



# SHEER MAGNETISM

*Vic Harker* puts Caesar Guerini's revamped Magnus Sporter through its paces

**W**ith relatively few gunmakers having any significant share of the UK clay target gun market, the Italian company Caesar Guerini has made an impressive impact in recent times. The firm has combined straightforward design with exceptionally high standards of finish and specifications that demonstrate a sound understanding of the market's requirements.

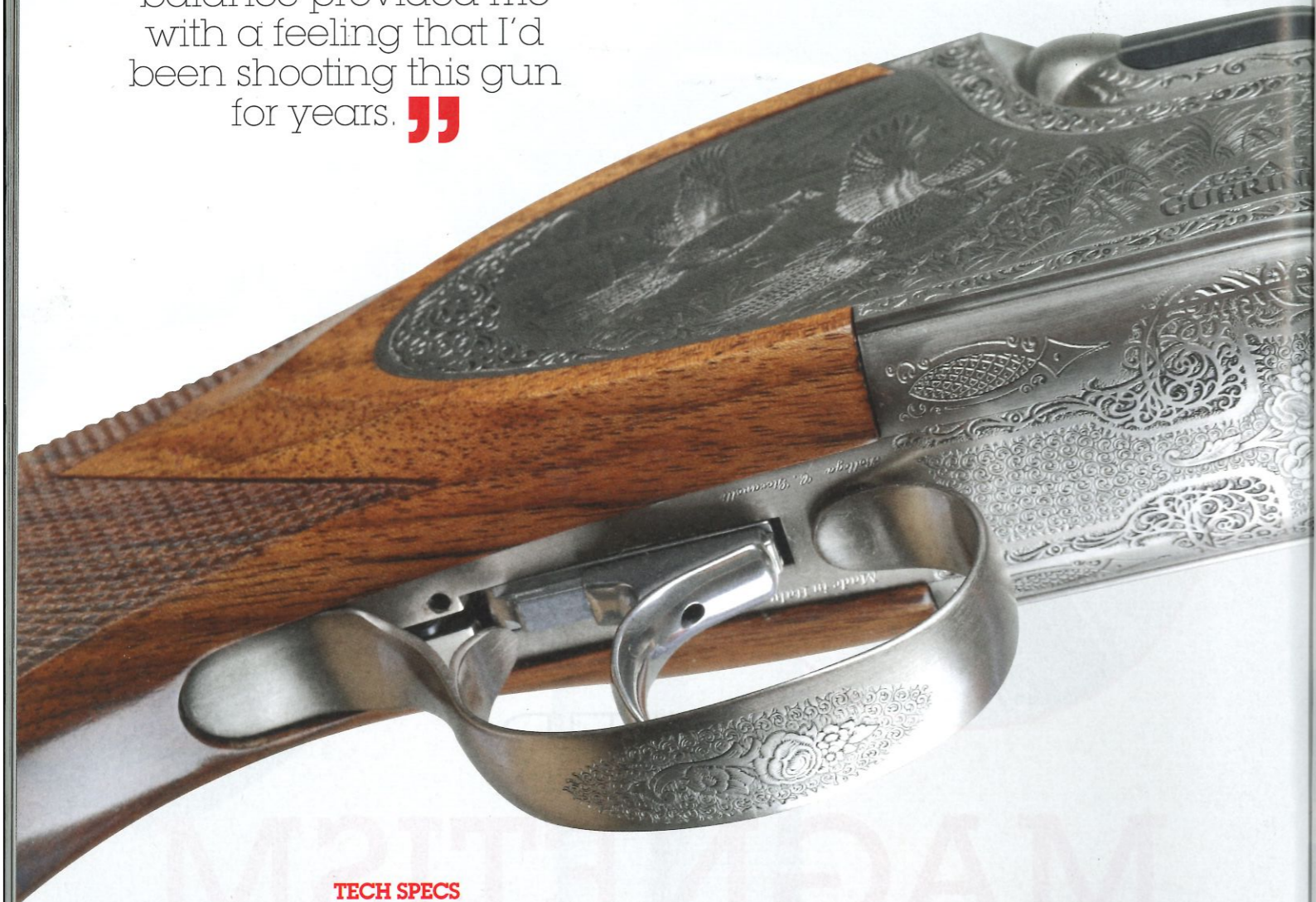
## The action

The maker's middle of the range gun has been enhanced with a new nickel-plated finish for the handsome side-plated action. The traditional decorative features incorporated in this Guerini gun also

provide a uniquely handsome appearance. The action body is enhanced with deeply carved fences at the breech face that abut the barrels' breech ends and which meld the major components of the gun together with graceful lines. This is continued by equally prominent side panels, the curved surfaces providing scope for the engraver's art, which in the case of the Magnus is an elaborate game scene. This, together with an elegant border engraving, is set off by a finely figured walnut stock.

