

## HEXSITE : HITTING THE TARGET BY *NOT* FOCUSING ON THE SIGHT

In general, an invention fulfills one of two basic objectives. Either it (1) allows the user to do something he has not previously been able to do, or (2) it enables the user to continue what he has been doing, but in a different or a better way. Occasionally, a well thought-out invention accomplishes both of these objectives.

Timothy J. Sheehan, a long-time Arizona defensive firearms instructor, has long struggled with the limitations of all sighting systems currently in use today (from post & notch and ghost ring to laser). The problem in each is that they possess elements that obstruct, distract or inhibit the shooter from doing what is absolutely necessary in a defensive firefight situation. To neutralize and end the threat as quickly as possible with the least possible risk to innocent persons in the area. He also decided that the

complexities in sighting problems, especially in situations of self-defense with handguns, would best be remedied with the age-old KISS principle – keep it simple, stupid. So he pursued solutions to the problems through analysis, research, and experimentation.

The result of his efforts is a newly-patented iron sighting system trade named HexSite™ . Prior to the HexSite™ Sighting System, “*traditional thinking*” told us that iron sights have been around so long that every possible design already has been invented. Indeed, a myriad of *technologically advanced* sighting implements seemed to have made iron sights obsolete. The HexSite™ Sighting System is proof that “*traditional thinking*” can be wrong.

The HexSite™ Sighting System solves the problems of conventional sights especially well in circumstances requiring a “startled response” from a defender. The HexSite™ Sighting System accomplishes this by permitting the defender to focus on the target (the *threat*) with both eyes open (which is the unvarying reality in every dynamic encounter). The HexSite™\*, which is designed NOT to be focused upon, and IS designed to be used with both eyes open, remains *clearly perceived* in the visual field.

In dynamic defensive confrontations involving the handgun, the sighting problem (rapid acquisition of the *target*) always has been in conflict with the Single Reason for the invention of the handgun.

The handgun (pistol/revolver) was conceived for the *sole purpose* of resolving one basic defensive need – to neutralize an imminent threat, at close quarters, in a dynamic environment, **with an effectual startled response.**

Of the many handgun modifications since its invention, some are improvements and some not. Meaningful improvements, such as double actions, revolver cylinders, ammunition ejectors, magazine feeding, etc., have increased handgun effectiveness. On the other hand, the most meaningless modifications have been in the area of handgun sighting. And for a very simple reason.

Human nature being what it is, in spite of the original *practical* purpose of the handgun, over time other uses have appeared, such as hunting, shooting at various kinds of stationary and moving targets, trick shooting – you name it.

These are two different worlds! Gun fighting and gun shooting are two *entirely diverse activities!* And the calamitous error of it is that shooting skills, techniques and equipment – developed *independently* of fighting skills – have been transferred wholesale into the totally alien environment of defensive fighting!

Sporting activities can be, of course, useful sources of development and testing of highly-refined levels of shooting skills, and of special equipment. But from a pragmatic standpoint, hunting, and sporting and precision shooting of fixed bullseyes, bowling pins and steel plates (*offensive-oriented activities*) really are more akin to other types of firearms (i.e., rifles or shotguns) – those not designed for close-in, startled response, which is a primarily *defensive* discipline.

At any rate, some dangerous, less-than-practical elements of sporting activities have been jammed into the utterly dissimilar realm of daily carry and use of defensive sidearms. Such as, elevating the importance of *sight* acquisition above that of *target (threat)* acquisition – two critically contrary concepts. It's the *threat* that may be lethal, not the *sight*. So focus on the *threat!* Worse, because familiarity breeds assent, many of these dangerous elements have assumed unquestioned acceptance among most tradition-entrenched shooters, shooting-magazine writers, and, alas, *firearms instructors!*

If you doubt this intrusion, make an objective trip to your local gun shop and check out the plethora of “*tactical*” accessories that can be bolted, clamped, glued or screwed to the poor pistol, camouflaging it to look like a Christmas kitchen appliance. All this allegedly to elevate mere mortal handgunners to a *premier* level of shooterdom.

Most of these useless widgets are sighting devices. Ask any survivor of an armed conflict what his sighting picture was at the time. Most likely, his reply will resemble “What blankety-blank sights?!! I was shooting for my life!” And most likely he had a horrendous “*miss*” ratio -- despite his high-profile, red dot, glow-in-the-dark, whizbang sights. Yeah, the ones that got him that “Sharpshooter” ranking in his last qualification. All by closing one eye, focusing on his flashy sights, and shooting at an out-of-focus, static, non-threatening piece of paper. Doesn't *that* save lives?!

