



SEPT. 2021 NEWSLETTER

DRILL OF THE MONTH

Throughout 2021 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/> .

25 Round Version of Dot Torture

Most of us are familiar with the traditional Dot Torture drill, which has bedeviled us for several years. This drill was originated by trainer David Blinder, who saw it more as a test of one's ability to concentrate for 50 shots than as a real marksmanship test. The first time he ran me through it, many years ago, I shot 49 out of 50 at 5 yards, and sure enough the one miss was just from cranial flatulence, not shooting ability.

The late Todd L. Green popularized Dot Torture, and it has become a staple of most high performance shooters' practice and self-testing regimens. With the current ammo drought, I devised a 25 round version, as follows below. You can print the required target by going to

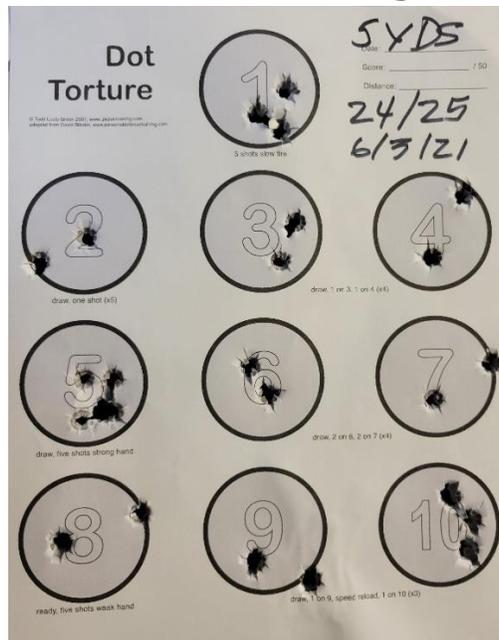
<http://pistol-training.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/dot-torture-target.pdf>

Let's shoot this at 5 yards and post a pic of your results.

DOT Torture, 25 round version

- #1 1 round from the ready 3X**
- #2 2 rounds from the ready 1X**
- #3 & #4 1 round on each, from ready 2X**
- #5 5 rounds, from the holster 1X**
- #6 and #7 2 rds on each, from the holster 1X**
- #8 2 rds Dominant Hand Only, from ready 1X**
- #9 2 rds Non-dominant Hand Only, from ready 1X**
- #10 Start with only 1 rd in gun, empty magazine inserted, at ready. Fire 1 rd , emergency reload, and fire 2 rds**

Here is one of my targets. I am harder on myself than on students, so I scored this as 24 hits, although one of the non-dominant hand shots is touching. Not good enough.



The Shotgun, "a monstrous weapon"

In 1896, the United States went to war with Spain, in a conflict simply called the Spanish-American War. The US quickly won the war, and took a long term lease on Guantanamo Bay in newly freed Cuba, and took over the Philippines as a protectorate, with a military governor from the US Army. The southernmost islands in the Philippine archipelago have been Muslim for centuries, and the residents there, known as Moros, fought fiercely against the Spaniards until they were ousted by the US. The Moros promptly fought the US occupation forces, with the goal of setting up an independent Muslim nation in their part of the Philippines, and this struggle continues to this day against the current national government.

For several years, the "Moro Insurrection" involved very bloody close quarter battle pitting US forces against fanatical, religiously inspired, doped up Moro warriors. The anemic .38 Colt (130 grains at about 700 feet per second) did very poorly against these brave warriors, setting the stage for the myth, which refuses to die, that the .45ACP 1911 fixed the problem. The truth is, Single Action Army's in .45 Colt were immediately pulled from mothballs and shipped to the Philippines, and they proved no better at stopping these guys, nor did the .30/40 Krag service rifle, which was general issue at the time. The .30/40 Krag was a fairly powerful battle rifle, and it still often failed to stop a charging Moro before he could fatally wound the soldier wielding it.

Someone finally sent a shipment of Model 97 Winchester shotguns with short barrels, a heat shield on the barrel, and bayonet lug. These were shipped with all brass 00 Buckshot loads, and proved to be the most effective close range weapon the Army had at its disposal, finally providing something that would put a Moro down immediately with a solid hit.



Many of the officers and NCO's who fought in the Philippines were sent to Europe a few years later for World War I. By the time the US entered WWI, the Western Front had stalemated into stationary trench warfare. These experienced US leaders immediately recognized that the shotgun, which had proven so effective in the Philippines would be perfect for assaulting or defending trenches, which are full of turns, corners, and close range ultra-violent encounters. The shotgun was so effective, the term "Trench Gun" was used to identify the military shotgun for many years. In fact, the shotgun was so effective that the German military considered it to be "unfair". Bear in mind, the Germans were the same military that was the first to use poison gas and flamethrowers in war, so the shotgun must have made quite an impression on them.

