**Scrumptious Shotshells**

Here’s a tasty way to help students learn about the parts of a shotgun. Use a five ounce paper cup or wafer ice cream cone for the case. Put a HERSHEY’S Kiss in the bottom for the primer. Add a spoonful of Rice Krispies for the powder. Place a Vanilla Wafer on top of this for the wad. Add a measure of raisins for the shot and fold the cup closed to make a crimp. You can use a wafer ice cream cone for the case and have the students build their own shotshells. When they can accurately name all of the components it is time for a break and they already have their snack in hand.

*Dr. David Knotts*
*Wellington, CO*

**Set Up Before It’s Showtime**

When using a VCR or projector, have them loaded and ready to go before the class begins or the time the projection will be needed. If you’re doing a demonstration, have all of the parts and pieces ready to go and make sure they work. Nothing disrupts the educational process more than stopping to prepare the accessories. Practice, practice and practice some more to be ready.

*Cpt. Jeff Thielen*
*MN Dept. Of Natural Resources*

**Pass The Lesson**

When having “hands on” training with the students, I set up the activities so that the students teach each other. For example, when handling the various actions of firearms, I split the class into small groups. Each group lines up behind the group’s instructor/leader. The leader explains to the first student in line the type of action with the procedures on how to load, unload, and work the safety. That student then turns and explains the procedures to the next person in line. Each student learns from the person in front of them and then (teaches) explains to the person behind them. By listening, handling, and explaining the procedures, the students are able to retain 90% of what they learn — and have fun too. Once started, the group instructor/leader only needs to make sure the students follow proper muzzle control and ensure the proper procedures are followed.

*Frank Flack*
*Elk River, MN*

**Magazine Storage System**

If you’re looking for a better method to store magazines for class reference material, then look at a Rogers magazine holder (Part # NEW-15537). These handy plastic edge strips fit all three-ring binders and slip easily between the pages of any magazine. No hole punching required and these inexpensive holders can be purchased at any office supply store in the binding section.

*Mark LaBarbera*
*Shakopee, MN*

**It’s In The Bag**

If you have numerous items lying on a table in the front of class, students spend more time looking at the items than paying attention. One great way to keep student’s attention focused is to have some teaching aids and displays concealed in a camouflage bag that you have nearby. You can pull out small items like shotshells, a compass, blaze orange vest, camouflage hunting shirt, or a sample of blackpowder in a vial to pass around as you teach about the selected subject. Students receive hands-on experience and stay alert as they wait for the next item from the bag.

*Fred Stockham*
*Hallock, MN*

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**TEN QUICK TEACHING POINTERS**

1) Make sure everyone can see and hear lectures and demonstrations.
2) Keep your information basic, introductory and step-by-step.
3) Explain the “Why.”
4) Handle disruptions quickly and with minimal fuss.
5) Team teach and take advantage of each other’s strengths.
6) Keep class experience hands on and as close to real life situations as possible. Have all appropriate equipment available.
7) Check eye dominance in classes where this makes a difference.
8) Aim for instant success in practicing skills.
9) Be selective with visual aids and handouts.
10) Keep nervousness from showing - smile and practice your presentation beforehand.

*Diane Lueck*
*Becoming an Outdoors-Woman*