about carrying a small (j-frame) .22 rimfire revolver for self defense. Of course, the primary objective for these folks is a very small, extremely lightweight handgun, for convenience.

Several people who should know better have stated that the .22 bullet from one of these revolvers should be perfectly adequate, citing adequate penetration in ballistic gelatin. Several have tried to make it sound like penetration is the only factor involved in getting people to stop attacking. Of course, that is not the case. Note in this photo, for instance, the size of the recovered .22 Long Rifle Punch round and a 124 grain 9mm HST round, fired into the same gelatin block. The 9mm bullet has many times more frontal area. Frontal area X depth of

penetration = wound volume. Higher wound volume lets more blood out and more air in, thus, is more effective.



Perhaps as importantly, the expanded hollow point 9mm bullet now has multiple sharp cutting edges, which will cut and tear flesh as the bullet rotates as it passes through the target. This is much more likely to cut a nerve trunk or artery than is the smooth, rounded .22 bullet. According to Dr. Vincent DiMaio, .22 LR bullets from

handguns almost never expand in actual bodies (Gunshot Wounds, Second Edition). Dr. DiMaio also said wounds from .22's fired in a handgun are often mistaken by surgeons for an ice-pick stab and vice versa. Not encouraging. Also, according to the International Wound Ballistics Association, most .22LR bullets fail to penetrate bare gelatin beyond 10", less than the optimal 12"-18" penetration called for by the FBI test protocol.

Next, penetration all by itself is a poor indicator of performance. The 158 grain lead round nosed .38 Special load quite often exited on torso shots, but was widely known as a very ineffective load. Read The Search for an Effective Police Handgun, by Allen Bristow.

Finally, the .22 fans say things like, "I've seen a lot of dead people who were shot with .22's". Totally irrelevant. When

we shoot in self defense, we are trying to immediately stop someone's aggressive actions, not kill him. If he completes his attack, kills or cripples you, and dies thirty minutes later, he was "killed" by the .22, but that was of no value to his victim. In a single five year period ending in 1994, 33 deaths from BB guns and pellet guns were reported to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. That does not mean I want to carry a BB gun for self defense.

President Ronald Reagan was shot in the armpit with a .22 revolver in his assassination attempt. The bullet deflected off internal structures twice, and wound up in the lung right next to his heart. The surgeon who worked on him said he would have died without the immediate medical intervention he received, but Reagan was not aware that he had been hit until a Secret Service agent found blood on Reagan's shirt.



Carry whatever you wish, it's your butt. Just be careful about whose advice you heed and remember why we carry a gun in the first place. "I'm just running to the grocery store" does not mean you will only be 60% engaged by the armed robber on the parking lot there. I assure you, you will be 0% or 100% engaged.

My Practice Regimen

I am asked fairly often what exactly I do to keep my handgun skills sharp. My travel schedule keeps me from having a set practice schedule, so I get to the range when I can. Here is a step-by-step break-down of a session I had in March of this year with my M&P 2.0 9mm.

When I do get a practice session, I NEVER just "go shoot". My goal is to wring every bit of value I can out of 1-2 hours and 200 rounds of dedicated practice. Here is what I did that day, which is typical.

I began on the Pistol Master Test Part 1, which is the bullseye portion, shot cold. I scored 293 out of 300, for 97.7%. That's a good start.

I then shot Justin Dyal's Five Yard Round-Up, a ten round drill on the bullseye. I scored 99 on that, out of 100.

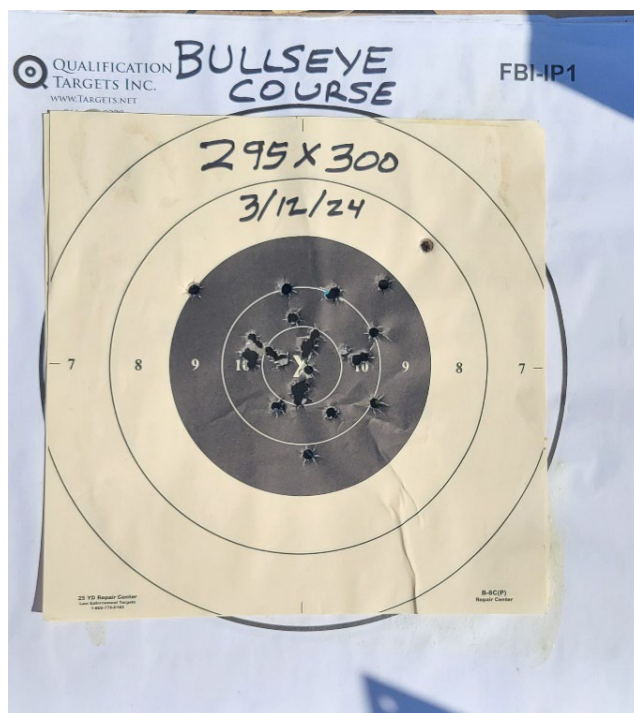
The next item on my list was the card challenge. Draw from concealment and fire 5 rounds at 5 yards on one of our playing cards. I got a decent group in 3.50 seconds.



I followed that with the Baseline Assessment Drill, a good all-around test, again shot on the bullseye. I scored 197 out of 200, for 98.5%.



I then shot the Rangemaster Bullseye Course, which has shooting at 5, 7, 10, 15 and 25 yards, under time pressure. I scored 295 out of 300, or 98.3%.



Finally, I changed to the RFTS-Q4 silhouette, which is a fairly small silhouette with a 7" diameter circle in the upper

chest. This is a demanding target. I shot the Professional Instructor Qualification Course, scoring 97%. I felt I could do better and shot it again. The second run was 98%.



