

Miroku's Mk 10 Sporter

by John McDougall



Time for testing
with plenty of
targets smashed.

So far as shotguns go there are few that can compare to the value for money offered by the Miroku Corporation operating from Japan. The designs of its guns are borrowed from the legendary engineering diagrams of John Moses Browning and coupled with the pride of Japanese manufacture for more than 40 years the guns have been peerless for reliability and service. This is demonstrated by one of the largest gunmakers in the world also sharing in the manufacture of its guns in this factory. What an amazing testimony to the commitment made by the Japanese at Miroku.

Typical of Miroku shotguns is the quality

of the metalwork and the deep lustrous blueing on the barrels. The woodwork is also wonderfully finished and with input from the Australian distributor, Outdoor Sporting Agencies based in Melbourne, the stock dimensions and options for engraving about the receiver are being expanded and related to Australian demands. At first glance, these guns are certainly impressive and the Miroku Mk 10 Sporter under review is no less impressive.

The barrels

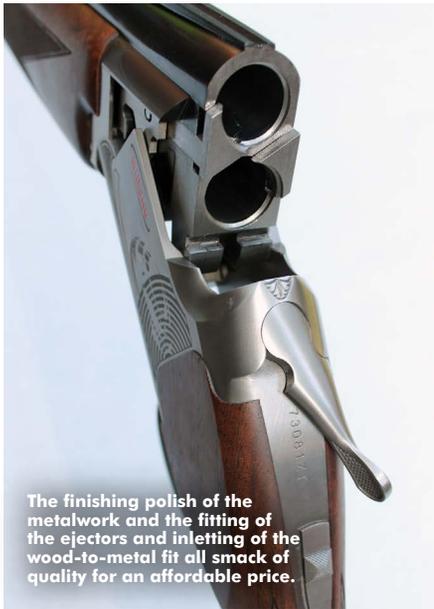
The barrels of the Mk 10 Sporter were finished to perfection in a deep lustrous blue which verged on black in color. The

Japanese tend to highly polish their barrel surfaces whereas the Europeans have a matte finish on their barrels with the utilisation of 1200-grit emery. The European blueing also leans to be a 'blue' in color rather than verging on the virtual black found on all Miroku shotguns. The one thing that I can say about the blued finish on Miroku shotguns is that they are resilient to rust, although I wouldn't encourage an owner to put one away dripping wet - a wipe dry with a water displacement spray soaked rag before applying a thin coating of quality gun oil is always recommended.

The top rib was assembled in a floating manner and not silver soldered to the posts.



The Miroku Mk 10 Sporter provides excellent value with its selection of choke tubes and interchangeable trigger feet.



The finishing polish of the metalwork and the fitting of the ejectors and inletting of the wood-to-metal fit all smack of quality for an affordable price.



Chequering on the pistol was around 20 lines per inch and the rake of the pistol grip afforded excellent handling and control of the gun.

This allows for expansion and contraction during extended periods of shooting. The top posts were nicely aligned with the ventilated side ribs. I was impressed. The ventilated side ribs fell short of the full length of the barrels and were concealed behind the fore-end. This was convenient to maintain barrel weight and additionally to facilitate cleaning.

At the muzzle end, the Mk 10 Sporter was fitted with the latest Briley C300 thin-walled choke tubes. These were exceptional during field testing (more on that later) and finished just beneath the muzzle end. Due to their thinness they were not notched on the end to make choke identification immediately known. Instead their constriction was written on the side, which meant that you needed to have a look at the chokes before you fitted them, for once in place you would need a bore gauge to determine the constriction.

There were four chokes in all, measuring cylinder 0.730", modified 0.720", improved modified 0.715" and full 0.705", and a Briley Speed Wrench was supplied for quick installation and removal. The leaning towards Briley chokes is a great indication to the confidence that Miroku has by using the Briley choke tube system for Jess Briley has now become a world phenomenon when it comes to choke tube technology. The Briley choke tubes proved superior to factory offerings then and it is interesting to note that Miroku now uses the Briley system exclusively.