Model 97 Winchester “Trench Gun”



The 1918 German Protest

On 19 September 1918, the Government of Switzerland, representing German interests in the United States, presented to the U.S. Secretary of State a cablegram received by the Swiss Foreign Office containing the following diplomatic protest by the Government of Germany:

The German Government protests against the use of shotguns by the American Army and calls attention to the fact that according to the law of war (Kriegsrecht) every [U.S.] prisoner [of war] found to have in his possession such guns or ammunition belonging thereto forfeits his life. This protest is based upon article 23(e) of the Hague convention [sic] respecting the laws and customs of war on land. Reply by cable is required before October 1, 1918.

The German protest was precipitated in part by the capture in the Baccarat Sector (Lorraine) of France, on 21 July 1918, of a U.S. soldier from the 307th Infantry Regiment, 154th Infantry Brigade, 77th Division, AEF, who was armed with a 12-gauge Winchester Model 97 repeating trench (shot) gun, and a second, similarly-armed AEF soldier from the 6th Infantry Regiment, 10th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division, on 11 September 1918 in the Villers-en-Haye Sector. Each presumably possessed issue ammunition, which was the Winchester

“Repeater” shell, containing nine No. 00 buckshot.

The German protest was forwarded by the Department of State to the War Department, which sought the advice of The Judge Advocate General of the Army. Brigadier General Samuel T. Ansell, Acting Judge Advocate General, responded by lengthy memorandum dated 26 September 1918. Addressing the German protest, General Ansell stated:

Article 23(e) simply calls for comparison between the injury or suffering caused and the necessities of warfare. It is legitimate to kill the enemy and as many of them, and as quickly, as possible It is to be condemned only when it wounds, or does not kill immediately, in such a way as to produce suffering that has no reasonable relation to the killing or placing the man out of action for an effective period. The shotgun, although an ancient weapon, finds its class or analogy, as to purpose and effect, in many modern weapons. The dispersion of the shotgun [pellets] . . . is adapted to the necessary purpose of putting out of action more than one of the charging enemy with each shot of the gun; and in this respect it is exactly analogous to shrapnel shell discharging a multitude of small [fragments] or a machine gun discharging a spray of . . . bullets. The diameter of the bullet is scarcely greater than that of a rifle or machine gun. The weight of it is very much less. And, in both size and weight, it is less than the . . . [fragments] of a shrapnel shell Obviously a pellet the size of a .32-caliber bullet, weighing only enough to be effective at short ranges, does not exceed the limit necessary for putting a man immediately hors de combat. The only instances even where a shotgun projectile causes more injury to any one enemy soldier than would a hit by a rifle bullet are instances where the enemy soldier has approached so close to the shooter that he is struck by more than one of the nine . . . [No. 00 buckshot projectiles] contained in the cartridge. This, like the effect of the dispersing of . . . [fragments] from a shrapnel shell, is permissible either in behalf of greater effectiveness or as an unavoidable incident of the use of small scattering projectiles for the necessary purpose of increasing [the] likelihood of killing a number of enemies. General Ansell concluded his memorandum with the statement that “The protest is without legal merit.”

Acting Secretary of War Benedict Crowell endorsed General Ansell's memorandum of law and forwarded it to the Secretary of State that same day. Secretary of State Robert Lansing provided the following reply to the Government of Germany two days later:

[T]he . . . provision of the Hague convention, cited in the protest, does not . . . forbid the use of this . . . weapon [i]n view of the history of the shotgun as a weapon of warfare, and in view of the well-known effects of its present use, and in the light of a comparison of it with other weapons approved in warfare, the shotgun . . . cannot be the subject of legitimate or reasonable protest. . . . The Government of the United States notes the threat of the German Government to execute every prisoner of war found to have in his possession shotguns or shotgun ammunition. Inasmuch as the weapon is lawful and may be rightfully used, its use will not be abandoned by the American Army . . . [i]f the German Government should carry out its threat in a single instance, it will be the right and duty of the . . . United States to make such reprisals as will best protect the American forces, and notice is hereby given of the intention of the . . . United States to make such reprisals.

World War I ended six weeks later, without reply by Germany to the United States response. There is no record of any subsequent capture by German forces of any U.S. soldier or marine armed with a shotgun or possessing shotgun ammunition, or of Germany carrying out its threat against the U.S. soldiers it captured earlier.

This experience led to widespread use of the shotgun in the Pacific Theater of World War II, something not widely known today. In jungle fighting on tropical islands, or hut to hut fighting on Okinawa, the shotgun did its job well.

