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MAGNUS SPORTING



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GUN TEST

# SYREN

## MAGNUS SPORTING

by Johnny Cantu  
Photos courtesy of Syren USA

*A full right-side profile view of the Syren Magnus Sporting. The Magnus is the first Syren model that incorporates a side plated action. This visually elongates the lines of the gun.*

For a number of years, the gun-making firm of Caesar Guerini of Brescia, Italy has been producing well-designed and crafted sporting and clay target competition over/under shotguns. These superbly finished

shotguns have earned an enviable reputation of not only possessing great looks but offering extreme durability and top-drawer performance. Wes Lang and his staff at Guerini USA in Cambridge, Maryland maintain the importation

rights and have garnered a fair share of the finer grade shotgun market in the U.S. The guns of Caesar Guerini give the owner the best of several worlds; quality, performance, value and appearance.

For ages, men have been the prime

target of gun design and marketing but recent times have seen efforts to attract more women to the shooting sports. This push in marketing has driven gunmakers to design firearms they felt would best suit a lady shooter.



Most designs have attempted to accommodate women shooters with shotguns featuring shorter barrels and more diminutive stock dimensions, primarily in length of pull. Many have tried to offer a genuine lady's shotgun but very few have succeeded. There is now a dedicated brand of shotguns built entirely with the lady shooter in mind.

Syren shotguns are a collaborative effort by Caesar Guerini and Fabarm. The Guerini-produced guns make up two of the three tiers of over/under offerings; the Tempio and Magnus while the Fabarm segment is made up of the XLR5 semi-auto variants and the Elos Venti O/U. Of the four, the Magnus is the top tier offering. This review is on the Magnus Sporting.

The test sample of the Syren Magnus Sporting arrived at my office housed in an attractive and sturdy off-white colored carrying case. The case features lockable hardware and is fitted to the general outline of the major components inasmuch as it cushions and protects the Magnus Sporting completely.

The Syren Magnus Sporting over/under is offered in both 12 and 20 gauge. Two barrel lengths are available in the 12 gauge, 28" and 30". In the 20 gauge, a 30" barrel

is the lone offering. All Syren barrel chambers are 2¾". Forward of the chamber sit the forcing cones that measure approximately 5" and are dubbed DuoCon by Guerini. My test gun was in 12 gauge with the 30" barrel. The non-adjustable ventilated rib on the top barrel is a tapered 10mm to 8mm design with one of my favorite features for a top vent rib, a full length center sight groove. I have always preferred a vent rib with this accent. It just seems to help me find my correct eye alignment a little easier. A 4mm white Bradley-style bead sits at the muzzle and a 2mm steel bead sits at the midpoint of the rib. The mid-rib that secures the top and bottom barrels is also ventilated to aid in barrel cooling in warm conditions. Lock-up of the receiver to barrel is done via a full width locking lug at the bottom of the breech. This design of locking system is time proven to be one of the most secure designs for side-by-side and over/unders. The Syren I received was virtually new and the lock-up exhibited a slight orneriness when opening and closing, but became a bit tamer with some lubrication and as more rounds went through the gun.

Internal diameters on the Syren Magnus Sporting barrel tubes measured .734 for the top pipe and .735 for the bottom tube. These bores are chrome-lined for increased corrosion resistance and durability.

Six Maxis Competition screw-in chokes come with the Magnus Sporting: 1-Cylinder @ .000

constriction (.735), 1-Skeet @ .005 (.730), 2 Improved Cylinder @ .010 (.725), 1-Lt. Modified @ .015 (.720) and 1-Modified @ .020 (.715). The knurled extended portion of the chokes allows them to be tightened or removed by hand or with the use of the novel choke tube wrench. This wrench features a curved spanner-claw design that, when not in service tightening or removing chokes, collapses into the body of the wrench. The other end of the wrench is a handy thread cleaner.

