



# May 2021 Newsletter

## **DRILL OF THE MONTH**

Throughout 2021 we will be running a Drill of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The goal is help motivate folks to get to the range and actually shoot their defensive weapons, and to have some fun in the process. Each month we'll post a drill or a short course of fire. You are encouraged to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rangemaster/> .

## **The Parrot Drill**

The name of this drill comes from the two zero circles that appear above the shoulders of the silhouette target. Someone once noted these were like the parrot sitting on the pirate's shoulder, and the name stuck. So, you will need an IALEFI-Q or RFTS-Q target for this drill.

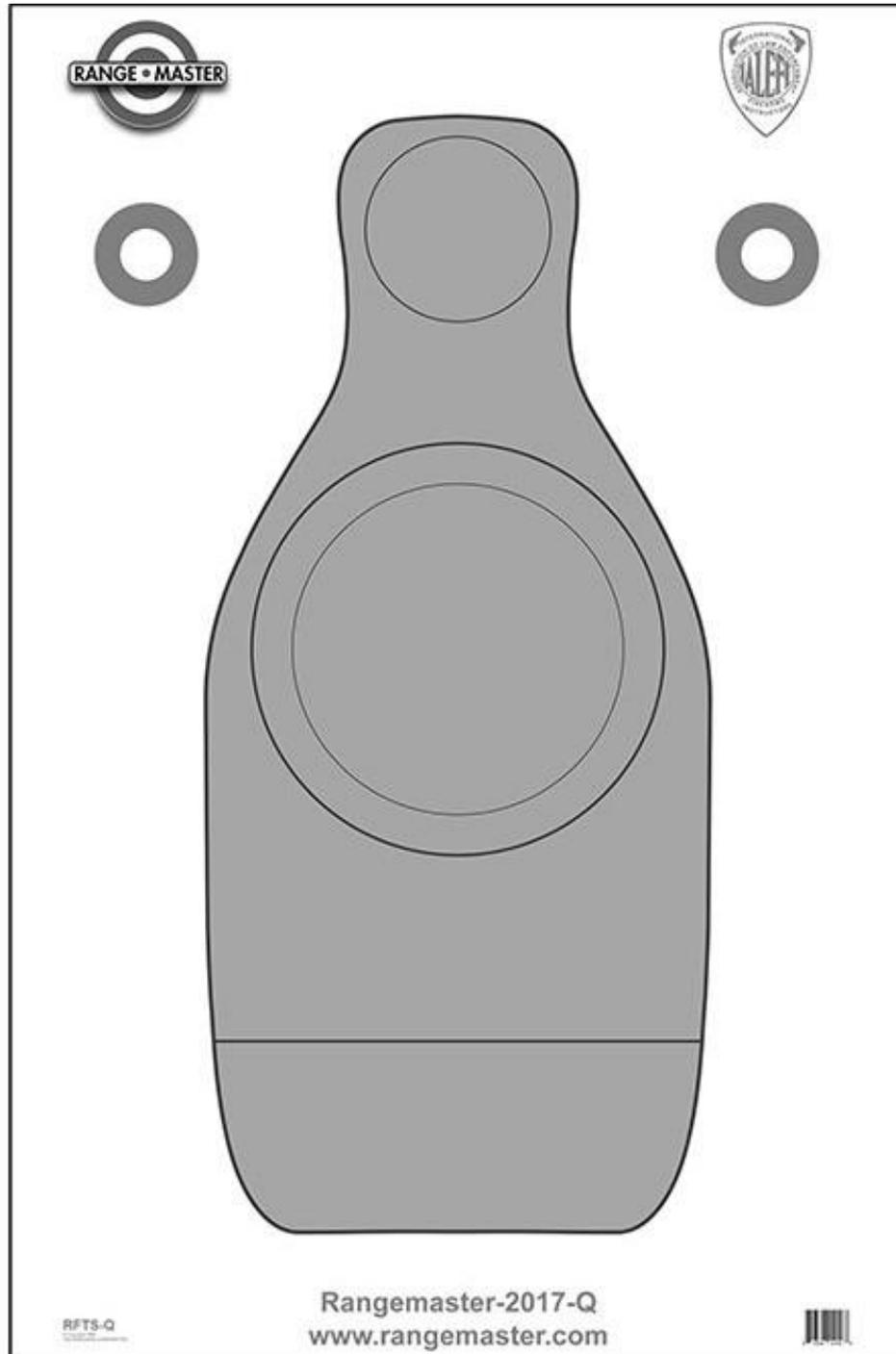
At 5 yards, gun concealed, draw and fire 2 rounds into the 8" chest circle, 2 rounds into the 4" head ring, and 2 rounds into one of the zero circles. All shots must be hits for the run to count. Record the time for the drill. The time standards are as follows:

