

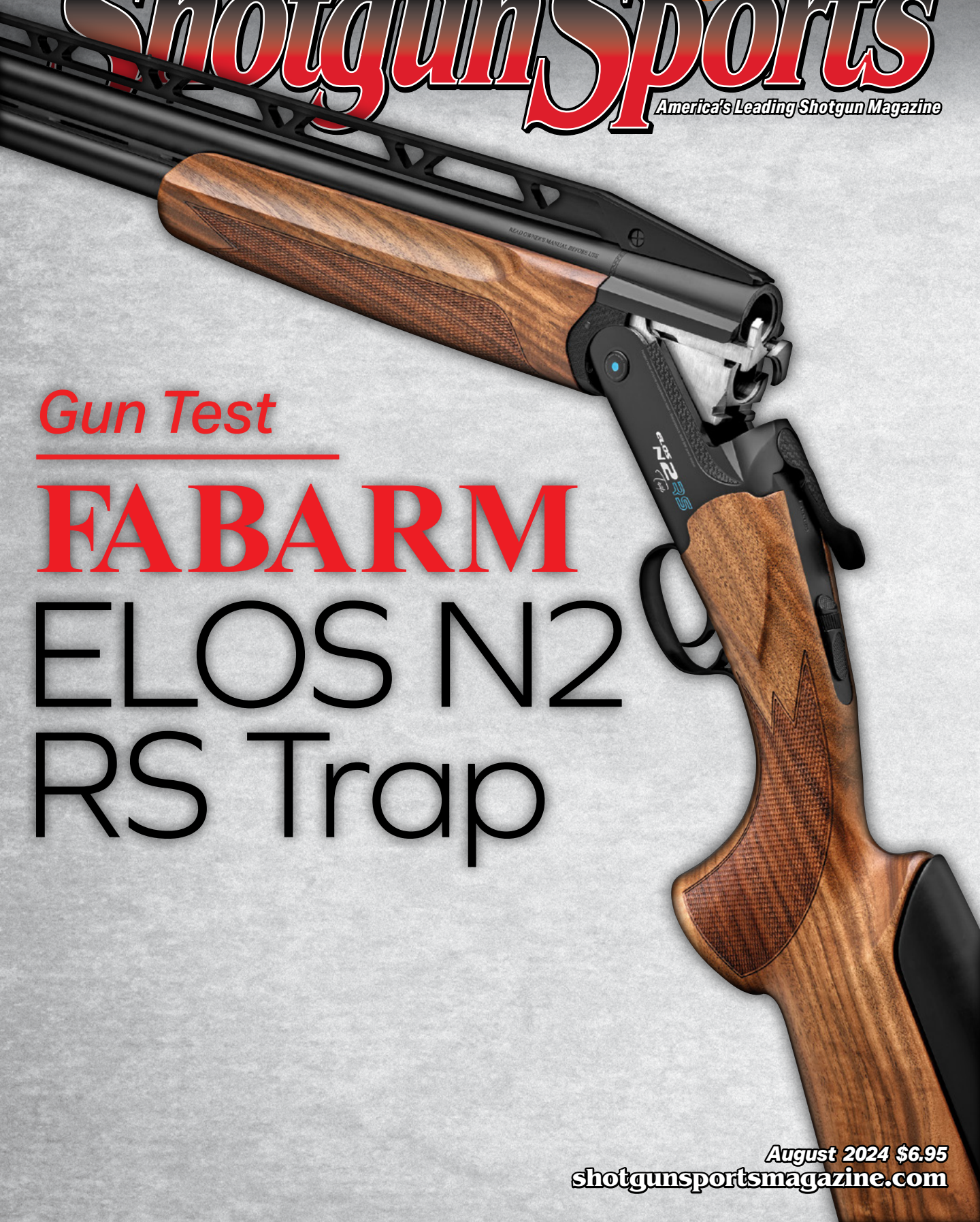
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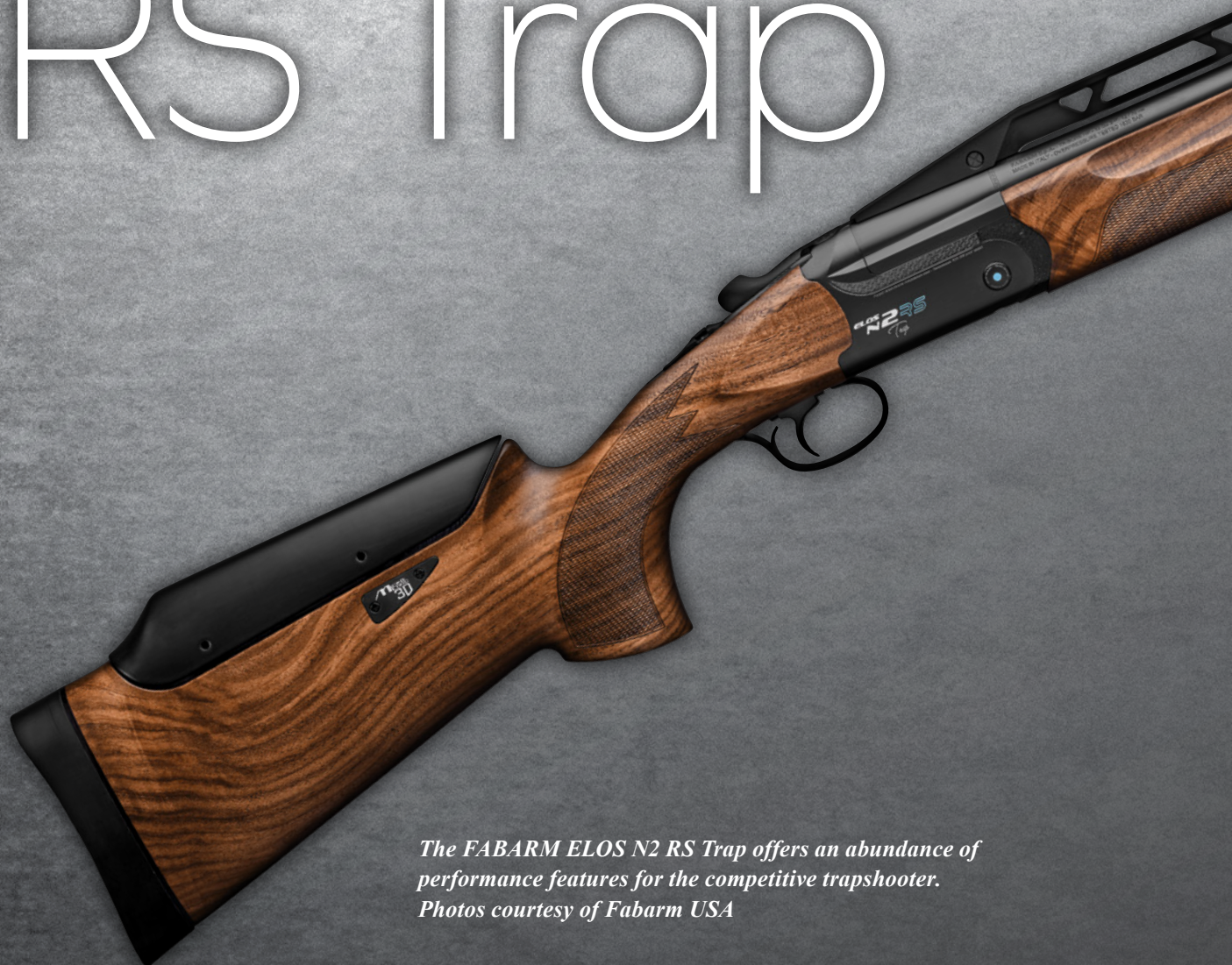
FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap

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Gun Test

ELOS N2 RS Trap



*The FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap offers an abundance of performance features for the competitive trapshooter.
Photos courtesy of Fabarm USA*



by Mark H. Taylor

In the October 2023 issue of *Shotgun Sports*, I did a gun test/review on the FABARM ELOS N2 RS Sporting. In that article I highlighted several features the “RS” model had which other models did not. And I quoted from the FABARM 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.” The FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap model is another example of the FABARM company exemplifying that statement. They heard competitive trapshooters also wanted a shotgun which had all the features the RS had in their sporting model, so in 2024 they introduced the FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap shotgun.

The FABARM model sent to me to test and review was the "Elos N2 RS Trap 12-gauge, 32" O/U, 34" Unsingle Combo." It arrived in a dark-blue Negrini hard-plastic case with four latches (two of which lock). The receiver and over/under barrels were securely positioned in the bottom part of the case in molded plastic areas designed specifically for them. The bottom part of the case also had cutouts for the FABARM choke-tube case, choke-tube wrench, Allen wrenches and a small square-shaped open space for items like gun oil or choke-tube lubrication. The top part of the case has a foam cutout to hold the unsingle barrel. The top and bottom part of the case are separated and secured by a felt-covered cardboard lid with Velcro latches. The receiver and each of the barrels have a FABARM logo-ed sleeve to cover and protect them while in the case.

