

ASK BILL

I want to thank those of you who have sent questions so far and I also want to thank you for the feedback on the positive results you are having after giving my suggestions a try. I am looking forward to meeting you at some shoots this year.

We are only posting one question each month to keep the size of this portion of the newsletter from becoming too large. Also, to help limit the size, I am editing the questions by leaving out some of your personal experiences and just getting the real question out there for everyone to see. (Please continue sending your experiences but don't expect to see them in the newsletter) Likewise, on the answer side of things I will be limiting what is printed in the newsletter to just the portion of my e-mail replies that contain the answers and am leaving out some of my personal experiences.

One last item before this month's question/answer; does anybody have a better title for this section of the newsletter? If so, let me know. I didn't put much thought into it (obviously) and we can call it something else that is appropriate if you want. It doesn't need to have my name attached to it either if that helps any.

Question

I am shooting a back tension release and using the click side of the half moon. Isn't the speed of the release the same regardless of how much travel it takes to get to the click since the notch depth of the click stays the same?

Answer

Thanks for your question. You are correct in saying the notch depth stays the same and since it is the same that means the amount of rotation or travel of the handle to get the release to fire also stays the same regardless of how much travel it takes to get to the click. The speed of the release, though, will be different if the handle moves that fixed amount quicker or with less effort.

If a lot of travel is needed to get to the click, your release hand fingers will be curled almost into a fist by the time the release clicks. When the fingers are clinched to that extent they won't tighten up much more without some conscious effort (which we don't want to do) and considerable back tension will have to be developed to get the release to rotate and fire.

When not as much travel is needed to get to the click, your fingers will not be curled as much and they will subconsciously tighten on the release when back tension is increased. It's as if they have to tighten up on their own in order to hang on. This will make for a faster release; not because the handle moved less but because your fingers tightened up without you knowing it while you were increasing back tension.

Also, all the factors that affect release speed when not using a click will now affect the speed when using the click. These include such things as index finger tightness, the number of fingers on the release (2, 3 or 4), how deeply into the release all your fingers are, whether the thumb is on the handle or not, etc. These factors don't make the back tension release inferior but, rather, more versatile once you know how each affects the action of the release.

Best of shooting to everyone,
Bill Schuh