FACT: The huge majority of these “*tactical*” sighting accessories are of no use – and almost always obstructive – in neutralizing an imminent threat with an effective startled response. Between their dots, color, and design, these accessories hamper your vision of the target and field of fire – as do *even your standard sights*.

For instance, a shooter must first focus on a post-and-notch sight in order to aim at the target. In a dynamic situation, his urgent sense of self-preservation does not allow him to

take the time this requires, so he ignores the sight and immediately (and *wisely*) addresses the target. But, because the sight is *there*, it becomes either a distraction or an obstruction, or both. Partial target concealment, with negative visual perception, is inevitable. Not as totally as with a peep sight, but, in viewing the target through the notch, the left/right *sides* of the notch function as blinders to the shooter's *field of vision*. Perhaps obscuring a penetration of non-targets into the target area. And if the target moves, he can lose target contact, and have the ensuing complication of following it with the notch.

Another for instance – the standard ghost ring sight is less obstructive than the postand-notch, but provides less target refinement for it to be effective at longer ranges (i.e., head shots at 10 yards and beyond). But, there is *some* distraction, because the top of the base on either side of the ghost ring generally is on a lower plane than the center of the ring. This tends to pull the eye downward to a “false zero”. If not realized and addressed, this leads to shooting low. Again, distractions.

One ghost ring manufacturer did try overcoming the “false zero” quandary by raising the sides of the base to the center of the ring. While it corrected the “false zero”, the enlarged sight base added to its blockage of the target area. Another producer similarly enlarged the sight base and then created a half-ghost ring by cutting off the top of the ring down to the ring center. Net effect: an obstructive *real wide* post-and-notch sight, minus any P&N windage refinement capacity because it's rounded at the bottom. These fix-it exercises are called “exchanging one problem for another.”

The eastern martial arts Zen concept stresses the *state of thought* of a combatant. It says that **he whose concentration is first interrupted, loses!** An obstructive or distractive sighting device is dangerous if it interrupts the flow of defensive combative engagement. This is why graphics on sights – white or colored – are not “aids”. They do nothing more than *distract or confuse* an endangered shooter in his single clear-cut task of quickly and efficiently engaging and dispatching a target of immediate threat.

The logical reason for this is basically *ocular*. All sighting is dependent upon “value” contrast – *dark* (black) versus *light* (white). The rods (photosensitive receptors) of the eye's retina see and bring *black and white* into sharp focus. Even if a target is wearing a black T-shirt at night, rods find varying grades of “value” on its contours, due to starlight, cloud reflection, etc. The retina's cones (end organs) see only *color*, although they are less responsive and focus less sharply.

Nevertheless, all graphics on sights, whether white or in color, are light-emitting. And here is the shooter, needing to focus on the target – which probably is of some color, or even black – and there on the sights are bright light-emitting graphics of white or colored dots/lines to *distract* his eye **away from the target**. This is useful?! Compounding the problem, oftentimes these graphics give a “false zero”. Compare the *elevated horizontal alignment* presented by a three-dot sight picture to the *correct elevation* of the post-and-notch sight picture. Nitpicking? Well, a small difference can be too much! From the *sight radius* of the average pistol, at 10 yards any sighting error

is multiplied 60 times *at the target!* In placement of a head shot on a target who is holding a hostage as a shield, would such a difference, whether or not caused by a “false zero”, be of vital concern to the hostage?? You can bet *his life* it would!

Sights graphics are even worse using a ghost ring rear sight with a front post sight. Use of light-emitting sights can be greatly influenced by environmental conditions. In light conditions, a dot may not be visible, so the shooter centers the post in the ring. But in darkness, the top of the post may not be visible, so the shooter centers the dot. The differential between centering the visible dot in the ring, compared with centering the top of the post, is about .06” – over a 3½” error at that 10-yard target!

Recognizing the alignment problem of tritium dots, some manufacturers now provide a different-colored front sight dot (usually orange) to center between the two rear sight dots of lime green. This is because of shooters, perhaps under stress, misaligning the dot on the front sight *completely outside* (left or right) of the two dots on the rear sight – giving a dreadfully false 3-dot sight picture.

