

The Lee Breech Lock Challenger reloading kit

Walking through each stage of reloading will demonstrate the kit's effectiveness:

1. Depriming old cases and sizing cases. Using Lee dies, the ram will easily deprime and size the cases (the dies are not included). There is a tube of Lee sizing lubricant included in the kit. Spent primers are collected in the vertical plastic tube.

2. Cleaning the primer pocket, chamfer mouth of case and trim. The kit comes with a primer pocket cleaner and a mouth chamfer to ease the introduction of the bullet base. A universal case trimmer base comes with the case, but you need calibre-specific case trimmer mandrels to trim, which are also available from Lee.

3. Priming. The hand primer is excellent and gives good feel and reliable feeding of new primers into the primer pocket. The Challenger kit also comes with two metal pistons, which attach to the press ram for priming on the press. I found this much more fiddly and slower than using the hand primer, as each primer needs to be picked up and placed on the ram. However, with the hand primer, you can just dump the primers onto the plate of the hand primer, give a quick jiggle to get them all face (anvil) up and click on the clear cover and then you can start priming the cases.

4. Filling with powder. The powder thrower was easy to set up and get throwing reliable loads. I settled into a habit of weighing every fifth load to ensure safe amounts of powder. As per instruction, I also ran a hopper of powder through to coat internals with graphite for smooth running.

5. Inserting and seating a new bullet. Putting the charged case back onto the press ram, you can place a bullet in the case mouth and then raise the case into the bullet seating die (not included in the kit). All standard 7/8-14 reloading dies by other manufacturers will fit, but larger 1 1/4-12 dies will not.

I had previously purchased a Dillon beam balance and I use this in preference to Lee scales, as I found the scales to be the only item in the kit that I did not like. In comparison to the Dillon beam balance, they are too light, finicky and I found the numbers more difficult to read accurately. The Dillon product has magnetic dampening, which allows the beam to settle quickly. Of course, many people now prefer the electronic scales, either stand-alone or incorporated into a powder dispenser. The kit also comes with a powder funnel to get this down into the case.

Apart from using my set of scales, the Lee Challenger kit really had nearly everything I needed to get reloading, other than the dies and shell-holder. The kit comes with all the shell-holders needed for the hand primer, but not for the press - this will need to come with the dies. The instructions for assembling the hand primer and initial set-up were simple to follow. Though I would add a set of Vernier scales for measuring case length and overall length to ensure the newly created cartridges are the correct length for firearm chambers.

The Lee Breech Lock Challenger is a great beginner's kit with pretty much everything to get started. Apart from my above caveat about the included beam balance that I did not use, everything in the kit was useful and has worked well for 18 months now. It is a good introduction to the art and science of reloading for turning out rifle and pistol cartridges. The single-stage press means having to understand each step initially, and possibly later in your reloading career, you would move on to turret or progressive presses.

For more information about Lee reloading kits and products, speak to your local gunshop. ●

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.22 Jungle Lane

- *New Zealand's new
shooting competition*

by Enrico Hoover



It's a wonderful competition for getting juniors and new shooters on board.

Just awesome. Tremendous. Well done. Magnificent. When can we do it again? These were just some of the compliments and comments from the 45 people who attended and shot at the Inaugural Long Range Precision .22 Jungle Lane Shoot at Hangawera Station in New Zealand on the first day of summer 2013.

Long-range shooting with a .22 rimfire rifle has become increasingly popular in the United States, not to mention Australia, and I thought it would be rude not to introduce

something similar in my home country of New Zealand. What immediately stood out for me was that this type of shooting (or at least the concept I had in mind) was going to be very user-friendly and great for youngsters and new shooters wanting to learn something new, but also challenging enough to keep the more experienced shooters on their toes.

Some aspects that really caught my attention were that the ballistics of a .22LR rifle shooting high-velocity ammunition

at 300 yards almost exactly matches the ballistics of a .308 at 1000 yards. Similarly, the ballistics of a .22 shooting subsonics at 200 yards closely matches the ballistics of a .45-70 at 1000 yards. So for the shooters using and training with larger calibre rifles at 1000 yards or more and perhaps chewing through \$10 to \$15 for each shot, the same skills at reading the distance and wind and applying trajectory calculations apply and are possibly even more critical with the humble .22.

