

DR Drills

In the not to distant future we'll be shootin' Leg and DR matches at Regional and state sponsored events. Like most of the specialty matches not very many of us actually try to train for them. It's not uncommon for a typical marksman to simply swagger up to the line, and then, shoot by way of brute force. In most cases the majority of shooters will perform only a cursory amount of practice prior to the event.

Well, we've all got day jobs.

Not long ago I talked with a well known High Master and asked for the secrets of the universe regarding wheel gun shooting. My friend Brian, a DR badge holder, once mentioned, "Most bullseye shooters never really practice with a revolver. I started shooting bullseye with revolvers because that's all I had at the time. With any sport you've got to practice—and if you don't—then expect really bad results."

So allow me to recite the very basics from the noted voice of wisdom, some standard and basic training techniques dedicated revolver shooters have used for decades.

Dry Fire with a Penny:

This method is older than Moses and no one knows who in the heck invented it. Place a penny on top your revolver's front sight, level the gun, don't make a sight picture (close your eyes if need be) then gently drop the hammer. Do this until you can consistently drop the hammer with the penny remaining in place. Over time and after having some success try dropping the hammer faster. Don't be so slow that you develop 'chicken finger.'

If you have a classic 'partridge sight,' where the top isn't level with the gun, try building up the front of the sight by using modeling clay. It's not sticky, it's easy to remove and if you don't leave it on for an extended period the moisture won't induce rust. But be on the safe side and take some solvent to the front post immediately after dry firing.

If modeling clay isn't all that handy in your local area take a trip to K-Mart and fork over 84 cents for a container of Play-Doh. Let's face it, the stuff has an aroma that's extremely recognizable from your childhood and smells better than Hoppe's #9.

Dry Sustained Fire on a Blank Wall and Reduced Target:

I know, it sounds obvious but think about it. How much does the average bullseye shooter practice sustained fire in single action mode with a wheel gun? My guess is not very much.

Shooting revolvers in single action style can be quite unsettling especially for those who use semi autos constantly. It's very easy to loose your grip between rounds. At the very lest, you'll become accustomed to a different sight picture and the necessity of changing grip pressures between dry rounds for a smooth release of the trigger.

Do both blank and targeted drills and you'll become much more comfortable and familiar flippin' that big ol' thumb around.

If by chance .38 Special snap caps are hard to come by you can make your own. Take several .38 Special cases after depriming and resizing, then insert part of a mechanical pencil eraser or fill the primer opening with silicone. Trim the excess with an X-Acto knife or single blade razor.

Shoot More:

I'm surprised at the number of wheel guns bullseye shooters own that do little more than collect dust. Pull that revolver out of the safe weekly and shoot it more than just occasionally.

Let's not forget that we need to learn the subtly of all our tools. And the only way to do that is to use them a reasonable amount of time relative to the skill level that we want to perform.