

# AAA KOLAR'S COMPETITION SPORTER

STEVE FISCHER AND FRIENDS PUT IT THROUGH ITS PACES



The shape and size of the box delivered to my office was a giveaway. The only shotgun I was expecting would have a Racine, Wisconsin, return address. Sure enough, inside was a brand spanking new Kolar AAA competition shotgun – complete with 32 inch barrels, assorted screw chokes and accessories, all nicely protected in an aluminum airline approved hard case. Kolar had thoughtfully included a left-handed stock so I (and other lefties) could shoot it comfortably with the barrel better aligned for us port side shooters.

In most cases, first impressions are usually right on and lasting – my first impression of this ground up designed sporter was how nicely it felt between the hands.

Weighing in at 8 1/2 pounds, it balanced right on the hinge pin. With the lighter weight .750 inch inside diameter 'big bore' barrels, a few practice swings gave a very smooth yet agile feel. It came to my shoulder with ease and the rib was right where it was supposed to be with the lefty stock fitted.

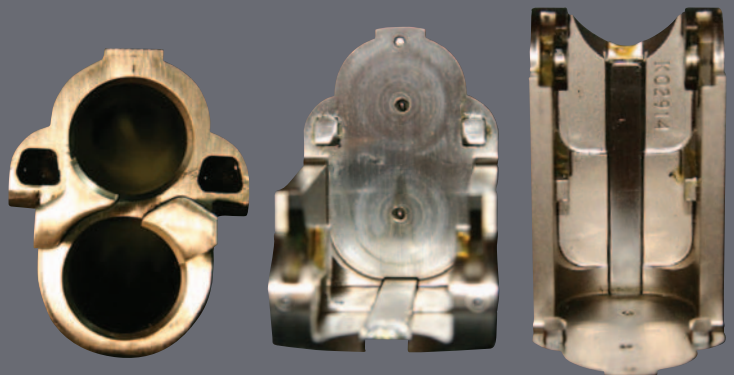
## TECHNICAL SPECS

The gunsmith part of me couldn't resist a thorough examination before a range trip – and a closer look revealed a slim but very substantial Boss style action, precisely fitted to a gorgeous walnut stock and forend. Wood to metal fit was spot on. The

checkering was a tasteful 22 lines per inch and well executed without any glaring over-runs to distract from the overall beauty of the wood. Kolar offers multiple stock dimensions and several grades of wood to fit individual needs, taste, and of course, pocket books. They also offer a custom fitting service which is available at the factory.

It was quite evident that the receiver's wide yet low profile not only enhanced the eye appeal of the gun but provided superior

LOCK UP IS MORE THAN JUST SOLID WHEN THE TWO PINS FROM THE RECEIVER SLIP INTO THE MATED RECESSES IN THE BARREL'S MONOBLOCK. NOTE STRONG SIDE WALLS OF THE LOW PROFILE RECEIVER.





strength for the multi thousands of rounds a true competition gun would be expected to digest. The barrels pivoted smoothly on a pair of replaceable trunions, one on each side of the receiver. Lock up was completed with two massive trapezoidal shaped pins that entered into like shaped recesses in the monoblock to each side and between the top and bottom barrels, fastening them securely

dollar bill, functioning in a mechanical instead of inertia type system so that sub-gauge tubes would function in the gun without modification. Ever more popular, sub-gauge sporting clays events are often filled to near capacity at major tournaments. Kolar's AAA Max sub-gauge tube sets are also available for the sporting clays shooter – complete with screw chokes, and can be fitted to the

MAX SUB-GAUGE TUBE SETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE SPORTING CLAYS SHOOTER – COMPLETE WITH SCREW CHOKES, AND CAN BE FITTED TO THE EXISTING BARRELS OR IN A SPECIAL LIGHTER WEIGHT CARRIER BARREL IF SO DESIRED.



when the action was closed. The barrels were reminiscent of the early Remington model 32, or the present day Krieghoff, as they were sans side ribs. They were joined at the monobloc with hangers at the center and muzzle end for point of impact adjustment. The ventilated rib on this 32 inch barrel was a ramped taper style, although a flat tapered style rib is available by special order. Available barrel lengths run from 28 to 34" in two inch increments with the forcing cones lengthened extra long, as standard on this and other Kolar models.

existing barrels or in a special lighter weight carrier barrel if so desired. The trigger blade is adjustable for length of pull and can be easily moved forward or back. The trigger assembly is also removable and is held in place securely by an allen screw – but is easily removed for inspection and cleaning. No thumb breaking lever to push on while trying to remove the unit from the receiver! The safety is located on top of the rear tang of the receiver and is manual in operation. It also has a lock-out feature for competition shooters. Barrel selection is a breeze with the selector located just behind the trigger. A push right to left selects

the bottom barrel first, and a left to right push gives you the top barrel first. Very convenient. Two inch long forcing cones coupled with the big .750 bore diameter ensures lighter felt recoil and excellent pattern performance. Overall, this was a fine gun – but as they say, “the proof is in the pudding” – and it was time to put this thoroughbred through her paces at the range.

