

Secrets of Shooting by Bill Godfrey
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I get this a lot, “what are the secrets to shooting?” – “what secrets do law enforcement and the military know?” There is nothing secret about shooting well, but here are some points to dwell on;

Apply the fundamentals

Just like in golf or tennis apply the fundamentals and the ball will go right where you want it to – same with shooting, the bullet will go where it needs to.

Have a gun with you if there is going to be a fight

Then again, if you knew there was going to be a fight you should have been anywhere ... but there, right? How about a root canal... so that should give you an idea about how much fun a gunfight is.

If I have a gun I should probably have two

Guns are simple and not so simple machines and all machines will have some kind of problem at some point – remember that guy Murphy and his “laws”? A spare gun just may come in handy. Remember, guns will run out of ammunition. So at a minimum have extra ammunition.

Use the sights

Sighted fire is best for optimum marksmanship. However if sighted fire is not possible because the bad guy is choking you to death – then use unsighted fire. When you solve the choking problem and the bad guy lets go of your neck, back up and use sighted fire.

Press the trigger as smoothly as possible

If you yank, wank or jerk on the trigger - you will not hit the target, even at close range. Proper trigger control is crucial for optimum marksmanship – poor trigger control “pulls” the sights and the muzzle off the target or threat. I hear this a lot as well, “he’s so close I can’t miss.” Think about this – he may be so close, you better not miss.

Keep the muzzle between you and the threat

Why make it easy for the attacker by having your muzzle pointed at your feet or at the sky? You might as well point it at him, them or it – then if they are going to take your gun away from you – they must go through a hail of lead and now ... it is empty.

Use cover and concealment

You will never know if cover or concealment will work if you don't use it. People shoot you because they see you and they see you because you let them. Use cover to help break up incoming projectiles - in a gunfight, cover could save your life. Remember even poor cover is better than no cover. Never give up a known for an unknown

Load your gun when it is empty

This is not bad luck; it's only a reality of fighting with a firearm. What you do with the gun when it's empty can be bad luck. A gun will go empty or have a problem, you must be able to get it back into the fight – you will need to manipulate the gun, while moving if necessary, and probably in the dark; keep the gun between you and the threat, then load the gun or fix the problem and shoot back. Remember, if you have an empty or broke gun it is not going to do you any good ... you might as well throw rocks.

Create distance from the threat

Distance is your friend – it creates time, which can help to create better marksmanship. It is usually never a good idea to close with opponents, except perhaps in SWAT applications. Mr. and Mrs. Home-owner are better served to open the ground. It gives you more time to shoot if you have to, and time to make different – or better – decisions concerning the mess you are in.

So here are the secrets to shooting well - but remember they are a secret. The truth is ... as I said there is nothing secret about shooting well but some people just don't get it. There is absolutely no substitute for good training – then train and practice as much as you can ... then train and practice, train and practice and practice ... you get the idea.

Think Smart, Be Smart – if it turns into a fight – Fight Smart