



SAGA Snippets

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065
TEL 031-562-9951 CELL 066-003-9226 FAX 086-553-9615

EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA
WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA
FACEBOOK: GunLobbySAGA

Looking Ahead to Women's Month with SAGA

A number of events are being planned in August for Women's Month in partnership with SAGA and other supporters.

9 August: Armed and Informed West Cape at Bellville Pistol Club

Organised by Real Deal Resources in partnership with Quenets Hunting & Fishing, Bellville Pistol Club, National Hunting & Shooting Association, and SAGA.

this event includes a theoretical session and a range session to learn how to safely and responsibly handle a firearm with Advanced Level Firearm Instructor and Range Officer.
Price: R850 includes theory, practical, breakfast, lunch and refreshments.
To book contact Hamish on 082-320-3309 or
hamish@realdealresources.co.za

12 August: Self Defence Course & Intro to Shooting KwaZulu-Natal at Kings Shooting Range

Dragon Protection Services in partnership with Kings Firearms, SAGA, and COPS Combat Academy is holding a practical tactical self defence course and introduction to shooting event from 12 - 3pm.
Price: R550
To book contact Trisha on 082-930-1884 or
sales@dragonprotection.co.za



19 August: Ladies Event Gauteng at Tactical HQ, Fourways

Themba Khubeka in conjunction with Alex FM Radio, Tactical HQ, and SAGA will be teaching ladies about firearm safety, the law as it pertains to firearms and provide them with the chance to shoot a number of different firearms.
This event will be opened to Alex FM listeners the week before.

26 August: Women's Introduction to Firearms West Cape at George Sport Shooting Club

George Sport Shooting Club in partnership with SAGA are holding an introduction to firearms, sport shooting and self-defence for women event from 9am to 2pm.
Price: R100 per entry
Advance bookings only. Send an email to antonmm@absamail.co.za
Booking and payment needed before 21 August.

SAGA Snippets July 2023

Special points of interest:

- Looking Ahead to Women's Month with SAGA
- Holsters: Almost as Important as the Handgun
- SAGA Corporate Membership
- Do you Have to Break-In a New Defensive Handgun?
- SAGA Membership
- 8 Mistakes Shooters Make to Miss the Mark
- Defending Your Vehicle

Holsters: Almost As Important As The Handgun

by Sheriff Jim Wilson

1 July 2023

I suppose that if I had any real skills at this business I could just visit with a person for a few minutes and then tell them exactly what type and brand of holster they needed for concealed carry. Never mind that I've been carrying a handgun longer than many of you readers have been alive.

After all these years, I have finally figured out what works for me, at the expense of two big boxes of holsters that I never use anymore. Maybe it's a complicated issue or maybe I'm just not smart enough. Regardless, I've come up with a few tips that just might help you cut a few corners in your search for a suitable defensive holster.

To begin with, I would avoid the "one size fits all" type of holsters like the plague. They don't do it. And "almost" doesn't work in this game. Most decent holster companies will have a list with each model holster that they make, telling you exactly which guns they are built for. If they don't have a model for your exact gun, try another company.

I don't like a thumbsnap or safety strap on a defensive holster because when you need that handgun, you need it in a hurry. However, I don't mind a retention screw in the body of the holster that can be tightened down as the leather stretches over time because that doesn't impede the draw stroke. Whatever material used to manufacture the holster, the rig should hold your gun securely during most activity.

Most folks can get by quite nicely with a holster designed to be worn on the waist. However, you'll just have to experiment with carrying inside the waistband, outside the waistband, crossdraw, or appendix to see what works best for you. Or you may eventually find that the shoulder holster, the pocket carry, or ankle carry is what you need. In this case, it would be a really good idea to study



your situation or practice with borrowed holsters instead of just buying one of everything, although the holster companies would certainly appreciate the business.

One often overlooked aspect of the defensive holster is that it should be accessible to either hand. If at all possible, you should be able to reach across the front of your body, or behind your back, to get hold of the gun with your support hand. Your strong side arm might be injured, you might be holding onto something with that hand, or one of the crooks may have purposely grabbed your strong side arm. A support-hand draw might not be as fast but it still might save your life.

Finally, when you attend those defensive pistol classes, as I know you all do, seek out experienced shooters or instructors of your same size and build. Find out how they carry on the street and why. It just might work for you, too, and cut expenses a bit.

