

September 1, 2011



Inside Information

Page 2-5 World According to Me
Page 6 DD Shooting Clinics
Page 7 Wood Sales LLC
Page 8 DeVault Winners Box
Page 9 Cindy's Corner
Page 10 Closing



Well the Grand is over and the nights have begun to cool off a bit. It's great to see the Grand climbing in attendance again. I would like to personally thank Bill & LeAnn Martin for their continued support of our sport. It is nice to see someone step up to the plate and helping as they have done.

A big congratulations to Logan Taylor, the winner of the \$ 100,000.00 shoot out. What a way to start a college fund. I really would like to congratulate the Aim and SCTP coaches around the country for their efforts in helping the youth shooting programs. Without the young people coming up there will not be a future for our sport. All the coaches deserve a big hand as there was a lot of young talent shooting and breaking great scores at the Grand this year. Keep up the great work to help our sport stay alive and kicking.



The World According to Me ~ "Dennis DeVault"

Is Proper Gun Fit Important?

This month has been spent talking to shooters on the subject of properly fitted gunstocks. After the Grand we have had a ton of inquiries about how a stock should fit to a person. I have always believed in the shooters head being in an upright position with the eyes level from side to side and as perpendicular to the bore center as possible.

I believe that the eyes must be in line to keep the brain from allowing you to cross-fire. On a right hand shooter the eyes need to be as straight across as possible. When the head is turned into the stock and the left eye gets out ahead of the master eye too far, the brain will switch to the eye that has the clearest image. When this happens a cross fire occurs. I am sure that you have seen many shooters that turn their face into a stock to enable them to look down the center of the barrel. When this happens it is a great opportunity for the brain to switch to the off or non dominate eye.

In all the years that we have been fitting and building custom stocks I think that I see more cross-dominance in Sporting Clays than in the other shooting disciplines. This is due in part to shooters using field guns that do not fit properly and sets the shooter up for the classic turning the face into the stock.

Being a competitive shooter and being good at the game requires a basic understanding of gun dynamics and fit by every shooter. I am not saying that you have to have this but it helps you to analyze the reason you may be missing certain targets.

There are many companies that build beautiful gunstocks but there are very few that can fit a stock properly. To me fitting is not difficult when you approach the problems from the perspective of an engineer. I never thought that all the studies I had about lines and angles would ever be put to use in making a gun stock but it has been a tremendous help in designing stocks. Most shooters today want a stock that looks good and allows maximum comfort with as little felt recoil as possible.

In order to achieve those requirements one must understand that the more in-line the dimensions are the better the effect of controlling recoil become. Page 3 top photo shows a stock that is wrong in so many ways that I don't know where to start in telling you how wrong it is.

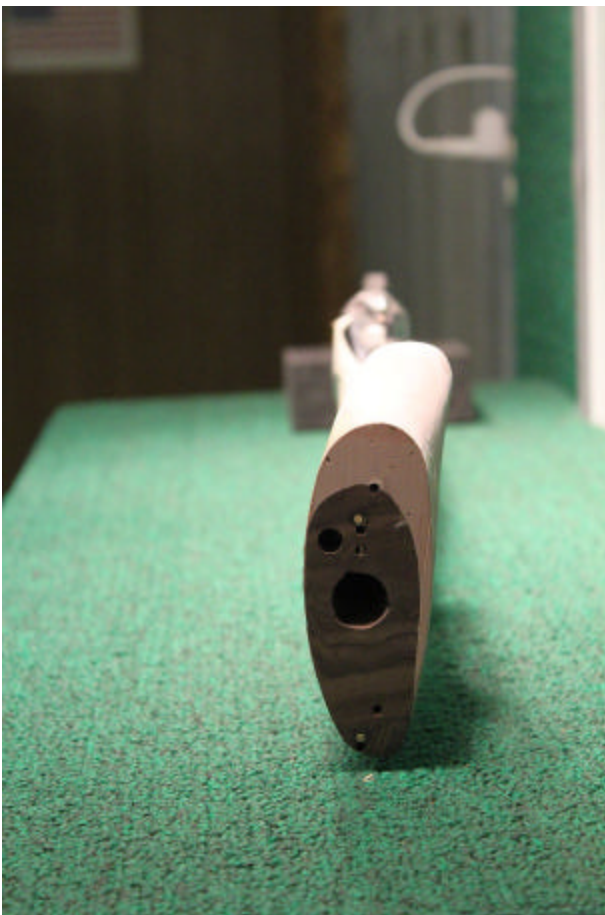
First, look at the rib and follow the rib line back to the heel portion of the stock. Notice that the heel is made left of the bore center line. This will cause the recoil pad to be shoved into the collar bone and when the shooter moves to the left on a target the gun will slide out and off the shoulder pocket. This will cause the gun to shoot to the left and it will also kick you in the face or the cheek bone. The opposite happens when you move to the right, the gun jams into the shoulder and the recoil will cause the recoil pad to bang the collar bone and after about 100 rounds it will be the cause for pain and discomfort.

