



DALE TATE – Gun Maker

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BACKGROUND

Dale Tate is a member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen for gun making. Dale is a professional gun fitter, NSCA Certified shooting instructor, gun repair and restoration specialist, and custom gun maker. Dale has presented numerous seminars and shooting demonstrations both in England and the United States, as well as appearing on the ESPN TV program Outdoor World. He has been the subject of numerous articles in such national publications as Double Gun Journal, Shooting Sportsman, Sporting Clays, Women and Guns, Diablo, G.Q. and Fitness Magazine.

Dale Tate was an apprentice and employee for six and a half years at the world-renowned firm of J. Purdey and Sons, London, England. In addition, he was a restoration specialist at the prestigious firm of Peter Dyson and Sons, England. Prior to coming to America in 1995 he was a principal in Tate and Tate Gun makers of Eastbourne, England.

DALE TATE

The Tate English Gun Fitting Experience

Just as everyone cannot wear the same suit of clothes, neither can everyone shoot the same average production stock shotgun. Dale Tate is able to not only establish a person's exact gun measurement, but then fit each individual with her/his unique and exact fit. Through the use of a special "try gun" and "patterning board," he can establish and record an individual's gun measurements.

Stock alterations must be performed to precise measurements for each individual shooter. Dale is able to "bend" a wood stock using the English hot oil method. He can also adjust the comb and pitch, lengthen the stock with wood or recoil pads, and shorten the stock to an individual's exact specification.



GUN MAKER

Once a shooter has a custom-fit shotgun, Dale will instruct the person on proper shooting techniques needed to improve their individual field and sport shooting skill. With a properly fitting shotgun and correct shooting techniques, a shooter can dramatically improve one's "score" and "enjoyment."

The British would never think of using a shotgun for hunting or for sport, which was not perfectly and expertly fitted to each individual's dimensions.

- Professional Gun Fitting
- NSCA Certified Shooting Instructor
- Gun Repair & Restoration
- Custom Gun Maker

GUN FITTING TERMS

The majority of gun fitting modifications are made to the stock of the shotgun. These include:

Length of Pull – distance from trigger to middle of the butt

Length at Heel – distance from trigger to heel of or bottom of butt

Length at Toe – distance from trigger to toe or top of butt

Cheek Height on top of the stock

Heel Height on shoulder

Cast Off – the bend that is made on the stock where it is connected to the gun



ABOUT SHOTGUN FITTING

Shooting a moving target with a shotgun is totally different than shooting stationary targets with a handgun or rifle. The shotgun requires the shooter to point shoot at the target and not aim. The shooter points the shotgun at the moving clay target. The target is the focus and not the sights on the shotgun.

Shooters with rifles and handguns zero in the sights of their weapon by adjusting the sights on weapon be it fixed sights or a scope. This insures the shooter that the gun is shooting where he or she is aiming the gun.

The shotgun needs to be fitted (adjusted) to fit the shooter so that when the shooter mounts the gun they are properly and consistently pointing the gun at the target.

To get started, make an appointment with a gunmaker. Review your needs with him and determine if the fitting will fit your budget. Keep in mind that the gun fitting is an art that needs to be done properly by a professional trained in fitting you to your shotgun and making you a better shooter.

Your measurements are unique and can be applied to every shotgun you own or plan to purchase

Turn your sporting gun into a work of art.....

CHARLES E. LEE
SPORTING GUN
ENGRAVER

(209) 763-5192

Charles was born in England and started work for the world-renowned gunmaking company of James Purdey & Sons in March of 1980. He worked in the factory for five years before becoming a freelance engraver and continuing to work for Purdey's in a sub-contract capacity for the next fifteen years until his move to the U.S.A.

He has done commissions for almost all of the Best British gunmakers including Holland & Holland, Greener, Churchill, McKay Brown, Watson Bros., as well as individuals.

Since his move to America he has done work for Tate Gunmakers, a commission on the re-issued Schofield revolver for Smith & Wesson, many double rifles and shotguns for John Rigby & Co. of Paso Robles, as well as many custom rifles for various custom rifle makers and, again, numerous individuals.

No engraving job is too small, from a single screw to a full gun, Charles can do the custom work you desire.