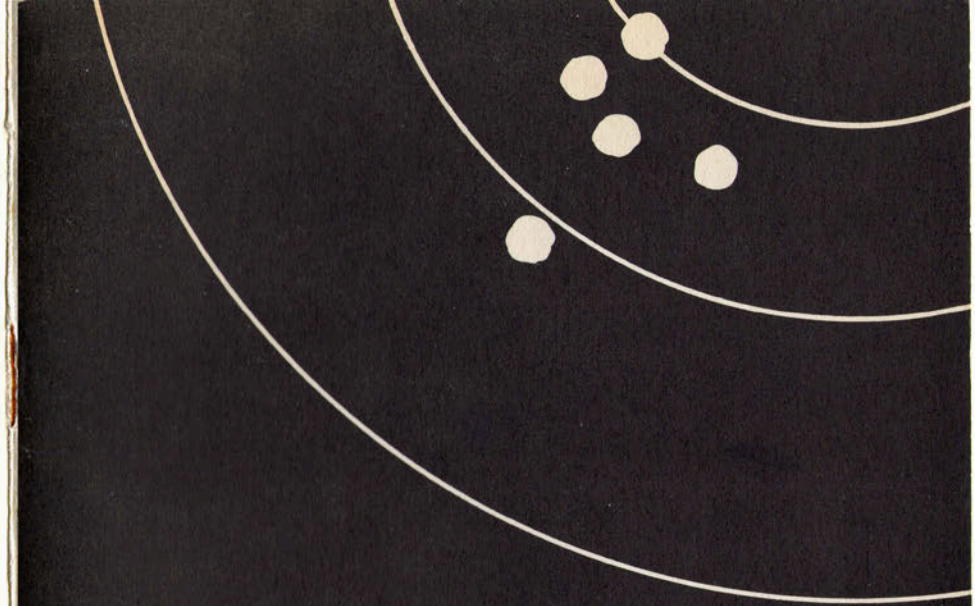
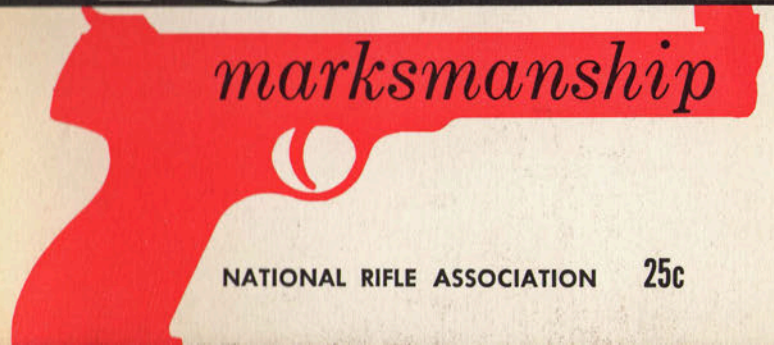
DESIGNED AND LITHOGRAPHED by HENNAGE



basic

PISTOL

marksmanship



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION 25c

basic **PISTOL** *marksmanship*

FOREWORD

This book has one main objective—to start at the beginning of pistol marksmanship, and in the simplest way possible, give the beginner the fundamental information necessary for safety and good shooting. There will be no attempt made to cover all aspects of pistol shooting. The material will be limited to slow, timed and rapid fire with the .22 caliber pistol. The ambition and interest of the shooter must serve to carry him beyond that point and into the various stages of firing with larger caliber guns.

This information has been gleaned from many sources, and represents the accumulation of many years of experience. It is not the opinion of one shooter but represents the combined thinking and skill of many. Its simplicity should not deceive the reader into feeling that these basic considerations are not important. As is the case with all physical skills, proficiency in pistol marksmanship is dependent on the mastery of fundamentals. This mastery is the result of a desire to learn, good instruction and a willingness to practice.

The chapters which do not deal specifically with firing the pistol are also important. Many types of supplementary information and many related skills are necessary to the shooter since he must be aware of the need for rigid safety precautions, the obligation of good sportsmanship and a sincere regard for firearms as precision instruments that require and deserve proper care.

It is suggested that the new pistol shooter secure a copy of the "NRA Pistol Rules." The rules include many kinds of information essential to the competitive shooter.

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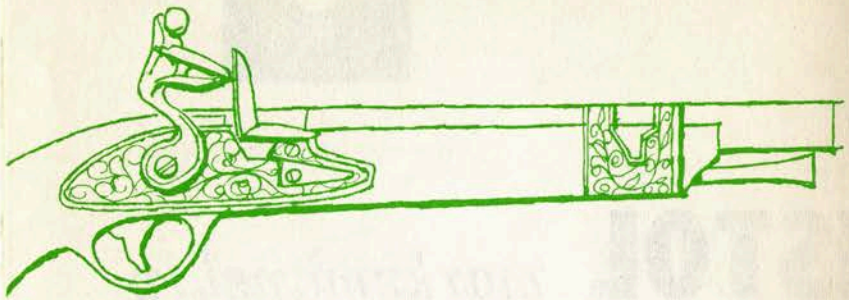
CONTENTS



Introduction

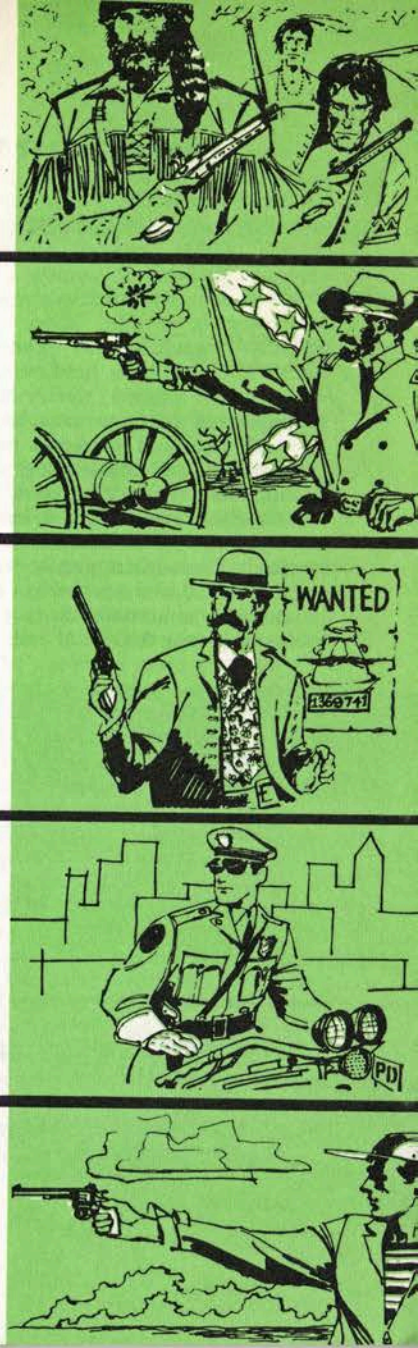
WHEN we think of an event in American history, chances are the mental picture formed will have a gun in it. It isn't necessarily a military picture but one of average people going about their day-to-day activities.

The pistol will always have romantic appeal for Americans because of the part it played in the settling of our country. We may feel that "playing cowboy" is not a very dignified adult occupation, but few of us fail to respond to the exploits of the men who won the west. All of them were not admirable men, but each of them played his part in the development of the new country—and each had one constant companion, the pistol. Life depended on the gun. The gun provided protection, food and about the only sense of security available at the time. It was important.

In those days a man was not considered fully dressed unless he had a gun holstered at his hip or somewhere on his person. However, as towns and cities grew and the country began to settle down the need for pistols decreased. Eventually, only law enforcement officers had any need to carry one regularly.

It is somewhat ironic that a nation which had much to do with the development and practical use of handguns has not continued to be a nation of good marksmen. Only in recent years has there been a marked reawakening of interest in pistol shooting as a sport and the appearance of many outstanding pistol shooters. The sport is admirably suited to wide participation since it does not require any remarkable characteristics of strength or coordination, nor does it require a great deal of money.

Today the civilian has no need for the low-slung holster and the quick draw, but there is and always will be a need for reputable citizens who can handle pistols safely and efficiently. There is great fun and satisfaction ahead for those who want to learn.

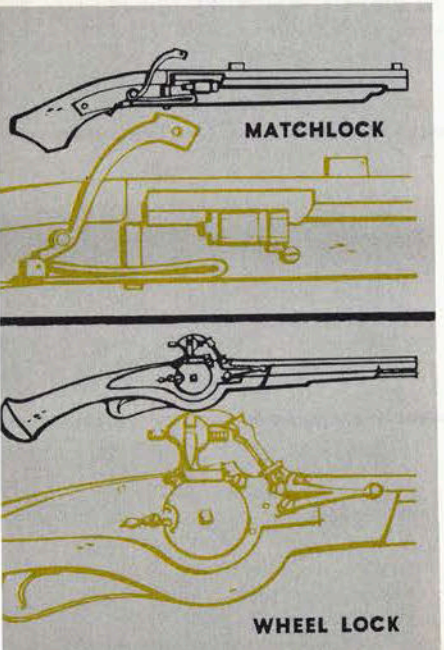


HISTORY OF THE PISTOL

The word "pistol," it is said, comes from the name of a town, Pistoia, in northern Italy. Handguns were manufactured there in the 15th and 16th centuries and the name attached itself to the gun.

