

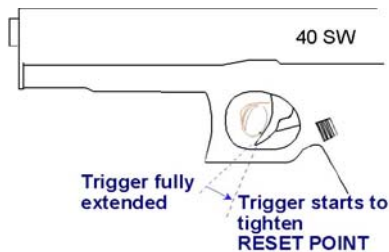
Secrets of Fast Double-Taps

(From "Michigan CCW", October 2002, by Phil Smith), ©Copyright 2002, by Phillip L. Smith

Those of you who have spent any time at all on the shooting range may have heard the term "double-tap". Double-taps, also known as "controlled-pairs", is a term used to describe two very-fast AIMED shots. The facts are that life-threatening people are difficult to stop with pistol sized ammunition, and are even harder to stop if they are enraged or under the influence of drugs.

Our armed forces have long known that to ensure a complete and immediate stop you require a bullet traveling 2000 feet-per-second which is far faster than any pistol size ammunition. To paraphrase Mr. Clint Smith of Thunder Ranch in Texas when he was asked what good is a pistol: "To fight your way back to your rifle!".

Accuracy while controlling double-taps is a combination of the bent support arm pulling the pistol back down into the ready position and learning to use the RESET POINT of your trigger. The reset point on your trigger is the point where the trigger engages to allow you to pull it for another shot. In most pistols it is the point where you start to feel resistance when you pull the slack out of the trigger travel. Every pistol trigger system is different so you will have to find the reset point on your own. For my Glock the trigger travel is just under 1/2", the slack is about 3/8", and my reset point is just a little under 1/4" from the fire position back forward to the reset position.



Smoothness in performing double-taps comes from NOT letting the finger leave the trigger. You move your finger forward with the trigger still touching and when you feel the reset point you smoothly and quickly pull another shot. Target feedback will tell you whether you are going too slow or too fast. Double-taps are taught and used by most police and civilian shooting schools to help the life-defender compensate for the lack of bullet performance inherent in pistol size ammunition and to ensure that the perp is stopped in the shortest amount of time possible. If your life is being threatened you need to persuade the perp to stop or leave as quickly as you can. The problem is that if you do not control your double-taps you will be putting bullets into the walls and ceilings instead of stopping the perp from killing you. Here are some techniques and tactics for keeping your double-taps controlled that you can perfect

practice on your shooting range:

Use a **weaver stance**.

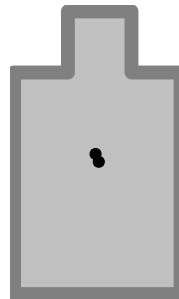
Use a **full combat grip**.

Use that **front sight**.

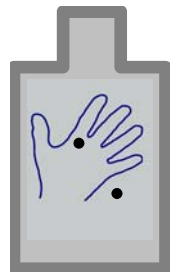
Find the **reset point** on your trigger.

Since all of you have been perfect practicing the weaver stance and full combat grip since you left the range session let's concentrate on the front sight and reset point in order to gain control over those double-taps. In the first paragraph of this article I defined double-taps as two very-fast aimed shots. Aimed means our sight picture includes the front sight at center-mass and focusing on the front sight only. This is difficult to learn and takes practice. What it means is: Front sight is crystal clear, rear sight is fuzzy, target is fuzzy.

If your shots are outside of a spread hand you are shooting too fast. Slow down to get a balance of speed and accuracy. If your shots are touching then you are shooting too slow and need to speed up



your double taps until they start to spread out over the area of a spread hand where you will again slow down a bit to balance your speed and accuracy.



Always remember: Practice does not make perfect; Only Perfect Practice makes perfect! So please practice with your carry gun as much as you can. The reasons should be clear by now but if you still do not understand why you should practice often, consider this: In a combat confrontation (with the life threatening stress) you will only be half as good as your best day on the range!

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