

DT 11 X Trap

ROAD TEST OF THE
NEW BERETTA DT 11
X TRAP



NEW ERGONOMIC
CROSS-LEVER
NEW SAFETY CATCH



HIGH STANDARDS
HIGH EXPECTATIONS



STEELIUM PRO
EXTENDED TAPERING

BERETTA



First Impressions

The well made silver Polymeric case with the heavily embossed Beretta logo tells you there is something of good quality inside!

Release all three chrome combination locks, lift the lid & reveal a deep blue lining bearing the white Beretta logo on the underside of the lid. A quick scan inside the case reveals all the usual accoutrements that we have come to

Mirror polished accents adorned by the single blue line and DT11 stamp.

expect from Beretta. A full set of Optima HP chokes, oil bottle, snap caps, a comprehensive manual, optional micro core butt pad, tools for setting the rib, trigger, and stock plus other spare components. The main gun components are covered in a cream cotton sleeve's, also bearing the Beretta logo in black. "They certainly don't miss any opportunity to display their brand".

Having removed the gun from the sleeve's, first impressions are that it is a hefty looking gun,

The finish is of a very high standard as you would expect for a gun of this pedigree.

The Facts.

The Stock.

This particular gun had a very nice piece of mid grade walnut with an oiled finish and a beretta micro core butt pad. A touch shorter than the factory standard length having already been shortened for the client. As with many competition trap guns it has quite a sizeable piece of wood with a thick comb. The checkering is of a very high standard and offers excellent grip without being aggressive to the hand. This DT 11 came with the B-fast fully adjustable comb and a very comfortable right handed palm swell that just seemed to mould itself into your trigger hand. [there is an option to order the gun without the palm swell if so desired] Beretta like many other European shotgun manufacturers incorporate a full size pistol grip on their stocks which is great if you have a larger hand like me, compared to my Browning, where I find my hand coming off the end of its much smaller grip.

The Fore end.

The fore end feels comfortable and full in the hand giving the shooter good stability and gun control, again the checkering offers a good grip with an almost smooth feel to it.

A Class Apart From The Crowd



The finish of the DT 11 X Trap is of a very high standard as you would expect from a gun of this pedigree. A lot of thought and work has gone into the design of this gun and the results on the shooting field speak for themselves.

The Action.

The single blue line and DT11 stamp adorn the new nickel based matt finish action, with mirror polished accents. This gives the DT11 a clean look, which suits a competition gun. The receiver is 3mm wider than its predecessor the DT10, thus adding a little extra weight and stability. Where the top of the receiver blends into the breach it has a jewelled satin finish which helps to reduce any glare whilst maintaining a decorative finish. The DT11's receiver is wider than most other models from the Beretta stable due to the cross bolt lock-up mechanism, although not a new concept this design offers a tremendously strong and safe lock-up mechanism. The redesigned shape of the new safety selector didn't feel that much different, However the redesigned "Ergonomically Shaped" cross lever felt very comfortable and took a lot less effort to operate, this in turn create's less stress on the hand, very useful when shooting a lot.

Trigger.

As found in the DT10 the trigger group is removable in a three step process, allowing some adjustment and replacement of springs. Although a useful feature on a competition gun, In all the years I have been shooting I have yet to experience a trigger malfunction. Having this option on a gun also requires a wider receiver housing, which equals more weight. The trigger blade is fully adjustable on the DT11 and can be set to meet the individual length of your finger, it also comes with a slightly swept angle on the face of the trigger blade offering a more natural direction of pull for the trigger finger.

Barrels

The barrels are made of new steel alloy Beretta calls "Steelium" for which Beretta claim many advantages. Time will be a true test! The barrels are manufactured by a new process which is a mixture of hammer-forging [as are most Beretta barrels,] deep drilling, and vacuum stress-relief. Three quarters of the internal barrel length is a taper, it is rather like an extended forcing cone, followed by a minimal length of nominal bore before the Optima Hp choke is reached. This concept dates way back and was reinvented in victorian times, but most recently re-used by Fabarm who incorporated Tri-boring into their guns. This design process has



been used to improve shot distribution [pattern quality] reduced muzzle rise and in some guns a weight reduction. Our test gun came with 32" barrels chambered in 3" and the classic mono-block design that is found in most Beretta shotguns.

The Rib

The X Trap comes with a fully adjustable high rib. it can be adjusted at both front and rear. With two range setting at the rear it offers the shooter a multitude of options. This system is quick and easy to adjust it only requires releasing one allen key screw at the rear of the rib then the rest is as simple as turning a dial at the front end to elevate or lower the rib.

Shooting & Overall Impressions

When first picking up the gun it felt much lighter than expected. Balance was very good, although this particular gun had the stock shortened so there was a very slight forward bias. The full size pistol grip with palm swell just slipped into the hand like a glove and with the fully adjustable trigger the gun gave a near perfect fit to the hand.

With the thick sock & the fully adjustable B-Fast comb the XT mounts well and glides into the contours of the face with ease.

The most amazing thing was the lack of felt recoil! this has to be one of the softest guns I have ever shot, a big bonus for the competitive shooter. The weight and balance of the gun gave it a smooth swing and it felt very controllable. The trigger pull was crisp as in the DT 10 and the new barrel technology does seem to have a positive affect, the felt muzzle rise was considerably less compared to other guns and subsequently made a second shot easier and faster to acquire. The pattern distribution certainly gave the impression of being improved, time and time again the clays just disintegrated [no chips]. We shot at various stations from 16 yd's to 27 yd's and the results were very consistent.

The only negative I picked up, was the ejector on the bottom barrel. After firing and opening the breach, sometimes the gun would not eject the spent shell until the action was closed slightly. This is something that could be easily rectified by a gun smith, but it was a

The full size pistol grip with palm swell just slipped into the hand like a well fitting glove.



bit of a disappointment that this had slipped through quality control on such a gun, definitely not the sort of distraction that you would want in competition.

Summary

This is a superb gun to shoot. If you are looking for a more affordable trap gun in the upper end of the competition gun market, the DT 11 X Trap offers superb quality and performance. The DT 11 X Trap has excellent balance, finish and is well presented. A lot of thought and work has gone into the design of this gun and the results on the shooting field speak for themselves.

Would I buy one? “Absolutely”.

Specs

Barrel length (in)	32
Chamber (in)	3"
Choke	EOCHP
Gauge	12
Rib	High Adjustable
Price	\$9,999.99 CND

Above Spec based on test gun used.

The redesigned cross lever felt very comfortable and took a lot less effort to operate, this in turn create's less stress on the hand, very useful when shooting a lot.



With the standard “cast on” stock and adjustable B Fast comb this gun mounts like a dream.