



## MASTERCLASS

By Roger Hill



GOLFERS NEED ALL THEIR CLUBS TO COMPLETE A ROUND – AND SHOOTERS NEED TO HAVE ALL METHODS IN THE BAG TO ACHIEVE LEAD

Now that your muzzle is in a position where the target cannot beat you, you also have a choice of how to achieve your lead picture. You can wait for the target as it runs up the side of the barrels; move with it, and pull ahead (pull away) as soon as you have made contact. You can also let the target pass the barrels and move through it with total control (swinging through, i.e. not chasing it out of control). Or, you can move in front of the target just before it gets to the muzzles (maintained lead). Remember, lead is perceived and not measured, and must be achieved instinctively. When the brain sees the correct picture, it must send the message to the finger to pull the trigger. The best way to achieve this perception with quartering targets is to picture the target with short wings, like a partridge, and knock the wings off in the direction of travel as follows:

L-R  $\frac{1}{4}$  away: shoot the right wing off.  
R-L  $\frac{1}{4}$  away: shoot the left wing off.  
L-R  $\frac{1}{4}$  incomer: shoot the right wing off.  
R-L  $\frac{1}{4}$  incomer: shoot the left wing off.

Now you can see that gun movement on a quartering target has to be very short; the lead picture small; and everything under control. This method of knocking the wing off will work with all three methods of achieving lead, but works best with pull-away, as this

gives the shooter the true speed and direction of this very deceptive target. A good shot will have all the methods in his bag to achieve lead on any given target, and will use the one that best suits the situation and how he sees the target. As in golf, where you need all the clubs in your bag to play a round, likewise with shooting: learn what method of achieving lead to use on a given target, and also when to shoot gun-up or gun-down. Don't be afraid to experiment to get the best out of yourself



Roger Hill runs the Pro Coach Shooting School, Fyfield, Essex, is a Fellow of the Institute of Clay Shooting Instructors, and a Member of the Association of Professional Shooting Instructors. If you have any questions, he can be contacted at: [roger@procoachshootingsschool.com](mailto:roger@procoachshootingsschool.com)  
[www.procoachshootingsschool.com](http://www.procoachshootingsschool.com)

### SO, TO RE-CAP:

- Know your break-point – your 'sweet spot' – so you can be balanced at the point of break.
- Know what the target is doing: its speed and its direction.
- Mount into the break zone and wind back, but only by a few yards (this type of target needs to have its muzzle pick-up point and break-point in the last third of its flight, while it is still under power).
- Keep the muzzles just under the line of flight.
- Always let the target come to you. Be in control – don't chase it out of control.
- Keep the whole movement short, smooth and under total control.
- To see the correct perceived lead picture, knock its wing off.
- Shoot safe, shoot straight.