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Gun Test

**FABARM**

ELOS N2

RS Sporting



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## ***Gun Test***

# ELOS N2 RS Sporting

*Photos courtesy of Fabarm USA (except where noted)*



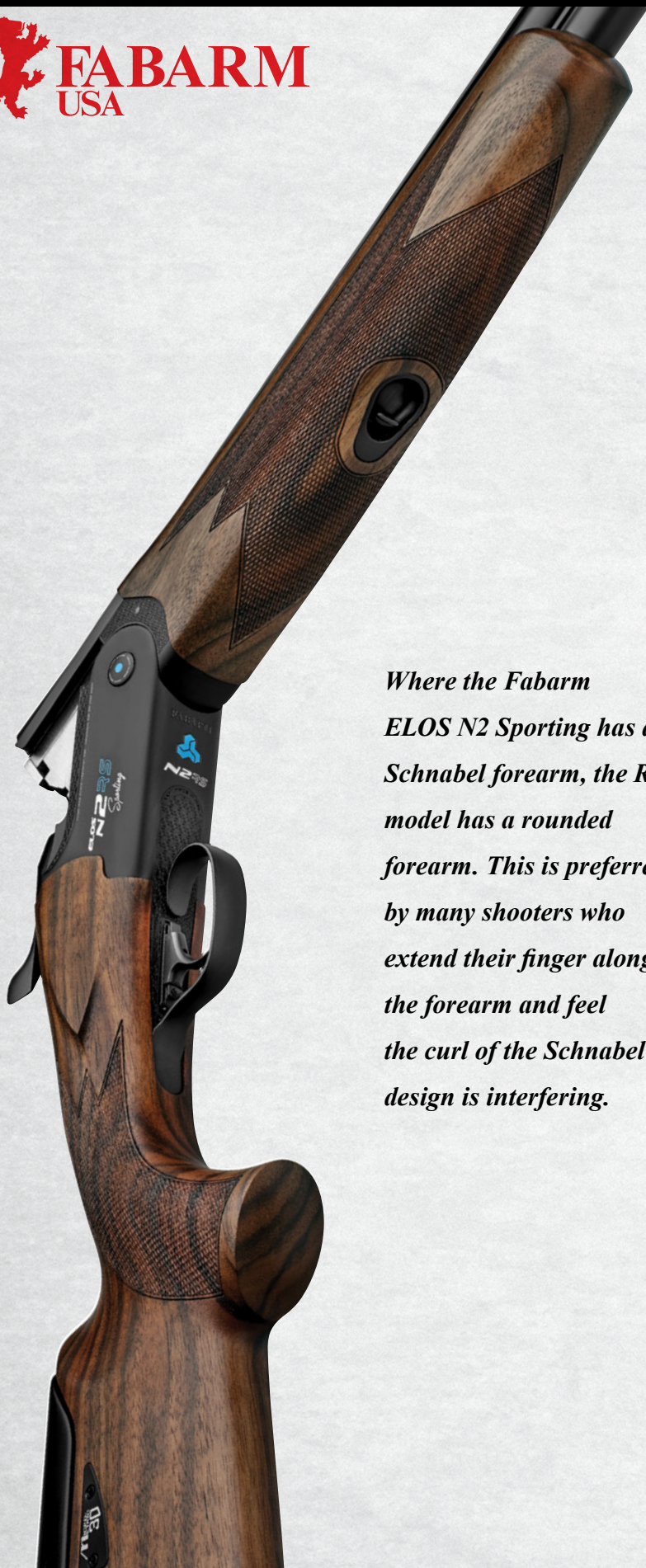


## by Mark H. Taylor

The Fabarm ELOS N2 Sporting has been such a popular and successful shotgun for clay target shooters that when I found out I would be reviewing the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting, I was very interested to see what changed. Since I was still in Southern Arizona when the ELOS N2 RS Sporting arrived, Doug Gray from Gray's Shotgun Cache did all the paperwork for me. Gray's is a Caesar Guerini, Syren and Fabarm dealer with a permanent spot on Vendor Row at the Tucson Trap & Skeet Club.



*My first impression of the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting was that it feels 'beefier' than the ELOS N2 Sporting. The ELOS N2 RS Sporting that I received weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz., which was 13 ounces more than the ELOS N2 Sporting.*



*Where the Fabarm ELOS N2 Sporting has a Schnabel forearm, the RS model has a rounded forearm. This is preferred by many shooters who extend their finger along the forearm and feel the curl of the Schnabel design is interfering.*

The Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting assembled like a break-open shotgun does. It went together smoothly, and I did not feel as if I had to force it or fight it to get it together. The forearm uses the Deeley & Edge-style release, but instead of a lever-pull release it has a button which is pushed down to remove the forearm. Once attached, the forearm feels secure and tight on the barrels.