And, ladies, it's generally not a good idea to let a man tell you how you should carry. With a little bit of a search, you will find women with lots of carry experience and pick their brain for ideas.

In the end, selecting a defense holster is a very personal thing and it should be the result of serious study and experimentation. You'll know you've succeeded when you have a rig that holds your gun securely, allows for a fast draw, and holds up over time.

In the meantime, I'll work on improving my holster-guru skills.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/holsters-almost-as-important-as-the-handgun/?utm_source=newsletter



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Do You Have to Break-In a New Defensive Handgun?

by Frank Melloni

10 July 2023



When I consider the question of whether or not one needs to break-in a defensive handgun, I recall an eye-opening moment in a Cabela's parking lot. I stepped out of my car and my foot landed on an empty clam-shell container which once belonged to a budget holster. Right away, I envisioned the horrific scenario that likely led to this reckless litter: A new gun owner purchasing a firearm and a holster nearly blind, and then strapping it on and going about their day. So....Why not take a look at a few components in breaking in your concealed carry rig before you hit the streets?

The Pistol

Although not as intensive as rifles, pistols do indeed have a break-in procedure. At a minimum, you should put about 100 rounds through your new handgun, and to do it by firing a series of groups with a cleaning in between each.

This will do a number of things to make your shooting experience better down the road. First, it will help condition the barrel for easier clean-up in the future. Those 100 rounds or so will also help rub off any leftover burrs on the feed ramp, increasing overall reliability. Doing this also goes a long way into breaking in the recoil spring as well, making it easier to rack during your day-to-day use. Triggers also get softer and lose their grit as the gun is fired. This will lead to cleaner breaks and better accuracy. Revolvers will see the biggest benefit over time, but your semi-autos will clean up quite a bit too.

During these first 100 rounds you should also be doing a lot of mag changes. This will force you to hit the magazine release more frequently, wearing it in for smoother reloads. After you insert a fresh magazine, spend the

day putting the gun into battery by hitting the slide stop, in lieu of "slingshotting" it. This will help wear in these mating surfaces for gentler manipulation down the road.

After your first range day leave your pistol in slide lock for a week if you are not going to immediately carry it. This procedure will help compress the spring and also aid in easier opening of the action in the future.

The Magazines

Anything with a spring and/or a finished surface will have some sort of break-in period. The magazine(s) of your new pistol will likely have both, and thus will benefit from a little initial wear.

Grab a speedloader and spend a night on the couch filling and emptying your magazines. This action will ease future loadings by initiating spring wear. While many people believe that the action of leaving a magazine filled will eventually destroy a spring, it is actually the constant compression and decompression that eventually leads to the end of their useful life...and that is literally thousands of cycles.

For those of you looking to pick up a new machining term, we call this "work hardening." I have tested this theory personally with close to 150 AR-15 magazines that we leave filled only to be emptied once a month. At this time not a single magazine has failed in close to five years. However, as few as 20 loadings and unloadings have made the new magazines substantially easier to fill.

The Holster

Our third break-in point brings us back to that parking lot. An individual who slaps a gun into a new holster without a test drive is not only putting themselves in an uncomfortable predicament, but maybe even a dangerous one.

In the case of leather holsters there is a major break-in period that involves storing the gun in it for days - even weeks - and wearing it



Continued...Do You Have to Break-In a New Defensive Handgun?

without a firearm for some time as well. Wearing it empty is more about making it so the holster is free to bend and contour to your belt and body to provide comfort, while storing a gun in it helps it finalize its form. Storing a gun in your new leather holster and frequently drawing it ensures that it will be released easily in an emergency.

At Renaissance Firearms Instruction we recommend each shooter also practice a few dry (no ammunition) draws and re-holsterings before they ever consider loading the firearm. During this time, we urge our students to pay diligent attention to any snagging that may occur, and of course the dropping of a hammer or striker that would result in an accidental discharge with a loaded firearm. Although the latter is an extremely rare condition, you never want to discover a firearm or holster manufacturer's defect after it's too late.

While this break-in process speaks loudly to leather, Kydex holsters benefit from it as well. These synthetic holsters usually contain some sort of retention adjustment system, which will almost set itself when it is stressed for a week or so. If it doesn't, then you will know that it needs to be loosened or even tightened to deliver the desired level of retention.

