

The Different “Methods”

Methods are subjective! It’s a contentious subject, one of differing opinions.

There are three common methods for applying the necessary lead to break the target, they are, in order of popularity: -

Swing Through: The method where, when fully mounted, you are behind the bird for a brief period then swing through to apply the lead.

Pull Away: The method where, when fully mounted, you are on the bird for a brief period then pull away to apply the lead.

Maintained Lead: The method where, when fully mounted, you are in front of the bird with the lead already applied.

There are two other less commonly used and talked about methods.....

Spot Shooting: Sometimes described as the Interception technique. For this example – its a going away low target from just in front of you. The lead required is in front of the target! Because you are directly behind it that point requires looking directly through the target to the lead point beyond. Because you can’t see the physical lead as a gap you cannot Swing through, Pull away or used Maintained lead. Instead you pick your Spot (probably straight at the target) and shoot.

Diminishing Lead: Personally this is not a method I have ever had the need to use but I have witnessed it executed incredibly well and consistently. This method is where you insert the gun, when fully mounted, in front of the target, slightly too far, and let the excess lead bleed off. The swing must always keep moving in the same direction as the target. At no point should the gun be swinging in the opposite direction to the target. I've seen it used particularly effectively on slow quartering in targets.

Despite what you may have heard, read or been told there is no definitive correct method. We are human, we look, walk, talk, think and apply ourselves to tasks differently in many ways. Therefore, the method one person uses effectively may not work for someone else and this may differ from target to target. Tennis players don’t always play exactly as the text book says they should and nor do golfers and many other sports types, so why would shooters?

Go and see your Coach, the best coaches will be able to identify the methods that work best for YOU and how to fine tune them.

