

The Basics of How to Sight A Pistol

Sight alignment is a fundamental task within pistol shooting. Unfortunately, sometimes a fundamental can elude you.

Picking up the pistol, keeping the muzzle pointed down range, centre the front sight post in the rear sight notch. Make sure that there are equal amounts of light on either side of the post. Additionally, the top of the post must be even with the top of the rear sight.

Figures 1 - 4 show picking up a benched pistol with the muzzle pointed downrange.

Figure 5 shows the front sight post roughly placed in the rear sight notch. Unfortunately, the sight is too close to the right of the rear notch. As well, the front sight is not even with the top of the rear sight. Consequently, the shot will miss the target, landing high and to the right of your aim.

Figure 6 shows the sights properly aligned. Note that the front sight is in the centre of the rear sight notch, with equal bars of light to the left and right. Additionally, the top of the front sight is even with the top of the rear sight. The shot will land wherever you point the pistol.

A sight picture is the visual relationship between your aligned sights and the target. A 6 o'clock hold places the top of the front sight at the bottom of the black bullseye of the target. A sub-6 hold places a bit of white space between the bottom of the bull and the top of the front sight. Center hold, or center-of-mass, places the top of the front sight post in the center of the target. There are reasons for each, but choose the one which you are most comfortable with.

Different Sight Pictures

