



Gr8fun Targets

PADDY EGAN reveals some rather interesting targets, which the UBC Boys have been using for quite some time

should imagine that the majority of readers will have heard of Gr8fun Targets. Many will have purchased targets from them and know of the vast array of choice there is to have from his website. Dan, who owns and runs the company, makes the targets and there are over 200 available; spinners – from a single target to a frame that holds over 30 spinners in three rows; there are gongs, animal killzone targets, NRA silhouettes, corded and cordless resetters, .22 blank holding targets – be mindful of where you’re using those, you don’t want to scare your neighbours! – IPAS plates, airsoft and novelty targets ... and a whole load more!

The focus here, though, is on the custom work that Dan has done for us at the Umarex Boys Club over the years and he deserves the credit. We used to run UBC Meets either once or twice a year, and I would come up with themes, or set up target areas a certain way to be a little different to anything else that was currently going on, and that still happens to this day. I had ideas and knocked up rudimentary targets, using scrap metal, an angle grinder

and plastic pipes. My targets worked, but I didn’t have the right tools to make totally professional-looking targets, so I looked around, contacted Dan, of Gr8fun Targets and we just gelled – me with the ideas, and Danny with the know-how.

FIRST PROJECT

If I remember correctly, our first project was the Terminator Face Plates and Shape IPAS-type plates. Iron Plate Action Shooting (IPAS) was an up-and-coming thing and we wanted to add something different. I had already made shape plates, but my metal was too thin and as Dan was already selling the traditional square plates, I asked for dedicated shapes of star, triangle, circle, diamond and square. Now I could add another dimension to our competitions, by telling the shooter which shapes to shoot from a sequence card.

Lo and behold, a package arrived within days, containing top quality metal shapes, painted and ready to be used. I took this set up to a British Legion charity shoot, which was a great success. The other set of IPAS plates I wanted were

a set of five Terminator face plates, to which I added a cut-out body for added realism, to go with our Terminator-themed Meet. They have been used continuously since 2014, at Meets, the Midland Game Fairs and British Shooting Shows

Along with the face plates for our 2014 Meet were a set of six Terminator swinging targets, constructed on quality metal, rated for full power rifles, and cut into appropriate shapes for the vinyl stickers to be laid on, just like the Terminator plates.

HOSTAGE SITUATION

The final Terminator-themed target was two different Terminator faces that were side-facing. These were to go onto our hostage scenario target made for us by UBC Member, JefL. It comprises two, fixed outer side plates, which are the baddies, this time being the Terminator made by Dan, and the centre knock-down plate is the hostage – i.e. a laminated picture of Sarah Connor. As with all the other Gr8fun targets, this one went down well with the shooters, and even Dan was there at the meet where



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he came second for the Red Team and fourth overall – yes, I keep detailed files.

The following year, we did a 007-themed Meet, when I called upon Gr8fun Dan's services on another one of my hairbrained ideas. This time, James Bond is strung up, and a sniper must shoot away the shackles for James to escape. Such a simple idea; Dan was the man to make such target, and boy did he pull it off! A metal cut-out of Mr Bond, on a central pivot, with four discs – one disc nearly touching each hand and foot. The object of the target was to shoot each disc under timed conditions. If you hit James, that part would spin and you lost all score and were the one who actually eliminated James Bond – not good, indeed! I was lucky enough to come second on that particular day, but a few other shooters didn't fare as well, which meant Mr Bond didn't either!

YET ANOTHER THEME!

Roll on another year, another Meet and yes, another theme. 'In a Galaxy Far, Far Away...' Dan came up with some Star Wars targets; swinging plates of Tie

Fighters, with a new concept of turning plates for the Death Star, and some Tie Interceptors, instead of the standard knock-downs that you see on the FT/HFT animal targets. These are really cool, and as always, Dan put a lot of thought into making them. These custom targets are extremely well-executed.

