



Extensive jewel polishing about the receiver was nicely finished to retain lubricants, while the solid locking system designed by Browning and employed with the Miroku guns continued, along with the traditional two-piece ejectors.

Miroku's masterful Mk 10 Sporter Deluxe

by John McDougall

The Miroku Corporation in Japan has made some of the best and most serviceable shotguns of modern times. The Australian Miroku distributor, Outdoor Sporting Agencies in Melbourne, was kind enough to allow me to review one of its Miroku Mk 10 Sporter Deluxe models - a gun that is sure to appeal to the most fastidious of Sporting Clays shooters.

The barrels

The hallmark of Miroku shotguns can be found with their deeply lustrous and highly polished blued barrels that are almost black in color. At 30" (760mm) long, the barrels were assembled without blemish and hard-chrome lined to prevent corrosion. Constructed with two barrel tubes, ventilated side ribs and a ventilated top rib that

'floats' (to allow for heat expansion), these were absolutely solid with no sign of solder residue whatsoever - this can appear with some cheaper guns

The ventilated side ribs did not travel the full length of the barrels, possibly to avoid additional weight, unlike that found with many European guns. This is not a concern as the side ribs finish behind the cover of the fore-end piece. If anything, the ribs finishing short make the removal of water a lot easier should the gun take a dunking if the owner decides to shoot waterfowl with it. Water displacement solutions can also be flowed down the ventilated ribs to remove any excess moisture resultant from prolonged or humid storage. It can, in fact, be seen as a benefit.

Jewel polishing about the monobloc was extensive. This is necessary for the

retaining of fine lubricants about high wear areas. I advise a Teflon-based lubricant in this instance as a grease-based application can attract grit and dust that will cause premature wear. Having said that, the ejectors were typical of the John Moses Browning-type that have been with Miroku guns since I have known them. Fortunately, they are now 'beefed-up' more than earlier models as these tended to crack, but the latest offerings should give many years of reliable service.

The receiver

The receiver was attractively covered in heavy hand-engraving and etching. Engraving bordered the game scenes with scrollwork as the central game scenes were etched into the steel sides and underside of the receiver. This combination of engraving

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An overall photo of the stunning Miroku Mk 10 Sporter Deluxe with its Turkish walnut and new engraving.

and etching was quite interesting, for if the gun was to be completely engraved by hand, it would be many thousands of dollars more in cost - the etching is an affordable alternative while providing an attractive finish. The duck and pheasant game scenes have slowly become part of the Australian hunting culture and were most appropriate on the two sides of the gun with a partridge featured on the underside, another game bird becoming popular in Australia for hunting on preserves.

Deep engraving around the top tang and release lever was completed faultlessly to the point that even the safety catch was engraved. This complemented the gun and justified the \$2755 increase in price over the basic model Mk 10 Sporter - given the better quality wood and the extensive hand-engraving in the Deluxe model. The top lever functioned smoothly and positively released the barrels so that the gun could be loaded and closed without too much effort and a firm 'clunk' sounded when

closed to let you know all was locked up. This is also typical of good English guns. The top lever was slightly to the right when the action was closed, allowing for wear over time for the bottom slide to wear into

the bottom bites of the monobloc.

As always with Miroku shotguns, the ergonomics are well thought out. The triggerguard was very generous and obviously designed with cold weather in mind so as



The engraving about the receiver was excellent despite being a composite of hand-engraved scrolled borders and etched engravings for the game scenes.



An adjustable triggerfoot in gilt plating is standard with the Mk 10 Deluxe model.



All metal-to-wood inletting was perfectly completed, the engraving looked fantastic and the teardrop on the stock signified this was a gun of some distinction - ideally suited to the Sporting Clays or field shooter. Note the generous triggerguard should gloves be worn.

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Design of the fore-end was full in shape and the generous chequering completed at around 18 lines per inch finished the gun well and provided a firm grip while shooting.

to accommodate leather gloves, should the shooting environment be so chilly as to require them. Meanwhile, the interchangeable triggerfeet were appreciated also for shooter comfort. There were three triggerfeet supplied with the gun to accommodate every shooter's needs and an Allen key for changing and adjustment - the feet could be slid along a rail to tweak length of pull from the pistol grip, depending on the size of the shooter's fingers.

The gilt plating on the trigger rail and triggerfeet was rather appealing. Trigger pulls were well adjusted and firm at around 3½lb each. The gun utilised an inertia trigger selection mechanism whereby the first barrel must be discharged before the second barrel can be fired. This is typical of clay target shooting guns although I prefer a mechanical system as found in many field guns these days.

