



Fixing Recoil Anticipation

Correcting the most common cause of marksmanship errors.

by Sgt. 1st Class John M. Buol Jr.

“Flinching is like halitosis. It is almost impossible for an individual to know whether he has it and his best friends seldom tell him. But it is something he should know.”

- Jack O'Connor

It is day one and a new group of shooters are ready to take the line. Their backgrounds make for impressive resume items and range from battles in big city dark alleys to foreign countries. Armed with full taticool regalia, pistol at Position Sul and a menacing scowl, they take the line.

First drill: Slow fire groups with dummy rounds mixed in the magazine. On bullseye targets.

How boringly basic and dull. Such activity is beneath the modern Musashi. And on the same target those competition “one way range” shooters use. How un-taticool. How... revealing.

It's so simple. Take all the time you want and hit a black polka dot. Move the trigger without moving anything else. A “click” on a dummy round should do nothing and have no movement. But it does, and often. Big talk of prowess against barn-door-sized qualification targets wane in light of cylinder-bore patterns and frequent dive bombing on dummy round clicks.

This isn't addressed towards an individual because I've seen this scenario play out on every military, police, and hunter sight-in range I've ever been on. A flinch is a natural subconscious reaction to the inherent, natural human fear of and response to load noises. Basically, a flinch indicates that the shooter is still afraid of his weapon and has not yet trained sufficiently to reprogram



Above: *Blinking your eyes closed and/or imparting unintended motion upon discharge (during the Shot part of your Shot Process) is very common but must be dealt with for improved shooting.*

correct reflexes. Don't get mad at me, I'm just reporting the way it is.

I can make a case that recoil anticipation (also known as flinch, pre-ignition push, trigger jerk, and a variety of cuss words...) is the single biggest detriment to improved shooting skill and biggest, single reason that keeps personnel shooting at a novice level. Novice here includes most gun owners, law enforcement, and military personnel with years and decades of “experience” that never developed shooting ability beyond passing routine qualification.

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In This Issue

- Fixing Recoil Anticipation
- Range vs Combat Results
- Cleaning Weapons
- Competition Guns and Skill
- Public Affairs Change
- SensibleShooter



Above: Keep your eye open and eliminate any tendency to move/twitch upon discharge. Use dummy rounds and call your shots to check.

Learning how to overcome (or at least greatly reduce) the very natural tendency to react to recoil, noise, flash, and movement of a discharging firearm while attempting to maintain alignment on target is the most single most important thing a firearm user can do to improve proficiency. This also increases the ability to followthrough and call shots, critical to refining a shot process.

The lack of attention paid to this critical element of successful shooting is the biggest reason why many gun owners, law enforcement, and military personnel never progress beyond the elementary, initial, basic skill levels used during initial entry, basic, academy training. Far too many personnel are not even aware of this being an issue and most of them completely fail to address it.

Dry fire is always useful. I've worked with Soldiers and other novice shooters that flinched during dry fire on weapons they knew to be empty because their flinch was so deeply embedded and they were unaware of it. For intermediate shooters, dry fire alone won't further help to fix recoil anticipation because knowledge changes execution. A slight disruption to the gun sufficient to cause a miss as distance increases. At close range, people often chalk this off to sight picture when actuality it's a slight case of recoil anticipation. Take this back to 15 or 25 yards, it's a miss. Rifle shooters are also susceptible but it really shows up and wrecks handgun shooting.

Note, this doesn't mean that dry practice isn't useful and won't help at all. Continued dry practice will continue to enhance (or at least maintain) the ability to more rapidly obtain sufficient alignment on target and manipulate the trigger without causing disruption. The point is that after a certain point of development, dry practice alone won't magically fix recoil anticipation because it's purposely done dry/empty (obviously) and knowledge of that

Right: Skip loading dummy rounds is an ideal way to improve your Shot Process.



removes any recoil anticipation tendency. Only intelligent exposure to live fire, preferably done with dummy rounds (skip loading and other approaches) and perhaps additional feedback from sensors (MantisX, SCATT, etc.), can do this.

If you want to get stronger, you need to subject yourself to the stress of lifting heavier weight, preferably done with intelligently-programmed increases. If you want to eliminate recoil anticipation, you need to subject yourself to recoil, preferably done with intelligently-programmed intermittent exposures.

