

# Reviewed: Robert Louis Doubles Duty Trainer

The Robert Louis Ultimate Practice Shooting System's new Doubles Duty trainer is made for practicing pairs — at home.

BY PHIL BOURJAILY

**D**ry-fire practice works. It's free. You can do it anytime you have a few minutes at home. Gun mounts and flashlight drills are as valuable as they are . . . well, boring. Therein lies the problem with dry-fire practice. One solution is the Robert Louis Ultimate Practice Shooting System (UPSS). It's a good practice aid, and it makes home dry-fire sessions fun. Don't look down on "fun" just because you're a serious shooter. Remember, you got into this game in the first place because you thought shooting was fun, and you'll practice at home more if that practice is enjoyable. The latest version of the UPSS is the "Doubles Duty," made for working on pairs of all kinds. I have been shooting with one lately. There are several aspects of technique it helps me work on, and it's kind of a hoot to use. I catch myself looking forward to dry-fire practice with it.

The original UPSS has been around for quite a while, and I've used it and reviewed it in the past. The unit comes

in a sturdy plastic case and is delightfully low-tech. There is no app, no Bluetooth connection, no need to enter in a bunch of pointless details like "type of gun" with the UPSS. You get a projector unit, called the LaserPro, that is a plastic box a little smaller than my hardcover edition of *Shotgunning: The Art and Science*. It sits on a small tripod and projects a moving laser dot. Three knobs on top adjust the direction and speed of the dot, the width of the target window, and the voice-activation feature. It can take some fiddling to get the targets the way you want them and

to get them to appear when you want them to, but with the LaserPro, and a wall and a ceiling, you can set the dot to simulate left-to-rights, right-to-lefts, teal targets, climbing targets, and falling targets and overhead incomers and outgoers. The LaserPro also has a "double" setting that projects a following pair of dots.

The other part of the UPSS is a second laser, the LaserShooter, that fits into your shotgun bore. LaserShooters are gauge-specific, so you specify which gauge adapter you need when you order. A cord connects the LaserShoot-

▲ The trainer consists of a laser projector that projects "targets" on the wall and a LaserShooter that fits into your gun to project a dot representing your shot.

er to a metal ring you can bend around your trigger finger. When it makes contact with the trigger, the laser in your barrel projects a dot. You shoot the dot in the muzzle at the moving dot and see where it hits. And, because this is a low-tech trainer, nothing happens. The projected dot doesn't shatter in some kind of animation. You do not get a read-out telling you how many inches off you were, or how you would have hit





the target if you were using a few thousandths more or less of choke, or a different shot size. Instead, you call your own hits and misses and keep shooting. You have to pay attention and analyze your own misses, which is an important skill to practice, too.

The Doubles Duty adds a second LaserPro, and using the two LaserPros together, you can set up all kinds of sporting stations, as well as skeet or trap doubles, and you can practice making the transition from the first bird to the second. Target setting with the Doubles Duty has a learning curve, just like real target setting. I figured out that the way to throw teal or falling targets was to simply remove the included tripod and set the LaserPro on its side. You can use the ceiling to throw overhead incomers and outgoers, and it requires some trial and error to synch up the two machines to throw exactly the pair you want. Nevertheless, it is fun, and you can throw some interesting and challenging pairs. You can work on the transition from one target to the next. You can shoot pairs both ways to see which works better. And, because you're not distracted by noise, recoil and the pressure to see a target break, you notice little things about your shooting form that might otherwise escape you.

In using the LaserPro

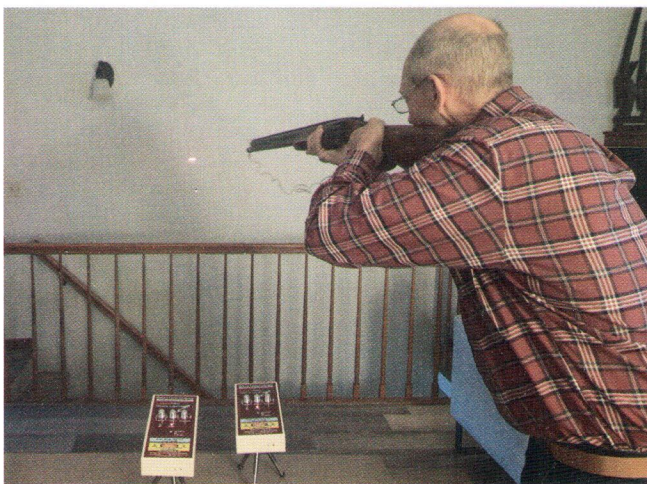


▲ With some fiddling, you can set the Doubles Duty up to throw all sorts of "targets."

and the LaserShooter, I find it is very good for keeping me on the target's line of flight, which is crucial to good shooting. It helps with gun speed, too. You can match the dot's speed, pull away from it, or swing through it, all while being mindful of moving in time with the target. If you keep your finger on the trigger so the light stays on after you "shoot," you can work on finishing the shot by keeping your eye on the dot and your head on the gun and not dropping the gun off your shoulder prematurely. On the other hand, because the trainer gives no feedback, I have no idea when my leads are right, and that means I can't work on one of my worst habits: over-leading close or slow targets. That's a problem I'll have to work out on real targets with

enough electricity for the LaserShooter to function. You have to order an accessory button that sets you back an additional \$69, so there's that. On the plus side, Robert Louis absolutely stands behind everything they sell, so you can order without fear.

You can rationalize, telling yourself that the Doubles Duty pays for itself in approximately 40ish rounds of clays by letting



▲ You call your own hits and misses with the Doubles Duty. The author found it helpful for keeping him on the target line and for matching gun speed.

real ammunition.

I do have some quibbles. The Doubles Duty sells for \$888. While it probably costs more to make moving-dot laser projectors than I think it does, the Doubles Duty doesn't look or feel like an \$888 product. Also, Benellis, Franchis, Blasers and newer Brownings have anodized triggers that won't conduct

you practice without paying for targets or ammunition. However, you have probably figured out by now that nothing in the clay target sports ever saves you money. The Doubles Duty doesn't take the place of shooting. It does give you more practice for the real thing, though. It lets you keep in touch with your shotgun when life or weather doesn't let you get to the gun club, and it's a lot more fun to shoot at a pair of moving dots than it is to do gun mounts or swing a flashlight at the ceiling. **CTN**