In all the years that we have been fitting stocks I only remember making two stocks with cast and the heel left of the bore center line. Those people were massive in the chest as many body builders are and it was the only way we could get the shooters fit and shooting properly.

If you are at a shop for a gun fitting make sure that you ask questions before and during your fitting process. If the person fitting the stock cannot answer your questions you need to make a decision if you want to continue with the fitting. At the end of the fitting session be sure that you go and shoot as many targets as you can. Shooting a pattern board is not the way to test your newly fitted gun stock.



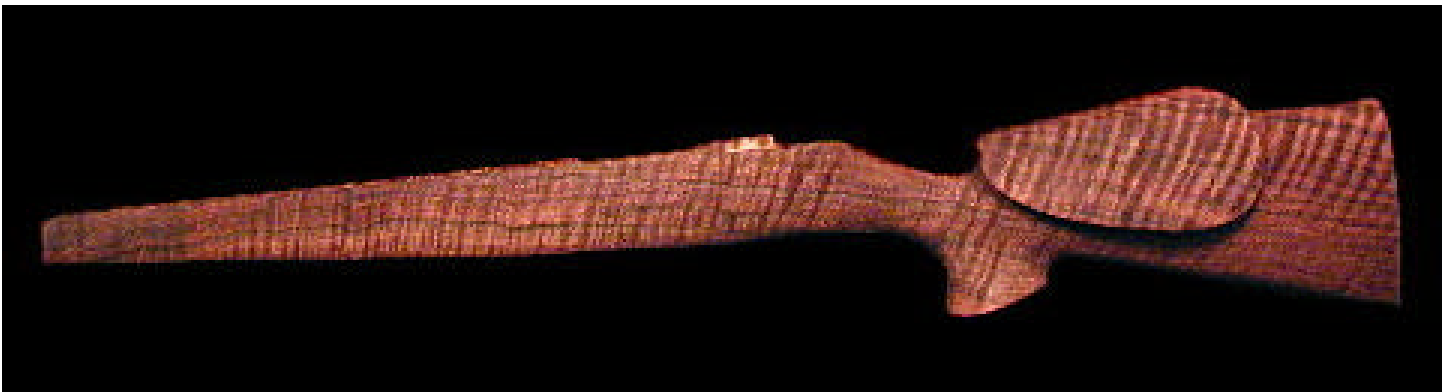
The only way to tell if you have been fitted properly is to shoot targets. At the range make the fitter aware of any discomfort that you may or may not be experiencing. It can be as simple as the hand not being in the right position, recoil to the face, stock too long, or too short. All of this should be addressed while you are with the fitter. At DeVault Industries we try and get the hand in a vertical position and the trigger finger in line with the trigger. A trigger is designed to be pulled not lifted. High riding the grip and causing the finger to lift the trigger will result in an inconsistent trigger pull. It will also put a callous on the trigger finger where it drags across the side of the receiver or the side of the wood. Placing the hand on the side of the stock allows proper rotation of the hand when mounting the gun and it also relieves the pressure off of the wrist.



Several months ago I received a call from Nick Sisley in PA. Nick is a Sporting Clays shooter and he asked me if there was anything he could do to eliminate the pain in his right wrist. I told Nick that he was high riding the grip and all he had to do was slide his hand down and on the side of the grip and the pain would go away. He told me I was crazy but a month later wrote an article about the subject in Sporting Clays magazine. After talking with Nick he now shoots pain free. Notice the photo to the left. This is a stock with the top of the heel in line with the bore center-line. I can tell you that it is very comfortable and easy to shoot. It is a 20 gauge sporting gun I am building for myself and on the next page there are several other points to clarify. One thing that is clear on the photo to the left is the parallel offset comb. not cast, not a roll over, but offset. Yes there is a difference between the three. The back end of the stock or heel is in line with the bore and the comb area is offset to the right and parallel with the bore center as well. The advantage is no matter where you set your head on the stock you will be in line with the center of the barrel. In a stock with cast there is only one position that the head can be, to align in the center of the bore. I do not know a single shooter that can set their head in a perfect position 100 out of 100 times. The top of the comb is also parallel with the bore center and not the slope of the rib.



