

Product Review

TRACE 10 Electronic Shooting Assistant

(Richard Toye – Executive Officer,
Target Rifle Australia Ltd.)

Recently I had the opportunity to test the TRACE 10 Electronic Shooting Assistant manufactured in Latvia by TRACE Shooting (www.traceshooting.com).



Trace Shooting Assistant

Introduction to the Trace 10 Shooting Assistant:

The Trace 10 Electronic Shooting System has been designed for a variety of disciplines including Pistol, Rifle and Archery and offers the opportunity for target shooters and archers to improve their performance by providing real time feedback on their shots and assisting with performance analysis.

The Trace 10 unit uses an Optical sensor with adjustable focus for aiming at paper and electronic targets with no extra target frames or sensors required. It is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use and can be used in both dry-fire and live-fire modes.

The unit is very light, only weighing in at 30 grams and can be mounted on barrels or air cylinders with diameters ranging from 18mm to 36mm. It connects to a PC via a 3 Metre Cable (USB 2.0) which is supplied with the unit. The software is compatible with Windows 7, 8 and 10.

Motion trajectory and shot phase analysis features render the aiming path in real time, highlighting the aiming phase, shot and follow through while software charts provide visual insights into shot timings, intervals and show aiming stability during the last seconds before trigger release.

Packaging: (What's in the box)



The Trace 10 Shooting Assistant comes securely packaged in a sturdy cardboard carton, measuring just 230mm x 155mm x 70mm (9in x 6in x 2 ¾in).

The optical sensor and mounting bracket together with the fixed USB cable are integrated as a single unit. There is also an adjustable mounting plate for swift and easy mounting and unmounting as required. Additionally there is an additional smaller iris diaphragm included for use in very bright light conditions.

Trace System Packaging – (pen not included it's showing relative size)

The package also includes a 10-page quick-start guide and warranty card. It's important to note that each Trace 10 Shooting Assistant has its own serial number engraved on the base.

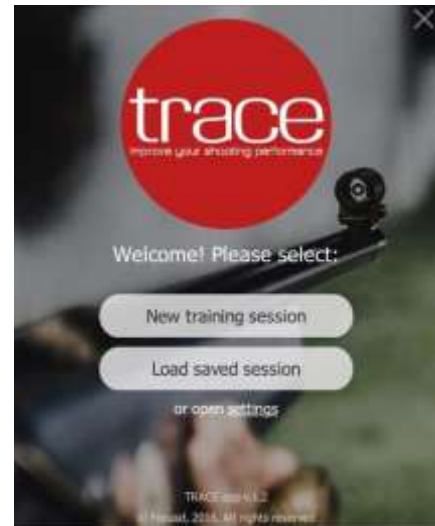
Software Installation:

There is no software supplied in the package. Trace Shooting requires that the software application (34MB) be downloaded from the website. (www.traceshooting.com/get)

Download and installation is quite straight forward, however, before the product can be used, an activation or unlock code must be obtained from Trace Shooting.

When the application is run for the first time, the user is presented with a request code which must be emailed to the company's support section (hello@traceshooting.com).

Upon receipt of the request code, the company will send an activation code that must be entered before full functionality of the software can be accessed. However, this may take up to 24 hours to be received.



Trace 10 Mounted on an Air Cylinder

Physical Set Up:

