

When it comes to training and competition, the last thing the shooter thinks of is tools, containers and measuring instruments. However, the care, maintenance and set-up of the rifle play a major part, especially when unexpected difficulties crop up: such as the need to make a slight adjustment to the butt-plate, or to slide the rearsight a little further forwards - maybe even the trigger begins to 'creep'. These and other problems often arise in the most decisive phases of a championship. You need to be capable in all departments, so you can react quickly and effectively.

Safety is a further fundamental aspect of the shooting sport. MEC and centra introduced the breech plug SAFETY LOOK even before the German Shooting Federation's new safety regulations came into force, and thereby set the standard. This simple idea of using an easy-to-see flag to demonstrate that the breech is 'unloaded', has proved effective and has quickly developed into a self-evident ritual.



In the meantime, breech-plugs (which incidentally also display important quality features) have been developed for all types of gun and calibre. When inserted, the plug forms an airtight seal which prevents the barrel from cooling quickly (and changing its point of impact), which otherwise can make pauses in smallbore shooting dangerous. The rubber rings surrounding the plastic core do not damage the chamber, which is not always the case with cheaper copies or DIY solutions. A further detail, which can be very important in the heat of the battle.



The testing of ammunition, the cleaning and maintenance of the rifle, and the adjustment of the trigger all increase in importance when results are evaluated in tenths of a point. This means that the technical perfection of the rifle itself has to become a feature of training. Anyone who wants to get right to the top, needs to equip themselves with the necessary 'know how' as well as the relevant tools and instruments...



The set-up, care, and 'tuning' of our rifles demands ever-increasing attention. The closer the scores get to the maximum, the more decisive is the grouping capability and the functioning of the rifles. A group size which is couple of tenths smaller, a trigger which has been adjusted to perfection, a quick check to see that all the screws are firm; any of these can prove decisive.

So anyone who wants to shoot high scores or place at the top of the list in competition, has to get busy with learning about the technical details of the rifle.

In the course of our training at MEC, we nowadays demand a simple test of our shooters, before proceeding with the actual training exercises and performance controls. Whether world champion, Bundesliga shooter or amateur, they all must first prove that they can shoot a 105.0 series (or more) using the kneeling roll as a rest. This test shows whether the complete system of shooter, rifle and ammunition is in an acceptable condition.

If the shooter can't achieve this, it is an indication that there is a problem somewhere in one of the components of the system. In such a case, we inspect the following factors one after the other:

- Whether the compressed air cylinder has enough pressure.
- Has the barrel been adequately cleaned.
- The grouping capability of the rifle and ammunition either on the basis of groups from the test-rig or from the shoulder (using SCATT).
- The fixture, cleanness, adjustment and correct contrast conditions produced by the elements of the sighting system such as glasses, iris, filters and foresight.
- The clean and regular functioning of the trigger (resistance, first stage, position of the trigger-lever).

If these checks don't come up with anything, then the behaviour of the shooter comes under the lens. In all such cases, a SCATT-System will be installed so as to check the aiming point and triggering, as well as evaluating the behaviour of the rifle for the amount and consistency of recoil.

