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DEMAND RESPECT

FABARM MARTIAL ULTRASHORT

By Chris Blatherwick



We received a beautiful Italian made FABARM Martial Ultrashort 14" SBS (short barrelled shotgun) for testing and review. The Ultrashort shotgun was developed by FABARM, one of the world leaders in shotgun design and manufacturing. They have developed a compact pump action shotgun that can be classified as a dual purpose shotgun. The compact shotgun or SBS design was designed with the military/law enforcement as well as the civilian market in mind as the ultimate self/home defence and or operational shotgun. The Ultrashort was first seen at the 2013 IWA (European version of the US Shot Show) Outdoor Classic and is now available to the South African market.



The FABARM Ultrashort is fitted with different chokes depending on the intended use.

Family tree

The Fabbrica Bresciana Armi S.p.A. (FABARM) brand can be traced back to 1900 where it was established by the Galesi family in Brescia, Italy. The company started off by producing side by side shotguns and increased its product line after the Second World War and introduced its over and under shotgun derivatives as well as compressed air rifle series of rifles. In 1960, the company developed its first semi-automatic shotgun and has grown into one of the biggest and most revered manufacturers of quality shotguns in the world. FABARM produces in excess of 3 000 hand crafted quality shotguns per month for both the sport and military market, and its products are distributed worldwide.

Design and ergonomics

The Martial Ultrashort SBS (short barrel shotgun) was developed with the military/law enforcement market in mind but has proven to be extremely popular in the civilian market as a self/home defence and even sporting shotgun. The Ultrashort was designed as a modular weapons platform, where the end-user can change parts/aspects such as the barrel configuration, magazine tube

capacity, chokes, muzzle brakes, stocks and sights to fit the intended use of the shotgun. FABARM has really done extensive research on the different requirements of military and law enforcement units across the globe, and has produced a winning platform that can perform a multitude of tasks with minimal ease. The weapons platform is ultra compact and can easily be deployed from inside a vehicle if required to do so. The test unit was fitted with an optional Knox Spec Ops telescopic stock (AR15 type) that has five positions to adjust the length of pull of the stock and made finding the perfect length of pull very easy.

Winning platform

The weapons platform was used in simulated CQB (close quarter combat) scenario and performed flawlessly allowing the user to "slice the pie" when going around corners with ease, the 14" barrel proving to be the perfect length for engaging target at close to medium range. The shotgun was designed with the minimum controls but does not compromise safety at all, the safety selector and carrier release catch are all located in such a manner that the operator does not need to fiddle to

find them. The loading gate of the Martial is skeletonised and aided in fast loading of the shotgun with none of the normal finger pinching present that you would find on other similar shotguns. The barrel is fitted with a proprietary heat shield to protect the user's hand in cases where the barrel gets hot after shooting it for prolonged periods.

Easy to shoot

I have shot numerous shotguns in my life and always revel at the chance to put one through its paces and the Martial SBS did not disappoint. I know that some shooters are very weary of SBS as they inherently have a lot more recoil than their respected longer barrelled counterparts, but the recoil on the Martial was very manageable. The weapons platform was tested with no. 7½ birdshot, no. 5, SSG, LG as well as AAA's. The shotgun performed flawlessly with little felt recoil. The Martial has the proverbial ace up its sleeve with the Tribore barrel. All FABARM shotguns' barrels are drilled from solid nickel chrome molybdenum steel bar and not cold forged so that the steel molecular inner structure cannot deform. The higher barrel elasticity that it provided gives it extremely high



distribution patterns with less felt recoil. The shotgun's construction makes it impossible to fire when the bolt is not perfectly closed; if the locking lugs are not locked the action bar prevents the hammer from hitting the firing pin.

The shotgun has a serrated trigger that is both light and crisp and the action is extremely smooth when the shotgun is cycled, the cocking grip is fitted with a Picatinny rail that allows the shooter to add tactical options such as weapons mounted light. The five position telescopic stock fits in perfectly with the overall set-up of the shotgun and aids in the overall shoot ability of the weapon's platform.

All in all

The FABARM Martial SBS is just as at home in the military/law enforcement environment than in the role of a self/home defence weapons platform. The shotgun is easy to load and comfortable to shoot and operate. The art of shotgun manipulation is a dying art and they are perceived to be cumbersome and impractical,

but a weapons platform such as the FABARM makes me ask the question "why don't we use these versatile weapons platforms anymore?" A

shotgun mated to the correct ammo in the hands of a skilled shooter is just as fast and accurate for home defence as any firearm on the market.

Design overview and specifications	
Make:	FABARM
Model:	Martial Ultrashort
Finish slide:	Non-glare hard anodized
Action:	Manually operated, slide-action
Caliber:	12 gauge, 3" chamber (Magnum)
Magazine Capacity:	5 rounds (cartridge dependant)
Barrel length:	360 mm
Barrel type:	Smooth tribore barrel with multichokes
Overall length:	750 mm (depending on stock configuration)
Stock:	Knoxx Spec Ops stock (as tested)
Weight unloaded:	2,2 kg (as tested)
Safety location:	Trigger guard, ambidextrous
Heat shield:	Yes

The FABARM Martial SBS is imported by Nicholas Yale and distributed by CHS Guns and Ammunition and retails for around R10 000.00 (without the Knoxx Spec Ops telescopic stock).