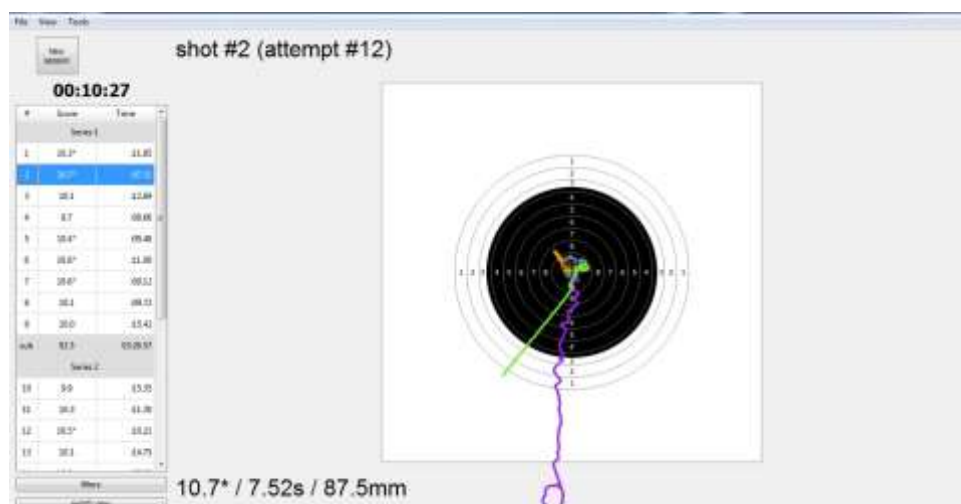
Physical set up is quick and simple with Trace Shooting supplying and integrated mounting system that can be mounted on barrels or tuners / air cylinders and archery stabilisers with diameters ranging from 18mm to 36mm.

The unit can be mounted directly under the barrel/ tuner/ air cylinder at 90 or 180 degrees to the sight system.

Based on the testing completed thus far, it would appear that more accurate results are probably achieved with the unit being mounted directly under the barrel at 180 degrees to the sighting system.

Software Set Up:

It is essential to read the Quick Start Guide through a couple of times before attempting to set up the system for training / analysis.



Before any TRACE session is commenced, a calibration shot is needed to ensure that the TRACE system is working correctly. If set up correctly, the system will record a virtual shot with a score of 10.9. If this doesn't happen, then more adjustments are necessary.

It can take some time to get the settings exactly right for a training environment, however once all the parameters for a particular setup are correctly they can be saved as a pre-set which can then be accessed by selecting "Use existing pre-sets". This saves having to go through the whole rigmarole every time a new session is undertaken.

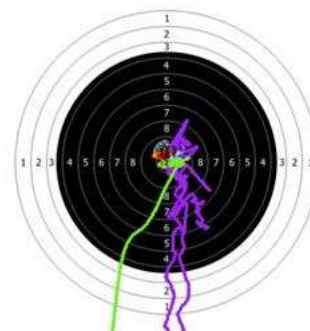
Using the System

The system is relatively easy to use, particularly in the dry-fire mode over short distances such as for practice indoors or at home, when you aren't able to get to the range. It provides a good simulation over a number of distances and disciplines ranging from 10m Air Pistol and Rifle through to 300m ISSF and BDS rifle matches as well as archery targets.

Three analytical tools are provided to help shooters assess their performance levels. These are:

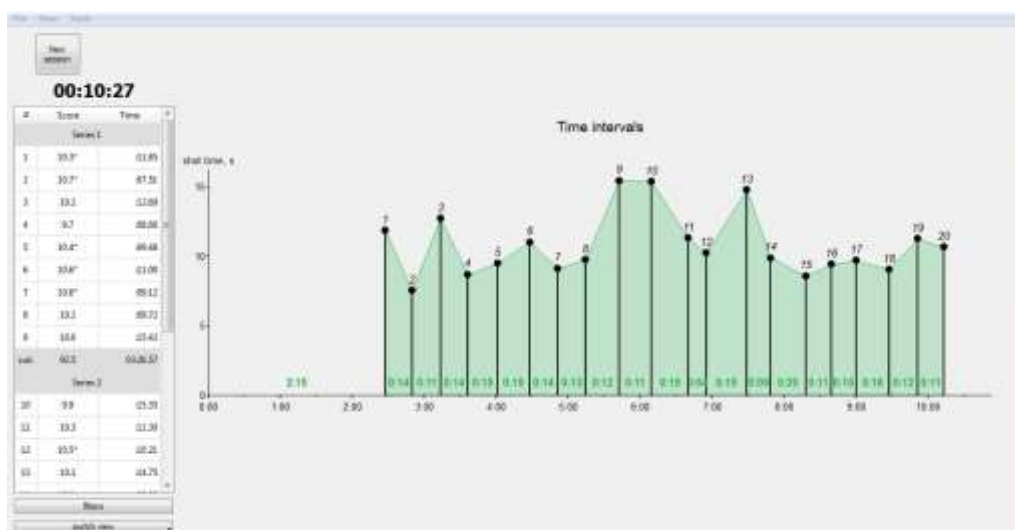
Shot Phase Analysis:

This involves analysis of the specific phases of each shot including aiming and trigger release phases so that shooters can evaluate aiming, stability, holding and trigger control.