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 6 seconds or less, all hits-  | Advanced Skill     |
| 9 seconds or less, all hits-  | Intermediate Skill |
| 12 seconds or less, all hits- | Basic Competency   |

The purpose of this drill is to help ingrain proper cadence/timing, so that you are shooting different size/difficulty targets and choosing the right shooting speed (cadence) for each. If you shoot slowly on the larger targets, you will run out of time. If you shoot the smaller targets too quickly and miss, you fail the drill. The idea is to learn to shoot as quickly as we

can be confident of hits, regardless of the target's size or distance. Give it a try. I ran it four times a few days ago. My times were 4.92, 5.27, 4.56, and 4.90.

Post a photo of your target for your very first run on this drill.



# Tac Con 2022 Announced Registration is open!

Tac Con 2021 was a resounding success, in many ways one of the best ever. For 2022 we will be back at the Dallas Pistol Club, even bigger and better. Every year we are forced to turn away many people who wait too late to register. This year will be no exception. See [taccon.info/register](https://taccon.info/register) for your ticket.

## Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Reunion & Conference

We began offering our Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Development Course in 1997, so 2021 is our 24th year of teaching this important course. Entry is strictly limited to persons who have graduated from one of our instructor development courses at any location since 1997.

We held our 20th Anniversary Conference in Shawnee, OK, in 2017. It was attended by over 50 Rangemaster certified instructors from 15 states. We held a second such event in Georgia for all our certified instructors in 2018. For 2019, we used the excellent facilities of KR Training, in Lincoln, Texas. In 2020, we were at the Boondocks Firearms Training Center, a multi-million dollar facility in Raymond, Mississippi. For

2021, we'll be using the facilities of the Oconee County Sheriff's Office near Athens, Georgia. This is a very nice facility and there are numerous hotels and restaurants nearby in Athens, GA.

We will gather to discuss new information, training techniques, professional development and other items we have observed and learned in conducting training courses around the country. There will be a classroom presentation on marketing for firearms instructors, and some interesting range work. There will be classroom presentations, plus live fire on the range to check out and refine our skills. This is a great networking opportunity for Rangemaster certified instructors from all over the country. There will be presentations by Rangemaster staff instructors, including Tom & Lynn Givens, John Hearne, Tiffany Johnson, Lee Weems, and Aqil Qadir, plus live fire training on the range. This promises to be an epic event for trainers. Space is limited and the event will fill far in advance. Don't procrastinate.

### [Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Reunion & Conference](#)

June 12-13, 2021 Saturday-Sunday Athens, Georgia

\$495.00 Limited to Rangemaster Instructor Course graduates only.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-annual-instructor-reunion-conference-tickets-127518690837>

**"Training and practice build skill. Skill builds confidence. Confidence prevents panic. This is how you win fights."  
----Tom Givens**

## Distances Involved in Self Defense Shootings

Over the years I have seen many training programs directed toward private citizens that relied on sources like the FBI's annual Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Summary (LEOKA). The problem is, most police shootings involve uniformed patrol officers, doing things private citizens simply don't do, like felony vehicle stops, hold-up alarm response, and serving arrest warrants.

The FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) however, employ agents who wear plain civilian clothing, with concealed pistols, and drive un-marked cars. These are the same conditions private citizens with CCW permits work in. In fact, most years about half of FBI agent involved shootings stem from someone trying to rob or car-jack an agent, not realizing who it is. In addition, we have had almost 70 student involved shootings in which we have a debrief from the student involved, or from law enforcement who handled the investigation. Let's look at what actually happens, rather than engage in speculation.

First, the FBI conducts an audit every few years to see exactly what their field agents have been involved in. They use this information to keep their training current and relevant. Let's look at some of their recent findings.

