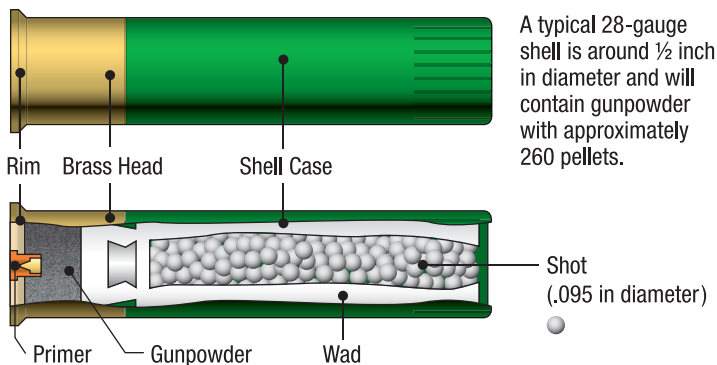


The shell game

When Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot Harry Whittington while on a quail hunt, he was using a 28-gauge Perazzi shotgun loaded with 7½ birdshot.



Barrel choking



It is possible to control the spread of a shot with a choke — a device inserted into the end of the barrel to taper the exit. Generally speaking, the more a barrel is constricted, the less the shot will spread over a measured distance. Variables such as shot size and type, weather, and stock barrel configurations will determine how a particular choke affects the shot pattern.

