

AKKAR TRIPLE CROWN

This Turkish side-by-side-and-over brings a smile to **Michael Yardley's** face. He looks forward to the 20- and 28-bore versions

OUR test gun this month certainly qualifies as different. It is a three-barrelled, single-trigger, Triple Crown Mammut 312 12-bore side-by-side-and-over from the Turkish firm Akkar Silah Sanayi.

It has 28in barrels and weighs a hefty 8½lb. First impressions are good. Plainly but neatly presented, it may be a bit heavy but it is finished to a surprisingly high standard and looks strikingly svelte considering the barrel configuration. It is a most interesting example of modern Turkish gunmaking.

The Triple Crown has an attractive, un-engraved, silver nitrided receiver – notable for the massive standing breech and business-like styling. The trigger blade is sensibly shaped – not at

all fussy – and gold-plated. The top lever has a skeletonised thumbpiece but is otherwise traditional. The non-automatic safety is a practical size and positive in action. The matt-finished, monobloc barrels impress, too; 3in-chambered and Birmingham, fleur-de-lis, steel-shot friendly, “Superior” proved, they are fitted with a 6mm game-style sighting rib, a red fluorescent bead and Remington-pattern multi-chokes. First inspection reveals them to be straight – quite a gunmaking challenge when bringing three tubes together.

The stock also ticks the right boxes. The fore-end – a form of beavertail – is especially good and not overly bulky. The grip, one of the best I have yet seen on

a Turkish gun, incorporates a subtle right-hand palm swell. The stock is enhanced by being made from good-quality, pleasingly figured walnut, competently oil-finished and neatly chequered by laser. The layout of the chequering and the diamonds could not be much improved and offers good purchase. Sling swivels – which in this gun might actually have some use – are fitted. There is also a black “rubber” recoil pad of medium thickness.

The main deficiency of the test gun, which is a non-ejector, becomes apparent when you try to mount it. It is heavy overall,

Below, clockwise from left: the unusual barrel configuration; business-like receiver; mechanical single trigger; multi-chokes

but, balancing some 2½in forward of the hinge pin, noticeably barrel heavy. It takes some considerable physical effort to mount, although this is mitigated somewhat by the efficient grip and fore-end shapes. My immediate thought on bringing the gun to shoulder was that it would work better as a 20- or 28-bore (these will soon be available). Meanwhile, there is nothing to dislike seriously save, perhaps, for a lowish comb, which is a direct result of the drop dimensions: 1½in to the front of the comb and 2½in to the rear. These are my only significant criticism of the gun's specification apart from the weight. I would bring the butt up to near the 2in mark as barrel-heavy guns often benefit from less drop.

As one handles this unusual beast one naturally considers where the idea came from. Dickson made side-by-side-by-sides. Lancaster and Famars, among others, created four-barrel guns. Often, smaller gauges have been selected for ease of handling in such multi-barrel designs. Combination guns are relatively common, too. The German *Vierling* has four barrels, typically two shotgun and two rifle, one of smaller calibre than the other, while the *Drilling* usually brings together two shotgun barrels with a single rifle beneath. These are popular with Continental sportsmen, who might come across bird, boar or deer in woodland. ■



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“ You could learn to shoot the Triple Crown well with a bit of gym time ”

TECHNICAL DATA

The Triple Crown reflects well on its design team and on those who machined it and put it together. Clearly a product of CNC, the action is fairly conventional apart from being quite high (just under 3in) and incorporating three strikers. It hinges like a Berreta or Perazzi on stud pins. There are two lumps incorporated under the monobloc in more-or-less conventional style. One extractor serves all three chambers. The action itself is substantial and inspires confidence. The single central cocking bar also appears strong. The gun locks up by means of a rear flat bolt and slot bite cut into the rear barrel lump as in many side-by-sides. The Triple Crown has a mechanical single trigger, which was not dependent on recoil. The firing order is right, left, top. The pulls were much better than expected.

SHOOTING IMPRESSIONS

There was a childish glee evident on my face as I approached the range layouts. I selected 28g Lyalvale Express 7/2s as suitable fodder. The first bird was called, low 2 on the skeet field (which some might describe as grouse-like). It broke, so did the second. The third, however, sailed on. Exactly the same thing happened with the following three shots. Adapting to gun weight at last and putting considerable effort into improved lifting, I busted three in a row and three more. Joy! Then, evidently getting cocky, I had two and a miss. It was a lot of fun. My companion, an excellent shot with a 32in Kemen or Beretta semi-automatic, had almost exactly the same pattern of hitting and missing. You could certainly learn to shoot the Triple Crown well with a bit of gym time. What it needs is a lighter front. All the basics are there - it is well made and well priced. Now bring on a brace of 20- or 28-bores and a few partridges.

AKKAR TRIPLE
CROWN
MAMMUT 312

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