### 1993-2009

0-7 yards	72%
7-15 yards	19%
16-25 yards	4%

### Jan 2012- Jan 2016

0-7 yards	70%
7-15 yards	21%
16-25 yards	9%

These numbers have remained remarkably consistent over many years. The DEA in 2007 had 44 incidents in which shots were fired against criminals. The average engagement distance was 14.6 feet. The typical American sedan is 16 feet long, so we could just say, about a car length.

In the case of our students who had to shoot in self-defense, the distances involved were:

Contact distance	4%
3-7 yards	91%
Beyond 7 yards	4%

The 3 shootings beyond 7 yards were at 15,17 and 22 yards, so some work at that sort of distance is needed, but not a lot.

So, we put the vast majority of our effort in class on fast, reliable vital zone hits at the 3,5,and 7 yard lines, with a heavy emphasis on 3-5 yards. Three yards could be classified as "conversational distance", and is the zone in which we normally talk to strangers. Five yards is essentially one car length. 7 yards is across a large room. If you think in those terms, the reason 91% of our shootings took place at from 3 to 7 yards makes a lot of sense. Keep this in mind when structuring your practice sessions.

## **Lynn's "Slim Lynn" Glock Trigger Modification**

Lynn broke her wrist rather badly and one of the side effects was a trigger control related issue. Here is what she wrote about the fix for that issue.

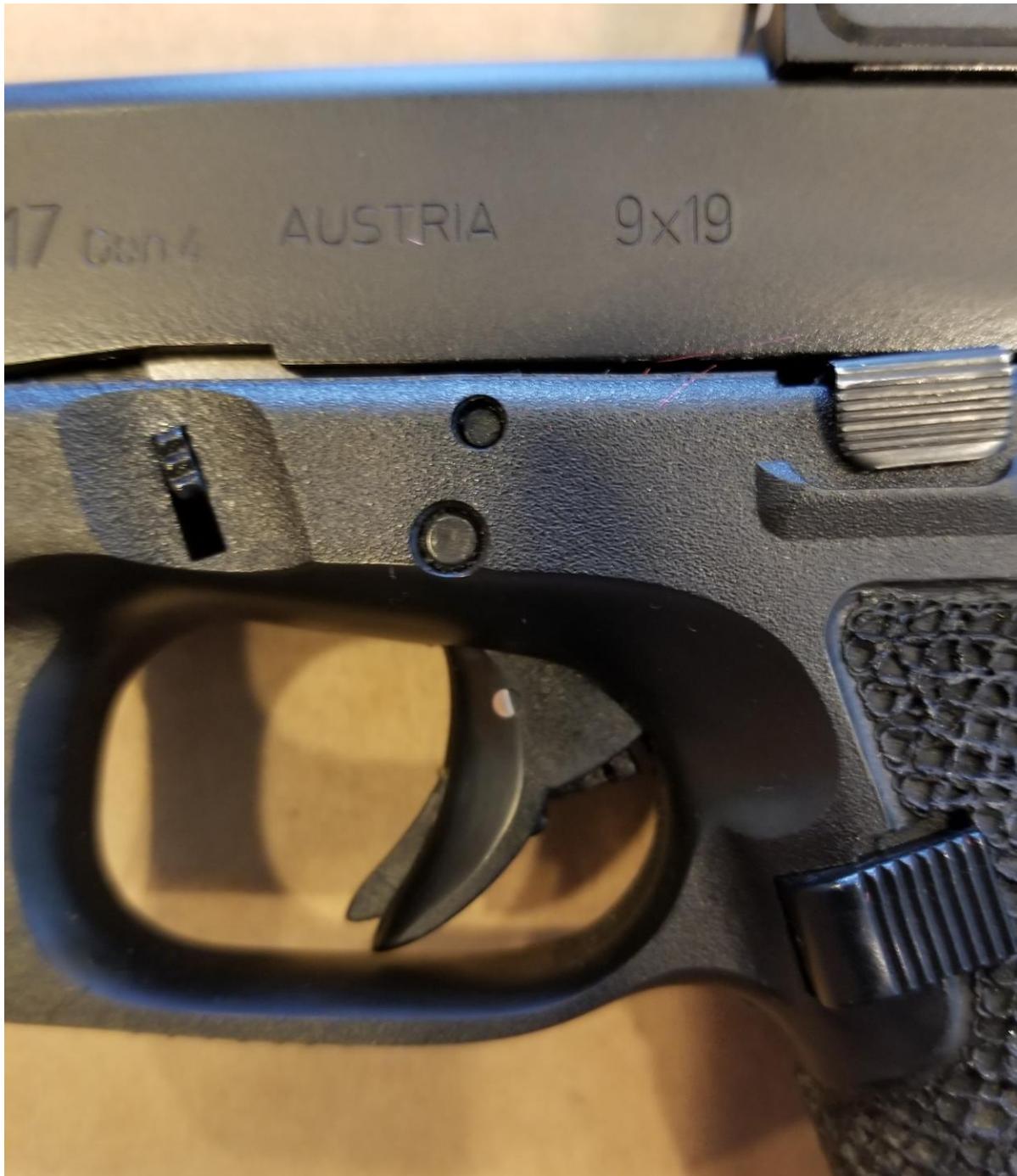
About a year and a half ago I broke my right wrist (I'm right handed) so badly that it now has two metal plates and nine screws in it. I had to lay off shooting for a long time and I'm just now getting back into training. One of the side effects of the surgery on my wrist is that one of the tendons shortened, actually making my trigger finger a bit shorter.

