

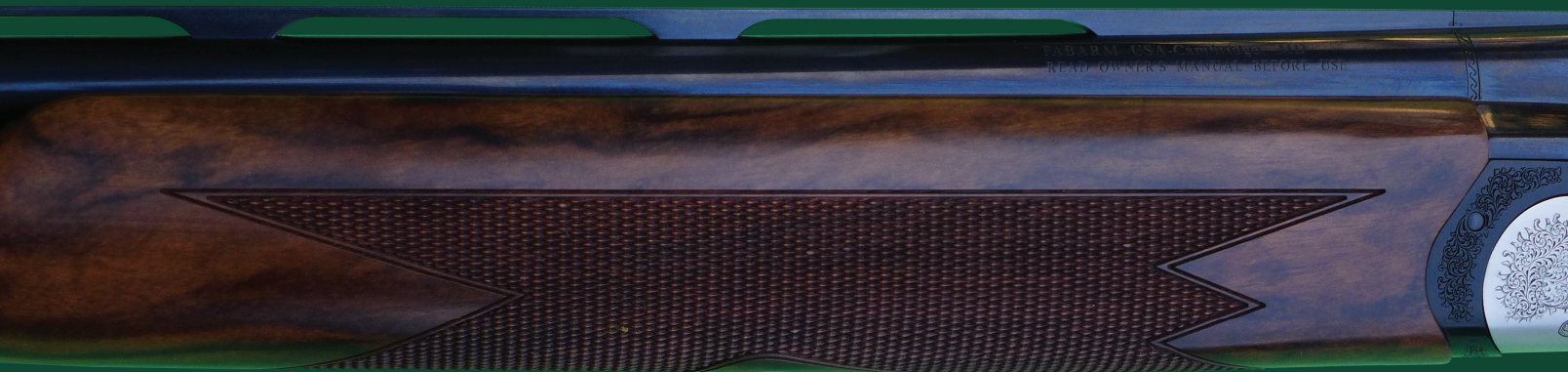


The right side of the highly-engraved Syren Elos 20-gauge receiver.

For the Huntress

NOW THERE'S THE SYREN

By NICK SISLEY



The shape of the Syren Elos fore-end.



The left side of the highly-engraved receiver.



The bottom of the 20-gauge receiver.



The roses are lasered on both sides of the stock.



ou've probably seen the ads for the Syren, but maybe you're wondering what those ads mean and why all the hype for this one-word shotgun model. Now you're going to find out, and this is a most interesting concept. In a nutshell, a new corporation has been formed, Syren USA, that markets shotguns to, get this, **ONLY** women! I would guess there is significant momentum behind this concept – to the point that the company can't make these guns fast enough. The Syren I have for testing is called the Elos Venti model, but this over-and-under model is just the tip of the iceberg – as you'll find out if you just keep on reading, i.e. there are a growing number of Syren models.

The Syren concept was conceived by Giorgio and Antonio Guerini in Italy and Wes Lang of Caesar Guerini USA – based in Cambridge, Maryland – and what a marketing coup the Syren is. Ann Mauro is the top corporate head of Syren USA, and she already has a staff working on marketing these guns, and she has already selected a team of lady shooters that the new company is sponsoring.

So what is it that makes a Syren a Syren? Let's start by discussing the 20-gauge test Syren Elos Venti that's sitting on my lap as I type away on this computer keyboard. If a huntress wants anything in a shotgun, it has to have good looks. The Elos Venti's looks will make any woman smile - this is one handsome smoothbore.

The walnut is spectacular, as you can note in the accompanying photo. While it is walnut, it did not start off with these \$4,000 looks. The walnut probably had little grain though it no doubt had plenty of strength, especially at the very front where it marries with the receiver as well as the pistol grip area. A certain type of film is placed over the walnut. That film is what results in that \$4,000-wood look. Then that film is made to stay perfectly in place via a urethane coating. Next comes a hand-rubbed oil finish. The wood pores were completely filled in on my test gun, although this may be a function of the previously mentioned "film".

I've previously written about the Fabarm Elos model in these pages, and that is the gun the Elos Venti Syren is based on. So check out a receiver closeup photo. The engraving is totally different with this Syren – all in an effort to please any woman's scrutinizing eye. There's scroll galore, what looks like an engraved ribbon near the bottom of the receiver, plus the flowers in gold. Are they roses? I hope so. These gold engraved roses are on both sides of the receiver. Also note in the receiver photo that this Syren has a round body receiver - simply elegant everywhere, though nothing is overstated.