All one-hand guns are pistols; single-shot pistols, revolving pistols, or revolvers, and self-loading, or "automatics." Although current usage has connected the word "pistol" pretty largely with the self-loading type it is actually proper to use it in connection with all handguns.

The history of firearms is actually a history of the ignition of ammunition. The earliest pistols were simply small iron or bronze tubes closed at one end and attached to crude wooden stocks.* Ignition of the powder charge was accomplished by applying a burning match or fuse to a small opening near the closed end.

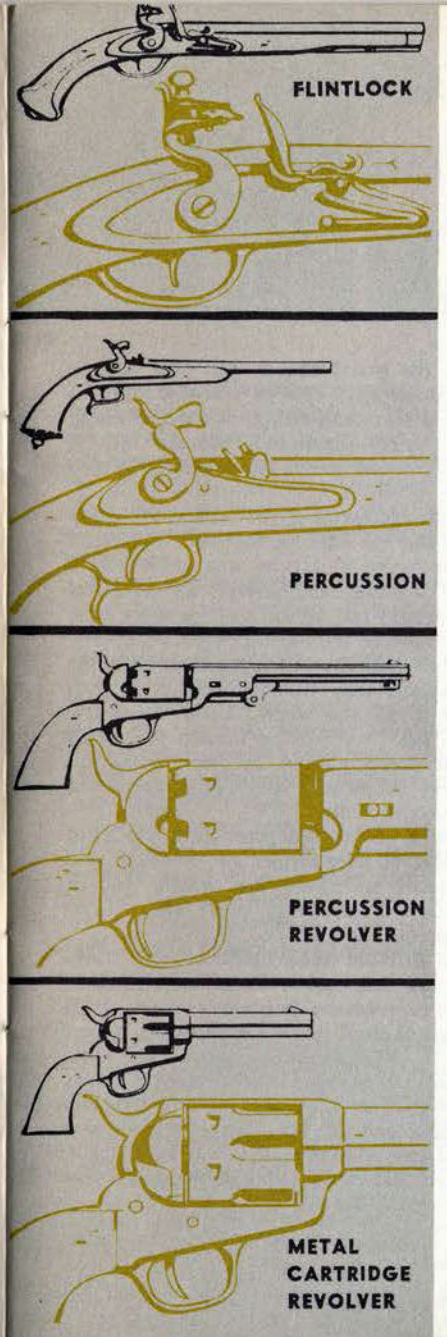


Later the glowing match was lowered into the priming pan by means of a trigger operated mechanism. This type action was called the MATCHLOCK.

During the 16th century, the WHEEL LOCK pistol was invented in Germany. In the wheel lock sparks were thrown into the priming pan by a spring-operated wheel. The wheel, rubbing against flint, operated quite like a modern cigarette lighter.

At the end of the 16th century a more practical lock for creating sparks was invented. The action of flint snapping against hardened scored steel created the sparks. Thus the FLINTLOCK came into being and by 1675 was the only type in use. It's use extended well into the 1800's.

** In fact, Webster's Dictionary says the pistol got it's name from a French word meaning "pipe."*



With the discovery of fulminate of mercury as a priming compound, the PERCUSSION pistol came into existence in the early 1800's. The explosive primer, enclosed in a copper cap, was mounted on a cone or nipple which served both as an anvil and passageway for the flame. With the percussion cap multiple firing in the modern sense became possible, although pistols were still essentially muzzle loaders.

Multiple barrel pistols of many types were made but in 1836 Samuel Colt invented the revolving pistol, or REVOLVER. A revolving cylinder with separately loaded chambers which came into alignment with a single barrel was the innovation. During the 1860's the self-contained metallic cartridge came into use and permitted the development of the true breech-loading pistol. Cartridge revolvers have continued in use until the present time.

The last major development in the pistol came from the famous firearms inventor, John M. Browning, at the end of the 19th century. Many of today's pistols are the SELF-LOADING repeating type, frequently called "automatics." They operate on the energy of the gases from the firing cartridge. The magazine, or "clip," which holds the additional cartridges is most often found in the grip. The cartridges are pushed into the loading mechanism by spring pressure. The current U. S. military pistol is a modified Colt Model 1911 .45 caliber self-loading pistol.

Meet the Pistol

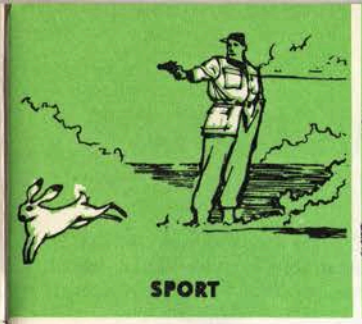
Meet the pistol! In some cases it's the best friend a man ever had, in others the most cantankerous piece of machinery ever invented and in still others, a fearsome instrument—but always interesting, always exerting great appeal. With knowledge of the safety practices connected with it and skill in its use, the pistol can be a friend and a never-ending source of pleasure.

The study of any firearm starts with an emphasis on safety. Shooting is a sport, a recreation and a vital part of national defense, but strict obedience to the rules of safety is imperative if it is to stay enjoyable to the millions who wish to participate. To understand safety with the pistol it is necessary to know how the pistol works but safety involves more than mechanical knowledge. Assuming the shooter has sound information and at least moderate skill he still must have the proper attitude in order to be safe. The "smart aleck," the "hot-shot," the "cowboy" is not safe to have around, regardless of his ability to hit the target. Constant awareness of the potentialities of the pistol and concern for oneself and one's fellows are essential to safety. These considerations are of special importance with the pistol since its short barrel and mobility increase the likelihood of pointing it at people unintentionally.

Fundamental knowledge of the pistol is just as important as its proficient use. If there is a thorough understanding of how results are obtained, and why things happen, there is every reason to expect that results will be good and that, based on the foundation of knowing "how" and "why," practice will bring continued improvement.

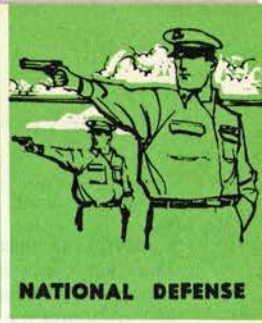
The .22 caliber pistol is widely used in basic pistol marksmanship training. It has many advantages. It makes less noise. Its relatively small recoil makes it easier to spot the more common beginner's faults. It is less expensive to shoot, although the pistol itself doesn't vary much in cost from the larger calibers.

There are those who feel that any .22 caliber gun is something of a toy. Nothing could be further from the truth. The basic principles of shooting the pistol are the same regardless of the caliber. The .22 pistol fires ammunition that can carry a mile, and travels at about 1400 feet per second. Besides, the modern .22 long rifle cartridge is superbly accurate. No, it isn't a toy!



SPORT

RECREATION



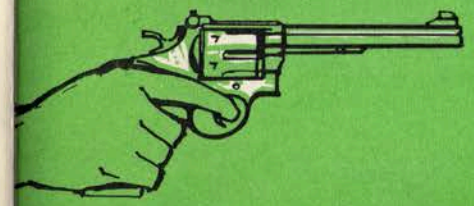
NATIONAL DEFENSE

Either the .22 caliber revolver or self-loading pistol may be used in basic marksmanship training. They both shoot the same ammunition and are equally accurate. Each has certain advantages over the other. The self-loader is heavier and many shooters feel that to be an advantage. At the same time, there is a tendency to get the shots off more rapidly with the self-loader because it doesn't need to be cocked between shots. The inclination to consider each shot separately with the revolver is a distinct advantage.

Many new shooters will want to move into timed and rapid-fire quickly since the accelerated pace is very stimulating. There's no denying it's fun but serious bad habits can be developed if the new shooter tries to move ahead too fast. The best foundation for good timed and rapid-fire shooting is a sound background of slow-fire. The establishment of rhythm and good habits in the fundamentals learned in slow-fire will be well worth the wait. The beginner, shooting rapid-fire, may very well violate every rule of good marksmanship in his haste to get shots away. The more accelerated phases of pistol shooting should come after at least a moderate skill has been achieved in slow-fire.

Pistol shooting isn't as much of a spectator sport as football or baseball, but it comes closer to real spectator appeal than most shooting sports. The sport is made up of a large group of shooters who are interested in its growth and improvement. The new shooter is welcome and with good training and conscientous practice he will soon feel at home in that company. A thorough knowledge of the fundamentals is the key to success.

