

Distance Work

To improve your distance shooting, set an IPSC target at least 25 yards away and shoot groups. The goal is to see each shot and call each shot. The paper provides the feedback. A good addition to this exercise is to sketch out a little target outline and mark the called location of your hits prior to checking the target. You'll be surprised how this tunes the ability to call shots.

I also recommend repeating this exercise on a 50-yard target. Start off by firing rested groups. I use the hood of my pickup for a benchrest. Eventually move to firing offhand groups as your skill increases. Experiment with Type 4 and 5 focus and then let nature take its course as you uncover the visual mode which gives you the most success. Also see what happens with a Type 2 focus. You might be surprised. This exercise will also teach you everything you need to know about trigger control. To shoot an A-zone group at 50 yards, you will be aware of the sight movement and location at the instant of firing.

For the next exercise, lose the target entirely. Keeping safety in mind, direct the gun to a dirt bank and commence firing. With no target to distract you, observe your gun movement. What are you looking for? First find out what you see. When you want to see more you'll see more.

Right: *The importance of shooting groups is often overlooked.*



Shoot first at slow speed, pick up the cadence, and then go to warp drive. Observe. You'll pick out subtleties and see things that would otherwise be missed. Pay attention to recoil, for instance. If it's kicking all over or always off to one side, maybe you should experiment with grip position or pressure. I believe an astute person could learn everything about shooting technique from handling the gun, as long as the will or intent to do so accompanied the exercise. As for how it "should" be, that's up to you. Keep an open mind and try different things. You'll know when things work.

Run through a few magazines seeing how well you can keep the front sight in focus. Notice, for instance, at what point you no longer can see the front sight clearly and when you can see it again. Where is the sight tracking if you follow it? Is it lifting and returning on the same point? Then try a few and see what you can see when you're not really looking at anything in particular.