



MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2025 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/> .

4 Second Standards

This is a great drill for working on shooting accurately, at combat speed. This drill involves firing 30 rounds, in various exercises, but in each stage the time limit is 4 seconds, hence the name.

The target is a B-8, B-8C, or FBI IP-1 bullseye target, scored as printed. If a full size B-8 is used, hits further out than the 7 ring are misses. 300 points possible.

3 yards Start holstered. On the beep draw and fire 6 rounds.

5 yards Start holstered. On signal, draw and fire 5 rounds. Do this stage 2 times.

5 yards Start at Ready, gun in dominant hand, pointed at the ground below the targets. On signal, fire 4 rounds using the dominant hand only.

5 yards Start gun in non-dominant hand only, at the Ready, pointed at the ground beneath the targets. On signal, fire 3 rounds, non-dominant hand only.

7 yards Start holstered. On the beep, draw and fire 4 rounds.

10 yards Start holstered. On the beep, draw and fire 3 rounds.



Homicide Weapons in the US

The FBI broke down the weapons used in 13,922 murders in the US for the year 2019. Here is the breakdown:

Handguns	6,365
Rifles	364 (all rifles, including AR's)
Shotguns	200
Unknown Firearm	3,326
Hands, Fists, Feet	600
Knives or cutting instruments	1,476
Other Weapons	1,591 (hammers, screwdrivers, etc)

Please note that more people were murdered with Hands, Fists, Feet than with all rifles and shotguns combined. Attempts to ban AR's and so forth are not about public safety, they are about control of people.

How many guns are there in the US?

Here is brand new information from the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF).

- The estimated total number of firearms in civilian possession from 1990-2022 is 491.3 million, according to data in reports such as ATF Firearms Commerce in the United States, ATF

Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Reports and Congressional Research Service and including the collective ATF Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Report (AFMER) reports up to the 2022 edition.

- Total firearm domestic production reported in the 2022 AFMER was 10,011,200 – a decrease of 20.0 percent from 2021 reported figures.
- Data indicates that 30,711,000 Modern Sporting Rifles (MSRs) are in circulation since 1990.
- Modern Sporting Rifle (MSR) production decreased 30.7 percent from 2021 to 2022. This increased the estimated amount of MSRs produced (since 1990) by 9.1 percent from 28.1 million to 30.7 million.
- In 2022, 16,045,911 total firearms were made available for the U.S. market, which includes firearms that were domestically produced plus those imported, minus exported firearms. Of those, 9,873,136 were handguns, 4,195,192 were rifles and 1,977,583 were shotguns.
- Firearm and ammunition manufacturing accounted for over 13,400 employees producing over \$5.8 billion in goods shipped in 2022.
- From 1990 to 2022, 270,799,283 firearms have been made available to the U.S. market

Open Carry?

Open carry in an urban environment is stupid and reckless.

There is a reason we carry our pistols concealed. Be sure to watch this with the sound on.

https://www.reddit.com/r/Idiotswithguns/comments/1ikn3nv/he_should_of_just_took_the_loss/?share_id=7KpwA5JsGsilRZkOxyvcQ&utm_content=2&utm_medium=ios_app&utm_name=ioscss&utm_source=share&utm_term=1&rdt=37393

Defensive Shooting Technique

Proper defensive shooting technique could be defined as “a standardized system of training and operation designed to produce rapid, accurate, decisive hits under stressful conditions”.

FIRING (FIGHTING) PLATFORM

The shooter needs a balanced, poised, defensive posture, one which provides stability, flexibility, and mobility. The feet should be kept shoulder width apart, the gun-side foot back slightly, knees unlocked, and upper body weight biased slightly forward. “Keep your nose over your toes.” Note the 2 rounds of .40 brass directly above the pistol. This is very fast shooting, with full control.



GRIP

“Grip” refers to the interface of our hands and the gun. A proper grip maximizes recoil control, minimizes muzzle rise, aids in proper trigger manipulation, builds a repeatable index, and aids in retention of the pistol. The hands should be as high on the gun as possible, thumbs high, and the barrel of the gun lined up with the long bones of the gun hand forearm.

