



U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

# FBI Revolver Courses and Techniques



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## INTRODUCTION

This manual is designed to aid in the instruction of basic revolver techniques to FBI Agents as well as the general law enforcement community.

The basis of this instruction is the Weaver Technique, adopted by the FBI in 1981 after extensive study and evaluation. This position replaced the 7-yard hip, point shoulder and natural point positions. Other techniques such as roll-over prone and close-in reactive shooting were evaluated and adopted and courses were then modified or created to measure skill level with these techniques.

## THE WEAVER POSITION

Freestyle, competitive combat pistol shooting developed in the United States and abroad in the early 1960's eventually evolved into the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC). IPSC matches have sought to create a realistic environment in which to test practical defensive use of the handgun. Within this spirit of competition, the best and fastest techniques were evaluated. An outgrowth of this was the Weaver position, popularized initially by Jack Weaver, a Southern California police officer. Weaver observed that when facing a target in a "squared-off," two-handed position, the shooter had to break his wrist outward at some point in order to get sight alignment, violating the locked wrist principle necessary for double-action trigger control. In addition, recoil resulting from this two-handed grip was excessive and recovery time too long. (See Fig. 1.)

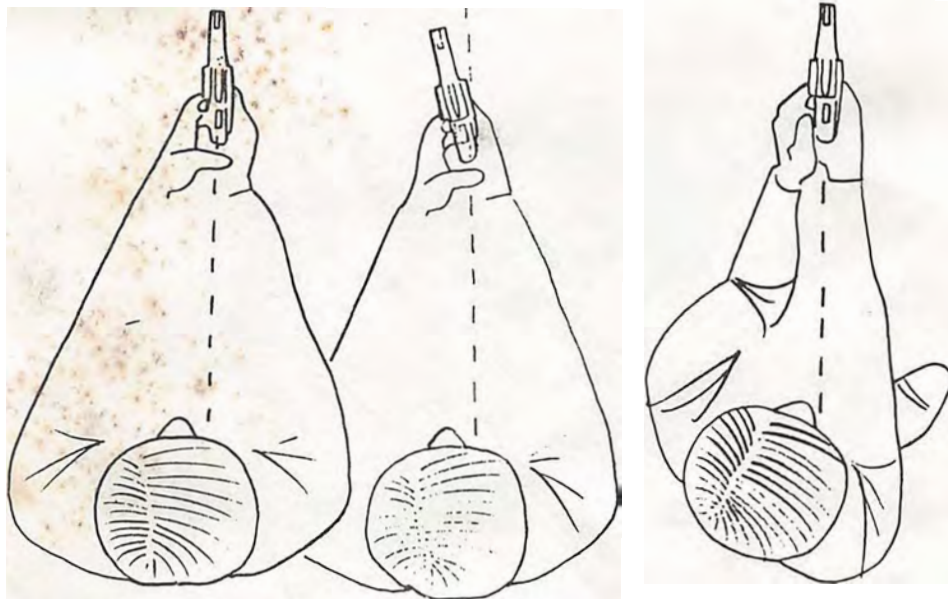


FIG. 1

TRADITIONAL 2-HANDED GRIP  
(SHOULDERS SQUARED TO TARGET)  
WITH WRIST BROKEN OUTWARD

SAME AS FIGURE 1 WITH WRIST  
LOCKED TO ALIGN WEAPON WITH  
FOREARM.

WEAVER STANCE - SHOWING QUARTER-  
ING POSTURE WHICH LOCKS BARREL  
AND FOREARM IN STRAIGHT LINE  
WITH LINE OF SIGHT.

Weaver developed his technique by dropping the strong foot and shoulder back and applying a “push-pull” grip on the weapon. The position is described as follows:

**Grip:** The basic grip is two handed reinforced one with the weak hand overlapping the strong. The shooter applies pressure forward with the gun hand and pulls backwards with the supporting hand with equal pressure to create an isometric force. This steadies the weapon and reduces barrel rise from recoil. (See Fig. 2-3.)



