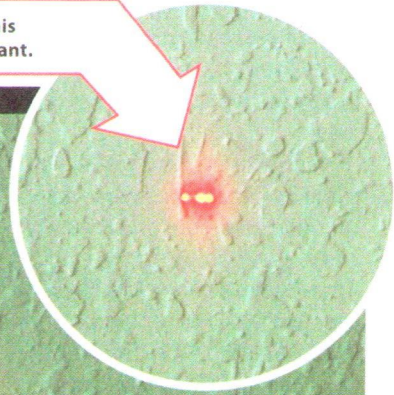


A fast shutter on the author's camera caught this moving target. With Laser Pro, feedback is instant.



Game Changer

By Wayne van Zwoil

Slow target or slow shutter? Both. Send two targets, boost speed and shorten duration to add difficulty.

Laser inserts and projected targets allow realistic indoor practice.

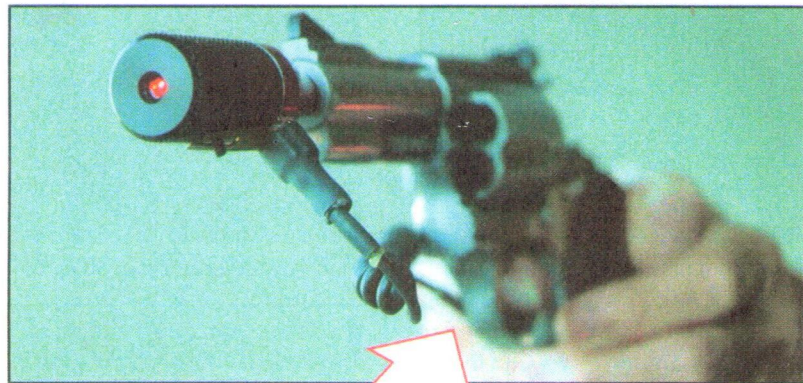
The S&W Model 60 is Alice's revolver. It's kept full, with the same stiff .38 Special hollowpoint loads as in my 66. We shoot them occasionally near our rural home. A firearm is pretty useless in unpracticed hands.

Even though my neighbors are reasonably distant and long ago resigned themselves to an occasional blast from across the orchard, I like to keep them in the pro-firearms camp, so loud and extended sessions take place a few miles into the hills.

Consequently, some handguns and rifles get little exercise. More importantly, I don't practice as often as needed to stay proficient with them. And Alice shoots very little.

So when the Robert Louis Co. announced a device that would let us use firearms indoors, I homed in on it. "You simply replace ammunition with a laser insert that projects a colored dot where the bullet would strike. We provide targets, even moving ones."

How could I resist? A LaserPro unit arrived shortly in a hinged plastic case big enough to hold an N-Frame Smith or a pair of 1911s. In it, I found a half-dozen finely machined alloy muzzle inserts or spuds, color-coded



Press the gun's trigger to project a laser beam. Choose a trigger-mounted switch or a flexible finger ring.

as to diameter: .22, .30, .38 (and .357, 9mm), .40, .44 and .45.

The rendition I tested is the Pistolero, which works in autoloaders and revolvers. It can also be used in rifles. Shotgun spuds are furnished in an All-Gauge LaserShooter kit tailored for smoothbores. The Wobbler laser unit offers clay-bird shooters a range of moving-target options.

I've used laser inserts for bore-sighting repeating rifles. On pistols, laser sights provide accuracy in the dark and help you refine shooting technique so the gun points where you're looking.

"But LaserPro delivers a lot more," says Mr. Louis. "You get projected tar-

gets. You can make them move at any speed or angle, and choose intervals at which they appear and how long they remain visible. This helps build speed as well as accuracy."

The electronic unit that projects the target is about the size of a box of .500 Nitro Express rounds. It takes a charge from 110-volt household current. But you can unplug the power cord to use the unit elsewhere. The specs call for 20 hours of continuous use before a full eight-hour recharge is needed.

