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FEBRUARY 2010

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Benelli’s New Vinci: A Remarkable Gun

A turkey hunt is probably the easiest chore you could ask of this workhorse.

Shooting a turkey with Benelli’s remarkable Vinci shotgun was, well, rather unremarkable. No, that’s not a rip on the company’s new lightweight wonder. What I mean is to say the Vinci is so versatile and capable of so much that hunting a gobbler is probably one of the simplest chores you could ask of it.

This past spring, soon after Benelli introduced its new design, I had the pleasure of being one of the first hunters to down a turkey with the Vinci. I was hunting at Ted Rogers’ Rut N Strut Outfitters in western Oklahoma, and the turkey hunting was as advertised — excellent. My Vinci accounted for two turkeys in one day, which only proves that occasionally things go my way.

The Vinci isn’t a dedicated turkey gun, and Benelli isn’t implying it is. It’s designed to be a workhorse that can go from the duck marsh to the pheasant fields without missing a hitch and then take care of business in the spring turkey woods.

Unique Configuration

Although every little nicety in terms of fit and finish — including a rifle-like, properly tuned trigger — the big news about this fascinating gun is its modular design. There are only three pieces to deal with, and they don’t break down in the way you’d expect.

The trigger, forearm and magazine tube are combined in one piece, and the receiver (including the compact Inertia-Driven system) is built right into the barrel. The third piece is the buttstock. The entire thing breaks down quickly and easily, and then reassembles in seconds. It’s different but simple, and as we know, when it comes to shotguns, simple is generally better.

I had the luxury of extra time to tinker with the Vinci and shoot some more patterns after I was done hunting. I purposely avoided looking at the manual before I took the gun apart, studied it and put it back together. It was remarkably easy, even for a nongunsmith type like me.

The Question

So, the real question, fellow turkey hunters, is what does this mean for us? Well, as I alluded to earlier, the Vinci in its current configuration is not a dedicated turkey gun, and Benelli isn’t implying that it is. This gun is designed to be a workhorse that can go from the duck marsh to the pheasant fields without missing a hitch, and then take care of business in the spring turkey woods.

Currently, the Vinci is offered with a 26- or 28-inch barrel in black or MAX-4 HD Camo, and with a 26-inch barrel in RealTree’s AFG camo.

Benelli hasn’t let on yet, at least not to me, whether a shorter-barrelled Vinci is in store. As things stand right now, the modular design would allow you to simply trade out the standard stock for a Benelli SteadyGrip stock, if you feel the need to do some customizing.

Conclusion

What’s most exciting to me is that just when you think there’s nothing new to experience in the world of shotgunning, a manufacturer like Benelli can come up with a design as remarkable as the Vinci.