

T Shot®?



Would a pellet of lead shot work so well if it was known by any other name?

Well yes it would, especially if it was called T Shot®!

Like most things in life, it is the simplest ideas that very often turn out to be the best.

T shot then is indeed a simple idea, but with far reaching benefits to all shooters who use a shotgun.

It is the classic story of a man toiling away for year after year to perfect his concept and make it ready to become a commercial reality. The problem with being an inventor is that by its very nature, it is a very lonely place to be.

Bluntly put, it is a very long hard road, with very few people actually making their idea available in the market place, with fewer still getting paid for their long years of abstinence and sacrifice.

Very occasionally something comes along that truly has the ability to turn the established state of the art on its head: T Shot is one of these rare breeds.

Brilliantly simple in concept, but devilishly technically competent, T shot is about to turn the corner for shotgun shooting sports.

The humble lead pellet has been with us for what seems like millennia, gradually improving in shape and consistency of pattern, but as far as achievable performance is concerned, it would be fair to say that the zenith has been reached.

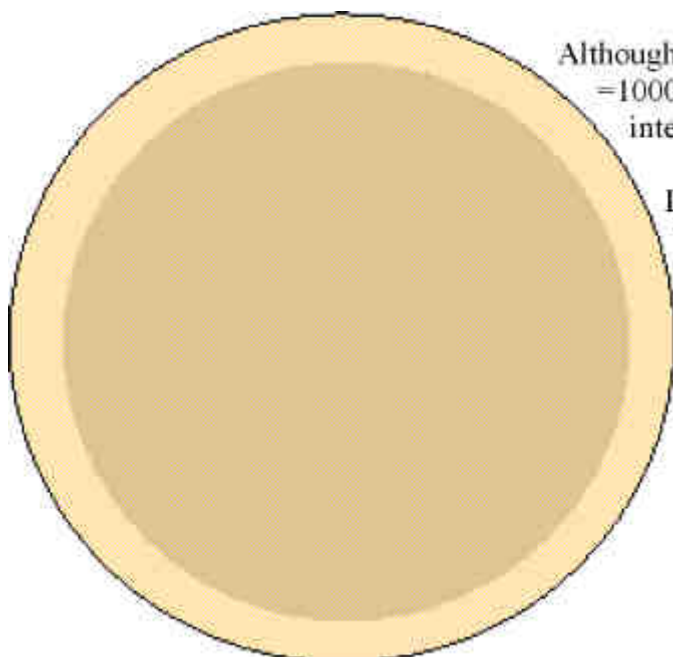
What T Shot does is preserve the ballistic integrity of the effective lead pellet, but kicks it up another couple of gears by way of consistent pattern performance.

How does it work?

A standard lead pellet of whatever required hardness, is sealed with a bonded coating that effectively isolates it from the others, or indeed anything else.

This also gives the treated pellets a relatively slippery exterior, allowing their progress from the cartridge to the target to be unimpaired.

Although this protective layer is only a few microns thick (1 micron = 1000th of a millimetre), it is sufficient to preserve the individual integrity of the pellet.



Left:

T Shot, showing the sealed and bonded coating encapsulating the lead pellet (the coating is not to scale but shown much thicker for clarity).



This means that the likelihood of any sticking together of small groups of pellets (or clumping as it is generally known) together with their uneven and irregular patterns are effectively eliminated.

T shot has all of the inherent advantages of lead shot, without its drawbacks. Extensive independent testing has been carried out with this shot material, including The Royal College Of Ballistic Studies, reporting the very large improvements in consistency and regularity of pattern with T shot.

Anything that allows the pellets to fly singly as the pattern spreads will allow a more complete placement of the total spread within the pattern circle; T shot has been proven to work in this way.

It must be appreciated that it is not so much the total number of pellets present in the circle that

matter, but the consistency of their precise location within it; this is what is needed to produce clean kills with total regularity.

It might seem that clay shooters have the most to gain, but all shooters will benefit from its use. The distant clay target has always been the greatest challenge for the shotgun and its cartridge's ability to throw a consistently even pattern. From the point of view of the game or pigeon shooter, anything that seriously improves the consistency and evenness of individual pellet distribution in the pattern circle has to be good news.



For Game shooting, the fairly wide patterns throw from open chokes such as improved cylinder are notorious for their inconsistency of pellet distribution, with gaps and holes all over the place, when using standard lead game shot in fibre wadded cartridges.

Those exponents of the tighter chokes, together with their relatively tight patterns with reduced overall spread, will soon discover that with T shot things can be more relaxed; using a more open overall spread, without giving any birds away through holes in the pattern.

This will also please the cook, as badly shot up birds are only 'fit for the ferrets'.

Indeed the lighter game loads will be positively enhanced with the use of T shot, as the percentage of damaged or otherwise useless pellets will be massively reduced, greatly increasing the efficiency of the load weight for weight. Smaller bore game guns will benefit greatly here, both from the pattern improvement and elimination of barrel leading.



If your game shoot stipulates the use of fibre wadded cartridges (and many do), then the use of T shot will produce significantly better kills with more consistent patterns with these components.

The biggest disadvantage of ordinary lead shot when used with fibre wads is the abrasion of the pellets that come into contact with the barrel walls. The relatively low percentage of antimony content (hardening agent) used in some cartridges will tend to worsen this problem: together with the attendant leading of the bores, most noticeably at the chokes.

T Shot should be available loaded in mainstream game loads by next season when everyone will benefit from its use, with better patterns for all areas of the sport: it's the pattern that kills!

T shot will be available in factory loaded cartridges this season; initially for top of the range clay loads.

In the field with T Shot.

The cartridge that poses the toughest test of all for the shot pellets is the heavily loaded 3/4oz (21gram) .410.

This is because the shot column is extraordinarily long, being prone to squashed clumped and distorted pellets especially at the base.

Using both standard lead and T Shot in UK #6 size (2.6mm) with the same degree of hardness (antimony content)

I assembled some identical cartridges and went forth as requested to prevent the pigeons from attacking the rape.

Using the Modified (half) choke tube the decoys were



set up so as to give shots between 20 and 30 yards with a marker at 35 yards to help with certain range estimation.

The advantages of the T Shot cartridges were immediately apparent, with nothing less than one shot kills. However the standard lead cartridges were clearly suffering from inconsistent patterns, with the need for a second shot every fourth or fifth bird.



This is why my usual choice for this load and range is UK #7 shot with its greater number of pellets in the pattern.



The next day a trip to the pattern board soon showed up the shortcomings of the standard #6 pellets, with the T Shot clearly demonstrating consistently better pellet distribution in the 30inch circle at these ranges. The pellet numbers were very nearly on a par with my pet #7 loads, but better distributed, which, when you consider that there are almost 60 more pellets in the #7 load at 259 pellets, compared with 200 of #6, it's all the more remarkable: less wastage through damage, with more working pellets in the pattern.

Clearly this is the shot of the future, with a myriad of benefits for all shooters and a better kills to cartridge ratio to boot: that's progress!