



Mounted Shooting Arena Equipment Guide

The equipment needed for a Mounted Shooting Arena consists of 5 components and Balloons,

(1) Target Bases – 10 each, (2) Balloon Poles – 10 each, (3) Balloon Inflation-holder sticks - 10 each, (4) Barrels 2-3 each, (5) Balloon inflation air pump,

(1) Target Bases

Target Bases are generally either a round specifically-designed base with sub-pole (24" high) or a Road Cone. The "purpose designed" Bases do a better job of holding the balloon poles straight, especially in windy conditions. The cost of a set of bases is only about \$20 more than road cones and they look more professional, more durable and last a lot longer.

(2) **Balloon Poles** insert into the Base sub-pole or the cone and are utilized to hold the balloon holder stick at the desired 48" height.

(3) **Balloon Inflation and holder sticks** are available in two designs: Balloon Holders – used with low pressure air systems and Air & Holder sticks used with high-pressure systems (Described in the Air Systems description).

(4) **Barrels.** typically, 55-gallon drum, steel, plastic or fabric. Rigid Steel or Plastic are used for competition (plastic is preferred and safer) and **Collapsible fabric** are used mostly for practice (providing ease of portability & storage).

(5) **Balloon Inflation Systems.** Two types: Low Pressure system utilizes a compact low-pressure **balloon inflation pump** wherein the balloon is first inflated by the pump and then attached to a quick attach balloon holder (No knot required). The low-pressure system is compact & portable. / The high-pressure system utilizes a high-pressure air compressor and an air-holder stick and an air chuck. With the High-Pressure system, the balloon (uninflated) is first attached to the top of the air-holder stick and the air valve on the bottom of the stick is inserted into an **Air Chuck** to inflate the balloon (similar to airing a tire).

(6) A **timing system.** Utilized for competition or training or practice involving time results. Two general types of timer systems are utilized. For official competition events, a system such as **FarmTek** which is typically interfaced with a portable-computer for record keeping and where instantaneous results and standing is needed. This type system usually requires an operator independent of the rider. / For solo practice or less complex events the relatively inexpensive **Rangemaster** timer system is available. A solo rider can see the results on a Phone display, without having to dismount.

Balloons for Mounted Shooting

The **Balloons** utilized in Mounted Shooting are 9" or 11" diameter "Latex Helium Quality" Bio-degradable (a requirement for most arenas. (CMSA™ specifies 9" for events)). **Event balloons** are more expensive due to the cost of stocking and selection of the various colors choices. / **Practice balloons**, are less expensive and usually

do not offer color selections other than "Half Light color and Half Dark color" Balloons are generally purchased in quantities of 500 – 4,000.

Balloon Storage

For longest storage life, balloons will last the longest (Typically 1 year+) when stored in stable temperature 40 – 80 F and stable Humidity (lower than 50%) and out of sunlight. Storage conditions outside these parameters will result in shortened life.

Course Patterns

Mounted Shooting is typically done on prescribed courses. Official course pattern guides are available from the associations. A generic book, "**101 Mounted Shooting Courses**" is also available, which provides course layouts ranging from simple (Straight Line) to complex with dimensions and also how to design a course. When setting up a course always be mindful of safety for the audience, and horse and rider.

The items in Bold are available from Mounted Shooting Supplies.com. The products listings include descriptive information which will provide more detail.

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