

**March 2006**

*I have read many articles on patterning guns and I am very confused. I have an old Beretta 680 Trap Gun which I shoot fairly good DTL with. Recently I patterned the gun with a friend at 40 yards as I was told this is the recognized standard distance for patterning shotguns. When I fired at the spot in the middle of the pattern board nearly all of the shot went above the spot where I was aiming. I am now told this gun is no good as it shoots too high. I am interested on your thoughts.*

*Eric Anderson, Mt Gambier SA*

Eric you have patterned your gun at the recognized standard distance for patterning SHOTSHELLS not SHOTGUNS. First of all it would be a rare and unfortunate clay target to be broken at 40 yards from common mark DTL shooting. Try 25 metres and you will get a more realistic view on where your shotgun is actually shooting in relation to the true distance for shooting 15 metre DTL targets. It sounds like the gun shoots 100 % high at 40 yards which is not too unusual for Trap guns. At 25 metres I am sure it would be about 70 to 75% high with in my opinion is ideal for Trap shooting.

The distance of 40 yards is a common measurement to check the spread of a shot shells pellets through different choked and constricted barrels. I would keep away from doing this unless you are really curious or have lots of time on your hands because this can get quite complicated and often nothing is achieved by spending countless hours counting how many pellets missed a 30" circle at 40 yards. Trust most shot shell manufacturers these days have got the ballistics pretty right.

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