Iron Sights Solutions

by Donald Smith, Blue Springs, Missouri

This teaching aid helps explain the concept of rear and front sight adjustment and the resulting change in the point of impact of the projectile. Take a 2-foot section of half-inch (or greater) dowel rod and drill a hole through each end about one to two inches back from the end. Drill the holes so they run parallel to one another. Make holes large enough for the shank of a long machine screw or bolt to pass through with ease. Place a pair of nuts on the end of one of these screws allowing the end of the screw to stick up about one-half of an inch, and place a nut and a wing nut on the other screw. Use the first nut as a locknut to hold the wing nut on the screw with the end of the screw flush with the upper surface of the wing nut. The dowel serves as a model of a barrel. The first screw serves as a model of a front sight, and the screw with the wing nut serves as a model of a rear sight.

To use the aid, place one end of the dowel (barrel) on a fixed horizontal (such as the edge of a table) and then push the other end of the dowel (barrel) down as you raise the sight on that end. It will be obvious to the class in which direction the barrel is moving depending on whether you are raising the front or the rear “sight.” The reason for the change in the point of impact will become clear. It might be helpful to obviously mark the end of the dowel representing the muzzle of the barrel.

Iron Sight Adjustments

A Sticky Sight Alignment Training Aid

My teaching aid for instructing students on proper sight alignment and sight picture is very simple, easy to build and at little cost to the instructor. First, obtain two strong pieces of cardboard large enough for your front sight blade and rear sight. The rear sight should be at least 14 inches long and 8½ inches high. The cutout for the rear sight should be 3½ inches in from each side and four inches down. The front sight blade should be at least 7 inches high and 4 inches wide. The working model can vary... it’s the instructor’s preference.

NOTE: Spray paint both cutouts black before you attach Velcro strips.

Next you need to obtain Velcro. Fasten the Velcro to both the rear sight and the front sight blade. Fasten the Velcro only to one side of each sight, making sure that the Velcro on the rear and front sight match up. You can place as many Velcro strips as you wish, it depends on how many different sight alignment and sight picture examples you want to teach.

The reason the Velcro should be fastened to both sights, and only on one side, is so that a proper sight alignment can be held in place and shown to the student. Examples of poor sight alignment and poor sight picture can also be easily demonstrated with these inexpensive training aids.

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A Faster Fence

I saw the fence building project on page 24 in the Winter, 1998 issue of the Hunter Education Journal and wanted to alert instructors to a possibly faster and simpler fence building project. Instead of the 1x4 x 72-inch board rails to build the fence, I use dowel rods. Simply purchase 6-foot lengths of dowel rod three-fourths of an inch in diameter and drill three-fourths of an inch in diameter holes in the upright posts to fit the dowels through.

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Q: Do you have a do-it-yourself project that produces a great teaching aid for hunter education classes? If so, we would like to learn about it. Send details to: Hunter Education Journal, Attn: Projects, P.O. Box 3443, Minnetonka, MN 55343.