REVOLVER



SELF-LOADER

Pistol Parts and Operation

SINCE all firearms are basically alike, names of parts are also very similar. The two types of pistol each have four major assembly groups. Each has frame, barrel and action assemblies. In addition, the revolver has the cylinder assembly and the self-loader has the slide assembly.

THE main difference between the revolver and the self-loading pistol is the means by which cartridges are put in firing position. Cocking the revolver hammer rotates the cylinder. The self-loader carries its extra cartridges in a magazine. Spring pressure forces the cartridges upward. The slide moves to the rear when the pistol is fired. Spring pressure drives it forward again and it moves a cartridge from the magazine into the chamber.

THE BARREL

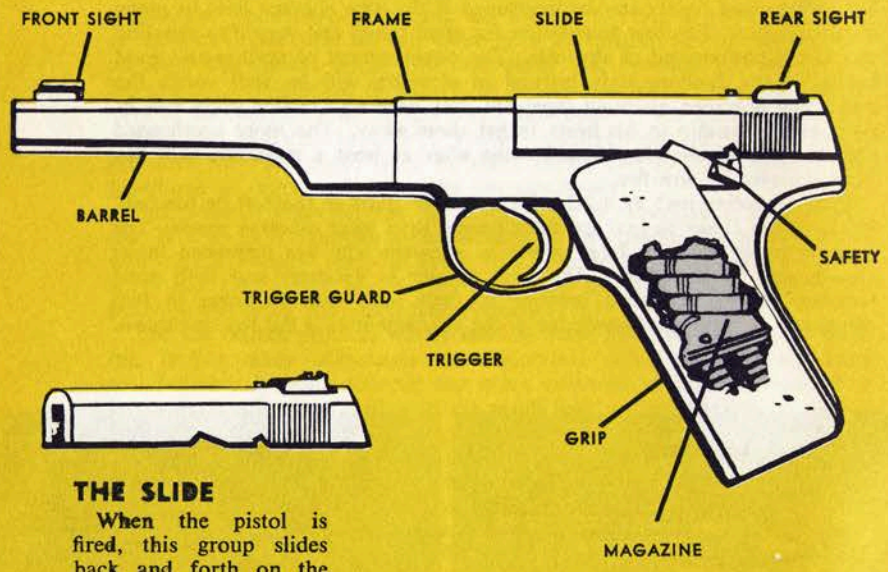
with sights, gives the bullet direction. The spiral rifling imparts a spin which stabilizes the bullet in flight like a football.

THE FRAME

forms the backbone to which all other groups are attached. It also gives the pistol its basic outline or silhouette.

THE ACTION

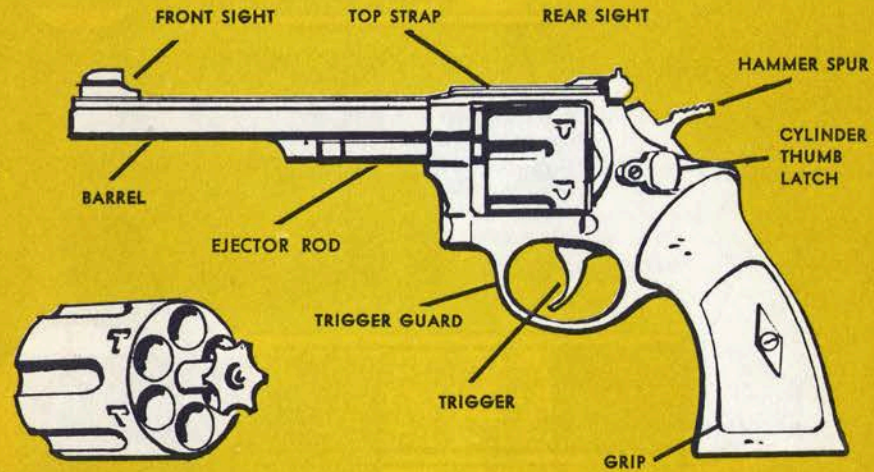
is the heart of the gun. It contains parts which cock the hammer, move the cylinder or slide and fire the gun.



THE SLIDE

When the pistol is fired, this group slides back and forth on the frame. It contains the firing pin and the extractor.

SELF-LOADER



THE CYLINDER

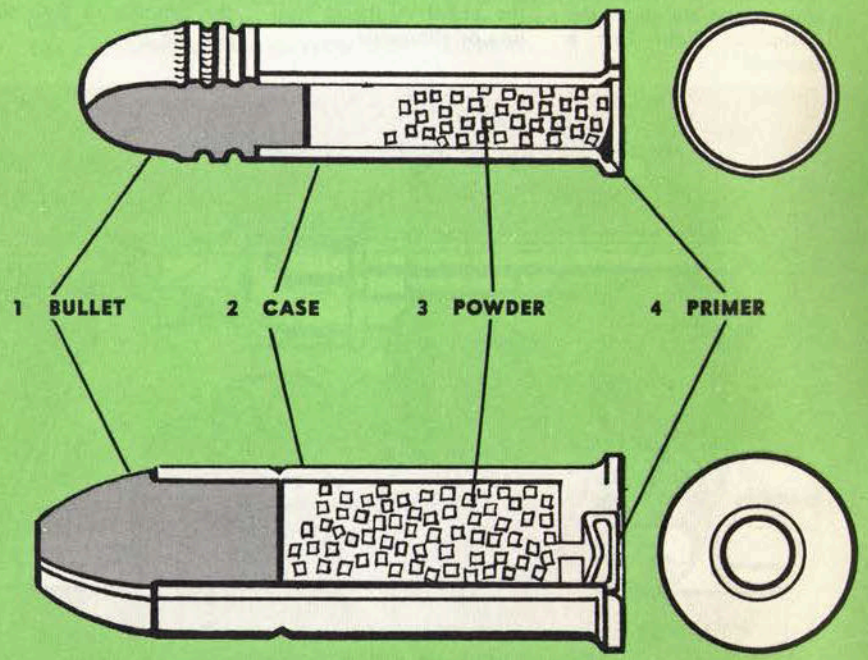
brings a new loaded chamber into line with the barrel and hammer. The group contains the extractor.

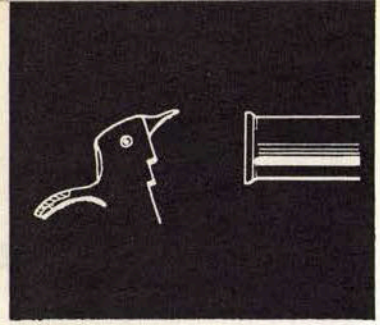
REVOLVER

AMMUNITION

AMMUNITION is of two types—rimfire and centerfire. In each case the name comes from the location of the primer. Modern rimfire ammunition is .22 caliber. The larger calibers are centerfire. Both types have four components—the case, the primer, the powder charge and the bullet.

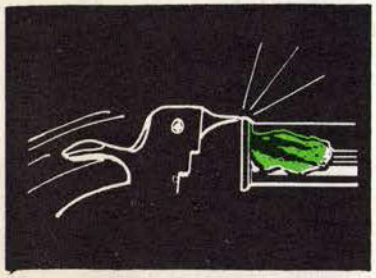
It is suggested that the .22 shooter use the lubricated rather than the dry type.





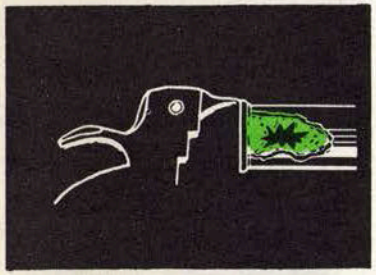
THE CASE

is a brass, steel or copper cylinder, closed at one end, containing the other three components. It has a rim which positions it in the chamber.



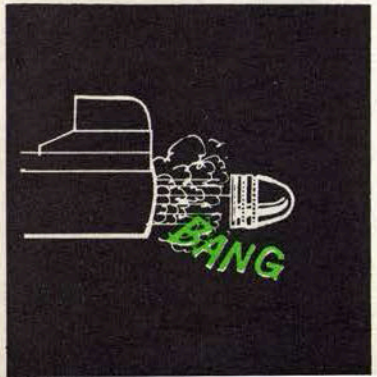
THE PRIMER

contains a very sensitive explosive compound. When struck, the compound changes chemical structure and disintegrates completely.



THE POWDER CHARGE

burns when ignited by the explosion of the primer. The burning creates great quantities of gas which expand very rapidly. When unconfined, modern smokeless powder burns about like celluloid.



THE BULLET

is the projectile and is made of lead or lead jacketed with a harder metal. The expanding gases push it from the barrel.

