

Still classic in looks and feel, Remington's new 1100 Sporting is still every inch a modern shotgun.

AMERICAN Classic

Mark Stone turns his attentions to Remington's latest timeless automatic - the 1100 Sporting.

Our test gun, the Sporting 12 - part of Remington's Competition Range - is a combination of modern technology wrapped up in the classic looks and handling of the original Remington 1100. A shortfall in my opinion is that the Sporting 12 doesn't come with a case but does include four extended Briley chokes. Unusually, and as if to ensure you know what the Sporter 12 was intended for, the choke restrictions are skeet, improved cylinder, light modified and modified and before you start looking for the key there isn't one, these long tubes are intended to be screwed in and out by hand and tweaked up no more than finger tight.

Timber

The sporter stock and forend are almost French cabinet like in finish, high gloss lacquer heightening the grain and adding a durable protective coating. A soft recoil pad complete with a chamfered, snag free heel is attached to the butt whilst wide panels of elaborate checkering and a pommel depicting the old Remington logo decorate the narrow, ambidextrous pistol grip whilst the wide comb ensures the stock fits comfortably against the cheek.



The lacquered sporting stock is comfortable to mount whilst the look is overtly classic American; a soft recoil pad keeps felt recoil to a minimum

The long forend is trap-like in profile, deep finger grooves either side giving way to more stylised panels of fine cut chequering along the base, the whole filling the shooter's hand and giving excellent levels of control. The forend is kept firmly secured by a deep, knurled mag cap, corresponding dog-ratchet teeth inside the cap and on the end of the magazine tube, ensuring the cap never loosens until the gun is disassembled.

The gloss black 2¾" chambered barrel is what Remington refers to as 'Target Contour' which means the outer diameter tapers ever so slightly and intended only for competition or light game loads. The vented 7mm rib features a white bead over the muzzle with a smaller pip in the centre of the barrel feeding into the receiver via a long extension. Beneath the barrel the ring, which sits over the mag tube and in front of the twin rail action slider and spring, houses the valve (along with the two usual gas ports), which is quick to strip and clean after each outing.

In the case of the Sporting 12 on test the steel receiver, a feature common to most 1100's, continues the barrel's gloss black finish with only the words Remington and Sporting 12 breaking up the surface. Turn the gun upside down and the black shell lifter and bolt release come into view, the release is a short protrusion to the rear of the lifter that automatically releases the bolt into battery as soon as the second round is offered up or is jabbed by the shooter's index finger just before it slides backwards into the slim trigger-guard that also houses the cross-bolt safety and against the short, gold-plated trigger-blade.

The bolt itself is the only piece of bright work on the gun, the chromed surface of the one-piece unit standing out when the bolt is in the forward battery position. Seemingly lazy in operation the bolt automatically locks into the rearward position once the last round has been fired.

Huntroyde bound

Electing to fit the skeet choke it was time to face Huntroyde's



The words Remington and Sporting are all that augment the black steel receiver.



The bolt release is activated the moment the second round is loaded and comes into contact with the shell lifter.



The cross-bolt safety is situated in the rear span of the small trigger-guard.



The knurled mag cap is big whilst a ratchet system keeps it firmly in place.



Four extended chokes come with the 1100 Sporting but the tightest is only ½.

sporting layout but not before a few minutes with the Arrow Laser Shot. Like most semis the Sporting 12 displayed flat shooting characteristics, both the forward and mid beads lining up to produce the inverted figure '8' indicating the mount and sight picture was exactly as it should be.

The overall weight of the Sporting 12 is an exact 9lbs with an overall length inclusive of the extended choke of 48 ¾". Drops at comb and heel are 1 7/16" and 1 ¾" with a 14 1/8" length of pull. A heavy yet creep free trigger pull of 6lbs 4oz seems in keeping with the rest of the gun, allowing the shooter to apply initial pressure before the final release.

Chambering up with 28gram Eley VIP Sporting fibres filled with 7½'s the Sporting 12 was quickly on target, the gun's weight and characteristics promoting a smooth controlled swing and handling. Balancing directly beneath the ejection port and with the forend filling the leading hand, manipulating the Sporting 12 soon becomes a refined process of gently directing the muzzle to where it needs to be whilst the weight gives constant, flowing momentum especially on crossing clays.

The Sporting 12's other attribute is the fact that as soon as you've pulled the trigger you can feel the system working. The empty case is hurled from the ejection port whilst you can sense the long travel bolt moving to and fro, slamming the next round into the chamber and the 1100 is ready to go again. It feels slightly old fashioned compared to more modern offerings including Remington's new Versamax but all these sensation come together as part of this gun's personality, making the Remington 1100 what it is.

Other looks and sizes

For those who like the idea of a classic Remington 1100 in competition guise but want something a little different from the Sporting 12 as tested, you can opt for the nickel plated receiver option with a plain or engraved finish such as the Premier version. Likewise, there are 20 and 28 bore models all with 2¾" chambers along with a .410 that for competition purposes has a 3" chamber. I can say from experience that the small gauges, providing you use relatively powerful loads are some of the most entertaining little semi-automatic gas powered shotguns you'll use.

If Remington's 1100 Sporting has a slight downside it's the price, an outlay that could well put the brakes on a potential purchase. It's a fact of life that Remingtons don't come cheap, the Sporting 12 a prime example but in defence of this what you'll find is a semi-auto that's built like a tank and will run for years. Also remember that unlike some other semis that will tolerate years of neglect, 1100's don't, they need to be looked after and maintained.

Time will tell

Granted the Remington 1100 in whatever guise isn't for everyone but once you've got used to the weight of the steel receiver, the graceful swing these shotguns promote, the feel and looks, I guarantee you'll be hooked. The 1100 is a tremendous all-rounder and in Sporting 12 guise is a competitive shotgun that'll always reward in appearance, touch and ability.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name	Remington 1100 Sporting 12
Type	Single Barrel
Calibre	12 bore / 2¾" Chamber
Action	Semi-automatic
Capacity	3 x 12 bore cartridges
Barrel	28 inch extended multi-choke
Contact	Sportsmarketing (SMK) 01206 795333 www.sportsmk.co.uk