The bottom line of the whole issue is that the eye wants to focus on the subject of highest “value”. **So hadn’t that better be the target?!** How *helpful* are light-emitting graphics coming into view just as the gun is brought to bear on the target? Well, not at all. Actually, in stress-fire situations, with both eyes involuntarily open, users of 3-dot night sights may see from *four to six dots* because of the parallax (apparent displacement of an object seen from two different points) of binocular vision.

If objective, a user of tritium night sights should realize that if he claims to focus on the *sight picture* at the instant of discharge, he violates Universal Gun Rule #4 – identify the target and what is beyond. This is the glaring liability of the tritium night sight. Under extreme stress and in poor light conditions, the shooter probably cannot and will not properly identify the target, which could be his partner, or an innocent. Almost certainly he will not see what is *behind* the target. So, in the moment of truth, he ducks and sprays – an unacceptable tactical probability, borne out by a well-published 85% miss-rate in armed engagements.

The hazardous bottom line: light-emitting sights encourage a firearms shooter to *Shoot in a No-Shoot situation!!*

Even the advent of laser technology presents problems, especially with targets capable of motion. The shooter’s focus is on the red dot instead of the target. This results in a lengthened reaction time if the target moves, or stops moving. A theoretical improvement would be to place the red dot on a “heads-up” holographic screen, but the sizable bulk, as well as problems of electronic and battery failure, eliminate this concept from practical daily use.

In summary, what are the realities of “sighting” in a gun fight?

- (1) The situation will be fluid (in motion).

(2) Under stress, optical focus cannot, will not and should not be on anything other

than the threat! And because eyes can focus on *only one plane*, standard front sights will be out of focus, thus irrelevant, other than to obstruct field of fire.

(3) Worse, if the sights have luminescence or color, these serve as multiples of distraction that clutter the shooter's perspective.

(4) BOTH eyes WILL be OPEN .... REAL open! Actually *using* his standard sights would cause binocular duplicity.

(5) The shooter has a GREAT NEED TO SEE HIS TARGET! So in raising his firearm, he tends to stop short and look OVER his obstructive standard sights, and shoots low!

The essentials of a USABLE, PRACTICAL SIGHT are quite simple. The sight must provide:

(1) Reasonable size.

(2) Rugged construction and fail-safe operation.

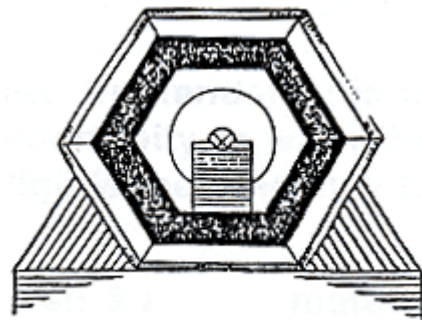
(3) Lowest "value" (darkest) in any ambient environment.

(4) Full visual target perception (not obstructive of either the target or the area around the target).

(5) Effortless natural target alignment, with no need for subjective thought.

(6) Consistent target alignment in any lighting situation. ([Report by John G. Jacobs](#))

The newly-invented HexSite™ Sighting System provides all of these essential features. Only remotely related to the ghost ring sight, the HexSite™\* is a hexagonal chamfered-aperture rear sight. Because this configuration provides the *refinement* qualities of the standard rear notch sight, and the *positive open vision* feature of the ghost ring, the HexSite™\* expedites and facilitates target alignment. The front sight can be a conventional blade, but preferable is a front sight bearing a patented HemisHex™\* (half a hexagon).



The HexSite™\* design establishes two very critical user distinctions relevant to its success. HexSite™\* is designed to be looked **through**, *not AT*, and **with both eyes**

**open.**

The *main objective* of shooting with two eyes open is, without question, the most *ignored reality* in the firearms world! The *dirty little secret* is that the closing of one eye causes a loss of **70%** of a shooter's vision. Got doubts? Try this:

- (A) Focus on a subject.
- (B) Cover your weak eye with your hand. Note the amount of vision that is lost on your weak side.
- (C) Now **close** the weak eye. You will see that the strong eye loses a noticeable amount of clarity and focus. Why? Because closing one eye strains the muscle of the open eye. This pressure on the shooting eye (**a**) lessens the visual acuity, and (**b**) the shooting eye's pupil involuntarily dilates in its attempt to gather more light, affecting the eye's focus.

