



SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL: CZ-USA SHARPTAIL TARGET

GAUGE: 12 GAUGE

BARRELS: 30"

LOP: 14.75"

DAC: 1 1/2" (AS TESTED)

DAH: 2.25" (AS TESTED)

WEIGHT: 7 LBS. 8 OZ.

CHOKES: 5 EXTENDED (CYL, IC, M, IM, F)

SUGGESTED RETAIL: 1399.00

CZ-USA Sharptail Target

Photos Provided by Roger Marks and CZ-USA

INITIAL IMPRESSION

This is a purpose-built target breaking machine for those side-by-side aficionados who either chase the side-by-side circuit or just enjoy the nostalgia of the clay target sports with the original double gun. Either way, modern manufacturing technology combined with old world craftsmanship techniques join together and are represented in the double guns put out by CZ-USA.

The Sharptail Target comes packaged in an ABS case branded with the maker's logo. The receiver and barrels are arranged in typical fashion in a breakdown case and are additionally protected with their own cloth sleeves. When relieving the receiver from its sock, the first thing that caught my eye was the striking color case hardening on the receiver and side plates. The Turkish walnut stock was adequately figured and well executed. The accessories compartment held the five extended choke tubes, a choke tube wrench, and a manual with warranty card.

THE STOCK

The stock on this model comes with modern measurements such as a longer length of pull, less drop at comb and slightly increased pitch, designed for the current day

clay shooter. The checkering is laser cut and provides positive grip, and the pistol grip is comfortable with more radius than a Prince of Wales grip but slightly less than one might see on a dedicated over/under sporter. There is no pronounced palm swell present. The buttstock comes supplied with a half-inch sporting recoil pad.

The Turkish walnut on this sample is adequately figured with dark hues of straight grain and sporting an elegant oil finished satin sheen. The forearm is of the semi-beavertail type, wrapping up to and extending wider than the barrels to keep the hands away from hot barrels on high-volume shooting days. It locks solidly in place with a color case hardened lever mechanism which latches securely to the barrel lug.

THE RECEIVER

As mentioned above, the entirety of the receiver is finished with a rich color case hardening. The Sharptail receiver has side plates which nicely accent and display wonderful shades of color. Subtle and simple German floral style engraving adorns the side plates and trigger guard, while the bottom of the receiver is marked "CZ Sharptail Target." A small amount of



floral engraving decorates the top lever and the external radius of the receiver face providing a classical yet uncongested vibe.

The Sharptail receiver is a classic boxlock design with two large under-lugs serving two purposes; the front portion pivots on the hinge pin while the bottom of the front lug engages the floor of the receiver for robust resistance to forces generated by even the heaviest of loads. The rear lug also engages the floor of the receiver and serves as the receiving notch for the locking bolt.

The single selective mechanical trigger had nearly zero play and broke at just under four pounds on both the right and left barrel. Reset required minimal forward motion of the trigger blade. The toggle barrel selector is done in the traditional Italian style, located on top of the manual safety switch. One brilliant feature on this model is found in the way CZ-USA secures the barrel selector. Some shotguns with similar designs can fail to fire if the barrel selector gets bumped slightly out of battery or is moved to the middle of the safety switch. With this model, in order to change the barrel selector, the safety must be engaged. Once the safety is moved to the fire position, the barrel selector is locked in place and cannot be moved.

THE BARRELS

When it comes to a side-by-side sporting gun, barrel construction and design is absolutely critical to a model's performance and reputation. Being cognizant of this marketing and functional reality, CZ-USA tests the barrel regulation of all tar-

This is my go-to shotgun for side-by-side clay target events. The annual Gentleman's Cup held at Freeland Conservation Club was the perfect opportunity to take this model through its paces.

get guns before they are shipped from their Kansas City warehouse, rejecting those that do not meet their stringent standards.

The barrels on this sample measured thirty inches and were well constructed with a hard black chrome finish. The raised rib is well executed and scalloped with handsome radius tooling to reduce glare and outfitted with a white Bradley style front bead and a small silver mid-bead. The Sharptail Target is supplied with five extended choke tubes (CYL, IC, M, IM and Full). The chokes are threaded using the Mobil-style choke thread pattern.

SHOOTING THE SHARPTAIL TARGET

Although CZ-USA tests all their target models for barrel regulation before they ship them out, it is always good to test such things for oneself, building confidence that the shotgun is actually shooting where





you are looking. Consequently, the first stop was the patterning plate. A few shots from each barrel with different loads confirmed that barrel regulation was excellent and showed the point of impact was 60/40.

This is my go-to shotgun for side-by-side clay target events. The annual Gentleman's Cup held at Freeland Conservation Club was the perfect opportunity to take this model through its paces. The shotgun performed well. For this event I was using one ounce, 1250 feet per second loads which made for comfortable shooting. It should be noted that this model is chambered for three-inch magnum loads, in the event you want to take her out for a day in the goose blind. The operation was flawless with nice balance. This model is supplied with extractors as opposed to ejectors, the controls all functioned smoothly and as designed.

At seven pounds - eight ounces, the weight of this shotgun is a nice middle ground between enough weight to mitigate muzzle flip and recoil, yet not overly heavy if one desires to use it for upland duty. The balance on this sample was three-quarters of an inch in front of the hinge pin.

Since I've owned this Sharptail, it's seen duck blinds, the prairies of the Dakotas, many sporting clays courses, trap fields and the occasional skeet field. While it's a bit heavier than the typical field side-by-side, the additional pound and a half really does not hinder my wielding it well in the field. For anyone looking for a single side-by-side capable of heavy work on the largest of winged fowl, but perfectly suited for any clay target discipline, the CZ Sharptail Target may be for you. 🐾

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO FIND A DEALER NEAR YOU VISIT CZ-USA AT: [HTTPS://CZ-USA.COM/](https://cz-usa.com/)