As with all Guerinis, the Magnus possesses a reassuring heft between the hands, provided by a substantial action body. Equally robust is the Guerini's simple but durable under-bolting that secures the barrels to the action. The forward barrel

“The Guerini’s neutral balance provided me with a feeling that I’d been shooting this gun for years.”



**TECH SPECS**

- MAKER**  
Guerini
- MODEL**  
Magnus Sporter
- BORE SIZE**  
18.6mm (12-gauge)
- BARREL LENGTH**  
30in (76cm)
- ACTION**  
Single Trigger Boxlock
- CHAMBER**  
2 3/4in (70mm)
- CHOKES**  
Hand detachable – 10
- RIB**  
Tapered – 10-7mm
- STOCK**  
Pistol grip
- WEIGHT**  
8lbs 2.7oz (3.719KG)
- PRICE**  
£2,620 inc. VAT
- DISTRIBUTOR**  
Anglo Italian Arms UK  
0121 704 4098  
www.caesargueriniuk.com

lumps pivot on the action’s trunnions behind the knuckles. Those at the rear locate with a full-width locking bolt, which comes forward under the standing breech to locate with a reciprocating bite machined in the monobloc under the bottom barrel. Nothing very original, but with careful fitting and good materials you can expect this action to have a long trouble-free life before any of the main components require replacement or repair.

**The stock**

In terms of both configuration and its fitting to the action, the stock reflects both technical know-how and craftsmanship together with accurate state-of-the-art machinery. The comb represents a perfect taper from the heel to the face, and the shape of the pistol grip is equally well

executed. The grip has a radius that is not too close and a perfectly positioned palm swell. Together with a well-shaped Schnabel forend, a hands-in-line hold is comfortably achieved. Wood-to-metal fit is impeccable and the matching of finely figured walnut to a lavishly engraved action is very attractive. The forend wood is equally well fitted, though I would have liked to have seen a tail pipe for the Anson rod fastening. The latter is unusual on an over-and-under gun but it does not look out of place with a Schnabel forend.

**The barrels**

This Guerini’s barrels are struck off to a very high standard. With a length of 76cm and 2 3/4” chambers, they come with no less than eight long extended chokes ranging in constriction from cylinder to full. With

light-modified and modified in situ, the barrel weight was 1.523KG. This provided a point of balance a fraction in front of the trunnions, which placed the gun’s weight nicely between the hands. The 10x7mm tapered rib featured a machined centre line with a finely chequered edge. This together with a foresight and a centre bead provided all the visual pointability you could wish for.

**Shooting impressions**

With an all-up weight 8lbs 2.7oz, (3.719KG), I have already mentioned this gun’s fine handling characteristics, which is a virtue of all Guerini guns. Clearly this is no accident, but rather reflects the manufacturer’s good understanding of what is required of shotgun dynamics. This Guerini’s stock dimensions were also accommodating – 38.2cm length of pull, 40mm drop at comb,

and 53mm drop at heel. Right hand cast 5mm at heel, 10mm at toe. Everything was close enough to my requirements with the exception of drop at comb, which was solved with one of my many comb raisers. Now with my aiming eye at the correct elevation above the rib, I could see what I was shooting at. Trigger pulls were excellent, with lock-work featuring side-by-side hammers powered by coil-springs, and cocked by a rod activated off the forend iron when the gun is opened. With a point of balance a fraction in front of the trunnions, the Guerini’s neutral balance provided me with a feeling that I’d been shooting this gun for years. It is a well-executed and conventional design, with fine handling and a standard of finish few guns in its price segment can come close to. ●

*Did you know?*

> Guerini guns are noted for their high standards of decorative engraving and with the new nickel-plated finish, it will be protected indefinitely.

