

# GUNS

THE ITALIAN WAY MAGAZINE

## OUR TEST

### Adjustable stock for the pump shotgun

FABARM SDASS PRO TELESCOPIC STAGE 2 12 GAUGE

### Woodcock specialist in smaller caliber

BENELLI 828 U BECCACCIA 20 GAUGE

### The .50 Caliber AR

DR-15 CUSTOM MK50  
.50 BEOWULF CALIBER

## OUR TEST

### The second generation of the italian revolver

CHIAPPA FIREARMS CHARGING  
RHINO GEN II 60D SLATE 9 MM CALIBER

### British style for the italian side by side

FAUSTI DEA SLX 28 GAUGE

### The mighty pistol in 7.5 mm

FK BRNO FIELD PISTOL 7.5 MM FK CALIBER

### Accuracy in handy format

SABATTI ROVER SHOOTER 6.5 PRC CALIBER

## TEST AMMO

### The most powerful cartridge

FIOCCHI DEMOLITION 12 GAUGE

## WESTERN SHOOTING

### The Spaghetti western revolver

UBERTI 1871 RICHARDS  
NAVY TUCO .45 COLT CALIBER



# SDASS PRO STAGE 2

## ACCURATE

The TRIBORE HP barrel 20 " long , drilled from solid chrome molybdenum steel bars provides an unequalled accuracy and distribution, with slug or pellets ammunitions. The MIL-STD 1913 CANTILEVER rail is attached directly to the barrel such that the firearm can be assembled or disassembled without having to reset the optics.

## ERGONOMIC

The parallel comb construction, the precise pump mechanism, the flip-up sights and its well-balanced weight make the SDASS PRO STAGE 2 extremely fast on the target, with a less felt recoil on the operator face.

## SAFE


FABARM is the only manufacturer to have agreed to a test protocol of 1630 BAR with the National C.I.P Proof House when the legal C.I.P. test allows for a pressure of only 1320 BAR.

## ATTRACTIVE

CERAKOTE coating on the frame and cooling jacket, 2-tons logo, satin surfacing of all components, the SDASS PRO STAGE 2 is a pump shotgun with extremely high quality standard.



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SDASS PRO  
NATO N/CAGE 1469 STAGE 2



SDASS PRO TELESCOPIC STAGE 2



SDASS PRO FORCES STAGE 2

AVAILABLE FROM OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2022.

**TEST SHOTGUNS**

FABARM SDASS PRO TELESCOPIC STAGE 2

# Second generation



The SDASS Pro Telescopic Stage 2 is an updated version of Fabarm's iconic pump-action shotgun.

The SDASS is one of Fabarm's most famous pump-action shotguns. The new Stage 2 model features numerous updates: Cerakote finish, aluminum magazine tube, telescopic stock, Fab Defense grip and flip-up sights

Text and photos by **Ruggero Pettinelli**

**T**he SDASS is one of Fabarm's most iconic pump-action shotguns: it is an absolutely classic firearm, which has earned a prominent place among enthusiasts for its ruggedness and reliability, but also for its captivating look. Even classics, however, can need an update: for this new model, the general mechanical characteristics remain unchanged, but the ergonomics, balance, finishes and overall look have been improved. All of these updates are summarized under the name "Stage 2", which represents the second generation of SDASS shotguns.

### **Rugged and reliable**

The tried and tested operating mechanism has not been changed: we still have a sliding bolt with an oscillating locking lug, which fits into a recess on the breech extension. By pulling the fore-end back, the action is unlocked and the bolt is dragged backwards by two action bars; the shell is extracted from the chamber and then it's ejected by the integral ejector located on the breech extension. By moving the fore-end forward, the lifter positions the next cartridge which is then chambered. The lug locks the action again and the shotgun is ready to fire. The polymer trigger housing, connected to the receiver by two pins, contains the internal hammer, disconnecter and lifter. The oversized trigger guard allows the user to shoot even when wearing winter gloves. The crossbolt safety, located behind the trigger, is engaged by pushing on the round end, while to release it you need to push the triangle-shaped end, which is larger and easier to operate. For right-handed users, the

#### **FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO BUY IT**

**Target market:** those who want a reliable high-end shotgun with a modern look

**What it requires:** you can add many accessories, like red dots or tactical slings

**Why you should buy it:** because it's rugged, it has a smooth action and it looks very good

**Possible alternatives:** Winchester SXP Extreme Defender Adjustable



The aluminum receiver has a "grade E" carbon gray Cerakote finish, while the trigger has a burnt bronze finish. In the picture we can see the cantilever Picatinny rail mounted on the barrel and the new flip-up rear sight.