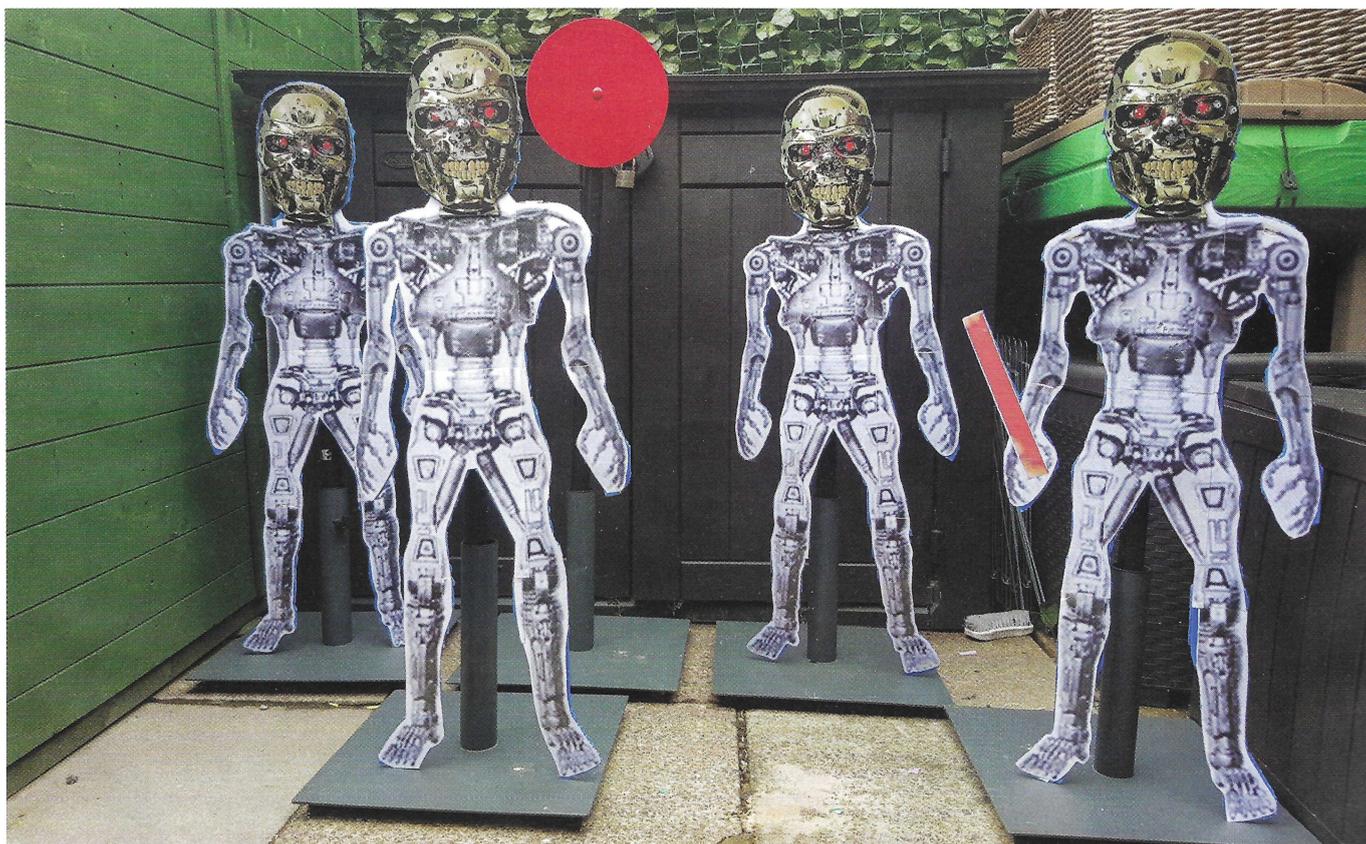
The last two target types that Dan has made us are quite novelty ones. The first is a set of metal spoons to hang off one of my pipe frames. It's an in-joke because it is our tradition for people who come last in our comps to get handed a wooden spoon, graciously painted by me. So, I thought I'd give people a chance to shoot a spoon in the hope of 'not winning a spoon'. I called it 'The Gun and Spoon Race'.

The second target type comprises metal plates that represent drinks Cans for our Can Shooting Competition. I built the stand with a selection of different length rods, and the plates are bolted onto the rods so that I have a permanent can-shooting set-up without the need to change or acquire cans.

HANG YOUR CANS

Talking about cans ... Dan also makes can hangers, and yes, you hang a can from the wire that clips onto any applicable surface. I tested some for Dan. I totally love can shooting and these are so simple and yet so satisfying when you shoot at them because the can will swing in any direction. Get yourself a few and you'll be having a blast, that is for sure!

Whilst writing this article, we are preparing the range set-up for the British Shooting Show 2024, and we have two set-ups ready with the UBC/Gr8fun's shape targets and a Terminator hostage takedown area. Plus, with a thought process of using readily affordable, obtainable targets, I was back in talks with Dan about my aspirations and ideas, and less than 24 hours later he sent me a video of a prototype target, ready for the BSS. Dan, I applaud you and thank you. We're really looking forward to showing off the Umarex/UBC Range with Gr8fun Targets.



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A FEW WORDS FROM DAN AT GR8FUN TARGETS

I've really enjoyed working with the Umarex Boys Club and Paddy, but I had no idea that I'd done anywhere near as much as Paddy has catalogued, but it has been nearly 10 years, and a few targets each year soon adds up. I never set out to make targets as a business, but when I started making airgun targets, I wanted them to be the type that even I would buy – that meant they had to be keenly priced and of a quality that would outlast my expectations.

Designing new targets is the really fun part for me, getting the mechanisms just right is so satisfying, so when Paddy drops me a message with a new idea, I know there will be a fun and often challenging time ahead. I love what the UBC do; they are a fully inclusive – they even embrace non-Umarex guns! – and they're a very friendly bunch of airgun enthusiasts, all with a common goal – to send lead flying and enjoy it. Thank you so much, Paddy, for your kind words. This article was most certainly not expected, but very much appreciated. ✕



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