

## HIGH GUN VS LOW GUN

Dear Technoid,

All things being equal and assuming correct shooting skills, What if any, adjustment should be made by a low gun shooter's position when viewing or reading Skeet tutorials that assume a high gun mount?

I shoot Sporting Clays (Low gun) and NSSA Skeet (low gun except station eight). Since I basically learned to shoot low gun I don't really want to switch to high gun at Skeet.

Your astute comments would be appreciated.

Gene

Dear Gene:

This one is a little hard to answer without knowing exactly what you mean by high gun.

The original American-style skeet rules in the '20s used to require a low gun. In an effort to increase scores to popularize the game, the low gun rule was relaxed until you could get away with shooting with the gun "just off the face". Now it is free position and you can shoot mounted.

International skeet requires that some part of the gun butt be at or below the level of the crest of the hip bone. The IntSk position is MUCH lower than the just off the face position of old American Skeet. Your belt line is a long way further south than an inch off your cheek. FITASC (French sporting clays) requires a low gun line about 10" below the shoulder seam of the shooting jacket. American sporting clays requires that the gun butt be below the armpit. "Low gun" means different things to different people.

The basic advantage to starting with the gun mounted is that you save some time and you cannot screw up the gun mount because you have already done it. You have less chance for error and you have gained speed. ALL current American-style skeet champions use the gun mounted position.

The true Olympic IntSk low gun position is far more difficult. It takes years of practice to raise the gun perfectly each time. It slows you down so you have fewer options as to how to deal with some targets. It introduces an additional area where you can make a mistake. Its only big advantage is that you can see the bird more clearly. Since you know where everything is going in skeet, this isn't a great help.

In American rules sporting clays, the gun must be started under the armpit, so it is harder than AmSk's mounted gun, but easier than FITASC and much easier than IntSk.

English rules sporting clays you can start mounted if you wish. Most English shooters take most of their shots with the gun slightly off the face, rather than hard mounted. This is because seeing

the bird clearly is more important than speed on most sporting clays shots. On straight-aways and teal they tend to hard mount the gun.

Shooting AmSk with any position of low gun is a handicap, but the game is slow enough so that it should not be a major one. Your pick up points may change slightly from those who shoot mounted. Example, a right handed shooter's vision will be slightly blocked by the pre-mounted gun when shooting low house birds from 5,6 and 7. This will encourage you to drop your muzzle or start it closer to the house. It may also encourage you to look over your barrel instead of into the house. Once on the bird, you will be able to shoot it very quickly as the gun is already up.

Low gun will permit you to turn your head and look directly into the house on every shot (even high 2, but that takes some practice.) This will permit you to see the bird sooner. As a rule of thumb you will want to start your gun muzzle 7-10 yards out from the house. Starting the gun out this far will give you time to mount and still come up in front of the target. Sustained lead is the preferred method of shooting skeet.

There isn't much written on low gun AmSk because no one seriously shoots it that way. It is entertaining and good for hunters though. The Army manuals for IntSk are applicable, but the bird is so much faster that comparisons are difficult to make.

Look into the house and start your muzzle 7-10 yards out. That is a good compromise.

Best regards,  
Bruce Buck  
Shotgun Report's Technoid