Result is a total vision loss of 70%. (A.A. Yur'Yev, "[Competitive Shooting](#)", reporting on 1968 research for Soviet Union shooting team)

Open eyes and the small HexSite™\* base offer an unobstructed field of fire. Other obvious advantages of this binocular vision are:

- (1) preservation of the shooter's depth perception;
- (2) expansion of his peripheral vision, which is of great value in a multiple-threat firefight and in avoiding striking an innocent;
- (3) elimination of one-eyed "overswing" when moving to the next multiple-threat target. Wider binocular vision enables him to slow and *stop on target*, instead of passing it; and
- (4) both eyes are working at maximum efficiency with the sight picture, so which is the dominant eye is of no concern. If, for whatever reason, the dominant eye becomes impaired (injury, blowing dust, etc.) the shooter can shift to the off-eye 50% quicker than with any other sighting system.

The sight's hexagonal shape offers 16 angular reference points which binocular vision *subconsciously uses* in attaining precise aiming refinement, with eyes clearly focused on the target, **not** on the sight.

The recessed concavity at the rear of the hexagonal aperture creates its own lowest "value" (black) -- a shadow that does not reflect light, which is not possible with conventional flat sight faces. This shadow achieves maximum contrast with the target in every lighting condition. As a result, the target is of a higher "value" (light), providing better focus for the shooter. If lighting conditions are too dark for the HexSite™\*, it is too dark to identify the target, and too unclear to shoot at with **any** sight, at least without flashlight illumination. And by the way, if target identification illumination is needed,

the hexagonal contour of the HexSite™\* aperture profile is compatible with all flashlight techniques, offering maximum “value” contrast between sight and target.

The HexSite™\* is unique in that it presents six implied equilateral triangles which *involuntarily* draw the eye to an exquisitely *refined* convergence at the center of the hexagonal aperture. HexSite™\* angles are reflexively congenial with the eye’s inherent physiological makeup, so that the eye effortlessly locates and perceives the sight’s precise center. One user’s comment: “It was like using *invisible scope crosshairs*.”

The shooter’s eye simply *cannot dismiss* the hexagonal structure’s unconscious demand to place the unfocused-upon front-post-top at the center of the sight – which also places it right on the target the shooter is focusing upon. While the shooter is seeing the target, the subconscious is “seeing” the sight.

As a HexSite™\* test, we ask a trainee to close one eye, and *slightly misalign* his aim at a target. Then, with no conscious movement, open both eyes and very aggressively focus on and engage the target, as if it’s a real threat. In a lapsed time of about three seconds, we ask him to look at the HexSite™\* sight picture. Almost invariably, he exclaims, “It’s in perfect alignment!”

When used correctly by a shooter in a *stress-fire situation*, the HexSite™\* actually **disappears** as it effectively assists his focus on the target. Odd as it sounds, the shooter buys and uses a set of sights that *he doesn’t look at*. Well, is that any more unusual than looking critically at a framed work of art and not really “seeing” the frame? But there it is, supporting the work of art, which would be less attractive without it. In the same sense, a HexSite™\* you don’t “see” turns out to be a pretty good buy, because it supports a shooter’s primary objective – target acquisition!

As to the front blade sight, when a HemisHex™ is formed on its top center, it catches the glint of ambient light. The glint is on the *same plane as the top of the sight*, not below it as are “false zero” light-emitting graphics. As a focusing aid, the HemisHex™ does two things: (1) It helps the eye locate the true top center of the front sight, especially in refined long-range shooting, and (2) in stressed close-range shooting, the HemisHex™\* shape collects light from any direction into a subtle glint at top zero, drawing the eye away from the “false zero” of the front sight’s *side-surface* gleam. To a shooter focusing on his target, this is an aid, not a distraction.

It must be emphasized that the shooter acquires the *full* benefit of all these results only when, *with both eyes open*, he does *NOT focus on the HexSite™\**. Which might raise a question – “Under stress of a dynamic encounter, of what use is the HexSite™ Sighting System’s excellent sight picture if the shooter cannot focus on it anyway?”

A comprehensive, illuminating explanation of this general theme was covered in a [2001 PBS “Nova” presentation, “Secrets of the Mind”](#), as produced by Boston PBS Station WGBH Educational Foundation (all rights reserved). It involved a discovery of “Blind Sight” by Professor Colin Blackmore of Oxford University, England, and

subsequent laboratory studies and experiments by Dr. V.S. Ramachandran, a neuroscientist at University of California, San Diego, California.

