

MODERN SPORTING GUN HUNTING ISSUE!

# FIREARMS NEWS

GUN SALES, REVIEWS, & INFORMATION

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INFORMATION-AGE HUNTING TOOL:

## THE CITADEL BOSS-25

AUTOLOADING  
12-GAUGE

BY DR. WILL DABBS

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SILENCERCO

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# THE CITADEL BOSS-25

**AUTOLOADING 12-GAUGE**

By Will Dabbs, MD Cover and lead photo by Mike Anschuetz



# THE INFORMATION AGE HUNTING TOOL



The new Citadel Boss-25 is an advanced AR-style autoloading 12-gauge shotgun that brings the 18th century scattergun into the Information Age. Featuring familiar controls, a detachable five-round magazine, and exceptionally cool particulars, the Boss-25 looks as good as it runs. While home defense and tactical applications are obviously in its wheelhouse, the Boss-25 is also a supremely efficient hunting arm. However, toting this gun into the field in pursuit of wild game requires a slight adjustment to the traditional mindset.

## Cultural Evolution

An awful lot of folks are questioning an awful lot of things these days. In an era of revisionist history, toppling statues, and a country that seems to be covered in a thin patina of woke social justice warriors it can be easy to lose track of our roots. While hitting the field in pursuit of wild game might seem a bit anachronistic in the era of civilian space travel, designer lattes, and ubiquitous digital interconnectivity, it is actually such stuff as this that makes us human.

Genesis 1:28 says, “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’” God put us here to live off of the bounty of the earth. To deny this fact is to deny who we are.

I grew up in the Mississippi Delta, and hunting deer and turkey was an integral component of most normal kids’ lives. Regulated hunting provides the funds that drive wildlife conservation around the world. As

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ALPINE  
OUTDOORS



In addition to serving as a superb home defense and defensive weapon, the Citadel Boss-25 autoloading shotgun is also an outstanding hunting tool.

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incongruous as it might seem, were it not for hunting we would be faced with the widespread extinction of countless rare creatures.

There is a weird cognitive dissonance that surrounds hunting as a subset of the American gun culture. Sportsmen who cling dogmatically to their hunting arms while eschewing the more defensive genres are derogatorily referred to as “Fudds,” a veiled reference to the Elmer Fudd hunting character of Bugs Bunny



In these days of riotous protests and digital everything, it can be easy to forget where we came from. (Unsplash photo by Flavio Gasperini)



Down here in the Deep South where I live most normal kids grow up hunting. My buddy Braxton here is a master turkey slayer.



Deer hunting is part of the fabric of rural spaces across the country.

fame. Interestingly, I'm told old Elmer will have his firearms digitally excised from future releases of the cartoon, his side-by-side 12-bore yet another lamentable casualty of the ongoing culture wars.

Benjamin Franklin once opined, "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately." If ever there was a perfect application for that pithy appellation it is in the modern fight

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Military necessities influence many to most modern consumer products. (U.S. Department of Defense)



Guns like the Boss-25 have not historically been viewed as hunting tools. However, while hunting has no bearing on a gun's sporting applications, the Boss-25 is an undeniably efficient tool for taking game like deer and turkey.



The military influence is obvious in the design of the Boss-25. However, such stuff as pistol grips and accessory rails also make for more efficient hunting tools.



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over gun rights. All gun owners need to be fighting for all guns.

Martial pressures drive the most powerful innovations in science and engineering. Nothing motivates a people to excel like the prospect of violent gory death. World War II brought us such stuff as pressurized jet aircraft, radar, penicillin, nuclear power, computers, and Silly Putty. As that relates to firearms, it is military applications that render such contrivances most efficient.

Although AR-15s were shown to be used for hunting in the 1970s and 80s in gun magazines like *Guns & Ammo*, we owe a great deal to Randy Luth who promoted AR hunting in his DPMS black rifle catalogs decades ago. His tireless efforts to promote hunting with modern-styled semi-auto rifles has made hunting with MSRs mainstream. Nowadays, game ranging



The Boss-25 is an advanced Information Age design no matter its ultimate application. The gun's high-tech features also make it an effective hunting tool.



The Boss-25 comes with four chokes and a muzzle brake in addition to a nice choke wrench.



from pigs to seals to deer and elk are regularly hunted with AR-style weapons.

