SPECIAL ISSUE

SHOT SHOW 2010

Hot products...hot trends. The show, back in Las Vegas, attracts a huge audience. PG. 33

FIRING LINE: Benelli’s Vinci is an innovative, modular semi-auto shotgun that lives up to the hype—and then some. PG. 28

GOOD STUFF: The Burris AR-332 Prism Sight has been designed for CQB duty, but hunters will find a lot to like as well. PG. 48
Benelli promised a shotgun unlike any seen before, and it delivered. Similar to the incredibly popular Modern Sporting Rifle (MSR) platform, the Vinci is built with a modular design that breaks the firearm down into three essential units—the QuadraFit buttstock module, the barrel/receiver module and the trigger group/forearm module. Most notably, and unlike most shotguns, the barrel and receiver are a single operating unit.

In fact, the serial number is stamped on the barrel/receiver module, as the ATF considers this the “firearm.” And like the MSR, the Vinci is a snap to break down and clean, coming apart with a couple of quick twists and turns.

Another unique aspect of the Vinci is its completely self-contained In-Line Inertia Driven action. Unlike other semi-autos, which require a return spring that extends into the front of the stock attachment in order to cycle the loads after each shot, the In-Line system operates totally within the 8.5-inch upper receiver. The design allows for a more subtle drop in the wrist of the stock, which makes it more comfortable to hold and better feeds recoil into the shock-reducing QuadraFit buttstock.

**SHOOTING THE VINCI**

On the range and in the field, the gun handles like a dream. I was part of a group of Florida turkey hunters who were introduced to the new shotgun on the range patterning Federal’s hard-hitting Mag-Shok 3-inch turkey loads. As any hunter knows, turkey loads can pound your shoulder, particularly on the range, when you don’t have the excitement of a live target to divert your attention.

We were dialing in the red-dot sights and patterning the gun at 20, 30, 40 and, for academic’s sake, even 50 yards. The patterns, as much a testament to Federal’s loads as to the Vinci, spawned an instant confidence.

In the field, the gun was light and nimble to the shoulder, and on my first morning, it delivered a crushing blow on a nice Osceola gobbler 25 yards away. I would also get the opportunity to use that same gun on a pair of Oklahoma Rio toms the following week, and took birds easily at more than 40 yards.

This shotgun is sure to be a draw in any gun shop. Perhaps more important is the accessorizing potential the modular design promises—the possibility of quickly swapping out stocks to a pistol grip or thumbhole, changing forearm designs and even switching barrels to a slug or shorter turkey barrel.

As Benelli’s marketing director, Stephen McKeilain, put it, “Right now, all options are on the table.” (800-264-4962; benelliusa.com)

**Closing the SALE**

The Vinci is a semi-auto designed for real work. Tell your customer that a select group of company officials got the chance to try the guns on Argentina’s target-rich dove fields. In four days, the group cycled more than 80,000 rounds of Federal Black Cloud ammo through their Vincis. According to one of the men who was there, the Vincis required just a little cleaning at the end of the day. Beyond that, the semi-autos performed without a flaw.