The checkering on the pistol grip and fore-end is laser cut and at 26 lines-to-the-inch - more elegance! The grip on this Syren has more of a recurve than the Elos. Reportedly, this type of grip fits a lady's hand better. Also laser cut in above the pistol grip checkering are more roses on both sides.

The fore-end iron is blued, a deep black color and engraved. The barrels are the same deep black, and there's no rippling, indicating perfect polishing before the bluing process. There are no vents in the side panels between the barrels. The vented top rib has a white bead at the muzzle, and that rib is thin and cross-hatched to reduce distracting glare.

The stock and its dimensions are tailor-made to fit many, many women shooters. The dimensions start off with a shorter stock – 13.875 inches. The standard Elos measures 14.75. But this isn't just a short-stock version that makes this gun a Syren. Many

other subtle stock dimension help to further make the Syren a Syren. These dimensions are: drop-at-comb, 1.375 inches; drop-at-heel, 2.25; cast-at-heel, .125; cast-at-toe, .375; pitch, 6 degrees; breech-to-comb, 6.75; reach, 3.5 – all subtle but important dimension changes for lady shooters.

The Syren Elos is available in both 20 and 28 gauge – both with 28-inch barrels. The website calls for 6 pounds, 10 ounces for both. My test 20 went 6 pounds, 10.5 ounces on my digital postal scale. The 28-inch barrels weighed 2 pounds, 13 ounces, the 10-inch fore-end 8.5 ounces. Fore-end thickness went 1.75 inches. The recoil pad measures about 3/8 inch – separated from the stock via a black spacer. The pad is rounded all around. There's stippling on the back – though smooth at the very top. So this Syren will not tend to catch on my lady's clothing during the mount.

The action lockup is the same for all Caesar Guerini and Fabarm over-and-unders. Barrels pivot on trunnions. A bolt at the base of the receiver locks into matching lugs milled into the base of the monobloc. Dual recoil lugs milled into the base of the monobloc lock nestle into milled out areas in the bottom of the receiver. Fore-end release is a pull-back button placed on the bottom of the fore-end. There was no fore-end wiggle once in place.

This is an ejector shotgun. They functioned perfectly during testing, and all other test aspects of the gun were flawless. The technology of the TRIBORE barrels is important. Why? TRIBORE reduces recoil and improves patterns. Improved patterns are important to every shooter. Perhaps reduced recoil is, too, but especially for the lady huntress. There are no forcing cones in the barrels, and forcing cones can contribute to recoil and deform pellets. TRIBORE technology sounds simple, but the idea probably took a lot of engineering skill to bring it off. Just ahead of the 20-gauge chamber area, the inner bore measures .637 – thus plenty overbored. That dimension stays the same for half the length of the barrel. For the last half of the barrel – to the screw choke thread area - there is a very slight and long taper - .637 to .625. That's only .012, but that taper takes the entire front half of the 28-inch barrels. Thus pellets are treated very gently – with fewer flyers – and no increased recoil that a forcing cone right in front of the chamber can cause.

There are screw chokes and five Inner HP™ chokes are included. The choke constrictions are marked in "tenths" – save for the cylinder – .625, same as the muzzle end of the barrels before the choke thread area. The 2/10 measures .616; 5/10, .613; 7/10, .597; and 9/10, .589.

Additional Syren models in the Field rendition include the Syren Tempio Field over-and-under in 20 and 28 gauge with 28-inch barrels (the Tempio has been in the Caesar Guerini line for years, but the Syren Tempio has all the new features). There are also Sporting versions of the Syren Tempio in 12, 20 and 28 gauge. In the semi-auto 12 gauge, there is the XLR5 Syren Sporting which is the Fabarm XLR5 with the Syren cosmetic and stock dimension differences. Caesar Guerini owns both Fabarm and Syren.

Bottom line: this is one heck of an idea, a complete line of Field and Sporting shotguns tailor-made for women interested in grouse hunting, sporting and other clay target games or for any female who is a shotgun enthusiast. 🌿

To read Nick's e-Books – three on shotgun stuff – one on fun single-engine aviation – only \$2.99 each. Go to www.amazon.com. Nick welcomes your emails at nicksisley@hotmail.com.