**ON TEST**

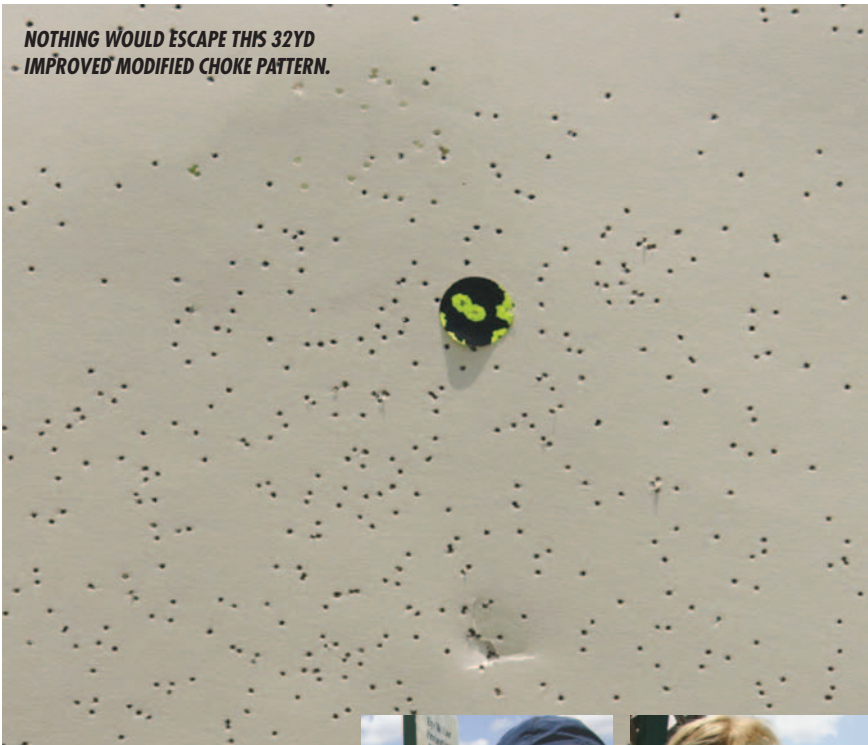
My first stop, as always when evaluating a shotgun, is to the pattern plate – it's nice to make sure the barrels are printing where they're supposed to. As expected, both barrels were spot on and when carefully aimed and squeezed off, the shot charge was dead center for each. Using 1 1/8 oz loads of #8 shot at a velocity of

The trigger pull was another exceptional aspect of this gun. At slightly over 4 pounds, it was light and crisp as a new



**LEFT: COMPLETE TRIGGER ASSEMBLY IS EASILY REMOVED. COILED SPRINGS POWER THE HAMMERS. NOTE THE BARREL SELECTOR TAB JUST BEHIND THE TRIGGER. ABOVE: ALUMINIUM AIRLINE APPROVED HARD CASE.**

**NOTHING WOULD ESCAPE THIS 32YD IMPROVED MODIFIED CHOKE PATTERN.**



**I WANTED OTHER SHOOTERS TO GIVE ME THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THIS NEW KOLAR. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE A SQUAD OF SHOOTERS SHOWED UP. WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOOT A FEW TARGETS USING A NEAT NEW GUN, I SOON HAD A LINE OF READY AND WILLING TEST SUBJECTS.**

that there would be no shortage of eager volunteers wanting to put themselves behind the stock and have a go!

After I finished a trip around the Blue course at Quail Creek, my impression of this gun was, to say the least, very high. It handled smoothly, and because of the excellent between the hands feel, didn't need to be pushed or manhandled to make it move through the target. I especially liked it on the longer shots as the tapered rib seemed to guide the eye very precisely to the line of flight of the target. As long as I did my part correctly, the target had no chance.

