

Miroku's Mk 10 HRT

by Paul Miller

The BC Miroku Manufacturing Company, of Nankoku in the Kochi Prefecture of Japan, has been producing firearms since the late 1800s. We previously reviewed the Mk 70 Special Sport shotgun designed specifically for Australia by Outdoor Sporting Agencies (see the December 2015 *Australian Shooter*). This gun was meant to be an economical all-rounder for clay target and field use and it filled this role well.

The gun that we are looking at in this review, the Mk 10 HRT (High Rib Trap), is another special run for Australia but intended to be a serious Trap shooting machine.

The stock and fore-end

Rod Laidlaw, the technical guru from OSA, has come up with some interesting specifications for this limited edition Trap model that are unique to Australia with only 100 available. The design team has moved away from the typical Miroku game scene engraving and opted for a nickel silver action with stylish modern laser etched inlays depicting moving clay targets.

The gun tested has 30" barrels and a substantial almost parallel combed Trap stock with a 32mm drop at comb, 35mm drop at heel and a 370mm (14.5") length of pull. The stock is cast for right-handers. It has almost no down pitch, with a measurement of about 25mm (1") down. This, in combination with the high stock dimensions, ensures that the gun throws its patterns high and is therefore perfect for a gun designed specifically for shooting the rising departing targets that we see in all the Trap disciplines.

To know exactly how high this gun shoots for you requires a session patterning.



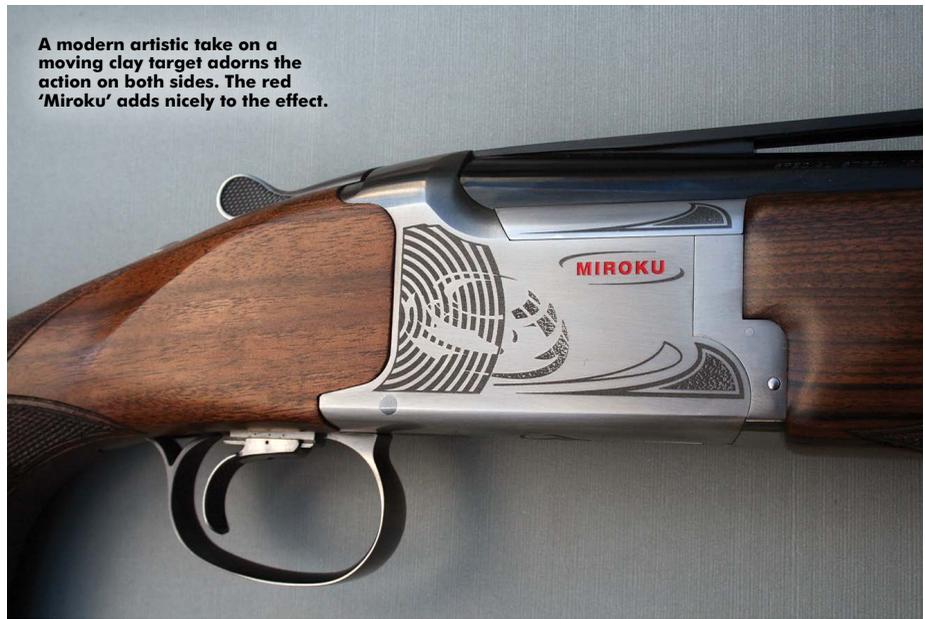
The stock dimensions and high rib encourage a comfortable position for shooting Trap.

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Anyone serious about their shotgunning will pattern this gun at 16 yards for fit and 40 yards as a good compromise to see its effective patterns or at the Trap target distances where you expect to shoot your targets.

The substantial and nicely figured walnut stock has an unusual recoil pad that looks much like it has been made for Miroku by Pachmayr and more like a recoil-absorbing rifle pad with a basket weave pattern on the back face where it contacts your shoulder. It was comfortable to use and it provided a reasonable amount of recoil absorption as you would normally expect such a quality pad to do. I did not find recoil to be an issue anyway but was intrigued as to the reason for putting what looks like a nice rifle pad on a competition shotgun. The more I used it, the more I liked it for its shape and precision mounting in the shoulder pocket it afforded, with the basket weave holding the gun snugly in the shoulder with no risk of pad movement between shots. Perhaps that's the answer! For anyone taller than average who wants a longer length of pull, you could simply replace the current pad with a thicker pad of your choice.

The stock has a full pistol grip with a slight palm swell for all you clever right-handers and is deeply curved, promoting a nice hand-to-trigger relationship. The fore-end was of the classic beavertail shape and comfortable in the hand, encouraging a feeling of precision when moving the gun to the target. The chequering employed on this Miroku has a modernistic American



A modern artistic take on a moving clay target adorns the action on both sides. The red 'Miroku' adds nicely to the effect.

fleur-de-lis look about it and provided a good grip.