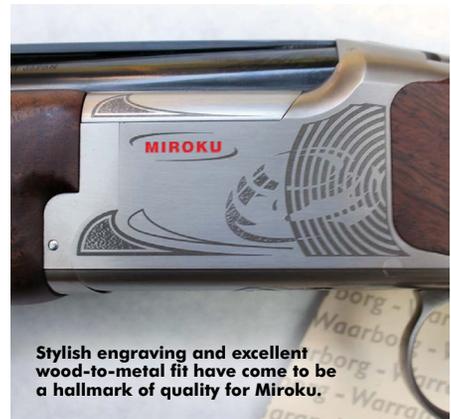
At the muzzle end we also find the front-sight, which is a single white barrel sight with a white mid-sight half down the rib to avoid gun canting. The photos show a

green translucent optic fibre, which was on a sample gun from Miroku.

Moving on to the chamber end of the gun, the typical Browning two-piece ejectors are in place. These are from a design more than 100 years old and still going strong. I am glad to see that over the years they have been strengthened because during earlier periods of development the ejector coupling circle would crack. This has been made much smaller nowadays and significantly strengthened to avoid such a situation. Unlike the Mk 10 Sporter Deluxe model, there was an absence of Jewel polishing about the monobloc and sides on the standard Sporter shotgun. This was obviously a cost-cutting exercise and one to discern the difference between the two models.

Everything else about the monobloc looked typical of Miroku; a good strong bite, nice and firm to close the gun and a pleasant sounding 'clunk' as the monobloc closed into the receiver, leaving the top lever to the right to allow for wear of the bottom slide into the bottom bite of the monobloc. When closing a Miroku, or any good-quality gun for that matter, there is always a distinguished 'clunk' as the locking mechanism is activated smoothly and closed.

Color, grain and chequering about the fore-end matched the stock ideally. Chequering was quite generous and afforded a good, firm grip. Inletting of the fore-end iron was perfect.



Stylish engraving and excellent wood-to-metal fit have come to be a hallmark of quality for Miroku.

The receiver

Engraving about the receiver was new and very smart for a Sporting Clays shotgun. It looked as if the clay target on the sides of the receiver was completed using 'spark erosion' technology driven by a computer, while the enamelled Miroku writing in the left-hand corner was quite distinct. It was smart overall and although rather basic for the base model Mk 10 Miroku, it was sufficient to complement the gun. For a gun costing less than \$3000, this represents excellent value.

Operating the top lever was so easy.

Miroku's Mk 10 Sporter

Everything about the Miroku was designed to perfection. There were no rough spots on the top lever release and the barrels could be gently lowered with little effort. The barrel selector cum safety catch was located on the top tang and all worked smoothly and directly with a minimum of effort but sufficiently so as not to be accidentally dislodged from its position while shooting.

Design of the triggerguard was generous and easily accommodated a shooter's finger should the weather be sufficiently cold as to require the wearing of thin leather shooting/golf gloves. The triggerfoot was adjustable and interchangeable while the triggers themselves were well adjusted to around 4lb each. There are three triggerfeet supplied with the gun; these are not gilt but complemented the gun. An Allen key was supplied for adjustment along the slide and also replacement should an alternative triggerfoot be preferred. All accessories were supplied and each was neatly packaged into a cardboard box that came with the custom Negrini gun case.

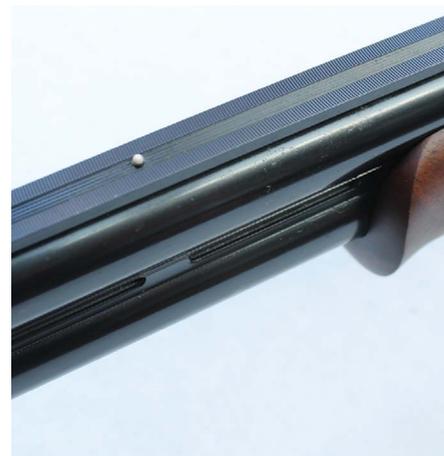
The stock and fore-end

Made from American rather than Turkish walnut, as compared with the Mk 10 Sporter Deluxe model, the wood was of



Briley C300 thin-walled choke tubes coupled with the Briley speed wrench make a great combination to complete the target smashing power of this gun. The model available in Australia will have a solid white bead front-sight at the muzzle.

a reasonable quality. The grain was well travelled in the direction of recoil, soundly structured and the oiled finish was appreciated. The English-style recoil pad was also a bonus and suited the gun, providing for a firm and positive mount. Recoil shooting brisk 28 and 24g loads is not a problem with such a heavy gun, weighing in at



A convenient mid-bead is fitted to aid shooters in identifying whether they are canting their gun or not. This is essential for practising gun mount to ensure the firearm is placed in the same position when mounted.

