



## **JUNE 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/> .

## **3,2,1 at 6**

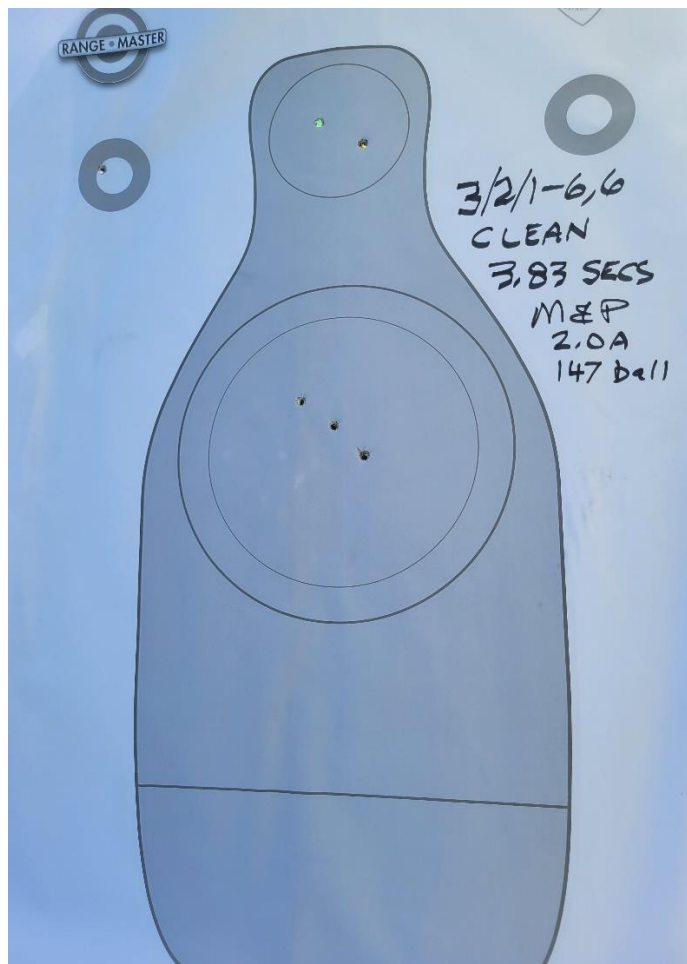
This is a simple, low round count drill that works on several skills in a very brief exercise. The target is the RFTS-Q silhouette, an IALEFI-Q, or an IDPA cardboard target with a 2" circle added to one shoulder. The drill is fired at 6 yards, about the length of a typical SUV.

Shooter starts holstered, concealed. On signal, draw and fire 3 rounds to the 8" chest circle, 2 rounds to the head circle, and 1 round to the zero circle above the target's shoulder. Use an electronic timer or have an accomplice time you with a stopwatch. Record the time for each run. All 6 rounds must hit the indicated area for a run to count.

Shoot the drill 3 times, for a total of 18 rounds. A single miss is a disqualification. If all 18 rounds hit the intended target zones, total the times for the 3 runs. The total time becomes your score. Your goals are as follows:

- Normal earth people who carry- 30 seconds or less
- Well trained shooters- 25 seconds or less
- Instructors- 15 seconds or less

This drill tests a rapid concealed presentation, varying cadences, a vertical transition and a horizontal transition, and a strict accuracy/accountability requirement, all in very few rounds. Demo video: [https://youtu.be/mjYnGtQbldA?si=-jHpFTZ-ICfPok\\_z](https://youtu.be/mjYnGtQbldA?si=-jHpFTZ-ICfPok_z)



# SMALL GUN TRADEOFFS

By Karl Rehn, KR Training

Karl Rehn is the owner of KR Training, a gun school in Texas that has been in operation for over 25 years. Karl is an IDPA Master and a USPSA Grand Master and has been presenting at Tac Con for 20 years.

More than a decade ago, KR Training started offering a small gun specific class at the start of each summer. The focus of this course was developing skill with the subcompact semiautos and snub revolvers that people often carry in the heat of Texas summer. The class included training in the small gun draw from a pocket, fanny pack, deep carry, Flashbang, belly band, Sneaky Pete or other non-inside-pants holster.

My analysis of gun ownership and training trends led to the observation that 99% of gun owners never seek out formal training or shoot matches once they complete the state mandated training (carry permit and/or hunter safety). With self defense now being the primary reason people purchase handguns, popularity of the 3-finger frame subcompact has increased. The 3-finger frame is a pistol with a frame so short that it cannot be gripped with all the fingers of the firing hand without a pinky shelf inserted. To the gun buyer in the 99% (and some in the 1%), this issue is a non-problem because "I will carry it with a pinky shelf magazine". These same gun buyers will

avoid purchase of a 4-finger frame pistol, even though the overall grip length of the 4-finger model, with a flush magazine, is exactly the same as a 3-finger frame gun with the pinky shelf magazine. This is because at the gun counter, with no magazine inserted, the 3-finger frame gun looks easier to conceal.