My Glock 17's have butt reductions done by Ben Simonson at Boresight Solutions, and they fit my hand really well. However, when I was able to start shooting seriously again, I found that my newly shortened trigger finger was not capable of being placed on the trigger correctly to allow me to press the trigger straight back. I was getting some horizontal deflection from this. I went by Ben's shop in Miami and we did some dry work with Ben watching my hands and he came up with an ingenious solution.

Ben took a Glock trigger shoe and reshaped it, sculpting away all plastic that was not needed to ensure the integrity and function of the trigger safety. This new trigger face significantly shortened to gun's trigger reach,

and I was now able to get my shortened finger on the trigger correctly. I took a class from John Murphy recently using my newly modified Glock and it shot great!

I named this the Slim Lynn trigger modification, and Ben will perform the same work for you on request. If you have short fingers and trouble reaching a stock Glock trigger, give this a try.



# NONDEADLY FORCE OPTION: EDC ADJUNCT TO HANDGUN?

**Steven M. Harris**

Florida Bar - 1979

Martindale: Preeminent® - AV (35+ years)

*Not intended as actionable legal advice.*

*Refer to your state and/or local law for the particulars you need.*

**Takeaway: YES.** Having a *nondeadly* force option is good. **Reject** the unwise advice of those who preach having *nondeadly* defensive skills or a weapon is a bad idea because that will provoke a legal challenge to your use of *deadly* force if you didn't try your *nondeadly* force option first. Addition of a single EDC *nondeadly* tool shouldn't result in choice overload ("analysis paralysis"). Moreover, a *nondeadly* weapon may be a good tool to provide time/distance to effect complete escape from a *nondeadly* threat.

Few threats present a situation where *deadly* force is imminently necessary. Most which cannot be avoided entirely can usually be "solved" with the threat or use of *nondeadly* force. (*Nondeadly* or "intermediate force" weapons are sometimes referred to as "less lethal"). Of note: Even where/when "retreat" (whatever that means) is required, it is rarely demanded before using *nondeadly* force. The use of *deadly* force raises curious passions. There is a distinct risk an investigating detective's analysis will be based on emotion and he/she will conclude use of a firearm was unjustified, despite the actual law being to the contrary. See [THIS](#) example.

Having *nondeadly* skills or a defensive weapon suggests a reasonably minded, careful person. The legitimacy of a person's use of *deadly* force to counter a likely *deadly* threat almost never turns on the mere availability of a *nondeadly* alternative, including inexpert physical fighting skills. The law

rarely imposes an affirmative expectation to attempt *nondeadly* force first when *deadly* force is lawful. (Exceptions might be when the defensive force user is deemed an aggressor or provocateur, or mutual combat is involved). Reminder: In some instances there may be an affirmative duty to seek a known safe avenue of escape before *deadly* force may be considered lawful, but the use of *nondeadly* defensive force will not likely be burdened with that duty.

