



TA Targets Rifle Dueling Tree Instructions



The Rifle Dueling Tree is a robust and simple to use system. We offer it in three different variations:

- With 3/8" AR550 paddles for centerfire pistols and LIGHT rifles (P/N: RDT-38-BDB) (Middle Paddle shown in image to the right)
- With 1/2" AR550 Paddles for centerfire rifles like 308/6.5CM (P/N: RDT-12-BDB) (Left Paddle shown in image to the right)
- With 3/16" AR400 Paddles for 22LR Rimfire Rounds (P/N: RDT-316-BDB) (Right paddle in image to the right)



It is important to note which paddles you have purchased. The paddles look similar at a glance, but are distinctly different sizes and thicknesses/weight. Please always make sure you are using the correct paddle for your application. More information is provided later in this manual. READ THIS ENTIRE MANUAL PRIOR TO USING YOUR DUELING TREE. User assumes all risks with the shooting activities they are embarking on.

A few important safety notes:

- ALWAYS follow our safe shooting guidelines
- ALWAYS be sure to operate on a safe and approved range.
- ALWAYS be sure you are using your targets and firearms properly.
- ALWAYS wear required personal protective equipment (eye protection, ear protection, proper clothing, etc.)
- ALWAYS be sure that your targets are stable and set up in the proper manner.

- ALWAYS BE CERTAIN WHAT IS BEYOND YOUR TARGET. Missed rounds that are not FULLY captured by a backstop can cause serious property and personal injury including death. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure safe shooting conditions.
- Under NO circumstances should you misuse your steel targets or shoot on a range lacking proper backstops.
- Prior to using this product, you MUST read our safe shooting guidelines. YOU are responsible to ensure you use this product properly and in a safe manner.
- Always assume metal and wood target components are sharp. Handle with working or leather gloves only
- Always assume lead is present. Wear protective gear and ALWAYS wash hands after handling any target component.
- This is NOT a full safety disclosure statement. read our safe shooting and target wear and tear manuals PRIOR TO ENGAGING IN STEEL TARGET SHOOTING ACTIVITIES.

What is included with each Dueling Tree:

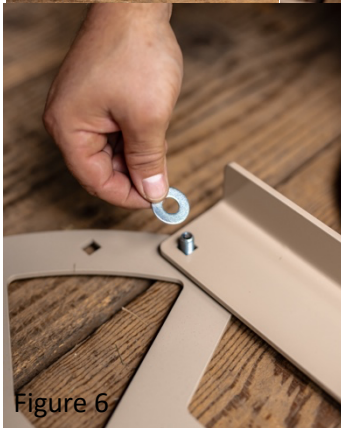
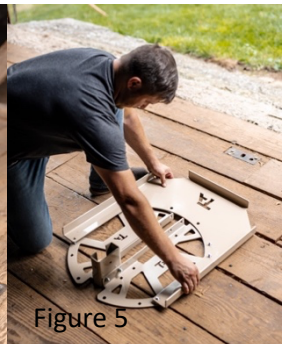
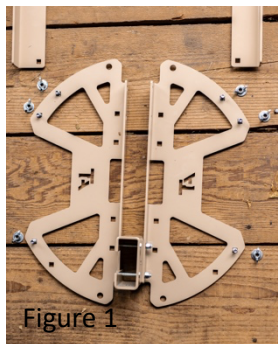
- (one) Laser Cut/Welded Upright Assembly housing the gussets for the paddles (RDT-U)
- (Six) Paddles Per Your Order
 - o 3/8" Paddles for centerfire pistols and LIGHT Rifles – Or –
 - o 1/2" Paddles for calibers like 308 Winchester or 6.5 CM – Or –
 - o 3/16" Paddles for 22 Long Rifle Rimfire Rounds
 - o Note: You CAN order paddles separately during checkout or at a later date if desired.
- (One) Complete Breakdown Target Base (Including Two Paper Holders for cardboard target mounting)
- (One) Breakdown Base Extension
- All Hardware Necessary for Assembly
 - o See Breakdown Base instruction manual for specific hardware included with each breakdown base: <https://tatargets.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/TA-TARGETS-SINGLE-BREAKDOWN-BASE-MANUAL.pdf>
 - o See Breakdown Base Extension instruction manual for specific hardware included with each extension: <https://tatargets.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/BDB-30-R1-BASE-INSTRUCTIONS.pdf>

A Few General Points to Remember:

- *The Rifle Dueling Tree is a VERY heavy system. Two people should be present for setup to avoid injury or dropping of product.
- **Each paddle, regardless of the thickness, installs in the same manner into the welded upright gussets
- ***Paddles can create a pinch hazard. Keep children away from this system during setup and use. Always be sure fingers and body parts are CLEAR of the paddles and gussets when installing.
- ****Used Dueling Trees CAN have sharp edges from bullet impacts. ALWAYS assume your system will have sharp edges present and wear gloves when handling this system.

