

“Why Is This Gun Different”

The Browning Citori web site illustrates 28 over/under models, 27 of which have conventional pistol grips. Only one, the Superlight Feather, has a straight “English” style grip. What’s going on here? Browning is one of the savviest gun makers in the business today. Why would they bother marketing a gun when the preponderance of shotgun buyers opts for a pistol grip gun? It doesn’t make much sense... unless, of course, there is some sort of benefit that is not immediately obvious. And might that “benefit” lead to fuller game bags? Does the Superlight Feather give those who shoot them an unfair advantage in the field? They seem to think so.

And they may be right! Many years ago Don Zutz, the late great outdoor writer, advanced the theory that the best shotgun design was one that “put the palms of the hands in the same plane.” The advantages of this design can be easily demonstrated while you are reading this magazine. Imagine the spine is 43 inches long. Cradle the magazine with your left hand about a foot ahead of your right hand. Raise the magazine, and sight down the gutter. Naturally, anyone watching you will think you are nuts. Forget their raised eyebrows. Instead, look at where your elbows are. They are up and away from your sides... and ready to swing left or right. Automatically positioning the elbows makes it possible to practice the instinctive shooting required to take birds at short

range and in close cover. Tuck that nugget of knowledge away for the moment and resume reading.

Straight-stocked guns have a well-deserved reputation for being “quick” guns... meaning they come to your shoulder quickly. The Superlight Feather takes this concept a step further. It has a lightweight alloy receiver with a steel breech face (and hinge pin), which reduces the weight of this 26-inch barreled gun to about 6¼ pounds in 12-gauge and 5¾ pounds in 20- and 28-gauge.

Lightweight is an important factor in gun handling and long days in the field, but it comes with this proviso; it still takes six pounds of gun to comfortably absorb the recoil from a one-ounce load of shot. This gun is designed and built for the bird hunter who is probably only going to get half a dozen shots all day. Shoot a round of low-gun sporting clays with this gun, and you will be punished. Browning does not want to encourage you to shoot geese and turkey with the Superlight Feather either. This is probably the only 12- and 20-gauge shotgun on the market today that DOES NOT have three-inch chambers!

Shooting smart instead of big equals more poop per pop. Within the last few years Browning has made significant changes in the barrel architecture that is incorporated into Superlight Feather 12- and 20-gauge shotguns. These include the following:

FORCING CONES—If you look

down the bore from the breech end, you’ll see a ring just ahead of the chamber. That’s the forcing cone that leads into the barrel. You can kind of judge the depth. If it’s your grandfather’s gun, it’s probably one-half inch. A more recently manufactured gun might be three-quarters inch. Browning’s Vector Pro™ Forcing Cones are 2½ inches long. The phrase “competition length” comes to mind. Note that this rhymes with “industrial strength.” This longer taper means less shot deformation, which means more uniform and consistent patterns. The benefit is a higher percentage of pellets in the target area.

BACK-BORED BARRELS—These increase the bore diameter compared to the standard bores. This small increase in size significantly reduces the friction between the shot column and the barrel wall, allowing more of the energy generated by the powder to push the shot pellets to a higher velocity. Higher fps means more impact at a longer range; a nice bonus for second shots.

When lengthened forcing cones and back-bored barrels are combined with Browning’s Invector-Plus™ choke tube system, we have in the Superlight Feather a light, quick handling gun with better patterns effective at longer distances. It’s like getting the magnum performance of more shot at higher velocities as a no-charge throw-in.

The Superlight Feather Standard stock dimensions are 1⅝ inches by 2½

inches by 14¼ inches for 12-gauge and 1⅝ inches by 2⅜ inches x 14¼ inches for 20- and 28-gauges. If you decide to add a pad to accommodate another length of pull and maybe soak up some recoil, consider the Pachmayr Sporting Clays pad. It has a smooth, rounded heel that will not hang up on the way to your shoulder.


The one-sixteenth inch cast-off found in current Citori production is a reasonable compromise for an all-around field gun that will be used by both right-handed and left-handed shooters. For pheasant, ducks and dove, where you have a fairly large window of opportunity to align the target and the sight plane, it should do quite well.

But for quick, intuitive targets like quail, woodcock and grouse, one-sixteenth inch of cast-off isn't enough to keep the right-handed shooter from shooting a bit high and to the left. It is better than zero cast, but it takes three-sixteenth inch or one-quarter inch cast-off to have the gun shoot where he is looking. Stock bending or the judicious use of a wood rasp where the cheek meets the wood is all that stands in the way of converting a good field gun into a great birdgun.

Browning packs three choke tubes with all Citori field guns: improved cylinder, modified and full. This is too much choke constriction for guys who hunt in close cover or over close-working dogs. The Invector-Plus™ choke system also offers optional cylinder and skeet choke tubes... a much better choice for 18- and 20-yard birds.


Like the man says:
Perfection is in the details!



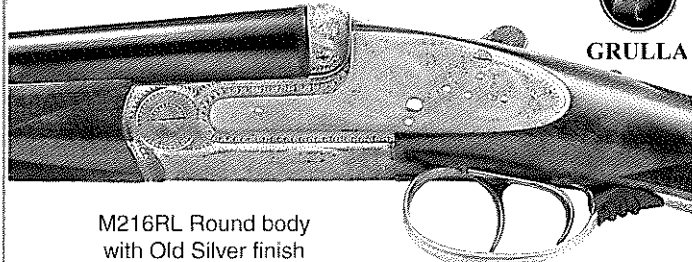



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