

The pistol grip does some of the pointing for you by presenting the sights aligned on the first target and centring the sights after recoil during the traverse across the targets. The capability of the grip to align the sights saves time and can be tested by raising the pistol with eyes closed. Are the sights centred on Target 1? With eyes closed, raise the pistol to the first target. Are the sights aligned at the top of the lift? The design of the grip should facilitate the application of constant trigger pressure, directly to the rear as shots are released. Applying a firm grip to the pistol exerts both side-to-side and front-to-back forces.

A test grip to find the shape for the grip which facilitates the application of trigger pressure directly to the rear when the hammer fall is shown in the photograph in Appendix D) The wood of the test grip front strap, under the trigger guard, is held by two screws allowing adjustment forward or back. This changes the ratio of side and back forces exerted on the grip. The exploration indicated that the front-to-back and side-to-side forces should be roughly in balance but the front-to-back forces should be the strongest at around 55% and the side-to-side forces about 45%. Further experimentation could be worthwhile to ascertain if there is an optimal relationship for these grip forces with regard to the size of the shot group. The area of the grip at the back, under the rear sight which helps position the pistol in the hand, also helps to spread the recoil within the hand. The firmness of the palm rest and the width of the grip at the front which rests on the third finger, are also important in managing recoil.