While “scary” features like detachable magazines, pistol grips, and flash suppressors unsettle the less durable among us, such stuff as this makes our tools more efficient. By incorporating technological advancements spawned via military applications into our hunting arms we make them more effective, comfortable, and humane. In the Citadel Boss-25 we see tomorrow’s sporting shotgun.

**Pertinent Particulars**

At its heart, the Boss-25 is an efficient gas-operated autoloading semiautomatic magazine-fed shotgun. The gun comes with five interchangeable chokes as well as a choke wrench all in a handy carrying case.

The magazine release and safety are both standard M4 fare. There is a manual bolt hold open in the same spot as that of an M4 as well. The charging handle is a rigid post that reciprocates with the bolt on the right side.

The trim forearm stretches out far enough to let you run the gun like you mean it. It is also liberally adorned with M-Lok slots for accessories should the spirit lead. While M-Lok occupies the sides, the bottom slots are Keymod. There is a generous optics rail up top, and the gun comes with a nice set of polymer flip-up sights.

The chamber and bore are hard chrome plated, and the mystical melding of polymer and aluminum keeps the weight down. The buttstock is fixed but includes an adjustable comb to optimize the cheek weld. The

forward portion of the barrel shroud is outfitted with an intriguing set of spiral cuts. I’m not sure what this does exactly, but it looks undeniably awesome. The soft rubber pistol grip is as comfortable as a cotton hammock on a pleasant spring day. *[Cont. to page 20]*



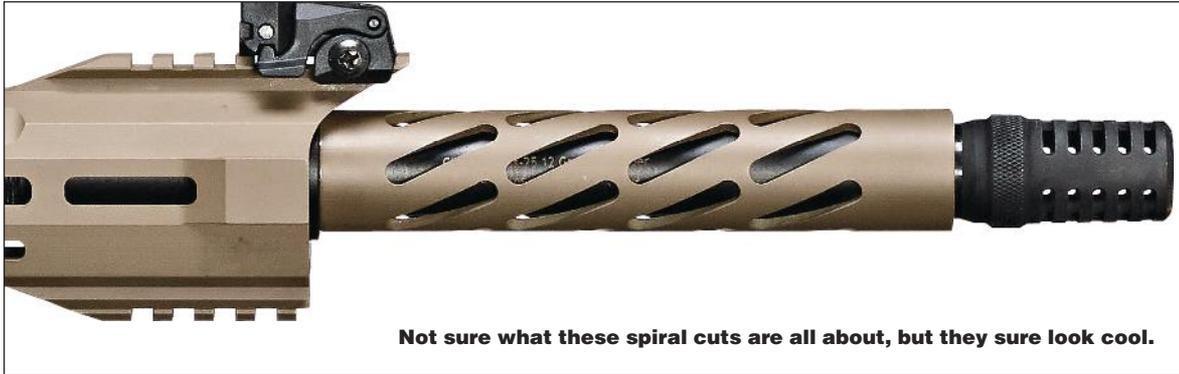
The controls will be familiar to anyone who has ever hefted an M4.



The magazine release is in the expected spot, while the skeletonized charging handle reciprocates with the bolt.



There is ample forearm space for accessories and a proper grip.



Not sure what these spiral cuts are all about, but they sure look cool.



The fixed buttstock includes an adjustable cheek riser.



Five-round box magazines are handy and reliable. Extended ten rounders are available as aftermarket accessories.



The pistol grip sports a soft rubber component that is unnaturally comfortable.

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The box magazine packs five rounds, and the gun comes with a spare. I have found aftermarket ten-round boxes for sale as well. The chamber is cut to accept three-inch shells, so the gun runs a wide variety of hunting and defensive loads well. There are interchangeable piston rings for light and heavy loads.

The gun's operating system is a fascinating derivation of the WWII-era MKb 42(W), one of two weapons that ultimately begat the StG44 assault rifle. The annular gas system in the Boss-25 taps gas circumferentially around the barrel via three ports to drive a sleeve that itself powers the bolt. The Czech vz-52 rifle operates similarly.

### Scattergun Deer Hunting

At least twenty states mandate the use of shotguns for deer in at least some areas for certain parts of the season. The motivations spawn from concerns of overpenetration for high velocity rifle rounds. The use of slugs or buckshot does significantly decrease the risk to folks or property downrange.