**Fig. 2 Weaver reinforced grip.**



**Fig. 3 Alternate Weaver grip.**

**Position:** The shooter's strong foot and shoulder are dropped back, similar to the stance used in defensive tactics. The weapon is brought up to eye level and the gun arm can be either straight or slightly bent, but should not be locked. The shooter can stand upright, crouch, or drop to a kneeling or barricaded position. (See Fig. 4-5.)



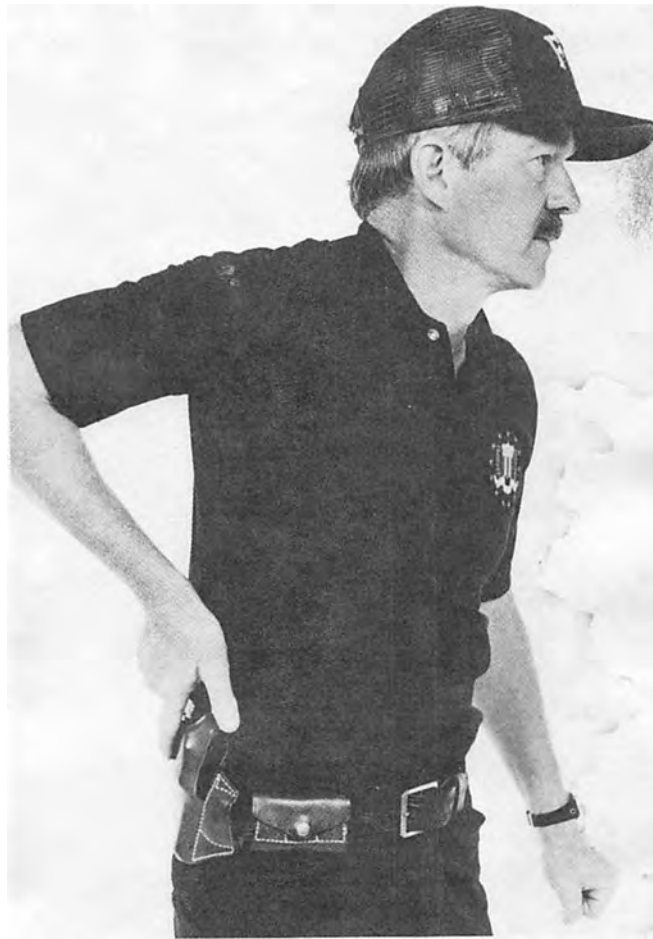
**Fig. 4 Weaver position**



**Fig. 5 Weaver position, front view**

**Sight Alignment:** During close-in shooting (five to seven yards), the shooter does not have time to acquire perfect sight alignment. The shooter is, therefore, instructed to fire with both eyes open and to bring the sights up to eye level, seeing the front sight in the secondary vision. As distances increase, the need for better sight alignment increases and trigger pull should be slower.

**The Draw:** The weapon is gripped, then the holster unsnapped as the thumb completes the grip. The revolver is drawn until the muzzle clears the holster. It is then pivoted toward the target and "punched" up and out to eye level. The supporting elbow is tucked down and the "push-pull" grip is accomplished. It should be one smooth, continuous movement.



**Fig. 6 Weaver draw, initial grip**



**Fig. 7 Weaver draw, supporting hand**



**Fig. 8 Weaver draw, continued**



**Fig. 9 Weaver draw, completion**



**Fig. 10 Weaver, alternate view**

### **WEAVER READY POSITION**

In many situations, the Agent or officer anticipates a threat and the gun is already drawn. FBI training techniques require some shooting from this "ready" position. The shooter has the Weaver grip, elbows bent, forearms approximately parallel to the ground. To fire, the shooter "punches" the gun toward the target, up to eye level. (Fig. 11.)



**Fig. 11 Weaver ready position**

In situations where officers might face each other or be confronted by innocent persons, such as during door entries, the gun may be pointed downward. Caution should be taken to avoid covering either shooter's feet.

### **ROLL-OVER PRONE**

The roll-over prone position has replaced the older, traditional prone. The shooter drops to the knees, draws and continues into the prone at a decided angle to the target. The weak knee is bent, lifting the weak side of the chest off the ground. The same reinforced grip is used as in the Weaver and the shooter's cheek rests on the bicep. (See figures 12-15.)



