

Work on your “Lead”

First, you need to establish a “Base” target for yourself. This will give you a benchmark to work to for other targets. An amount of “lead” for a given target that you will call “X”.

“X” is the lead you ‘personally’ see, you might see 2 or 4 feet, another person might think they see half or twice that. Lead is a personal thing and we all see it differently.

For your “Base” target you need the following:

- ❖ A target/clay crossing at 90° where you can shoot it straight out in front.
- ❖ It needs to be a target/clay of an average distance (I.e. 20 to 25 yards)
- ❖ The target/clay needs to be travelling at an average speed where you shoot it.

If you have access to a Skeet layout the best place to achieve this is the Skeet High bird shot over the centre point from between stations 4 & 5. If not, any target that meets the above criteria will do.

Shoot this bird repeatedly until you are confident of the lead/forward allowance you see that is required to break the target. Learn this distance so you can confidently identify what would be half or twice this distance.

Now you have the “Lead” for your average target to relate to when shooting others. Call it “X”.

This can be broken down into sections:

- **Distance to target** 21 Yards
- **Speed of Target** 2.5 (Give speed a scale - 0 to 5, with 0 being stationary and 5 being fastest)
- **Angle of Flight** 90°
- **Lead** Your personal “X”

Above you have your base information for the average target.

So now, if the same target 21 yards away is travelling at twice the speed it will require twice your “X”. At half the speed it will require half your “X”.

A target 42 yards (Twice your base distance) travelling at an average speed (2.5) will require twice your “X”. At half the distance it will require half your “X”.

A target quartering at 45° either incoming or going away will require what looks like half “X”, (perceived lead) because 45° is half of 90°. If it’s less than 15 to 20 degrees then there is very little, or no visual lead required as the spread of shot will take care of the lead for you.

This procedure is not an exact science but it will get you in the “Ballpark” and with practise should make a big difference to your shooting.