A ROUND

of ammunition is one complete cartridge ready for firing.

3

Safety and Range Discipline

A GOOD SHOOTER IS A SAFE SHOOTER

SAFETY with guns, as with any other potentially hazardous machine, comes through learning and practicing safe procedures until they become habit. Add to knowledge and skill true respect for the pistol and accidents will not happen. Guns are dangerous only when people make them so. When handled improperly they can be instruments of danger to people and property; when handled correctly there is no danger. Obedience to the rules of safety and to range commands makes target shooting the safest sport we know.

Accidents don't just happen. They are caused by ignorance or disregard for safe procedure. Horseplay is an example of disregard for safety rules which is not allowed in marksmanship classes or on the pistol range. The rules of safety and proper gun handling should be practiced until they are never out of mind. They should be observed at all times.

GENERAL RULES FOR SAFETY

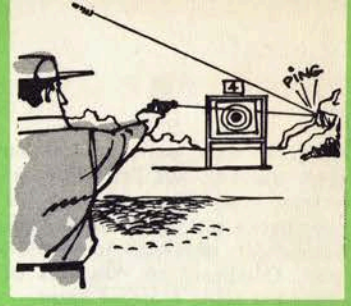
1 TREAT EVERY GUN AS IF IT IS LOADED, AT ALL TIMES.

2 ALWAYS KEEP ACTION OPEN.

3 KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.

4 KNOW YOUR GUN AND AMMUNITION.

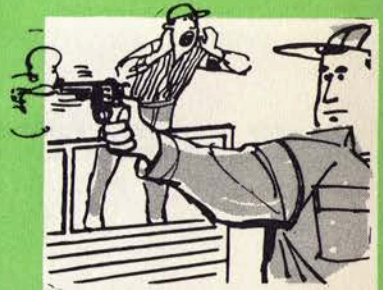
5 BE SURE OF YOUR BACKSTOP.



6 BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT'S BEYOND.

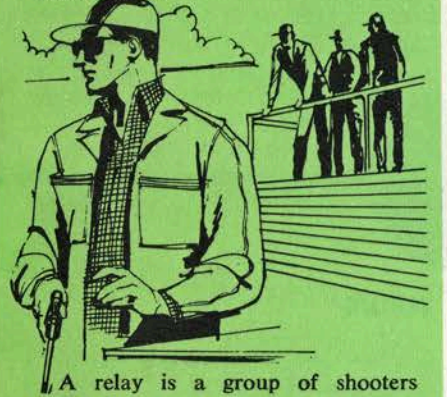
7 GUNS AND DRINK DON'T MIX.

8 OBEY ALL FIRING LINE COMMANDS IMMEDIATELY.



RANGE PROCEDURES

When ready to begin a match, the Range Officer commands, "RELAY NO. 1, MATCH NO. ..... (or naming the match) ON THE FIRING LINE. THE PREPARATION PERIOD STARTS NOW."



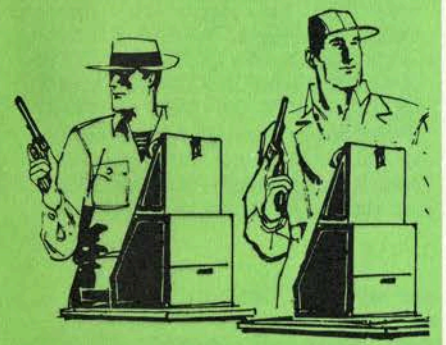
A relay is a group of shooters which fires at one time. At command, relay comes to line and prepares to fire. No one loads!

At the end of the 3 minute preparation period, the Range Officer commands, "THE PREPARATION PERIOD HAS ENDED." After making certain the range is clear, he commands, "WITH 5 ROUNDS, LOAD."

Pistols may now be loaded. When shooters appear ready, Range Officer gives the next command.

". . . IS THE LINE READY? . . ."

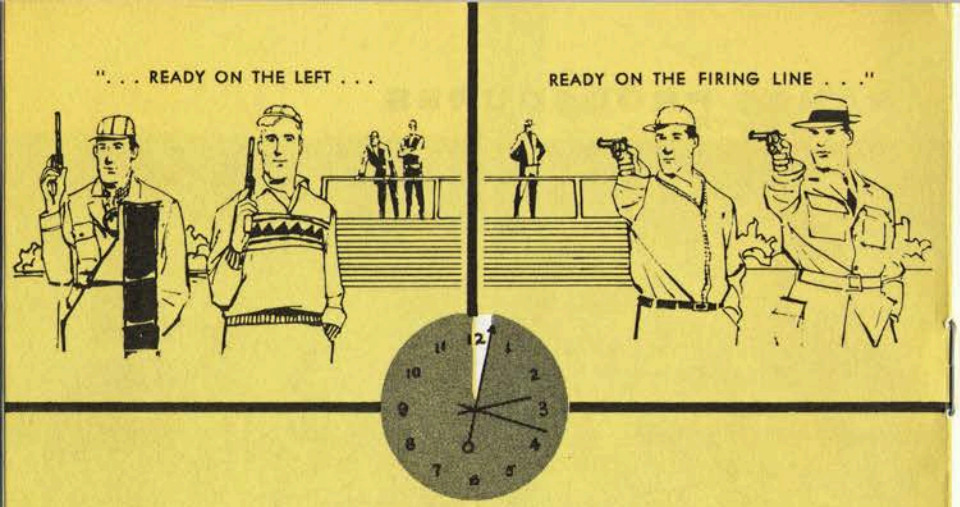
". . . THE LINE IS READY. . . ."



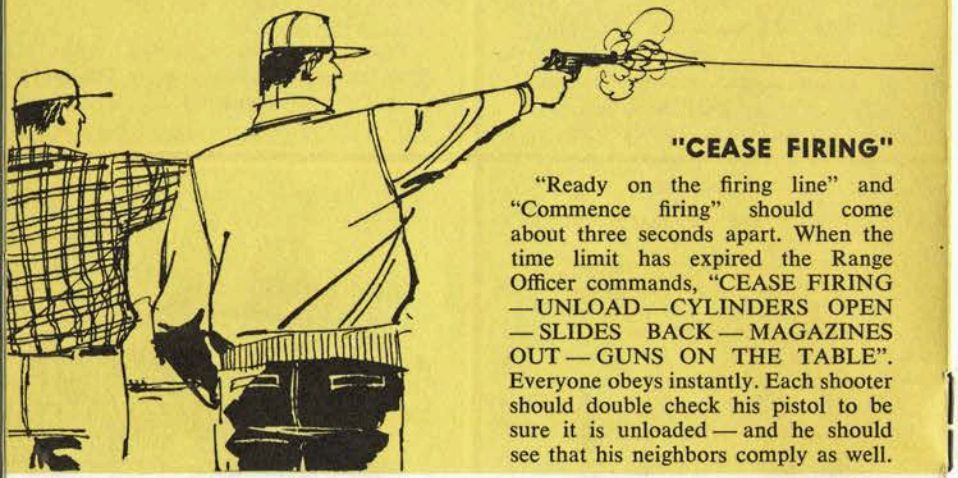
If one or more shooters are not ready, the Chief Range Officer will say, "The line is not ready."

". . . READY ON THE RIGHT . . ."

Until the command "Ready on the firing line" any shooter who is not ready may say, "Not ready on point . . ." The Range Officer will then command "As you were . . ."



"COMMENCE FIRING"



"CEASE FIRING"

"Ready on the firing line" and "Commence firing" should come about three seconds apart. When the time limit has expired the Range Officer commands, "CEASE FIRING —UNLOAD—CYLINDERS OPEN —SLIDES BACK—MAGAZINES OUT—GUNS ON THE TABLE". Everyone obeys instantly. Each shooter should double check his pistol to be sure it is unloaded—and he should see that his neighbors comply as well.

When a malfunction occurs or any unusual situation arises and cannot be readily cleared, the shooter should CALL THE RANGE OFFICER. Any unusual incident should be brought to his attention. It is better to miss a string of shots than to risk an accident.

Position and Grip

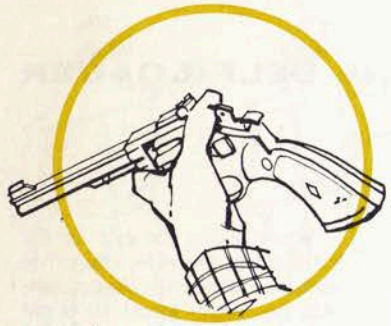
BODY position and the way the pistol is held are of vital importance in firing a good score. In the beginning both may seem awkward but practice will eliminate that feeling. Although a standard position and grip are taught to beginners many variations appear as the shooter gains experience and adapts the principles to his own body.

