

The CZ-USA SCTP Sterling



A GOOD OPTION FOR YOUTH AND LADY SHOOTERS, SAYS **MATTHEW GAY**

A big thanks goes out to the folks at CZ-USA for making a sample of this innovative target breaking machine available to LadyShooter LifeStyles for a review. The Sterling came packaged in a heavy-duty ABS case branded with the maker's name. Upon removing the shotgun from its packaging, it was clear that this was a very different model than I had reviewed before. The stock was obviously purpose built with youth and lady shooters in mind. The accessories case held three additional extended choke tubes and accessories for the adjustable comb. Manual and warranty card were contained within the case.

THE STOCK

There is a lot to unpack here but first and foremost, this configuration was the brainchild of CZ-USA's Dave Miller. In order to create the stock dimensions for the Sterling, he measured four separate stocks of youth shooters who had custom made or fitted gunstocks on their target guns. What he discovered was a consistent set of measurements throughout, increased pitch, more



The stock features a high degree of adjustability and attractive stippling

drop at comb and adequate cast. The SCTP Sterling was the result of David's observations and fits a category of shooter that continues to expand at record rates.

The Turkish walnut on this sample was nicely figured and sported an elegant oil finished satin sheen, and modern styled laser stippling on the grip and forend, providing excellent grip

mechanical trigger had very little play on the bottom barrel and broke at just under 4 lbs. Reset required adequate, but not excessive, forward motion of the trigger blade and broke at 4 1/4 lbs. for the top barrel. The toggle barrel selector is done in the traditional Italian style, located on top of the manual safety switch. One brilliant feature on this model is found in the way CZ-USA

secures the barrel selector. Some shotguns with similar designs can fail to fire if the barrel selector gets bumped slightly out of battery or is moved to the middle of the safety tang. With the Sterling, in order to change the barrel selector, the safety must be engaged. Once the safety is moved to the fire position, the barrel selector is locked in place and cannot be moved.



characteristics. A very comfortable, yet not extreme right handed palm swell makes for a comfortable grip. The forearm is the Schnabel type with the same stippling in place of traditional checkering and locks solidly in place with a standard lever mechanism which latches securely to the barrel lug. A Southpaw version is available for lefthanded shooters at no extra charge.

The three inch drop at heel is considerably more than many sporters, due to the Monte Carlo style stock. The factory installed four-way adjustable comb on this model is well designed with excellent hardware. With factory provided aluminum spacers to install under the comb, the drop adjustment can be secured without relying on set screws alone to hold it in place. The factory installed rubber butt plate is well fit and 1/2 inch thick.

THE RECEIVER

The Sterling receiver is perhaps where the name comes from for this model. The combination of mixed polished and brushed finish makes for a handsome contrast, without looking too busy. Although this gun was not designed for a six-foot-tall, 245-pound man like myself, I appreciate the "all about business" but elegant motif this model displays. A small amount of floral engraving decorates the top lever, while the brand and model designation is engraved on the bottom of the receiver.

CZ-USA employs the time proven Browning style under-lug locking system employed by many shotgun manufacturers for nearly a century, making for a solid lock-up. The single selective



Uses the time proven Under-lug locking system

THE BARRELS

When it comes to a sporting gun, barrel construction and design can make or break a model's performance and reputation. Being cognizant of this marketing and functional reality, CZ-USA tests the barrel regulation of all target guns before they are shipped from their Kansas City warehouse. The barrels on this sample measured thirty inches and were well constructed with a nice dark blued finish. The ventilated mid-rib was well executed and provides capacity to dissipate the heat of those high-volume shooting days. The 8-millimeter ventilated top rib on this model is best described as flat in orientation. The barrels are finished with a white Bradley style front bead and no mid-bead. The Sterling is provided with five extended choke tubes (CYL, IC, M, IM and Full). The chokes are threaded using the Beretta Mobil choke system.

SHOOTING THE SCTP STERLING

Since the SCTP Sterling is designed for youth and ladies, my trap shooter wife Cheryl was the test subject for fitting, shooting and feedback. After some fitting and eye alignment work to get things just right, we headed to the club. The first stop was the patterning plate. A few shots from each barrel with different loads, combined with a little fine tuning established proper eye alignment, confirmed that barrel regulation was excellent and verified point of impact was 60/40. Then it was off to the course.

Out on the course the SCTP Sterling performed well. The accuracy of fit, thanks to the flexibility and purpose-built nature of this model, was an obvious factor in making for comfortable shooting. Although she had no issues shooting heavy target loads, she really enjoyed the one-ounce 1180 FPS loads. Operation was flawless with well-timed ejectors and smooth functioning of all the controls.

At 7 lbs. 12 oz., the weight of this shotgun factors in two major considerations when evaluating a shotgun designed for youth and lady shooters. This slightly sub-8 lb. gun has enough heft to eat up recoil at a quantifiable rate while not over burdening a shooter with excessive weight out front. The balance on the sample gun was 1/2 inch front of the trunnions.

As youth and lady shooters continue to make up a significant portion of participants in the clay



target sports, it was important to build a production model which can fit them out of the box. CZ-USA stepped up to the plate, did their homework and created an excellent option at a perfect price point. For any youth or lady shooters looking for an awful lot of gun for the money, the CZ-USA SCTP Sterling must be a consideration.

For additional information or to find a dealer near you visit CZ-USA at cz-usa.com ■

Editor's Note: Matthew Gay is a shooting instructor from Michigan, the Head Coach of the Olivet College Shotgun Team, Vice President of the Michigan Scholastic Clay Target Program and an NSCA Master class competitor.

SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL:	CZ-USA SCTP STERLING
GAUGE:	2 GAUGE
BARRELS:	30"
LOP:	14"
DAC:	1 1/2" (AS TESTED) (ADJUSTABLE)
DAH:	3" (AS TESTED)
PITCH:	9 DEGREES
WEIGHT:	7LBS 11 OZ
CHOKES:	5 EXTENDED (CYL, IC, M, IM, F)
LEFT-HANDED VERSION:	AVAILABLE
SUGGESTED RETAIL:	\$1519