When you make the decision to carry a pistol, be sure to take some time to research and test your gear before you entrust your life upon it.

Aside from purchasing proper equipment, "treat" yourself to some training.... Not only will this save you a lot of headache, but it will leave you with a proper routine for practice and help you to be confident with your new everyday-carry (EDC) rig.

Extracted from:

https://www.nrafamily.org/content/do-you-have-to-break-in-a-new-defensive-handgun/?utm_source=newsletter



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The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cellphone number **066 003 9226**.



8 Mistakes Shooters Make to Miss the Mark

https://www.nrafamily.org/content/8-mistakes-shooters-make-to-miss-the-mark/?utm_source=newsletter

by George Dvorchak M.D.
10 July 2023

Helping others learn to shoot helps us, too. My grandkids have gotten into the higher stages of shooting. As I was working with one, the questions I was asked that day got me thinking about the mistakes that even experienced shooters make. As I created a checklist for my grandchild, I realized that there were some areas where I could improve, too. Here are eight mistakes some shooters make, and how to avoid them.

1. Inconsistent Firearm Position

Do not cant or slightly rotate your firearm either clockwise or counterclockwise from the vertical. To easily see how this happens, set up a scoped rifle on a bench with the crosshair on the center of the target. Now slightly tip the rifle to either side, which obviously tilts the crosshair. What generally happens is that if tilted to the left, your shot will tend to hit to the lower left. If you're canting to the right, you'll hit to the lower right.

If you're using a rifle or shotgun, the stock must fit whoever uses it...in hot or cold weather. Why? With a jacket on, the stock that fit in the summer becomes too long now. What happens is that if you're fumbling to get it to feel right, you are not concentrating on taking the shot and the results may not be what you wanted.

2. Breathing Too Much or Too Little

I always tell my grand kids that if you're aiming and the front sight isn't moving at all, you are dead. They get a kick out of that! In reality, everyone has a "wobble." The best way to reduce that wobble is to focus in on slowly breathing, letting some out, holding it and slowly squeezing the trigger.



3. Inconsistent Placement of One's Finger on the Trigger

Through repetition, we memorize what works best for what we are doing, and this is why practice is important. Concerning the trigger finger, I always put the trigger on the fleshy part of the finger below the end of the nail and about a half inch before the first joint on that finger. This is the most sensitive part of the trigger finger, and gives me the feeling that is just right.

4. Moving Too Soon

Once you fire, continue looking at the target and do not pick up your head from the sight to see it break or where you hit. What can happen is that at times we pick up our head in anticipation even as we squeeze the trigger. What now happens is that the trigger pull and sight picture are not coordinated, which translates into a miss. The good and bad news is that we all have done that...with the good part being that we can stop that bad habit.

5. Not Relaxing

When someone worries about making mistakes, or is too relaxed or cocky, we tend to make those mistakes. What one "mess up" can do is shake you up, making it tough to relax and concentrate, then call for the target and do what you know you have done many times before. The best thing you can do is get "the mistake" out of your mind and move on mentally, since no one does their best when angry or upset.



Continued...8 Mistakes Shooters Make to Miss the Mark

6. Sleep Deprivation

This, along with hunger, can act to intensify stress, which affects how one performs. It has been shown that missing an hour of sleep is roughly equivalent to a martini on an empty stomach. This is why before a shooting competition, you should focus on getting a good night's sleep so you can wake up with the mindset to do your best.

7. Not Checking the Zero or Sight

When sighting-in any firearm, use a solid rest. Shoot three to five shots at the bullseye. If you're off, but the group is tight, it is probably the scope or sight, so make the adjustment and start over again. Yet, if you shoot an erratic group and all screws are tight and the rest is solid, the cause can be as simple as ammo.

8. Mixing Ammo

Take what we all have shot, .22 LR ammo! Years ago I was at the range with a friend who dumped partially filled boxes of ammo in a can and from there, loaded his rifle and fired. I took a dozen or so boxes of .22 LR ammo and shot 5 rounds through my T/C Contender scoped rifle at 25 yards. Most everything grouped well! The shock was the 6-inch spread in groups as to what brand of ammo/bullet weight and velocity. When I showed him my targets about a week later, he smiled and said it does make a difference, even in the rimfire. Stick with what works for you, your gun and your sighting system..



