

Wing Shooting – Understanding

The Ready Position

The Carry Position

Every successful shot executed properly incorporates the ready position. What is the ready position? The ready position is the position the gun stock is just prior to being moved to the shooters cheek. Why the cheek not the shoulders? Mounting your shotgun to your cheek first, then your shoulder moving slightly forwards to meet the butt stock is smoothest and most efficient method to mount a shotgun for wing shooting.

If you have ever watched an accomplished wing shooting English man in action, you will quickly notice how smooth he mounts his shotgun.

You may hit your mark with a poor gun mount but a smooth correct gun mount will be faster and enhance accuracy. Remember smooth is efficient and efficient is fast.

Regardless of how you may be holding your shotgun when you decide to mount it, your shotgun will go to the ready position just before being mounted to cheek and shoulder. This is why every wing shooter should understand the importance of the ready position. This is the foundation of every gun mount.

If you really want to improve your wing shooting, you must practice. Practicing mounting your shotgun mount is almost as important as shooting clays. To hit a clay target or game bird you must see target, move muzzle to target and shoot.

In a hunting situation when the eyes lock on the target the shotgun should go to the ready position. From the ready position the eyes direct the muzzle to the target and the shot is fired as the muzzle arrives at proper forward relationship to the target. If the shot is perfectly executed, the comb of the stock comes to the cheek and shoulder moves to the butt stock as the shot is fired.

This is what I call L.P.S.T. Look, Point, Shoot and Trust. Done correctly and you will always score a hit. If the shotgun is in that all important ready position when the eyes send the messages to the brain and the brain in turn gives the command to the muscles to point the shotgun a well-placed shot is the result.

It becomes quite evident that a poor ready position makes hitting your target difficult to almost impossible.

It is impossible to carry your shotgun in the ready position at all times while hunting. It is critical to successful wing shooting that you are capable of smoothly attaining the ready position from any and all safe carries.

My advice is not only to practice mounting your shotgun from the all-important ready position but once you have your ready position mount perfected, start mounting your shotgun from your most common carrying positions. Eventually as you master mounting from one carrying position move onto another position. If you really want to improve your wing shooting in actual hunting situations, you must be able to smoothly mount your shotgun from any and all possible situations one might encounter while hunting.

You might wonder why I put so much emphasis on the carry position and pre mount. Remember the shotgun always goes from the carry position first to the pre mount or ready position. You may have the best gun mount from the ready position but if getting your shotgun to that all important ready position is a cumbersome herky-jerky motion you will never reach your potential.

You can shoot all the clay target games and become a master class competitor but none of these games incorporate the all-important carry positions. Only by practicing mounting your shotgun from any and all possible positions will you become a real master class bird hunter.

Good luck bird hunting and always keep your eye on your target.

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