

Sporting Clay Shooting Stations and Platforms

On a Sporting clay course, the shooting stations or stands must be marked to define the shooter's standing position.

These "standing positions" have evolved over time – from a cleared area of brush showing the shooter approximately where to stand, to a shooting deck, where a shooter can enjoy his sport. Sometimes these will be an "all-weather", air-conditioned, heated "booth".

The majority of shooting stations are based upon a framework approximately 4' square. These can be made out of lumber, steel pipe or the more commonly used, plastic (PVC) water pipe. In fact, for the game of Compak Sporting there are International Rules defining the shooting "cage", and are as shown below.

Compak Sporting is in world of its own where it takes the game of Sporting Clays and regulates it similar to International Trap or Skeet.

For "real" sporting, the art of designing a Sporting Clay course makes use of the topography of the land and the imagination of the designer making the shooting experience as near to live bird shooting as possible.

The shooting station(s) is designed to give a "good feel" to the shooter. It shouldn't only be a regulated frame but project the ambiance of the situation.

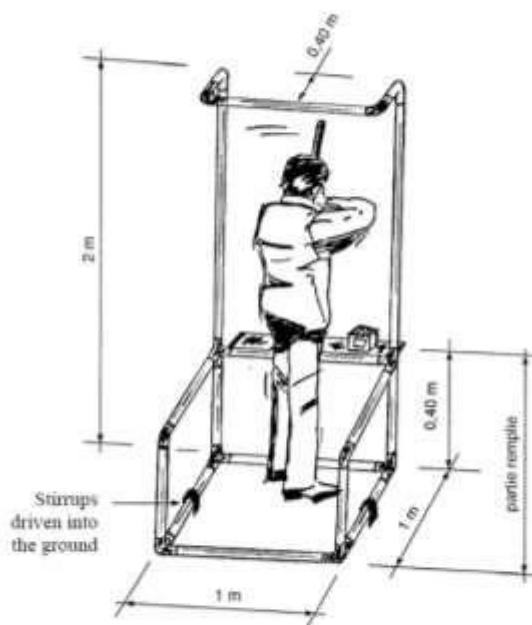
In Sporting Clays, a shooter will experience different types of conditions and the shooting "platform" should be suited to match the environment.

Let him shoot ducks from a duck-blind, driven pheasants from an earthen berm, teal from behind a log pile or quail from a grassy enclosure.

With Sporting Clays switching away from the mud-soaked fields where the shooter stands behind bales of straw and wades through muddy paths, to a clean course where he can be sure of sturdy, well defined shooting stations, there are various designs and requirements to suit all levels and expectations of shooters.

Many resorts are now extending their facilities by adding a Sporting Clay course to their existing entertainment of tennis, golf and spas. To this end, they do not want a "new" shooter, (someone they are trying to get to stay another night or two at the resort,) to have to experience muddy paths or uneven tracks or shooting stands. They want them to enjoy the "new" sport whilst wearing their "loafers" and golf pants and stay to shoot a few rounds. There has to be a compromise between the hardened game shooter expecting a rough "life-like" shooting position / stand and a newcomer expecting clinically clean polished shooting decks with manicured lawns.

Firing Angle Limiter (Recommended model)



**Shooting stand made of coloured P.V.C. tubes, \varnothing 50 mm
Straight tubes + interlocking elbows.
All the lower elements are filled with water
or sand, or fixed to the ground.**

The first experience of satisfying both requirements came when I designed the Sporting Clay course at Nemaocolin Woodlands in Pennsylvania, where the owner's prime objective was to cater for his 5 star guests, new to shooting and secondly, a local trade of seasoned shooters.

The photographs below show how this was achieved, giving the new shooter confidence and a firm footing, but designing the shooting window to present the seasoned shooter with a feeling of seclusion and natural environment.



Not all Sporting Clay ranges are designed at resorts, but the safety, cleanliness and being able to give a firm shooting platform has been accepted as the "norm" at most modern and client conscious establishments.

Take a look at the variety of shooting stations built over the past 20 years at various clubs I've designed.





Finally, in Abu Dhabi where all shooters will be riding golf carts and shooting from concrete / mahogany platforms.



Compak Sporting Clay Villas / Cabins

The game of Compak Sporting evolved from several games, Compact Clays, Supersporting etc, but the principal remains the same, shoot various different Sporting targets from one location.

Although this game is now regulated by the FITASC organization, the game is used by many clubs as an opportunity to offer group shooting, or for corporate entertainment.

The game as described in the official FITASC rule book defines target paths, shooter's standing positions, spacing etc, but for the entertainment value there are many variables that can be introduced. The basic game specifies 5 shooters standing in an evenly spaced row, being presented with targets from 5 or 6 different trap machines.

My Compak sporting usually uses 10 – 15 trap machines and allows the shooters to stand at various elevations. This is accomplished by building a purpose designed shooting deck, usually built as part of a sheltered cabin. See the photographs below to more clearly understand.



This cabin deck provides the shooting platform, while the cabin offers shelter for waiting wives & children or lunch and refreshments.



The idea of having a cabin is so that groups of clients can shoot in any weather condition. They can also rent the cabin for a few hours, using it for conference or corporate entertainment.

Shooters can hold their own parties, and rent the cabin where their families can accompany them keeping warm in the shelter behind. Wives or children can use the cabin for games while waiting for their husbands / parents to finish shooting.

A pot-belly stove keeps the chills away.

The "cabins" shown below are the units I built for Abu Dhabi, where their main use will be for sheltered shooting during the very hot summer days. Equipped with AC and restrooms, together with pantries, these "villas" will be used for corporate entertainment at a new level.



For more detailed information on Sporting Clays and Compact Sporting visit my website:

www.shooting-academy.com