The barrels

The barrels measure 30" in length and have 2¾" chambers, with a fixed untapered 12mm-wide top rib that looks exactly like the high rib on the Model 6000 from many years ago - something of a blast from the past and well worth reintroducing because it allows a nice upright head position and gives a better view of the targets as they leave the Trap. At its highest point it is 10mm and is supported by five forward sloping posts. On top of the rib there is a small white mid bead and thin fluorescent orange Hi-Viz tube bead on the front. These two different beads worked well in combination and provided a good reference point when mounting the gun before calling for the target. There is a kit of Hi-Viz LitePipes included in other widths and colors and a tiny tool to facilitate changing them.

The rib between the barrels is ventilated to help with cooling both barrels.

The barrels are over-bored at 18.6mm and the forcing cones extended. This certainly contributed to the comfortable shooting experience and is a feature shared with many more expensive guns. The barrels were superbly blued and this added to the feeling of quality with the attractive mid-height rib giving a rather futuristic look to the gun.

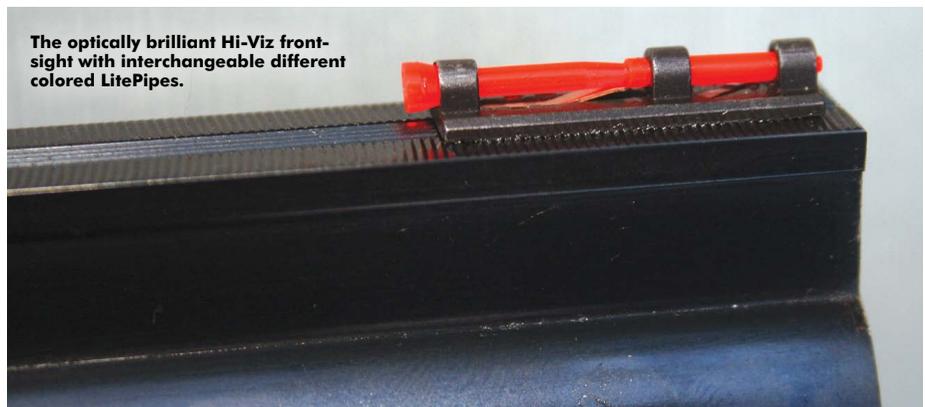
This Miroku comes with four C300 Thin Wall chokes manufactured by Briley USA. These are improved cylinder (quarter), modified (half), improved modified (three-quarter) and full choke. The half and three-quarter chokes were effective on the 15m Down the Line (DTL) targets with 28g No. 8 and 7.5 shot loads, while the three-quarter and full chokes demolished the longer handicap distance Trap targets with the 28g harder 7.5 shot.

The action

The action is typically Miroku, like the original gun invented by the legendary John Moses Browning in 1925. As with



The flush fitting Briley C300 Thin Wall choke tubes.



The optically brilliant Hi-Viz front-sight with interchangeable different colored LitePipes.

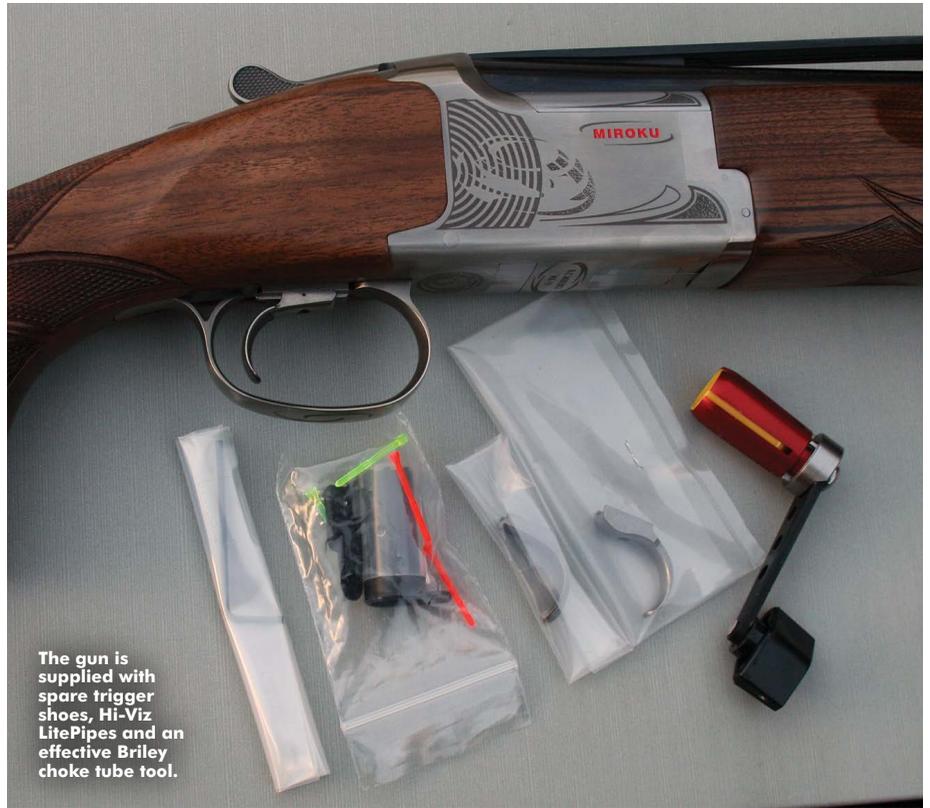
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other Miroku shotguns we have looked at recently, a full-width hinge pin provides a large surface area for smooth opening and closing and lock-up is achieved with a full-width flat bolt that fits perfectly into a bite beneath the bottom chamber. This secure system gives the gun a deeper profile than some other guns on the market but it is immensely strong and still looks like classical quality. The opening lever worked smoothly as did the trigger selector incorporated in the safety.

