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Syren's revolutionary forearm design does not rely on the wood to be part of the mechanical assembly of the gun, thereby removing all the wiggle and movement in the forearm.



L4S Sporting



by Mark H. Taylor

Photos courtesy of Syren USA (except where noted)

Over the past year I have had the opportunity to attend these big shoots: NSCA U.S. Open and Western Regionals, ATA Autumn & Fall Grands and the SCTP & U.S. High School Shooting State Shoots. As a contributing writer for *Shotgun Sports* magazine, I try to observe and notice trends I see in competitive shooters. The two trends I have been noticing lately are: (1) the increasing number of female clay target competitors and (2) the number of shooters who are opting to compete with semi-automatic shotguns. So, when given the opportunity to review the Syren L4S Sporting, I jumped at the chance because this gun is marketed for both of these groups.

The right-handed Syren L4S Sporting arrived in a purple Negrini hard-plastic case which provides excellent protection for the shotgun during transportation. The case is secured with four latches, two of which lock using the key provided. Inside the top of the case is a luxurious black-felt cover with the Syren logo imprinted in purple and white. The top of the inside of the case also has a square cutout to hold the choke tube case. The bottom inside of the case is molded plastic where the barrel (when removed) will fit and where the receiver (with forearm wood attached) will fit. The inside bottom of the case also has cutouts for the choke tube wrench and miscellaneous accessories, such as gun oil and shooting gloves.



A view of the internals: the L4S incorporates a reliable gas-operating system that significantly softens the recoil of even heavy 12-gauge target loads.

Putting the barrel of the Syren L4S Sporting on the receiver is a bit different than other semi-automatic shotguns. The Syren has a revolutionary new forearm design that does not rely on the wood to be part of the mechanical assembly of the gun, thereby removing all the wiggle and movement in the forearm and making the barrel-to-receiver relationship more precise and stronger. With this new design, the shooter is required to not only remove the external forearm end-cap but then remove an internal end-cap (which is what prevents the unwanted movement) before the barrel can be slid on/into the receiver. Securing both end-caps and the forearm completes the assembly. This can be somewhat confusing the first time it is done, but once the shooter gets used to it, it's quite simple and results in a much better fit of the barrel to the receiver.

My first impression of the Syren L4S Sporting was that it was not very heavy compared to most semi-automatic shotguns. Even with all the gas operation being embedded in the forearm, it is extremely well-balanced. The Syren L4S Sporting weighs 6 lbs., 12 oz.

Even though I knew the Length Of Pull (LOP) at 13.6" would be too short for me, I mounted it. With the Monte Carlo stock, I saw a perfect figure 8 with the two beads. As expected when mounted, my nose was much closer to my right thumb than it should be, but it actually felt quite good. Inserting a snap cap, I measured the trigger pull of the Syren L4S Sporting at 3.5 lbs. The trigger pull was extremely crisp with no noticeable take-up or slack.

The Turkish walnut stock and forearm with the Triwood finish looks outstanding with the black anodized receiver. The stock has checkering on the pistol grip, and the forearm has checkering but only about one-third of the way down from the receiver. While many semi-automatic shotguns have checkering the entire length of the forearm, I find that most shooters (especially women shooters) hold the forearm back towards the receiver. So this length of checkering should not be a concern. And, with the front two-thirds of the forearm absent of checkering, the Turkish walnut with Triwood stands

out even more. The checkering on the Syren L4S Sporting was light-to-medium in feel. This was the right amount of feel to eliminate hand slipping on hot days. The wood-to-metal finish on the Syren L4S Sporting was quite good with no perceptible looseness or movement.

The back of the Syren L4S Sporting has a soft 22 mm black rubber recoil pad. Without a noticeable curve to the pad, it should work quite well for either a pre-mounted gun or a low-mount. The Syren L4S Sporting is manufactured by FABARM. This is an important distinction since FABARM is unique in that shooters can purchase from the SYREN or FABARM websites different recoil pads in widths of 12mm and 27mm which, when swapped out, makes the LOP 13.2" or 13.8", respectively (and these recoil pads can be swapped out by the shooter — not requiring a gunsmith to fit them).

While the receiver is absent of any engraving, it has the model number "L4S" embossed on the left-hand side of the receiver and "L4S SPORTING" embossed on the right-hand side of the receiver. The letters "L" and "S" are in white coloring, while the number "4" and the word "SPORTING" are in purple.