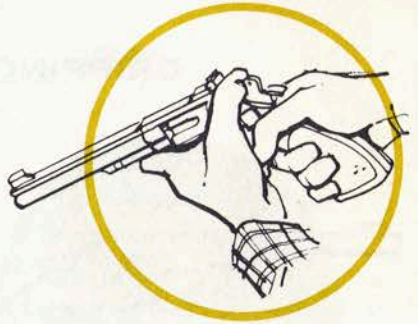
The most important consideration is comfort. Comfort makes possible the relaxation and concentration necessary to good shooting.

GRIPPING THE REVOLVER

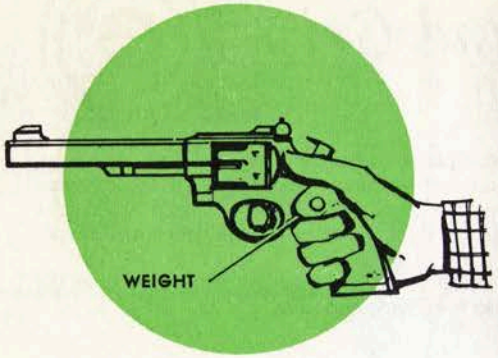
The importance of the hand position on the grip of a pistol cannot be overemphasized. Although the grip construction of the revolver and self-loader are different, the gripping procedure is essentially the same.

The hand should be as high on the grip as is allowed by the rear extension of the frame on the self-loader and the hammer spur of the revolver.

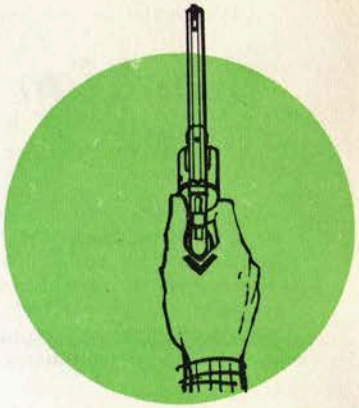




The gun is cradled under the trigger guard in the left hand. The hammer should be drawn back to the full cock position with the right thumb. The left thumb should then be placed between the hammer and the frame to prevent accidental firing. The "V" formed by the right thumb and the first finger is then fitted as high as possible on the grip. The heel of the hand is solidly behind the grip so gun will recoil straight back.



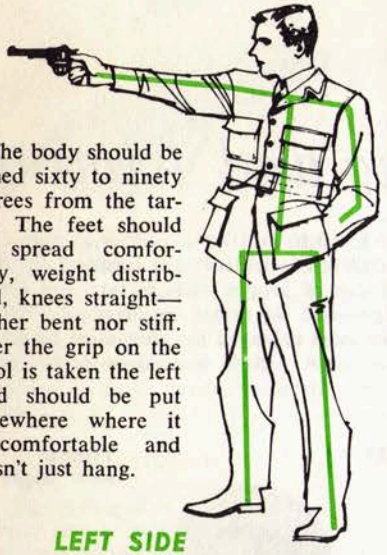
The first finger should be placed on the trigger almost up to the first joint. THE LEFT THUMB STAYS BETWEEN HAMMER AND FRAME UNTIL THE GUN IS



EXTENDED FOR FIRING.

After extending the gun, the right thumb rests along the frame on top of the cylinder latch.

BODY POSITION



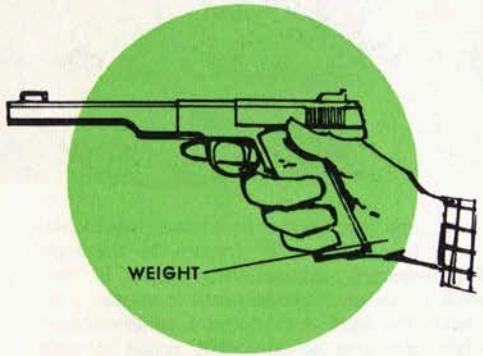
The body should be turned sixty to ninety degrees from the target. The feet should be spread comfortably, weight distributed, knees straight—neither bent nor stiff. After the grip on the pistol is taken the left hand should be put somewhere where it is comfortable and doesn't just hang.

LEFT SIDE

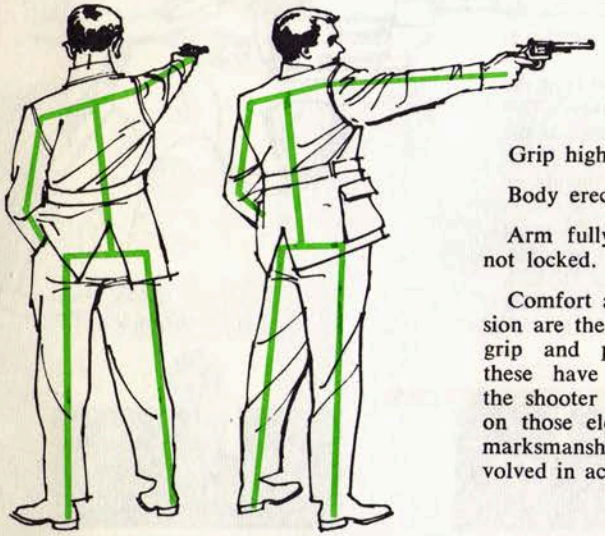
The arm should be extended full length—elbow straight but not locked. The head is erect. Correct foot position may be found by pointing the finger at the target. The eyes are closed to see if the finger stays on target. The exercise is repeated and the feet shifted until it does.

FRONT

GRIPPING THE SELF-LOADER



When taking the grip on the self-loader the first finger is extended along the frame outside the trigger guard. It is not put on the trigger until the pistol is extended toward the target. The thumb lies horizontally along the frame just below the slide. The other fingers are placed firmly around the grip.



REAR RIGHT SIDE

Grip high and firm.

Body erect—but not stiff.

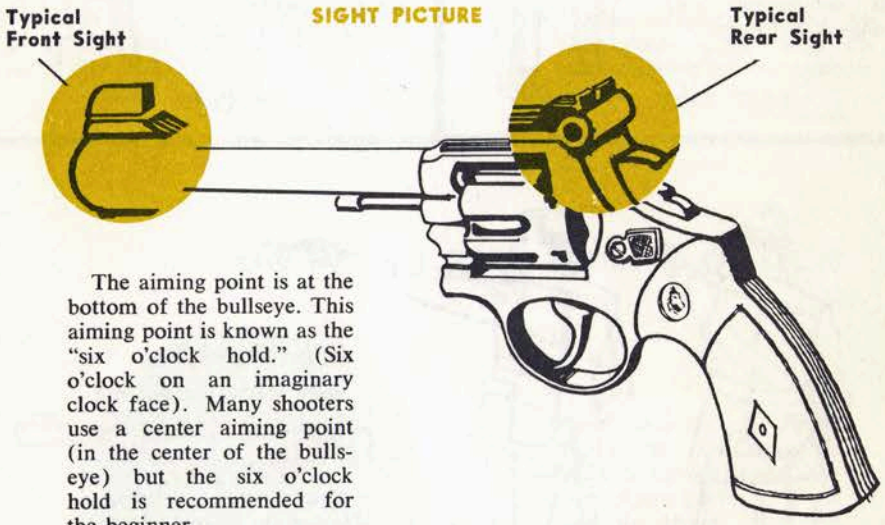
Arm fully extended—but not locked.

Comfort and lack of tension are the secrets of good grip and position. When these have been achieved the shooter can concentrate on those elements of good marksmanship which are involved in actual firing.

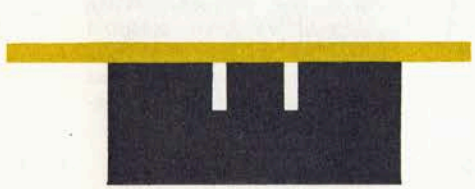
5 Sighting and Aiming

The new shooter's first objective is to learn to put shots together in a group, regardless of scores or bulleyes. A number of elements are involved in this feat but basic to this skill is a knowledge of proper sight picture and sight alignment. The rear sight, the front sight, and the target are involved. When proper sight picture and alignment have been achieved the shot must be fired without disturbing it. Overemphasis on sight picture sometimes causes bad alignment. Both are important.

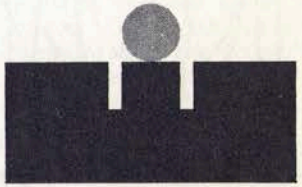
SIGHT PICTURE



The aiming point is at the bottom of the bullseye. This aiming point is known as the "six o'clock hold." (Six o'clock on an imaginary clock face). Many shooters use a center aiming point (in the center of the bullseye) but the six o'clock hold is recommended for the beginner.



Correct sight alignment



Correct sight picture

Both eyes should be kept open if possible. More light will be available and depth perception will be better. The stronger eye will still control aiming. Many good shooters close one eye but the new shooter would do well to make every attempt to use both.