I inserted this photo to show the proper head and hand position. Notice that the eyes are level and the left eye is not way out in front of the right or dominate eye. My finger is not as straight to the trigger as I would like but there is a reason for the slight modification. This is going to be a gun shot from the down or low gun position, Hunting, or Fitasc style of shooting. When a person is starting from a gun down position the hand must be in the proper position to rotate up when you mount the gun from a low position. Many shooters have asked me what is the difference between a rollover and an offset gunstock. The above photo shows



the definition of a Roll Over Gunstock. Notice that the cheek piece is raised away from the main body of the stock at the bottom of the shadow line. I know that this is a rifle stock but back in the day I had a model 12 outfitted with a roll over stock made just like the stock above. The cheek piece is made coming out from the main body of the stock forcing your jaw to rotate up & to the left. By flopping your head to the right it forces your right eye to line up over the center of the barrel. Making the head rotate in that manner places the off eye higher than the dominate eye. If the off eye can see a clearer image of the target the left eye can take over and a cross fire may occur.

The purpose of the roll over design was an attempt to allow more shooters to fit into a gun without spending the time and money for custom fitting. I have spoken about this before and there are only two sports that I know more demanding on the eyes than shooting a target, Hockey and Baseball. If the goal is to break as many targets as you can it makes sense to put the eyes in the best possible position to see a target clearly while taking a shot.

The last item that I want to address is when finished with your fitting, if you still do not feel comfortable ask permission to take the pattern stock home and shoot it for awhile. This way you can be assured it is what you want before you turn it into a finished stock. At DeVault Industries we routinely allow our patterns to go out and let the customer shoot the pattern. We have had customers shoot the pattern stocks for up to a year or more before coming back to have their new stock made. The cost of all that is a \$ 500.00 deposit for taking the try stock out of the shop. Is that risky on my part?, yes it is, but in the 16 years building stocks only two people have taken the patterns to someone else to build.

If you go to a person fitting you for a stock and they demand all of the cost for making and fitting a stock up front, turn and run as fast as you can. And remember if you are really serious about shooting be sure that your dream stock is fit to you and not one built after some famous shooter. This is your personal stock and not one that was made for someone else. Remember instant gratification is just that, INSTANT, and often times does not add up to a happy long term ending.

Until next month shoot often and invite a friend to shoot a round, it is how our sport survives,

Rodeo Man Out



The stocks to the left and below are for a Sporting Clays gun. No cut comb on this particular design but it features the finger grips with English Walnut wood. This one turned out to be very beautiful and went to a shooter in Texas.





DOUBLE D

SHOOTING CLINICS

We are sorry to report that we had to cancel the clinic in California that was scheduled for October of this year . Dean & I hope to be back out for clinics in the spring of 2012.

Thank you to everyone that attended our clinics in 2011 we thank you and wish all of you continued success and shooting.

Wood Sales LLC

This company has been set up to offer hard to find large blanks that will accommodate the new High Rib guns that have dominated the market for the past few years. If you are in the market for a good piece of wood that is dry and ready to carve have a look and come back from time to time to find your dream piece for your next project. For the month of September all wood listed on our web site can be purchased at 18% off of the advertised price. This is to allow the inventory to be reduced and bring in new blanks. The site can be found at

<http://www.customwoodblanks.com>



DeVault Winners Box

Thomas Rojewski ~ DeVault Delrin Add-On Rib ~ Ohio State Sporting Clays Championship ~ Sub gauge events; AA runner up .410 ga. (**47 x 50**) ~ AA 3rd place 28 ga. (**47/50**) ~ AA 3rd place 20 ga.~ made Master Class over the weekend Congratulations in reaching Master Class

Patricia Clute ~ DeVault 391 Conversion ~ Ohio State Sporting Clays Championship ~ 5 stand runner-up (**41 x 50**)

Robert Granzow ~ Double D Shooting Clinic ~ During the clinic last month Robert broke his first **25** straight from 22 yards ~ week two first **50** straight from handicap ~ Provincial Championship Trapshoot in Canada Class A singles champion with first **100 x 100** ~ Moved up to AA class the following day and broke a **193 x 200** this was a good round of shooting just a couple of weeks after a clinic. Cardinal Classic Class AA singles **100 x 100** Congratulations and good shooting in the future.