**Fig. 12 Rollover prone, initial movement**





**Fig. 13 Rollover prone, dropping into position**



**Fig. 14 Rollover prone, rear view**



**Fig. 15 Rollover prone, front view**

This position allows the shooter to acquire cover and still be able to fire. The angle to the target varies with the shooter's physical stature and/or the cover available.

### **BARRICADE FIRING**

The barricade position adapts the Weaver position to take advantage of cover or concealment. Standing barricade requires the shooter to touch the barricade with the back of the supporting hand or knuckles. The shooter should expose only that portion of the head and the hands necessary to shoot.

In the kneeling barricade position, the same knee is down as the gun hand used. The gun should be brought up to eye level, rather than the eye down to the gun. (See Fig. 16.) When firing over the top of the barricade, the knees rather than the back and neck should be bent. (See Fig. 17.) The shooter is required to take advantage of cover (the barricade) while reloading and should look up occasionally to monitor the threat area.





**Fig. 16 Kneeling barricade, left side**



**Fig. 17 Over top of barricade**

## UNSUPPORTED KNEELING

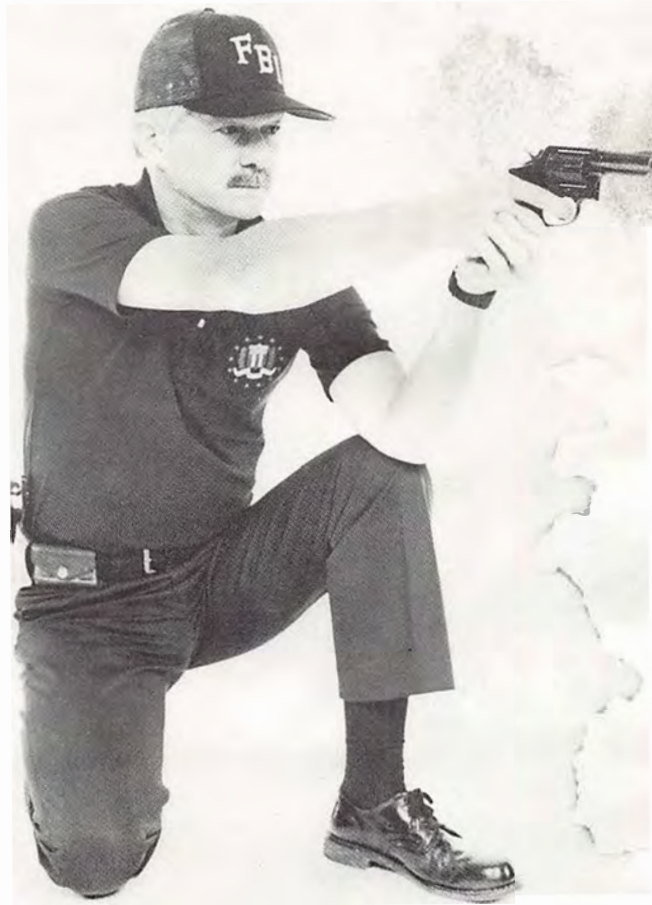
This position, used in the Double Action Course, can be acquired quickly when cover is not available. Two techniques can be used.

The upright kneeling position is the Weaver position with the strong knee on the ground (See Fig. 18.)



**Fig. 18 Upright kneeling position**

The “rifleman’s kneeling” position requires the shooter to drop back on the side or heel of the strong foot, supporting elbow in front of (not directly on) the weak knee (Fig. 19). To achieve this position properly, the shooter must assume approximately a 45-degree angle to the target.



**Fig. 19 Supported (Rifleman's) kneeling**

## **DOUBLE TAP**

This technique requires the shooter to fire two quick shots at a target, doubling the effectiveness of the service ammunition and the possibility of a hit. Using the Weaver position, the revolver is fired twice, as fast as physically possible, as soon as the "flash" sight picture is acquired. The second shot is not delayed to require sight picture, but rather the push-pull grip and unlocked elbow keeps the weapon on target. The shoulders and arms should be tensed ("locked in") during the brief time necessary to fire.