Setting up the Rifle Dueling Tree:

- 1.) Take inventory of all components & be sure you have what you need.
- 2.) Assemble the Breakdown Base Per the Breakdown Base Instructions (Found online HERE: <https://tatargets.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/TA-TARGETS-SINGLE-BREAKDOWN-BASE-MANUAL.pdf>)
- 3.) Extension up with the six required holes on the breakdown base. It should look as follows:

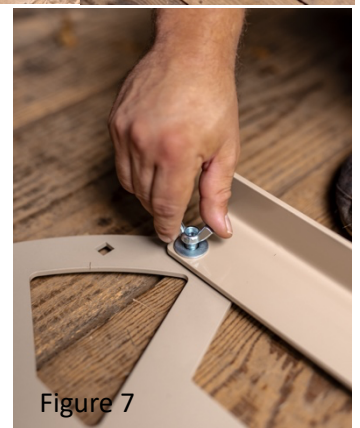


3A.) Insert all six Carriage bolts through the holes shown in figure 1.

3B.) Align the Extension over the six holes with the extension facing the FRONT of the breakdown base (as shown in figures 2-4)

3C.) Install the washers and wing nuts on the rear most bolts first. Install washer, then wing nut. Tighten hand tight until snug.

3D.) If no paper holders are to be used, install nut and washer to remaining bolts around base.



3E.) If you desire to install paper holders, simply place the paper holders over the front four bolts as shown here:



A note about the paper holders:

- Standard Paper holders for USPSA targets will mount on top of the extension as shown.
- Extended paper holders will ALSO work with the extension but MUST be mounted BELOW the breakdown base/extension to clear the bent sides of the extension.

- 4.) At this point your breakdown base with extension is assembled.
- 5.) Install the Welded Upright into the Breakdown Base with Extension Installed.
 - a. The Extension leg should be towards the FRONT of the system. The Dueling Tree leans forward, so the extra stability of the breakdown base extension is REQUIRED.
 - b. A Properly installed upright will be pushed FULLY forward toward the base tube and fully to the side. If your upright is loose or “wobbles” side to side with a light touch, it is not tightened enough into the base.
 - c. A loose upright can be unsafe and WILL lead to paddles not rotating properly/fully.
 - d. DUELING TREE MUST BE ASSEMBLED ON LEVEL GROUND. PERIOD.
- 6.) Install the Paddles into the Dueling Tree Upright
 - a. ALL paddles install the same way regardless of size or thickness.
 - b. Paddles when inserted should line up with the keyway in each gusset.
 - c. After aligning the keyway, the paddles will simply drop into place.
 - d. Rotate each paddle side to side to confirm smooth paddle movement.
 - e. If there is binding or the paddles do not fit, please confirm proper installation.
 - f. If problems exist in fitment, take photos and send to us at info@tatargets.com. We will assist you further.



Care and Maintenance:

Prior to EACH AND EVERY Use, users should confirm the following:

- Paddles and welded upright are free of cracks, pits, or other damage
- Paddles rotate freely side-to-side without binding
- Base is fully assembled and all necessary bolts and nuts and washers are in place and tightened properly
- Upright is tightened properly in the base

Occasionally it may be advantageous to lubricate the pivot contact areas of the paddles. Any WD-40, chain lubricant, or other form of light oil lubricant or silicone will work fine.

As the system is used, the powder coat will chip wherever bullets or fragmentation meet the system. This is normal. Touch up paint can be purchased on our website if desired.

