



SPORTING CLAYS, FIVE STAND AND PARCOURS DE CHASSE

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SYREN L4S SPORTING BY FABARM



DEE ORR PUTS THIS NEW LADIES' GUN THROUGH ITS PACES

I recently had the opportunity to stop by the Cambridge, Maryland, headquarters of Caesar Guerini/Fabarm USA and speak with President Wes Lang and Syren Brand Manager Lynne Green. We reviewed the newest addition to the Syren line, the L4S semi-auto. These guns are flying off the shelves, and for good reason. Caesar Guerini/Fabarm did not just opt to make a ladies' shotgun, they chose to do a ladies' line of guns and branded it Syren, no cut corners, quality all the way. The line includes field, sporting, and trap models in a variety of gauges and barrel lengths, and their motto "No more compromises" sums it up well.

A stock that fits

I'm going to take a few minutes here to go back in time, a little history if you will. Not happy with the concept of "Just cut off the stock, paint it a pretty pastel color and call it a ladies' gun", Wes, when his wife showed a bit of interest in shooting, took her straight to his shop and began the process of

fitting a stock for her. He quickly came to the conclusion that none of the stocks he had were quite right. He reached out to a select group of custom stock makers to find out what dimensions they were altering to customize a stock for their female clients. He took those numbers and created the Syren stock, and in 2014, the first of the Syrens hit the market. Since then, this brand has hit its stride, but unwilling to rest there, Syren has continued to fine tune, add models and enhance its offerings.

Wes often bounces ideas and suggestions off Rich Cole and has enormous respect for Cole's abilities and comprehension. I asked Rich's opinion of the gun, and this is what he told me: "The very first time I picked up the Fabarm L4S, I told the Fabarm folks they simply had to make this in a sporting configuration. It is an extremely well-made gun from a manufacturing standpoint. The feel and balance are terrific. The L4S Syren 12 gauge 30 inch, at 7 pounds is a great option for a lady. Many ladies struggle with support hand (forend hand) strength, and the

shorter forend equates to less barrel weight, making the gun more manageable and responsive for many lady shooters." And so we begin.

The details matter

The L4S model with its purple accents and lovely Turkish walnut stock enhanced with their Triwood™ finish is striking. The 28 inch 12 gauge model weighs in at 6 lbs. 12 oz. with a 13.75" length of pull. It is also available with a 30 inch barrel. Reach to the trigger from the thinned and contoured grip is four inches. Not having a recoil spring in the stock, but rather the forend, is what allows

the beautiful thin contouring in the grip area, making for a comfortable fit for a lady's smaller hand. The 7° pitch at the butt of the stock is another thing that is very accommodating to a lady's anatomy; that added pitch goes a long way in creating full contact when the gun is shouldered, thus allowing any recoil to be spread out evenly to a larger area. Facial contours are accommodated by a Monte Carlo stock with a bit of cast off and drop, and the availability in both right and left-handed models further ensures a good fit. A couple of shims are included with the gun for fine tuning. It is good fit that helps create a more positive and successful experience for the





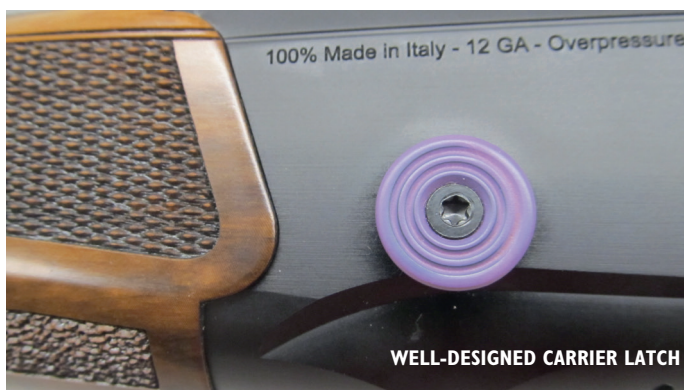
TRIWOOD™ ENHANCED TURKISH WALNUT STOCK



female shooter, whether young or old, new or experienced. Lighter weight, less felt-recoil translates to more fun shooting!

