



## The Contact Shot

with Jeff Anderson for [www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com](http://www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com)

### The Contact Shot

This occurs when the muzzle of your weapon is against the attacker's body when the weapon is discharged.

- Gas, soot, metallic particles, primer residue, and powder particles are all driven into the wound track along with the bullet.
- This is a miniature explosion at the point of contact.
- Contact shots rupture flesh, increasing the size of the ENTRY wound.

### When To Use The Contact Shot

There are specific times when a contact shot is appropriate. They include...

- When you're clinched up at close quarters
- To escape a hold (such as a rear naked choke)
- When grappling and ground fighting
- When rescuing someone who's being held by an attacker but moving around too much (the contact shot helps you direct the path of the bullet)

### Considerations For Your Firearm

There are certain considerations for contact shots when using a semi-auto versus a revolver.

- Semi-automatics are more prone to malfunction because the gun might be out of battery when pressed against the attacker.
- You'll likely need to rack the slide of a semi-auto after a contact shot for follow-up shots.
- Revolvers allow you to "point and pull" until they are empty, which is an advantage... as long as the cylinder isn't immobilized by the contact.

- Exposed hammers are easily snagged in clothing. Choose a shrouded hammer revolver when possible. While this means you'll be shooting double action, we're not worrying about long-distance shots here.

### Employing The Contact Shot

Know the limitations of a contact shot before you resort to it.

- You may not get a second shot.
- If the contact puts your gun out of battery, you may not get a shot off at all.
- Make contact without jamming the weapon into the attacker too deeply (but remember, you may not be thinking clearly during the adrenaline rush of a fight).
- For semi-autos, use two hands on the top and back of the slide to keep it in battery. With striker-fired guns like Glocks, you can just keep your thumb on the back of the slide to keep it in battery.
- Remember, you **MUST** know your backstop. Aim downward, because over-penetration is still a very real concern at this range.

### Training The Contact Shot

Test your gun to know its limitations. You can push your semi-auto into a mattress, for example, to see how much pressure puts it out of battery. Grab the cylinder of your revolver to see if it won't rotate.

- Live fire under an instructor is hard to come by, but invaluable if you can manage it.
- Tape foam to 2X4 posts (without nails to prevent ricochets) to test your contact shots at the range.
- **ALWAYS** wear hearing/eye protection!

*Prepare. Train. Survive.*