

A REPORT BY TOM CERETTO

B. RIZZINI BR 320



The subject of this gun review is the BR 320 sporting clays shotgun manufactured by Battista Rizzini.

B. Rizzini shotguns have been distributed by various American firms in the past, but have recently found a home with Tony Galazan's Connecticut Shotgun Manufacturing Company. I think it is the only shotgun sold by Connecticut Shotgun that is not manufactured by them in their new facility in New Britain, Connecticut.

Connecticut Shotgun manufactures Galazan, Fox,

SORTING OUT THE FOUR RIZZINI'S THAT MANUFACTURE SHOTGUNS CAN BE A DAUNTING TASK – PARTICULARLY AS THREE OF THEM ARE MANUFACTURING SHOTGUNS IN THE SMALL CITY OF MARCHENO, BRESCIA, ITALY.

Model 21 Winchesters under license, the A10 line of side lock over and under shotguns and the RBL line of side-by-side shotguns. Tony Galazan must have complete confidence in B. Rizzini shotguns to sell them alongside their high quality shotguns manufactured in house.

The B 320 is a handsome traditional looking shotgun built with modern up to date

manufacturing methods. I especially like the case colored receiver with only Rizzini in gold italic block letters on each side of the receiver and BR 320 in gold on the bottom of the receiver. It is nicely scalloped and sports well-executed case coloring that makes for a very handsome shotgun anyone would be proud to own. The fences, balls and the top lever have some engraving on them –

and it sets off the receiver esthetics very nicely.

The BR 320 receiver is machined out of a solid block of steel alloy on modern CNC machines. Tolerances are held to exacting standards. It may be nice to think of old country craftsmen hand filing a receiver until it is perfect, but modern CNC machinery can hold tolerances that are more exact than any man with a file. All Rizzini shotguns have the patented Rizzini disconnect, which prevents discharge unless the receiver is securely closed. Should the receiver ever become loose, five different bolts are available from B. Rizzini to retighten the action.

Two short extensions $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long and $\frac{9}{64}$ inches wide extend down from either side of the monobloc and are slotted to receive the full width bolt – a tried and true system for holding the receiver in battery that has proven its worth on thousands of over and under shotguns. The monobloc extensions nestle into a recess

machined into the floor of the receiver. They aid securing the extensions and in mitigating any twisting forces that might occur during discharge. Two sturdy cocking rods approximately $\frac{3}{16}$ inches square cock the hammers. The second barrel is set with the aid of a recoil block. The manual safety hangs from the top strap and moves into position (with a slight bit of resistance) and is held in place securely. The barrel selector is integral with the safety and moves left to right and right to left with moderate effort and is securely held in place by detents. The CNC machining on the receiver, and for that matter the entire shotgun, is well executed with no machine marks evident anywhere.

The bottom barrel went off at $3\frac{1}{4}$ pounds and the top barrel at $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds without a hint of creep. I liked the triggers very much, they were some of the best I have seen on a moderately priced shotgun.

The hammers are placed on the trigger plate and the sears are on the underside of the top tang. All internal parts, including the trigger plate, are machined out of steel alloy. The system is proprietary to B. Rizzini and was designed in house. It is a bit unconventional, but works very well. The hinge trunions are oversized and are replaceable.

The barrels are darkly blued and highly polished and are equipped with extended forcing cones in all target models. The screw-in chokes are conical parallel and measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Five chokes are supplied with the BR 320 in cylinder, improved cylinder, modified, improved modified and full. The chokes extend $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the muzzle and are knurled. I



wish all manufacturers would include a light modified choke with sporting clays shotguns in place of a cylinder bore choke, but unfortunately most do not. The barrels on my demo measured $32\frac{1}{8}$ inches long, were chrome lined and were smooth from the breech to the muzzle.

The ejectors are solely contained within the jeweled monobloc and were designed in house by Rizzini engineers. The system worked flawlessly for me when I tested the shotgun. If the Rizzini ejectors ever need to be retimed, the sears can be easily removed and retimed by Rizzini's repair service.

The top rib is vented and the mid rib is solid. The no glare surface on the top rib is well executed. The front bead is white and the mid bead is metal. The barrel ribs are furnace brazed to eliminate any stress on the barrels. All barrels are registered in house by B. Rizzini technicians.

The walnut stock and fore-end quality is a bit nicer than I would expect on a moderately priced shotgun. The wood stands proud of the metal and wood to metal fit was well done. The stock and fore-end showed some nice grain and contrast and have a high gloss finish. The $14\frac{3}{4}$ inch length of pull is a bit long for me and I had to shoot the B 320 gun up. However, it fit most of the others that shot the gun quite well.

The fore-end is what I would call a small beaver tail style fore-end. It's not nearly as large as fore-ends found on trap guns, but just a bit larger than normal. I have fairly long fingers for a small guy and the fore-end was quite comfortable for me to shoot. I am sure most people will be quite happy with it. I think the checkering is laser done and was flawless on my demo. The checkering offered a good grip with and without gloves. The stock is finished off with a rubber butt pad. Most competitive shooters replace the butt pad on their shotguns with their favorite pad anyway, so what pad comes with a target gun really doesn't matter much.

Because of recent surgery on my left shoulder I have been shooting lighter guns recently and I had to rely on the opinions of knowledgeable shooters more than I usually do. When I did shoot the BR 320 I was impressed with its balance and the ability of the BR 320 to transition from target to target on report and true pairs. Others found the same good handling traits that I did and were impressed. Recoil was mild with the various loads that we shot from light to heavy. I think the B. Rizzini BR 320 is better than average moderately priced target shotguns that anyone would enjoy owning. The attention to detail and fit and finish is of a higher standard than one would expect.

The BR 320 would more than hold its own esthetically on a gun rack with much higher priced target guns. I was greatly impressed with the well-done case colored receiver and the excellent triggers. At the asking price I think it is a bargain. Rizzini's website is www.rizziniusa.com or you can go to www.connecticutshotgun.com for more information. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

MANUFACTURER: BATISTA RIZZINI MARCHENO, BRESCIA, ITALY
IMPORTER: RIZZINI USA, 100 BURRIT STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06053
SUGGESTED RETAIL: \$3,478.00
GUN TYPE: BOXLOCK O/U
RECEIVER: ALLOY STEEL
RECEIVER FINISH: CASE COLORED
TRIGGER: SINGLE SELECTIVE
TRIGGER PULL: UNDER 3.25 LBS/ OVER 3.5 LBS
SAFETY: MANUAL
AVERAGE WEIGHT: 8 LBS 4 OUNCES
BARRELS: 32" AS TESTED 30" AVAILABLE
BARREL FINISH: BLUED HIGH GLOSS
CHAMBER: 3"
NOMINAL BORE: .724" CHROME PLATED
CHOKES: EXTENDED 5 INCLUDED
CHOKE LENGTH: 3 3/4" CONICAL PARALELL
CYLINDER: .721"
IMPROVED CYLINDER: .712"
MODIFIED: .702"
FULL: .682"
TOP RIB: VENTED
MID RIB: SOLID
SIGHTS: FRONT WHITE MID METAL
RIB WIDTH: 10MM
STOCK AND FORE-END: WALNUT
STOCK FINISH: HIGH GLOSS
LENGTH OF PULL: 14 3/4"
DROP AT COMB: 1 1/2"
DROP AT HEEL: 2 1/8"
RECOIL PAD: RUBBER
CASE: HARD CASE INCLUDED