Every time you go to the range, use a skip loading drill. Start by dry firing a few shots, then load a magazine filled with a mix of about a 4:1 ratio of dummy rounds to live ammo randomly spaced so you don't know where the live rounds are. Shoot a slow-fire group. Most of the shots will be dry, so as to reinforce good habits (not blinking or anticipating recoil) but there are a few live rounds in there somewhere to keep the shooting "real". If you catch yourself flinching on a dry snap, unload and dry fire a few shots to reinforce what you want to do (i.e., not react or anticipate recoil) and then start again.

This is extremely economical practice. You can get the practice benefit of about 40-50 practice rounds and only expend about 10 live rounds because most of the shots are dry. Depending on how long you have been flinching, this error may be easy or difficult to correct. You just have to stick with it.

A common complaint is this is boring and "I go the range to shoot, not dry practice." Wrong. The purpose of practice is to improve. Round count does not indicate the training value of a training session; improved scores do. Doing so with less ammo is more effective practice.

If I could get a shooter to do one thing guaranteed to yield a dramatic improvement toward better marksmanship, this is it. I doubt most Soldiers will be granted an opportunity to train like this (which is a primary reason most Soldiers never improve their skill beyond Basic training) so this is something you'll have to do on your own. Successful competition shooters routinely do work like this, which is how they become successful competition shooters. **ARM**

The Connection Between Combat and Range Results

by Sgt. 1st Class John M. Buol Jr.

It has been suggested that there is no connection between results on the range and in the real world.

Skill is skill and it can be measured. A firearm is inanimate and has no idea what it is being pointed at. An ability to consistently, quickly, and accurately engage combatants in a fight or an animal in the field will yield similar results on the range, provided the targets and course of fire resemble the real world problem. A person that can't reliably hit a target on the range won't magically obtain that ability in elsewhere.

The New York Police Department established a mandate for record keeping on officer-involved shootings, first published in Department Order SOP 9 in 1969. Over the years, the NYPD refined the process with investigations are conducted in accordance with two guiding documents: “*Patrol Guide Procedure*” and “*The Firearms Discharges Investigation Manual; The NYPD Guide to the Preparation of a Shooting Incident Report.*”

In “*The Correlation Between Range Scores and Gunfight Efficacy*”, the NYPD's 1981 edition of SOP 9 found, “An attempt was made to relate an officer's ability to strike a target in a combat situation to his range qualification scores ended with no clear connection. After making over 200 such comparisons, no firm conclusion was reached.”

Two hundred comparisons were made between range qualification scores and the officer's result in a fight and a connection between them was not established. Search for this online as “*The Correlation Between Range Scores and Gunfight Efficacy*” and “*Hit Potential In Gun Fights*”.

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I am not surprised this study found no correlation.

No, I am not contradicting myself. The problem is law enforcement, military, and other public sector qualifications are usually low level, poorly designed, and intended to be passed, or even maxed, at a low level of skill. Using most police or military qualifications as a measure of shooting skill is like using a simple arithmetic test intended for first grade children as a measure of mathematics knowledge. Even scoring 100% doesn't mean very much.

I wrote *Beyond Expert: Tripling Military Shooting Skills* (<http://amzn.com/B010TT62MG>) several years ago and detailed how reasonably skilled competition shooters were routinely three times better or more than the skill needed to shoot “expert” scores on Army qualifications. Not championship-level competitors, just active competition shooting participants.

An example

While at Camp Bullis a group of us were practicing for an upcoming NATO-designed handgun shooting competition. We were shooting the old 221 EIC course, which consists of eight fairly quick strings of fire on scored Figure 11 silhouettes. Soldiers on shooting teams from every NATO and Commonwealth country have shot this course for several decades. Despite having literally Olympic-level competitors attempt it, this course has never been cleaned in competition. Out of a possible 180 points the best shooters are happy with anything over 170.

Amongst our group scores ranged from highs in the low 170s for the skilled, experienced competitors to lows in the 70s-80s for the newer, less-skilled shooters. That is a 100 point difference in scores on a 180 point course, indicating a large range of skills in attendance.

Upon completion, the OIC had our group finish the day with an official US Army pistol qualification (Alternate Pistol Qualification Course) to satisfy our annual qualification requirements because the Army doesn't count competition courses as qualification.