Why are the 3-finger framed guns a problem? For the fraction of the 1% who dry fire, they cannot be dry fired using the same grip used for live fire without inserting a magazine, which causes the gun to lock open each time the slide is racked. A hardware solution to this is the Rogers Tap Rack Training aid, which are largely unknown to the 99% (and most of the 1%). One of my “gateway instructor” practices has been to purchase these and give them to students with 3-finger frame guns. The secondary problem is loading and reloading. With the pinky hanging loose, loading a magazine into the frame is more complex, and the pinky gripping the magazine can also make empty magazine ejection difficult. Loading/reloading technique learned on the 4-finger frame gun has to be modified and practiced to the point of automaticity for the 3 finger frame gun – a task that very few of the 1%, never mind the 99%, pursue.

Both the 99% and the 1% want to believe in the myth that shooting skill translates, without loss of performance, from gun to gun regardless of gun characteristics. Plenty of data exists disproving this myth, but accepting this inconvenient truth either requires the small gun carrier to

practice more and harder to reach minimum competency, modify their decisions to act based on reduced proficiency, or find ways to carry the more capable gun more often.

In our small gun classes, after the students have shot the small guns for 3 hours, we have them shoot our school “Three Seconds or Less” (3SL) test with the small gun they used in class, and also with their preferred larger gun. The 3SL test consists of strings of 1, 2 and 3 rounds at 3 and 7 yards, with string start positions including draw, hand on gun, ready position, and aimed at target. One half reload (insert magazine and rack slide on the clock) is included as well. Scoring for the 20 round test is hit/miss, with 14 points passing at 70% and 18 points passing at 90%.

Those drawing small guns from pockets or fanny packs or other methods where the gun can be gripped discreetly prior to drawing are allowed to use that as the start position for the “hands at sides”/full draw strings of the test. Without this concession, the number of people able to get the pocket-carried gun on target before the 3 second par time runs out drops significantly.

The data set of more than 110 scores showed these trends:

- 1) Those that chose a small gun similar to their larger gun shoot the small guns better. That means 365/320, Glock 43X/17, Sig 938/1911, and other related pairs. Worst

performance has consistently been with the classic .38 snub/1911 combo.

2) Many of those passing at 90+% with their large gun (41 of 111) were able to pass the same test with their small gun at 90+% (23 of 111).

3) Many of those passing at 90+% with their large gun (93 of 111) were able to pass the same test with their small gun at 70+% (77 of 111).

4) The lower the overall skill level, the greater the performance drop when switching guns. At the top level, performance losses of 5-10% were common.

The Three Seconds or Less test and target download is here

<http://www.krtraining.com/ThreeSecondsOrLess.htm>

Performance standards for minimum competency need to be based on the typical distances and speeds of attackers, not the limitations of gear chosen for its convenience of carry.

You can use any test to compare big gun vs small gun performance. It should be a test difficult enough that you can't shoot a perfect score on it with your small gun. The test should be relevant to the typical use of the small gun – so 25 yard B8 shooting is probably not a good choice. Once you evaluate your own big gun vs. small gun scores, you will have the information you need for a realistic

assessment of whether your small gun skills really are “good enough”.



## **“Boomer Carry” Perfection**

I wear my sidearm on the belt, right behind the side seam of my pants leg. A student recently referred to this as Boomer Carry, and I liked the descriptor. This carry position checks all the boxes for me: it is comfortable, very fast, I can draw with either hand if needed, and it conceals well with a mid-size or full size gun, which is all I carry. Several times a month I drive 400-500 miles per day traveling to/from classes, with my full sized M&P in this position.





**For about 15 years now, I have been using a JM Custom Kydex IWB #3 for this carry. A good concealment holster has to be Comfortable, Concealable, Secure, and Fast. The IWB #3 meets these criteria perfectly, and I have one for every gun I ever carry.**



**Left to right: M&P 2.0A, SIG P365 Macro/XL, Kahr P9**

**This holster conceals a mid-size to full size handgun remarkably well. I generally wear a polo shirt or a button up fishing shirt, and even a fairly closely fitted shirt does not print with a full size M&P, which is my daily carry about 355 days out of the year. The Macro/XL has become my “suit gun” for wear to court or other occasions where I have to dress more formally, but the Macro still rides in an IWB #3.**



**As one custom holster maker used to say, “Unseen in all the best places!”**

## The “AIWB Tent”

I have noticed a trend lately at classes, both my classes and those taught by others. A certain type of student shows up with a full size handgun with optic, mag well, flashlight and compensator attached. Of course, the object is to look as good as possible when shooting scored drills with their peers. The guns look like this:



**They wear these guns appendix inside waistband (AIWB) with an untucked T-shirt covering them. It looks like this:**



**Recently, an associate of mine and I were watching an Instagram Guru teaching, looking just like the photo above. We could actually tell what type of gun he had on. That gun is “covered”, not “concealed”. If you passed this guy in the grocery store you would immediately note the fact that he is armed. My friend asked me, “How does he get away with carrying like that?” The obvious answer is that he does not carry that gear anywhere but on the range. In fact, at dinner after class you will note that the AIWB tent is missing.**