For deer, this obviously mandates much closer engagement distances. However, even down here in the deep south where I live, it is rare for most hunters to take a shot at a deer beyond a couple hundred meters. Our recent obsession with long-range shooting has indeed moved those ranges much farther out for



These piston rings interchange to accommodate various loads.



The Boss-25 utilizes a novel annular gas system similar to this Czech Vz-52 rifle.

## MAGAZINE CONSIDERATIONS

There is a federal limit on shotgun capacity to three rounds for hunting waterfowl. Myriad state laws espouse similar restrictions. The theory is that hunters shouldn't be out there blasting away after Bambi or Donald Duck like it was downtown Fallujah. Any responsible hunter would adhere to this anyway, but the government likes making rules.

As the magazines for the Citadel Boss-25 pack five rounds, you'll have to improvise yourself a magazine plug. Fret not, you can make one out of a pencil. I used the wooden handle from a disposable paintbrush. Cut some stubby bit of wood to 3.25 inches, disassemble the magazine, and slip your improvised plug up inside the magazine lift spring. This will keep the magazine from holding more than two rounds without adversely affecting reliability.

Interestingly, there is currently an exception for snow geese. These things are like big honking flying rats. Their populations have exploded in recent years to the point where they are adversely affecting their arctic habitats. As a result Uncle Sam now says we are free to use electronic callers and unfettered

weapons in the pursuit of these airborne vermin. Winchester makes a superbly powerful three-inch snow goose load specifically for this application.

Winchester.com **74**



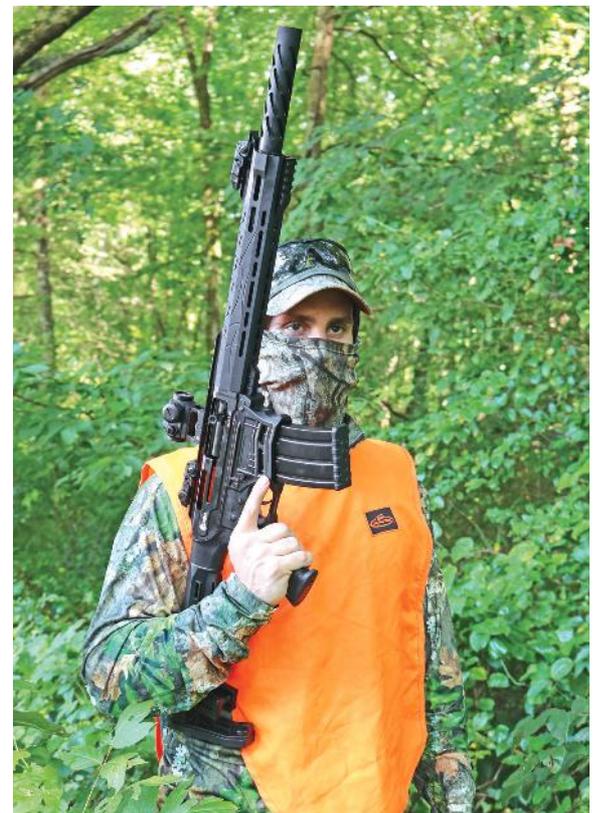
Making a plug for your magazine to restrict it to two rounds is a simple chore. I made this one out of the handle from a disposable paintbrush.



These massive three-inch Snow Goose rounds from Winchester push a lethal combination of #1 and 2 steel shot.

a certain small segment of the shooting population. I have a dear friend who is a gifted long-range shooter who bagged an elk at 860 meters. However, the typical run-of-the-mill recreational hunter sticks pretty close.

The classic argument for a shotgun as a deer hunting weapon has been stalking game in heavy brush. Even a smidge of grass can throw off the trajectory of a high-velocity bullet catastrophically. However, shooting a deer in heavy brush at close range is more a theoretical construct than a practical one. Given the absolute requirement to verify the nature and orientation of the



Using shotguns in the pursuit of whitetail deer is the law in several congested states due to concerns about errant rifle rounds.



Deer hunting is a popular pursuit in every state where deer are endemic.

target no responsible deer hunter should be unloading on an animal unless it is within range, clearly identified, and safe.

