

# Caesar Guerini

## SUMMIT IMPACT

A REVIEW BY TOM CERETTO

This is the second shotgun I've tested in as many months with the 'new generation' high rib and Monte Carlo stock configuration for sporting clays. While similar in looks to many of the high rib trap guns, there are some subtle differences – centered mostly on the Caesar Guerini Dynamic Tuning System (or DTS). In that regard, I've decided not to use my usual gun review format, but to initially concentrate on the DTS and my personal experience as I tuned the gun, step by step,

before putting it through its paces on the range.

Having shouldered the gun, it was clear that someone else had shot the gun before I received it – the front bead and mid-bead didn't line up for me. Using the adjustment tool from the accessory case, I loosened the comb and removed it from the stock. Next I loosened the square studs the comb bolts to, and moved both of them a bit to the left. After shouldering it once again, I decided to raise the rear of the comb very slightly. This was done easily – because the Impact stock can be tilted fore and aft quite radically with little effort, a feature not available with most adjustable stocks. I didn't touch

the comb height – it seemed perfect for me.

As with the previous gun I had shot of this configuration, I decided to adjust the rib to what I perceived to be mid-point. When you turn the rib adjustment screw (using the socket head wrench supplied) a full turn, you can feel the adjustment screw settle in to the detent with a click. Raising the rib makes it shoot a bit flatter and you have to lower the rib to make the gun shoot higher. I know this sounds counterintuitive, going up to go lower and going low to go higher, but having shot trap guns with adjustable ribs, I was aware of this seemingly odd feature of adjustable ribs.

The Impact rib is adjustable from 5% low to 90% high at its limits of adjustment. When I'd set it to my satisfaction I was shooting 60/40, which is slightly high,

though the beads made a perfect figure eight when I looked straight down the barrel with my head properly on the stock. This shouldn't have surprised me, as I have shot 60/40 for most of my life, whether shooting sporting clays or skeet. For trap I would start by cranking down on the rib three clicks and adjust from there – which you can easily do with the Impact adjustable rib and stock. This adjustability is what makes the Impact a gun for all shooting disciplines.

### Finer Adjustments

Now it was time to take the Impact to the range. There's no doubt, after shooting a 100 sporting course, that this is a sweet shooting gun. Half way around the

swapping small weight rods that are positioned low on the rib. The rods are made of aluminum, steel and tungsten and can be swapped to fine tune forward bias.

After adjusting the weight bias I decided to move the trigger back



DTS KINETIC BALANCER.

course I decided to adjust the DTS Kinetic Balancer to give me a more forward bias. The DTS Kinetic Balancer has three 1.41 ounce weights installed by Guerini at the factory. I unscrewed the recoil pad, easily removed the Kinetic balancer assembly and removed two of the weights and moved the third and last weight to the most forward position possible. After trying my gun mount a few times, I was satisfied by the weight adjustment I had made and never adjusted the weight bias again.

It's interesting to note that gun balance can also be 'tweaked' by

slightly to shorten the distance from the grip to trigger. I loosened the setscrew and slid the trigger back and retightened it – easily done in a very short time. After the initial adjustments out of the box, and the finer adjustments at the range, I made no further adjustments to the Impact except to change the two IC chokes to a light modified and modified.

The most striking feature of the Impact is that each change in rib adjustment, comb position and weight bias can be done quickly with very little effort – and made a significant difference to how the gun handled. I think the Impact designer's intent of manufacturing a sporting clays target gun that

is easily adjusted to both the average and non-average sporting clays shooters dimensions by the shooter him (or herself) has been achieved to a very high degree. It was propitious that this particular Impact demo didn't fit me well out of the box because it gave me an opportunity to familiarize myself with the DTS system and to share my experience in adjusting the Impact to suit me and my chosen discipline (sporting clays).

### Gun in Profile

The receiver is a modified Boss type unit with replaceable trunnions on the receiver wall for the barrels to pivot on and a bolt that engages the monobloc to secure the barrels in battery. It differs from the pure Boss in that the locking bolt engages a pair of under lugs that extend  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch below the chamber of the bottom barrel. This adds slightly to the depth of the receiver, but not by much. The under lug fits snugly into a recess machined into the

receiver floor and helps mitigate any twisting forces initiated when the gun is discharged. The full width bolt engages the slots machined into the two under lugs and secures the bolt like a bank vault. It's a fairly conventional approach that has been proven very effective by many different manufacturers for the last millennium. The receiver is CNC machined out of a steel alloy forging and when measured with my digital electronic vernier calipers was 1.625" wide and 2.575" deep – right in the ballpark with most modern receivers.

