

Dear Fellow Shooters:

So many people have been misled or not given the correct information on what to do with the optical centers of a shooting lens. Some people want to bring in their guns so they can look down their barrels and we can mark where they are looking through the lens. This is an old theoretical wives tale and not a good solution leading to good optics. Should we move optical centers, YESS! But not in a way that people might think. The plain of optics runs throughout the lens, the optical center is the best location of optics to see through, that said with some degree of education and a common sense approach, I will try to give a laymans explanation rather than a dissertation of optical lens grinding and bending light. The important situation with optical centers is making sure that they are set exactly to the pupillary distance, and then adjusted upward from geometric center (usually 3 millimeters). This is why we ask for the prescription and the pupillary distance to set up the optics. Some would theorize that the optical centers need be shifted to the left(right hand shooter) since we cant our head in opposite direction while looking down the barrel. This is a misnomer even by physicians who don't grind lenses and live in a theory world, not a practical one. When you move optical centers in this fashion you produce a complete prismatic situation for any target that your peripheral vision might need to assist you in location of target from different positions and directions. This creates a prism in the lens and the target you are seeing is not where you are shooting, and besides when you are walking from station to station, you might start listing (a big fisherman word) to the left as your eyes are seeing in a direction that isn't true location. This is overdramatization, but I think you get the picture.

Eye Exercises? Why not go to the gym and exercise the eyes? Have you ever seen a muscle bound eye? To me eye exercises are more of a concentration concern. Getting the eyes to clearly relate to the brain that pulls the trigger and makes the bang at the right time in the right location. In other words learn how to concentrate through the eyes. Train yourself how to look at something and define what it is. After all we are looking for a moving target, often poorly colored. That's when tinted lenses work, helping you define the target and where it's going.

Too Good Shooting, Mike Rinard, Pres. Post 4 Optics