Proper Calibers, Ammunition, and Shooting Distances:

Our Dueling Tree for most people will be a lifetime target IF IT IS USED PROPERLY. All distance recommendations are determined with ammunition with a MUZZLE velocity of 3,000 FPS or LESS. Shooting ammunition faster than 3,000 FPS, even at distances listed below, will result in damage to your system. Other types of ammo are also prohibited from this system. These include: SS109, M855, M855A1, or any type of “penetrator” or “armor Piercing” ammunition. This includes extremely high velocity ammunition. Our warranties DO NOT COVER DAMAGE RESULTING FROM IMPROPER AMMO USE.

- **3/8” AR550 Paddles:** The 3/8” AR550 paddles are designed to function with centerfire pistols and LIGHT rifles. This includes .223/5.56 NATO, 300 BLK, and 7.62X39.
 - Rimfire Rifles and Pistols: NOT RATED FOR RIMFIRE RIFLES OR PISTOLS
 - Centerfire Pistols: (9mm, .40 S&W, 45ACP, 10mm and similar): 10 yards
 - Centerfire Magnum Pistols: (357, 44magnum and similar): 25 Yards
 - Light Rifles: (.223/5.56 NATO, 300 BLK, and similar): 50 yards
 - Larger Rifles (Limited Use): 308, 6.5CM and similar are acceptable over 200 yards. If the paddle reacts violently, distance MUST be increased.
- **1/2” AR550 Paddles:**
 - Rimfire Rifles and Pistols: NOT RATED FOR RIMFIRE RIFLES OR PISTOLS
 - Centerfire Pistols: (9mm, .40 S&W, 45ACP, 10mm and similar): 10 yards, but users should note that light calibers like 9mm and 40 S&W most likely WILL NOT rotate the 1/2” Paddles.
 - Centerfire Magnum Pistols: (357, 44magnum and similar): 25 Yards Users should note that down loaded ammo for these calibers may not rotate the 1/2” paddles consistently.
 - Light Rifles: (.223/5.56 NATO, 300 BLK, and similar): 50 yards Users should note that light rifles will not consistently rotate the 1/2” Paddles. We recommend the 3/8” paddles for these calibers
 - Larger Rifles: 308, 6.5CM and similar calibers are acceptable at 100 yards
- **3/16” Paddles:**
 - Rimfire Rifles and Pistols: (22LR in pistols or rifles):10 yards with pistols or rifles. Do NOT use 22MAG or any other rimfire cartridges. Note: Very short pistols may have trouble rotating the paddles consistently.
 - Centerfire Pistols: NOT RATED/DO NOT USE
 - Centerfire Magnum Pistols: NOT RATED/DO NOT USE
 - Light Rifles: NOT RATED/DO NOT USE
 - Larger Rifles: NOT RATED/DO NOT USE



Further Instructions:

- Safe Shooting: <https://tatargets.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SAFE-SHOOTING-UPDATED.pdf>
- Target Wear and Tear: <https://tatargets.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/TARGET-WEAR-AND-TEAR-DOCUMENT.pdf>

Shooting Considerations:

Due to the nature of Dueling Trees and their swinging paddles, these systems should be set up approximately 10 yards from any other system. When a paddle is struck, most fragmentation will be directed towards the ground. However, there is still fragmentation that goes to the sides as the paddle rotates around. Keeping your Dueling Tree far enough away from other systems is required to ensure no secondary fragmentation can head in an unsafe direction.

Paddles can be engaged at any time during the rotation safely.

Backstops MUST be higher than the dueling tree to capture any missed rounds that occur.

The Shield of the Dueling Tree is NOT a target and it is NOT designed to be intentionally shot or impacted. Occasional glances will not cause damage. Repeated impacts will cause wear and tear over time that is not covered under our warranty.

Staking the Dueling Tree to the ground is optional, but it is recommended for maximum consistency. Stake kits can be purchased separately on our website.

Our Rifle Dueling Tree was built to last, but it has a lifespan just like everything man-made. By doing your part to follow these instructions, you are ensuring the longest lifespan possible out of your system. These instructions are critical in order to have a safe, fun, and productive experience with your new target system.

Note: The Breakdown Base, Extension and its components are NOT targets. They also are not to be used with steel target systems. Do NOT shoot bullets at your Breakdown Base under any circumstances. Damage WILL occur and this can be dangerous.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to email our team and we'll be able to further assist you with setting up your new target system.

Customer Service Email: info@tatargets.com

All other information can be found: <https://tatargets.com/ta-targets-instruction-manuals/>