

CENTER BEAD PLACEMENT

I never noticed, until I bought a second barrel for my Perazzi, that the location of the mid-beads on the two barrels are drastically different. One is 16-3/4" from the muzzle and the other is 13-1/2" from the muzzle! I've checked other people's barrels and they all have one of these two bead locations. When I stack a figure-eight with the beads when mounting each barrel, it looks different and I feel the barrels shoot different. The barrel with the mid-bead closer to the muzzle tends to shoot higher. Is the location of the mid-bead important to good shotgunning? Or is it just my imagination? Also, it's hard to believe that a barrel manufacturer like Perazzi would have such wide variation in this area..

Thanks,

Stan

Dear Stan,

Shame on Perazzi, but it happens.

I'm assuming that you are a trap shooter, shooting a premounted gun and checking on head alignment by briefly glancing at the alignment of the beads before settling down to business. Otherwise, for sporting, FITASC or IntSk you should just ignore the beads entirely. Or maybe you are a skeet shooter and ordered a second carrier barrel for tubes.

I have to confess that I never look at my beads. I look at the bird. My stocks fit, so I know that if I have a certain amount of cheek pressure on the stock, that the alignment is correct. I don't need beads to tell me that. In sporting many of the people remove any mid-beads, some even remove the front bead too. Looking back at the barrel when the bird is in the air will guarantee a miss. But trap shooters are a different breed and some like the middle bead. Different guns for different games.

I don't see how location of the mid bead would make the barrels shoot differently when you use cheek pressure as your guide. But it could if you use a figure eight sight picture as your guide because different bead placement will lead to different cheek pressure to get the beads to line up if the distances are different. Different cheek pressure would certainly alter the impact height a bit.

Having the beads in different places would drive me crazy if the barrels were the same length. But, if the barrels are different lengths the front beads are going to be in different places, so it might make sense to have the center beads moved too. You didn't say what lengths your barrels were. If one were a 34" single trap barrel and the other were a 30" O/U doubles barrel, there would be even more difference in the distance from the eye of the front beads as there is in the center beads.

If what you want is to have both barrels shoot to the same point of impact when you see the same figure eight bead alignment, you might consider a slightly lower or higher front bead on one of the barrels. That would get the job done without messing with the center beads.

Best regards,

Bruce Buck
Shotgun Report's Technoid