

# YOU MAKE IT LOOK SO EASY



CORY KRUSE.

**I recently came across a pair of high incoming targets – directly overhead – and missed them all. Any tips for next time?**

High incoming targets directly over-head usually don't take much lead (depending on the speed). However, if you are talking about a driven target, those do require some lead. For a driven target you can only focus on the target, otherwise the gun blocks the target out. When you are really focused on the bird, the gun seems to become invisible. Then you judge the lead, and move with the bird to a comfortable kill point and squeeze the trigger.

**I often have difficulty seeing orange targets against clear blue sky (particularly edge on crossers) or against green backgrounds. What types and colours of lenses do you use or recommend?**

I only use one color of shooting lenses for everything. The Oakley Hi-Intensity orange lenses work great for me. If you are having difficulty seeing all orange targets against a blue sky background, your best bet would be to just borrow a few different lenses and see which ones work best for you. I could say that a darker lens might help you, but everyone's eyes are different.

**I use a semi-auto and make my choke selection based on the hardest of the two targets on any particular station – but that sometimes puts me at a disadvantage with the easier target. How much more of an advantage is it to use an over & under choked specifically for each target – what gun and shell combination do you use?**

I also shoot a semi-auto. It happens to be a Browning Gold Sporting Clays. I shoot Armusa Super 12 7/8s at everything. Shooting an auto does leave you at a disadvantage for choke selection, however, autos have a faster feel and it's also easier to see through one barrel versus

*THIS MONTH OUR GUEST IS CORY KRUSE. 2003 HAS BEEN A VERY SPECIAL YEAR FOR THIS YOUNG MAN WHO HAS KINDLY ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION TO ANSWER YOUR MASTER CLASS QUESTIONS. IF YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS FOR OUR NEXT HIGH PROFILE GUEST THEN EMAIL THEM TO: [info@clayshootingusa.com](mailto:info@clayshootingusa.com)*

two. How much of a disadvantage is it? Well it depends. If you have a belly up target 10 yds away and a 50 yd crosser in the pair, then an o/u would obviously offer an advantage. You're right – with an auto you should always choke to the longest target. This of course is dependent upon the skill level and mechanics of the shooter.

**What technique do you use to shoot a standard teal and would you use the same technique if it was in a true pair?**

As a single or true pair, the way I shoot this particular target is to start off with the gun out of my shoulder. When I call pull, I intersect the target at about three-quarters of it's peak point, at which time I run with the bird, or some may say 'ride it', for a comfortable distance so I get that feeling of control with the clay. I then stretch the lead out as the bird gets further away and pull the trigger. However, if the target is falling at a reasonable distance, I intersect it as it starts to fall and stretch the lead out, just as I would if it was rising.

**How do you prepare for a shoot-off – and what do you do during the shoot-off to keep concentrating on the targets rather than thinking about the outcome?**

When I am in a shoot-off, I try and stay relaxed – no matter what my mind is on. It is almost impossible to try and not think about the outcome of a shoot-off, so the way I try and stay relaxed is to either just analyze the target a little more than I normally would, and try to concentrate on the pairs more than the actual shoot-off. If your mind is on the targets and not on winning or losing, you will stay relaxed and stay in the present, not in the future.

**A quatering steeply rising target from left to right catches me out every time. I shoot sustained lead and can see the right lead but never get the line. How do you shoot such targets?**

For targets like that, your hold point is critical. If you're in too close, it beats you. If you're too far out, you waste time that you could be using to be moving with the target. First get a good hold point. Second, make a precise intersection point, move with the target, and stretch out the lead. For more tips contact Dan Carlisle!

**A no bird often upsets my concentration. Why does this happen and what routine do you use to ensure it does not upset you during competition?**

In some cases like FITASC, you aren't allowed to shoot at a 'no-bird' call. Whenever allowed, I shoot the no-birds, and use them as practice! Immediately after a 'No Bird' you can easily lose a target if you are not concentrating. Take nothing for granted. Go back to the fundamentals of the pair, and re-focus.

**As a Master Class shooter do you still have the occasional coaching session to sharpen up your game – or do you rely solely on regular practice? How much practice do you think is necessary to maintain form?**

Of course I do! My coach is Dan Carlisle, and everyone sometimes goes into a slump or just needs re-tuning. It is also important to make sure your gun fits you. You may not notice it, but if you're still growing like I am, you need to have it checked every now and then. Master Gunfitter Anthony Matarese Jr. fitted my gun for me. He likes to use the moleskin approach to raise the comb, which he saw that I needed. Moleskin is also a very helpful medical supply that you can pick up at any local pharmacy.

Yes, a good practice routine helps also. That is the best time to find out whether you need a good sharpening! I try to practice at least one time a week, and a lesson with Dan once a month. I concentrate solely on the birds that have been giving me trouble. When I practice, I try to shoot about 200-300 targets or just until I feel comfortable.

**Floating crossers are a nightmare. They are so slow that there's no gun swing and half way through their flight they start dropping. How do you shoot such targets?**

Any slow floating target, with the method I shoot, you have to square the target off on the front edge, hold it for that split second to get that feel of control and then stretch as it starts to fall – making sure you don't shoot over the top.

**Shooting crossers, loopers and quatering targets that are set to fly behind trees and or bushes invariably causes problems with my pick up point or break point – which is obviously the target setters intention. Any tips?**

Any targets that have obstacles in their path (trees, bushes, fences) are always difficult to see. I attempt to select a 'spot' where I can first see the flash. Specifically, I will select the tree limb or the rock, or part of the bush the target came from. A lot of times the tree or bush is exactly in the middle of the breakpoint. In this case, I try to mount more in front of the clay, hold and then stretch to fire. This allows me to shoot the target sooner, with less barrel motion and still maintain control.

**With the spread of a shotgun, why is it so easy to miss a crossing rabbit that is only 5-10 yards away? I tighten up every time I see such a target – Help!**

**2003 ACHIEVEMENTS**

- National Sporting Champion
- World FITASC Junior Champion
- Freedom Cup Champion
- Masters Cup Champion
- Zone 6 Main Event, 5-Stand and Prelim Champion
- US-UK Masters FITASC and Sporting RU
- Texas State Shoot M1
- Browning Briley World Open 5-Stand Champion
- Southwest FITASC Champion
- Angle Port Open Main Event and 5-Stand RU

What people don't realize about close rabbits is that it is the target setter's intention to make you be precise. At that range, even with a cylinder choke, you are shooting a softball size pattern. That is why so many people miss that particular target. A Briley Diffusion Choke may help you with your problem.

**The combination of crosser and a going away trap shot often results in the second target lost. On their own, trap shots are easy enough, but after a crosser I'm either over the top or up the side. Any advice on how to keep better control of the muzzle would be welcome.**

On any pair where the move is either horizontal then vertical or visa versa, you will have to reposition the barrel to the right hold point before the trapper can launch the second clay. Otherwise, you tend to throw the gun at the second target. So the tip is, on any pair, but mostly this scenario, reposition the barrel after your first shot. This allows you to shoot each target as a single, instead of a quick moving pair. Remember, the trapper pulls the second clay when he hears you take the first shot. You know when you shoot, so you have about 1/10 of a second to reposition your barrel to the new hold point before the trapper can pull the second clay. ■