Both barrels attached to the receiver in the traditional way for a break-open shotgun. The ELOS N2 RS Trap comes with one forearm to be used for both barrels. When assembled, the wood-to-metal finish was excellent, and there was no movement of the forearm on either barrel.

When opening and closing the ELOS N2 RS Trap, it was obvious the gun was new, but it was not overly stiff and didn't have to be forced open or shut. Putting two snap caps in the chambers of the over/under, I discovered the ELOS N2 RS Trap has inertia triggers and ejectors

which flung the snap caps in a high arc over my right shoulder. The same thing occurred with a single snap cap in the unsingle barrel.

The FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap came with the Length Of Pull (LOP) set at 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ " with the trigger in the middle of the $\frac{3}{4}$ "-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 was a 22mm thick, slightly curved, black pad. FABARM is unique in that shooters can purchase from the FABARM web-site different recoil pads in thicknesses of 12mm and 27mm, which when swapped out make the LOP 14" or 15 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", respectively. And, these recoil pads can be swapped out by the shooter — not requiring a gunsmith to fit them. With the slight curve, the recoil pad fit snugly in my shoulder and was well-suited for the standard trapshooting static mount.



The FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap over/under has a mid-rib that is vented from the end of the forearm to the muzzle and solid beneath the forearm to the receiver. The ELOS N2 RS Trap weighed 8 lbs., 11 oz. with the over/under barrels and the same with the unsingle barrel.



Every FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap comes with a four-way adjustable comb using FABARM's 3D Micro-metric stock comb. The stock also has a really nice palm swell that fills the space in the hand without feeling too bulky. Since the shotgun sent to me was a right-handed shotgun, it came with a slight cast-off.

The wood stock and forearm on the ELOS N2 RS Trap is FABARM's "Deluxe" grade, which is an upgraded wood with nice figure and has a matte/hand-oiled finish. Additionally, the stock accepts FABARM's optional 180g Kinetic recoil reducer, which also does not require a gunsmith to install.

The receiver on my gun was blued with the name "ELOS N2 RS Trap" written on each side (the letters "RS" in blue while the other words were in white). The bottom of the receiver has "N2 RS" written in white letters along with the name FABARM and the Elos logo.

Behind the top lever is a combination (manual) 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 moves 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 Trap has which I really like is the barrel selector can be changed without having to engage the safety first.

The ELOS N2 RS Trap I tested had 32" over/under non-ported barrels with a measured constriction of .725 and a 34" unsingle non-ported barrel with a measured constriction of .725. The top rib is 20mm high and is tapered from 13mm (at the receiver end) to 11mm (at the muzzle end). Both ribs are topped with two beads — a white Bradley-style at the muzzle end and a silver steel bead in the middle. The ribs on both barrels are adjustable at the muzzle end. Turning a small wheel clockwise or counterclockwise will raise or lower the rib. Turning this small wheel can be done with a shooter's finger, so a tool is not needed.

The FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap comes with five chokes (Light Modified, Modified, Improved Modified, Light Full and Full). Each 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 name written on, and it is knurled at the very end for easy gripping. The ELOS N2 RS Trap over/under has a mid-rib vented from the end of the forearm to the muzzle and solid beneath the forearm to the receiver.

The beavertail forearm has the same beautiful Turkish walnut wood as the stock. And, like the pistol-grip on the stock, it has checkering of light-to-medium depth. This type of checkering will ensure a consistent and secure grip at all times but is not so pronounced it is uncomfortable when not wearing gloves. The forearm uses the Deeley & Edge-style lever-pull release and feels secure once closed and latched onto both barrels. The FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap weighs in at 8 lbs., 11 oz. with the



over/under barrels and the same with the unsingle barrel.

To put the FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap through its paces on the range, I headed out to Golden Gun Club in Watkins, Colorado. My first stop when I got to the gun club was at the patterning board. On the website (www.fabarmusa.com), the company claims the Point Of Impact (POI) is adjustable from 50/50 to

100/0. I decided to verify this claim by setting the adjustable rib on the muzzle end of the unsingle to its highest point and shoot at the patterning board from 15 yards at the NRA Shotgun Patterning paper (which has a clay target pictured in the middle of the 30" diameter circle). Shooting three shots of heavy 7½ shotshells using the Modified choke, the pattern completely covered the clay-target picture with the center of the pattern right in the middle of the picture.

