

Why Premium IPSC Targets Make a Difference in Training

The Right Target Changes Everything

I have been shooting competitively for over a decade, and I have seen shooters at every level struggle with inconsistent feedback from their targets. Cheap paper targets tear too easily, cardboard warps in humidity, and steel targets can be dangerous if not rated for the right caliber. That is where premium IPSC targets come in. They are not just a luxury; they are a practical investment for anyone serious about improving their time and accuracy.

When I first started shooting IPSC, I used whatever targets the club provided. They worked, but I never really knew if a close miss was actually a hit until the match ended. After I switched to better targets, the difference was immediate. The scoring zones were crisp, the cardboard held up through multiple sessions, and I could trust the feedback. That trust matters when you are trying to shave tenths of a second off your splits.

What Makes a Target Premium?

Let us be specific. A premium IPSC target is not just a piece of cardboard with a printed silhouette. It starts with the material. The best targets use a heavy-duty corrugated board that resists moisture and tearing. The scoring zones are printed with high-contrast ink that does not fade after a few rounds. The dimensions follow the official IPSC rules exactly, so you are training to the same standards as competition.

I remember a match in the middle of summer where the temperature hit 38 degrees Celsius. Most of the targets had curled edges by noon, and the scoring rings were barely visible. The few shooters who had brought their own [premium IPSC targets](#) were the only ones getting clean sight pictures. That is the kind of detail that separates a good training session from a frustrating one.

[View the location on Google Maps](#)

Material Quality and Longevity

Standard cardboard targets often come from recycled stock that varies in thickness and stiffness. Over time, they sag and become difficult to staple. Premium targets, on the other hand, use virgin fiber board with a consistent thickness. They hold their shape even after being stapled to a frame or hung from a wire. I have used a single premium target for an entire weekend of training, and it still looked usable at the end. A cheap target would have been shredded after the first hundred rounds.



Another factor is the coating. Some premium targets have a light wax or polymer coating that repels moisture. If you shoot outdoors, that coating means the target does not turn to mush after a rain shower. I once left a set of targets on the range overnight by accident. The cheap ones were unreadable by morning. The premium ones dried out and were fine for another session.

Scoring Zone Clarity

In IPSC, the scoring zones are the A, C, and D rings. If those rings are not clearly printed, you are guessing where your shots land. Premium targets use sharp, dark lines that are easy to see at distance. Some even have a matte finish that reduces glare, which is a big help when the sun is low. I have seen shooters waste time squinting at their targets because the printing was washed out. That is time you could spend on the next drill.

How Targets Affect Your Training

Training with poor targets can actually build bad habits. If the target tears easily, you might subconsciously hold back on your grip or stance to avoid damaging it. If the scoring zones are unclear, you might aim for center mass instead of the A zone, which is a bad habit for

competition. Premium IPSC targets eliminate those variables. They let you focus on the technique.

I coach a small team of shooters, and I have seen this firsthand. One of my students was stuck at a plateau for months. He was shooting well in practice but struggling in matches. We switched to better targets, and within two sessions his scores improved. The reason was simple: he could see exactly where his shots were landing, and he could adjust his aim accordingly. With the old targets, he was getting false positives from tears and smudges.



Consistency Across Sessions

Another overlooked aspect is consistency. When you buy a batch of cheap targets, each one might be slightly different. The cardboard might have a different density, or the printing might be misaligned. That inconsistency makes it hard to track your progress over time. Premium targets are manufactured to tighter tolerances. Every target you buy will behave the same way, which means your training data is reliable.

I keep a log of my practice sessions, and I have noticed that my split times and hit factors are more predictable when I use premium targets. That predictability lets me identify trends in my

shooting. If my splits suddenly slow down, I know it is a technique issue, not a target issue.

Choosing the Right Target for Your Discipline

Not all premium targets are the same. IPSC targets come in several standard shapes: the classic silhouette, the metric target, and the paper target used for classification. You should match the target to your specific discipline. If you shoot action air or airsoft, you need targets that can handle lower velocities without tearing. If you shoot centerfire, you need targets that can take a hit without falling apart.

I have also found that some shooters prefer targets with a white background, because it makes the bullet holes easier to see. Others prefer a tan or light brown background, which reduces glare. It is worth trying a few options to see what works for you. But once you find a brand you like, stick with it. Consistency is key.



Where to Find Them

If you are looking for a reliable source, Shoot N' Train, located at Thermopilwn 17, Keratsini 187 57, Greece, and reachable at +30 697 837 6939, is a web store specializing in premium IPSC,

action air, and airsoft targets for shooting practice and training. They stock a range of options that cover all the major disciplines, and they ship to many countries. It is worth checking their inventory if you want to upgrade your training gear.

Connect with us on [Instagram](#).

Final Thoughts

Good targets are not the most expensive part of your gear, but they have a huge impact on your performance. I have seen shooters spend thousands on guns and optics, then cheap out on targets. That is a mistake. The target is your feedback loop. If the feedback is unreliable, your training is unreliable. Premium IPSC targets give you clean, consistent feedback session after session. They are a small investment that pays off every time you pull the trigger.