

# 11 5-Stand Sporting Clays

## A brief description

5-Stand is the fastest growing of the shotgun disciplines. It is designed to simulate field shooting of waterfowl and other game in a natural setting. A typical 5-Stand layout of six to eight traps can be set up in a relatively small area.

In this sport, shooters move between five firing points or 'stands' in the layout and are presented with five targets at each stand. 5-Stand trap placement and target trajectory can be varied from course to course; no two 5-Stand grounds are the same or have the same targets.

## Shotguns

While many shotguns can be used successfully, the most popular choice is a 12-gauge over-and-under with 26" to 30" barrels. It should have a single trigger, sporting stock and fore-end, selectable barrels and interchangeable choke tubes.

Many shooters find a combination of quarter and half chokes will suit the majority of targets at most clubs.



## Traps and layout

All shooting layouts will be equipped with sufficient traps, usually six to eight, to conduct a competition.

The variety of targets is endless, so too are the angles and speed at which they are thrown. The clays can be presented from in front of, behind, low, high or above, straight away, crossing, quartering or incoming from either side, in the open or partly hidden by trees, walls or other obstacles. As a general rule, layouts for 5-Stand events should be designed to present a wide range of targets using a variety of clays. Each layout should contain a mixture of standard and exotic targets.



## Getting started

At most clubs, existing shooters are happy to give newcomers a loan of their shotguns, so that fit and style can be compared for this type of shooting. Advice and coaching on shooting methods is provided freely.

A variety of suitable cartridges are available for purchase from most clubs. Shooting costs are kept low and all SSAA Branches welcome both visitors and new members.



## Shooting positions

The shooting stand, which resembles a cage, restricts the shooter from swinging the shotgun beyond certain limits and ensures a safe shooting environment.

Menu boards are positioned in front of each shooter's stand and will list the traps from which targets will be presented at each stand. SSAA rules then require the targets to be presented in an unknown random order. At each stand, all shooters will receive the same targets but in a different order.

Many layouts are now computer controlled where the traps are electronically selected and released after the shooter calls "Pull".



## Dress

While there are no strict rules regarding dress, a good shotgun vest with shoulder padding and large pockets for up to 50 cartridges is recommended. Safety glasses, ear protection and sturdy footwear are essential. Glasses with colored lenses are often used by shooters to increase the visibility of clay targets on certain layouts.

## Ammunition

Most shooters use 32-grain cartridges with No 7, 7.5 or 8 shot. Lighter 28-grain loads can also be used successfully. Reloaded cartridges are permitted.

## Competitions

A single round of 5-Stand Sporting Clays consists of 25 targets on one layout. Larger competitions generally have more than one layout and consist of at least 100 targets. Layouts can easily be changed throughout the competition to add variety to the type of targets thrown.

## Contact information

Every state has a Shotgun discipline chairman. The SSAA's Guide to Shooting in Australia has information relating to individual Branches' activities. Alternatively, contact your state office for more information.



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## Targets

Many different types and colors of targets are used in 5-Stand. Apart from the standard clay target, 'exotic' targets such as 'midis' and 'minis', which are smaller and usually faster than the standard, are used. The smallest of all, the 'super-mini' is an extremely high-speed midget. There are also 'battue' targets that turn on their side when they slow down at the end of their trajectory and hard-rimmed 'rabbit' targets that roll along the ground. Two shots can be fired at each of these targets. As well as single targets, pairs of targets can be thrown either simultaneously or staggered with the second target released shortly after the first or after the first shot is taken.