

September 2005

I have been a social rifle shooter for many years, but recently I have tried shotgun shooting which I have enjoyed. Every now and then I can't fire the second shot, which I am told is a flinch. Some shooters at my club have told me I need to get a release trigger to continue in the sport. Is there any way around this?

Alan Dempsey, Fremantle, WA

Easy up there Tiger!!! Don't be racing into that just yet. There could be many reasons why you are failing to engage the second shot. It could simply be a mechanical adjustment in the trigger mechanism or an adjustment needed in the palm swell of your grip on your stock. If you have an adjustable trigger it may also be a movement forward or back required to get the correct length of pull. Try any of these with an experienced gunsmith or club coach before you even consider making the extreme decision of fitting your gun with a release trigger as opposed to a pull mechanism. Having to get used to releasing the trigger as opposed to pulling it will take an enormous amount of commitment from you and will no doubt take away some of the enjoyment in the sport. Release triggers are popular in America and have no doubt saved some shooters careers due to legitimate flinching problems. Many in the States have switched to double release triggers which means that they have to initially pull the trigger to cock the gun then release it to fire it and then quickly pull it and again release it to fire the second shot. If that doesn't scramble your brain then nothing will. Every single shooter that I have spoken to that has gone to a release trigger has admitted that they have done so at the absolute last resort.

Questions: russell@russellmark.com.au