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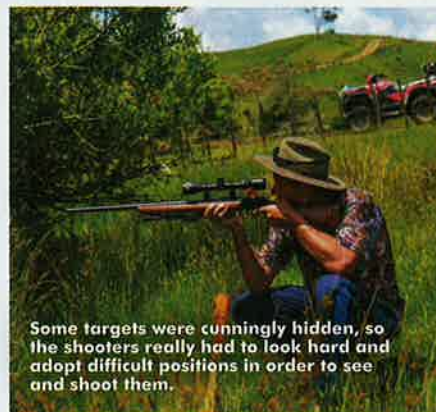
Each squad did their own range officiating, scoring and spotting for each other.

Some other very obvious factors in favour of shooting the .22 are:

- It's a whole lot easier to find 200 or 300 yards in which to shoot than 1000 yards or more.
- Training becomes much more valuable when you have little noise or recoil to consider.
- Nearly every shooter already has a .22-calibre rifle of some sort.
- You can shoot all day for \$15, instead of \$15 a shot for say factory-loaded .338 ammo.
- And, most importantly, it's wonderful for getting juniors and new shooters on board.

With all of this in mind, I was determined to set up a course of fire with all reactive targets so that no patching or physical scoring of the targets would be required. I spent several months and a lot of steel making about 50 swinging silhouette-type targets. I was loaned two Caldwell Moving Target Systems and these were incorporated into a nearly 2km-long 'jungle lane', hence the competition's name. The 'lane' is just a track through the bush, across some farmland, up and down banks and through the creek, just meandering along. I specifically chose a course that would be suitable for almost any able-bodied person to negotiate with ease.

Once the track had been laid out, positioning the targets was the next job. From the Jungle Lane track, all targets were to be on the left side of the track and targets were to be anywhere from 17 to 184 yards



Some targets were cunningly hidden, so the shooters really had to look hard and adopt difficult positions in order to see and shoot them.

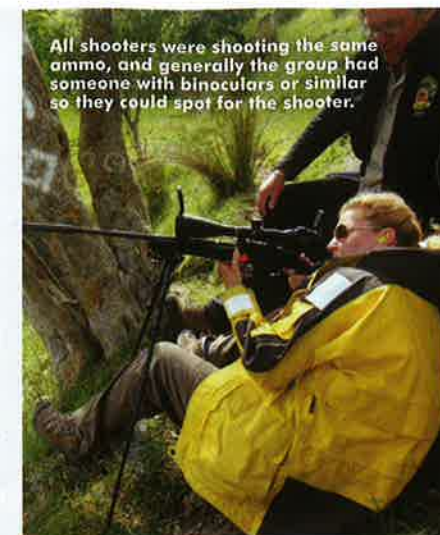
away. The targets varied in size from 1" squares at 100 yards to 8 and 10" targets at longer distances. Some were cunningly hidden, so the shooters really had to look hard and adopt difficult positions in order to see and shoot them. Some, like the moving targets, were small 2" discs at nearly 100 yards (94m), and some were a little (or a lot) devious, such as Target 38, which we've called 'Mission Impossible' as it's a large steel disc at 100 yards with a 3/4" hole in the middle.

The idea was for each shooter to have up to 10 shots to attempt to fire one shot through the hole. If successful, the shot would activate a flashing light unit, which is clearly visible to the shooter, as well as any other people in the squad who were spotting. Misses were instantly obvious to both the shooter and spotters. As this had to be achievable, I decided to give shooters the option of firing their 10 shots from 75

yards for 50 points or from 100 yards for 100 points.

On the day, quite a few shooters were successful at both distances and this event was very popular, no doubt due to it being challenging. About eight shooters achieved a shot through the hole, made the lights flash and became the envy of their shooting mates. Three of the junior shooters we had managed to achieve this, although, to be fair, they were using rifles owned and set up by very experienced shooters who had made all the ballistic scope adjustments and the like.

We ended up with 38 shooting positions with a large variety of targets, some of which were to be shot at for score and some of which were for fun only. As well as Target 38, the other difficult



All shooters were shooting the same ammo, and generally the group had someone with binoculars or similar so they could spot for the shooter.



Each person also had their own score-sheet, and was responsible for accurately completing it and handing it back in at the day's end.