Everyone in attendance shot 100% range qualification on the U.S. Army APQC (Alternate Pistol Qualifica-



Above: Qualification vs. Competition. The E-type qualification target (left) compared to a Figure 11 competition target (right). Qualification allows splattering shots anywhere on the silhouette for full hit value while the competition target has small interior score rings to earn full value: 5 ring (4 inch), 4 ring (6 inch), and 3 ring (8 inch) with the rest of target scoring 2 points. Plus, qualification allows for complete misses, even for an "expert" qualification.

tion Course). Not a mere "expert" qualification, which allows for a few misses, but 100%. According to the range qualification results, everyone in our group was a perfect pistol shot beyond an "expert" rating and all equally good. Yet, as our previous scores on the more stringent competition course of fire indicated, there was a large range of skills. This Army range qualification is so poorly designed and easy to pass that it is not capable of measuring skill beyond a novice level. Even a perfect score can be shot by relatively low-skilled shooters and everyone scoring less is even worse. Most range qualifications for police and military suffer this fault, so the SOP 9 results are no surprise.

Range results can be a reliable indication of real world skill IF the course of fire used is stringent enough and relevant to real world needs. Range results can be a reliable measure of skill provided you don't consider elementary range qualification results. Find a course demanding a reasonably high level of relevant skill.

The NYPD isn't the only agency compiling such data. In a report compiled by the Metro-Dade Police Department (Statistical Abstract of Shooting Incidents, 1988-1994) there was a correlation found with higher range scores and improved hit rates. It's also worth pointing out that all departments, including the NYPD, have changed things since 1981.

Range results can never be a perfect predictor of success elsewhere, even if more stringent and relevant range exercises are used, because there are too many variables at play. However, good shooting skill as seen on the range helps, especially when people realize "good" shooting skill usually can not be measured with the typically low standards required by most qualification courses. **ARM**

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Military Weapon Cleaning

by Sgt. 1st Class John M. Buol Jr.

Myth – “Firearms must be thoroughly cleaned every time they’re fired and must never be stored dirty.”

Fact – Basic maintenance is simple and quick requiring little more than a wipe down and light lubrication.

This myth was a truism at one time. Many decades ago priming mixtures were corrosive and firing lined the bore with sediment that left unchecked would cause excessive rust and deterioration of the metal. Storing a weapon dirty after firing could destroy it. Some units maintained a 1:3 regimen, cleaning a rifle three times after each trip to the range.

A long time ago, back when corrosive primers were common issue, it was necessary to thoroughly clean three times after each use to prevent corrosion in storage. This is no longer the case and hasn’t been with ammunition manufactured after World War II which use non-corrosive primers. Fouling from burned propellant

(“carbon”) doesn’t harm a firearm and won’t cause problems unless left to build up to the point that it physically blocks or restricts movement of the mechanism. This rarely happens. For example, some gunsmiths recommend removing the bolt from the carrier of an AR-15/M16/M4 type firearms only if there is a problem, not for routine maintenance. Disassembly presented in the TM (Technical Manual) *-10 is the lowest level a basic operator can go if need be but that doesn’t mean you must disassemble that far every time.

ArmaLite, Inc., the company that initially released the AR15/M16 rifle, released “*Technical Note 29, Rifle Cleaning*” and recommends a “detail cleaning” (complete field strip) once every 1,000 rounds and a “combat cleaning” wipe down every 250 rounds. This will change based on environmental conditions and the fact that Soldiers may carry a weapon daily but never shoot it. At any rate, the inventors of the M16 insist that it is important to clean properly, not totally, and that most weapons are damaged by over cleaning them.

Most damaged military weapons get that way by improper and/or excessive cleaning. Most Soldiers never shoot enough to wear a firearm out. We should stop using the word “clean” and start using “*maintain.*” A

Below: Corrosive primers used to require multiple cleanings after firing. This has not been the case since the 1940s.





Above: Most damage done to military small arms is caused by excessive and unnecessary cleaning approaches. Jamming a bending rod down the barrel with no bore guide and over use of solvent tanks are primary culprits.

properly maintained firearm is NOT white glove clean. A wipe of your finger inside the receiver should pick up CLP or other lubricant when maintained.

Maintenance means keeping the mechanism functioning and preventing corrosion. Powder fouling (“carbon”) does no harm and needs to be removed only so that it doesn’t impede function. Apply a bit of solvent, such as RBC (Rifle Bore Cleaner) or Hoppe’s #9, brush the part, leave set for a few minutes and wipe off. This may not remove it all but will get enough carbon to remain functional. That is your goal.

There is no need to strip off all the carbon and it may be counter productive, especially if you are reduced to using harsh degreasers or unauthorized metallic scrapers. Light lubrication should remain to prevent wear and corrosion. Many lubricants have a mild detergent that will bring tiny amounts of fouling out of the metal’s pores. Thus, a wipe of the finger will show residue. This is GOOD! It means there is lubricant/preservative protecting the metal.

