

And, if you stick with this game at all, you will see the need for the better coat, soon. If the extra money hurts, look for a used coat. They are out there but can be hard to find, to suit. This is a high depreciation item. By my experience, a good used coat can be yours for about one-hundred dollars, maybe a little more. If so, then you'll end up spending the same amount you would have for the "starter" gear.



Essentials, Eventually

Dang it. This had to end up being one of those segments where I end up feeling compelled to talk way too much about what I'm going to talk about, why and when. There's a lot to say on coats. Too much, in a way, to keep it as organized as I'd like. This is another one of those book segments that just has to be read through, and probably read again, or at least refreshed

Minor point, minor meaning

The terms "pad" and "padding" have been used as references to the cushion backing or the textured surface that covers it, or this sandwiched construction. I've been as careful as avoiding overt wordiness and clumsy terminology allows but context hopefully will preclude any confusions as to which specific "pad" I'm talking about. Usually it's the surface covering, not what's underneath it. When I remembered to be overtly clear, I call this a "textured surface covering," when I didn't I may have, ding dang it, called it a "pad."

The Custom Clause

Folks, as you might have known, guessed, or wished for, there are coats offered with custom sizing, which could be also called tailoring, which is not nearly the same as being offered free reign on specifications and materials. One coat just about does that, though, and it gets talked about elsewhere. A good deal, perhaps most, of what I have to say about coats in the vast majority of the following isn't taking custom coats into account. Here's the funny thing, though, and it's not ha-ha funny. Even a custom-fit coat may not be the best way to get the highest score. **It's knowing what you want in fit**, not just how many inches you be from armpit to hip, that might actually make a custom coat as worthwhile as it would promise to be. If that doesn't hit home, it will after you've worn enough coats, and enough different coats. A little more room here and a little less there and this strap here and that pad there and that pad there and less padding at this place and more at another, and that's becoming "your" coat. Middleton Tompkins, I know, used to specify a front and back of two different sizes when ordering a coat. That isn't something one does on a whim, but Hawkeye did it for Mid.

For the most of the rest of this, I'm going to focus on the coats we can order "off the rack" and talk about what's what with those. That's going to account for how the most of us will end up with a coat, and it just about always will be how a shooter gets hold of his first one or more.

here and there to get a handle on the whole. See, there's coat fit, and then there are coat materials, and pads, and particulars. Cutting it as cleanly as I can, there's the coat as a garment and the coat as a product. I think it's best to talk about coats as a garment first and fill in details, which (don't worry) are themselves lengthy dissertations, about shell and lining and padding materials, and hangers-on. Separating fit from features matters. And, no one should purchase any coat only because another someone is wearing it, and last names don't matter. Materials makeup do have an influence on fit and suitability, but let's get essence addressed before moving to eventually.

Speaking now of coats to purchase, and it's about time, I know, what you are looking for is an NRA-style "heavy" coat. The NRA part differentiates it from an ISSF-style coat (what we used to, and I sometimes still from habit do, call ISU, UIT, or "International"), and the heavy part refers to its multi-walled and normally well-padded construction. UIT and ISU all merged, more or less and by the way, into the International Shooting Sports Federation.