The support hand fingers should be placed on the front of the gun hand, so that all four fingers overlay the three lower fingers of the gun-hand. The arms are extended until the elbows almost lock, but not quite. Slightly bent elbows allow better recoil control and stronger retention of the pistol. It also prevents long term damage to the elbows.



FLASH SIGHT PICTURE

Except in extreme close quarters, the pistol's sights are used for every shot.

Consistent use of the sights/optic does two things:
First, it assures a well-placed hit on target, and
it builds a kinesthetic "feel" for when the gun is on target.

After a bit of practice, your presentation puts the gun on target, and the sights are used to *verify alignment, not to achieve it*. This can be accomplished in a few hundredths of a second with iron sights or an optic.

With iron sights, for a *precise shot*, focus on the *top edge* of the front sight. The human eye can discern a straight line very quickly and very accurately, so maintain a straight line across the top of the front and rear sights.

Please note that at typical fighting distances, iron sights do not have to be in focus. One can look through them at the target, not at the sights. This is quicker and gives adequate precision at 3-10 yards, where almost all of our problems occur.

TRIGGER CONTROL

Trigger control is vital. The gun must discharge while the sights are on target. Pressing the trigger must not move the sights. A typical defensive handgun weighs 2 pounds, but has a trigger pull weight of from 4 to 8 pounds. This makes trigger control harder with a handgun than with a long gun, which weighs more than it's trigger pull weight.

Place the fingerprint (pad) of the index finger on the center of the trigger. Press the trigger *straight to the rear*. You must remove the slack from the trigger for the first shot, then maintain contact with the trigger from shot to shot. "Trigger re-set" refers to letting the trigger go forward after a shot *no more than is needed to re-engage the sear and be ready to fire again*. Once your finger touches the trigger, it stays on the trigger until all shots have been fired.

Your trigger finger must only contact the pistol on the face of the trigger, **NOT ON THE FRAME**. There should be a visible gap between the first joint of the trigger finger and the frame to avoid pushing the frame sideways as the trigger is pressed to the rear. You may have to adjust based on hand/pistol size.

BREATHING

Breath control is only needed for a deliberate shot-- a small or distant target. For that, take a deep breath, let it out, leave lungs empty while you carefully press off the shot (natural respiratory pause), then breathe again. Up close and personal, don't worry about breathing, just breathe!

FOLLOW THROUGH

Follow through is critical, but is one of the most overlooked aspects of combat shooting. When your gun fires:

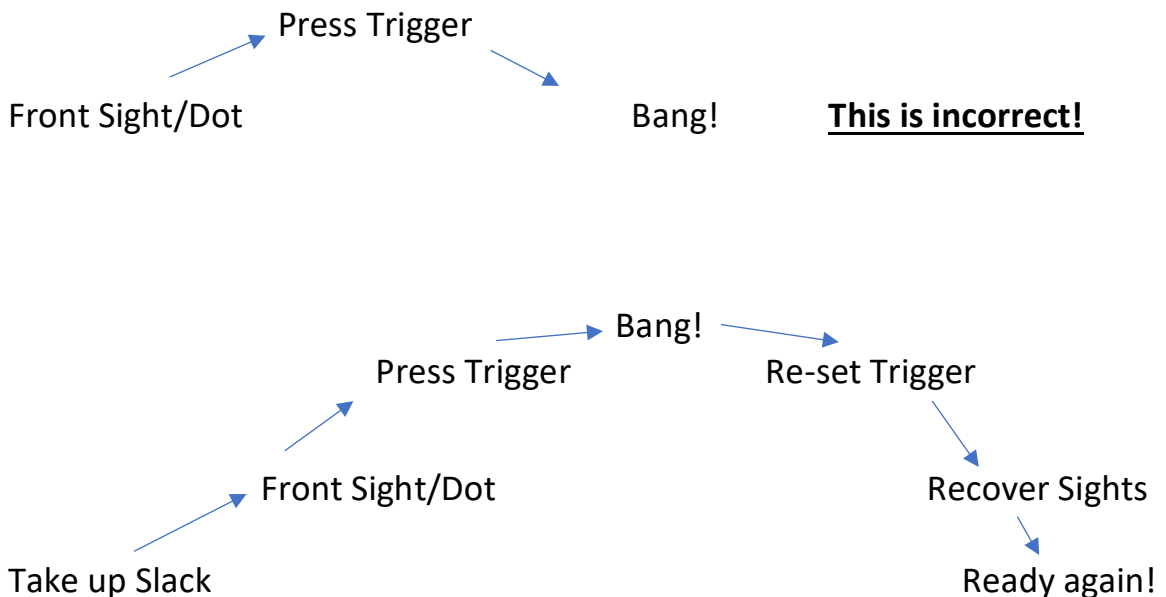
Keep your visual focus on the front sight;