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Model 97 Winchester “Trench Gun”



Marines in
Okinawa, 1945

Model 12 Winchester



Tarawa Beach

Model 12 Winchester



Iwo Jima

Point Man in Viet Nam



Today, decades later, we still have nothing that is more effective against un-armored personnel at close ranges, where almost all home defense, business hold-up defense encounters take place. Is the shotgun obsolete? Emphatically, NO. Just like any other weapon, the

user needs training so he can understand the weapon's capabilities and limitations, and know how to deploy the weapon to its full potential.

Dealing with Cross-Dominance Issues in Students

If you work with a large number of students you will find a surprising percentage who are cross-dominant. No, that doesn't mean they wear their spouse's clothes to class. It means they are strongly dominant in one hand, but their dominant eye is on the other side of the body. An example would be a shooter who is right handed, but has a dominant left eye.

It is believed that 85-90% of the world's population is right handed. However, about 2/3 of the population is right eye dominant, and 1/3 is left eye dominant. Only a small number, thought to be around 1% have no dominance in either eye. There are several simple tests an instructor can use to check for cross dominance issues. I'll describe a couple of very easy ones here.

First, have the student make a small frame opening at arms' length, by bringing the hands together. With both eyes open, have the student center a small object across the room in that opening. Close only the left eye, then open both. Close only the right eye, then open both. For one eye, the target object remained in the opening. For the other eye, the target object disappeared. The eye with which the object stayed in the frame is the dominant eye. An alternative method is to have the student center an object in the opening with both eyes open, then slowly bring the hands back to touch the face, keeping both eyes open. The opening will naturally be drawn toward the dominant eye.

On the range, the clue that the student is cross dominant is usually misses that impact the target a bit high but way off to the side. For a right handed/left eyed shooter, for instance, the hits will be high and to the left. Another clue can be discovered by watching the shooter while they fire. You may see the gun moving toward the shooter's non-dominant side, or the head moving sideways as the shooter aims. If you see these clues, it's time to perform the eye dominance tests described above.

With a shoulder fired weapon, such as a rifle or shotgun, really the only satisfactory solution is to learn to shoot from the shoulder on the same side as the dominant eye. I am not aware of any other practical fix for this with long guns.

With handguns, we have some options. One controversial method is to simply learn to shoot with the hand on the same side as the dominant eye. So, if you are left eye dominant, you hold the handgun in the left hand, which puts the sights directly in front of the dominant eye. Bill Rogers is probably the best known proponent of this system.

Another method is to keep the gun in the dominant hand, but move the head to bring the dominant eye behind the sights. This can be done two ways. We'll use the example of a right handed/left eyed shooter, for clarity. In the first method, the head is rotated on its vertical axis to bring the left eye behind the sights. This is sub-optimal, as it points the right eye off to the right side, reducing peripheral vision to the front left. It appears to work better to keep the head pointed forward, but tilt it to the right just enough to bring the left eye behind the sights. You

have probably seen pictures of Jeff Cooper shooting a 1911 in a classic Weaver stance. You may have noticed his head cocked over to the right. This was because Jeff was right handed but left eye dominant, and used this technique.

A third option is to cant the pistol inboard from 15-40 degrees to bring the sights into the focal plane of the left eye. I am not a fan of this particular method.

Now that you know what to look for, I predict you will notice more cross dominant students. Now, you know how to help them.

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Sept 3-5 Pistol Instructor Dev., Red Hill Range, Martin, GA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-138850496573>

Oct 1-3 Master Instructor Course, McLoud, OK

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-ok-tickets-101013835100> **sold out**

Oct 8-10 Shotgun Instructor, White Hall, AR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-112318704268> **sold out**

Oct 15-17 Pistol Instructor Development, Kansas City, MO

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-handgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-122880074611>

Nov 5-7 Pistol Instructor Development, Dallas, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-pistol-instructor-development-course-tickets-122880213025>

Nov 13-14 Advanced Firearms Instructor, Casa Grande, AZ

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-133622694075>

TACTICAL CONFERENCE 2022

The 2021 Tactical Conference was a resounding success. Three hundred trainers, students, and practitioners of our Art gathered in Dallas, Texas, for a three-day extravaganza of defensive training. Over 40 well known trainers conducted live-fire firearms training, as well as work with empty hands, blades, hands-on medical training, and more. There was also live role play simulation. Classroom sessions included legal issues, historical information on gunfighting and training, home invasions, active shooters, and more.

The 2022 event will be at the Dallas Pistol Club again, however, **it is already sold out**. Each year when this event is announced, we encourage people to register early, to avoid disappointment. There are only so many slots available, and when they are gone, that's it.

Here are some pics from recent Tactical Conferences.

Wayne Dobbs with the High Lawman Award, 2019



