



Data Collection with the Impact Data Book

By John Scarbrough II

I just finished a five day LE Marksman/ Observer course and on day two my partner I was assigned got dropped for not qualifying on a T zone qual which left me not only shooting alone but filling out my data book alone too. The distances were 100 meters or less the entire week which meant I really didn't need a partner to spot my shots. I have heard from multiple sources over the years that often times in Law Enforcement call outs they only have a one man team any way to maximize the observation on the objective. This leads me to write an article on how the use of a good data book can help the shooter whether working alone or with a partner.

To become a good shooter you need to fully understand and grasp the fundamentals of marksmanship. Applying those fundamentals each and every time will ensure that you hit your intended target.

From my early days hunting, in boy scouts, to boot camp in the Marine Corps it was engrained into my head the importance of becoming an expert rifleman and that anything less than that was a failure. It wasn't until boot camp when I learned that one of the main components to accomplishing this was to know how to use a data book and how to interpret the information that I collected in it. I quickly learned that the data book was not only a great learning tool but a great reference source in which I could get a solid starting point to begin my shooting from on my next range session. But even more important was the fact that my data book was only going to be as good as the information I put into it.

Over my 13 years of military and training experience I have seen and used a variety of data books. While some of these books have had good basic layouts, they always seemed to be a shuffled up version of the same information which never really followed or worked with the types of training that I was conducting. More or less the only choice a shooter had was to change the way that they conducted their training in order to get their book to match up with their targets.

The other option was to draw or modifying the pages so that they could somewhat resemble the actual targets that we were shooting at. This led to a messy, unorganized, not so easy to follow data book that ended up being basically worthless or an unreadable mess by the end of the days training. Even worse was trying to come back to reference your data book at a later date and trying to figure out what these modifications or information meant.



Recently I received a data book in the mail from Tony Gimmellie and Tom Challey of Impact Data Books. Tony and I served as Scout Snipers together in the Marine Corps in the late 90's and early part of 2000. While in the Corps Tony was always making his own data book pages due to the above mentioned short comings of these other data books that were being sold on the market at that time. Those books never had the operational information or targets that were needed to conduct solid training, not to mention all the other info we had cheat sheets for that we put into a flight crew checklist.

Tony contacted me and informed me that he had finally got into the data book business with his buddy Tom, and that they opened the doors of Impact Data Books in May of 2009. Tony went on to explain that he was finally fed up with watching shooters struggle with pre-made books that are filled with pages that shooters have no use for and that they were wasting their money on by throwing them away. He decided it was time to fix the problem and fill the void with a data book that worked for all shooters. He asked me how I was training and what types of target I have been shooting at and he told me to watch my mail box that a book was on the way.

Impact Data Book Concept

Impact Data Books concept is simple. Get the shooter exactly what they need in their data book in order for them to collect and record the vital information that they need in a neat and orderly manner in which they could recall and use at a later date.

Tony went on to explain that every shooter has different strengths and weakness along with different training goals and needs. He feels that no one should be strapped to a pre-made book that was designed and made by how someone else thinks you should train.



When you take into account that some shooters have limited range resources, and that they may only be able to shoot on paper or steel targets, while other shooters may have the ability to shoot moving targets and unknown distance targets where others may not. Military and law enforcement snipers may have the need for smaller more durable books made of Rite N Rain type paper that can endure the weather, where competition or recreation shooters may only need standard paper and a standard size book. These individual differences vary and so should your data book.

Impact Data Books wants you to have a choice of what is put into your data book, along with the ability for you to add or remove used pages and replace those pages with new ones, while allowing your data book to grow and change with your shooting needs. Think of it as a living breathing thing.



As your training evolves so should your data book. Being able to put all of your training in the sequence that it took place instead of all 25 cold bores, 25 face targets, 25 movers,

Then 25 range card which almost never get used by most shooters. If I want to start off with a cold bore then some squares then move to faces and finish the day with long range silhouette shots to the chest I want those pages in that order for that day.

Impact Data Books does offer their own version of a pre-made book that has removed the pages that many shooters don't commonly use and they have added more basic page types that will allow the shooter to get more out of their book. This pre-made book was designed primarily for stocking vendors, dealers and schools to be able to have a good basic book on hand that can quickly accommodate a shooter on the spot. Shooters can easily enhance these premade books to their needs by ordering refill or replacement pages that will allow this book to grow with the shooting.

The book

The first thing that I notice about the Impact Data Book is the durable Poly-carbonate three ring binder that is strong and durable and it will take the riggers of being used in the field or in a tactical environment. These binders have been scored to allow the book to lay down flat and avoid them from accidentally closing up on you when it's opened.

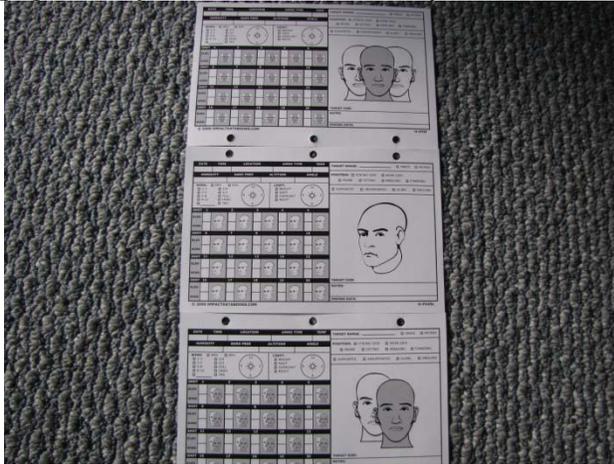
When you open up the book you will come across a set of outstanding index pages. The index pages in this book are a major improvement over what has been offered in the past. The pages are vivid and easy to read and they provide good examples with great graphics on how to use the included formulas. You will find everything you need to conduct angle fire shooting, common conversions, range estimation, and leads for moving targets, along with multiple quick reference tables, charts, and ballistic data for nine of the most common off the shelf cartridges.

