

May 2008

Is there any particular reason why the price of shot shells is continuing to climb. With two kids shooting its becoming hard to stay involved in the sport and if things don't change soon we will have to look at another activity.

Peter Nicholls, Dubbo, NSW

There is not one definitive answer to your question Peter, but the obvious response is the price of lead which continues to trade at record levels. This coupled with the fact that China is now a major player in the world manufacturing economy and their continued demand for lead continues to push the price up. These factors and the rising price of oil which in turn pushes up the cost of transport of not only the raw materials used to make shot shells, but also the moving around the world of the finished product, makes the cost to the consumer increasingly higher. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but there is no short term solution in sight.

I have set up a gun to shoot DTL over the past couple of years that I am very happy with and I have now reached AA Grade. This gun shoots reasonably high (60%). I have now taken up shooting Olympic Trap and have bought another gun of exactly the same brand and barrel length which is 75cm. After speaking with some of the more experienced shooters at my range I have set the second gun up so it shoots flatter and only shoots 50% high. The barrels are a fair bit lighter which makes me shoot faster and I have made the stock longer so I stay glued to it for the wider swinging targets. I have this specialized Olympic Trap gun now, but I can't hit a thing with it. I actually hit far more targets when I use my DTL gun. Have I been given good advice and what would you suggest to improve my Olympic Trap scores?

Name held by request.

The first thing I would do is to find someone I hate and sell them your second gun for as much as I could get for it. See if some of the guys that gave you all the advice are in the market. It sounds like you already have a perfectly fine gun and it also sounds like it would be more than adequate to shoot Olympic Trap with. 75 cm barrels are perfect and generally any barrel weight from about 1.45kg all the way to 1.7kg has been used over the years to win all of the world's major events. The stock on your first gun must be suitable and there is no logical argument that Olympic Trap requires a lengthier stock. There is some merit in having a slightly higher shooting gun for DTL. Maybe all you needed was a few millimetres taken off your original comb then an adjustable stock added so you could shoot both disciplines comfortably.

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