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Above: Even slight damage to a barrel’s crown reduces accuracy. The lands in a rifled barrel are about the same height as the thickness of a piece of paper. Stop wrecking your small arms!

Proper maintenance should only take a few minutes when done right.

Review the Technical Manual (or read for the first time) and confirm what I’ve written. If you don’t have a TM handy Google “ArmaLite TECHNICAL NOTE 29, RIFLE CLEANING” for a handy guide.

So why are Soldiers and Marines suffering through extended cleaning sessions, scraping away at parts, using overly-harsh solvent tanks, and destroying perfectly good weapons in the process?

As stated above, before the 1940s when corrosive primers were common, it was necessary to thoroughly clean three times after each use to prevent corrosion in storage. Even though this is no longer the case and hasn’t been with ammunition manufactured after World War Two, military personnel often retain traditions to a fault.

Personnel assigned in an armorer slot are sometimes not actual, trained armorers. Instead, the unit armorer is an NCO of sufficient rank to be entrusted with arms room keys and assigned an extra duty. In the Army, the person may be a 92Y (Unit Supply Specialist) so handling firearms is just another supply inventory task. And to top it off, even formally trained military armorers are more likely to be parts changers, not gunsmiths or marksmen.

The crime usually goes down like this. PVT Joe Snuffy is tasked to clean weapons. We’ll pretend Joe actually bothered to read the TM (Technical Manual)



Above: *Rodding weapons is another source of damage that also causes safety problems, such as this "safety" NCO pointing that rifle at the gray bus (background).*

and found that he only needs to brush and/or wipe away any obvious corruption, put a thin wipe of CLP over the metal surfaces and lightly lubricate the moving parts. In a few minutes he's performing a function check and ready for turn in.

SSG Clueless, a supply clerk with vault keys pretending to be an armorer, "inspects" the maintained weapon. Not really understanding what to look for he wipes his finger along an internal part and picks up a bit of CLP Joe put there to prevent rust and corrosion. "See here, this weapon is dirty. Clean it again."

Below: *My Team issue M16A2 I had from 2004-2018. I used the minimal Armalite-recommended procedures and never experienced a malfunction with this rifle, even though your arms room NCO would have rejected it as "dirty". Soldiers claiming the M16/M4 series unreliable is due to improper cleaning and causing damage.*



This frustrates Joe and rightly so. This Private actually glanced at the relevant TM within the past five years instantly making him more qualified than this "armorer." However, Clueless is four pay grades above Joe and in charge of the arms room, so Joe loses.

Joe swabs away on his already-maintained weapon. He gets pipe cleaners, cotton swabs and starts into every little nook and cranny to clean everything. A half hour later Clueless rejects it again.

Joe is annoyed and desperate and just wants the ordeal over. Determined to not come back a third time he is ready to strip the thing dry. Harsh degreasers, metal picks, solvent tank baths. Who cares if its not in the TM? Who cares if this does no good and will likely cause real damage? Clueless won't take it unless it is really "clean."

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An hour later Clueless does his white glove treatment. The bone dry, unpreserved, unlubricated, scraped parts have had any remaining protective finish scratched away. There is nothing there now but bare, unprotected metal. In addition to the real damage caused and the increased likelihood of rust and corrosion during storage, this lack of lubrication on solvent-stripped parts also sets the stage for a string of malfunctions next time the weapon is used during qualification. Of course, this will be blamed on how "unreliable" the M16/M4 or M9 is. Any attempted remedy will happen hurriedly on the firing line and involve a large amount of CLP pumped aimlessly into the hapless weapon. But, for now, Clueless seems content so Joe is happy.

And that is how the Army cleans guns, Joe learns. Years later, Joe reclasses as 92Y, is entrusted with the arms room and ready to pass on the "lessons" SSG Clueless taught him to other Soldiers and civilian shooting pals. **ARM**

Competition Guns and Skill

by Sgt. 1st Class John M. Buol Jr.

