

How Accurate Do You Need to Be?

It is absolutely amazing to see how much attention gets placed on the size of a gun's group. In every gun magazine article there is the obligatory chart showing the difference in ammunition performance. While it fills up the pages of the gun magazines, in reality it does nothing for most shooters. Let me explain.

The average Joe goes out and buys said gun from magazine article because he trusts the opinion of the writer, even though every month that writer tells him he needs to buy the “new” best gun on the market. He then goes directly to a mega store to purchase the cheapest ammo available. The accuracy of the gun will probably never be tested because for most shooters match ammo will never be shot through the gun.

Then there is the fact that most shooters can never come close to shooting up to their gun's inherent accuracy. For the guy who shoots four times a year, a tack driver is probably worthless other than the fact that it gives him some sense of personal satisfaction and good bragging rights at the local range. Please don't misunderstand, there is nothing wrong with buying cheap ammo or having a gun for the personal satisfaction that it brings you, but you need to be aware that there is a lot of hype around accuracy that doesn't add up to much at the end of the day.

The only way that true accuracy can be measured is in a mechanical rest that eliminates as much human error as possible. When this is done correctly a picture of a gun's accuracy emerges, and it can sometimes be astonishing how accurate gun can be.

Having said that there are a few things to consider before you spend all of your money on an “accurate” gun. First, do you really need a pistol that shoots 1.5” at 50 yards? I don't. I know several bullseye shooters that do. It is worth their money to pay for the most accurate gun they can afford. By the way if you are a bullseye shooter shooting Berettas or 1911's, and you haven't heard of Sams Custom Gunworks, you owe it to yourself to check him out at samscustomgunworksusa.com.

You also might want to ask the builder of your gun whether he actually tests at 50 yards or if he shoots at 25 yards and simply doubles the number. I know you can't believe that anyone would do this, but it has happened before. There are pistols that will shoot 1.5” at 50 yards. It is possible if the right person is building your gun.

Finally consider your builder. Is he a cosmetic guy, tactical guy, an accuracy guy or a combination of all three. I own a very beautiful Colt that was engraved by our engraver to my specs. It is beautiful, but nothing more than a stock Colt with some engraving on it. Nice? Yes. Accurate? No. There are plenty of builders who make some beautiful guns, but they don't know the first thing about accuracy. Why pay the big money to get a celebrity's name on your gun if it is just something pretty? Be aware.

A final thought. Accuracy will always cost you a lot of money. There is no cheap way to be accurate. It just won't work. If you truly desire a tack driver, pull out your wallet and find someone worth your investment.

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