The Syren LAS Sporting model is the first with a shortened magazine, which not only reduces the weight, but also places the balance center closer to the receiver than its predecessor the XLR5. This makes for a lighter gun with less recoil. Although shortening the magazine puts the gas ports a little farther back, it works in a sporting application, since less compression is needed to eject the sporting loads as compared to heavier, longer hunting loads. That enhancement, in combination with a slight adaptation that increases the efficiency of the piston, has proven very effective.

Inside the gun some other alterations have taken place. A red retaining barrel cap holds the barrel in place. This removes the strain on the purple magazine cap whose only task now is holding the forearm on. Further, the purple cap is attached to the forearm, so no more hunting around for it on



WELL-DESIGNED CARRIER LATCH

the workbench and the red retainer barrel cap is easy to see and not conducive to rolling about. The gun comes apart easily for cleaning, no power tools required, and they recommend using Modern Spartan Systems Carbon Destroyer to get the carbon off the piston and choke tubes, G96 or Ballistol to wipe down your gun after shooting, and it likes to be run dry, just a couple drops of oil here and there. Giving it a good wipe after cleaning with a soft cloth will help to reduce the gunk buildup and maintain smooth operation. There is a very informative cleaning video online – just search “How to clean the LAS.”

The gun comes with a five-year warranty and arrives in a sturdy, fitted white Negrini locking hard case. Five choke tubes come standard – Skeet, Improved Cylinder, Modified, Improved Modified and Full, and come in their own case to round out the package.

Let's talk pretty. The only Syren identifying marks are very subtle: the Syren “S” carved into the base of the grip, purple accents in the model number on the receiver, purple cocking handle, carrier latch button and forearm cap. Two types of checkering are used on the stock and forearm, aggressive where it needs to be

SYREN LAS SPORTING SPECIFICATIONS

GAUGE: 12-GAUGE
OPERATION: STAINLESS STEEL PISTON, GAS OPERATED
BARREL: TRIBORE HP™
BARREL LENGTH: 28" AND 30" AVAILABLE
CHAMBER: 2 ¾ INCH
CHOKES: FIVE EXIS HP™ COMPETITION CHOKE TUBES
ACTION FINISH: BLACK ANODIZED
STOCK: TURKISH WALNUT
STOCK FINISH: TRIWOOD™
LENGTH OF PULL: 13 ¾ INCH
WEIGHT: 6 LBS 12 OZ (AVERAGE WITH 28 INCH BARREL)
PROOF TEST: 1630 BAR
CASE: HARD FITTED CASE
WARRANTY: 5 YEARS
MSRP: \$1895 OR \$2080 FOR LEFT HAND VERSION

and gentle on the rest. One of the fundamental differences on these Syren semi-autos is the purple carrier latch button on the left side of the receiver on both the right and left-handed models. Once I got used to it, I found this change to be one of my favorite things. While resting the receiver in the palm of my left hand, the over-sized button



is easily depressed with the first joint of my right forefinger as my right thumb gripped the face of the receiver. Gentle pressure closed the breach while my thumb stayed well out of harm's way as the bolt slid closed. That was easy!

Putting it through its paces

Next came the field trial. Time to put a few hundred rounds through this baby. Once home from traveling up north, I took my demo 12 gauge, 28 inch L4S straight out of the box and went off to Quail Creek and put around 100 of my 1oz., 1250 fps 7 ½ loads through this gun. It performed beautifully, not a single problem, so then I lightened the load to 1oz. 1210 fps and still, it worked like a champ. The feel of the gun was light, but I did not feel any added recoil, and the checkering allowed me a firm

grip while still gentle in my hand. This gun's stock was about an inch longer than I am used to, and yet I had no trouble shooting from a FITASC mount. The balance of the gun made for a smooth move to the targets; most of which were breaking. Once I was done with my initial trial I had a friend shoot another 50 rounds through it and she loved it too. She is a bit smaller than me, but the 28 inch barrel was perfect for her. I am very excited about this gun and can't wait to get mine with the 30 inch barrel and slightly shortened stock. I have no reservations about recommending this gun to other ladies. ■ www.syrenusa.com

Editor's note: In the interest of full disclosure, Dee is now a member of the Syren Pro Staff. At the time of this writing she is still shooting her 30 inch XLR5, awaiting the delivery of her new L4S.