The pages are laid out and organized to allow the shooter to quickly fill in their environmental data in an organized logical manner that flows naturally. This prevents skipping around and searching for boxes to plug information into. Within this layout are a numerous quick fill check boxes that allow the shooter to check the box for a preset value which helps speed things up instead of hand writing the information in place while allowing plenty of room to call and plot up to 20 shots per page. Each book contains 100 double sided pages giving you 200 pages from cover to cover.



The Impact Difference

The major differences that you will find between the Impact Data Book and the other books, is the fact that you have options. You have the ability to go online to their secure website and pick the pages that you want and need for your book. You can choose from over 250 different page types



ranging from everything from animals, drills, military and law enforcement specific targets too many of the commercially available targets that you can find in local retail stores.

When building a custom book with Impact Data Books you can pick eight sets of double sided pages. Each page set contains 10 pages. So when it is all said and done you have a 200 page data book that allows you 160 of the pages you hand selected. The other 40 pages consist of 20 pages of reference materials and the last 20 pages consisting of 4 range cards, 4 field

sketch, 6 notes and 6 barrel round count log style pages.

Not only has this book brought on a new standard in how data books should be made but they are offering a lot of well thought out and unique pages that have never been offered before. Remember those cheat sheets I talked about earlier the pages like we use to put in our flight crew checklist a complete line of call for fire pages ranging from naval gun fire thru the AC-130 gunship, land navigation, medavac and other military mission related type of pages. There are individual profile pages that allow you to collect all vital or pertinent information on individuals, cars, planes, trains and boats. Also available are data collection sheets for load development, chrono-graph sessions and subsets being made and offered for almost every shooting related sport.

Custom Designed Books

A feature that I find very worth while and none the less a great idea is the ability to contact Impact Data Books to have them build you either custom pages, or a complete custom book that will work for you in your day to day activities or school. With this option, if you have a specific drill that you use for training or a monthly qualification course you can forward that information into Impact Data Books and they will design a page to allow you to record your data on.

For schools or training academies they can take your course syllabus and make you a data book that will be setup to follow your day to day, drill to drill courses of fire.



This feature has never been offered before and is ideal for a school or training academy that wants to stop wasting time on the range dealing with multiple data books and students modifying their pages. Schools can now build a professional book with their logo or crest on the cover that matches what's being taught while giving your students a great reference manual for when they graduate.

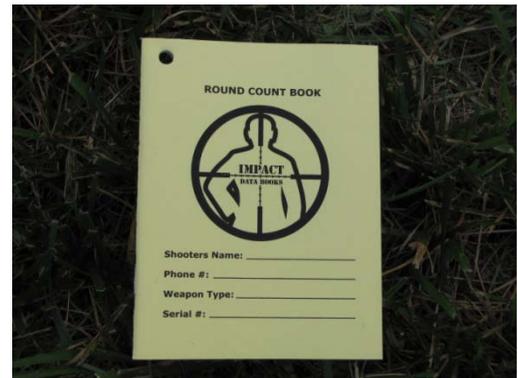
Impact Data Books has already created custom books for multiple law enforcement agencies and is currently working on books for a few federal agencies and shooting schools at this time.

Round Count Books

This is the only one I know of on the market. Yes my M40 always came with one but I never knew of any other company that offered them. These handy books are a must have item for keeping track of how many rounds have been fired down the barrel of your rifle. Within some agencies and through out the military there are often multiple shooters that share the same rifle. When this happens having a dedicated round count book for each rifle makes it easy to keep track and keep the rifle on a proper maintenance cycle to help assure that your rifle barrel doesn't burn out when you need it the most. These books can even be used to track the amount of rounds fired in pistols and suppressors.

Available Options:

Durable Poly-carbonate 3-ring binder offered in tan, OD, and black
Choice of paper in durable 80 weight or tan colored Rite N Rain style paper
Standard or Pocket size book



***Some of these options are currently not available as a stocked option, but can be made on request as custom orders for customers.**

Book Specifications:

Premade books consist of:

- 10 - Index Standard Pages
- 20 - Circle Pages
- 20 - Square Pages
- 15 - Silhouette Pages
- 10 - Blank Pages
- 5 - Cold Bore Pages
- 5 - Mover Pages
- 5 - Unknown Distance Pages
- 3 - Notes Pages



- 3 - Round Count Pages
- 2 - Range Card Pages
- 2 - Sketch Pages

Cost: \$32 + shipping

Custom made books consist of:

- 10 - Index Standard Pages
- 8 sets of 10 pages that you choose from the 250 available page types. (80 pages)
- 3 - Notes Pages
- 3 - Round Count Pages
- 2 - Range Card Pages
- 2 - Sketch Pages

Cost: \$42 + shipping



Round Count Books

Card stock cover and 10 pages to record barrel life.

Cost: \$4.99 + shipping

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