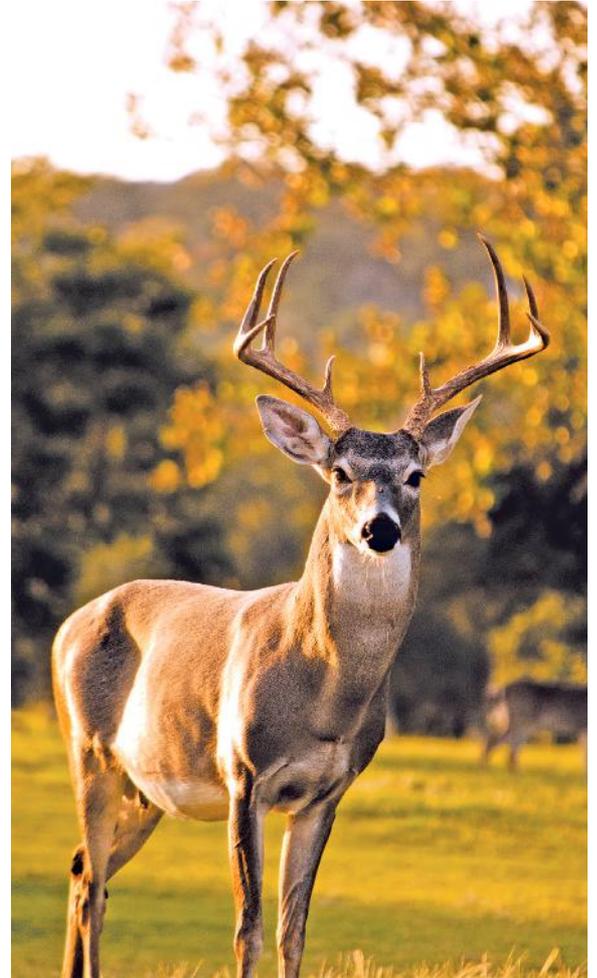
Another boon to the use of a shotgun for whitetail is downrange thump. We gun nerds can prattle on for days about the nuances of ballistic coefficients, muzzle velocities, bullet weights, and knockdown power. However a one-ounce pure lead slug or nine .33-caliber buckshot mean not having to say you're sorry in

all the world's recognized languages. I've seen a lot of people shot, and close-range shotgun wounds are the most impressive of the lot.

**The American Wild Turkey**

You simply have not lived until you have sauntered up to a southern table and partaken of a properly-prepared wild turkey with all the support stuff. Just typing these words makes me nostalgic for home and

*[Cont. to page 24]*



Deer are prevalent throughout most of the U.S. and are hunted as both trophies and for meat. (Unsplash photo by Laura College)



Successfully hunting wild turkey requires a fair amount of guile.



You simply haven't lived until you have had a properly-prepared wild turkey with all the fixins for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner.



The wild turkey has been an integral part of America from the very beginning. These horribly ugly birds are hunted for their incomparable meat. (Unsplash photo by Kirk Thornton)



The controls and layout of the Boss-25 are foundational dogma for most American shooters.



entails a remarkable lot of random. You've got to be at the right place at the right time. By contrast, to bag a wild turkey you speak to the animal.

I always felt just a wee bit sorry for the typical turkey gobbler transitioning from forest to dinner table. The hunter is mimicking the female of the species and enticing the randy male to come a'courting. This poor guy just thought he was going to land a hot date before catching a load of Number 5 shot to the beak. As a guy myself that just seemed a particularly ignominious way to go.



[Cont. from page 22]

hearth. When I was a kid, it was always a competition to see who would be the first to find a piece of lead shot in their holiday dinner. (I'm not kidding).

Hunting wild turkey requires a great deal of practical skill. Where stalking deer well is an undeniable art, the pursuit still

**Trigger Time**

The manual of arms for the Citadel Boss-25 is almost but not quite the same as that of an M4. Firmly seat a loaded magazine and jack the bolt using the right-sided bolt handle. The combination of a well-reasoned design and the gun's sleek, svelte architecture make it eminently pointable.

All 12-bore shotguns are vigorous. However, recoil with the Boss-25 is pleasant thanks to the well-reasoned gas-operated mechanism, soft rubber pistol

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The advanced annular gas system of the Boss-25 makes it both reliable and comfortable with the right ammo.