I wanted other shooters to give me their impressions of the

1300 feet per second, my second observation was the lack of sharp recoil. It was quite manageable and did not exceed my comfort level. Later, when shooting targets, the felt recoil with a 1 oz. 1300 feet per second shell was negligible – an absolute pleasure to shoot. I attribute this welcomed surprise to the combination of a large bore diameter with lengthened forcing cones, and the large surface area of the butt stock beneath a Pachmayr decelerator pad.

Since the range I was at for the pattern testing no longer offered sporting clays, my next stop was the skeet field to get the feel of how this beauty handled. With a light mod and modified choke to give a tighter pattern, I would be able to tell by the target break if I was slightly behind or in front of the target. I'd love to be able to say that my first go around with this gun was a 25 straight – but unfortunately that was not the case. I managed to miss the high house on the doubles from station



**DR. BARON BECK COMMENTS, "YOU KNOW FISCHER, IF KRIEGHOFF AND PERAZZI HAD AN OFFSPRING, THIS IS PROBABLY WHAT IT WOULD BE! I LIKE IT..."**



**TRACY FLYNN, ALSO AN AVID SPORTING CLAYS SHOOTER, GAVE IT HIGH PRAISE AS WELL...**



**...RICHARD ERENS, A RELATIVE NEW COMER TO THE GAME, PRETTY MUCH FELL IN LOVE WITH THE LOOKS AND FEEL – AND WHEN HE DID HIS PART, THE REWARD WAS A PUFF OF SATISFYING SMOKE AND SMALL PIECES...**



**...GUY ROPER COMMENTED ON HOW WELL THE GUN HANDLED, SAYING THAT IT FELT RIGHT BETWEEN THE HANDS AND CERTAINLY SPANKED THE TARGET WITH SOLID HITS...**

one, and then again on station eight (I blamed that miss on the tight choke), but did manage to ink ball most of the 23 others which told me the fit of the left handed stock was pretty darned close – and the gun and I were moving well together.

The weekend provided the necessary time for a trip to one of

my favorite sporting courses, Quail Creek Plantation – about a two hour plus drive North of home. A long ride no doubt, but with two sporting courses and an entertaining 5-Stand, I could make a day of it. I also wanted to show it around and let others shoot it as well – to get their impressions of this target crusher. I would find

Kolar, so I set up shop, so to speak, on station one of the Blue course. It wasn't long before a squad of shooters showed up. With the opportunity to shoot a few targets using a different gun, I soon had a line of ready and willing test subjects. Dr. Baron Beck was the first to shoot. Being one never short of snappy comebacks and

satirical quips, he said, “You know Fischer, if Krieghoff and Perazzi had an offspring, this is probably what it would be! I like it.” Not a bad analogy, actually.

Doctor Beck’s soon to be bride, Tracy Flynn, also an avid sporting clays shooter, gave it high praise as well. After a few shots and several solid hits, Guy Roper commented on how well the gun handled, saying that it felt right between the hands and certainly spanked the targets with solid hits. Richard Erens, a relative new comer to the game, pretty much fell in love with the looks and feel – and when he did his part, the reward was a puff of satisfying smoke and small pieces.

Over a three week period, I had quite a number of shooters from across the spectrum of skill levels give the gun a try at sporting, trap and skeet. A summary of the many comments made was quite simple. Esthetically the gun was a beauty, with graceful lines and excellent wood. It handled smoothly and the lighter felt recoil was noted and appreciated by each who shot it. Most notable was how much the shooters (and me!) liked the crisp,

***THIS KOLAR AAA COMPETITION SPORTER IS AMERICAN MADE AND DESIGNED WITH THE COMPETITION SHOOTER IN MIND. STARTING AT \$8995 FOR THE NICKEL STANDARD MODEL IT FALLS INTO THE GENERAL PRICE RANGE OF SERIOUS MONEY...***

positive and light pull of the trigger.

This Kolar AAA Competition Sporter is American made and designed with the competition shooter in mind. Starting at \$8995 for the Nickel Standard model it falls into the general price range of serious money. That being said, it is directed at the serious shooter/competitor and the quality, strength, durability and longevity designed into this fine gun certainly gives the buyer good value for money. There are several levels of upgrades available for this gun, including but not limited to engraving, gold inlay and exhibition grade wood. Complete custom work is also available (price on request). Want a closer look? Go to [www.kolararms.com](http://www.kolararms.com) or call Kolar Arms at 262-554-0800. ■