Two of the nicest features of the Syren L4S Sporting are the oversized bolt release (on the left side of the receiver) and the oversized bolt handle (on the right side of the receiver). Being a semi-automatic shotgun, the Syren L4S Sporting has its oversized safety button integrated into the back of the trigger guard. When pushed to the right, a red band on the safety button indicates the safety is off and the Syren L4S Sporting is ready to fire.

The Syren L4S Sporting I reviewed had a 30" non-ported barrel with a fixed vented rib and a measured constriction of .725. The rib was tapered — going from 11mm at the receiver end to 8mm at the muzzle. Atop of the ventilated rib were two beads — a white Bradley-style bead at the muzzle end and a silver steel bead in the middle of the rib.

The Syren L4S Sporting comes with five EXIS competition chokes (Skeet, Improved Cylinder, Modified, Improved Modified and Full) which 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 constriction written on it. And, it is knurled at the very end for easy gripping.

To test the Syren L4S Sporting on the range, I took it to Colorado Clays in Brighton, Colorado, and asked Amy Propernick to help me. Amy works in customer service at Colorado Clays. She has been telling me for a few months she is in the market for a new sporting clays shotgun, as she wants to get back into competitive shooting (Amy was a very competitive sporting clays shooter prior the birth of her

daughter). I gave Amy a heads-up that I had the Syren L4S Sporting and asked her if she would like to try it. She enthusiastically replied, "Very much so!"

After I taught my Introductory Shotgun Clinic at Colorado Clays, I slipped a Butler Creek rubber recoil pad onto the Syren L4S Sporting (which gave me a LOP that was comfortable for me) and went to the patterning board with the Modified choke and a box of heavy 8s. With the beads lining up as a figure 8, three shots from 25 yards showed me the Point Of Impact (POI) was 55/45 (1.5" above my aiming point). This is the optimal POI for me for shooting

skeet and sporting clays, as it allows me to keep the target in view at all times while simultaneously not having to shoot too far below a dropping target.

Luckily, Trap 5 at Colorado Clays was open when I finished my patterning, so I hurried over to that field with a box of extra-lite 8s (i.e., 1oz. of shot) to see how the Syren L4S Sporting would feed and extract light target loads. Starting on Post 3, I proceeded to break all 25 targets. The Syren L4S Sporting had no issues with the light target loads, as they fed and extracted without issue. The most noticeable part of shooting the Syren L4S Sporting



Amy Propernick, a competitive shooter who works at Colorado Clays, shot a personal best score when trying out the Syren L4S Sporting for the first time. "The Syren L4S Sporting swings to the target perfectly with little to no effort." She added: "Having broken my right collarbone in a car accident years ago, I am very recoil sensitive. The Syren L4S Sporting had no noticeable recoil bothering my collarbone." Photo by Mark H. Taylor

was the 100% complete absence of any felt recoil.

After I finished shooting the Syren L4S Sporting, I took off the Butler Creek recoil pad and went to get Amy. We grabbed a golf cart, a flat of light 8s (2¾ dram, 1-1/8 oz. 8s) and attacked the sporting clays course. After shooting all stations at Colorado Clays, Amy's scorecard showed a personal best score of 86.

The 15 stations presented a multitude of crossing targets, rabbits, chandelles, incoming targets and one springing teal. Most notable is that Amy did not hit less than 50% on any station, and there was not one target presentation which she did not eventually hit. I asked Amy to give me her impression(s) of the Syren L4S Sporting and here is her feedback: "The Syren L4S Sporting is the perfect weight... not too light and not too heavy. It felt perfectly balanced between my hands when mounting from a low mount, is devoid of any recoil and had extremely minimal muzzle jump. The Syren L4S Sporting swings to the target perfectly with little to no effort." She added, "Having broken my right collarbone in a car accident years ago, I am very recoil sensitive. The Syren L4S Sporting had no noticeable recoil bothering my collarbone."

Syren designs guns specifically for women from the ground up. They don't take a shotgun designed for a man, cut down the stock and call it a woman's shotgun. Seven functional features make Syren shotguns fit women shooters better than other shotguns: Length Of Pull (LOP), Pitch, Cast at Heel, Cast at Toe, Drop at Monte Carlo, Reach and Weight. The Syren L4S Sporting lists an MSRP of \$2,350 (with the left-hand version at \$2,570). The Syren L4S Sporting is the perfect shotgun selection for a female shooter — or anyone — wanting the high performance of a competition clay target semi-automatic shotgun with very high reliability and very low recoil. **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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