

TWO SPECKS LEAVE THE TRAP 80 YARDS AWAY AND CLIMB TOWARDS THE SHOOTER. THIRTY YARDS OUT THEY SEEM TO HOVER MOMENTARILY BEFORE DRIFTING DOWN TO THE GROUND. A CLASSIC SPORTING PRESENTATION – AND **RICHARD FAULDS**, CURRENT WORLD AND EUROPEAN FITASC CHAMPION TELLS YOU HOW TO TACKLE THEM.



masterclass

INCOMERS AND DROPPERS

PATIENCE, PATIENCE

Patience is the watchword with any incoming target. Remember it is getting closer all the time and the closer it gets the easier it is! Most incomers have a natural point at which the shot is easiest, normally as they run out of power and show plenty of 'belly'.

From a powerful trap the target may well be out of range to start with and it is a common error to mount the gun immediately and track the target all the way in. Remember the longer you have the gun in your shoulder the more time there is for something to go wrong. Give the target time to come in, pick your moment, mount and fire.

Incomers don't normally need a lot of lead. They are coming to the end of their flight and unless they are dropping from a great height will be slowing dramatically. There is invariably a point at which the clay appears stationary, but don't be fooled – it will still be tracking slightly across the shooting position and you will need to allow for this.

ON OR IN FRONT

Incomers are best approached with a pull away or maintained lead style. I mount normally just in front of the target and pull away as necessary to establish my lead. Mounting behind the target is likely to cause problems, particularly on dropping

DON'T BE IN A RUSH TO MOUNT ON INCOMING TARGETS.



targets which fall away and become obscured below your barrels.

It is a much more natural process to intercept an object coming towards you – think how you would catch a ball for example by moving into the anticipated line, not by starting behind and trying to overtake.

INCOMING TEAL

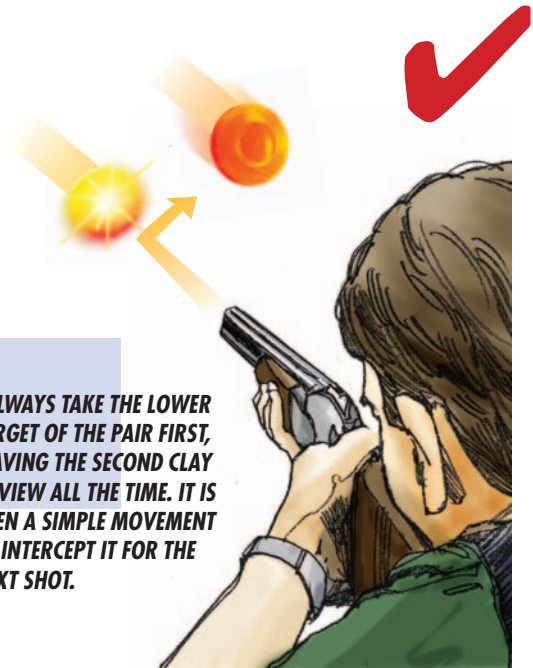
A variation on the theme is the teal-type target which is angled in towards the shooter. Again, the temptation is to follow it all the way to the top of its flight. This can encourage stopping the gun and head lifting and I prefer to watch

the target up to its peak before mounting quickly and taking the shot. Watch the shooters ahead of you to help judge the optimum moment.

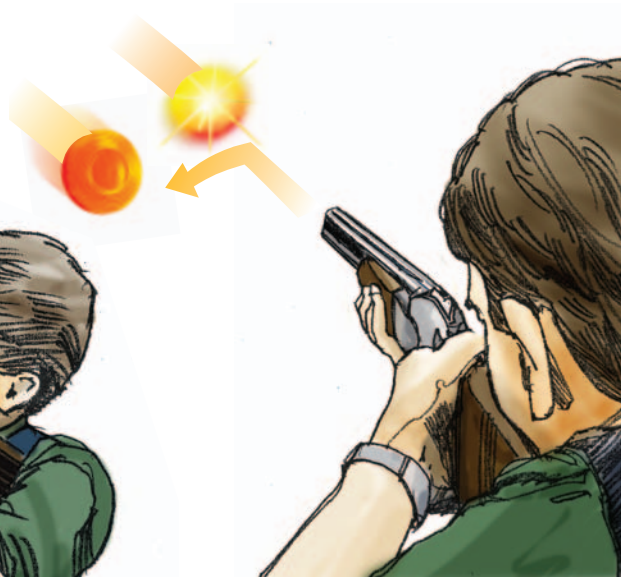
PERFECT PAIRS

As we said in the introduction, an incoming pair is a very traditional sporting presentation. You will need to modify your approach slightly, because the second target is likely to be dropping by the time you get on to it.

I always take the lower target of a pair first. You have less time for it of course, which is often reason enough, but the position of the gun for the second shot is the key factor. Take the high one first and the gun is left chasing the second clay, by now dropping away below the barrels. By taking the lower target first, you can let the second come on to you or move gently up to intercept, always with it in full view and in complete control. ■



I ALWAYS TAKE THE LOWER TARGET OF THE PAIR FIRST, LEAVING THE SECOND CLAY IN VIEW ALL THE TIME. IT IS THEN A SIMPLE MOVEMENT TO INTERCEPT IT FOR THE NEXT SHOT.



TAKE THE HIGH ONE FIRST AND THE LOWER IS OBSCURED BENEATH YOUR BARRELS. DROPPING DOWN ONTO IT IS HARDER TO CONTROL.

GIVE THE TARGET TIME TO COME IN, PICK YOUR MOMENT, MOUNT AND FIRE.

