



The gun enjoys appealing lines.

The comb is raised quite simply by use of an Allen key provided.



New from Beretta is this 682 Gold Trap model with an adjustable stock. While the very top shooters on the international circuit have always been absorbed by the benefits of achieving perfect fit, it has not been until quite recently that the average shooter has discovered just what he has been missing.

All manner of the technical aspects of guns which are treated as part and parcel of the package in countries such as the USA, are now being taken on board by British shooters. Backboring, porting, Briley chokes - all have become an established part of our scene.

So perhaps the time has never been better for the launch of an adjustable stock gun.

Alan Rhone has done much in this country to promote the benefits of adjustables and good gunfit. And as international trap shooters are constantly in pursuit of the perfect fit, it is perhaps not surprising that Beretta have opted to base their adjustable stock on a trap model. I gather that Browning and Miroku have similar guns in the pipeline, again both based on trap models, the GTi Ultra and MK-38 respectively.

In the meantime I have given the Beretta a good once over. Firstly the presentation is magnificent - a very attractive case, all the necessary attachments and accessories, plus two triggers.

The gun itself was up to the usual high standards of this gunmaker, with seriously good engineering and first class wood to metal fit.

The lines of the 682 Gold series are very attractive, though the fore-end on this gun was a little slimmer than I would have normally expected for a trap model. The stock has a palm swell which fits very nicely into the hand, and is not at all obtrusive.

However for my own personal tastes I thought the stock was quite beefy. But this is a gun built very much in the mode of the international trap shooter. The design of the stock is perfectly tailored to the needs of the type of style of gunmounting where the shooter places the stock into the shoulder, dropping his cheek well forward into the mount. Whereas the usual English sporting style for most of us is to mount into the

cheek and shoulder as one.

Most of our own top international trap shooters favour a mount similar to that of the Italians, and other crack Olympic trap shooters.

While this is not a stock specification that I would normally favour, I have to say that it shot beautifully when I tried it on Northampton Shooting Ground DTL and ABT targets. I also shot some teal with it, with impressive results. And as with all Berettas the barrels are set low in the action, resulting in very modest recoil, particularly as it also weighs in at just under 8½lb. Very smooth to shoot.

It is first and foremost a gun for

trap shooters. Set at its lowest (and it is simplicity itself to adjust with the Allen key provided), the adjustable comb is still at the kind of level which renders the gun suitable for nothing other than trap shooting. I suspect that the new adjustables from Browning and Miroku will be the same. Is this a lost opportunity, I wonder? Might it not be appropriate for the major gunmakers to market a model which offers the kind of versatility in comb height that would make it a perfect all-rounder?

In the meantime, if you are looking for an off-the-shelf high quality trap gun with an adjustable stock, this could well be the answer.

Price: £1825. ■

Adjustable Gold

Andrew Harvison looks at the new 682 Gold Trap gun from Beretta - there is now a version which comes with an adjustable stock.