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I have never really understood why different guns need different amounts of cast. I have a shotgun which I am told has no cast in the stock. Will this gun be suitable for me to use to shoot DTL with?

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Alan it's not that different guns need varying amounts of cast, its different people and techniques that require that the cast is not the same. Cast is the angle that the stock is slanted away either left or right from the barrel of the gun. If you look down over the top of a shotgun from behind the stock you will notice that the stock, if it is made for a right handed shooter, is bent to the right slightly. For right hand shooters this is known as cast "off". For left hand shooters it is bent the other way and it is known as cast "on". There are three important measurements of cast. These points are measured where the face touches the comb, generally at the very front part of the top of the comb, then a measurement for the cast at the heel of the stock (the top of the back of the stock) and the toe (the bottom of the back). There are many factors that can be discussed when determining the amount of cast that each of these three points need, but the two most important are stance and body shape. People who adopt a very open stance, that is they have their bodies facing front on to the target, need more cast than those who have a square stance, this being a stance where they are standing at 90 degrees from the target and are virtually shooting across their bodies. The reason for this can be best explained by imagining two parallel lines being drawn from your shooting eye and the second from your shoulder both directly to the target. With an open stance the distance between these lines (eye and shoulder) is greater than that of a square stance. With the latter stance there often is no distance at all between the two lines therefore reducing the need for cast. In essence cast is a tool that allows us to mount a shotgun to our shoulder and face without having to tilt our head or cant the gun. As a general rule a stance midway between these two descriptions, at 45 degrees from the target, is preferable to start with in all forms of Trap shooting mainly so an even swing to both the left and the right can occur. Thus the reason why shotguns are made with some cast off or cast on. Larger people commonly need more cast for much the same basic reason. The distance between their eye and shoulder is greater thus the need to "bend" the stock away from their face more towards their shoulder.

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