

ESCORT MISSIONE

A NEW 12G FROM
HATSAN BASED IN
TURKEY



HARD CARRY CASE



EXTENDED CHOKES



FULL COMPLIMENT
OF ACCESSORIES!

ESCORT



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Recently whilst browsing in my local gun store this gun immediately caught my eye and peaked my interest, enough to take a closer look! In the hands the gun has a good feel with a forward weight bias 'ideal for clay shooting'. When I noticed the price it blew me away! I was now very curious to see how it would handle out on the trap field, so without any delay I asked for a New Gun to be bought up from the store room to take away on loan. Expecting the usual

Great bang for your
buck!

cardboard packing case, I was pleasantly surprised to see a very robust hard plastic carry case bearing the Escort logo. Inside the case the gun came wrapped in protective bubble wrap and the news just got better and better as we went through the rest of the contents. Inside a small black polymer case there are four extended optima chokes making a full range of five in total, CL, IC, M, IM, & F. Most guns of this type only come with three or four standard chokes. Extra Full is also available by order, "Ideal for Turkey Hunting". In addition to the chokes there are four different shims that can be fitted to the neck of the stock offering lots of adjustment for the user. I was very pleased to find not one, but three spacers enabling you to quickly extend the length of the stock to suit your individual desired length of pull, great if you are long in the arm like me.

THE FACTS

The Stock.

The stock is polymer based with an attractive wood effect finish and comes fitted with a micro cell butt pad great for absorbing the recoil. The full pistol grip has a soft rubber based inlay providing a comfortable non - slip surface for your trigger hand. This finish offers both a great look with the benefits of being durable in all weathers. On the butt's lower side and on the retaining ferrule at the fore end there are swivels for a sling, although functional and useful, I am not a big fan of these and would probably remove them.

The Fore End

As with the stock the fore end offers the same weatherproof yet attractive finish with the soft rubber inlay on all three sides providing a comfortable feel for your forehead and excellent grip. The retaining ferrule on the fore end looks great, but when you remove it and have it in hand it feels a bit light giving the impression of being made of a lesser material [just my take on it].

The Action.

The receiver, made from air craft alloy, anodized in white with simple engraving on both sides, offers attractive, strong, yet light

A CLASS APART IN VALUE FOR MONEY



THE ESCORT COMES WELL EQUIPPED WITH 5 EXTENDED CHOKES, 4 STOCK SHIMS AND 3 ADDITIONAL BUTT PLATE SPACERS.

weight performance and the white anodizing gives the appearance of a flat brushed nickel finish. These light alloy anodized actions we see used today are very durable and most major shotgun manufacturers in the semi auto market incorporate this design format on one or more of their models. The spring assisted gas inertia system has one universal gas valve for both light and heavy loads, unlike some other guns that require two. On the right side of the action there is a magazine cut off button allowing the user to open the breach, insert a different load into the chamber without feeding an existing shell from the magazine, handy when out wild fouling and you want to quickly switch loads for a different shot. With the capacity restricter removed the magazine holds four rounds and one in the chamber. The mag restricter is very easy to remove, no fiddly washers or catches, just remove the fore end and pull out the restricter rod.

Trigger.

The escort comes with a fully removable trigger group. Similar to many guns in this class. The trigger group can be removed for periodic cleaning by simply tapping out two pins on the side of the action. The trigger has quite a firm pull, good for hunting but a touch lighter would be nice for clays, and the safety is a standard cross button trigger safe.

Barrel.

Constructed from Nickel-chromium-molybdenum steel. The outside of the barrel is listed as having a black hard chrome finish but has the look of a traditional blued finish. The inside of the barrel has hard chrome finish, and is Proof tested for 1200 kg/cm² (17160 lb. per square inch) capable of handling most loads that you will throw at it. Atop the barrel is a checkered & ventilated anti-glare raised rib, fitted with a Hiviz Spark front sight.

Shooting & Overall Impressions.

With a slightly forward weight bias helping with muzzle control, this gun has a good feel to it, I found the balance great for shooting rising trap targets. Without shimming the stock, and strait out of the case with a IM choke the first 25 clays from the 16yd line got smoked one after the other! Then without changing chokes I worked my way back to the 27yd line. Even when taking my target intentionally late at the 25yd line, the shot delivery was impressive. The barrel on this particular gun is 28" but gives the feeling of shooting a with a 30" barrel, great for trap and those high sporting targets. The operation of the bolt release is similar to to the Remington 1100, and is operated by depressing a tongue on the underside of the breach in the centre of the magazine feed. All of the various trap loads I fired, cycled without any issues and although I did not use any heavy loads they should be no problem for the uni valve system. **[Always check load compatibility when using**

THE GAS BURN IS CLEANER THAN SOME SEMI AUTOS AND IS SIMPLE TO WIPE CLEAN.



steel shot] Although this gun is new to our shelves here in north America, it has been distributed in the UK for the last 10 years in differing formats. The original design has been modified and improved over time and the gun has stood up well. Felt recoil from the Escort Missione is similar to many semi autos, in that it is comparatively light when compared to a standard break action. This is due to the inertia take up from the auto action as it cycles. When taking a pair of targets the second shot cycled smoothly and without issue.

Summary.

So, down to the nitty gritty, the Escort Missione comes well equipped, provides excellent value for money and gets the job done! It has received ratings of 85 out of 100 in European reviews for both handling and value for money, I totally agree with this and more. No it is not a Beretta with an oiled walnut stock, but then does not cost \$1800.00 or more **It only costs \$697.00** bang for your buck doesn't get any better than this! If treated with care his gun should serve its owner well, and continue to retain its good looks for a long time to come. Remember the secret to a problem free semi auto is keep it clean! and when oiling the gas piston use a thin smear of motor oil, this will handle the hotter temperatures and not burn away as quickly as regular gun oil.



Specs

- 12 gauge or 20 gauge, 3"/76 mm magnum chamber, gas operated semi auto shotgun
- Fast Loading System & Smart Valve Piston.
- White anodized air craft alloy receiver with engraving and 11 mm groove for scope mounts.
- Walnut synthetic stock with rubber inlays for better control & feel.
- Rubber butt pad for recoil absorption & 3 stock spacers to extend stock length of pull.
- Capability of firing both 3"/76 mm and 2 3/4"/70 mm shells of 7/8 oz (24 gr) shot load to heavy 2 oz (57 gr) load magnum shells.
- Nickel-chromium-molybdenum steel barrel. Outside black hard chrome finish and inside white hard chrome finish. Proof tested for 1200 kg/cm² (17160 lb. per square inch).
- Available barrel lengths: 22"/55 cm, 24"/61 cm, 26"/66 cm, 28"/71 cm and 30"/76 cm.

- Checkered & ventilated anti-glare raised rib with Hiviz Spark front sight fitted.
- Steel shot suitable multi 5 choke system (F, IM, M, IC, CYL).
- Magazine capacity: 4+1 rounds.
- Accessory magazine extension tube increasing capacity to 7+1.
- Accessory migratory plug decreasing capacity to 2+1.
- Comes with 4 stock shims to adjust stock drop and cast.
- Magazine cut-off system for single shot.
- Manual cross-button trigger safety.
- Sling swivels

So Where Can You Buy It?

The Optima Escort Missione can be bought locally from Wanstalls shooting supplies in Maple ridge



B.C. or online from [Wanstalls online](#). As a side note Wanstalls offer a financing service for all guns, with some rates as low as 0%. If you call in to see them mention to Craig where you saw this post.