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.22 Jungle Lane

kneeling or whatever. It was after all a field shoot and conducted within certain limits, so I thought it appropriate to allow everyone to choose their own shooting positions to best shoot the targets.

As mentioned, more than 45 people attended and shot at this competition and some squads ended up shooting for almost 11 solid hours. The shooters included people of all ability levels, from young scouts from around the Morrinsville district, to very experienced shooters with very fancy equipment. There were quite a few dads with their sons and daughters, usually sharing one firearm between them.

From the outset, it was my intention to have the shoot set up so novice-level shooters with very basic equipment could hit at least half of the targets, while the more experienced shooters with fancier gear could be challenged enough to want to come back. Many squads had one or two scouts or novices with them and they were generously supervised, advised and provided with shared rifles and ammunition by more experienced shooters, who in some cases got thrashed by the scouts they were coaching! Matt Ryan, who ended up winning the overall event, missed a particular target and his young scout innocently asked him, "Are you not very good at this?" This was moments after the kid had just hit the same target with Matt's rifle after Matt had done all the ballistic adjustments!

A big advantage of sending out squads like this was that only one firearm per group was in use at any one time and several squads had only one rifle with them. All shooters were shooting the same ammo, and generally the group had someone with binoculars or similar so they could spot for the shooter. This works really well and it means that the first shooter gets to zero the rifle at that target and distance and then the next shooter,



especially if they're a novice, has all the set-up work done for them. In the case of the scouts one coach had with her, by the fourth of fifth shooting station, the scouts were doing all the rangefinding, using the ballistic charts and making all the scope target turret adjustments and it worked brilliantly.

To assist the newer or less experienced shooters in hitting some of the longer range targets (150 to 184 yards), a 6ft-high tent pole was placed next to the target with some red insulation tape around the target at the approximate correct height for the shooter to aim (if they were using standard velocity ammunition). This proved to be very successful and showed very clearly that there is more than one way to work out where to aim for longer shots. For those who wanted it, various ballistic charts were also available. These showed the bullet drop in inches at various distances and MOA adjustments for those with the knowledge to use this information and this was appreciated by quite a few shooters.

At the end of the day, the event was won by Matt Ryan with 545 points, with only the slimmest of margins over Gary Holder on 535 and Andy Wakker on 530. It was very pleasing to note too that scouts Cameron and Danielle and their dad Andrew all placed in the top 10, admittedly with the help and equipment of their coaches.

The coaching overall was absolutely superb. All the youngsters went home with huge smiles on their faces and they will probably be raving to their mates for weeks. Even if they don't become dedicated sports shooters, they will remember this day forever. Though, I am sure many will become longtime shooters, as I've already heard that some people have since gone out and bought rifles, scopes and ammo and are plinking on their properties on a regular basis. This is family bonding at its best!

I am very confident that at the end of a long, tiring, full-on day, everyone had lots of fun. It was a big learning curve for a lot of people, myself included, and the concept definitely merits doing it again. We've not only introduced the concept of long-range shooting to a lot of people who probably hadn't considered shooting further than 50 yards with their .22 before, but also shown that a lot is possible with a little enthusiasm and some basic gear. Thank you to all the shooters, supporters, groups and businesses who volunteered their time, petrol and enthusiasm in getting this event up and running.

For more information about the Inaugural Long Range Precision .22 Jungle Lane Shoot, visit www.junglelane.co.nz ●

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Voluntary Product Safety Recall

Remington Model 7 & 700 Rifles

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Remington Model 7 & 700 rifles manufactured between May 1, 2006 and April 9, 2014 which have an XMP (X-Mark Pro) Trigger.

IDENTIFYING FEATURES

Please go to www.remington.com/recall and enter the serial number of your firearm to find out if it is affected by this recall.

WHAT IS THE DEFECT?

In some cases at certain temperature ranges the bonding agent used in the X-Mark Pro Trigger can gum up causing the safety catch not to engage and possibly cause an unintentional discharge.

WHAT SHOULD CONSUMERS DO?

If you have a firearm affected by this recall and you have any concerns whatsoever then you should immediately cease using your firearm and contact any one of the listed authorised warranty repair stations. An appointment can then be made for a complete factory set trigger mechanism to be replaced while you wait.

DETAILS

For updated information please email recall@raytrade.com.au

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Pine Rivers Gunsmiths – Brisbane	07 3881 1688
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