Threatening or using *nondeadly* force is significantly less likely to result in a serious felony charge (such as assault, battery, or attempted murder) than is threatening or using *deadly* force (the display or discharge of a firearm). As to gunpointing, go [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). As to the "warning" shot, go [HERE](#). Of note: Firearm display and gunpointing (usually considered use of *nondeadly* force, possibly the *threatening of deadly* force) have fallen into disfavor with prosecutors, even when lawful, and would be malefactors are often unimpressed when threatened with a displayed firearm. Consider the particularly negative optic of threatening or using a handgun on an unarmed person, teenager or domesticated animal.

OC, available in various delivery forms (cone, spray, fog, stream, gel, foam) and EDC sizes (MK3, 4, and 6), commonly referred to as "pepper spray," and impact devices (expanding baton, sap) are my preferred *nondeadly* force EDC adjuncts to a handgun. OC is highly effective from contact to about eight feet (see [THIS](#)); a baton from contact to a foot or two beyond arm's length; a sap, contact up to arms-length. At distance, the mere threatening with such weapons is likely a "nothing burger," and thus, certainly defensible. When "properly" used, they are not likely to (and in fact, probably approaching never, do they) cause unintended death or great/serious bodily harm. Of note: There is specialized training available (user and instructor level) for OC and control/impact weapons from extremely qualified individuals; see [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). Of course there are also introductory and refresher internet videos available see, for example, [THIS](#).

Your training should include *legal* particulars and how and when to transition from or to the handgun, and how to deploy the "less lethal" tool without inadvertent display of your handgun. The *legal* considerations to decide for an EDC *nondeadly* adjunct to the handgun should address these initial questions under your applicable state and local law:

- What level of force is: Display of a holstered handgun, hand off, and hand on; a drawn handgun; gunpoint?

- Does a state preemption law apply to *nondeadly* weapons?
- Is the *nondeadly* weapon restricted by custom or law to sworn law enforcement?
- Are there OC size/content/formula carry restrictions?
- Is open/concealed carry permitted?
- Is a license or permit required?
- Is the level of force *nondeadly* as matter of law, or is it determined by the fact finder by its particulars or actual use (like, perhaps, a knife would be)?
- When used, is there a duty to safeguard the malefactor from unrelated accident or injury because of temporary loss of sight or mobility, or to render aid to the malefactor? In the case of OC, is there a duty to decontaminate or provide instruction how, or to call for medical aid?
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## **New E-Book from The Tactical Professor, Recommended**

Our old friend and esteemed colleague, Claude Werner (The Tactical Professor) has released a new e-book that should be of great interest to all of you. Here is a link to a full description of the book and ordering information.

<https://tacticalprofessor.wordpress.com/2021/02/16/real-shootouts-of-the-lapd/>

## **New Revolver Drill from Lee Weems**

Lee came up with a good formal test for revolver skills. You can see his entire write-up at

[https://firstpersonsafety.com/2021/03/29/no-loader-test/?fbclid=IwAR2bloI9y5s-mwR5duBkFVw8iHTwZVbO\\_jLk\\_WnRQoFecuunWiRpmRihojo](https://firstpersonsafety.com/2021/03/29/no-loader-test/?fbclid=IwAR2bloI9y5s-mwR5duBkFVw8iHTwZVbO_jLk_WnRQoFecuunWiRpmRihojo)

# UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

**June 3-5**      **Pistol Instructor Development, Xenia, Ohio**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-pistol-instructor-development-course-tickets-122830863419>

**June 12-13**      **Rangemaster Instructor Reunion/Conference**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-annual-instructor-reunion-conference-tickets-127518690837>

**June 25-27**      **Pistol Instructor Development, White Hall, AR**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-ar-tickets-100967205630>

**June 28-29**      **Advanced Instructor Dev., White Hall, AR**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-ar-tickets-100968896688>

**July 16**      **Defensive Revolver, Racine, WI**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-defensive-revolver-course-tickets-122879175923>

**July 17-18**      **Advanced Instructor Development, Racine, WI**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-122879406613>

**July 23-24**      **Advanced Instructor Development, Pittsburgh, PA**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-pa-tickets-101908125948>

**July 25**                      **Defensive Shotgun, Pittsburgh, PA**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-defensive-shotgun-pa-tickets-101908280410>

**Aug 14-15**                **Advanced Instructor Development, Nashville, TN**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tn-tickets-101235558280>

**Royal Range, Nashville, TN, classroom, below**

