

## 2022 UPMLA Rendezvous Table Rest Rifle Match

The match is probably the first UPMLA scheduled rifle match requiring use of a rest. The guidelines below follow those of the "Table Shoot" match conducted annually by the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA). If the match is successful, it may become a regular UPMLA event in the future.

Background: For more than two centuries Americans have used their muzzle loading rifles in over-the-log shoots and the almost identical chunk shoots. Lt. Col. David Crockett, congressman and a hero of the Alamo, is known to have participated in chunk shoots. In these traditional matches, a shooter fires from prone behind a log or chunks of wood with the forepart of the rifle resting on a log or chunk. A modification of chunk shoots has been devised for older shooters and others who have difficulty getting into and out of a prone position. The modifications have been named Table Rest matches. Firing procedures are similar to chunk shoots, except that shooters fire while sitting at a bench or table with the forepart of the rifle resting on wooden supports on the bench.

Rifles for the UPMLA Table Rest Match: Traditional muzzle loaders with exterior hammers, either flint or percussion. Open metallic sights only, either fixed or adjustable. No peep sights or optical sights. Sight shaders and set triggers are allowed. No in-line actions or sealed ignitions. Only patched round-ball projectiles. Weight is unrestricted.

Distance: Targets will be placed on target boards located 60 yds from the firing line.

Benches and Rests: Shooters will use the benches and seats located on the covered firing line. The muzzle or fore stock of the rifle will be placed on a rest to be provided. Rests will consist of a pyramid of 2x4s somewhat like the one shown in the photo below. Steps on the rest may be covered with no more than 2 layers of cloth or leather to protect finish of rifle. Double rests are not allowed. The rear portion of the rifle must only be supported by the shooter; shooters may place their hands and arms on the bench.

Firing Protocol: Procedures of the Table Rest match differ from those of usual UPMLA matches. Shooters must furnish their own paper sighting target to fasten onto a target board. Shooters will then have a 15-minute period to fire any number of shots at their sighting target. These shots are intended to establish the average point of impact of the shots on the target. These sighting shots are not scored.

After the sighting period ends, shooters will move to the target boards to assess their sighting target. Shooters will place a scoring target (NMLRA "XS") behind their target, positioning and fastening it so that their next shots will hit the X-center of the scoring target. A drawing of the XS target is below along with a photo showing an example of placement of a scoring target. Shooters will then have another 15-minute period to fire three shots on their sighting target. Each shot will hopefully strike near the center of the scoring target behind the sighting target.

When the firing period ends, shooters will again move to the target boards to remove their sighting and scoring targets. Scoring targets will be collected by the range officer.

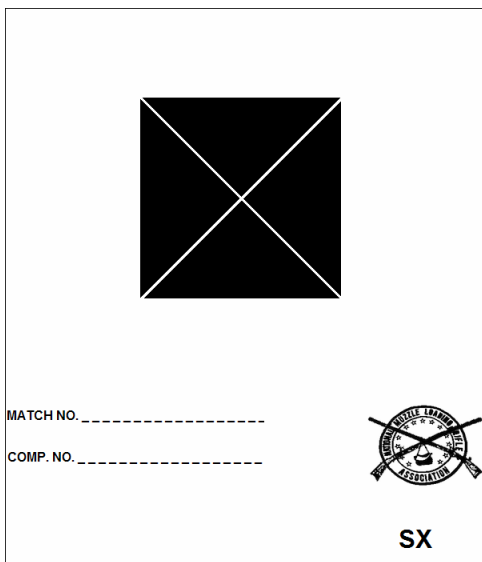
Sighting Targets: Shooters can use any commercial or home-made paper target for sighting. Maximum allowable dimensions are 12 inches wide by 12 inches high.

The face of the target should be designed to aid precise aiming of the rifle.

Determining Scores: An individual shooter's score will be determined by "string measurement" of shots on the XS scoring target. The distance between the center of the target X and the center of the shot ("center of ball") measured with a dial caliper is the string measurement of the shot. A shooter's score is the total string measurement of the three shots.

If one or more shots fail to place the center of the shot hole on the XS target paper, the target is disqualified. That is, all three shots must hit the scoring target.

Match shooters will be ranked by total string measures, with the shortest string awarded first place, next shortest awarded second place, etc. Any ties will be broken using the longest string measure on the targets of the tied shooters. Tied shooters will be ranked by length of this string measure, with the ties broken in favor of the shooter with the shortest such string measure.



NMLRA Scoring Target, type SX, for Chunk Gun matches. Target is 5x7".



Image shows positioning of rifle for Table Rest match. Fore stock or muzzle of rifle is placed on a step of the pyramid of 2x4s. Butt stock does not touch the table, and is supported only by shooter

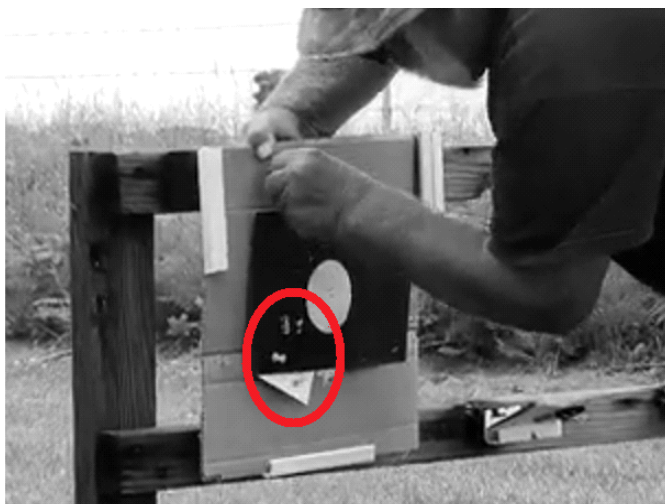


Image shows sighting target being refastened after scoring target has been placed behind sighting target in preparation for firing scoring shots.