## FEDERAL PERSONAL DEFENSE FORCE X2 00 BUCKSHOT



Federal Personal Defense Force X2 Buckshot looks terrifying just sitting still.

There is more science imbedded in your typical round of modern high performance defensive ammunition than sent men to the moon. Nowhere is this axiom better exemplified than in Federal Personal Defense Force X2 00 Buckshot. This is scattergun food for the modern era. Whether your mission is defending the homestead, feeding your department-issued 12 bore, or putting venison on the table, this stuff is as good as it gets.

Force X2 shells pack nine .33-caliber copper-plated lead balls all suspended within a fine granulated buffer material for consistent shot patterns and high velocities. 00 buckshot is arguably the most devastating load that can be welded by a civilian handheld firearm. Force X2, however, is even nastier.

Each 00 buckshot pellet is creased down the middle like split shot fishing sinkers. Upon impact with something soft and gooey each pellet separates into two hemispheres. This doubles the wound channels and minimizes over penetration.



At twenty meters Force X2 from Federal will reliably harvest venison.

Personal Defense Force X2 ammo cycled flawlessly in the Boss-25 shotgun while producing manageable recoil. With half a dozen of these diabolical puppies on tap it is the rare whitetail that won't end up in the freezer. At appropriate ranges this is the good stuff.

FederalPremium.com **FN**



The fixed-length stock is fairly long, but it still fit me nicely.

[Cont. from page 24]

grip, and recoil pad. The presence of a separate pistol grip allows a not insubstantial component of the recoil impulse to be transferred to the firing hand. The in-line nature of the design focuses the primary recoil force directly into the firer's shoulder so as to mitigate muzzle climb.

The trigger is entirely serviceable, and follow up shots are essentially instantaneous. On the last round fired the bolt locks to the rear automatically. Magazines need a little snatch when the release catch is activated. Slam in a fresh box, slap the bolt catch, and you are rocking another mag.

The adjustable comb is a nice addition, but the length of pull for the fixed stock is ample. Little pygmy folks may have a challenge leaning forward far enough to properly index a magnified optic. I'm



A slightly magnified optic like this fascinating Swampfox Optics Trihawk 3X prism sight is perfect for running slugs at reasonable ranges. The Swampfox Trihawk sports an unnaturally generous field of view.

a pretty average-size six-foot-tall lanky guy, and the gun fit me well.

This is a gas-operated autoloading shotgun, so it naturally prefers full-power rounds. This is not atypical among semiautomatic shotguns in my experience. When fed high-brass, full-power loads it ran 100%. As with any weapon you plan to use for real in either defensive or hunting applications, run it enough on the range to take its measure before toting it into the field. Fed proper fodder I would rely on the Boss-25 every time.

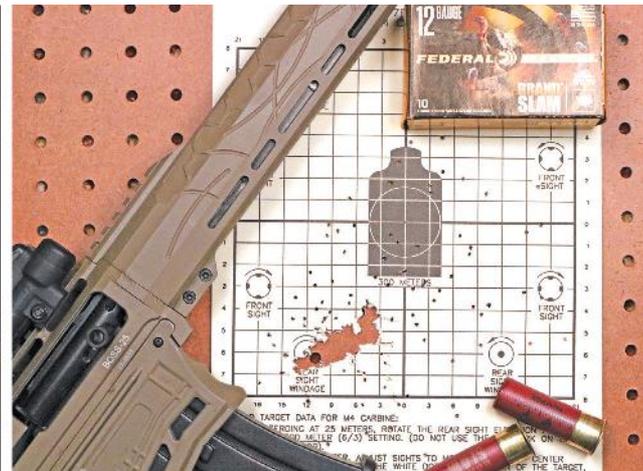
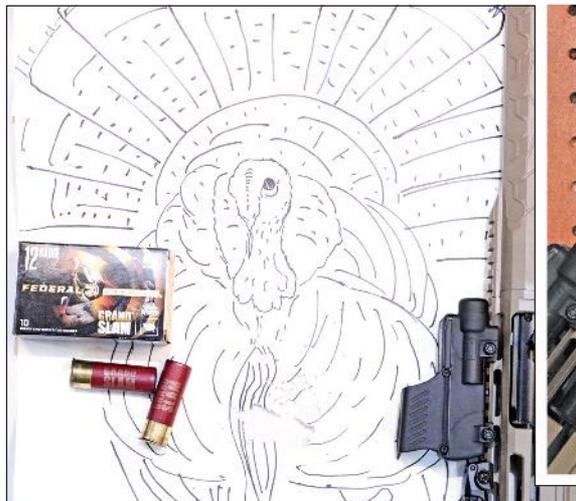
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This big porker is actually a pal named Kevin. The Boss-25 shotgun would be great medicine for his feral buddies, however.



