

Target Pistol Shot Analysis

Group One (“pie” slice and location identified numerically)

- Shot 1 - high angular
- Shot 2 - low angular: pulling down on your trigger
- Shot 3 - right angular
- Shot 4 - left angular

Group Two (“pie” slice and location identified numerically)

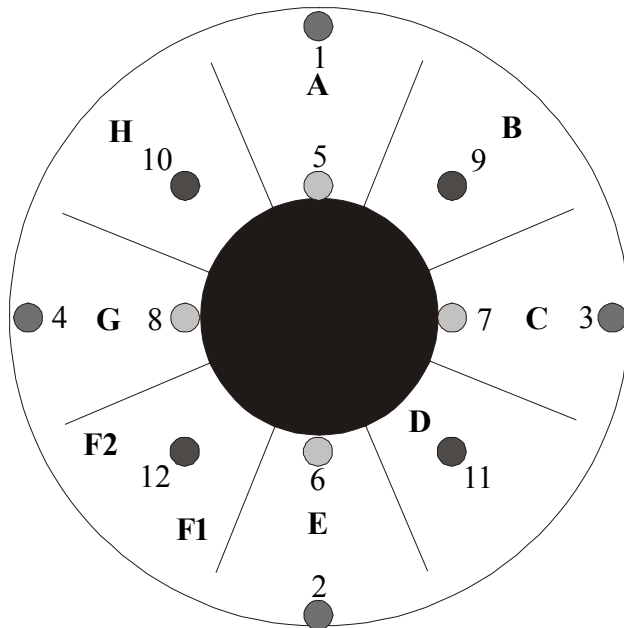
- Shot 5 - high parallel: heeling
- Shot 6 - low parallel: pulling down on trigger; too much thumb
- Shot 7 - right parallel
- Shot 8 - left parallel

Group Three (“pie” slice and location identified numerically)

- Shot 9 - heeling; slack grip; anticipating
- Shot 10 - trigger pushing
- Shot 11 - pulling on trigger; snatching; anticipating
- Shot 12 - snatching; pushing down on trigger; too much little finger and/or thumb

Octant Error Analysis (anywhere within the “pie” slice identified by a letter)

- A - Breaking Wrist Up
- B - Heeling: Anticipating Recoil
- C - Thumbing
- D - Tightening Grip while Pulling up on Trigger
- E - Breaking Wrist Down or Drooping Head
- F - Jerking (F1) or Tightening Fingers (F2)
- G - Trigger Finger not placed Correctly on Trigger
- H - Pushing: Anticipating Recoil



This diagram represents a pistol target for a right-handed shooter. For left handed shooters, reverse. Please remember that for shot analysis to be meaningful, you must be grouping your shots to some extent. These pointers are only in relation to your flyers. By finding out why you have an occasional flyer, and by learning more about shooting technique, you can eliminate these problems.

Taken from The UIT Pistol Book by John Chandler and the United States Army Marksmanship Training Unit Manual. Layout copyright of Patrick Haynes and is available at www.TargetShooting.ca

Parallel Errors: These occur when the in-focus sight relationship and alignment is absolutely correct; but, the shot is released when the point of area aim is incorrect on the target. These “High”, “Low”, “Left” and “Right” errors usually place the shot in the black and cause the least amount of error.

Angular Errors: These cause the maximum amount of error, and when related to another control factor fault, lead to every major error imaginable. Simply put, the sights are out of alignment with each other, even they may be correctly positioned in the aiming area.

Heeling: Pushing with the heel of the hand.

Jerking/Snatching: The sight alignment in the aiming area looks good, so you quickly and aggressively pull on the trigger, instead of building positive pressure until the shot breaks.

Thumbing: applying too much or inconsistent pressure with the thumb.

Little finger / “Pinkie”: applying any pressure with the “pinkie”.

Remember, it is impossible to shoot correctly unless:

1. Intense concentration is channeled on to the alignment of sights and their in-focus relationship.
2. No distraction is allowed from the aiming mark.
3. The arc of movement in the aiming area is ignored.
4. The head is kept erect; look out of the eyes; no movement is allowed.
5. Trigger release is positive: directly rearward; involuntary. Once initiated, there is no letting off.

Remember: shot control is directly proportional to concentration on sight alignment and in-focus relationship.