As soon as you see the front sight lift, re-set the trigger;

The front sight will rise, and then fall back into the rear sight notch;

As the front sight descends, start pressing on the next shot.

Do not count on one shot to stop a fight, especially with a handgun! Be prepared to fire multiple accurate shots. This is why follow through is so critical.



This is correct. The cycle of firing a shot does **NOT** end at “Bang!”. It ends when you are back on target, trigger re-set, sights realigned, and you are ready to fire again.

The “Tactical” Blazer

A lot of people who routinely carry a gun are able to dress in “tactical hobo” mode, with casual pants and an un-tucked shirt providing adequate concealment and not attract attention.

However, a lot of people employed in public contact jobs cannot dress this way while at work, and there are other venues where an un-tucked fishing shirt would look out of place. 5.11 has a new offering to cover these situations, the Travel Blazer. Here is a review by Alex Sansone, “The Suited Shootist”. Alex is a Rangemaster certified instructor and a very knowledgeable person.

https://gatdaily.com/articles/5-11s-new-blazer-the-founders-jacket/?fbclid=IwY2xjawle7EpleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHYHfPNTbzKVpL1VtxP1BP1eP0K3nvUDXV8DWEW_LzXHm4BQluwAtV5r9lg_aem_sAi5i1YSx2sMFChZdKgLPQ

Alex maintains a Facebook group as The Suited Shootist. You really ought to monitor his writings, as he has put a lot

of thought into concealed carry in the real world, away from the range.

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=the%20suited%20shootist>

Training Disciplines

There are three different areas, or disciplines, in which the armed person must train. These are mindset, gun-handling, and marksmanship. Each is equally important, and you must be at least competent in all three areas.

First, let me point out that training does not necessarily consist of going to the range. Training can consist of reading a book, watching a DVD, conducting dry practice at home, or a live fire range session. Training can even include sitting in an easy chair and having an introspective conversation with yourself about some of the issues involved in self-defense. We must use all of these training tools to achieve mastery of the subject of fighting.

Mindset – – refers to all of the mental issues involved, including your commitment not to be a victim, and the cultivation of your awareness skills. You must develop a survivor’s attitude.

Gun-handling – – refers to the skills involved in managing your weapon and related equipment. Imagine your embarrassment if you aim your gun at a bad guy, press the trigger, and it went “click” because it wasn’t loaded! The presentation, reloading, and malfunction clearance techniques are all gunhandling skills.

Marksmanship – – refers to the simple physical, mechanical act of hitting that at which you shoot. It can be referred to as directing bullets from Point A to Point B rather than just tossing them out and hoping for the best. This is the simplest of the skill areas to master, but it does require both live fire and dry practice.

Most of us make the mistake of concentrating our effort on one of the skill areas and neglecting the other two. We tend to concentrate on marksmanship. Why? *Because it's the only part that is fun.* We get immediate positive feedback and ego reinforcement from shooting well, and that is what humans live for.

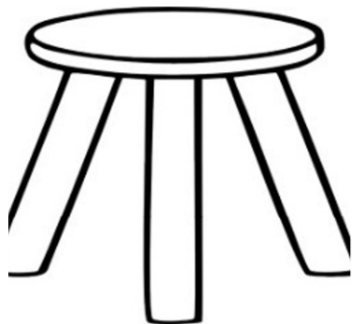
Devote adequate time and attention to the other areas, as well. They are the legs of a three-legged stool. Unless all three are strong, you will fall on your butt.