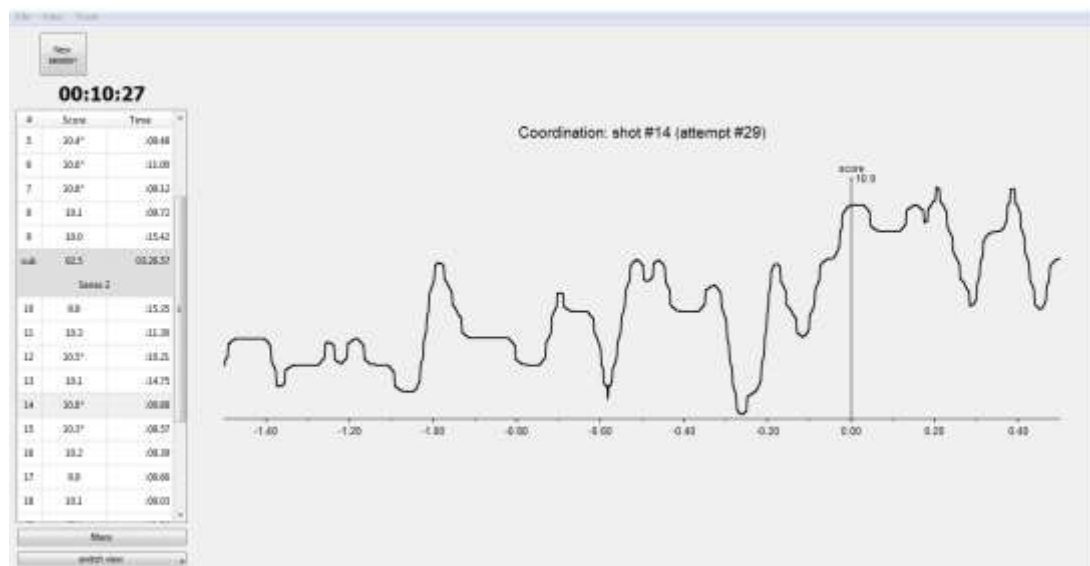


Time Intervals Chart:

This analyses the consistency of the shooter's shot release time and resting time between shots to assist in evaluating shooting tempo or rhythm.



Coordination Chart:



The coordination chart shows the absolute displacement of the firearm in relation to the centre of the target. From the chart the shooter's concentration levels during the aiming, shot release and follow-through phases of each shot can be analysed and evaluated.

Conclusions:

The Trace 10 Shooting Assistant is an excellent system for analysing shooting performance for shooters of all ages and levels of ability - from the weekend club shooter to those athletes competing at the elite level.

It provides coaches and athletes with real time visual feedback on shots and helps to identify errors in the shooting process and sequence.

The built in routines and interactive workouts have been created by shooters for shooters so that users can choose a preferred exercise, set a difficulty level and improve aiming stability, trigger control and follow through with the computer assisted training regimes.

The advantage of the Trace 10 Shooting Assistant over other comparable systems is that only the Trace 10 Unit and a laptop computer are needed to operate it. No extra target frames or sensors are necessary. The Trace 10 is also significantly cheaper than comparable systems (e.g. S.C.A.T.T.)

I would recommend the Trace 10 Shooting Assistant to anyone who is genuinely interested in analysing and improving their shooting performances.



The software can be downloaded to any number of computers, but an activation code must be obtained for each and every device that the unit will be used on. However, the company does offer free regular updates with new functionality and features.

Once the activation code is entered, the full functionality of the software can be accessed.

The Trace 10 Shooting Assistant is only \$990 including GST plus postage and packing and is available from:

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