The flip-up front sight is mounted on a special ramp. The vented heat shield uses the same carbon gray Cerakote finish as the receiver.



disengagement maneuver takes place from right to left, but the safety is reversible to accommodate left-handed users. When the hammer is cocked you cannot move the fore-end, but you can unlock it by pushing a lever located in front of the trigger guard.

The first update introduced by the Stage 2 model concerns the materials and surface finishes: there is still an aluminum receiver, but now we also have an aluminum magazine tube, which was previously made of steel. This choice was made to improve the shotgun's balance, especially when the magazine tube is fully loaded with 8 cartridges. The anodizing on the receiver has been replaced by a class "E" carbon gray Cerakote finish, while the trigger has a burnt bronze color. The barrel has a black finish, but the steel vented heat shield uses the same Cerakote finish of the receiver. The lifter and bolt have a PVD finish.

The barrel has the Tribore HP internal profile, a distinctive feature of Fabarm's shotguns, which has a first section after the over-bored chamber, a second cylindrical section and a third section that is slightly tapered. The original SDASS had a fixed cylindrical choke, while the Stage 2 has an Accuracy removable choke with a length of 82 mm for the internal part and 15 mm for the external part. The external part is threaded and an aluminum muzzle brake can be mounted on it. Obviously, the shotgun is compatible with all Fabarm HP chokes, allowing the shooter to tune the shotgun's performance with different types of ammo. The barrel and



The barrel has a Tribore HP internal profile and is equipped with an Accuracy removable choke that can be used to mount the aluminum muzzle brake. The front sling swivel can be positioned at 3, 6, or 9 o'clock.



The magazine tube is made of aluminum instead of steel, to improve the balance of the gun. The spring that automatically pushes the fore-end forward can be easily removed if the user doesn't want to use it.

The barrel is 20 inches long. The magazine tube has an 8-round capacity.



## TECHNICAL DATA

**Manufacturer:** Fabarm, fabarm.com

**Model:** SDASS Pro Telescopic Stage 2

**Type:** pump-action shotgun

**Caliber:** 12 gauge with a 3-inch chamber

**Magazine tube capacity:** 8 rounds

**Barrel:** 20-inch Tribore HP barrel with Accuracy HP interchangeable chokes; removable muzzle brake  
Overall length: from 967 (38") to 1,043 mm (41")

**Trigger:** single stage trigger; 2,000 grams (4.4 lb.) pull weight

**Safety:** reversible crossbolt safety

**Sights:** cantilever Picatinny rail on the barrel; flip-up adjustable front and rear sight

**Materials:** aluminum receiver and magazine tube, carbon steel barrel and bolt, polymer fore-end and stock

**Finishes:** carbon gray Cerakote on the receiver and heat shield; burnt bronze Cerakote on the trigger; black barrel; PVD finish on the bolt and lifter

**Weight:** 3,470 grams (7.6 lb.)

**Retail price in Italy:** 1,420 euros, VAT included

chokes are compatible with steel shot and they are subjected to a special proof test with ammo that develops 1,630 bar of pressure (23,641 PSI). As if that wasn't enough, Fabarm guarantees perfect function even when firing steel shot with \* or \*\* chokes, whereas CIP standards say not to use steel shot with chokes tighter than \*\*\*. The bore and the 3-inch chamber are chrome lined. The barrel is 20 inches long.

The fore-end is basically unchanged, while the telescopic grip-stock group is new. The original SDASS could be used with a telescopic stock, but now there is a new rear joint for the receiver that is compatible with a Fab Defense Gradus AR 15 grip. There is also a polymer buffer tube with a Fab Defense Core CP collapsible buttstock on it; the user can also adjust the position of the cheek riser.

Between the stock and the receiver there is a sling attachment point and below the magazine tube cap there is sling swivel. Furthermore, on the rear part of the buttstock there are two attachment points, one on each side, for a QD sling swivel.



The long and wide fore-end provides an excellent grip and allows the user to adopt different shooting stances.



The lifter has a PVD finish.



The bolt has a PVD finish and an oscillating locking lug on the upper part.



The breech extension, with the recess for the locking lug and the ejector. On the rear of the cantilever rail there is a rubber pad that prevents the receiver from getting scratched while mounting the barrel.

## Sights and trigger

The sights have been modernized: on the rear part of the barrel there is a cantilever Picatinny rail that goes above the receiver itself. The gun comes with a Fab Defense polymer flip-up rear sight, adjustable in windage and equipped with two different apertures (large and small). Near the muzzle there is a Fab Defense front sight, adjustable in elevation, that is mounted on a special ramp. The single stage trigger has a pull weight of about 2,000 grams (4.4 lb.) and there is no overtravel.

