

Identification of rifled slugs - (Tpr. David G. Townshend, Mich. State Police)

Although identification of shotgun slugs with the weapon involved, where possible, is basic, it is rarely mentioned in firearms identification literature. Of course, certain conditions are necessary to make such identifications. The slug must not be so badly damaged that little or no individual markings remain and the shotgun utilized must impart sufficient individual characteristics to the slug. In several cases, we have seen particularly good individual markings on damaged evidence rifled slugs where a sawed-off shotgun or one with a choke device was employed. It is felt that this is worth mention, since the last few years have seen a rise in the popularity of sawed-off shotguns in our area.

The photographs demonstrate (A) the typical damaged muzzle area of the home altered sawed-off double barrel shotgun, (B) & (C) photomicrographs of corresponding areas of two rifled slugs fired through the same barrel of the shotgun shown in (A).