Specifications

Manufacturer: Miroku Gun Company, Japan.

Model: Mk 10 Sporter (standard)

Action: Boxlock, underpinned gun jointing system, single trigger and selective ejectors, three trigger feet provided, inertia trigger selected system

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

Barrel Length: 760mm (30")

Overall Length: 1200mm (47¼")

Barrel Weight: 1.56kg (3lb 7oz)

Overall Weight: 3.71kg (8lb 2oz)

Chokes: Interchangeable choke tubes improved cylinder, modified, improved modified, full

Stock: Stock and fore-end of American walnut wood, treated with semi-matte oiled finish that highlighted character and sealed the woodwork well, chequering completed by computerised laser at 20 lines per inch, fitted with non-adjustable stock. Drop at comb 36mm (1 3/8"), drop at heel 50mm (2"), length of pull measured from the triggerfoot parallel to the barrels to the end of the stock 368mm (14¾")

Distributor: Outdoor Sporting Agencies

Warranty: Five years on mechanicals, six months on woodwork

RRP: \$2995 with all accessories and packed into Negrini lockable case



Provision of three interchangeable trigger feet for shooter preference was welcomed.

3.66kg (8lb 3oz).

The pistol grip was nicely raked for good gun control and the chequering, completed at around 20 lines per inch, was extensive and matched the fore-end. A slight palm-swell for a right-handed shooter was built into the stock's pistol grip.

The Schnabel shaped fore-end was full fashioned for a firm, positive grip. Inletting of the fore-end iron was perfect and the catch snapped into position as the fore-end was fitted. Adjustment was ideal and there was no looseness obvious. Chequering matched the stock pistol grip impeccably, at around 20 lines per inch. The Mk 10 Sporter was certainly expertly put together and it looked quite smart.

In the field

Taking the new Mk 10 Sporter out into the field was a most enjoyable experience. The balance of the 8lb-plus gun was great, the gun swung well and the triggers were excellent for Sporting Clays shooting. I would suggest the gun is a fine advanced/beginners to established shooter's gun. I believe it could be improved with an adjustable comb piece as these seem to be the order of the day. I am usually fairly lucky to have a good fit with most guns that I pick up to shoot but occasionally I

land one that won't do it for me.

The shotgun was perfect. Going-away targets were smashed, which meant that my gun mount and stock height were right and crossing targets were destroyed, as the weight of the gun swung through targets with constant lead and smashed them to pieces. The Briley C300 thin-walled choke tubes certainly went about their business when the gun was pointed in the right direction.

Recoil from the heavier than usual gun was also minimal using brisk sporting loads of 1300fps and faster. I had an assortment of Clever and Baschieri & Pellagri loads that performed beyond expectation. The No. 9 size shot B&P loads certainly turned targets into dust.

Summary

For a gun around the \$3000 mark with all accessories and a fitted case, I would not hesitate to recommend the Miroku Mk 10 Sporter to someone in the market for a reliable and serviceable shotgun that will last for many years, even generations. I purchased an old Stirling/Miroku many years ago second-hand for my son to learn how to shoot and I never regretted it. In fact, I got my money back when I sold it several years later.



The Miroku logo is tastefully but discreetly evident.

Also an older high rib 3800W Miroku served me splendidly for several years and to this day I regret having sold it for I could shoot anything - Trap, Field and Sporting - without a problem. It, too, was purchased second-hand and delivered reliability and serviceability. The new ones are even better.

For more information about Miroku firearms, ask your local gun dealer or visit www.osaaustralia.com.au

ULTIMATE PRECISION

- T3 Action, MSP-Ti Titanium tubular fore-end
- Hardy match grade carbon wrapped 24" barrel
- ~ 3600g w/ GCPD adjustable butt stock
- ~ 3370g w/ Magpul CTR butt stock

MSP RIFLE SYSTEM

- Complete rifles, built to your requirements, or chassis only.
- Lightweight, fully modular, high precision platforms.
- Advanced ergonomics and recoil mitigation in all calibres.
- Optimised for Tikka T3 (all calibres) and M700 Long Actions.
- Complete turn-key packages including Nightforce optics and Hardy match grade barrels.
- Australian made & Australian owned.

gcpdarms.com [email: info@gcpdarms.com](mailto:info@gcpdarms.com)