

Black Aces Tactical — Patterning & Setup Quick Start Checklist

Gear Checklist

- 12-gauge shotgun (pump or semi-auto)
- Eye + ear protection (electronic recommended)
- Torso targets or 8.5x11" targets with center marks
- Marker & ruler/tape for spread measurement
- Ammo: #1 buck, 00 buck, reduced-recoil (5 shells each)
- Choke options if available (cylinder / improved cylinder)
- Notebook/phone for recording POA, POI, and spread sizes

Range Setup

- Measure and mark 5, 7, and 10 yards.
- Mount targets at chest height.
- Mark point of aim clearly on each target.
- Confirm safe backstop and follow range rules.

Patterning Procedure

- For each distance, fire 3 shots per load from a stable stance.
- After each string, mark point of impact and measure spread size.
- Record cycling performance, recoil, and accuracy notes.
- Repeat for all loads before deciding on the best option.

Evaluating Your Results

- Choose the load that keeps ALL pellets in the vital zone at 10 yards.
- Prefer tight, consistent patterns with controllable recoil.
- Confirm function in semi-autos with a full box of chosen ammo.

Record Sheet

- Load: _____ Choke: _____ Barrel: _____
- 5 yd — Spread: _____ POA/POI shift: _____ Notes: _____
- 7 yd — Spread: _____ POA/POI shift: _____ Notes: _____
- 10 yd — Spread: _____ POA/POI shift: _____ Notes: _____

Staging & Maintenance

- Consider 'cruiser-ready' (chamber empty, mag tube loaded) where legal.
- Inspect ammo monthly; replace every 12 months or after heavy handling.
- Re-pattern quarterly or after changing your load.

Legal & Safety

- Always follow federal, state, and local firearm laws.
- Identify your target and what's beyond it before firing.
- Store firearms and ammunition securely and responsibly.

Shop Black Aces Tactical Ammo

- For tested, high-performance defensive loads, visit:
- <https://blackacestactical.com/product-category/shotgun-ammunition/>