Weight of the Syren is proclaimed in marketing paraphernalia as 7 lbs. 15 oz. My test gun as weighed on our postage meter scales tipped them at 8.45 lbs. My test sample just happened to come to me with the optional DTS (Dynamic Tuning System) Balancer in the buttstock. This weight/balancer weighs four ounces in and of itself and the rich and dense Turkish walnut buttstock will vary a small amount in weight from one gun to the next. The end result when I removed the DTS Balancer was weight in-line with what is advertised for the Syren Magnus Sporting. The Magnus does not come equipped with the DTS Balancer. It is an option that can be ordered should you desire it in your gun. Checkering on the butt and forearm is a point-style checkering at approximately 26 lines per inch. The wood is finished with a hand rubbed oil.

A motif based on the modified rose/scroll engraving on the Syren Magnus Sporting's receiver is finely etched (presumably by laser) into the upper section on both the right and left sides of the wrist of the stock. This detail lends a somewhat feminine and classy look to the overall aesthetics of the Syren Magnus Sporting. The Magnus is the first of the Syren line to feature a side-plated action that elongates the lines of the gun. With the modified

rose/scroll engraving the action takes on a totally unique visual dimension. The famous Italian engraving firm of Bottega Giovanelli of Brescia was commissioned to create this one-of-a-kind motif.

The forward-mounted locking latch secures the rounded forearm to the barrels and leaves no exposed metal latch hardware underneath to singe bare palms when the barrels get hot.

The balance point of the Syren Magnus Sporting over/under I tested was only a millimeter or two forward of the center of the hinge pins. I would have expected the lesser L.O.P. to relocate the balance point significantly. But the gunmakers at Guerini know how a shotgun needs to balance for optimum performance and they also know how to achieve that delicate and often elusive feature.

Recoil was quite negligible due to the overall weight of the Magnus Sporting, the 5" forcing cones, the stock dimensions and the medium-soft black rubber recoil pad on the butt.

Guerini shotguns are renowned for many features. One is the very precise fit of wood to metal throughout the shotgun; another is their exquisite looks. The Syren Magnus Sporting carries this legacy to the fullest. You can inspect the receiver, F/E iron, and virtually all other metal surfaces on the Syren Magnus Sporting and all you will come up with is wonderful precision of fit and craftsmanship. I have enjoyed reviewing many guns throughout my years with *Shotgun Sports Magazine* and I never cease to be amazed at the quality of fit and finish of Guerini-made guns.

You will be impressed with the level of engraving on this shotgun. I could not find hardly a square millimeter on the receiver, trigger guard or forend iron that was not beautifully engraved with either a vine scroll or rose motif or filigree detail. Masterfully done, this is a truly lovely shotgun that will no doubt catch many a lady's eye. The gracefully scalloped fences and side-plates of the Syren Magnus Sporting are the main focal points of the receiver. The metal surfaces of the receiver are all protected from corrosion by Guerini's proprietary Invisalloy™ finish. You can rest assured your Magnus Sporting will maintain its good looks for years to come.

The trigger system of the Syren Magnus Sporting is the same proven and uber-reliable single-selective group you will find in all Caesar Guerini shotguns. Inertia-operated, the firing mechanism



of the Syren Magnus Sporting is offered with two trigger pull pound weights; 3½ lbs. or 4½ lbs. My test sample gun let-off at 3.45 lbs. over and over again. It never faded even when shooting in near 90 degree temperatures. To allow for fine fitting of the trigger finger to the surface of the trigger, the trigger blade is adjustable for travel within the trigger guard for an 11mm range of adjustment with the use of the supplied Torx wrench. Take-up and over travel are also adjustable on the Syren Magnus Sporting with the same Torx wrench.

The Safety/Barrel Selector is the now very familiar Italian design of Pull Back for Safety On and Push Forward for Safety Off design with the center-mounted toggle selector that has to be moved to the right-hand position to select two red dots (top barrel fires first) or to the left-hand position that shows one red dot (bottom barrel fires first). When placing the Safety to either On or Off click positions were firm and secure, but not so much as to make them difficult for a woman's hand to manipulate.

Testing of the Syren Magnus Sporting included the use of B&P's Legend 1 oz. sporting clays loads as well as

NobelSport's 1¼ oz. trap load, both launching 7½ size shot. Chokes I selected to use that day were the Maxis Improved Cylinder and Light Modified. Knowing the course I was going to shoot, there was no need to use anything tighter than these.