It is popular in some circles to lambast organized competitive shooting and the equipment used there. Usually, there are no concrete examples, just the usual suspects of unsubstantiated claims. Part of the claim is pining for the good ol' days. Here's an example:

"When I first started out in the private sector, Jeff Cooper influenced me. I wrote a letter to him in 1975 and told him I would like to learn more about his combat shooting techniques... When IPSC started, in the mid '70s, it was combat shooting. We were drawing from holsters, shooting multiple targets, reloading under stress, using varying courses and it was "radical." For the first five or six years, people showed up with guns that represented what people really carried — and then it started to evolve. I think Americans uniquely tend to bastardize everything they get involved in, and you started seeing guns and holsters made strictly for IPSC competition. Then the mindset of the real hardcore competitor shifted to trying to gain an edge by any means, and it gravitated to the point that it lost any relevancy to the real world."

Ah, the good ol' days. Back when things were right and pure. When combat shooting was real world and participants only used true and proper carry gear. Nobody tried "to gain an edge by any means" like those conniving competitors and their fake equipment today.

Not so much. When practical shooting was in its infancy in the late 1950s, there was no competition-specific gear for it. Over time, top competitors began

learning what techniques, training approaches, and equipment worked best by looking to the winners. By the end of the 1950s participants began using competition-specific guns and gear.

The 1911 began surfacing as a dominant platform but

The Colt .45 auto, slightly modified by the author for combat competition. Over fifty years old, this is still the world's best combat sidearm.



The author's "full-race" competition rig, by Alfonso.



Ray Chapman's competition rig, by Andy Anderson.



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Right: Practical "combat" pistol competition equipment common in the late 1950s. None of this was common issue and was custom built for competition in the new, fledgling sport.





Above: Competition is an ideal way to test various skills, techniques, and equipment to determine what works best. As these early photos show, it took time before the idea of using the sights and both hands was common.

the as-issue gun didn't always have the nicest trigger or adjustable sights as found on revolvers. They also sometimes exhibited less-than-stellar reliability with anything besides military round nose ammunition. Competitors took their Government models to custom gunsmiths to retrofit adjustable revolver sights and have trigger and action jobs done. None of this was found on actual carry guns of the day, military or police, but competitors did it to gain an edge. Some early competitors noted that merely having a handgun reliable enough to always complete a match without a single malfunction was a competitive advantage.

Practical shooters (often called "combat" shooting) of the 1950s and 1960s were using "rooney" guns, that is, firearms modified with the best-known modifications of the day and intended to win competitions. Jack Weaver points out this happened at the very beginning, decades before, with competitors using competition-specific "ring holsters." Of course, not every idea worked out. Weaver tells this "ring holster" design routinely jammed, locking the gun to the belt. Competition demonstrated what refinements did prove reliable and useful. Most of these have since found their way into readily-available aftermarket accessories and into factory production guns.

This was also true of holsters.

"A gun belt holster can be very safe and very fast, but only uniformed personnel can normally wear a weapon on a gun belt. The defensive pistol is much more often and more usefully carried on a trouser belt; therefore the gun belt holster is largely restricted to military and police situations, and formalized competition.



"While practical shooting is as free from regulation as possible, it finally became necessary to specify that all holsters used in practical competition be truly practical. This pretty well rules out the gun belt holster except for policemen who choose to wear the equipment that they are required to wear on the street."

– Jeff Cooper
Complete Book of Shooting
 Outdoor Life Books
 Copyright 1965
 page 283

IPSC, USPSA, and IDPA have rules mandating belts that fit through the regular trouser belt loops for this reason. Those "rooney" gun belt holsters were influenced by competitive Fast Draw which had its heyday at the same time practical shooting started. In fact, the very first practical shooting competitions organized by Jeff Cooper at Big Bear called Leatherslaps were influenced by and marketed around the Fast Draw and cowboy/wild west chic popular at the time.

Attached are the pictures to prove it. This collection of photos are of combat competition equipment used

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Above: The big win competition provides is a platform for learning the best-known way to shoot for high performance. For example, experience in properly setting up equipment such as holster placement avoids novice errors by inexperienced shooters as shown by these Soldiers. Qualification shooting is so low level that it never exposes such problems, where as the higher level shooting needed to do well in competition rapidly demonstrates and provides insights to correct it.

by Jeff Cooper and other competitors in the 1950s and 1960s.

These holsters and guns popular in the 1950s and 1960s weren't based on real carry gear. They were custom-built competition equipment designed to win contests, just like today. This helped teach what the optimum approach to learn shooting for better performance is. That is a good thing. I'll let Jeff Cooper explain why.

“It is said that competition is the life of trade. It is equally true that competition is the life of marksmanship. Not only does the universal drive to excel spur us to prove our shooting to be better than the next man's, but contests bring us into contact with the best men in the field, show us what our standards of performance must be, and test new developments in equipment and technique.”

