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## **A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SIGHTING IN YOUR HUNTING RIFLE**

Getting the hunting rifle sighted in before opening day does not have to be a frustrating, time consuming effort. It can be accomplished in less than an hour by organizing your task list.

FOLLOW ALL SAFETY RULES WHILE HANDLING FIREARMS. REMEMBER TO ALWAYS CARRY ANY FIREARM UNLOADED, BREECH OPEN, AND NEVER POINT THE MUZZLE IN THE DIRECTION OF ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTEMPT TO COVER EVERY ASPECT OF SAFETY ASSOCIATED WITH FIREARMS, AND THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO DO THAT.

### **Pre Tasks**

1. Choose which rifle you plan to use.
2. Get your ammunition together. It is highly recommended that the same loads that will be used during the actual hunt should be used to sight in the rifle as well.
3. Pack your targets. An inexpensive paper target that can be attached to a flat surface is sufficient. These can be purchased from any sporting goods retailer. Include a marking pen to track the shots that have been fired.
4. If any tools are needed to adjust the sights (i.e.: screwdriver) or attach the target (i.e.: staple gun), be sure to pack them. If the sights have not been adjusted previously, do a dry run to make sure the right size tools are available.
5. Include binoculars or spotting scope to aid in viewing. Also pack hearing and eye protection.
6. One of the most overlooked things is how to obtain a good, steady sight picture. During the initial sighting procedures, most hunters will sight in from a bench rest or other solid shooting platform. During the actual hunt, the same hunter will shoot off the shoulder, which, more often than not results in a bad shot. The Kenco Outdoors SureShot Tripod is an excellent hunter's aid. It can be used to sight in the rifle, plus it can be easily carried and set up in a blind or stand to give every shot the same level of accuracy.

### **Tasks**

1. Set up in an appropriate range location that allows firing your rifle. Determine the 25 yard and 100 yard distances from your shooting position, and attach the targets.
2. Directing attention to the 25 yard target, start by bore-sighting the rifle. If shooting a bolt action rifle, remove the bolt.
3. Place the rifle on a solid rest. Look through the bore and center the target in the middle of the end of the bore.
4. Without touching the rifle, peer through the scope or metallic sights and see how close the sights are to alignment with the target.

5. **SCOPE:** If the scope sights are not aligned, adjust them to the same point that is seen through the bore. Scope adjustments are available for windage and elevation. Adjustments are graduated in "clicks". One click equals 1/4" at 100 yards.
- Adjusting the scope to the left moves the point of impact to the right.
  - Adjusting the scope to the right moves the point of impact to the left.
  - Adjusting the scope up moves the point of impact down.

**BASIC IRON SIGHTS:** Basic iron sights adjust similarly. Elevating the sights lowers the point of impact and vice versa. Windage may not be adjustable on some sights, so a drift pin can be used to shift the front sight for windage. The same formula as for scopes applies. Moving the sight to the right shifts the point of impact to the left.

6. When the target viewed through the bore and the scope or metallic sights are both on target, it is time to begin shooting.
- Obtain a good sight picture on the 25 yard target, chamber and shoot three rounds carefully.
  - Check the grouping of the hits. Use the pen to mark the holes on the paper.
  - Determine how the sights should be fine-tuned. Make any necessary adjustments to the sights according to #5 above.
  - Continue with the same procedures in a – c, until a bullseye grouping is obtained. A total of nine rounds is normally sufficient when zeroing (sighting in) an unfamiliar weapon.
  - Once the rifle is accurately hitting the bullseye, switch your attention to the 100 yard target.
  - Shoot three rounds at the 100 yard target and check the point of impact.
  - Adjust the sights to the desired point of impact. Refer to a ballistics chart for the caliber being used for shooting. You may want to be about 2 – 3 inches high at 100 yards. By knowing the ballistics, you may be dead on at 200 or 250 yards and slightly high at 100 yards. If you allow a variation of a couple of inches within the kill zone, the sights could be held dead on for short ranges, as this will not alter your expected impact area significantly. Hitting high will also compensate for the longer shots of 200 or more yards. No matter the distance being shot, the windage adjustment (left and right of the bullseye) should remain dead on center. Knowing the performance characteristics of your chosen caliber, bullet configuration and bullet weight is critical in properly sighting in your deer rifle.

## Post Tasks

- Clear your weapon, visually ensuring the chamber is free of rounds.
- Police up spent brass, targets, and other items.
- Clean your weapon, and wait for opening day.

## Checklist for the Range

- Rifle
- Ammunition
- Targets
- Marking Pen
- Tools
  - Screwdriver
  - Pliers
  - Staple gun
  - Binoculars or spotting scope
- Steady rest
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection
- Cleaning/maintenance kit

## Safety Rules

The following items are minimum safety standards for maintaining a safe shooting environment. Rules may vary depending on individual range setup and intended use.

- Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire.
- Always keep the firearm unloaded until ready to use.
- Be sure the firearm is safe to operate.
- Know how to use the firearm safely.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your firearm.
- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Wear Eye and Ear protection as appropriate.
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.

Obtain a good Sight Picture by placing the reticle on the desired impact area of the target.

### SCOPE

