

Shooting Sports
PRODUCT
RECOMMENDATION

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Name	Stoeger Model 2000 (Realtree)
Calibre	12-gauge/3" Action semi-auto recoil-operated
Capacity	2+1
Barrel	26"
Finish	Advantage Timber Multi choke Y (5 included)
Price	£490 Walnut £465 Synthetic £450
Contact	Sporting Services, 01342 716427

release/ shell lifter lock button below the ejection port. To the right/forward of the trigger guard is the manual bolt hold open catch, this is peculiar to this system and requires explaining. The safety is a cross bolt at the rear of the guard and pushes right – left for FIRE and reverse for SAFE.

With the action cocked and the bolt forward, the shell lifter is free to move for loading. But if you opt to load with a closed bolt and the hammer down you have to press the release button on the right side. Also with the action cocked the bolt will not automatically hold open when it's pulled back. Here you press the manual hold open catch up and it locks the action to the rear. This also acts as a shell stop release for unloading drills, as it's far easier than pressing the shell stop with your finger. Or if you want to carry with a full magazine and empty chamber. It is a little unusual, but when you're shooting it the gun rocks, rolls and reloads automatically and holds open when empty, as you might expect.



Reliability was 100% - the Model 2000 chomped its way through all the above ammo, which differed considerably in shot load, cartridge length and power.



The Model 2000 proved a handy and very shootable gun

The barrel shows a medium width ventilated rib, with a corresponding sighting plane on the top of the receiver. A single white plastic rod is at the muzzle if you subscribe to the theory that a shotgun needs a sight. Five choke tubes and a fitting key are supplied; these are marked by a series of multiple slots on the edge to indicate their constriction value as follows: I – full, II – improved/modified, III – modified, IIII – improved cylinder, IIIII – skeet cylinder. One would imagine that the tighter the choke the better the recoil effect is in operation.

These days the subject of steel shot is a serious consideration, certainly if you intend to use the gun for wildfowling. The Stoeger manual indicates that the Model 2000 can handle steel shot, but not with Full or Improved/Modified chokings. However, in the UK the gun is proofed for 1200 BAR, and the Proof House say a pressure of 1370 BAR is required for steel...

The furniture is synthetic, the forend is deep with chequering panels and finger grooves on top. The butt is very Benelli like, with a steeply angled pistol grip (also chequered), and at the rear is a ventilated rubber recoil pad. Fixed sling swivels are



If that's not a Benelli bolt I don't know what is! The simplicity and reliability of this recoil/inertia system is good

fitted, though no sling is included. The gun shows a dipped Advantage Timber finish, which has been reasonably well applied, with a good colour match throughout. The bolt is black and there's a black oval by the loading port for the gun number.

The general feel of the Model 2000 is good - not too heavy, though perhaps a little deep in the forend for my liking. So it was off to the range to see how it coped with a range of ammunition types, possibly the major criteria for any semi.

All Sorts

I just went through my ammo cabinet and dug out all sorts of ammo, from Remington – Gordon-primed hulls through all manner of lengths and shot loads including SG (OO Buck) and AAA from CBC. Impressively, the Model 2000 ate them all without fear or favour and held open when empty. This indicates to me that it works well for any shotgunning need. Felt recoil, even with the stiffer loads, was eminently tolerable.

Size and handling wise the 2000 felt good in the shoulder, swinging easily and stopping and starting on to targets with little effort. There's not a lot else to say, as it just worked 100% all the time. And now we come to the really good bit, and that's the price...None of the three models are over £500, with only a £40 differential between them, which is down to finishes and stock material.

I've got to say this is one great value for money semi-auto. Obviously it won't be to everyone's tastes, but if you like what a semi has to offer and use one as a field/working gun then I reckon the Stoeger Model 2000 is hard to beat. In fact it's so good I think I'm going to give it the SHOOTING SPORTS RECOMMENDED award this month... **SS**