

# FABARM'S NEW L4S SEMI-AUTO



A REVIEW BY **NICK SISLEY**

**F**resh and still in the box, the Fabarm L4S has an impressive look. American shotgunners are “good walnut” men to the core – as a great looking piece of wood can be the overriding cosmetic feature many of us hope to see. Fabarm answers our walnut desire with TRIWOOD™ - a proprietary gunstock enhancement process that starts with European walnut, and brings out the naturally occurring figure and grain to make it look like a much more expensive piece of wood – at a value price point. No two TRIWOOD™ stocks are the same, with each as unique as the walnut they are made of. Wood aficionados will be hard pressed to tell the difference. It’s that good. Stocks feature a semi-gloss acrylic varnish for added luster and water resistance, and although some walnut purists might not like the idea of enhanced wood, I sure like the end result.

As I opened the box I realized the receiver also has plenty of eye appeal. L4S is inscribed on both sides, with the L and S outlined in white, and the 4 outlined in red. Tapered at the right and left rear bottom, the area is further enhanced with a modern looking, stamped-on engraving pattern. Then there’s the red, oversize action closure button on the left receiver side, as well as an extra-long, action-opening bolt on the right side, also red. The final result is both a freshly unique and attractive looking semi-auto. Did I mention “Sporting” is in red on the right side of the receiver? Yes, this is a competition gun, specifically intended for sporting clays.

One of the most common points of trouble with semi-autos is the action spring, found inside the buttstock. This is a part that few of us ever look at, and many don’t even know exists – buried deep inside the stock where the eyes

can’t see it. The spring must be in top working order to cycle the action reliably, but it accumulates rust and crud over time. When the action slows down or quits working, the first thing most owners do is squirt a little oil here and there – almost always a stop-gap measure. The L4S Fabarm has eliminated the action spring, so inside the stock you’ll only find the through-stock bolt, allowing room for a more pronounced re-curve shaped grip – a feature favored by many sporting clays shooters these days.

A pronounced re-curve pistol grip is one feature many contemporary sporting clays competitors want in a gun, but the L4S has a number of other design characteristics that provide balance and feel that is more in line with fine over and under target guns. The forend and magazine have been shortened to a four round capacity. Chambers

are only 2 ¾ inches, so the action is slightly shorter compared to semis chambered for 3 inch shells, which most are. Theoretically, a semi-auto with 2 ¾ inch chambers can handle a wider variety of shells – compared to one designed for both 2 ¾ and 3 inch shotshells.

The L4S forend design is also new. The wood is not a part of the mechanical assembly, so you won’t find any of that annoying forend wiggle with this new design. Fabarm says this also makes the barrel-to-receiver relationship stronger and more precise. Thus, the forces that can lead to forend cracking have been eliminated.

Though not new with the L4S model, one of the most important technical factors built into the gun is the characteristics of the inner barrel dimensions. Dubbed TRIBORE HP™, it eliminates any sharp forcing cone taper by taking that taper nearly half way up the barrel, where it marries with the



TRIWOOD™ - ENHANCED FINISH



L4S FOREND MECHANISM

actual bore diameter of .730". The sharper the step down at the forcing cone, of course, the higher percentage of pellets on the outside of the shot column being deformed, leading to poor patterns. TRIBORE HP™ is an inner barrel design that reduces this shot pellet deformation with a very gradual taper.

Then there's the EXIS HP™ screw-in chokes – very long at nearly four inches, with long tapered and parallel sections. As the shot column enters the screw chokes the longer taper treats those pellets on the outside of the shot column more gently – thus there are fewer flattened pellets, promoting more effective patterning.

The five EXIS HP™ chokes measured .724" for the Skeet, .716" for the Improved Cylinder, .705" for the Modified, .697" for the Improved Modified and .689" for the Full. The 30-inch barrel weighed 2 pounds, 3.5 ounces, and the forend was 7.4 ounces. The

assembled gun weighs in at 7 pounds, 4.5 ounces.

The L4S is a gas-operated system, and most shooters know such a system reduces recoil by stretching the recoil out over a slightly longer time period. Other features include a 6mm (.236") tall tapered rib, from 11 mm (.433") wide at the breech to 8 mm (.315") at the muzzle. A steel mid bead and white front bead are atop the rib, which along with the top of the

receiver wear a non-glare finish. The safety is behind the trigger guard. Knock out the trigger group for cleaning or inspection via two pins in the receiver. Stock adjustment shims, included with the gun, allow a customized fit. The recoil pad has Fabarm's name on it – feels soft – nearly ¾ inches thick – separated from the stock by a thin black spacer. Need a thinner or thicker pad? They can be purchased from

the Fabarm website and changed out by the user with nothing more than a screwdriver. While you are at it, should you need to, there is an optional Kinetic Recoil Reducer available on the Fabarm USA website that can also be self-installed in the butt stock to further reduce recoil and add weight to the stock. The gun comes packed in a fitted Negrini case.

What does the L4S mean? The L is for Lion – the name of a Fabarm, pre-Guerini semi-auto (Guerini now owns Fabarm). The 4 stands for four-shot capacity. The S is for Slender – as in the forend.

How about the shooting? I shot a wide variety of ammo through the L4S – including both factory shells and reloads. There were no malfunctions. I thought the gun handled well, and so did the others I had try it. Did Fabarm hit a home run with this one? Probably so. I love the TRIWOOD™! ■



#### SPECIFICATIONS

**GAUGE:** 12-GAUGE

**ACTION:** GAS-OPERATED SEMI-AUTO

**WEIGHT:** 7 POUNDS 4.5 OUNCES

**BARRELS:** 30" TESTED.

28 AND 32 ALSO AVAILABLE

**SCREW CHOKES:** FIVE EXIS HP™ SCREW-INS

**STOCK:** 14.75 X 1.5 X 2.25

**SUGGESTED RETAIL:** \$1850

LEFT-HAND VERSION \$2030

**MAKER/IMPORTER:** MADE IN ITALY  
BY FABARM – IMPORTED BY FABARM  
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