Rick Tesker ~ Seitz ~ Browning XT ~ DeVault Custom Stock ~ Wisconsin State Shoot ~ Doubles Championship ~ Rick completed his first Grand Slam with a 198 x 200 in the Doubles Championship broke the first 100 x 100 to complete his Slam.

Jean McCord ~ DeVault Shotguns ~ Cardinal Handicap Championship Sunday ~ **97 x 100** lost runner-up in shoot-off

Jeff Falconer ~ DD Shooting Clinic ~ Took the clinic a month ago ~ first **50 x 50** and a **74 x 75** ~ Great shooting. Congratulations on some fine shooting.

Gary Bulley ~ Krieghoff K-80 ~ DeVault Custom Stock ~ Prior to Gary receiving his new stock his 16's average for the last 6 years was 94.2 as a high ~ After new stock on 1500 targets average 98.6 Between the Utah State Shoot ~ Wyoming State Shoot and the Grand a total of 18 trophies. This has been some great shooting and congratulations are in order.

Gus Acosta ~ DT-10 Beretta ~ DeVault custom stock and Delrin add-on rib ~ Ohio State Skeet Shoot ~ **100 x 100** in 20 and 28 gauge event. Lost shoot-off in the 20 gauge but won the 28 gauge event.

Jeff Roussey ~ Perazzi ~ DeVault custom stock and Delrin add-on rib ~ Indiana State Skeet shoot ~ **100 x 100** for state champion in 28 gauge event.

Gary Waalkes ~ DeVault Infinity ~ Bill Anzaldi Memorial Handicap ~ **97 x 100** Third in yardage group 23/24 yards



Hi, Happy September,

Well Summer is winding down and Fall is on its way here. My favorite and prettiest time of the year. I am having another Birthday (Yikes!) this month on the 20th but I try to milk it all month, if I'm going to be another year older I try to do it up right, ahaha. So if anyone feels led to send me a birthday present.....send wine! No, just kidding (not really) no, really just kidding ? . I said in my last newsletter that I wanted to take another vacation before the summer was gone and I did exactly that a few weeks ago. I spent 4 days in Frankenmuth, Michigan's Little Bavaria. Always wanted to see the German Village and it was beautiful, flowers everywhere and people dressed in German attire. I love bratwurst and what better place to get it. They had a big white tent set up for Beer and Brats in the afternoon and I was a happy camper. Live music and a dance floor was set up for the old fashioned Polkas which was a lot of fun...we "rolled out the barrel". It was wonderful. Visited a few wineries (of course) and the Frankenmuth Brewery. Frankenmuth also has the worlds largest Christmas Store, Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and it was just that. It was dark when we rolled into town and the Christmas Store was the first thing we saw. It is 8-1/2 acres of Christmas lights and life size decorations and was breathtaking. The store itself is the size of 1-1/2 football fields and open 361 days of the year. Inside was amazing and overwhelming with everything imaginable for Christmas with decorations from all over the world. Need to go back with Dennis' credit card!!!! (Just so you know, I lost my prescription glasses in Michigan and my new ones haven't come in yet, so if there are any typos its because I can't see.)

So now it is harvest time and zucchinis are abundant. For those of you who love zucchini bread I am giving you a wonderful recipe. Oh and by the way, I had a lot of feedback on last months BBQ meatloaf recipe and it was a big hit. I also had someone try it with ground turkey and they said they will make that recipe anytime meatloaf is required. So thank you for trying the recipes.

Zucchini Bread

3 beaten eggs
3/4 cup vegetable oil
2 cups white sugar
2 cups grated unpeeled zucchini
3 cups flour
1 tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp baking powder
2 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp vanilla
1/2 cup raisins (optional)
1/2 cup nuts of your choice (optional)

1 cup crushed and drained pineapple (this is what makes it so good)

Mix sugar, oil and zucchini together, add eggs and vanilla. Mix together flour, salt, baking powder, soda and cinnamon. Gradually add to zucchini mixture, then stir in nuts, raisins and pineapple. Grease and flour pans and bake at 350 for 1 hour. Pans differ so much in the way they bake, take the toothpick test at 50 minutes to see if they are done. Done when toothpick comes out dry. Do not over bake they will be dry. Makes two loaves.



There are those days that I feel just like the guy above. Alone and setting on the edge. Those are the days that I pray and ask for a little help and guidance. Enjoy the splendor that is here for only a moment in time.

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