Defending Your Vehicle



by Kevin Creighton

3 July 2023

A man's home is his castle, or so the saying goes, but these days, we also tend to look at our cars, trucks or vans as a castle as well. They're our refuge in the stormy maelstrom of traffic. They provide us with soothing music from the stereo and cool breezes from the air conditioning vents. However, just because our vehicles are comfortable, it doesn't mean they're invulnerable, and that's why something like the Vehicle Defense Class from Go Noisy USA starts to make a lot of sense.

Neil Davis, Go Noisy's chief instructor, is a veteran with years of service in British Intelligence in Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and a number of other locations, working primarily undercover in some of the hottest of the world's hotspots. These actions required him to work primarily from "civilian" vehicles like passenger cars and trucks, so unlike other vehicle skills classes tailored to law enforcement, Neil's classes have "real world" application for the armed citizen, as the needs of a teacher driving to work vary from the needs of an Uber driver who regularly has strangers in the car or a law enforcement officer at a traffic stop. The class was four hours in the classroom and four hours on the range and covered three different scenarios: Carjacking, Aggressive Motorists, Violent Demonstrations.

Carjackings

Carjackings, according to Davis come in two different flavors: Opportunistic carjackings, where the crooks are looking for any old car in a storm, and planned or targeted attacks, where the goal is to relieve someone of their expensive car.

For the armed citizen, an opportunistic carjacking will most likely be a "wrong place, wrong time scenario," something we can help avoid by not being in the wrong places at wrong times. Targeted carjackings, on the hand, are meticulously planned, with copious prior surveillance so the crooks know exactly when and where they are going to strike.

Which brings up an important point. Crooks choose victims based on how they look and act, so anything you can do to deselect yourself as a victim is probably a good thing. One way to do that is what Davis called the "soak." Simply put, when you arrive at a new location, take a few seconds and "soak in" the environment. Where are the other cars parked? Is there anyone just standing around? If so, how many, and where are they standing? Who is coming and going from your destination, and what do they look like? Taking a few moments to observe your surroundings like this gives you a baseline of what "normal" looks like and allows you to quickly spot what's changed when you come back out of your destination, helping you spot potential trouble before it becomes a real problem.

Aggressive Motorists

Angry attacks on the road, Davis says, generally aren't caused by traffic jams by themselves. Rather, traffic is the spark that sets off an emotional reaction to pre-existing frustration, such as a bad day at the work or a previous incident on the road. Because these kinds of incidents are escalations of other events, being able de-escalate the event is critical, as is not escalating things even more.

Getting out of dodge and putting distance between you and your attacker is the fastest



Continued...Defending Your Vehicle

and easiest way to avoid becoming a victim of an incident that has the potential for violence, as is knowing your state's use of force laws so you can respond in an appropriate way if violence cannot be avoided or de-escalated.

Violent Demonstrations

Here's where things get really tricky. A mob blocking a road can turn ugly and violent in the blink of an eye, and that can change your response just as quickly. It's one thing to be stuck in traffic surrounded by a crowd of angry, shouting people, and it's another thing to have Molotov cocktails thrown at the car next to you and a brick come through your windshield.

Your options for what you should do if you're alone are radically different than if you have people in your car. This is dependent on the situation, of course. If you can use your vehicle to exit the area, make great haste to do so. However, if you can't get away (which is the optimal solution) because your vehicle has been disabled or blocked in by immovable objects and it's clearly a situation where things have gotten out of control, staying in your car means staying in one place, making yourself an easy target. If you're alone and have to use a firearm, Davis recommends exiting the car to engage an attacker as soon as things turn to lethal force because of the shorter draw time when standing and the wider range of options available to you.

However, if there are others in your vehicle and you can't leave, he recommends having the unarmed passengers assume the "crash position" found on airliner safety cards in order to give themselves a smaller, more defensible position. Either way, the instability of a riot means you've got to have a flexible plan. A one-note response of going to lethal force as quickly as possible is probably going to get you and those in your car in a lot of trouble. We are not in control of the people outside our vehicle, and that's where the problems can happen.

Staying safe when you're away from home is a complex task that pushes all our self-defense skills to their limits. However, a calm, clear mind and having the tools and ability to respond quickly and appropriately can help us come out on top when everything has gone south.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/defending-your-vehicle/?utm_source=newsletter

