

**August 2004**

*I have just started shooting both Olympic Trap and DTL and I have never really understood where to start my gun in relation to the trap house just prior to calling for the target to be released. Is there a particular point to start at?*

*Peter Wilson, Seaford, Vic*

In DTL shooting I would suggest all shooters start with the gun above the trap house if shooting in normal conditions. These days the targets are quite slow as they travel well less than 50 metres and the angles are no more than 22 degrees each side of centre. This means that there is very little gun movement required to actually shoot the target. Holding too low will often mean that it is very easy to swing straight through the clay. The obvious question is just how high above the trap do you start. This is a very personal choice, but I would suggest you start too high to begin with, maybe more than parallel to the ground, then work your way back to a comfortable position. This may be less than a metre above the tip of the trap house. In Olympic Trap I would suggest to start on the far point of the trap house and find a comfortable starting position not too far from there. Because of the increased target speed much more gun movement will be needed to the swing through method of lead so a lower starting position will be required.

*Do I need a longer stock on my competition gun than I do on my field gun?*

*Noel Vella, Hurstville, NSW*

Generally speaking a competition shotgun will have a longer length of pull than a field model because a competition gun generally can be mounted, or close to, on your shoulder before firing. The real exception here is International Skeet where the gun must start no higher than your hip. When shooting in the field the gun is often carried with the butt or pad well below your hip and often a quick mount is needed and a shorter stock allows for a quicker mount. The length of pull is generally measured from the trigger to the back of the recoil pad. There is no perfect length for everyone.

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