The stock and fore-end

To complement the engraving around the receiver and top tang coupled with the teardrop on the stock forward of the pistol grip, the importer has utilised quality grade three Turkish walnut, which has given the gun a great appearance. The grain structure was superb and the character in the wood was also very presentable, even for the

most meticulous of purchasers. Coloring of the stock and fore-end matched and chequering was completed by computerised laser at around 18 lines per inch, which was extremely generous and well finished, providing for an excellent grip. The oiled finish was great for sealing the wood and its coloring was perfect on the darker Turkish wood.

The test gun was fitted with a non-adjustable stock. The drop at comb was measured at 35mm and the drop at heel was 50mm, while the length of pull, measured from the triggerfoot parallel to the barrels, was 368mm. There was a right-handed palm-swell built into the stock of the gun. The fore-end iron was deeply engraved with attractive scrollwork and its fitting into the fore-end was just the thing. In fact, all inletting about the Mk 10 Deluxe was completed without fault and the gun looked great with its Schnabel fore-end.

While the gun mounted smoothly to my shoulder and I shot great scores with it, I cannot help but comment on the need for an adjustable comb on more recent Sporting Clays guns. The adjustable comb is ideal for aligning your eye up with the barrel sights and, let's face it, we come in all shapes and sizes. So while the Miroku fitted me well, I felt sorry for the shooter who is

tall and thin in their face, or someone who may happen to be shorter and rounder with a fuller face. So I hope distributors are hearing the call for adjustable combs instead of a one size fits all. However, one of the delights of using this shotgun was the nicely formed and fitted recoil pad. This ensured a good, positive mount for both overhead and crossing targets.

In the field

I found the Miroku Mk 10 Deluxe excellent on targets shot at the local Sporting Clays layout. The gun delivered outstanding balance for its weight without being typically barrel-heavy, which enabled me to swing well with it. While firing brisk 1330fps Sporting Clays loads in 28g of shot, the gun was beautiful to use with virtually no recoil. The patterns from the C300 thin-walled Briley choke tubes were devastating and turned targets into powder most of the time. I was impressed. I occasionally like to double up on targets with a second barrel while practising but when using No. 9 size shot Bascheri & Pellagri loads through the



The grade three Turkish walnut used by Miroku in the stock and fore-end of the Mk 10 Sporter Deluxe was exceptional with great color and grain structure.



It was great to see a high-quality recoil pad fitted for shooter comfort and positive gun mounting.

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Miroku, I had no chance of doubling targets as they were destroyed.

Four C300 thin-walled Briley choke tubes were supplied, measuring quarter (0.730"), half (0.720"), three-quarter (0.715") and full choke (0.705"). There were no notches on the end of the chokes to determine constriction or identification, but designated sizes were marked on the sides of the choke tubes.

Summary

I found the Miroku Mk 10 Sporter Deluxe every bit the gun compared to others that cost twice its price. Its balance and chokes were great and, as I suggested,

the inclusion of an adjustable comb would just finish the gun off perfectly. Yes, Briley chokes are now finding their way into the world's best gunmakers' shotguns and there is little doubt in my mind the reason why - they destroy targets. So, top marks for the Miroku shotgun on review as I do not think there is presently better value for money on the market for a quality shotgun that will last and provide reliable service for many years to come.

The Miroku Mk 10 Sporter Deluxe retails for around \$5750 and is distributed by Outdoor Sporting Agencies. For more information, ask your local gunshop or visit osaaustralia.com.au ●



Engraving about the top of the receiver and around the top lever was well completed in scrolling.



Miroku wisely makes use of the Briley C300 series of thin-walled choke tubes and also provides the Briley 'speed wrench' with the Mk 10 Deluxe.

Specifications

Manufacturer: Miroku Gun Company, Japan

Model: Mk 10 Sporter Deluxe

Action: Boxlock, underpinned gun jointing system, single trigger and selective ejectors

Calibre: 12-gauge, 76mm chambered and steel shot compatible, bore diameter 0.738"

Barrel Length: 760mm (30")

Barrel Weight: 1.56kg (3lb 7oz)

Overall Weight: 3.71kg (8lb 2oz)

Overall Length: 1200mm (47¼")

Chokes: Four C300 thin-walled Briley choke tubes measuring quarter, half, three-quarter and full

Stock: Non-adjustable stock and fore-end were of grade three Turkish walnut wood treated with semi-matte oiled finish. Chequering was around 18 lines per inch. Drop at comb 35mm, drop at heel 50mm, length of pull 368mm

Distributor: Outdoor Sporting Agencies, Melbourne

Warranty: Five years on mechanicals, six months on woodwork

RRP: \$5750 in padded and lockable ABS case



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