

EACH ISSUE! Shooting Instruction—Conservation

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THE WINGSHOOTER'S MAGAZINE



April 2015

## Super Shotgun Tune-Ups

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## Syren Tempio Sporting



**W**hen I opened the box for the new shotgun-for-lady shooters Syren Tempio Sporting over-under, it was natural to ask Debra Ann Schultz Coulter to help me with the gun's testing. She was standing right there in her gun shop for the gun's unveiling—necessary not just to allow the gazing of her employees and customers but also to obtain this gun's serial number and other info needed for the paperwork that would be a part of my background check to take ownership (if only temporary since this was a consignment shotgun) of this new Syren.

The package opening was taking place at Schultz's Sportsman's Stop, which Coulter owns. Further, she is one of my best friends, another reason for asking her to take part in the testing of this specialized women's over-under sporter.

Coulter bought the store from her father Matt Schultz. Matt and I go back to 1959, when I started working for US Steel Corporation right out of college. Schultz started Schultz's Sportsman Stop in 1968, then left US Steel in 1972 to run the business full time, while I left US Steel to pursue my writing career in 1969. I've known Coulter since she was in her early teens.

It was on a blustery November day that we opened the Syren again, this time from a soft case at Tarentum District Sportsman Club. It was time for Coulter to start shouldering this gun a number of times as she became more familiar with it in preparation to start breaking some targets.

Syren is actually a corporation, a spin-off of Caesar Guerini, as is Fabarm. But Syren is a corporation devoted *solely* to marketing shotguns to ladies. Previously, a so-called lady gun was one made for men, albeit typically with a shortened stock. These shotgun types often doubled as youth guns as well.

But women are built differently than men, with those "dif-



The Syren Tempio Sporting receiver features tasteful engraving.

ferences" never having been seriously addressed by any firearms company—until now, with the Syren line. The Syren concept is not merely this test over-under or even a single model but a whole series of double barrels and autoloaders expressly designed for women.

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Action:** Over-under; barrels pivot on trunnions; bolt from base of receiver slides into lug milled into base of monobloc upon closing, plus recoil lugs at base of monobloc nestle into matching areas milled into base of receiver

**Gauge:** 12 tested (20 and 28 available, as are assorted gauge combo sets, including .410)

**Weight:** 8 lbs., 1 oz. (website calls for a few ounces lighter)

**Barrels:** 30" tested (28" available)

**Chokes:** Six MAXIS competition screw-ins supplied

**Stock:** Dimensions: length of pull—13.75", drop at comb—1.37", drop at heel—2.5" (see text for additional stock dimensions designed for women shooters)

**Suggested Retail Price:** \$4,295

**Manufacturer:** Made in Italy by Caesar Guerini for Syren USA, (410) 901-1131; [www.syrenusa.com](http://www.syrenusa.com)



The design on the bottom side of the Syren receiver is pleasing to the eyes.



**Debra Coulter liked the total feel of the Syren Tempio Sporting 12 gauge. Here she gets the feel of the unloaded gun before donning her ear protection.**

There's no such word as "syren" in *Funk & Wagnall's*, but maybe it's a takeoff on "siren," since Webster's indicates it's a British variation of siren, which it defines in part as "a temptingly beautiful woman." Or is it a modification of the similar word in Italian, where, of course, these guns are made?

The Syren test gun came out of the Caesar Guerini factory in Brescia. Metal-wise, these Syrens are that company's Tempio model. Of course, the engraving is totally different, meant to be attractive to the feminine set. The totally new engraving pattern on the receiver features lots of tight scroll and more, as well as a quartet of roses in gold, on each side. Further, the round-body receiver bottom is also elaborately engraved, along with a brace of gold roses there.

My test Syren came with a set of 30" barrels over-bored to .733". Six MAXIS competition screw chokes are included: .734", cylinder, .729" skeet, two .724" improved cylinders, .719" light modified, and .713" modified, with additional chokes available. The fore-end is rounded in front and weighs 11.3 ozs.. The 30" barrels weighed 3 lbs., 6.5 ozs. on my digital postal scale, so they have been lightened somewhat, another factor contributing to the gun's "lady" aspect. My test gun weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz., a few ounces less than the men's Tempio. On top of the barrel is a tapered rib, and there are vented side panels between the barrels.

Cosmetically the stock has a lot of resemblance to other Guerini stocks, which the company calls a hand-rubbed oil finish. One doesn't have to look all that close to see that the pistol grip has a bit more re-curve. Upon first picking up the gun Coulter wrapped her right hand around the grip and with no prompting said, "Now I like the grip's feel. What's different?"

Another significant buttstock difference is that the stock is



**The Syren's additional re-curve to the pistol grip better accommodates a lady's hand, plus the trigger can be moved back and forth for a perfect fit.**



**The Syren Tempio over-under sports a well-figured buttstock.**

slightly cast away from the lady's face, plus the rear portion is angled out a bit. While these dimension differences are relatively slight, they go a long way toward making the Syren comfortable for a lady to shoot. This was confirmed by Coulter over and over as she shot 100 clay targets with it while frequently commenting, "I can't believe I don't feel any significant recoil." Realize that day's shooting might have been only the second or third time she had ever shot 100 12-ga. shells in about an hour, although she has shot plenty of handguns and big-bore rifles.

Another little stock difference would be the "roses" laser cut in the wood just below and on each side of the top tang—another "lady touch," if you will. The checkering is standard Caesar Guerini, laser cut at 26 lines per inch. I'm not aware of any company that does laser checkering any finer, and even with a 2X loupe I can't find a flaw.

The triggers are inertia, like all Guerinis, crisp, and go off at 4.5 lbs. on my Lyman Digital Trigger Pull Scale. The recoil pad is 1/2" thick and rounded all around to mitigate gun hang-ups during the mount. That pad is separated from the stock via a black spacer.

But the new stock dimensions are the biggest change that make a Syren a Syren—and not just another Tempio. One obvious lady-designed Syren stock feature is the 13.75" length of pull. But there are many others, which include 1.37" drop at comb, 2.5" drop at heel, .25" cast at heel, .375" cast at toe, 8 degree pitch, 7.0" breech to comb measurement, and 3.5" reach measured when the trigger is in its middle position. That inertia trigger can be adjusted back and forth to allow the lady to dial in her perfect grip-to-trigger distance.

It is also important to note that the Syren Sporting model is also available in both 20 and 28 gauge with the same stock dimensions as the 12. The 12 and 20 are available with 28" or 30" barrels, the 28 gauge with 30" tubes only. The small-gauge guns are also slightly lighter than the 12. So there's more than one model to the Syren series—plus the Syren Tempio Field (and Tempio Light) and Syren ELOS Venti (and Venti Light) guns for the huntress in 20 and 28. Further yet, the Syren XLR5 is a 12-ga. semi-auto in the line, similar to the Fabarm XLR5 but with Syren stock dimensions and other changes made for the lady shooter.

Is an entire corporation devoted to shotguns solely for the lady sporting shooter and hunter a great ideal or what? To my way of thinking, this is a grand-slam home run if there ever was one.

*Nick Sisley has been writing about the outdoors full time for over 40 years. The Level I NSCA and NSSA Instructor and NRA Shotgun Instructor has authored thousands of magazine articles and newspaper columns as well as eight books. Sisley's latest four eBooks are available via [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for only \$2.99 each. Email the author at [nicksisley@hotmail.com](mailto:nicksisley@hotmail.com).*