For my tests, I used the supplied cord. It's long enough for the 8- to 10-foot projection distance recommended. Independent, cordless muzzle spuds in the handgun let you practice from as far away as you wish.

(Continued)



LaserPro, here with several spuds (shotgun at right), improves your swing and lead. You get faster, too.



The target unit yields 20 hours of continuous use on battery power. It also plugs into AC outlets.



A battery-powered unit on the muzzle spud projects the laser beam. It's adjustable for windage and elevation.

The power switch on the control box lets you specify one or two targets. A pair appears together and moves together. Two of the box's three dials adjust target speed and window — that is, the duration of the target image. The other dial gives you the option of voice activation. You can holler "Pull!" or "Drop it, you yella-bellied varmint!" And the target(s) will appear.

Though the White Lightning LaserPro unit in my kit works fine placed on a table, it also accepts a short ball-head tripod, which is included. Adjusting head angle, you command the path angle of moving targets.

After a little experimenting, the red target dots flitting on my dining room wall obeyed my every wish.

Three wafer LR44 batteries power the pistol laser, which you thread onto the barrel spud before inserting it. The precisely machined aluminum won't harm the bore. Spring-loaded ball bearings ensure a snug fit.

After dumping the hollowpoints from Alice's S&W and installing the .38 spud, I slid my finger into the ring on the trigger cord attached to the laser unit on the spud. All this is intuitive, taking less time to do than explain. Touching my finger to the trigger closed the circuit, and a red

dot appeared on the wall.

To ensure the dot shows where a bullet would strike, the unit includes windage/elevation adjustments. Extensions for the .22 and .30 spuds allow riflemen to install them through flash suppressors and most muzzle brakes.

The LaserPro target and handgun units both worked as described, and soon I was hooked. Absent the noise and recoil of live fire, laser practice appeals as well to Alice. With current outside temperatures in the teens over a quilt of snow, we won't soon be donning boots and scarves to blaze away in the orchard. Electronic practice in the dining room is both easy and comfortable. Cheap, too. Beyond the cost of the LaserPro, roughly that of a low-end 1911, each shot is free! Practice as much as you wish at no cost.

Alice found the ring with the switch almost a perfect fit. It's flexible, and expanded to snug up on my much bigger finger. Robert Louis suspected some shooters might prefer a trigger-mounted switch, so he provides one with each LaserPro kit. It's a requisite, he adds, with the All-Gauge Shotgun set if you're shooting a Benelli, Franchi or Blaser that has non-conductive parts.

Another option is laser color. I used red, but you can also specify green, which is widely thought to

catch the eye quicker and appear brighter in daylight.

Given the popularity of Cowboy Action shooting and its emphasis on fast instinctive fire, you'd expect a kit specifically for those hombres. It's available, with Pistolero and Shotgun components in a single package.

The company also offers shooting accessories you won't find elsewhere, including a Shotgun Combo Gauge that measures length of pull, drop at comb and heel, cast and pitch angle. The RLC Boremaster measures bore and choke diameters, forcing cone dimensions and barrel wall thickness.

The company also lists gun wipes, magnetized gun racks and scales that show what Old Betsy weighs.

A tripod with a ball head threads into the target control unit and offers countless target angles.



But I'm most impressed with the LaserPro in its various forms. No matter how much we wrangle over the merits of this cartridge or that, of autoloaders vs. revolvers, or of pumps vs. over-unders, effective shooting results from regular practice.

Unless you're an active competitor, you don't get enough live-fire practice to stay sharp. I certainly don't. With LaserPro you handle your own firearms, not some awkward facsimile, and you pull the trigger you'll use afield or in self-defense.

Surely, noise and recoil affect performance, and use of a LaserPro doesn't absolve you of live-fire drills. But indoor sessions when you can't or don't want to hie off to the range will make you a better shooter. Add the fun of instant feedback on where real shots would strike and the allure of moving targets — well, what's not to like? **GH**

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