

New Products for Skeet Shooters

by Nick Sisley

There's an interesting and new heavy duty carrying case made especially for skeet shooters and our sub-gauge tube sets. Check out www.bfcases.com. They are made by a competitive shooter in Montana, Kerry Newcomer. These cases are simply called BF Cases. I have not tested one of them, but you can check the photos. They look extremely durable. Obviously, these cases are not only ideal to carry your treasured skeet gun to your local club, such cases are also essential for airline travel. But even if you drive several hours to next weekend's shoot—you want a very protective case. Americase is the only outstanding case still available as far as I know since Nasco Case, I've been told, is no longer in the case-making business.

BF Cases makes more than one case, plus they can also custom make a case for you—i.e. one built to your skeet gun's dimensions. The standard over-and-under barrel skeet case takes barrels and sub-gauge tubes up to 30-inches. As with other skeet gun cases, the sub-gauge tubes are held tight in the top of the case with the lower lid above the gun compartment keeping the sub-gauge tubes separated, safe and with no marring possibilities.

There is a separate fore-end compartment. I like that idea because some fore-ends can be a very tight fit in a case where the barrel and fore-end are stored with the fore-end attached. That fore-end compartment is $11\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$. There is also a convenient storage compartment that is $8\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$, where you can place your chokes, choke tube wrenches, gun oil, gun grease, etc. Overall weight is $17\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and the exterior dimensions are $32\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{9}{16}$.

In the accompanying photos note the riveted construction as well as how many rivets there are. Also note the steel braces which extend to the sides and to the corners. The back hinge is continuous. There's a Presto combination hasp lock in the center plus two dual locking draw latches out toward each side. Exterior panels are finished in ABS or stucco aluminum. Inside there is padding as well as a velvet-like material that is used in the auto industry. Ends are partitioned for added strength, plus there is cushioning material in the receiver, barrel and fore-end areas. Bumpers provide a tight fit that prevents the gun components from moving once the BF Case is closed. Newcomer also informs that there's plenty of room in the receiver area for extended butt plates. Yes, these cases are made in the USA, i.e. Montana.

I think you will agree that these are very good looking cases, and that the construction looks very durable. The cost of this skeet gun case is \$340. The company, as previously stated, will also make a case that snugly fits to your gun's dimensions. BF Cases also repairs gun cases from other manufacturers and the company can make a case that will accommodate the new rage of very high, adjustable rib over-and-unders. On the website you will also find BF makes a two-barrel skeet case for barrels to 28-inches. Two-barrel trap cases are also available. The guarantee is for five years, plus there is a three-day inspection and return policy. Just return the unused case in its original packaging, at your expense, and you will receive a refund of the purchase price.

Don't forget to check out the www.bfcases.com website. If you would like to email Kerry Newcomer try info@bfcases.com. Phone 406-728-4950.

Test Drive Remington's New Versa-Max

The Remington Versa Max is the company's newest auto-loader so far offered only in 12 gauge. I had one on consignment some months back and wrote about it in *Sporting Clays Magazine*. But now you can test the Versa Max yourself—and at no cost. Remington is calling the program the Versa Max Challenge. Yes, that could be a “hands on” test drive for you. You will be able to do that at anyone of 30 gun club ranges across the country as well at some special clay target events.

The introduction of this “challenge” was at the Grand American Trap Shoot in Sparta, Illinois. Remington personnel were on hand at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta to put a Versa Max in the hands of anybody who wanted to try one. Remington even provided the shells. I checked www.remington.com to find out where the other 30 gun clubs are, but that information was not on their website yet. I'm certain those clubs will be listed by the time you read this. It's probably doubtful that shells will be given away at these 30 gun clubs.

If I had to make a guess, I'd be betting that this Versa-Max Challenge has been a part of the recently finished World Skeet Championships last month as well as the Sporting Clays National Championships, also held in October, both at the National Gun Club in San Antonio. So if the Versa Max Challenge was a part of those two big October shoots, I hope you didn't pass up the free shells that go with your Versa Max test drive.

New Shooting Glasses

Bushnell, well known for their scopes, binoculars, and other optics products has created a new department, the Bushnell Eyewear Division. This new segment of Bushnell will oversee the famous eyeglass companies of Bolle, Bolle Safety, Cebe and Serengeti.

While these companies are well known for specialty eyewear, both from a cosmetic standpoint and via sunglasses, I have every reason to believe that Bushnell will expand one or more of these companies into shooting glasses wear. If that's true it means a major new player in shooting glasses, and I'm betting the resources are there for Bushnell to make a big name for themselves in the shooting glass field. As you probably know the above four names are well known in eyewear throughout the world.

The new president of the eyewear division is Olivier Ciaravino, and the division headquarters will be in France. A talented eyewear team is already in place. I'm told that several employees are relocating to the French headquarters—no jobs will be lost. In fact, jobs will be added, especially on the global level.

The CEO of Bushnell, Blake Lipham, says, "Our eyewear brands represent an important, growing segment of our company and deserve the undivided attention of this team." Bushnell is a many-faceted corporation. Some of the companies that are part of Bushnell include Bushnell Outdoor Products (scopes, binoculars, spotting scopes and more), Tasco, Serengeti, Bolle, Uncle Mike's, Uncle Mike's Law Enforcement, Stoney Point, Hoppe's, Butler Creek, Cebe, Millett and Simmons. This tells you a bit about what a huge corporation Bushnell is, and being so big and with so many resources, if they want, the company could have a huge impact on our shooting glasses market in the future. I'm told to expect shooting glasses from one or more of the companies in the new Bushnell Eyewear Division in 2012, hopefully including prescription lenses. Which lens colors? Your guess is as good as mine, but I'm betting Bushnell will do their homework—not only on lens colors but also on the many other factors that are so important to shooting glass design.

Nick Sisley has been writing this Skeet Shooting Review column since 1982. A full time writer since 1969, Nick's thousands of magazine articles have appeared in scores of magazines. He is a Level I NSSA and NSCA Instructor and an NRA Shotgun Instructor. He welcomes your emails at nicksisley@hotmail.com.