The trigger is adjustable for 'length of finger' and is comfortable to use. Two other width trigger shoes are provided with the gun. With the trigger set at its mid-point it gave a true stock length of pull measurement of 370mm (14.5"). Trigger pulls were crisp at around 4lb and are inertia operated, which means they rely on the recoil of the first shot to set the second trigger. The metal-to-metal and metal-to-wood fit was excellent and the gun closed cleanly with that reassuringly solid and precise sound that is a hallmark of Miroku shotguns.

Shooting impressions

While this gun was rather right-handed, I still enjoyed shooting it very much. My



The gun is supplied with spare trigger shoes, Hi-Viz LitePipes and an effective Briley choke tube tool.



The classic Miroku over-and-under action with excellent automatic ejectors and secure lock-up.

right-handed mates really loved it because its dimensions were a good average fit for them. The HRT was quick to the target but smooth to shoot. Longer barrels may have made it even smoother for DTL shooting but this gun is designed to be an all-rounder and competent shots will enjoy it for all the Trap disciplines because of its clever design and balance.

When I weighed the HRT, I found it was a lot heavier at 3.9kg (8lb 10oz) than I thought it was. This is often the case with really well balanced shotguns and this Miroku was surprisingly light in the hands, which explained its speed when chasing and catching the targets. I believe it will also be available in a left-hand stocked version, which will put smiles on serious left-handed Trap shooters' dials.

Recoil was not an issue because of the modern technology employed and the clever stock design in combination with the reasonably substantial weight just mentioned. The Briley C300 Thin Wall chokes in combination with high-quality Eley Trap shotshells absolutely pulverised any targets that were centred in the pattern. This was confidence building indeed.

With the trend to high and very high rib guns for many of the clay target disciplines, the HRT actually felt like a medium-height gun and was more than ample for gaining

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the benefits of the higher rib concept. With the gun mounted and preparing to call for the target, you can definitely see more around the barrels shooting with two eyes open and pick up the targets as they leave the trap house more quickly than a Trap gun with a conventional rib. Many people still prefer the flat rib, but the high rib concept seems here to stay especially in the Olympic disciplines where competitors look for every conceivable advantage.

For anyone looking for a higher rib Trap gun at a competitive price with the world-wide reputation for quality and longevity that Miroku deserves, the Mk 10 HRT deserves a serious look. I was surprised that this gun does not automatically come with some sort of protective gun case as seems the norm nowadays with guns in this

price range. On questioning OSA representative Greg Coleman, he said for \$100 extra a decent case can be provided. Now that sounds more like it!

Those who decide to take the plunge will probably find this well-designed and limited edition Trap gun will help them gain that extra target or two that can make the difference between winning and coming runner-up. It is also interesting to note that it is nearly 60 years since the first Miroku shotguns were imported into Australia. I guess all that's left to say is "Ah Miroku, you've done it again!"

Miroku shotguns are distributed in Australia by Outdoor Sporting Agencies in Melbourne. For more information, ask at your local gunshop or visit www.osaaustralia.com.au ●

Specifications

Manufacturer: BC Miroku, Japan
Model: Mk 10 HRT (High Rib Trap)
Gauge: 12-gauge, 3" chambers
Action: Boxlock inertia cocking
Trigger: Single selective, tang safety
Barrel Length: 30" with 2¾" chambers
Rib: Medium high rib supported on five posts
Chokes: Four Briley Thin Wall chokes quarter, half, three-quarter, full
Stock and Fore-end: Walnut with satin finish, full pistol grip and classic Trap beavertail fore-end, 32mm at comb, 35mm at heel, cast and palmswell for right-handers
Weight: 3.9kg (8lb 10oz)
Accessories: Choke wrench, instruction manual, spare different width trigger shoes with Allen key and various Hi-Viz colored front-sight inserts
Distributor: Outdoor Sporting Agencies
RRP: \$3995



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