One goal of neuroscience is to identify and understand which parts of the brain are dedicated to what functions of mind and body. Specifically in the field of vision, the goal is to understand the nature of sight, the brain's division of labor, and levels of consciousness.

The bizarre but verified characteristics of "Blind Sight" evidently motivated Dr. Ramachandran's studies. A young English man sustained traumatic brain damage, losing 50% of his sight. Looking forward, he could see to his left, but was blind to his right, *in both eyes*. But despite being literally unable to see objects on his right, if those objects moved, he could "see" the direction and positioning of their movement, even though he distinguished no shapes, contrast, color or depth.

Much of what we learn about normality comes from study of the abnormal. Instance: Why does an amputee continue to feel a presence of his amputated left hand? Because the brain contains a "map" of the body, and when part of the body is removed, the brain hungers for information about the missing part. So the amputee continues to be conscious of something that isn't there. His mind retains an internal sense of the body, until the mind can adjust to reality. If there were no amputees, we might not know that. And so, through tests, study, and experiments, Dr. Ramachandran discovered that there are *two separate pathways* to the brain. One is to the higher occipital (visual) cortex; the other is a pathway more typically known to govern lower species, -- reptiles, insects, etc. But in humans, this path goes to the stem of the brain and then is *independently* relayed to the occipital cortex. This second path is concerned with reflexive behavior and, while *separate* from the visual function, it can cause eye movement, directing the head and eye to something important. Put simply, the higher pathway is *conscious*, and the lower is *subconscious*.

A reptile depends upon unconscious "Blind Sight" for his very survival. With eyes on the side of his head, unable to see ahead, he eats by zapping straight-ahead insects he can't "see". And how does a mosquito, facing away from us, "see" our hand coming? Same way.

Bottom line is that if a human's brain-damage-induced eye cannot see consciously, the remaining *reflexive* pathway can be used to "guess" correctly the movement of an object the eye cannot see.

This is very different from what we *normally* call vision – detecting things without being aware of them; an ability to manage the brain without being conscious of it. The mind allows a verifiably useful *detachment* between a capacity to respond to visual information, and a capacity to be aware of and respond to information the eye does not "see". Result: we are not aware of what we are not aware of.

Instance: If you are driving your car while engaged in intense conversation with a

passenger next to you, your conscious attention is on the conversation. You are not specifically conscious of what is going on all around the area. The secondary path is driving the car – until and unless something out of the ordinary happens. Then, it calls your conscious attention to it.

Amplifying this concept, if we were *totally conscious* of everything going on around us, and did not have the ability given us by the pathway to the stem of the brain to “block out” superfluous elements, consciousness would be swamped – utterly overwhelmed, confused, and disoriented by the resulting flood of images.

Again, the phenomena of “Blind Sight” is the remarkable ability of the brain that allows us to “see” even what we do not see. This bears out the viable concept that we do not see with the eye. We see with the mind.

How does all this tie in to the HexSite™ Sighting System?

A shooter’s eye **focused on the target** is using the primary path to the occipital cortex of the brain.

On the other hand, the HexSite™\*, which is **NOT being focused upon**, is being subconsciously USED by the second (instinctive) pathway. And isn’t it simply sensible, in a violent firearms confrontation, to use ALL accessible assets and mind power to save life -- to use everything that supports natural biological *survival* instincts??

The implied lines, generated between HexSite™\*’s opposing hexagonal angles, have a vortex, or whirlpool, effect on the human eye’s perception, involuntarily drawing it to the sight’s precise center. Reason: the hexagon is the most eye-enticing configuration known to man. The eye is naturally sympathetic to its referenced symmetry. Even when we don’t “see” it.

Simply stated, any time you look **THROUGH** a hexagon, your eye is drawn to its *absolute center*. That is why the HexSite™\*, which you are *not* looking **AT**, is such bad news to the well-being of a target.

The function of the “reptilian brain” is survival. The more stress a shooter is under, the more engaged becomes this secondary neuropath, and the body’s adrenaline chemical “dump” helps activate this *survival* neuropath.

Using standard or laser or tritium sights, sighting under stress necessitates conscious effort. Conscious effort disrupts the subconscious survival neuropath. Result: shooting time is lengthened, accuracy suffers, or both. In contrast, the HexSite™\* sight picture requires no disruptive conscious effort, so shooters experience more accurate shot placement in greatly reduced time frames.