The adjustable rib has six notches right at the end, so I assumed each notch would

increase the POI by 10% as I moved it down. The engineering of this adjustable rib has been done so that no tools are needed to move it. Pushing down on the rib and turning a small wheel with your fingers moves the rib up and down. I moved the rib down one notch and shot three shots of heavy 7½ shotshells using the Modified choke from 15 yards at a new piece of paper and observed that the pattern moved up approximately 3". I continued doing this until I lowered the rib to the sixth notch. As expected, the POI went up 10% as the rib went down to

The balance between the hands was outstanding, which greatly improved the gun's pointability. For each discipline I shot, I was able to 100% focus on the target and fluidly move and point the FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap to the right spot for the target to break.



each notch until it showed 18" above the aiming point at the lowest notch.

I then swapped out the unsingle barrel for the over/under barrel and went through the same process. Putting the Modified choke in the bottom barrel and the Improved Modified in the top barrel, I alternated shooting from bottom barrel to top barrel as I moved the rib from its highest setting/notch to its lowest setting/notch. Not surprisingly, the results were the same.

Before I left the patterning board, I put up some fresh patterning paper and backed up to 40 yards where I shot and then analyzed the distribution and uniformity of the pattern. Having tested/reviewed other FABARM shotguns, I was not surprised to see the ELOS N2 RS Trap's patterns were excellent in both distribution and uniformity (similar to other models tested).

With my patterning complete, I went to trap field #3, raised the rib two notches (so that the POI was set to 80/20), put the Modified choke in the unsingle barrel and set the microphones up at 16 yards. With Top Gun light-8 shotshells in my vest, I shot a round of singles starting at Post 3. I am not ashamed to say I "ink-dotted" all 25 targets and received a round of applause from the three individuals standing behind and watching.

After changing barrels, I set the adjustable rib on the over/under to the same notch I had on the unsingle then put the Modified choke in the lower barrel. I grabbed another box of Top Gun light-8 shotshells and headed back to the 16-yard line but started on Post 1. Starting with the lower barrel, after every five shots I changed which barrel I shot from. After shooting my last shot in the lower barrel on Post 5, I had successfully smoked all 25 targets.

Needless to say, with my confidence riding quite high, I moved the microphones back to 27 yards, grabbed a box of Winchester Super Target heavy 7½s, installed the unsingle, screwed in the Full choke. I was "in-the-zone" the day I tested the FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap shotgun because I ran a 25-straight from the 27-yard line that day. While I did not get the "ink-ball" hits I did from 16, the 34" unsingle with the Full choke smashed each and every handicap target.

I finished up my day at the range with the FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap by shooting one round of doubles using the Light Modified choke in the bottom barrel and the Improved Modified choke in

the top barrel. The swing characteristics of the over/under were outstanding. The movement from the first to the second target was very fluid, and with the Top Gun light-8 shotshells for the first shot, muzzle jump was non-existent. I concluded my round of doubles with a 49... letting a second shot on Post 2 get away.

For a shotgun that weighs almost 9 lbs., the ELOS N2 RS Trap did not feel that heavy. The balance between the hands was outstanding, which greatly improved the gun's pointability. For each discipline I shot, I was able to 100% focus on the target and fluidly move and point the FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap to the right spot for the target to break. I found the tapered rib really helped with the pointability (as it relates to vision), in that the eye is more easily drawn down the center of the rib. The balance of the ELOS N2 RS Trap between the hands also played a major role in providing remarkable swing characteristics, especially shooting doubles. Lastly, the FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap's weight contributed to the lack of felt recoil, even from the heavy handicap loads.

At the time of this writing, the MSRP listed for the FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap was \$6,195 for the combo and \$4,355 each for the O/U and Unsingle, respectively.

Today, almost all companies which manufacture shotguns make a trap model, with some offering a trap combo (over/under barrel and single barrel) configuration. However, not all trap shotguns offer the abundance of standard features the Italian-made FABARM ELOS N2 RS Trap does. This, along with the well-known outstanding customer service provided by FABARM, should make the ELOS N2 RS Trap rise to the top of this niche market very quickly. FABARM engineers got this one 1000% correct by listening to their trapshooting customers. **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.

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