From the 25 yard line, that 7" circle is pretty small.



I finished the session with 5 rounds, un-timed, on a steel C-Zone at 40 yards. I got all five on the steel.

That made a total of 200 rounds, and took 1 hour and 10 minutes. I actually spent more time driving to/from the range that day than I spent there. This fairly brief session worked on just about everything a handgun shooter should be good at. There was shooting with both hands, dominant hand only, support hand only, reloads on the clock, concealed draws, shooting everywhere from 5 yards to 40 yards, transitions to head shots, bullseyes—lots of stuff. I got maximum benefit from my time and ammo.

Scoring Targets

I get questions about how we score targets in classes or at Tac Con. All of the targets we use have some scoring lines on them, to delineate the desired point of impact for our rounds. If a bullet hole just touches a scoring ring, it does not get the higher value. To get the higher value, the bullet hole must actually bisect/ interrupt/ completely break the line.

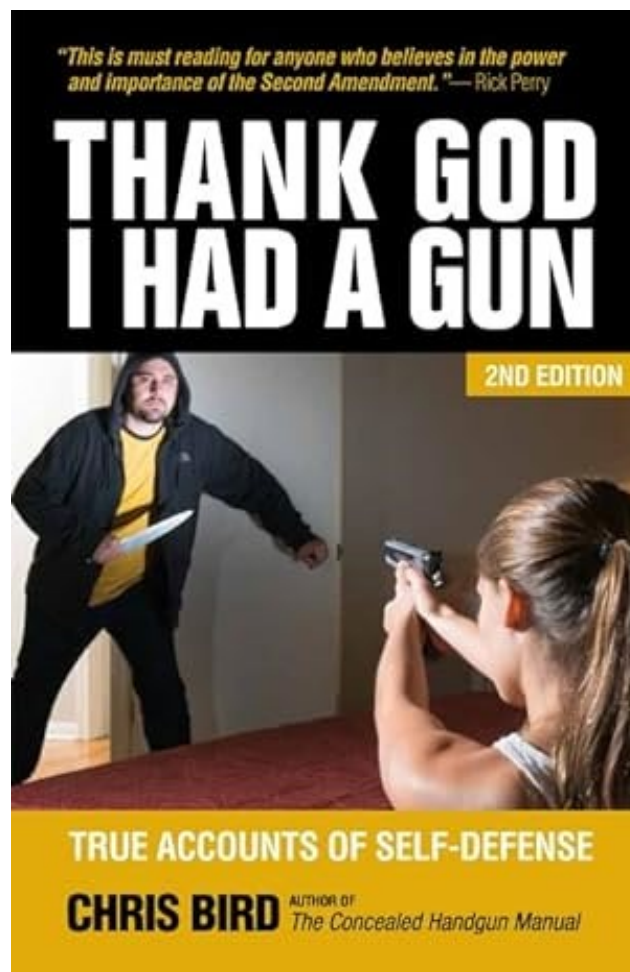
For instance, recently I shot the Rangemaster Instructor Qualification Course from our basic instructor class, as part of a practice session. I shot 99 out of 100. The one point down was from a bullet that touched the 8" ring, but did not break it. I score myself the same way we score students' targets.



Thank God I Had a Gun!

Chris Bird is a former Military Police officer and competitive shooter, who for many years was the crime/police reporter for the newspaper in San Antonio, Texas. He has assembled a collection of stories about normal, typical Americans who were faced with criminal violence and were able to successfully handle it, because they were armed. Highly recommended.

Amazon has used copies for as little as \$16.00-18.00 each. Be sure to get the expanded 2nd edition.



Rangemaster

Combative Pistol Courses

Combative Pistol is our two-day introduction to modern, effective self defense with the handgun. It is a two-day Saturday-Sunday course, offered all over the country. The instructor for these courses is Aqil Qadir, who has been a member of the Rangemaster staff since 2009. This is an excellent course for anyone who carries a handgun for self defense, and it is a great preparatory course for those intending to pursue our instructor certifications.

May 4-5 Combative Pistol (Aqil) White Hall, AR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-688850930677?aff=oddtcreator>

Aug 17-18 Combative Pistol (Aqil) Mattawan, Michigan

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-706071327347?aff=oddtcreator>

Aug 31-Sept 1 Combative Pistol (Aqil) Nampa, Idaho

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-tickets-721642481087?aff=oddtcreator>

Sept 7-8 Combative Pistol (Aqil) Terre Haute, IN

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-767928022387?aff=oddtcreator>

Oct 5-6 Combative Pistol (Aqil)

Bandera, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-729181921757?aff=oddtcreator>

Nov 16-17 Combative Pistol (Aqil)

Cisco, GA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-688844571657?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>



Other Upcoming Classes

May 24-26 Pistol Instructor

KR Training , Lincoln, Texas

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688812977157?aff=oddtcreator>

**June 19-23 Protective Pistolcraft Instructor/5 day
Yadkinville, NC**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protective-pistolcraft-instructor-development-course-tickets-688827520657?aff=oddttdtcreator>

June 27-29 Master Instructor Xenia, OH

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688818303087?aff=oddttdtcreator>

July 19-21 Pistol Instructor Shreveport, LA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688853468267?aff=oddttdtcreator>

July 27 Professional Trainers' Symposium II Nashville, TN
FULL

AUG 10-11 Advanced Shotgun Instructor Cisco, GA
FULL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-defensive-shotgun-instructor-course-tickets-715761861997?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Aug 16-18 Pistol Instructor (indoors, AC) Buford, GA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688815665197?aff=oddttdtcreator>