These stated results are confirmed by several highly-trained professional shooters, ([Report by John G. Jacobs](#), [Evaluation by Sgt. Nicholas Brunori](#), [Testimonial by Jim Brockman](#)) who report that, *contrary* to their experience with all other sighting systems, the more under stress they are, the quicker and more accurate is their

target acquisition. The “fight or flight” survival path is tripped positively when mentality is uncluttered by restrictions imposed by “*tradition*” inhibitions.

But all this raises a logically viable question. Does a shooter who adopts the HexSite™ Sighting System become *dependent* upon it? Are standard and other sights “ruined” for him?? Can he no longer effectively shoot with other sights? In human events, there are times when something perceived as a problem surprisingly develops into an advantage. This is the happy discovery of many HexSite™\* users, primarily those shooters proficient in the use of many different types of handguns. Again, the perceived problem: would the adoption and use of the HexSite™\* -- a sight to be looked *through* – have a detrimental effect when its user, for whatever reason, used a firearm with a sight that you look *at*? In an emergency, a shooter not having access to his HexSite™\* gun might do badly without it, with dire consequences! Such was the apprehensive theory.

Voluntary reports from a variety of HexSite™\* shooters confirm that shooting accuracy with standard sight guns has improved with adoption of the new shooting regimen brought about by use of the HexSite™\*.

One HexSite™\* user wrote of his SigSauer .380 pistol with standard sights: “While my hit pattern was not as accurate as with the HexSite™\*, it was a marked improvement over my past shooting habits. Going from HexSite™\* to standard more than helps standard sight shooting.” The writer had *prefaced* this observation with his Glock 9X19 HexSite™\* experience, as follows: “From low ready, target acquisition is immediate, with both eyes open; target was clear and defined; both rapid and slow fire put hits at central body mass but .... while shooting I was able to see my hits and could correct to bring my hits into a tighter pattern – try doing that with standard sights.” This nonprofessional shooter added, “As to the HexSite™\*’s neurological benefit, my tri-focal glasses are now a non-problem.” ([Testimonial from Joseph Knauer](#))

Another HexSite™\* user, a Georgia-based professional firearms system evaluator, instructor, and shooter, who is under developmental and training contracts with various military, federal, state and local government agencies, finds that as a shooting member of the International Defensive Pistol Association, he is *unable* to use HexSite™\*-mounted firearms *because aperture sights are banned in its competitions*.

However, this highly-credentialed professional states that his recently-adopted HexSite™\* shooting mentality has resulted in reduced time frames and improved accuracy in neutralizing hits at IDPA competitions, using standard sight pistols. In fact, his new “shooting mentality” has moved him from a “10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> place average” in the top 40 semi-automatic pistol shooters, to a “6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> place average, several times placing 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. And he is now consistently first in the last five matches in the revolver division.

His explanation is that as a result of using the HexSite™\* on his Glock 23, he is experiencing an improvement in use of standard sights on other pistols. He refers to this

new ability as “transference”, a mental recall which allows him to reflexively and involuntarily frame the target and focus on its center. Unlike the HexSite™\*, he finds standard sights to be distractive and obstructive, but “transference” causes him to reduce their influence. While he is more accurate with HexSite™\*, he finds that his standard sight accuracy also has elevated. He adds that if aperture sights were *permitted* in IDPA competition, he would “*immediately replace my current post and notch sights with HexSites™\*.*” ([Report by John G. Jacobs](#))

These are two of many similar documented testimonies of other professional and non-professional shooters. Their experiences clearly are consistent with Dr. Ramachandran’s “Blind Sight” conclusions that we can “see” with our mind what we do not see with our eye.

With no realization that an ability exists, obviously the ability is not consciously used. Without use, it does not *develop* in a meaningful manner, if at all. In baseball, if a submarine-ball pitcher had never tried to pitch that way, he wouldn’t know he could do it. And he *wouldn’t* do it! Similarly, if blind to the mind’s ability to practice “Blind Sight”, it will remain, at best, an occasional rare phenomenon.

It’s like turning a page. Suddenly a shooter realizes he no longer is required to *adopt without question* a stylized, unnatural “tradition” dogma – a “squint and focus on the sight” rule, which evaporates under stress, rendering useless all the training he thought was appropriate to confrontational situations. This little secret might have been perceived by some of the famous “gun fighters” of old. Annie Oakley once observed that she *never took her eye off the target* and, while she had her little tricks, there was no question she could hit what she shot at.

