

Sporting Clay Traphouses

To house and protect the traps, there's need for traphouses to be constructed. Some companies supply plastic, ready-made units, but these tend to be more practical than pleasant to look at.

I prefer constructing my own according to the designs and plans below.

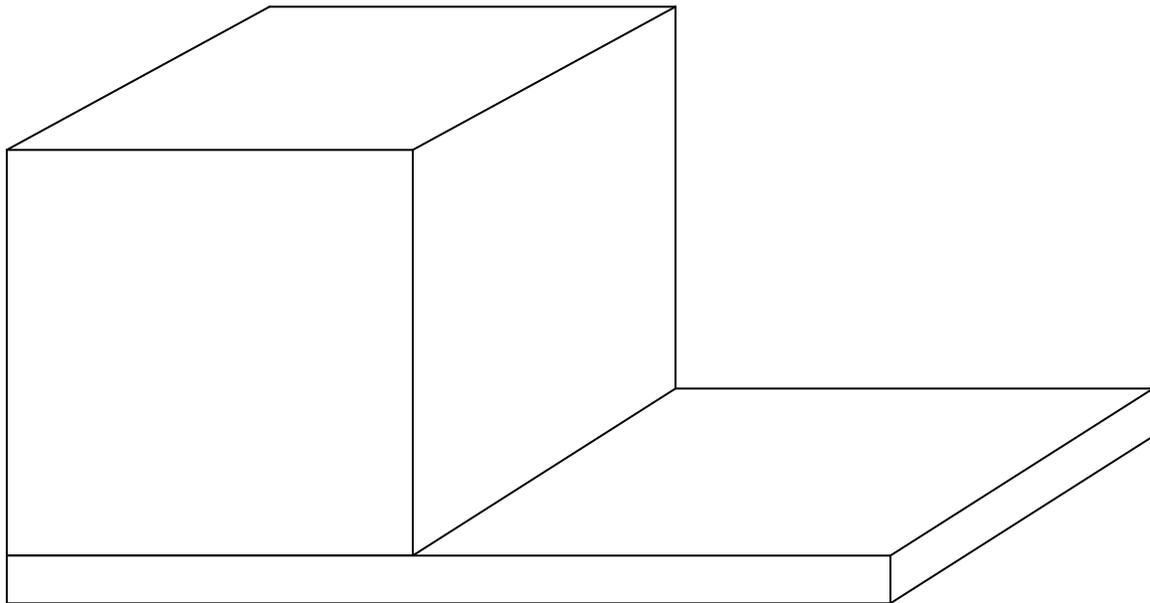
There are various traps used throwing targets at different angles – some straight out front, others looping, a teal target that is thrown vertical, a rabbit target launched across the ground. Each target requires a specific design.

There are various types of trap, Sporting – Rabbit – Teal – Wobble – Battue

The pictures below show the various types of trap



The trap-house is basically a box (or cube) mounted at one end of a 4' x 8' palette. The drawings below show a basic version.



The traps are mounted to a platform that slides in and out of the box on rails.

Basic units are used where the trap-house is not visible to the shooters and can obviously be hidden. Where the trap-houses are visible, there needs to be a more elaborate structure in keeping with the theme of the shooting range or environment.

Shown below are photographs of a basic unit



The trap can be slid in and out making it very easy to work on and for refilling with targets

The back door lifts up and folds on top of the box allowing the trap and its platform to be rolled out making it easy to refill or work on.

The picture to the left shows the front view of the trap-house showing the front "cut-out" for the target to be thrown



Over the years I've installed around 2000 units, getting better designs each time.

Note, in the photos above (right) and the one to the left, where we installed triangular fillets to prevent the box twisting when tilted to one side, or installed on uneven ground.

The above design allows trap to be repositioned and moved around the course. Variety is the essence of Sporting Clays.

However, having said that, there will be some locations where fixed traps are required. For example, throwing over a tree line from way out, or through a "window" cut in the foliage. For these situations, fixed houses can be built.

Samples of these are shown below.



Where the trap-houses are visible to the shooter, they should be constructed to be aesthetically pleasing to look at. The photos below show a classic trap-house, built to match the owners barn and buildings.



As the trap-houses have to be moved to provide a variation of target trajectories, they have to be constructed in such a way that they can easily be moved or transported.



Shown below is a traphouse tilted on its side to give a correct angle of flight.



Below is a Rabbit Traphouse



To the right, an incoming target



For the teal target, the traphouse has a hole cut in the roof. Also, as these targets tend to be directly in front of the shooter, the traphouse usually has some form of protection like a sand berm or pile of logs etc.

Note: Top trapdoor for target exit.

Earthen berm to protect traphouse.



Traphouse for the Teal target.

Not seen by shooters, so it can be a very basic design

Earthen berm piled in front to protect traphouse.



Similarly, the Rabbit target rolls across the ground in front of the shooter, so a similar traphouse, protected by a berm is usually constructed.

Shown below are samples of the traphouses built in Abu Dhabi. Designed to look like local historic towers of the area.



The lower photo shows the traphouses spread around the course waiting for the sand berms to be completed to hide as many as possible. The photo to the right shows other houses waiting for distribution (134 houses in total).



Shown right, are the drawings for construction of the basic traphouse. These were built for a similar trap, so the measurements may not be exact for the trap we have. In the final drawings these measurements will be corrected, and one of each type of trap will be supplied to the framing crew to ensure correct size and operation.

