

### Reviewed by Duane Thomas

Recently I did a review for *The Blue Press* of a DVD titled "3GM: Shooting Techniques of the Grand Masters." The "three GMs" of the title were three of USPSA/IPSC's top Grand Masters, Angus Hobdell, Max Michel and Saul Kirsch. That DVD was so well received that now we have a sequel titled "3GM2: More Shooting Techniques of the Grand Masters." As before, this DVD is available from Dillon Precision.

The response to "3GM" was excellent. Almost immediately, people began asking for a sequel. Fortunately, all three top shooters were agreeable to coming back for "3GM2," and, as before, they're each shooting a very different gun. Saul fires his electronic-red-dot-sighted .38 Super compgun, Max has his iron-sighted .40 Limited gun, and Angus runs a CZ SP-01 Production 9mm. What also hasn't changed is the quality of the instruction. While "3GM" dealt with basic gun handling skills like the draw, speedload, etc., "3GM2" deals with somewhat more advanced techniques. Its content is separated into six sections: Transitions (moving the gun between targets), Barricades, Prone/Kneel, Strong/Weak Hand, Moving (how to shoot while moving) and Swingers (how to engage swinging targets, NOT how to act like Austin Powers).

One great thing about both "3GM" and "3GM2" is that every time one of the instructors demonstrates a technique, we get it first at normal speed, then again in slo-mo – sometimes yet again in super-slo-mo – so the viewer can actually watch the technique in every detail to maximize the learning experience.

All three GMs agree on the importance, during target transitions, of maintaining the upper body "triangle," i.e. the position of the arms, gun and head, and letting actual changes in your body position (what actually moves the "triangle" from side-to-side) happen only in the lower body, the hips and even knees. This is one of those things that are easier to show (hello, DVD!) than to explain with the written word, but really works great in practice.

Shooting while moving is considered an advanced level skill. It's also a skill that, once mastered, greatly increases your capabilities both from a competition and tactical perspective. The interesting thing here is that when it comes to shooting while moving, while all three of our Grand Masters adhere to certain basic principles, they each have very different ideas on how to implement them.

Especially valuable to me was the section on shooting around barricades. Combining tips from both Max Michel and Saul Kirsch solved for me a problem I've had for years: how to maintain balance while shooting around a barricade on Stage 3, Strings 1 and 2 of the IDPA classifier. Especially on the inward-most targets (far left around the right side barricade, far right around the left), the way I was doing it was a total loser. I was canting the gun over to make it around the barricade

because I simply couldn't reach that far when keeping the gun straight up-and-down. Not only did this give me problems with point-of-impact/point-of-aim, which would have been bad enough, but having the gun that severely canted messed with my sight tracking, slowing my shot-to-shot speed immensely. Max and Saul explained how to make such large transitions around a barricade while not only maintaining balance, but also keeping the gun straight up-and-down for much improved sight tracking and recoil recovery. And Angus' barricade technique that he calls "foot hooking" is really slick.

There is stuff like this strewn throughout "3GM2." The existence of the shooting-related instructional video/DVD, is a fairly recent development; and, if you're serious about improving your skill level with a gun, a very, very good thing. Even for those of us whose pursuit of improvement has taken us to training schools – which are, in and of themselves, wonderful resources – there's a limit to the amount of information you can absorb during a class. There's so much to learn, so much knowledge the instructors impart, it's literally impossible to internalize it all. It's there and gone. A common piece of advice is to have a notebook and pen so you can take notes, because there's no way you'll remember everything otherwise. While that's great advice, it's an imperfect system because, unless you're fluent in shorthand, you can't write fast enough to keep up with the flow of things you should be remembering. At least I can't.

Also, take into account that many people learn best through mimicry. You go to a dance school, some students have to learn the steps laboriously, step by step, with huge amounts of repetition. Other students watch the instructor a few times and just...do it. From a firearms-school-training perspective, the problem is: once you're done with the class, the instructor is no longer there to watch execute the techniques.

There's no way you're going to learn everything that DVDs like "3GM" and "3GM2" have to offer the first time through, either. You will be watching these DVDs, learning new things every time, for years – if not decades – to come. And then you need to go out on the range to practice what you learned. However, it's worth noting that DVDs do come with a couple of features that shooting classes do not: (1) they're always there, not experienced once then gone forever, (2) a remote control unit containing a rewind/review button.

They're like a shooting school that offers you a free class, again and again, every time you want it, and you never have to pay again after the first-time buy-in. This is like having Angus Hobdell, Max Michel and Saul Kirsch all constantly available to ask, "Hey, could you teach me that again? Could I see that just a few more times?" knowing they will always say, "Sure. Why not?"

*For more information or to order, see Page 64.* 