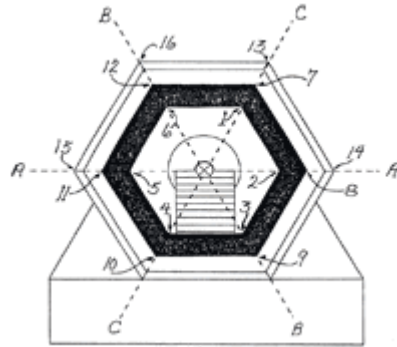
When a shooter adopts the practice of focusing on the target, and not looking at the HexSite™\*, in effect he is developing a “Blind Sight” ability he was not aware he had. Because the HexSite™\* is unobtrusive and allows a clear vision of the field of fire, he can use it without “seeing” it. Once a shooter is “re-trained”, it is a wholly natural experience. It promotes accurate shooting, and accurate shooting is enjoyable. When he puts down the HexSite™\* and picks up a standard sight, he tends to *transfer* to the standard sight the practice he has experienced as successful. Even though the standard sight is comparatively intrusive and distractive, his transference of a newfound “Blind Sight” ability overcomes the difference to a degree, influencing positively his shooting ability, and his results.

In answer to the perceived problem or apprehensive theory that use of the HexSite™ Sighting System would create a dependency, to the detriment of standard sights use, the bottom line is that the HexSite™\* is a training aid that extends *beyond* the use of the HexSite™\*. It demonstrably improves the defensive combat mentality in general. Far from being a limitation, it frees the shooter from limitations.

As to **shoulder-fired weapons with mounted HexSite™ Sighting Systems sights**, extensive demonstrations prove to be very positive.

This application consists of two HexSite™\* sights, one mounted at the muzzle, and one at the traditional midrange sight location (about 16 inches from the eye's pupil). The front HexSite™\* precisely centers the target by exploiting the same unobstructed implied line concept as used in the rear HexSite™\* pistol sight.

With two HexSites™\* involved, the conceived appearance is that the inside of the midrange hexagon surrounds the outside of the front hexagon, with several thousandths of an inch of space (*light*) between the two surfaces. The implied lines of the hexagon assure quick, effortless, precise target-centering, and optimize the full-field visual awareness induced by shooting with both eyes open.



The result is “the most natural, expedient target identification and engagement ever experienced.” So says a nationally-known custom rifle builder, an installer of scout scopes and ghost ring sights on shoulder-fired weapons – battle rifles, carbines, dangerous game rifles, scout guns, and sub guns. He states that the HexSite™\* sighting concept makes obsolete the use of scout scopes and ghost ring sights. ([Testimonial by Jim Brockman](#))

In the use of shotguns with HexSites™\*, extensive tests have established particular benefits in the field of law enforcement. The outside perimeter of the midrange HexSite™\* aperture is calibrated so as to equate (correlate with) the cone of the shot dispersion. This obviously gives the shooter the *shot coverage area*, allowing him to adjust the hold-off required in certain tactical situations. Because of the very nature of shotgun patterning, one must make allowances for the unpredictable stray pellet. The correlation between quality shotgun ammo and the predictability of patterning is generally understood.

In tests of HexSite™\*-mounted shotguns, simulating hostage situations, a shooter repetitively scored strikes on six-inch steel plates (head shots) placed near and *even partially concealed behind no-shot (hostage) targets*. This was in an engagement-time spectrum of one-to-two seconds per shot, at 25 to 35 yards, using Federal .00 12-gauge buckshot. The bottom line of the tests: With good-patterning, consistent ammunition, **NO HITS ON INNOCENTS** outside the coverage area of the midrange sight.

The HexSite™\* is the only shotgun sighting system offering the potential of slug accuracy to do head shots at 75 yards, automatically calibrating the shot pattern from 10 yards (nine-inch pattern) to 75 yards. Being the “only” makes it uniquely revolutionary in a **practical life-saving application** for law enforcement tactical shooting.

NOW, shooters, we come to how! to adopt the HexSite™ Sighting System into your experience: Upon receipt of a firearm bearing his first HexSite™\*, **a shooter's**

**first action must be to clear the weapon and lock open the action!**

Next -- EXAMINE!! the HexSite™ Sighting System. Not a brief glance. STUDY it. He should give it his FOCUSED attention.