My first impression of the ELOS N2 RS Sporting was that it feels ‘beefier’ than the ELOS N2 Sporting...as if the ELOS N2 Sporting started lifting weights to gain weight. The ELOS N2 RS Sporting that I received weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz. This is 13 ounces more than the ELOS N2 Sporting, so my first impression was correct. Even with a weight of 8 lbs., 4 oz., it balanced perfectly at the hinge pin.

The Length Of Pull (LOP) on the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting measured 14.75" with the trigger in the middle of the ¾" long adjustment rail. Since I like to shoot a LOP just less than that, I used the wrench provided to easily move the trigger to the far back of the rail. The recoil pad which came on the gun is 22mm wide. Fabarm is unique in that shooters can purchase from the Fabarm website different recoil pads in widths of 12mm and 27mm, which when swapped out makes the LOP 14" or 15 ⅛", respectively (and these recoil pads can be swapped out by the shooter — not requiring a gunsmith to fit them).

With the adjustable comb in the lowest position, mounting the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting presented me with two beads lined up one behind the other. Since I like a sporting shotgun that shoots a Point Of Impact (POI) of 60/40, I moved the comb up so the mid-bead halfway covered the front bead. The ELOS N2 RS Sporting opened up quite easily for a brand-new gun...not too stiff nor too loose. Inserting two snap caps indicated that the trigger mechanism is inertia. The barrel selector must have been pre-set to shoot the lower barrel first, since the snap cap in the lower barrel was ejected far behind me. The ejector in the top barrel also put the snap cap far behind me when I changed the barrel selector. After re-inserting the snap caps, I used my trigger pull scale to determine the weight of both triggers was 3.5 lbs.

The Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting I received had a gorgeous piece of Turkish walnut for the stock and forearm. I was not surprised since upgraded wood comes standard on this model. The pistol grip on the ELOS N2 RS Sporting



*One feature the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting has which I really like is the barrel selector can be changed without having to engage the safety first.*

seems a bit thicker than on the ELOS N2 Sporting, and with the palm swell it fills the hand extremely well, giving the shooter a very solid feel of control.

This model comes standard with an adjustable comb, allowing the shooter to move it up and down (for height changes) as well as right and left (for cast changes). The enclosed wrenches make these adjustments quite easy. The black rubber recoil pad is just slightly curved to ensure a good fit in the shoulder when mounted but not curved so radically it would interfere with a dynamic or off-the-shoulder mount. The checkering on both sides of the pistol grip is not aggressive at all. It felt very comfortable to hold with bare hands and should prevent slippage when a shooter's hands are damp.

The receiver is blued with the name "ELOS N2 RS Sporting" written on each side. The letters "RS" are blue, while the other words are white. The bottom of the receiver has "N2 RS" etched in white letters. Behind the top lever is a combination safety and barrel selector lever. Changing which barrel to fire first as well as engaging the safety is easy and very straightforward. Pushing the safety lever backward displays the letter "S" in a circle and shows the shooter the safety is engaged. The shooter will move the barrel selector left-and-right to determine which barrel fires first. When a single dot is showing, the bottom barrel fires first, and when two dots are showing, the top barrel fires first. One feature the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting has which I really like is the barrel selector can be changed without having to engage the safety first.

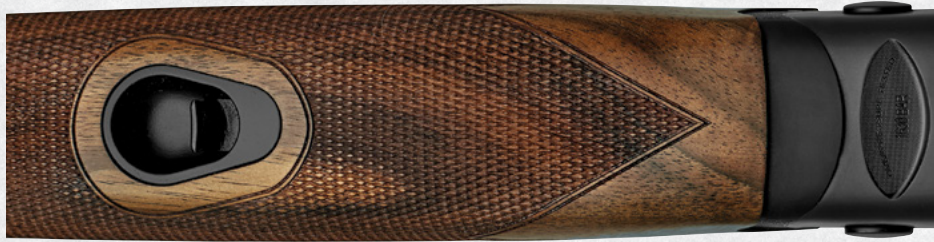
The Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting I tested had 32" non-ported barrels with a measured constriction of .725. The top-rib is tapered, going from 10mm to 8mm, and comes standard with two beads — a white Bradley-style at the muzzle end and a silver steel bead in the middle.

The Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting comes with four chokes (Improved Cylinder, Modified, Improved Modified and Full) which are 4" in total length, having 5/8" extend beyond the muzzle. The part of the choke tube which extends beyond the muzzle has the choke constriction written on it. And, it is knurled at the very end for easy gripping.

The Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting has a mid-rib which is vented from the end of the forearm to the muzzle and is solid beneath the forearm to the receiver. This extended mid-rib down the receiver

adds some additional weight between the hands and is intended to help reduce recoil. Where the Fabarm ELOS N2 Sporting has a Schnabel forearm, the RS model has a rounded forearm. This is preferred by many shooters who extend their finger along the forearm and feel the curl of the Schnabel design is interfering. The checkering on both sides of the forearm match that of the pistol grip. The wood-to-metal finish throughout the entire shotgun was excellent.

When I picked up the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting, the NSCA U.S. Open Sporting Clays Championships was underway, so only one course was open for practice at the Coyote Springs Sporting Clays range. I was headed that way when I ran into one of my students, Kassi Hanson, an All-American Team sub-junior sporting clays shooter from Wyoming. She asked if she could try out the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting on the Matrix Clay Target Challenge course. Having never shot this gun, she proceeded to hit all but one of the report pairs and only missed two of the true pair targets. She was challenging another shooter from Wyoming and used the 'Double Down' portion of the Matrix Clay Target Challenge to beat him



*The forearm uses the Deeley & Edge-style release, but instead of a lever-pull release it has a button which is pushed down to remove the forearm.*

by 10 points. When I asked Kassi her impression of the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting, she said two things stood out: (1) the shotgun moved effortlessly to the target and shot where she looked...never having to 'bead-check' to make sure the gun was where it was supposed to be, and (2) the recoil was non-existent despite the heavy sporting clays loads she was using.

Kassi had to run to the sub-gauge event, so it was my turn to shoot the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting. As I was on my way to the Orange Course, I stopped at the patterning board to see if how I set the comb gave me the POI I was expecting. I put the Modified choke in each barrel and shot three shots from 20 yards to gauge the POI. I did not have a tape measure, but the bulk of the pattern was somewhere between 2" and 4" above my aiming point, so I was comfortable with what I saw.

The Orange Course was set up to be a very challenging practice course to get the competitors ready for the other courses. On the Orange Course, I shot a combination of crossing targets, quartering targets, chandelles, rabbits and springing teals. Given the course setup and background, I shot all targets using an off-the-shoulder mount. While I agree with Kassi that the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting had no felt recoil, I was astounded by how well the gun balanced between my hands and came right up to my face and into my shoulder.

Before I departed Arizona for Colorado, I went to the Pima County Clay Target Center to try the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting on 5-Stand. I shot the entire round with the shotgun pre-mounted to find out how well I could see the targets using this approach. I shot a 25 straight, breaking all three of the rabbit targets



*Kassi Hanson, an NSCA All-American sub-junior from Wyoming, tried out the new Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting at Coyote Springs Sporting Clays in Tucson, Arizona. She said the recoil was non-existent despite the heavy sporting clays loads she was using. Photo by Mark H. Taylor*



solidly as they took a high hop halfway along their path. Again, I was impressed by the lack of felt recoil. By using a static mount, I can see the advantage of having a gun with a tapered rib, as it helps significantly in visually picking up the target.

The following quote was taken from the FABARM USA website: “We listen to our shooters and convey their messages to our engineers in order to push

our products to be the best — always asking ‘What if’ while continuing to innovate and striving to make our shotguns even better.” To me, this is exactly how the Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting came to be. The company listened to the shooters’ feedback on the already successful Fabarm ELOS N2 Sporting. The Fabarm ELOS N2 RS Sporting (MSRP listed at \$3,575) is packed full of features normally found only on shotguns selling for more than twice the price. For that reason, this gun would be an outstanding choice for the occasional or avid sporting clays shooter as well as the world-class sporting clays competitor. **SS**

Mark H. Taylor has over 40 years of shooting experience. He has won many regional, state, national and international clay target competitions. He is the author of the book *Clay Target Shooting – The Mental Game* and co-author of the book *Break ‘em All*. Mark is a NRA Certified Advanced International Shotgun Coach and a High-Performance Shotgun Coach for USA Shooting. He is a Caesar Guerini and Cabela’s (in Thornton, CO) Pro Staff shooter, and teaches monthly beginner shotgun clinics at Colorado Clays in Brighton, CO, and travels nationally and internationally teaching coaching courses and working with world-class athletes. You can email him at [coloradotaylor@gmail.com](mailto:coloradotaylor@gmail.com).

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