

What loads should I purchase and why?

Be careful of what you buy when you are buying ammunition, many of the "cheap" shells sold at retail stores have a fairly high velocity and will kick the snot out of you. Getting whacked in the face and bruising your cheek is not conducive to hitting lots of targets which is our goal; stick with 2-3/4 dram 1 ounce loads unless you know you are comfortable shooting 2-3/4 dram 1148 fps (feet per second) 1-1/8 ounce "light" target loads. Please do NOT buy 1-1/8 ounce 3 dram 1200 fps loads, they are not needed, and most of you will hit way fewer targets if you shoot this type of shell, especially if you shoot at more than 50 targets.

Here's a little explanatory info:

Assumptions:

1 OUNCE LOADS (2-3/4 dram 1180 fps)

8-3/4 lbs. 12 gauge (BT-99) shooting 1 ounce Estate 8's, 1180 fps: **RECOIL = 12.51 ft/lbs**

8 lbs. 12 gauge (Remington 1100) shooting 1 ounce Estate 8's, 1180 fps: **RECOIL = 13.68 ft/lbs**

7 lbs. 12 gauge (Benelli, or similar) shooting 1 ounce Estate 8's, 1180 fps: **RECOIL = 15.63 ft/lbs**

1-1/8 OUNCE LOADS (2-3/4 dram 1145 fps)

8-3/4 lbs. 12 gauge (BT-99) shooting 1-1/8 ounce Estate 8's, 1145 fps: **RECOIL = 14.62 ft/lbs**

8 lbs. 12 gauge (Remington 1100) shooting 1-1/8 ounce Estate 8's, 1145 fps: **RECOIL = 16.00 ft/lbs**

7 lbs. 12 gauge (Benelli or similar) shooting 1-1/8 ounce Estate 8's, 1145 fps: **RECOIL = 18.27 ft/lbs**

1-1/8 OUNCE LOADS (3 dram 1200 fps, typical "promo" loads found on sale at Gander Mountain or Dick's)

8-3/4 lbs. 12 gauge (BT-99) shooting 1-1/8 ounce 8's, 1200 fps: **RECOIL = 15.89 ft/lbs**

8 lbs. 12 gauge (Remington 1100) shooting 1-1/8 ounce 8's, 1200 fps: **RECOIL = 17.38 ft/lbs**

7 lbs. 12 gauge (Benelli or similar) shooting 1-1/8 ounce 8's, 1200 fps: **RECOIL = 19.86 ft/lbs**

As the above illustrates, there are many variables which come into play in determining how hard a gun "kicks", and even more important than the recoil is how well the gun fits you.

So **John** who shoots a fairly heavy gun designed specifically for target shooting that is custom fit, **feels 12.51 ft/lbs of recoil if he shoots 1 ounce Estates**. If **Mary** shoots the exact same shells as John they will be impacted with **15.63 ft/lbs of recoil, or 25% more recoil** (because the gun weighs less). If **Mary** opts to shoot 1-1/8 ounce 2-3/4 dram 1145 fps shells to "get that extra edge", they be impacted by **18.27 ft/lbs of recoil, 46% more than John**. If **Mary** opts to shoot 1-1/8 ounce 3 dram 1200 fps shells to "get that super extra edge", she'll be impacted by **18.27 ft/lbs of recoil, 59% more than Max**.

Many well intentioned parents will purchase their kid a lightweight youth 20 gauge, thinking surely a 20 gauge gun will kick less. Let's test that assumption:

7/8 OUNCE 20 GAUGE LOADS (2-1/2 dram 1200 fps)

5-1/2 lbs. 20 gauge pump or semi-auto: **RECOIL = 17.33 ft/lbs, MORE KICK than a light (7 lb) 12 gauge**

This is why we are furnishing 1 ounce shells and I recommend against shooting a 20 gauge gun unless a kid is simply too small to handle the weight of a 12 gauge - because most of our kids are shooting

relatively light weight, ill fitting field guns that can really bruise their faces and shoulders if they shoot any significant volume of shells. There is nothing wrong with shooting 1-1/8 ounce shells IF your gun fits you well, especially if it is rather heavy and you are not a rather small person.