Then, because he is focusing on a *new tool*, and ONLY for that reason, close one eye and look AT it, something he will NOT do later when *shooting* the firearm. But, at the initial inspection, this act is subconsciously very meaningful. What he is doing now is “printing” an image of this *new tool* on his subconscious thought. In a practical sense, this “imprint” is for use by that lower pathway to the brain stem, the “Blind Sight” path. His subconscious will store it (“put it on a memory tape”) for later playback when he needs it -- when he is IGNORING the sight during a shooting activity.

Now shooters, don't fret about this advice. A new concept often sounds funny. But you'll stop laughing when it works. After a reasonable “familiarization” time, there is no further need to look AT the HexSite™\*, and both eyes ALWAYS will be open when using the firearm.

**NEXT STEP: With the firearm still cleared and action locked open in all these steps,** turn on television. Repetitively, with both eyes open, using viable two-handed shooting form, go from low ready to target engagement, focusing on both moving and motionless TV targets. Then, look at the front sight. This is to confirm you accomplished a valid target strike *without focusing on the front sight*, and to establish your confidence. After several such exercises, you can cease looking at the front sight. You will *know* you got your hit.

**NEXT STEP:** Close one eye and deliberately *misalign* the front sight post on a target. Then, with both eyes open and with no *conscious* movement, aggressively acquire and focus upon the target, thinking of it as a real threat to your life. After a few seconds, check that front post alignment. It should be perfectly aligned with the target.

**NEXT STEP:** Turn off television. Choose or arrange two or more unequally-spaced targets at varying levels. Equating these targets as threats, assign risk priority for shooting sequence (the order in which they need to be dispatched), and engage the targets in that order with both eyes open. Note that (1) focusing on the target; and (2) the open field of fire presented with the HexSite™\*, and (3) your open eyes *prevent your overswinging the targets*. You can stop “right-on”.

As a practical matter, in field use of firearms with *whatever* sights, always engage targets with extreme prejudice and urgency. The “typical target shooter” demeanor of relaxed leisure, or clinical cogitation, or detachment, does *nothing* to save life in a survival confrontation. Under stress, such attitudes *end* life, because target acquisition is untimely and inaccurate.

Performance parallels training! Intensity in rapid and accurate target engagement can

and should be a practiced discipline. Focusing on the target *through* a HexSite™\* with *both eyes open*, coupled with the shooter's effort toward intensity of purpose, stimulates *conscious* seeing and, more importantly, the "seeing" experienced with use of the *subconscious* secondary path. The benefit of this acquired "Blind Sight" to the defensive shooter is quicker target acquisition and superior accuracy.

The "rose garden" must be earned, of course. In the transition period from unnatural shooting habits to adoption of the HexSite™\* functional mentality, you may experience a *temporary* dip in shooting performance. Stay the course! The end result of up to 50% time reduction in target engagement, with outstanding accuracy, is your reward! ([Report by John G. Jacobs](#) )

In training with this sight, care must be taken to maintain all other firearms shooting disciplines. The ease of the HexSite™\* natural sighting induces, in some shooters, sloppy trigger and pistol stabilization control. Sighting skill is just one component of many overall basic firearms disciplines.

Use of creativity, and an intensity of purpose in target engagement, are useful in overcoming tendencies to relax firearms disciplines. For instance, a good training tactic is to use the pistol as a bayonet. Envision a sharp point as the weapon muzzle, and run the target through, while pressing the trigger to release (fire).

There are no casual targets. Engage every target as a genuine threat – something that wishes to kill you! As grim as this may seem, it exercises your inborn survival skills. Which leads to a good end result, wouldn't you agree?

*Finally*, a general observation. The evolution of the HexSite™\* has introduced an interesting aspect to the pragmatic use of pistolcraft as a survival skill. Of the contemporary contrasting styles of *Applegate/Fairbourne point-shoot views* versus the *Jeff Cooper policy of "focus on the front sight"*, *both* are valid concepts! But the performance-on-demand use of a HexSite™ Sighting System in a genuine stressfire environment makes one *astounding* fact clear. The shooter in this situation can now **subconsciously use his sights while point-shooting!!**

And this congenial marriage **ENDS!** the *decades-old dispute* as to which school of thought is correct! The refreshing truth is, the shooter can have it *both ways!!*

HexSite™ Sighting Systems is a trademark of, and is marketed by,  
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