

DTL (Down The Line)

DTL can be considered the starting point for all trap shooting disciplines. Virtually all top trap shooters began their careers in DTL before moving on to the international arena. The layout consists of a single trap housed in a construction approx eight feet wide and three feet high at the front. Five shooting positions, three yards apart, form an arc sixteen yards from the trap house. The targets are standard and normally black or blaze according to the background. They are fixed in terms of speed and elevation but are variable from side to side. Squads of five shooters shoot a round of 25 targets each. With the trap and targets set the competitors comprising the squad shall stand at the designated firing marks from 1 to 5 (from left to right facing the trap) in the order in which their names appear on the scorecard. ALL GUNS SHALL BE OPEN AND EMPTY. When all is ready and correct the Referee shall call "Line Ready". At this point all competitors may insert 2 cartridges into their barrels but guns must remain open. The first competitor, standing on firing mark 1 (subsequently referred to as peg 1) may then close their gun and adopt a shooting stance and call "Pull" or some other word of command when they are ready. Upon this command, the Puller, who shall be positioned behind the line of shooters, will immediately release a target. The competitor on Peg 1 may shoot at this target in flight with full use of the gun. The competitor on the second firing mark may then follow the same procedure, followed afterwards by the third competitor and repeated for competitors No's to No. 4 and 5. After competitor No.5 has shot, competitor No.1 shall again call for a target and all the shooters in the squad will follow this sequence until the required number of targets has been shot at. After five targets have been shot at from each stand, an indication to cease shooting and change stands shall be given.

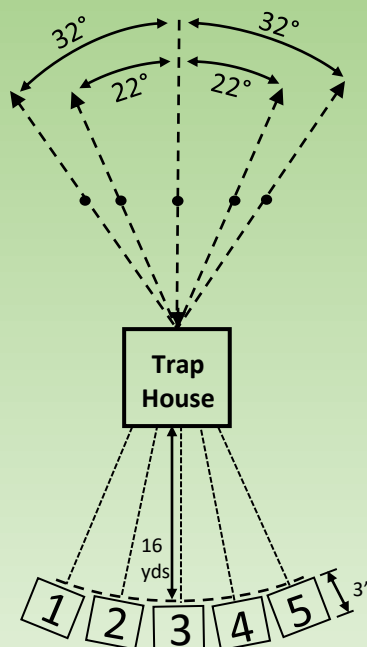


Specialist trap guns are favoured by the majority of competitive shooters. These will be set up to allow a good view of the target over the rib and will normally place the pattern slightly high as virtually all DTL targets are shot while rising. Barrel lengths of 30 and 32 inches are the most common and most favour fairly tight chokes.

The rules state that the maximum cartridge load is one ounce (28 grams), shot size 6 or smaller. Most elect to use shot sizes 7, 7.5 or 8 (English sizes)

ANGLES

The trap should be set to throw the target between horizontal angles of 22° to the left and right of the imaginary centre line of the trap house as measured from the front edge of the trap house.



WIDELY DIFFERENT ANGLE

To allow for unfavourable wind conditions an additional tolerance of 10° may be added onto, but not deducted from, either of the 22° angles to create what shall be considered as the boundary defining a WIDELY DIFFERENT ANGLE and two posts set at these further angles may be placed at 30m (32.8yd) from the trap. Targets thrown within this area shall be considered to be within bounds and therefore a regular target. If however, a target travels outside the prescribed extreme limits it shall be considered as being an irregular target.

