

GUNTEST



No question, this is a very interesting gun. It's certainly a departure for Perazzi, and with one or two exceptions, quite different to current gun design thinking. However, the ramped rib and all that the gun offers is a genuine throwback to trap gun design of 30-40 years ago.

So while the new Perazzi MX8 ProTrap marks a major departure for Perazzi, the Italian gun company noted especially for models geared to the demands of international trap disciplines, this is, in essence, a gun built for DTL along lines that have over the years have proven to be successful.

The gun is a sister to the ProSport which Perazzi launched last year with the English Sporting market

specifically in mind. The really interesting bit comes when you start shooting with it, but first, how does it look? Well, I'm a great believer in first impressions and I have to admit that this particular MX8 did not get me purring. It is a very big gun, weighing in at 9lb 2oz, but the area that caused me the most concern was the woodwork. There is so much wood on the stock, and Perazzi have, as is their wont, built the comb too far back - the distance from the front of the comb to the front of the trigger is too great. And for a gun of this price (£5000) it is not unreasonable to expect an adjustable trigger (in my opinion, more important than a detachable action, no matter how beautifully made, which this is).

There is a palm swell which is negligible and not really noticeable, but more importantly the styling of the stock means that there is little support for the back of the hand.

So there are negatives. But... the positives are significant. For starters the height of the stock (34/35mm) and parallel comb, along with plenty of drop to the toe, means that it will fit just about anyone other than those with a short neck.

Cast off is

Perazzi have never done Down the Line... until now. Andrew Harvison (above) gets his hands on the new MX8 ProTrap and is seriously impressed.

Perazzi discover DTL

The 32" Perazzi MX8 ProTrap.

4mm heel-8mm toe, while the length of pull is 15".

Then there's the 32" barrels. This is where Perazzi have excelled. Yes, they are heavy but this is counterbalanced by ventilated side and top ribs. The stepped rib with its 11mm-7mm taper gives tremendous target pick-up and picture, and it is now when having looked at the gun and started mounting it into the shoulder that it starts to come alive.

There is a multi-choke in the bottom barrel (the top barrel being fixed at 3/4 on the sample gun) - the bottom barrel has a slight bulge to accommodate the screw-in choke, normal for Perazzi, though I'm not sure if this is really necessary. However we are talking aesthetics. The really interesting bit is that though the gun is heavy, and certainly a lot heavier than any other Perazzi (MX8 or MX12) that I have handled, it balances precisely on the hinge pin - just perfect. So when you get to shoot it, as I eventually did (!), there is little feeling of weight.

So then the nitty gritty - how did it shoot? The answer simply is... amazing. Seriously, the sight picture and target/barrel relationship was brilliant. It simply took me there. Shooting was easy, very easy. In fact when I tried it at Kibworth Shooting Ground I was near the end

of the round of 25 when I suddenly realised that I hadn't tried the fixed choke barrel (the half choke bottom barrel had demolished every target thrown).

Trigger pulls were of course superb at 3lb. While the overbored barrels at .736" made for very soft shooting. But it was the gun's uncanny knack of getting me quickly onto the target and its weight holding me there that made for its cutting edge.

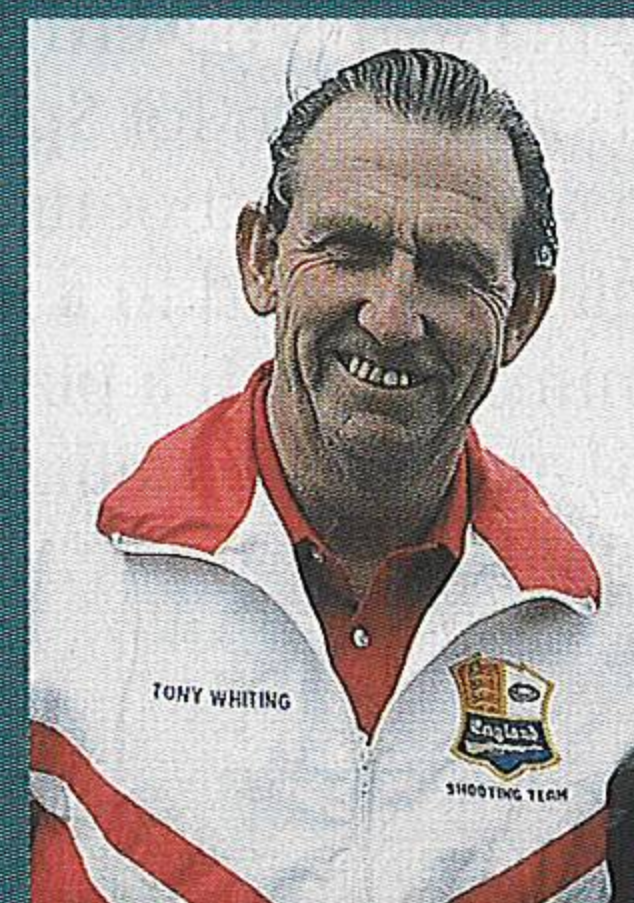
I was obliged to swallow my criticism about its stock design (though I still feel that the comb is too far back!), and I take my hat off to Perazzi for coming up with a gun that is so perfectly tailored to DTL shooting. I would now very much like to try the Beretta DT10 X which was reviewed on these pages a couple of months back, where a similar design exercise has taken place, but until that time I can only say that this is one fantastic shooting tool.

Engineering and finish are first class.

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GUEST TESTS

Tony Whiting, highly experienced DTL team member, was also impressed. "It's heavier than my Beretta 682X but doesn't feel it. But the most fascinating bit to me was that it was very quick onto a target but at the same time easy to hold it there. It was also lovely to shoot."



Adrian Parkin-Coates, GB FITASC shooter. "I don't normally shoot DTL but it was very easy to handle and I managed 25 straight despite it having a much shorter stock than my Kemen. I liked it."



Tony Booth, former British Open Sporting Champion. "I know it's heavy but I felt I could shoot it really well as an all-rounder." To prove the point he shot 24 balls of smoke on Orston SG's revved up second skeet layout.

