

60 Shooting Tips: The IDPA Classifier; Stag



1.

The start position for String 6 is facing away from the targets, standing upright, hands at sides.



2.

A good, fast pivot is largely a matter of footwork. Start with the feet parallel to each other, toes pointed forward, most of the weight on the left foot, so much so the right toes are lifted off the ground (exaggerated in this shot to make the point).



8.

Demonstrated live fire, a key to a fast pivot is, at the start signal, swiftly snapping the head around to look at the center of the first target. The hands have already begun moving toward the gun.



9.

The turn is completed before the gun is out and both hands on the gun.



3.

At the start signal, lift the right foot and pivot it toward the outside on its ball.



4.

The foot continues to pivot around on its ball, its front is still not touching the ground.

By Duane Thomas

An IDPA Master Tells You How to Do It, Too!

Having addressed Strings 5 and 7, the one hand only strings, together in the last installment of this series on shooting the IDPA classifier, we now backtrack to String 6 to finish out Stage 1.

STRING 6: Modified El Presidente, start with three rounds in the gun: fire one round each T1-T3, sidelock reload, one more round each T1-T3.

(My time: 6.98 seconds.)

This is, by IDPA classifier standards, a long, complex string of fire. Thus we have many opportunities to carve out huge chunks of time with improvement to our technique. Lots of tips on this one.

Tip #1: We begin facing away from the targets. When turning to engage, we want to turn toward our strong side: i.e. if right-handed turn clockwise. We want to turn *around* the gun which actually moves very little because it's right over our pivot foot. This makes it much easier to draw the gun fast; otherwise we wind up chasing it with our hand as the piece moves in a big circle.

Tip #2: We turn fully around BEFORE the gun begins its extension, otherwise we'll still be

swinging our body as the gun moves forward, leading to shots pulled wide. To ensure we begin our fast turn correctly, at the instant the timer buzzes, we SNAP our head around and look right at the center of the 8" circle on the first target. Our body will swiftly follow our head. If we incorporate the head snap into our technique, along with a few other tricks we'll discuss shortly, we will turn so fast there's literally no way we could complete the draw before our body has fully turned around and is stable.

Tip #3: Also to facilitate our fast turn, while waiting for the buzzer we slightly lift the front of our right foot (assuming a right-handed shooter) off the ground. This is very subtle, no one watching would be able to tell we were doing it. (I mention that to indicate how little movement is required, not to indicate we're doing anything sneaky; this is quite legal.) At the buzzer, having unloaded the weight on the front of our foot, it's very simple and easy to just pivot on the rear ball. By contrast, if we pivoted on the front of the foot, that would require lifting up the rear ball then lowering it back down after the turn; this imparts a lot of movement to the