Though it would have been nice to have a woman's perspective on the performance and handling qualities of the Syren Magnus Sporting, arriving at a workable schedule to meet at the range proved unfruitful. Like they say, "It's a dirty job but someone has to do it." So, it was up to me to put the Syren Magnus Sporting through its paces.

Mother Nature cooperated and provided a fine day for testing. The sporting clays course and skeet field at the Coon Creek Trap & Skeet Range in Lincoln, California were the testing venues.

My first stop was the pattern plate to check the point of impact on the Syren Magnus Sporting. Firing a number of shots from 30 yards only confirmed what I already knew; the small view of the rib length I could see between the two beads when I mounted the gun would give me about a 55/45 P.O.I. It was slightly high but perfectly centered on the plate. The Improved Cylinder and Lt. Modified

*The underside of the receiver of the Syren Magnus Sporting showing the extensive coverage of the Bottega Giovanelli created modified rose/scroll engraving. Even the trigger guard gets special treatment.*



Maxis chokes put out patterns no target could get through untouched.

Traversing from the pattern plate to the skeet field was only a matter of a few yards. I fired the Syren Magnus Sporting on 12 pair of Doubles from 3, 4 & 5 with only one bird surviving the melee. I liked the manner in which the Syren moved on these skeet targets. I shot 30" barrels in skeet competition for years and these barrels brought back fond memories. Onward to the sporting clays course!

Station 1 at Coon Creek shows a true pair of birds to the shooter; one from the elevated stand about 7 yards to the right of the shooting stand throwing the target out and away crossing to the left, with the second bird in the true pair incoming from directly out in front, emerging from the trap at about 35 yards and dropping to the ground 15 yards in front of the stand.

The shots were comfortable on my increasingly arthritic shoulders. I appreciated the 8+ lbs. of the Magnus Sporting when shooting the NobelSport loads. The Syren Magnus Sporting moved with smoothness and surety to the target and the Maxis Competition I.C. and Lt. Modified virtually eviscerated targets at all ranges.

Finishing the course with a true pair of outgoing birds from an elevated stand at the right about 15 yards distant, I had come to fully appreciate the qualities of the Syren Magnus Sporting. The soft recoil sensation, the smoothness in moving to the target, its precision moving to the bird allowed me to pinpoint leads with further aid from the well-designed ventilated top rib. The crisp triggers of the Syren Magnus Sporting let me know exactly when the triggers would fire. This benefits a shooter more than many people realize and you only find it in finer grade shotguns.

The Syren line of over/under shotguns from Caesar Guerini are wonderfully designed with lady shooters in mind. What with their graceful lines, beautiful engraving and proper stock dimensions the Syren Magnus Sporting over/under would be a perfect choice for the lady clay target competitor looking for a new target killing machine.

Offered in three versions, the Syren Magnus Sporting can be purchased as a 12 gauge with 28" or 30" barrels or as a 20 gauge with 30" barrels, they all carry the same MSRP \$5,500.

In case you are wondering about

after-the-purchase service on your new Syren Magnus, it comes with a Lifetime Warranty. As the original owner of a Caesar Guerini/Syren shotgun, you have the option of sending your firearm to Caesar Guerini once a year for a free service and tune-up (up to three times) as part of the complimentary PitStop program. The Caesar Guerini Lifetime Warranty and complimentary PitStop maintenance program are unequalled in the firearms industry.

I would definitely recommend the Syren Magnus Sporting to any lady looking to acquire a well-made, comfortable and beautiful over/under for breaking more targets. This gun offers it all.

The Syren guns are unique entities in the industry, they are designed exclusively for the lady shooter whether they be Caesar Guerini-produced or Fabarm-produced. Never before has there been such a concerted effort to create a brand of shotguns specifically for women.

Visit syrenusa.com for more details on the Syren Magnus Sporting or, call or go online with any of the dealers who advertise the Syren line of fine shotguns in *Shotgun Sports Magazine*. Be sure to tell them you saw their ad here. **SS**

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