The trigger is set and the hammers cocked by a sturdy round cocking rod that runs down a groove machined into the center of the receiver floor. The inertia operated trigger group has rebounding hammers, interceptor sears and an independent inertia block. The hammers and sears are precision machined out of billet alloy steel. The hammers are powered by a pair of sturdy coil springs. Lock time seems to be

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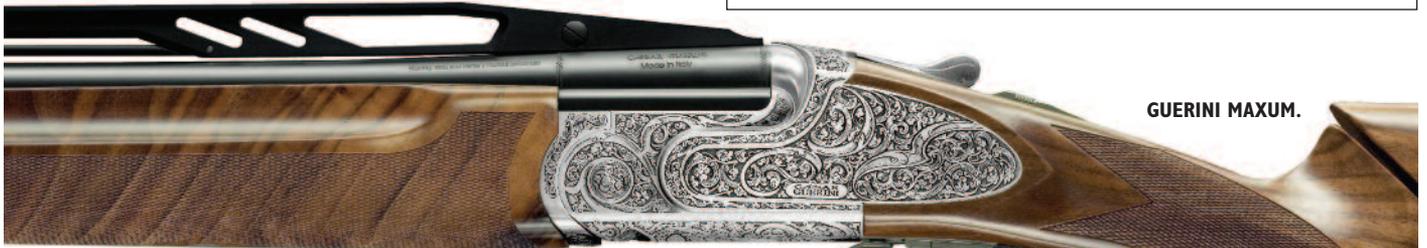
very fast. The triggers rank the best I have ever pulled. The bottom barrel went off at 3.5 pounds and the upper barrel at 3.6 pounds. The triggers go off crisply without a bit of discernable creep when pulled. It doesn't get much better than that.

The receiver is aesthetically very pleasing to the eye. It is

than the old standard bore of 0.729 inches. The dual conical forcing cones are then reamed to five inches in length and the bores and chamber are chrome lined. Six chokes are provided with the Impact – cylinder, skeet, two improved cylinder, Light Modified, and a modified. Light modified and full chokes are available at extra



MONTE CARLO STOCK.



GUERINI MAXUM.

traditional in appearance and has some very nice scroll engraving with a gold Caesar Guerini logo in the center of an oval, surrounded by some scroll engraving on both the left and right sides of the receiver. The bottom of the receiver also has some scroll and Summit engraved in gold. The area behind the recoil ball, adjacent to the top lever, also displays some nice scroll engraving. The bottom of the trigger guard that surrounds the gold plated trigger also displays a bit of scroll. The high gloss blued receiver is coated with what Guerini calls an Invisalloy protective coating that protects the receiver from sweaty acids and scratches.

If you want a more fancy Impact, Guerini is doing their lovely Maxum in the Impact configuration. The Maxum has false side plates and is profusely engraved. It also sports higher-grade wood – it's a very pretty gun.

Like most modern shotguns being manufactured currently, Guerini barrels are slightly over-bored. They drill their barrels out of solid bars of alloy steel and hone and polish them to 0.735 inches. This is about a 0.006 inch larger

cost. The Maxis conocal-parallel chokes measured  $3\frac{3}{16}$  inches long and choke constriction is prominently marked on the knurled extended portion of the chokes. The barrels are matte black and non-reflective and smooth from breech to muzzle. All Caesar Guerini barrels are tested for convergence at the factory in Italy. The monobloc has an attractive nicely done machine turned finish.

The most striking feature of the barrels is of course the top rib. It stands 17mm above the top of the upper barrel when the rib is adjusted at mid-point. It is machined from high-grade aircraft aluminum and hard-anodized matte black. It has a very slight taper that measures 11mm at the breech and 10mm at the muzzle and is non-reflective. The front bead is white and the mid-bead is steel. Height

adjustments to the rib are accomplished by turning a single socket head screw at the very front of the rib mount. Each 360 degree turn engages a detent that securely grips the rib and keeps it secured. The rib is anchored to the barrel at the breech and muzzle and is free floating in between. To prevent excessive rib vibration, a vibration dampener is located a few inches to the rear of where the rib is secured to the muzzle end of the barrel. Without question, the Impact rib is one of the easiest to adjust I have ever used. The mid-rib is vented from the fore-end to a few inches from the muzzle.

The reason for the high rib and Monte Carlo stock configuration on this new generation sporting clays gun is to ensure a more erect head position that allows better visibility



LEFT: THE HIGH RIB.

The reason for the high rib and Monte Carlo stock configuration on this new generation sporting clays gun is to ensure a more erect head position that allows better visibility of the target.



of the target. It also allows the shooter to shoot a slightly longer stock than he or she would normally shoot. I usually shoot a stock with a 14<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> to 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch length of pull, but had no problem with the 14.9 inch length of pull of the Impact. I was able to shoot low gun or fully mounted with ease and comfort. I also noted that the high rib high stock configuration took the barrel out of play and helped keep focus on the target and not on the barrel. I think it also helped prevent the barrel occluding the target, something we have all encountered on occasions when mounting and inserting the gun into the target's line of flight improperly. Left hand stocks are available for the Impact on special order.

Once I had configured the Impact to my liking, it proved to be a lively gun that balanced well for me and transitioned from target to target smoothly. Mounting it and inserting it into the target's line of flight was easily accomplished.

