

RUGER GOLD LABEL 12 GA., \$2000

GUN TESTS RECOMMENDS: BUY IT

Lean and trim, the Gold Label Ruger appealed to us. We liked the thin choke tubes and the versatility these gave this straight-gripped gun, but we could see no need for 3-inch chambers on a 6.7-pound gun. We'd have preferred double triggers, but the single trigger dropped both hammers whether or not the first barrel fired. The gun had great wood and decent balance.



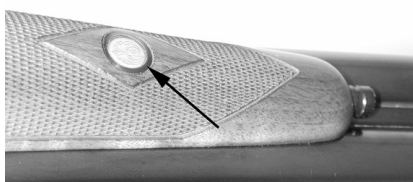
SPECIFICATIONS

Overall Length	45.2 in.	Choke (Tubes)	F, M, IC, Skeet (2)
Barrel Length	28.0 in.	Action & Finish	Brushed Stainless Steel
Drop @ Comb	1.5 in.	Barrels	Blued Steel
Drop @ Heel	2.0 in.	Buttstock	Fancy Walnut
Length of Pull	14.4 in.	Forend	Fancy Walnut
Trigger Pull Weight Right Barrel	4.9 lbs.	Weight Unloaded	6.7 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Left Barrel	3.2 lbs.	Warranty	None Written
Action Type	SxS	Telephone	(203) 259-7843
Chamber Size	3 in.	Website or Email	www.ruger-firearms.com

There's not much to dislike here. Though the Ruger couldn't compete with a best-quality, handmade English gun, in our opinion it is the best U.S.-made SxS shotgun ever.



We liked the Anson-rod forend release and the perfect, borderless 22-lpi checkering, but disliked the tasteless plastic button (arrow).



The graceful Ruger used its safety position (far right) to select which barrel fired first, but the result looks like it's bent or broken. The ejectors were welcome, but not very powerful. They fired before the gun recoiled, something to watch for. Ruger thankfully cut weight everywhere, and did a great job, we thought, giving shooters a light, fast gun. The result was lots of visible holes inside. We noted the absence of bushed firing pins (left arrow).

