

ANNUAL PUPPY SPECTACULAR

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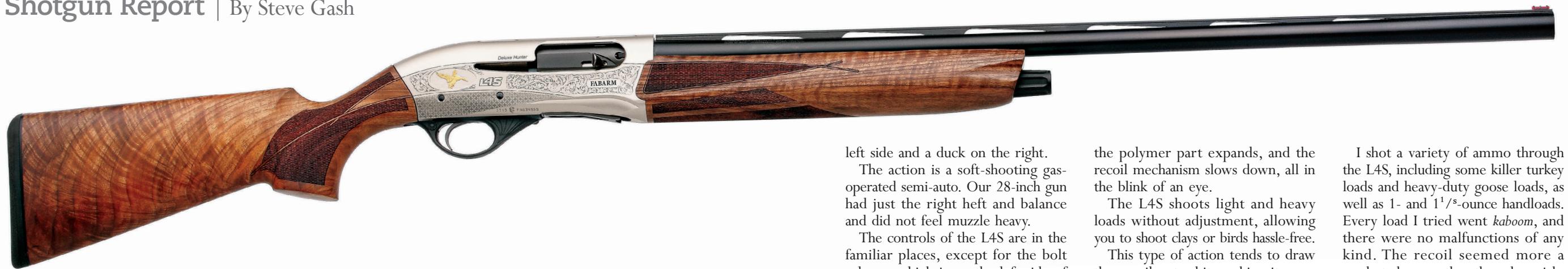
THE MAGAZINE OF UPLAND BIRD AND WATERFOWL DOGS

COMPETING IN CAROLINA
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SPRINGER SPANIELS

A BRIT COMES OF AGE
BRIGHT
BEGINNINGS

SPRING TRAINING OPS
SNOW GOOSE
BONANZA

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6 PUPPY
PHOTOS



Deluxe Package

Fabarm delivers a high-end auto worthy of its price tag.

FABARM HAS EXPANDED its selection of semi-auto field guns with the addition of the slick L4S Hunter. This lightweight 12-gauge is perfectly balanced and shoots everything from 1-ounce loads to 3" magnums.

Fabarm is a branch of the famous Caesar Guerini, and as part of that august lineage, you expect quality—and get it.

There are three variations in the new L4S Hunter series. First up is the Initial, followed by the Grey, and finally, the most ornate of the trio, the Deluxe. The receivers are different colors on the three models: black, grey, and silver, respectively.

GUN DOG received an L4S Deluxe for review, a gorgeous gun. It has nicely figured Turkish walnut, very fine-line checkering, and a classy titanium silver finish on the receiver. The 28" barrel has a 6mm ventilated rib and screw-in chokes; a 26-inch barrel is also offered.

Three Inner HP tubes are provided, marked "Short 2/10," "Medium 5/10," and "Xtreme 9/10." The Fabarm folks tell me that these European identifications roughly correspond to our familiar improved cylinder, modified, and full. The tubes are 82 mm (3.23 inches) long, hard-chrome-plated; and both barrel and choke tubes are rated for steel shot.

The tube wrench is threaded so the shooter can "chase" or clean the

threads inside the barrel in case they get gummed up after a long day in the field. The trigger pull is just delightful for a bird gun, breaking at 5 pounds, 5 ounces.

The gun weighs 6 pounds, 14 ounces and comes to the shoulder in a flash. The forend and buttstock are of exquisite wood, with fine, excellently executed checkering that com-

plements rather than detracts from the swirling grain pattern of the wood. There are studs and push-button sling swivels, a good addition to a field gun, and shims to adjust stock dimensions.

The aluminum receiver is finished in Fabarm's "Titanium Silver." The sides of the receiver have scroll engraving and a gold pheasant on the

left side and a duck on the right.

The action is a soft-shooting gas-operated semi-auto. Our 28-inch gun had just the right heft and balance and did not feel muzzle heavy.

The controls of the L4S are in the familiar places, except for the bolt release, which is on the left side of the receiver. The mechanics and operation of the gas-operated Plus Piston system are unique. As you would expect, powder gas is bled off through two ports in the bottom of the barrel.

New is the operation of the gas piston itself. It is actually two parts, one of stainless steel and the other made of a high-tech non-ferrous material. Upon firing, as the pressure increases and shot races down the barrel, the piston under the forend moves back, transferring energy.

The polymer portion of the gas piston is thus shortened. This expands it ever so slightly and forces it outward, which increases its internal diameter. As the part expands, it acts as a break on the gas piston and gas collar. The heavier the load, the more

the polymer part expands, and the recoil mechanism slows down, all in the blink of an eye.

The L4S shoots light and heavy loads without adjustment, allowing you to shoot clays or birds hassle-free.

This type of action tends to draw the recoil out a bit, making it seem lighter, important in today's world of high-velocity non-toxic shot.

The barrel of the L4S is also special. It has what Fabarm calls the "Tribore HP" system. Basically, this makes the entire barrel one long forcing cone. Hydrologists and engineers will immediately think of Bernoulli's Principle, in which the velocity of a stream of fluid (the shot) increases as it travels down a tube (the barrel).

The over-bored portion ahead of the chamber starts getting smaller, and the forcing cone itself is lengthened. Then a conical section about 8 inches long slowly reduces the 12-gauge bore diameter at the muzzle. Fabarm's lab data proves this design produces better ballistics than a traditionally overbored barrel.

I shot a variety of ammo through the L4S, including some killer turkey loads and heavy-duty goose loads, as well as 1- and 1^{1/8}-ounce handloads. Every load I tried went *kaboom*, and there were no malfunctions of any kind. The recoil seemed more a modest shove, rather than sharp jab.

There were no bird seasons open at the time of the review, so I visited the Claythorne Lodge for some game-farm pheasant shooting. I used relatively mild handloads with 1^{1/8}-ounce of handloaded 5 shot at 1,227 fps, and while I missed once, the L4S whacked the roosters I hit.

All in all, the L4S Deluxe Hunter gets plaudits for both styling as well as shootability. Its light weight makes it a delight to carry, and it hit where I was looking. Although the cost is rather high for a semi-auto, it is about the minimum for a decent over/under, and for this price, there's no way you can find an O/U with this quality of wood and finish. So from that perspective, the L4S represents a good value for a reliable, high-quality field gun.*



From left to right: The L4S Deluxe, Grey and Initial Hunter.

FABARM | L4S Hunter

Manufacturer	Fabarm, fabarmusa.com
Action	Gas-operated semi-automatic with stainless steel PLUS PISTON
Gauge	12
Trigger pull	5 pounds, 5 ounces, variation 5.6 ounces
Barrel length	26 or 28 inches (tested), 6mm vent rib, chrome-plated chamber and bore
Sights	Brass bead front
Chamber	3"
Chokes	INNER HP improved cylinder, modified, and full
Overall length	44 1/4"
Weight	6 pounds, 14.0 ounces
Safety	Push button behind trigger
Stock and forend	Deluxe Turkish walnut, semi-gloss hand rubbed oil finish
Length of pull	14-7/16"
Drop at comb	1 1/2"
Drop at heel	2 1/2"
Warranty	5 years
MSRP	\$2,100, Deluxe Hunter (tested); \$1,250, Initial Hunter; \$1,695, Grey Hunter