

GAME & GUN GAZETTE

If you've been to any of the big double-gun shoots during the past several years, chances are you've met Bob Foege. Standing in front of his Robert Louis Co. booth, Foege is an evangelist for his Ultimate Practice Shooting System. On the wall behind him is a nine-foot-long vinyl banner with a photo of a skeet

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range, a simple red laser dot or two regularly sliding across the image. And between noise, recoil and ammo costs, even the best shooting practice has practical limits. Foege's well-designed system offers realistic practice that you can repeat for 20 or 30 minutes a few times a week for vast improvement, or you can go at it until your arms wear out and the batteries die. With reasonable concentration, you will begin seeing improvement immediately.

The heart of the system is the LaserShooter: essentially a laser pointer mated to a "spud" that slides into the muzzle of your shotgun. The unit is about 5 1/4" long, with 3 3/4" fitting inside the muzzle. Three spring-loaded brass detent balls in each gauge-specific spud offer grip tension on the bore, while the tapering end with the laser is self-centering. A wire comes back from the unit to a ring for the shooter's trigger finger—either a flexible metal strip that fires the laser upon trigger contact by completing a circuit, or a newer-style micro-switch that requires light pressure on the trigger to fire.

Using the LaserShooter alone (\$159 for a single gauge), you can accomplish a lot in practicing your gun mount and in testing gunfit by mounting a gun and checking your point of aim compared to where the laser actually reaches a supplied wall target with grid. (Complete instructions are included.) You can sit in your living room or study and swing the laser steadily along a piece of trimwork or any straight line in the

room, such as where the wall and ceiling join.

But the other component to the Ultimate Practice Shooting System makes practice a lot more fun and realistic. The LaserPro unit (\$385 when purchased separately) projects single or double target dots and slides them at a steady speed and on a straight line across walls or ceilings. When the laser beams hit the contours of the room, they change course on a new plane, offering a nearly limitless range of possible targets for practice. A small tripod with a ball-and-swivel

head allows you to set the LaserPro to steep angles to practice high targets—incoming or going-away. The LaserPro offers a wide range of adjustment, with dots that can be set for left-to-right or right-to-left

and at speeds from slow to quite fast. Other adjustments alter the time during which the targets are shown as well as the time between targets, and there is even a voice-activated function that shows the next target only when you call for it.

The oscillating Wobbler (\$189 when purchased separately) adds another dimension and level of challenge. The LaserPro mounts to the arm of the Wobbler, which raises and lowers the unit smoothly through a broad range, offering even more target possibilities.

The key to shooting practice is consistent repetition, and the Ultimate Practice Shooting System makes it fun to spend a few minutes a few times a week going through the motions—mount, swing, lead, fire and follow-through—that form the core of shotgunning. It takes a bit of make-believe to get used to the grounding ring or the micro-switch on your trigger finger, and the grounding ring requires a bit of focus so that you don't touch the gun before lightly brushing the trigger. The trigger switch is worth the extra \$45 to better simulate the feel of pulling the trigger.

Such practice is not nearly as gratifying as actually breaking clays, of course, but your next session at the range likely will be more fun because you've spent time developing muscle memory with raising and swinging your shotgun.

The Ultimate Practice Shooting System includes the LaserShooter and LaserPro in a nice case plus the Wobbler and the skeet-range banner for \$969 in a single gauge and \$1,068 for four gauges. The typical LaserShooter is a red beam of light, but green lasers are available for practice with multiple guns at once. These are excellent tools for teaching shotgunning fundamentals and bringing out the competitiveness in young shooters, who, Foege says, quickly learn to be the first to the target.

Robert Louis Co., 800-979-9156; www.shotguncombo.com.
—Ed Carroll

Ultimate Practice

Shooting practice works to improve shooting skills. It's as simple as that. But as we all know, practice time can be difficult to find, with actual shooting practice being limited to the time we can spend at the range or with a portable target launcher. And be-