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Air Rifles: Shooting Tips

By John Schwartz

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Rifle shooting is a skill that one gains with practice. There just isn't another way. In some ways, this is even more true with air rifles than bullet-firing powder guns, primarily because muzzle velocities vary a lot more and the ammunition is lighter. If you're working on improving your rifle shooting prowess with air rifles, here are some tips that may help.

Wind Factors

Perhaps the most basic thing to keep in mind about rifle shooting skill is that some factors are beyond your control, and therefore must be taken into account. These include wind speed and direction (in relation to how your shooting range is set up). Because air rifles have comparatively lower muzzle velocities and lighter ammunition, even a light breeze will often affect your aim. A good tip, therefore, is to vary your practice range set-ups. Shoot into a stiff breeze one day, then fire at your target with a helping wind the next. And don't forget crosswinds!

Temperature Factors

Another weather factor in rifle shooting with air rifles is temperature. Depending on the power plant in your gun, cold air can seriously affect its performance. Pneumatic guns, in particular, are notoriously inconsistent in terms of power if used where the winters get significantly colder. It's a good idea to practice during all four seasons, so you can learn what your airgun's particular quirks are.

Gun Limitations

Finally, keep in mind that rifle shooting success is nearly impossible if you practice unrealistic scenarios. Air rifles designed to be effective up to a maximum distance of 400 yards, for instance, shouldn't be expected to hit targets at 450 yards with any consistency, regardless of how accurately you aim. Read the documentation that came with your airgun, and work on practicing within your model's limits. Good luck!

John Schwartz is the owner/webmaster of <http://www.bb-pellet-guns.com>. He has had many articles published in the air gun field, including shooting tips, reviews of airsoft guns, and teaching kids about gun safety.

The Latest Airsoft Trend: Sniper Rifles

By John Schwartz

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Airgun gamers are flocking to the latest "must have" weapon - Airsoft sniper rifles with state-of-the-art riflescopes. I think the lure is the same as for this type of hobby in the first place; namely, to play at warfare without actually being in danger. Certainly one of the coolest jobs on any military-style airgun team is that of sniping, so it's no surprise that Airsoft sniper rifles are selling like hotcakes. The newest wrinkle, though, is to chuck the standard scope that comes with these guns in favor of after-market, highly advanced riflescopes.

Probably the biggest reason for this growing trend is the expertise some teams are gaining. Adding Airsoft sniper rifles reflects the drive to gain an edge on other airsoft teams that are competing against yours. Now that many have caught on, adding cutting-edge riflescopes to the equation is an attempt to stay one step ahead.

Airsoft game strategies are evolving and becoming more and more complex as well. This has placed an increasing emphasis on stealth, which naturally has led to increased sales of Airsoft sniper rifles and higher quality riflescopes.

Because airsoft teams are getting better all around, the team that is most patient, has an excellent marksman using one of the newer Airsoft sniper rifles, and executes the best strategy, has a distinct advantage. Add advanced optics in riflescopes to this recipe, and you stand to come out on top consistently. You can bet this advantage won't last long, though, so jump on the relatively small bandwagon now!

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