

February 2004

Question: I am confused with what type of shot to use on clay targets. I have been told that to have consistent breaks I need to have very hard shot. Is that true? I generally shoot skeet, but recently have started to shoot some Sporting Clays.

Joseph Gauci, Altona VIC

Shot size 7 ½ is the most ideal all round size for clays. There is no doubt that hard shot is not a disadvantage to shoot clay targets, particularly on targets at 30 metres and beyond. More emphasis should be first of all placed on the roundness of the shot. Generally most manufacturers will have a standard shot shell load with a shot hardness of three percent antimony. Antimony is a substance added to lead to make the shot harder. Provided the shot is round this is quite sufficient to shoot any clay target. Premium loads can have up to six percent antimony which can give extra patterning performance at longer distances again though, only if the shot you are using is round. A good test is to open up one of your cartridges and see if the shot rolls around freely on a tabletop. If it doesn't roll around smoothly then find another shot shell to use.

Question: I just bought a Browning Sporter. Is this ideal to shoot trap targets with as well?

Peter Norman, Murray Bridge SA

Adequate, yes. Ideal, no. If I was a trap target in my next life I would hate someone shooting at me with a sporting gun, but it is not ideal. Generally an ideal trap gun will be heavier, have a higher stock comb and probably longer barrels with tighter chokes. (Although many sporting shotguns these days come with 30" or 32" barrels with adjustable chokes which would be perfect for trap shooting)

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