The gun cannot be held motionless on the target. This situation can never be entirely overcome. Practice helps to condition arm and shoulder muscles and helps cut down the area over which the sights move. Gripping too tightly or failure to rest between shots causes excessive movement.

SIGHT ADJUSTMENT

Sights should be changed only after shots are grouping consistently—regardless of the location of the group. The new shooter should fire at least 20 rounds on one bullseye to establish a group.

Target sights are frequently micrometer sights and can be adjusted. The standard rule for sight adjustment is "MOVE THE REAR SIGHT IN THE SAME DIRECTION THE HITS ON THE TARGET SHOULD MOVE". Vertical adjustment of the sight is called correction in elevation. Horizontal adjustment is called a correction in windage.

1 *No group . . . no adjustment*

3 *Rear sight moved right and down until . . .*

2 *Group left and high Adjust right and down*

4 *Now group centers in the black*

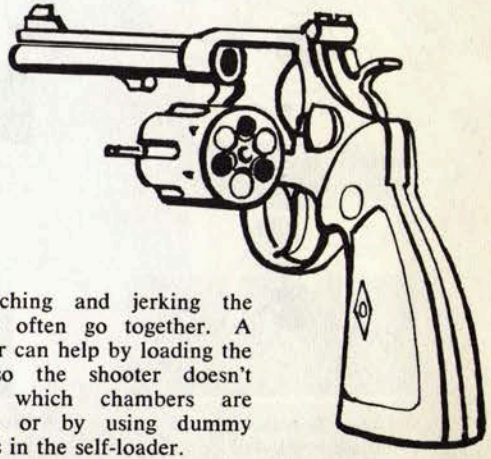
Making Shots Count

TRIGGER SQUEEZE

Trigger squeeze is of great importance. The finger tightens steadily on the trigger until the gun fires. The rest of the hand should maintain its regular grip on the pistol. Even if the sights waiver on the target the steady increase of pressure should continue. The shooter should not know when the pistol is going to fire. Jerked triggers always mean disappointing hits.

"Dry firing" helps develop good trigger control. It amounts to going through all the motions of firing with an empty gun. There is no recoil and no flinching. A little practice every day is superior to longer practice infrequently.

THE SHOOTER MUST *KNOW* THE PISTOL IS UNLOADED before starting dry firing practice.



Flinching and jerking the trigger often go together. A partner can help by loading the gun so the shooter doesn't know which chambers are loaded or by using dummy rounds in the self-loader.

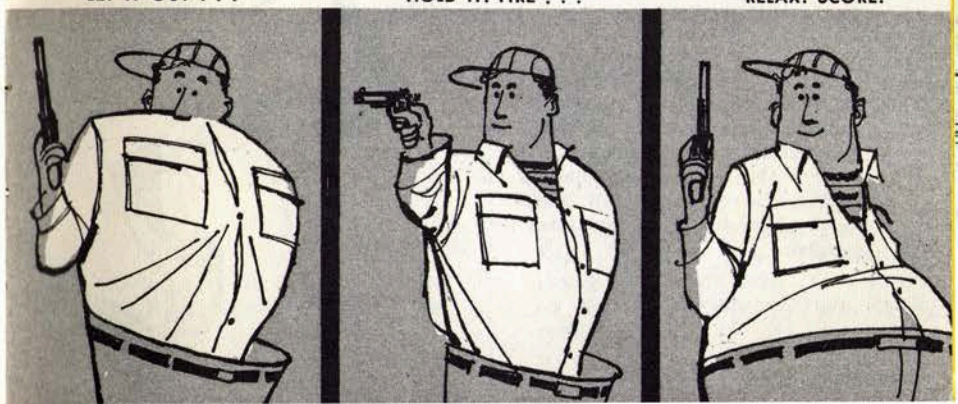
ASSUMING that proper sight picture and alignment exist, the shooter's problem then is to get the bullet off to the target without altering them. Several factors, aside from the movement of the arm in its extended position, must be considered. They are trigger control, breathing, follow-through and rhythm.

It is difficult to say which of these is the most important. The new pistol shooter should simply understand that each is important and that each has an effect on where the bullet hits. None may be done poorly.

BREATHING

Proper breathing plays an important role in accurate shooting. Ships, tanks and planes have complex systems for compensating for movement of the gun platform. The individual shooter helps stop the movement of the platform by controlled breathing.

Ordinarily the shot will be fired in a few seconds and no difficulty from lack of oxygen should result. However, if the breath is held too long muscle tremors will begin. If this happens, the shooter should lower the gun to rest position and start over again.



FOLLOW THROUGH

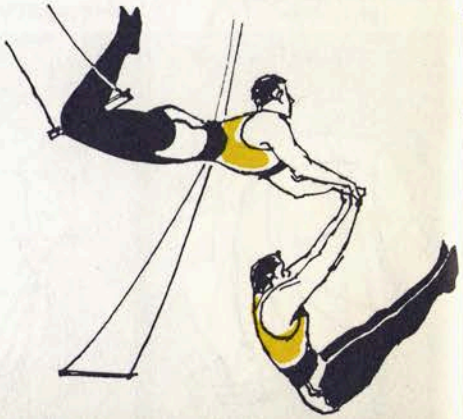
Follow through is patience. It means holding the sight picture and squeezing the trigger through the actual firing and for 2 or 3 seconds afterward. The gun should *not* be lowered as soon as the shot is fired. Haste here may ruin the shot. Follow through also helps to slow down and steady the shooter.

CALLING THE SHOT

When the gun fires—though he should not know when that will be—a mental picture of the sight alignment in relation to the bullseye will tell the shooter where the bullet should hit. Failure to hit where it should means flinching, jerking or something else that needs correction.

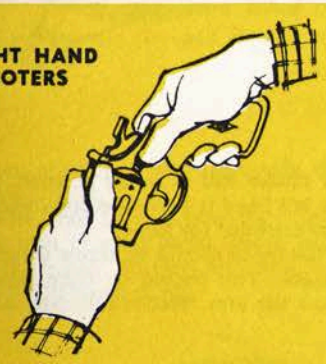
RHYTHM

From the time the gun is raised until it is lowered the same relative amount of time should be used for each phase of the firing process each time it is done. Development of rhythm in slow-fire will make it much easier to achieve in timed and rapid-fire.

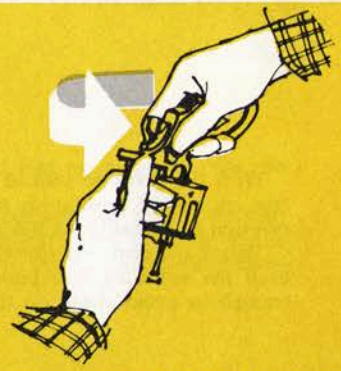


Target Shooting Procedures for Loading and Moving Into Position

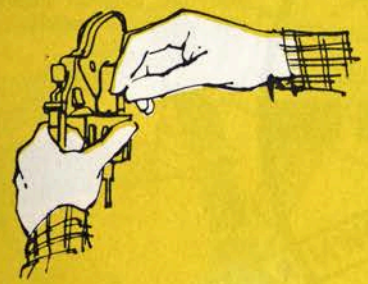
RIGHT HAND SHOOTERS



The revolver is picked up by the grip. The left hand is palm down on top of the frame. Right thumb operates cylinder latch.

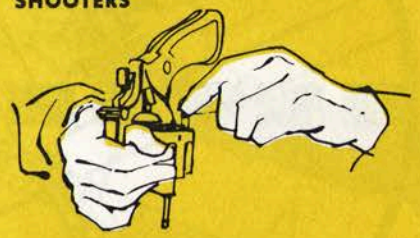


The revolver is held, barrel down, the first two fingers of the left hand force cylinder out and wrap around the top strap.



Cylinder may be rotated by left thumb. Right hand is free to drop cartridges into the chambers.

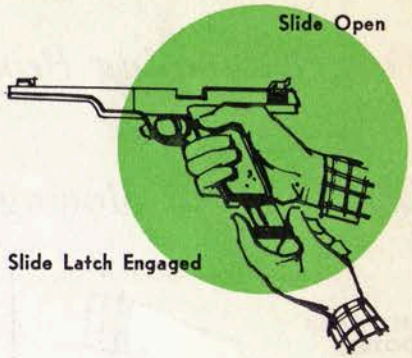
LEFT HAND SHOOTERS



Opposite hands are used. Left forefinger operates latch. Cylinder is swung out by right thumb. Gun hangs on thumb. Fingers of right hand rotate cylinder.

When Loading . . .