These poor guys don't stand a chance against Federal Number 5's.



At about twenty meters this Tom is on the table.

## THE MEPROLIGHT FORESIGHT: EINSTEIN'S GUNSIGHT



If the Meprolight Foresight were a college buddy he would be the one you'd get to help you with your calculus homework. This thing is preternaturally capable and packed with features.

The new Foresight from Meprolight features a rechargeable battery, a seamless data link to your smart phone, and more customizable features than a Swiss Army Knife. Injecting tactical data management into a compact rugged electronic gunsight, the Foresight does things nobody else does. This is the future of combat optics.

You zero the Foresight through your phone. The smartphone app does most of the heavy lifting for you. Lock in zero data for a particular weapon and then you can swap the sight to another gun seamlessly. Mount the unit to the same place every time, and you can run this one sight on ten different weapons. Tell the Foresight where it is via the app, and the sight resumes its zero automatically.

There are scads of different reticle options, and the sight displays battery power remaining as well as an electronic compass. A digital shot counter is coming as a software upgrade. The Meprolight Foresight represents a quantum advance in electronic gunsights.

US.Meprolight.com **FN**

[Cont. from page 26]

### Ruminations

The Citadel Boss-25 is sleek, effective, and fun. Better men than I could likely connect with slugs at 100 meters or more. However, I personally view a scattergun as a fairly close-range tool. When stoked with 00 buck or slugs the Boss-25 packs more raw power than anything that doesn't come with a tripod or an impact fuse.

I hunted throughout my childhood with a beautiful Browning Auto-5 12-bore. That racy rascal kept holidays amply supplied with turkeys, doves, and similar delectable critters. It was also an absolutely gorgeous firearm.

By contrast, the Boss-25 is entirely utilitarian. However, that means the gun interfaces with the human form seamlessly and brings combat-grade ruggedness and ergonomics to the hunting field. Combine this "information age" scattergun with a proper modern



This 25-meter group with Federal Tru-Ball slugs measured just over two inches.

optic and you have a tool that is markedly more efficient and effective than even my trusty humpbacked Browning. Whether the mission is home defense, 3-Gun shooting, or hitting the field in the pursuit of fowl, swine, or venison, the Boss-25 represents the state of the art. **FN**

### THE CITADEL BOSS-25 SHOTGUN

<b>Finish:</b>	Cerakote: Black, FDE, and Tactical Grey
<b>Gauge:</b>	12 ga
<b>Action:</b>	Semi- Auto
<b>Chamber:</b>	3"
<b>Barrel:</b>	18.75" Chrome Lined
<b>Overall Length:</b>	37.75 in
<b>Length of Pull:</b>	14 in
<b>Weight:</b>	8 lbs
<b>Muzzle Attachments:</b>	5 Chokes including Muzzle Brake
<b>Feed System:</b>	2 - 5 rd Detachable Box Magazines
<b>Sights:</b>	Fully Adjustable Folding Sights
<b>Optics Mount:</b>	Picatinny Rail
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$579
<b>Contact:</b>	(800) 5-LEGACY, LegacySports.com

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Davidson's offers the Guaranteed® Lifetime Replacement Warranty which backs all the firearms you buy through GalleryofGuns.com. It works like this: if anything ever goes wrong with any gun you buy with the Davidson's Guaranteed® Lifetime Replacement Warranty, it will be replaced. If no replacement is available, it will be repaired at no charge to you. Simply return it to the retailer where you purchased it, pay for the return shipping and upon receipt Davidson's will ship the returning retailer a brand-new gun for you provided one is available. If a replacement is not available your firearm will be repaired for free. For complete warranty information please refer to the Guaranteed Warranty link found at the home page of GalleryofGuns.com **FN**