“The man who works alone, or who completes a standard training program, may develop a useful degree of skill, but he will be most unlikely to discover more than about 50 percent of his potential unless he competes regularly and formally with his peers. For this reason, any sportsman's association or gun club is remiss unless it conducts regular local matches for its members.”

– Jeff Cooper 



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Public Affairs Change

by Sgt. 1st Class John M. Buol Jr.

I have been fulfilling the role of Public Affairs for the Marksmanship Program in an unpaid, unassigned, voluntary role. Despite AR 140-1 officially directing this as a Regulation requirement, neither USARC, OCAR, the Marksmanship Program, nor the Team fund managers are willing to formally support this.

AR 360-1 (Paragraph 2-4 and 8-3) now requires OPSEC Level II training. Because I am fulfilling this officially-directed position with no support, I am not able to attend this in-residence course, and am now “unqualified” to continue meeting the requirement even as a volunteer.

I will continue to submit News items and other articles to Army Reserve Public Affairs. Hopefully, they will publish them.

Going forward, all Marksmanship Program Public Affairs are now hosted at:

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SensibleShooter: Beyond Practical

Practical shooting started as the first attempt to expand skilled shooters beyond the bullseye. It has succeeded in that we now know more about shooting, gun handling and equipment than before. The problem is that much artificiality has crept in and reduced the genre's ability to teach effective practical shooting skills.

Other groups attempt to fix this by claiming to be more tactical than thou. Don't follow the black-suited super pirate ninja Nomex-panty crowd. Practical shooting should focus on developing the core skills of real world shooting: Smoothly operate your firearm and ancillary gear while generating sufficient accuracy within quick time frames. Get all your hits and do it faster than the other guy.

You don't need a course of fire with more props than a Hollywood set to accomplish this. Rather than offering a bland, alleged imitation of a gun fight, promote learning how to run your gear and yourself really fast while under stress.

What's right about practical shooting

Practical shooting tests skills useful in real world applications. It has its roots in martial/combat shooting. First came conventional (bullseye) shooting, derived from the first formalized marksmanship training programs. This was an important step and the principles founded in conventional shooting serve as the back bone of all forms of marksmanship. But group shooting is the beginning step, albeit an important one. Eventually, if the firearm is to serve any useful purpose, the shooter must learn handling skills and develop consistent smoothness with them. Getting into position, on target, ready for sustained action is as critical as raw precision for real world use. Practical shooting tests all these elements like no other discipline before it.

What's wrong with practical shooting

A common complaint against practical shooting is unrealistic guns, gear and scenarios. While there is truth in this, it only scratches the surface. Even the most "gamey" practical events have provisions for basic issue/production equipment, which is what the majority of participants use, and the "rooney" match-only gear of today may find real world application tomorrow. For example, "unpractical" optical sights have now become commonly issued sights in the military and on police tactical teams and the trigger blocks first used on skimpy "full race" holsters have found use as retention devices in security holsters.

A bigger issue with courses is that they are ineffective at teaching practical shooting. Shooting a stage won't help you learn to be a better shooter without a break down analysis. Let's ask a top pro shooter about this:

"When I shoot a match, I break down a stage into basic shooting functions. I then practice those functions as a drill until I perfect my performance. I only train using drills... Stages are too complicated and don't allow you to properly improve a specific area."

– Rob Leatham

If a long time, top champion shooter like Rob Leatham still has to break everything down into a drill, then so do the rest of us. Why not dispense with the circus-carnival stages and focus on running real, skill-building courses at matches instead? Would that not be sensible?

Rarely mentioned is the hassle in setting up and scoring typical events. To host any number of separate courses a range must have separate bays or shooting areas. Only one shooter can shoot the course at a time, creating a bottleneck for an event of any size. A course that a good shooter can complete in under 20 seconds may take a few people several minutes to score, paste and reset, and then several person-hours to set up before the event and later tear down. A practical course should be sensible to set up and run, too.

A complete event featuring several courses should be fast and simple to set up and run while remaining challenging and useful. One person should be able to set up an entire event with an official classifier in ten minutes or so and tear it down even faster. Events with official classifiers should not require special-built multi-bay ranges or a storage shed for targets and props. All the targets, props and supplies for an event should fit in the trunk of a sedan and be affordable for an individual shooter. Once set up most events should not require anyone to go down range to paste or reset targets. Courses should focus on development of relevant skills. The participants determine what is "relevant" and structure courses to suit them.

<https://funshoot.com>

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