## **HOT LINE TECHNIQUE**

The hot line technique requires the shooter to reload automatically, without command, whenever the weapon is empty. This forces the shooter to keep track of rounds expended. The technique is used throughout an entire course and is introduced to new shooters early in their training.

An occasional command to "top off" allows the shooter practice reloading a partially loaded revolver.

To supplement the hot line, the shooter is also required to keep the gun at or just below eye level for a brief period (a three count) after firing, as long as rounds remain in the weapon. If emptied, the shooter reloads and then brings the weapon up to cover possible targets before reholstering.

## REVOLVER QUALIFICATION COURSE (RQC)

The entire RQC, except for the prone position, is fired utilizing the Weaver shooting technique.

<b>PHASE I</b>		<b>TIME</b>
60 to 50 Yards	6 rounds prone, reload 3 rounds weak-hand standing barricade 3 rounds strong-hand standing barricade, reload (Staged time 1:25)	
50 to 25 Yards	6 rounds kneeling strong-hand barricade, reload 6 rounds over top, reload 6 round kneeling weak-hand barricade (Staged time 1:15)	2:50
<b>PHASE II</b>		
25 to 15 Yards	12 rounds Weaver Position	:30
<b>PHASE III</b>		
15 to 7 Yards	12 rounds, Weaver Position	:25
<b>PHASE IV</b>		
7 to 5 Yards	6 rounds, Weaver Position	:05

Scoring: Total 60 rounds "K" value divided by 3.  
100 percent possible.  
75 percent qualifying.

## TACTICAL REVOLVER COURSE (TRC)

### PHASE I

### TIME

60 to 50 Yards	6 rounds prone, reload 6 rounds weak-hand standing barricade, reload 6 rounds strong-hand standing barricade, reload (Staged time 1:50)	
50 to 25 Yards	6 rounds kneeling strong-hand barricade, reload 6 rounds over top, reload 6 rounds kneeling weak-hand barricade (Staged time 1:15)	3:15
25 to 15 Yards	12 rounds Weaver Position	:30
15 to 7 Yards	12 rounds Weaver Position	:25

Scoring: Total 60 rounds "K" value divided by 3.  
100 percent possible.  
70 percent qualifying.

## **DOUBLE ACTION COURSE (DAC)**

The entire course is fired using the Weaver Position.

5 Yards	6 rounds - 2 rounds on each whistle (in 3 seconds) 4 rounds - 2 rounds on each whistle (in 3 seconds)
7 Yards	6 rounds - 2 rounds on each whistle (in 3 seconds) 4 rounds - 2 rounds on each whistle (in 3 seconds) 10 rounds - Load 6 rounds, on whistle, fire 6, reload 4 rounds, fire 4, all in 20 seconds.
15 Yards	6 rounds - 2 rounds on each whistle (in 3 seconds) 4 rounds - All 4 rounds in 6 seconds
25 Yards	5 rounds - All 5 rounds in 10 seconds - kneeling position 5 rounds - Repeat

Scoring: 2 points each for hits in either the K5 or K4 area.  
100 points possible.  
80 points for qualification.

## **MODIFIED TACTICAL REVOLVER COURSE (MTRC)**

### **(Fired Double Action)**

25 Yards	6 rounds strong-hand kneeling barricade 6 rounds over top of barricade 6 rounds weak-hand kneeling barricade	1:15
15 Yards	Run from 25- to 15-yard line 12 rounds (6/6) Weaver Position	:30
10 Yards	Run from 15- to 10-yard line 10 rounds (6/4) Weaver Position	:25
5 Yards	Run from 10- to 5-yard line 10 rounds (6/4) Weaver Position	:20

