

Blaser of Isney, Gemany, with USA headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, has added a newly designed Trap model to its F3 range – no doubt influenced by input from Richard Kaysa and his strong bias toward trap shooting. The actual name of the gun has not been decided on as yet but the basics of the new gun were shown to

shooters at the Grand American – and are indeed impressive. Those that visited Blaser in the Vendor building had the opportunity to shoot a prototype of this exciting new model. There are many technical advances and improvements but the substance of the new model is the adjustable weight system and the adjustable rib for POI changes.

I was offered the opportunity to shoot a prototype and didn't hesitate! Before I even picked it up, I was impressed with the clean lines, wood to metal fit and quality of the stock. Upon shouldering the gun I discovered it fit me just about

perfect – which is rare for me. It pointed very well, felt balanced and the new pistol style grip with the deep cut palm swell felt more natural than usual. Looking down the rib I had no issue with seeing anything but the mid- point and



BLASER TO LAUNCH NEW TRAP GUN

THOUGH THE NAME IS UNDECIDED SAYS **AL HAGUE**

Blaser



L TO R: NORBERT HAUSSMANN (CEO BLASER USA) AND MATHIAS KNEPLER.

front beads. I wondered to myself if it would shoot as well as it seemed from first touch.

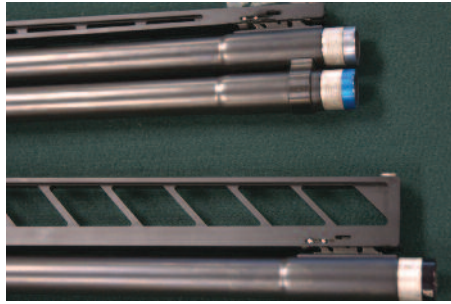
Out at the demo trap I decided I'd start at the 16 yard line. Breaking the action was effortless and loading the shell in the mono barrel was quick and easy. Just to test the 'feel' of the gun, I started with stock down when I called for the target. When the trap sent a straightaway target, the gun came up on point, resulting in a solid hit. I continued to shoot five at each post with only one miss – and that was simply because I was lazy.

The adjustable rib had been set for me at about 70/30 and I was smoking the targets. Felt recoil was more than comfortable and could have been less if I had taken the time to adjust the internal weights. The ejector was strong and efficient without being over strong. Since I am essentially a 'feel' shooter, I would have loved to bring this gun home with me.

A gentleman by the name of Steve "Doc" Ollock came out to the 27 yard line with the intent of putting this new F3 model through its paces. I watched him move



STEVE 'DOC' OLLOCK TRIES OUT THE NEW GUN.



ADJUSTABLE RIB AND EXTENDED BRILEY CHOKES.

effortlessly from post to post – hitting every bird. When he finished I asked him for his impressions. He quickly smiled and gave me a shopping list of superlatives. “Great balance, points very well and love the adjustable rib. It’s great value and a great gun.” (Doc shared with me that he was a AAA shooter, lives in Mainesburg, Pennsylvania and shoots a K-80.)

vibration or noise inside the stock. These designs came from the head designer, Sergej Popikov, who has been with Blaser for 12 years. He has also been responsible for the ejector system, and has been a design contributor to Mauser. Mathias Kneppeler is the man



THE ADJUSTABLE WEIGHT SYSTEM

The adjustable weight system has two components and places to add or shift weight. First, tungsten plates of varying weight can be added to the barrels and are hidden from view when the gun is assembled and the fore-end is in place. The task of adding weights is very simple, they come in a package of different weights and are added to the barrels with a simple screwdriver. Changing them is easy by simply removing the fore-end and switching the plates to match your best feel and comfort.

The second part of the system is an adjustable weight carrier inside the stock. Weights can be moved forward or back by simply removing the stock with the stock removal tool provided. You then have access to the weights that can be moved on the shaft by loosening a set screw, sliding the weights in either direction to obtain the balance that feels best. Each of the weights have a rubber o-ring that prevents any



BARREL SETS. TOP SHOWS WEIGHTS.



INTERNAL WEIGHT SYSTEM.



responsible for the design of the new barrels and the overall design of the adjustable rib.

INNOVATIONS

Great appearance when new is very common – but the test is how will the finish hold up over the long haul. Blaser has addressed those issues with some innovative treatments. The barrels are Plasma treated for hardness and the receiver is PVD coated for hardness and to resist common scratches. The adjustable rib is aluminum and the barrels (32" O/U and 34" unsingle) are fully chrome lined. The Trap single and double barrels can be made to weigh the same with the use of the weight system. The single Trap, without weights added, weighs 9 pounds but felt a bit lighter to me because it was so well balanced. As our illustrations show, the new barrel hanger system eliminates the solid center rib. The barrels come with a set of Briley extended chokes and at this time, Blaser is not releasing photographs of the new adjustable part of the rib until the design is final. The fore end iron is a new push button design to eliminate the hot spot when shooting. The checkering is done very well and the new model offers a factory approved butt pad.

VALUE

The gun shown has grade four wood. The new Trap F3 is expected to price at under \$10,000 for the two barrel set and under \$7,000 for the single – with a 10 year warranty. Having seen and shot this new model, the value is certainly there. Expect to hear much more about the new Blaser Trap in the coming months. For more technical information visit www.blaser-usa.com or call 210-377-2527. ■