Teaching the 12/20 Burst

We all have seen the old damascus barrel shotguns. They generally sell at auctions for between $25 and $50 (at least in Kansas they do). Since we don’t dare shoot these old relics, there is a better way to make them useful. By cutting out about one-third of the circumference from the breech end for about 6/8 inches, an instructor can make an excellent visual/Hands-on aid for describing the 12/20 burst. You may also use PVC pipe instead of a gun barrel.

The students can actually see the position of the cartridges when the trigger is pulled. Better yet, give them dummy rounds and let them insert them into the chamber. There is no substitute for “hands on.”

Ken Abmes
Herington, Kansas

A Clear Case of Components

To help teach the ammunition section, I have found the following to be useful in my classes. I save clear plastic film (35mm) canisters and place the different components of a shotgun or cartridge in an individual canister. For example, I have primers in one canister, powder in another, wad, shot... and so forth. I pass these canisters around the class so the students can have a “Hands-on” opportunity to view each component, and I do not have to worry about these items spilling on the classroom floor.

Susan Clark
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Seven Safety Know-How

I use a little seven-point outline to start my hunter safety classes:

1. Know the law.
2. Know the gun.
3. Know the ammunition.
4. Know the compass.
5. Know the terrain.
6. Know what you’re hunting.
7. Know some first aid.

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