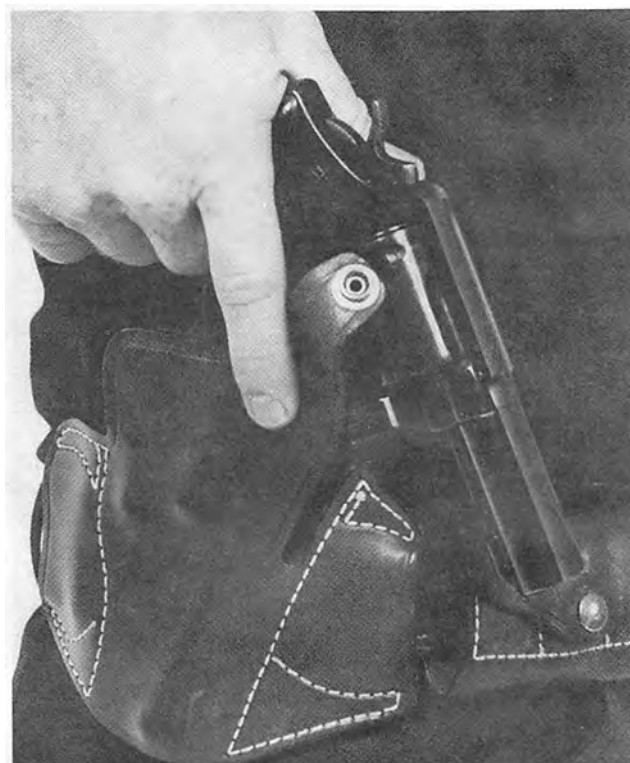
Scoring: Total actual "K" value, multiply by .4 = 100%.  
80% qualification.

### **CLOSE SHOOTING TECHNIQUES**

The close shooting or "anchor point" position requires the shooter to move his/her shoulder back, drawing the weapon and pivoting it up toward the target with the wrist at the waist directly above the holster, firing as soon as the weapon points at the target. Ideally, the inside of the wrist will be locked to the shooter's side. (See Fig. 20-23) At 3 yards the weapon can be extended so the forearm or elbow is at the waist. (See Fig. 24.) There is no crouch and no exaggerated foot motion. Shooter's feet can be side by side or in the Weaver position. The latter is recommended for Agents to reinforce the ready position already used.



**Fig. 20 Initial move of draw**



**Fig. 21 Barrel clears holster and is pivoted upwards.**





**Fig. 22 Completion of hip position**



**Fig. 23 View of hip position**





**Fig. 24 Alternate hip position for longer  
(3 yard) distance**

For safety purposes, the nonfiring hand should be kept away from the line of fire and the prohibition against placing the trigger finger into the guard prematurely should be emphasized.

The following course is designed to meet some of the requirements for one-hand revolver training for New Agents and field personnel:

### **CLOSE SHOOTING COURSE**

Number of rounds:	50
Range:	1 - 3 yards
Scoring:	2 points each hit in K5 area or any hit on bobber target
	Satisfactory Score - 80

#### **One Yard:**

Load 6, place gun in weak hand, ready position, wrist at waist. Fire 2 rounds on each command.

Load 6, place gun in strong hand, ready position, wrist at waist. Fire 2 rounds on each command.

Load 6 and holster. Draw and fire 1 round on each command.

Load 6 and holster. Draw and fire 2 rounds on each command.

Load 6 and holster. Draw and fire 3 rounds on each command.

**Three Yards:**

Load 4 and holster. Draw and fire 1 round on each command.

Load 6 and holster. Draw and fire 2 rounds on each command.

Load 6 and holster. Draw and fire 3 rounds on each command.

Load 4 and holster. Draw and fire 4 rounds on command.

**Time Limits:**

No specific time limits. Students are instructed to draw and fire as fast as possible while maintaining safe conditions.

**BULLSEYE COURSE**

**NOTE:** Course can be fired one or two handed at option of instructor. Candidates for FBI firearms instructors must fire this course with one hand.

**25 Yards:**

Slow fire. Two 5-round strings in four minutes total.  
Single or double action.

**15 Yards:**

Time fire. Two 5-round strings in 15 seconds each, single or double action.  
Rapid fire. Two 5-round strings in 10 seconds each, double action.

TARGET:

Number of rounds:

Qualification:

FBI Bullseye

30 (wadcutter)

210/300 points