1. *The muzzle must point in a safe direction*
2. *Cartridges must* not *be forced into magazine*
3. *Firing line commands must* not *be anticipated*

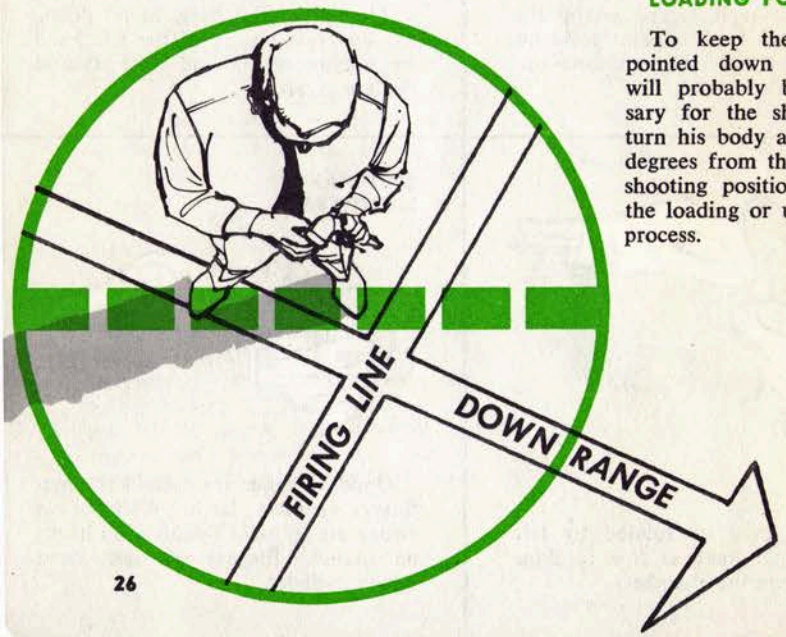


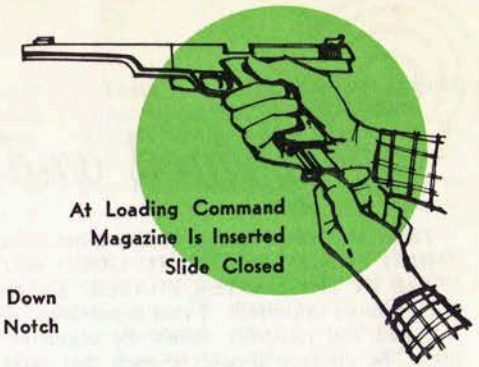
With the revolver cocked and the left thumb still in safety position, the feet are shifted to shooting position. The left hand is moved to comfortable position in pocket or on hip and the gun is extended for firing.

To get the arm into shooting position the pistol should be thrust forward until the extended arm points at the target. This should be done slowly enough to avoid strain on the elbow when the arm reaches full extension.

LOADING POSITION

To keep the muzzle pointed down range it will probably be necessary for the shooter to turn his body about 180 degrees from the normal shooting position during the loading or unloading process.



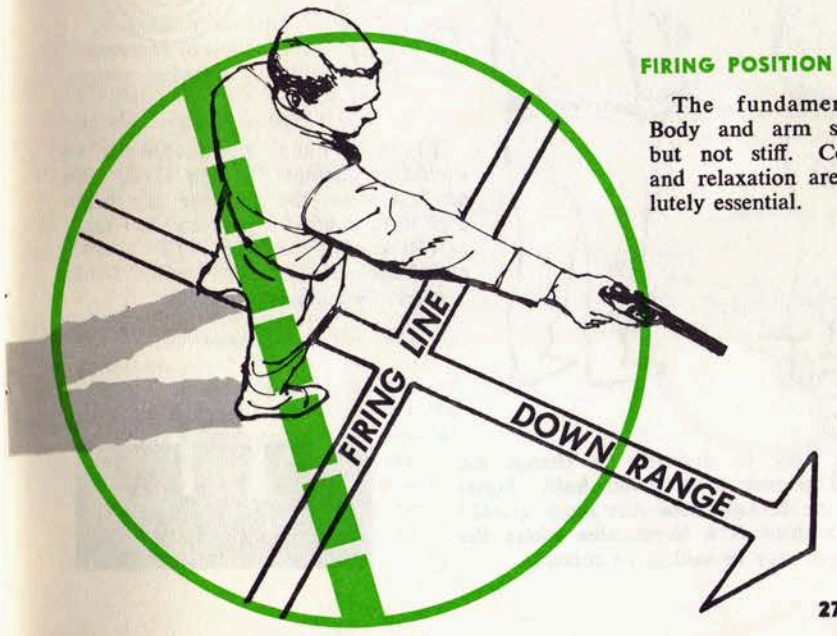


When position is taken properly the pistol will line up naturally with the aiming point.

After the shot is fired the arm is kept in position for follow through and then brought down slowly without bending the elbow until the gun is on the bench. In slow-fire there is ample time to put the pistol down completely between shots.

FIRING POSITION

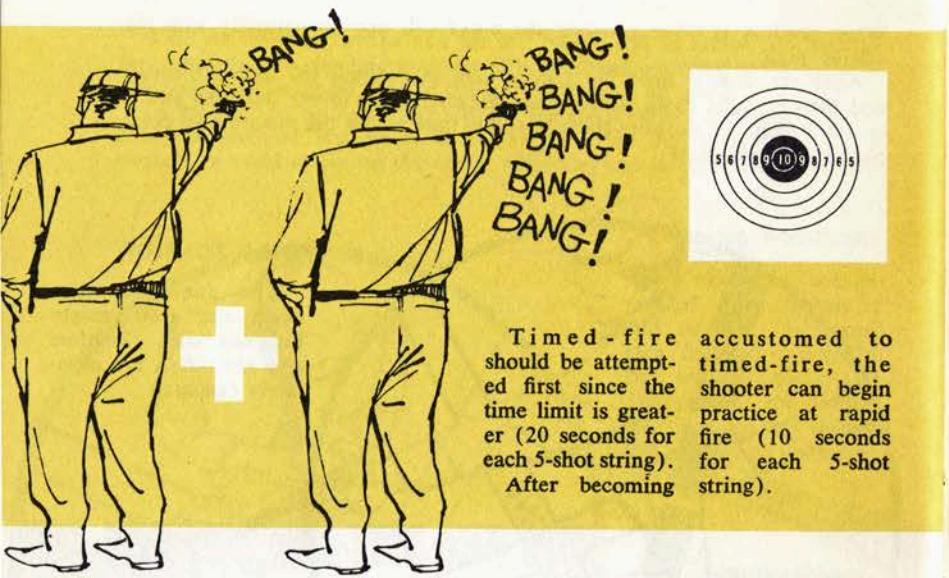
The fundamentals: Body and arm straight but not stiff. Comfort and relaxation are absolutely essential.



8 Timed and Rapid Fire

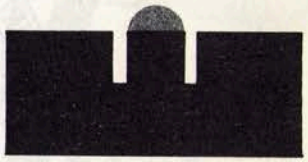
Timed and rapid-fire are simply a matter of speeding up slow-fire. EVERYTHING FUNDAMENTAL TO GOOD SLOW-FIRE SHOOTING MUST BE DONE IN THE FASTER PHASES. The only difference is that each element is even more important, if that is possible.

Timed and rapid-fire should be begun at about half the distance of slow-fire. The distance should be such that good groups will be fired. The range may be increased as hits improve. Dry firing should continue—but within the time limits.



Timed-fire should be attempted first since the time limit is greater (20 seconds for each 5-shot string). After becoming accustomed to timed-fire, the shooter can begin practice at rapid fire (10 seconds for each 5-shot string).

It may be desirable to change the sight picture to a center hold. Sights can be brought into line more quickly since there is a larger area where the picture may be said to be correct.



There are several new elements which must be considered in timed and rapid-fire. A somewhat tighter grip may be required to prevent grip shifting in recoil. The high hold on the grip is even more important since it will reduce the movement of the muzzle in recoil and decrease the time necessary to get back on target. Rhythm is absolutely essential. Shots fired with smooth, even timing mean better scores—and getting all the shots within the allotted time.

These faster strings of fire do not replace slow-fire. They are fired IN ADDITION to it. The shooter should not stop slow-fire even though he may have come to be quite proficient in timed and rapid-fire. If the new shooter has poor scores even at shortened distance he would do well to do slow-fire exclusively for a while in order to improve his grasp of fundamentals and to overcome any bad shooting habits that may have shown themselves in the timed and rapid-fire.

COCKING THE PISTOL

A smooth cocking motion is very important to quick realignment of revolver sights in timed and rapid-fire.

After each shot is fired the fingers should continue to hold the same grip while the thumb is placed on the hammer spur. The hammer is drawn back to full cock and the thumb again placed along the frame above the cylinder latch. The sights may then be aligned as soon as the thumb is out of the way. The arm is kept at full extension and the eyes kept on the target throughout the cocking operation.

The "straight back" method of cocking described above is not the only way but is probably the best for the beginner. The "rolling" method is used by some experienced shooters but involves rolling the grip out of the palm and using the side of the thumb on the cocking spur.

