

A SPECIALIST CHOKES MANUFACTURER

A recent market survey showed that there are currently more than a dozen makes of chokes from separate manufacturers available to competition shooters – in similar or different configurations. All claim to have specific applications and benefits. No surprise then to learn that each manufacturer believes their particular product to be the best and like any other product on the market, each is designed to a price point and to have appeal to trap, skeet and sporting clays shooters alike. Prices vary depending on materials, breadth of line, tolerances and manufacturing costs. Over the years, chokes have evolved in all aspects – design, materials, functionality or just plain good marketing – and as a result a new product launch attracts significant interest.

ROY LAMBSON VISITS
EXTREME CHOKES
IN CALIFORNIA



Enter Extreme Chokes – with its headquarters and manufacturing facility in southern California. They believe there is a need for a new style, high quality choke for a specific niche market – the Krieghoff, Beretta and Perazzi competition shooter. They also offer their chokes for the fast growing sub gauge sector – for both clay and wing shooting. These chokes are made from solid titanium stock, milled and finished to the most stringent tolerances possible. While visiting the plant, the first impression is one of commitment to perfection that is clearly attained. Thirty-five years of experience making metal aircraft parts has given them unique skill sets and a solid understanding of quality. They have invested in the latest manufacturing equipment, accurate to measurements as minute as one third the dimension of a human hair! According to Bill Skinner and Curtis Lessel, it's these tight tolerances that makes their chokes so accurate and effective for the shooter.

Materials

Lessel, the designer, explains that titanium was chosen for its lightweight but very strong characteristics. It's not available for this application in the form of a tube, therefore each choke is drilled and milled in four separate operations from solid bar stock to finished product. During each of these separate operations, measurements are checked and rechecked by sophisticated measuring equipment designed to meet the accuracy standards for the thousands of small and large aircraft parts they have produced for the last 35 years. The choke wrench used to install and remove these chokes is made from 17-4 Stainless

steel and will not wear out or break. It's very cleverly designed to easily fit in your vest pocket. According to Skinner, Titanium has superior strength to steel, stays cleaner and resists residue build up better than steel, is lighter, by its nature it lasts longer than steel, can handle any shot and offers better ability for tighter tolerances than steel. The only negative, if it is a negative, is that Titanium is significantly more expensive than steel.

The firm tells us that in recent tests the results were far above average. At 70 yards with a 12ga on a steady rest, shooting a Fiocchi 1oz #7^{1/2} they were able to obtain a 98 percent shot pattern. Each finished choke is bore gauged for constriction with a tolerance of plus or minus .0005.

Different Models

Collared Chokes: The newest innovation from Extreme Chokes is a ported choke and a rotatable collar which covers the ports, channeling the gasses through ports on the collar itself. This design, says Lessel, helps control muzzle rise, felt recoil and can eliminate the need for barrel porting. This patented model is available in 0-5-10-15-20-25-30 thousandth of an inch constrictions. All chokes have the constriction numbers deep engraved in large easy to read numbers.

Extreme Extended Chokes: The extended version uses a longer taper and parallel section to improve patterning. It's been made to be easy to spin in and out for a quick change, using their unique choke wrench that is virtually non-slip.

Niche Market

Currently the firm make chokes to fit Krieghoff (K-80), Perazzi and Beretta. They are offered by Krieghoff as an upgrade. Clearly this product is designed and built for the shooter who demands the best – Krieghoff bores – 12ga .732 bore; Perazzi – 12ga .736 bore; Beretta Optima – 12ga .730 bore. All three are available in 0-5-10-15-20-25-30

thousandths constrictions. Chokes are also currently available for Krieghoff 20g, 28g and .410 in 5-10-15-20 thousandth constrictions. According to Lessel, "customer reports have been incredible, with shooters extolling the results of their shooting with our chokes. Several have reported back that every choke in the set is exactly on the money for the measurements advertised."

Bill Skinner, as the guy responsible for production, attended the recent Sporting Clays National Championships and was more than delighted with the response from some of the best shots in the country.

At this time, Extreme Chokes does not have plans to offer their product for any other gun than Krieghoff, Beretta and Perazzi. They feel it's better to focus on what they consider their niche – and do it well. Results to date back this up and with more and more interest in this quality product, additional innovations are in the pipeline. For more information visit www.extremechokes.com ■

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