I liked the fore-end configuration on the Impact the moment I laid eyes on it at the SHOT Show back in February. It's slim, but large enough to fill the hand fully and the checkering is well done and offers a firm grip. It allows the hand to surround the lower barrel, which I feel aids pointing the gun properly. It's not only functionally pleasing, it's also aesthetically pleasing. The oil rubbed finish on the stock and fore-end is well done and pores are filled adequately. Wood quality was better than I expected for a gun with a suggested retail price under \$5,000. Wood to metal fit was excellent. Fit and finish on the entire gun was very well done.

## Shooting Impressions

When commenting on the shootability of target guns, it's difficult not to let personal preferences impact (no pun intended) on what you write – but it happens. In some ways it's the same as being a movie or music critic. I like classical music, jazz and Irish whiskey, but friends of mine think my taste in music and booze is atrocious! Although I shot it well (at my skill level) there were a couple that tried it out and couldn't come to terms with the configuration – but they were very much in the minority. Almost everyone else, young or older, had an open mind, took to it quickly and enjoyed shooting it. If you have an

opportunity to shoot one of these new configuration target guns, do so – you might be enlightened.

Once I had configured the Impact to my liking, it proved to be a lively gun that balanced well for me and transitioned from target to target smoothly. Mounting it and inserting it into the target's line of flight was easily accomplished – when I did my part properly!

I liked the way the high rib took the barrel out of the sight picture equation and particularly enjoyed shooting with a head up position and a bit longer stock. Most of all I liked being able to tweak the gun until I got it adjusted to exactly where I wanted it. Felt recoil with <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> ounce and 1 ounce high velocity loads can only be described as negligible – no

## SPECIFICATIONS

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| <b>MANUFACTURER:</b>                   | CAESAR GUERINI srl<br>VIA CANDOSI, 18/F<br>25060 MARCHENO (ES) ITALY                               |
| <b>IMPORTER:</b>                       | CAESAR GUERINI USA<br>700 LAKE STREET<br>CAMBRIDGE, MD 21613<br>410-901-1131<br>www.gueriniusa.com |
| <b>MODEL:</b>                          | SUMMIT IMPACT  |
| <b>MSRP:</b>                           | SUMMIT IMPACT \$4,995.00<br>MAXUM IMPACT \$7,550.00  |
| <b>GUN TYPE:</b>                       | 12 GAUGE OVER AND UNDER<br>20 GA. AVAILABLE  |
| <b>WEIGHT:</b>                         | 8 LBS 7 OZ. AS TESTED  |
| <b>WEIGHT BIAS:</b>                    | ADJUSTABLE   |
| <b>ACTION:</b>                         | UNDERLUG BOXLOCK   |
| <b>TRIGGER:</b>                        | ADJUSTABLE SINGLE SELECTIVE<br>RELEASE TRIGGER AVAILABLE<br>ON REQUEST                             |
| <b>TRIGGER PULL:</b>                   | UNDER 3.5 LBS<br>OVER 3.6 LBS  |
| <b>RECEIVER DEPTH:</b>                 | 2.575"   |
| <b>RECEIVER WIDTH:</b>                 | 1.685"   |
| <b>BARREL:</b>                         | 32" AS TESTED<br>30" AVAILABLE<br>CHROME LINED   |
| <b>CHAMBER:</b>                        | 2.75"  |
| <b>BARREL FINISH:</b>                  | MATTE BLACK  |
| <b>BORE:</b>                           | 0.735"   |
| <b>FORCING CONES:</b>                  | 5" DUAL CONICAL  |
| <b>RIB:</b>                            | ALUMINUM ANODIZED<br>VENTED & ADJUSTABLE   |
| <b>MID-RIB:</b>                        | VENTED   |
| <b>RIB TAPER:</b>                      | 11x10mm  |
| <b>FRONT BEAD:</b>                     | WHITE  |
| <b>MID-BEAD:</b>                       | METAL  |
| <b>CHOKES:</b>                         | EXTENDED MAXIS CHOKES  |
| <b>CHOKE CONSTRICTION AS MEASURED:</b> |  |
| <b>CYLINDER:</b>                       | 0.003"   |
| <b>SKEET:</b>                          | 0.008"   |
| <b>IMPROVED CYLINDER:</b>              | 0.012"   |
| <b>MODIFIED:</b>                       | 0.023"   |
| <b>LENGTH OF PULL:</b>                 | 14.9"  |
| <b>STOCK &amp; FORE-END:</b>           | WALNUT   |
| <b>STOCK FINISH:</b>                   | HAND RUBBED OIL  |
| <b>DROP AT COMB:</b>                   | 1.6" ADJUSTABLE  |
| <b>DROP AT MONTE CARLO:</b>            | 1.8"   |
| <b>DROP AT HEEL:</b>                   | 2.25"  |
| <b>CAST AT HEEL:</b>                   | .19"   |
| <b>CAST AT TOE:</b>                    | .31"   |
| <b>PITCH:</b>                          | 5 DEGREES  |

doubt aided by having the gun adjusted properly.

Would I consider purchasing one of the new configuration target guns for my own use? I think I would – and I just might do that. ■