## Our test

Our test took place at the Oklahoma Camp shooting range, at a distance of 50 meters (54 yards). We used a wide variety of slugs, in order to evaluate the accuracy of the Tribore HP barrel. The range of bullet weights was also quite varied, ranging from 25-gram Rottweil Exact Green leadless cartridges to 31- or 32-gram Brenneke ammo. One of the best features of the gun, which also characterized the old SDASS, is the incredible smoothness of the action: it almost seems like the fore-end is moving on ball bearings. The fore-end is 300 mm long (11.8") and, thanks to its large surface, it allows the user to use different shooting stances.

While mounting the barrel, we noticed an interesting detail: a rubber pad on the rear end of the cantilever rail prevents the receiver from getting scratched. Small details like this confirm the fact that Fabarm doesn't leave anything to chance.



The adjustable buttstock is made by Fab Defense. The cheek riser is adjustable too.







The grip is also made by Fab Defense. In front of the trigger guard, we can see the lever to unlock the action. The rear sling attachment point is a new feature of the Stage 2.

The stock and barrel are perfectly in-line, so it's very easy to keep the gun on target. The smoothness of the action also improves the speed of follow-up shots. The grip, with its almost vertical angle, guarantees complete control of the firearm while shooting.

The highest bullet velocity was (unsurprisingly) recorded while using 3-inch Mirage Magnum ammo with a 28.5-gram bullet: about 443.5 meters per second (1,453 FPS). At second place we have the 32-gram B&B Big Game ammo, with a velocity of 414.7 meters per second (1,358 FPS). The slowest rounds, somewhat



The barrel has a 3-inch chamber and is compatible with steel shot. The barrel is subjected to a special proof test with ammo that develops 1,630 bar of pressure (23,641 PSI).



The button to disengage the reversible crossbolt safety is oversized.



1\_ 95 mm 3-shot group at 50 meters (54 yards) using the iron sights, a front rest and 28.5-gram Mirage Magnum ammo.

2\_ 80 mm 3-shot group using 32-gram Baschieri & Pellagri Caccia Grossa cartridges.

3\_ 75 mm 3-shot group using 31.5-gram Rottweil ammo.

4\_ The best group was obtained using Fiocchi ammo with a Brenneke bullet: a 40 mm 3-shot group.

5\_ 70 mm 3-shot group using Winchester Rack Master ammo.

6\_ 90 mm 3-shot group using 25-gram Rottweil Exact Green leadless ammo.

7\_ 95 mm 3-shot group using 32-gram NSI Strike Slug cartridges.

### BALLISTIC TABLE

Ammo	Shell length	Bullet weight (grs)	V <sub>0</sub> (m/sec)	V <sub>0</sub> (FPS)	SD	E <sub>0</sub> (joule)	E <sub>0</sub> (ft-lb)	E <sub>0</sub> (kgm)
B&P Big Game	2¾"	32	414.7	1,358	0.9	2,752	2,029	280.5
Fiocchi Slug 31	2¾"	31	329.6	1,079	5.7	1,684	1,242	171.6
Mirage Magnum 76	3"	28.5	443.5	1,453	4.5	2,803	2,067	285.7
NSI Strike Slug 32	2¾"	32	373.4	1,223	0.2	2,231	1,645	227.4
Rottweil Brenneke	2¾"	31.5	367.3	1,204	2.3	2,125	1,567	216.6
Rottweil Exact Green	2¾"	25	439.2	1,440	4.0	2,411	1,778	254.8
Winchester Rack Master	2¾"	32	390.5	1,279	3.9	2,440	1,799	248.7

Note: measurements taken with a Chrony chronograph at 2 meters (2 yards) from the muzzle.

surprisingly, were the Fiocchi Slug with a 31-gram Brenneke bullet: just 329.6 meters per second (1.079 FPS). On the other hand, this ammo was the most accurate, with a 40 mm 3-shot group against an average of 70-80 mm for the other rounds.

### In conclusion

Considering other pump-action shotguns made by Fabarm, the SDASS Stage 2 is second only to the STF 12, Fabarm's flagship tactical shotgun. The STF 12 is a little bit more modular and it features more barrel lengths, but the SDASS Stage 2 is just as modern, rugged, reliable and accurate. The carbon gray finish is simply amazing: it gives the shotgun a unique look but, at the same time, it doesn't stand out too much.

