

Hunter Bullseye

Hunters typically shoot from the benchrest exclusively, much to their detriment. Zeroes should be established and confirmed from position because how the rifle behaves in recoil may be different in differing positions and this can affect shot placement. Add in possible variables caused by pressure applied to the fore end, from the sling, shooting sticks, field rest, etc., and the need for testing from realistic field shooting positions becomes apparent.

Set up an NRA B-8 target at 100 yards. The aiming black extends out to the 5.5-inch-wide nine ring. High Power targets shot at 600 yards with iron sights have a six MOA aiming black, so our 5.5 MOA bull is easy enough to see at 100, especially with optics. Better still, aiming at 6 o'clock (base of the black circle) and adjusting the group's center puts you 2.75 inches high at 100 yards. Many knowledgeable hunters recommend most hunting rifles should be zeroed between 2-3 inches high at 100 so this is a solid zero for many applications.

Shoot five shots, each from five different shooting positions. Set up a shooting point with two or three varied positions that simulate improvised field rests, such as a post, fallen tree, shooting sticks, etc. Mix in at least two shots from different unsupported positions, such as prone, sitting, kneeling, etc. Just as important as raw accuracy, we want to learn what effect on point of impact different positions might have. For example, a tree rest might necessitate shooting around the left or right side. A hunter might prefer a bipod or shooting sticks but should be aware of any point of impact shifts when using them and what to do if their preferred support isn't available.

Run two strings, five rounds each, for a total of ten shots. For each five-round string, allow a 120 second time limit, with each shot taken from a different position. That's 24 seconds per shot. In "No-B.S. Accuracy" (Field & Stream, July 2009) David Petzal suggests a one minute time limit per shot but even his very novice demonstrator managed to average around 24 seconds. Run the second string on the same target and repeat from the same positions and procedure.

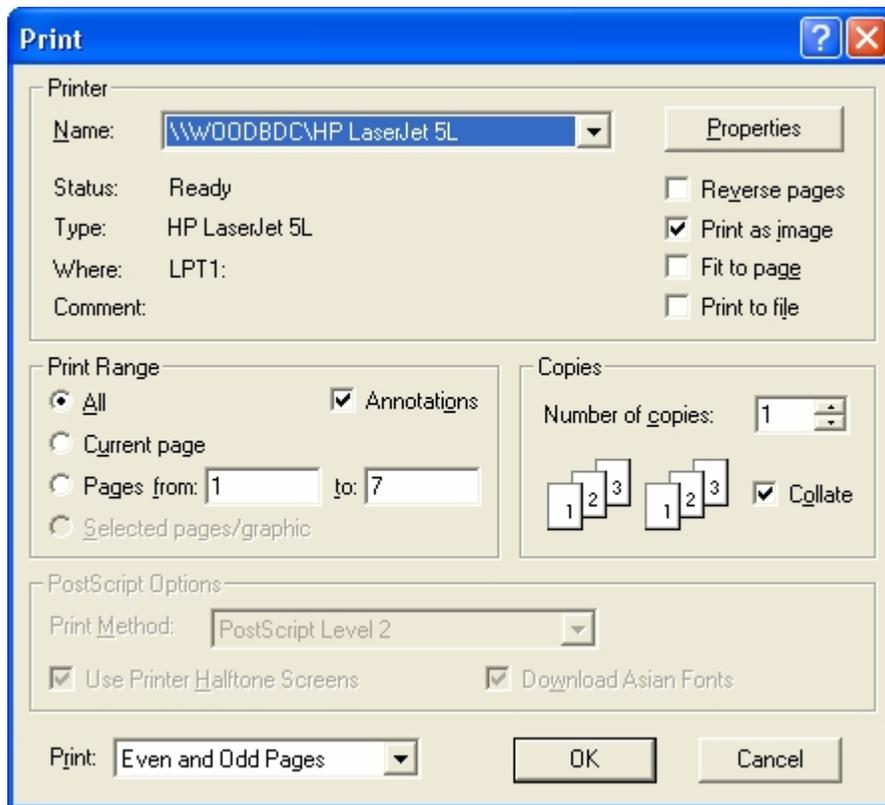
A perfect score of 100 points for all ten shots requires shots fired from five different field positions to center the three MOA ten ring. This will be especially eye opening for hunters that shoot regularly (or only) from a bench rest. It's educational for hunters to try their hand shooting from differing but realistic field positions.



