

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the Alberta Hunters Education Instructor Course at AHEIA, which has now qualified me as an Hunters Course Instructor. This comprehensive 20-hour course, spanning over a minimum of three days or five evenings, is a valuable investment in your hunting knowledge and skills. It covers everything from equipment and survival to wildlife management and identification, as well as the crucial legal aspects of hunting in Alberta. Feel free to reach out for more information.

Have you ever considered joining the Calgary Fish and Game Association? For a nominal fee, you can enjoy a range of benefits, including exclusive events like the upcoming "Sighting your firearm in day" at a range, which is reserved for members only. If you're interested, let me know and I'll be happy to introduce you to the secretary.

Remember, every successful reference you make for someone who attends one of my classes will earn you a Gift Card from **Friends Café**. www.freindscafeyy.ca

Shotgun Part 3 - CHOKES

A shotgun choke is a cylindric constriction at the muzzle of a shotgun's barrel. It controls the spread of the shot as it leaves the barrel. Different chokes are used to achieve different size patterns. Older shotguns came manufactured with "fixed chokes," meaning they cannot be changed. All modern shotguns have replaceable chokes, and you can install the preferred choke for the shooting purpose you will use it for.



Some common chokes

CYLINDER - No Constriction, produces widespread and ideal for short distance and quick large target hits.

IMPROVED CYLINDER - Slight constriction, slightly tighter spread for close small game hunting and skeet.

MODIFIED - Moderate spread with a balance between spread and range used on medium to small game.

IMPROVED MODIFIED - Tighter group than MODIFIED, good for mid-range and often used in competitions

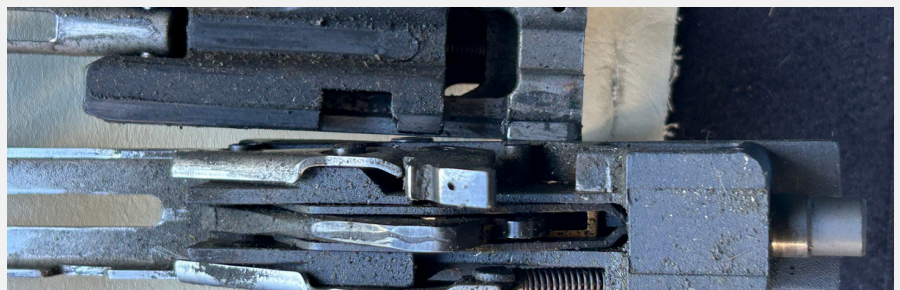
FULL - Significant constriction is used mainly by the experts for long-range shooting.

Understanding and selecting the right choke is essential for optimizing a shotgun's performance. Whether hunting different game or engaging in various shooting sports, the correct choke ensures that the shot pattern is appropriate for the specific shooting distance, scenario, and target size. This enhances accuracy, effectiveness, and overall shooting success.

A simple example of selecting the right choke would be: If you use a cylinder choke for shooting sporting clays and the clays are about 30 yards away, the shot will spray far enough apart to go around the target, and you may not hit the target. Therefore, you will need a choke to "control/condense" the spread of the shot so that it will hit the target instead of flying around the target.

When is it time to clean your rifle

Some people say after every time it goes to the range, some will do it once a decade... See attached pictures of a "once a decade" clean. It all depends on how much you shoot and the humidity in the area you stay.



A good practice is twice a year or after every 30ish rounds - whichever comes first. Twice a year will be before you put your firearm away after hunting season and again, when you take it out after storage before you sight it in for a new hunting season. After every 30 bullets - this is an average of how many rounds it will take, causing copper or lead fouling in the barrel, to start influencing accuracy.

