



# Sporting chance

Rizzini boxlock shotgun delighted John McDougall

**T**here are some amazing shotguns on the market these days with a myriad of options but one I immediately enjoyed was the latest offering from Rizzini - the BR110 Sporting. From many reports coming out of the US this gun has taken shooters by storm, being so popular on performance, value and price. The Rizzini moniker is a long-established and respected name in shotgun manufacture in Italy and I can testify their firearms are no slouches in the Sporting Clays discipline.

The latest model is superb, a word I don't use lightly, the gun offering what I consider a best-buy in the boxlock category due mainly to its overall presentation, performance, balance and swing. It's sure to appeal to many shooters searching for a sporting gun which gives the user every chance of notching top scores. Of all its virtues (and there are many) the most appealing isn't the stunning

woodwork or wonderful appearance but performance of the chokes, as the damage done at the scoring end was awesome and to say I enjoyed testing this gun is an understatement.

#### Barrels

At 760mm (30") the barrels of the Rizzini BR110 Sporting are immaculately assembled and ingeniously finished with matte black blueing for resilience to rust and scratching which coincidentally matches the black Cerakote coating of the action frame. Silver soldered for optimum strength, the side and top ribs are ventilated to enable heat to dissipate and provide a lighter overall feel while swinging the gun on targets. The muzzle end of the tapered top rib, moving from 10mm at the breech to 7mm at the muzzle, instantly draws the shooter's eye to the target while a white barrel-type front sight couples well with the brass bead mid-sight to provide a sighting

plane for mounting the gun quickly and precisely.

Extended choke tubes measuring 90mm with knurled collars are fitted at the muzzle. There are five of these supplied with the gun and each choke collar has a colour code for its constriction as well as written notation on the coloured band. The choke tube spanner is resilient and enables the chokes to be tightened well in what is a propeller-type design.

The receiver end of the barrels has 3" Magnum chambers and the gun is CIP proofed for steel shot HP loads, the Fleur de Lys proof mark stamped on the monobloc (four lumps protrude from the bottom of the monobloc to lock into the receiver floor). The gun is bifurcated jointed with replaceable hinge pins and a solid under-bolt is used to lock the action in place, a secure and strong feature of this gun. Jewel polishing about the monobloc is appreciated as this is necessary to contain lubricants



Overall picture of the latest Rizzini BR110 from Italy, a gun set to make a big impression.



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about the action and prevent wear and personally I prefer a Teflon-based lubricant as greases and thick oils attract grit and residue from powder.

One of the outstanding features is the XL Bore treatment which has the barrels over-bored along with significantly lengthened forcing cones. Coupled with the extended and 'tuned' XL Bore choke tubes the patterns are awesome, smashing targets and reducing them to dust. I was highly impressed as this is what a shooter seeks from a sporting firearm, targets not just broken but absolutely destroyed.

### Receiver

As mentioned this is matte black Cerakoted to match the barrels with the only parts seemingly blued and polished being the fore-end iron, triggerguard, trigger foot and top lever. Design of the top lever is practical with a good bearing surface for the release of the barrels from the action, the barrel selector-cum-safety catch well located on the top tang and not easily moved by accident which is ideal. Red enamel dots are present in the mechanism of the barrel selector, a handy addition to enable shooters to readily identify which barrel will be firing first.

Embellishment about the receiver is minimal apart from the Rizzini name stamped on each side and the name and model number into the underside. The triggerguard is of a reasonable size to accommodate thin leather gloves while the trigger mechanism is inertia operated, requiring the first barrel to be fired before the second can be. Trigger weights are quite safe at



Excellent fit and finish are hallmarks of the Rizzini BR110 Sporting.

precisely 4lb (1.8kg) for each barrel, metal-to-metal fit about the barrels and receiver being excellent while the wood-to-metal inletting is perfect at every joining surface.

### Stock and fore-end

Character and grain structure of the oil-finished Turkish walnut used for the stock and fore-end are sensational and I haven't seen another boxlock gun with such stunning wood. The fore-end is a standard Trap style while the stock is regular without an adjustable comb piece but the walnut stocking is a much-appreciated feature. And there's a factory-fitted recoil pad for those who care to take their Rizzini BR110



Proof marks on the receiver block indicate the gun is suited to HP steel shot loadings.



Nicely raked pistol grip with extensive chequering.



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Barrel selector/safety catch and top lever.



Choke tubes are 90mm long, colour-coded about the muzzle end for easy identification.



Innovative button release in front of the woodwork to free the fore-end from the barrels.

John puts the Rizzini BR110 through its paces during a wet afternoon at Frankston Gun Club.



Sporting into a swamp to shoot ducks or geese with Magnum 3" steel HP shot loads.

I was impressed by the move away from a fore-end latch by incorporating a catch release button in the front. This is adjustable if required but I found it a far better method of releasing the fore-end than a lever catch traditionally inletted into the underbelly of the fore-end. For shooter comfort Rizzini also incorporates a palm-swell on the gun which, along with the raked pistol grip, are well appreciated and will help with control and solid mounting. Chequering on the stock and fore-end runs out to 26 lines/inch with covering of both the pistol grip and fore-end, a "T" stock tool also supplied if you want to change stocks, say from the standard one fitted to a Trap or adjustable comb.

### Over the Traps

There's not a great deal more I can say about the Rizzini BR110 Sporting other than I believe it will be very well received here. The gun is beautifully assembled and shoots even better than it looks so yes, you could say I was impressed. On speaking to a chap who was using one while I was testing the review gun, he was more than happy with his purchase and the way it was shooting.

After many years of testing guns on pattern sheets, those days are gone as I realise different loads pattern differently through the same gun. My assessment method now is to take the gun out and shoot it at flying clay targets, as that's where the acid test is done. Patterns from the Rizzini BR110 Sporting were decisive with a variety of rounds and as most targets were destroyed I can only relay what I experienced. I believe for a gun such as this, given the innovative development in this new model, it's wonderful value for money at around \$4000 including case, accessories and a five-year warranty. ●

## Specifications:

- Maker:** Rizzini, Italy
- Distributor:** SJS Trading, Melbourne  
sjs trading.com.au
- Model:** Rizzini BR110 Sporting 12-gauge over-and-under shotgun
- Overall length:** 1230mm/48½"
- Barrel length:** 760mm/30"
- Overall weight:** 3.80kg/8lb 5oz
- Barrel weight:** 1.55kg/3lb 7oz
- Bore size:** 18.64mm/0.734"
- Chamber:** 76mm/3" Magnum. HP steel shot proof
- Chokes:** Sporting chokes 90mm with external collars. Cylinder: Blue/0.747", Imp Cylinder: Gold/0.727", Imp Modified: Black/0.707" and Full: Silver/0.698" (Modified choke not supplied with test gun)
- Trigger pulls:** Both barrels 4lb/1.8kg
- Stock dimensions:** Length of pull 380mm/15", drop at comb 38mm/1½", drop at heel 60mm/2¾"
- RRP:** \$3950 including case, accessories and gun socks (advertising material and instruction booklet included)
- Warranty:** Five years