

Shotgun Shooting

Rules

1. Always keep gun pointed in safe direction
2. Always keep finger of trigger until you are already to shoot
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use



Fundamentals

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Stance | 5. Swing |
| 2. Hold Point | 6. Pull trigger |
| 3. Mount | 7. Follow through |
| 4. See the target | |

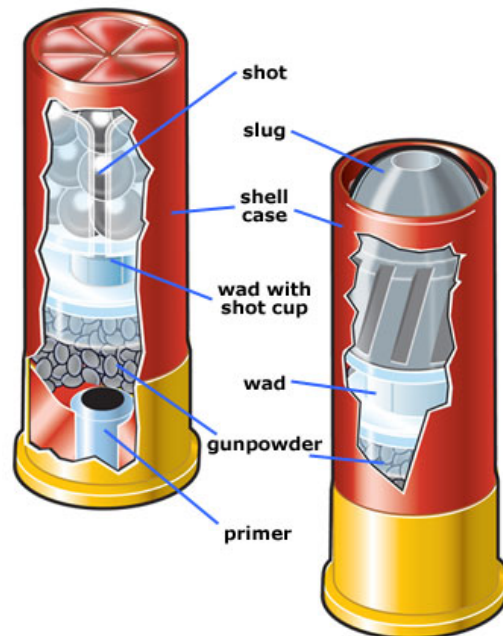
Gun parts



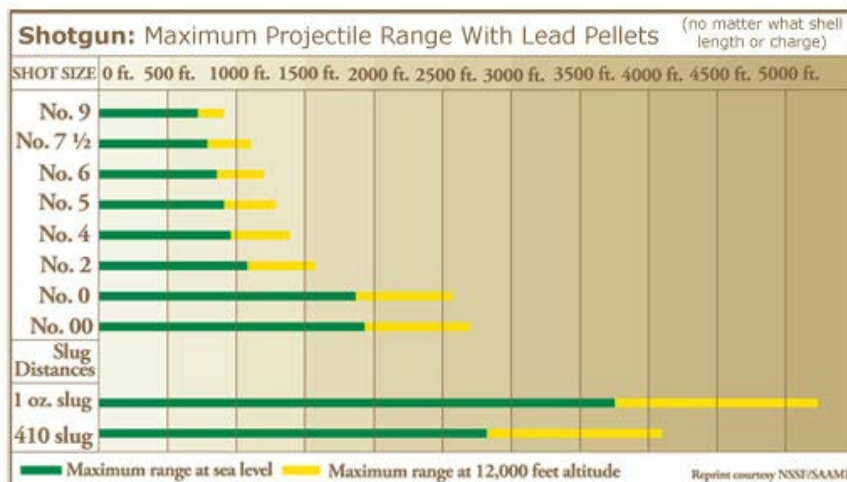
Shell Parts

Malfunctions

1. Misfire: A total failure of the shotshell to fire after the primer had been struck by the firing pin. When the trigger is pulled and nothing happens, keep the shotgun pointed in a safe direction for at least 30 seconds before opening the action.
2. Hangfire: A perceptible delay in the ignition of a shotshell after the firing pin strikes the primer. By keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction, no one will be harmed and no property damaged by the delayed ignition.
3. Squib load: The development of less than normal pressure or velocity after the ignition of the shotshell. If anything unusual is noticed when a shot is fired, such as a difference in recoil or noise, stop firing immediately. The wad may still be in the barrel. Firing another shot in an obstructed barrel could cause serious injury or damage.



Effective range

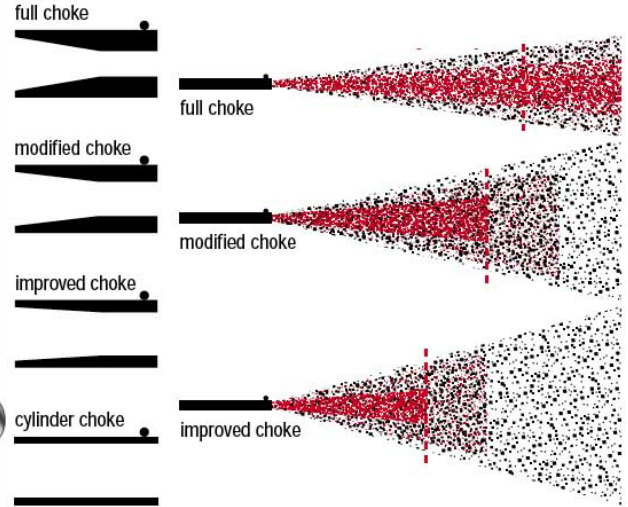
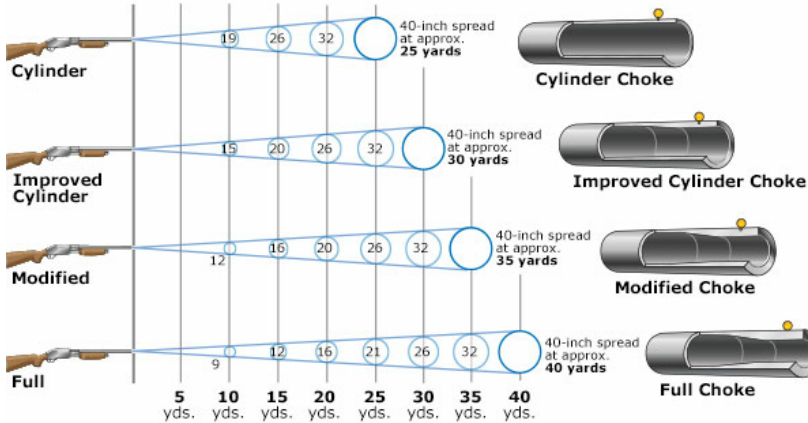


Chokes

Effect of Choke on Shot String at Various Distances

Circles represent the diameter of a lead shot string (in inches) as distance (in yards) increases.

Bore narrowing is exaggerated for clarity.



Shot Sizes and Types

Muzzle Loader



Shotgun Loads



Shotgun



| Lead shot sizes: | 12 | 9 | 8 1/2 | 8 | 7 1/2 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | BB |
|--------------------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Pellet diameter (inches) | .05 | .080 | .085 | .090 | .095 | .110 | .120 | .130 | .150 | .180 |
| (mm) | 1.27 | 2.30 | 2.16 | 2.29 | 2.41 | 2.79 | 3.05 | 3.30 | 3.81 | 4.57 |

| Buck shot sizes: | No. 4 | No. 3 | No. 2 | No. 1 | No. 0 | No. 00 | No. 000 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Pellet diameter (inches) | .24 | .25 | .27 | .30 | .32 | .33 | .36 |
| (mm) | 6.10 | 6.35 | 6.86 | 7.62 | 8.13 | 8.38 | 9.14 |

| Steel shot sizes: | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Air Rifle | BB | BBB | T | F |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| Pellet diameter (inches) | .11 | .12 | .13 | .14 | .15 | .16 | .177 | .18 | .19 | .20 | .22 |
| (mm) | 2.79 | 3.05 | 3.30 | 3.56 | 3.81 | 4.06 | 4.49 | 4.57 | 4.83 | 5.08 | 5.59 |

Note: the size of shot, whether lead or steel, is based on American Standard shot sizes. Thus, a steel No. 4 pellet and a lead No. 4 pellet are both .13 inches (3.3mm) in diameter.

Sources: BSA 30 min Shotgun power point presentation. BSA Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge Pamphlet 2013 printing.