**Examine your needs and goals. If you relate to your gun the same way you regard a tennis racket or a golf club, by all means continue this practice. If, on the other hand you think of your handgun as a weapon, I urge you to train with equipment (gun/holster/clothing) more like what you actually wear in daily life. One day you might be really glad you did.**

### **Protective Pistolcraft Instructor Development Course**

This is a rare opportunity for a deep dive, immersion level course for trainers or practitioners of modern self defense shooting with handguns. Several highly respected instructors will provide in depth training in both the classroom and the firing range throughout five full days of training. The facility is modern and comfortable, with an

excellent classroom and range on site. Hotels are minutes away.

Topics covered include:

- Modern adult learning/teaching modalities, maximizing learning;

- Effective coaching techniques;

- Modern, effective shooting and gunhandling techniques, designed to

- work under stress;

- Low light technology and shooting techniques, with and without a

- flashlight, both in the classroom and live-fire on the range;

- Live-fire drills designed to help teach specific skills and improve

- shooting performance;

- Combative psychology, how the brain works under stress, and how to

- maximize your performance under duress;

- Training and supervising Assistant Instructors for maximum student

- benefit;

- Marketing for firearms instructors, and much more. This is a very

- information dense course, with modern multimedia presentations in

- the classroom and large, detailed student manuals.

Instructors include Tom Givens, Tiffany Johnson, John Hearne, and Aqil Qadir.

You will need a sidearm, concealed carry holster and magazine pouches, and the usual range gear. All training is conducted from concealment, or a full police duty rig. You will need a high output flashlight, and a cooler with drinks, snacks and lunch. You will need about 1,250 rounds of pistol ammunition.

**Location is the Apache Solutions Range in Yadkinville, North Carolina.**

Advance registration is required. There are no prerequisites for this course. Refunds are available until 30 days before class, there will be no refunds less than 30 days prior to class. If you have questions, please direct them to [rangemaster.tom@gmail.com](mailto:rangemaster.tom@gmail.com) .

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



## Skill Maintenance, Critical

I have written previously about how important it is to have *structured practice*, not just practice. Improving your skill, or maintaining a satisfactory level of skill takes planning and discipline.

I recently returned from a two week road trip, teaching in two states. Obviously, I did not get to practice during that time. After a couple of days of catching up on admin work, I finally headed to the range to get a practice session. My goal is to maintain my skills at a comfortable level for self defense and for shooting demo's in front of classes.

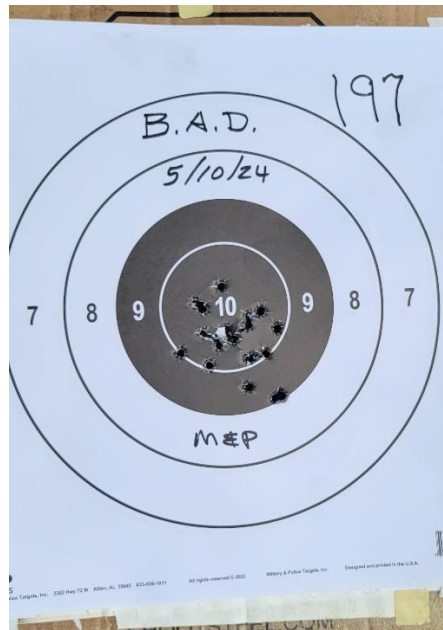
On arrival at the range, I fired the following drills and Courses of Fire, in this sequence:

Baseline Assessment Drill, cold	195	97.5%
Card Drill (5 at 5 in 5)	3.96 1 <sup>st</sup> time, 3.51 secs on 2 <sup>nd</sup> run	
Pistol Master Test, bullseye portion	290	96.7%
Professional Pistolcraft Instructor	97	97%
Justin Dyal's Double-Add One Drill	96	96%
Rangemaster Bullseye Course	285	95%
Baseline Assessment Drill, again	197	98.5%

That is a total of 170 rounds, on both bullseyes and a silhouette target. This took me 1 hour and 10 minutes. These drills cover drawing from concealment, shooting with both hands, dominant hand only, support hand only,



reloads on the clock, transitions from body to headshots, and shooting back to 25 yards, under time pressure. That is a solid, but fairly brief work-out. That allows me to have the rest of the day for other work, while keeping my overall skills sharp.



# UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

June 19-23 PPIDC/5 day Yadkinville, NC

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

June 27-29 Master Instructor Xenia, OH

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

July 19-21 Pistol Instructor (indoors) Shreveport, LA

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

July 27 Professional Trainers' Symposium II Nashville, TN

AUG 10-11 Advanced Shotgun Instructor Cisco, GA

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

Aug 16-18 Pistol Instructor Buford, GA

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