While the cocking motion is going on the pistol is being brought back to aiming position.

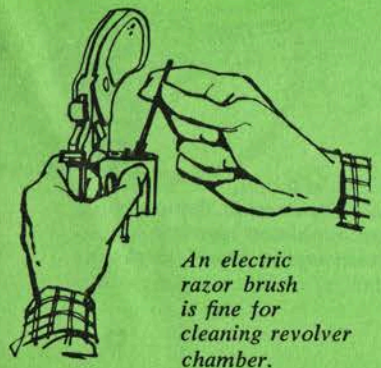
If held correctly the pistol will recoil almost straight up and will stay in line with the target.

Care of Guns and Ammunition

The modern pistol is a masterpiece of craftsmanship. It is made expertly and with proper care should last a lifetime.

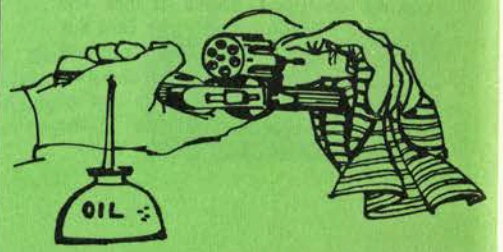
Modern ammunition uses non-corrosive priming compounds and lubricated bullets. It is not necessary to clean the bore of the pistol except occasionally. Accumulations of grease should be kept out of the breech.

Grease can be removed from self-loaders with a toothbrush.



An electric razor brush is fine for cleaning revolver chamber.

A slightly oily rag leaves plenty of oil to prevent rust.



Grease should also be kept from accumulating in the magazine of the self-loader in order to have smooth feeding.

Too much oil can do as much harm as too little. Any excessive amounts of oil or grease can cause higher than ordinary pressures to be built up. They should be cleaned out before the gun is fired.

If the gun is to be stored for a long time it should be cleaned thoroughly and locked up. Ammunition should be locked in a different place.

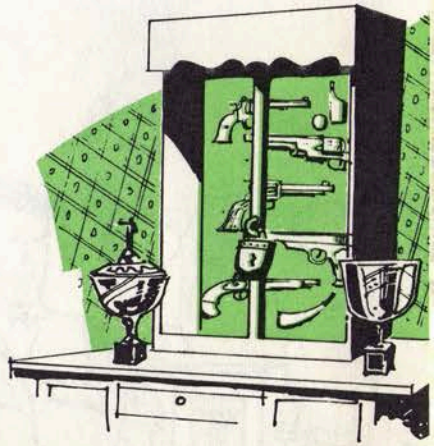
Ammunition should be kept clean. If sand or dirt collects in the bullet lubricant it can scratch the bore of the gun. Many shooters discard ammunition which has been dropped on the ground rather than risk firing it. However, care should be exercised in disposing of it.

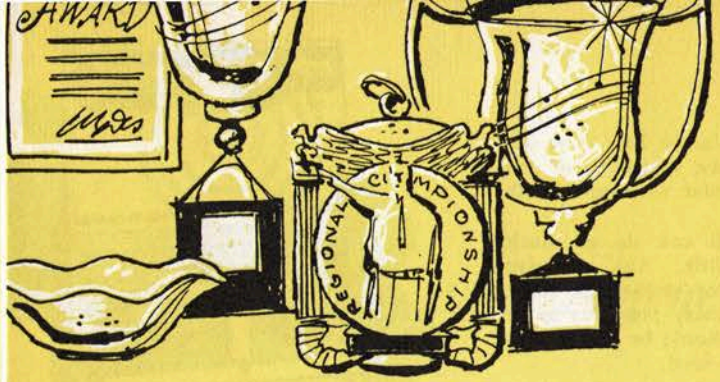
A pistol box or carrying case is very desirable for the shooter, especially if he has several guns. The box is a great convenience for both transportation and storage. A spotting scope can be mounted inside the top for use on the range.

Storage places of pistols and ammunition at home should always be locked. Pistols are attractive, especially to young "western" fans, many of whom have very realistic copies of their own. Many of them go through all the motions of duplicating the feats of their heroes and with a real gun the results can only be tragic. The pistol owner must always anticipate that the untrained person who handles a pistol will not know how to do it safely.

REPAIRS

The modern handgun is a precision instrument. The beginner should not even attempt minor repairs. Pistols that are not operating properly should be turned over to a competent gunsmith or returned to the manufacturer.





What Now?

THERE are a great many paths open to the shooter who has just completed his first course in basic pistol marksmanship. The most logical one is to continue to add to his newly acquired skill to such a degree that he moves from the ranks of the beginner into that of the really competent marksman. He will then probably want to answer the challenge of the larger caliber pistols.

Two types of competition are available to him in a variety of stages. He may fire for qualification awards—shooting against par through prescribed courses of fire. He may fire in actual competition either as an individual or as a member of a team.

Most shooters find that membership in a club affiliated with the National Rifle Association is the simplest and most positive way to accomplish these objectives.

The club member has others around him who are also interested in pistol shooting. He usually has expert instructors available to help him. He can fire for qualifications, of course, and enter tournaments but he has the added advantage of being able to compete informally with other club members or shoot in a league. This competitive "breaking in" period is invaluable to the inexperienced tournament shooter.

The club's the place . . . the place where the whole horizon of shooting opens up . . . sound instruction, qualification programs, local and national competition . . . and the chance to be with a lot of fine people who also like to shoot.

The pistol shooter will find individual membership in the NRA of great personal benefit. The finest magazine published about shooting, "THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN", comes automatically with a senior membership. The NRA member may also participate in all NRA events as well as have his scores recorded in a national classification system.

The real answer to the question, "What now?", is that a whole new world is open to the new shooter . . . and the path with the most helping hands and the best guides lies through NRA individual membership in an NRA affiliated club. If your pistol has become your "best friend" during your short acquaintance, both of you will find good companions there.

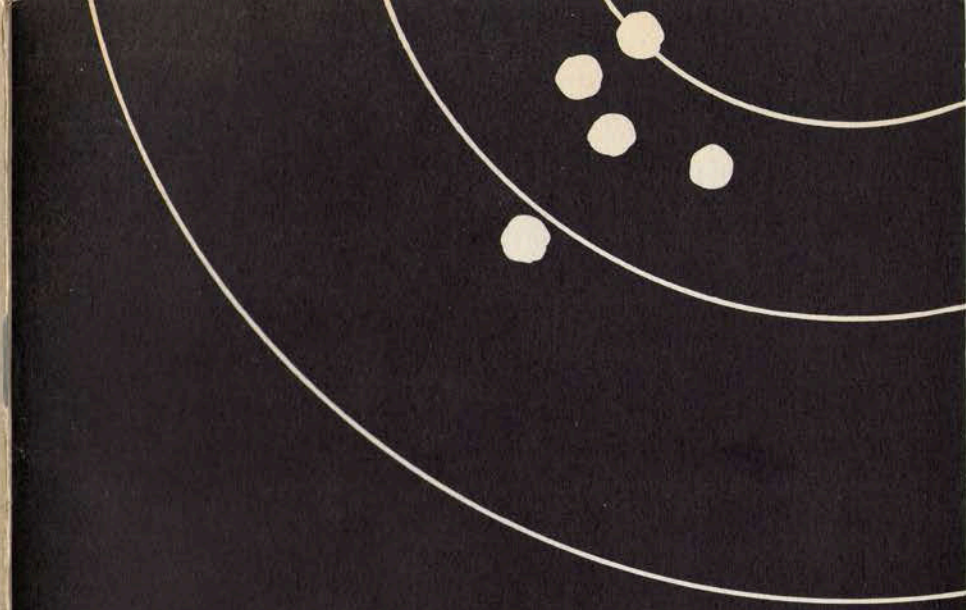
Good Shooting!

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The NRA is a non-profit organization supported entirely by the membership fees of public spirited citizens and clubs. It is not a trade organization. Established in 1871, its membership roster has carried the names of several Presidents of the United States, a Chief Justice of the United States, and many of America's other outstanding diplomats, jurists, political and military leaders.

The objects of the Association are: to promote social welfare and public safety, law and order, and the national defense; to educate and train citizens of good repute in the safe and efficient handling of small arms, and in the technique of design, production and group instruction; to increase the knowledge of small arms and promote efficiency in the use of such arms on the part of members of law enforcement agencies, of the armed forces, and of citizens who would be subject to service in the event of war; and generally to encourage the lawful ownership and use of small arms by citizens of good repute.

The NRA maintains a panel of experts to advise members on problems of equipment and its use. It is the accepted source of authoritative information on shooting club organization and operation, range construction and procedures, firearms safety education, and basic marksmanship training. It provides extensive shooting programs for all members.



basic

PISTOL

marksmanship

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION 25c