The 3 M's

Mindset

Marksmanship

Manipulations



- All 3 legs have to be functional or you will fall on your ass.

Range Etiquette (or, How Not to be That Guy!)

If you have had any formal firearms training, you are familiar with the 4 General Firearms Safety Principles. In addition to those rules, however, there are some established and customary range practices you should be familiar with.

1. Once you're on the firing line stay there until you are dismissed by the instructor. It is very poor form to walk off the line without permission. The instructor will give you an opportunity to get more ammunition, hydrate, or do whatever you need to do. It is hard enough for the instructor to observe and control everyone on the firing line as it is. Help him by staying in your assigned spot on the firing line until given permission to leave it.
2. Do not handle your firearm off the firing line. The instructor has to focus his attention on the firing line, so he should not have to watch out for people behind him with guns out. Your handgun should not be out of the holster unless you are on the firing line, facing the backstop, and you have permission to do so.
3. Do not dangle your handgun by your side. Unless you are at the ready or on target the gun should remain in the holster. If you blow a shot, don't throw up your hands or drop them by your side with a gun in your hand. Keep the gun under control and again, if you don't want it in your hands put it back in holster.
4. Don't turn around with a gun in your hand and sweep the line, the instructors, or observers. Always holster the gun before walking off the line, picking up any object, or doing anything else not directly involved in firing.

5. On the firing line there should be no casual chatting. Wait until you are off-line to talk about your performance, or anything else with other students. When you are talking you cannot be listening to the instructor's comments, to range commands, or to other important input. An exception would be when you are acting as a coach for another shooter, however, if the primary instructor begins talking you should stop talking and listen to him. You can resume your coaching when the primary instructor is finished.
6. Immediately obey any instruction or command from the instructor. Do what he says first, and you can question it later. There may be circumstances of which you are unaware.
7. Electronic hearing protection is such an asset that it really should be mandatory equipment for a shooting class. With electronic ear muffs, you will pick up tidbits from the instructor you may have missed otherwise, including hearing coaching directed at other students. The same coaching may well apply to you.

If you will follow these guidelines you will be safer, your classmates will be safer, and just as importantly, you and they will derive the maximum benefit from class.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

May 16-18, 2025 (Givens)
Defensive Shotgun Instructor Lakeland, FL
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6a70e4e7e7f3ba0f31ef>

May 31-June 1, 2025

Combative Pistol

Stafford, Virginia

Aqil Qadir, Instructor

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/673a37c8aa4a19177007be27>

June 7-8, 2025 (Givens)

Advanced Shotgun Instructor, Echo Valley, West Virginia

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/66bc0385ef6d9173589455d2>

June 13-15, Master Instructor (Givens)

Culpeper, Virginia

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7638e4e7e7f3ba1243cd>

June 20-22, 2025 Instructor Development Course

(Givens)

Marianna Field & Stream Club

144 Hufford Run Rd

Marianna, PA 15345

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6f23e4e7e7f3ba1077a9>

June 28-29, 2025

Combative Pistol Sherwood, OR (Aqil instructor)

<https://manager.corsizio.com/events/676efdab99d74784f785341b>

July 10-12, 2025 Thursday-Saturday (Givens)
Instructor Development Course Xenia, Ohio
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6d7ae4e7e7f3ba0ffe4c>

July 18-20, 2025 (Givens)
Instructor Development Course Springfield, MO
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7717e4e7e7f3ba128a71>

Aug 8-10, 2025 (Givens)
Defensive Shotgun Instructor, Apache, Yadkinville, NC
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668f3de3e4e7e7f3ba8f4191>

Aug 15-17, 2025 (Givens) **(FULL)**
Professional Pistolcraft Instr. Royal Range, Nashville, TN
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7a30e4e7e7f3ba136ac0>

Aug 22-24, 2025 (Givens)
Instructor Development Royal Range Nashville, TN
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7b1de4e7e7f3ba13b1bf>

The Human Brain