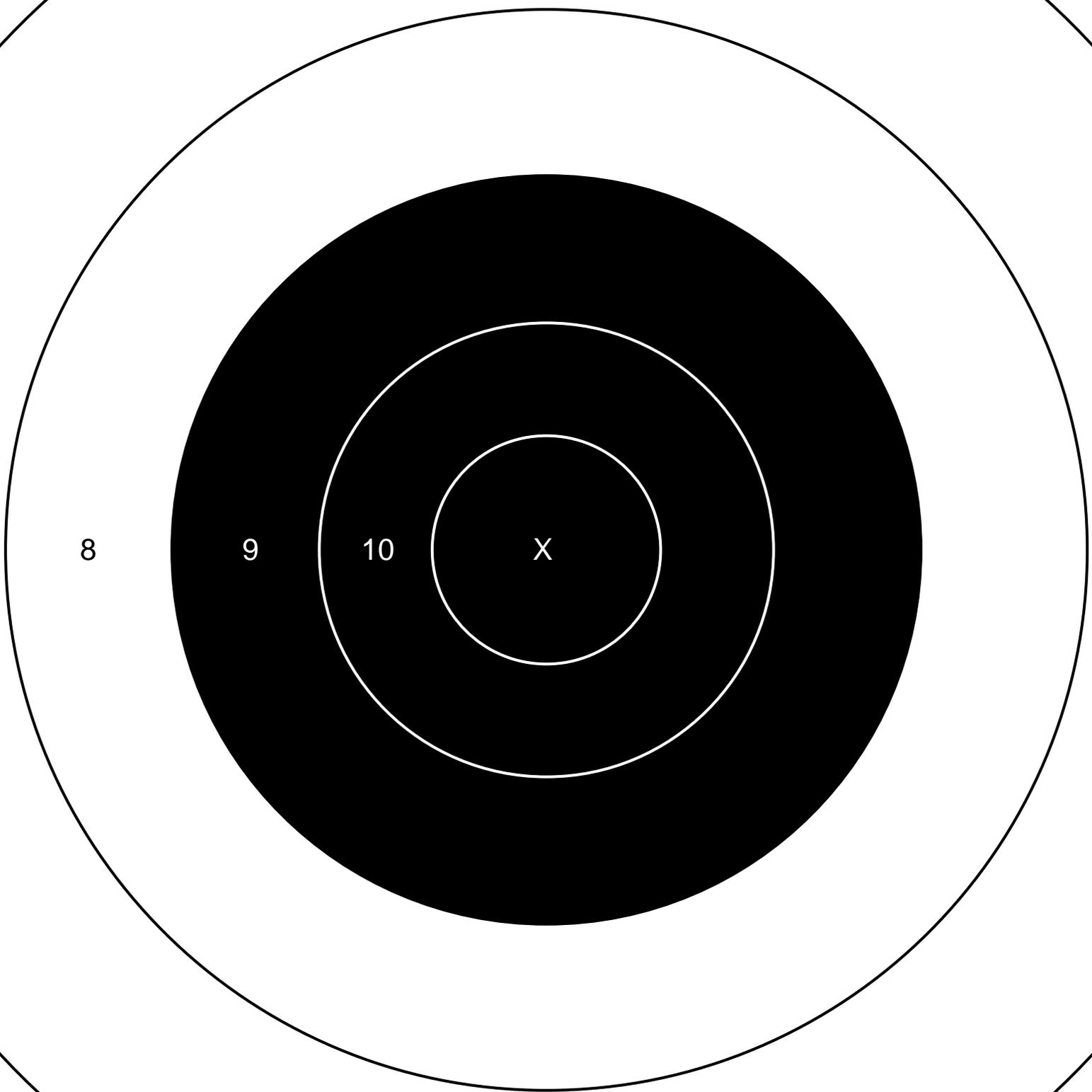
Hunters should seek positions that maximize hitting ability without the benefit of a benchrest. Make use of available support as it is in the field.

Note:

When printing these targets in Adobe Acrobat, you will have to change the print parameters in the print dialog box. Click "File" and then "Print". Make sure that the check box for the option, "Shrink oversized pages to paper size" or "Fit to page" or similar check box is cleared.



National Rifle Association B-8 Style
25 Yard Timed/Rapid Fire Pistol Target



Competitor: _____

Match No: _____

Score: _____