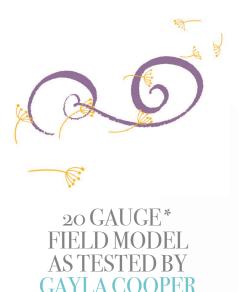


GUN REVIEW 33





s someone who has shot 200,000+ clay targets throughout the years, I have done so with a variety of shotguns. Though I am not an avid hunter I have shot quail before, and I certainly understand what I want in a field shotgun. When I received the phone call to try this shotgun, I thought, absolutely, why not? I love trying different shotguns and the only Syren I have had the opportunity to shoot was the Syren Tempio 12 gauge during a demo workshop.

## First Thoughts

The shotgun receiver is beautiful. A woman's face engraved with a floral motif is definitely fitting since the shotgun is named after Caesar's daughter Julia who was known for her beauty and grace. I was a little afraid to take it out of the case. By the way, the case was very secure and well thought out to protect the shotgun. It took a moment to put the shotgun together, however, after a little effort, I soon figured it out and felt the gun lock together securely. The shotgun's weight is spot on. It would be suitable for a long upland hunt that required a lot of walking. This shotgun

can easily be thrown over your shoulder causing no fatigue.

## THE WOOD

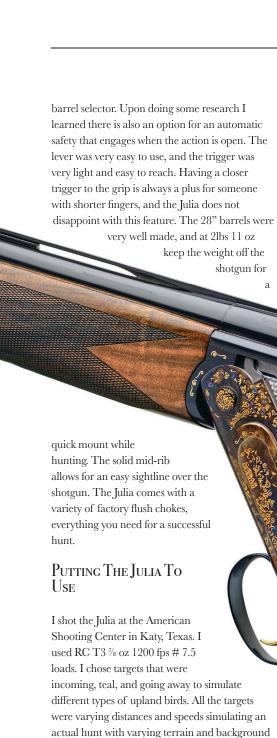
At first glance, I felt the wood was appropriately figured and accentuated Julia's phenomenally engraved side-plates. Gun enthusiasts have great appreciation for high-quality Turkish walnut with a semi-gloss finish to highlight the floral motif used to create the woman's face on the side-plates. The stock has a Monte Carlo comb. This is imperative in a true "woman's" shotgun to allow for the sightline height most women need over the top of the rib. The rose etched into the stock behind the receiver is a nice feminine touch to add elegance to the stock. The length of pull was an ideal fit for me as I am only 5 feet tall. I do feel it would be very easy to add a spacer to the stock for a taller female with a longer length of pull. The rounded grip was also the appropriate size for my smaller hands allowing me to reach the trigger easier. The checkering was well-balanced and definitely allowed something to "feel," in order to keep my hand in the same place. The butt pad was not a pad at all but a 15 mm woodplate to give the shotgun a more traditional hunting appearance.

The forend was very secure on the barrels once the shotgun was locked together. The Schnabel forend was slim for my ungloved hands, but I can see the added benefit of a smaller Schnabel forend, for someone that has smaller hands or for those who like to lightly cradle the forend in a gloved hand. I was very impressed by the forend release and functionality. The button was large and very easy to use. The forend wood equally matched the stock in grain, color, and finish.

## THE METAL

The receiver side-plates are the most impressive part of the Julia. The 24K gold floral motif shaped into a woman's face is absolutely stunning, and fitting for an Italian-made shotgun. The receiver side-plates are undoubtedly works of art and should be displayed. Floral engraving decorates the receiver and the oversized trigger guard, which is sized to facilitate a gloved shooter. The Julia comes with a manual single selective trigger and a tang-mounted safety with integral





as well. I also walked to test carrying the Julia on a long hunt. I was a bit surprised, as I thought the Julia would have a heavy recoil due to the light weight of the gun and not having a rubber recoil pad. I was pleasantly surprised. The Julia had a tolerable recoil, it did not slap my face, and I mounted the gun quite easily due to how lightweight the shotgun is. A wider butt pad would allow for a more comfortable fit into the shoulder pocket, but it would also add weight and

take away from the lightness. I was very impressed by the trigger. The Julia trigger was surprisingly quick, had great placement in relation to the grip, and was a short pull. You would not need to adjust the Julia trigger.

Takeaway after shooting the Julia for a few hours. She definitely shoots where you look. If it was flying, it was dying. The Julia is very light, I was not fatigued after walking a mile carrying the shotgun and my gear. The recoil was tolerable for such a lightweight shotgun. Although I am used to a professionally fit shotgun, I had no bruises or soreness on my face or shoulder. If you want a lightweight shotgun that is stunning, and the envy of the hunt, the Julia is your girl.