

After being ill serviced by several distributors, it looks as though Lanber, a fifty-year-old Spanish manufacturer of shotguns, has finally found a reliable partner in the United States – Camfour, headquartered in Westfield, Massachusetts. And that is a good thing, because Lanber manufactures an excellent line of entry level over and under and automatic shotguns at very attractive prices that I think will be well received.

Lanber is located in Zaldibar in the heart of the Basque gun manufacturing region near Eibar – where guns manufactured in Spain are proof tested. It is Spain’s equivalent to Italy’s famous Val Trompia.

All Lanber target and hunting models are modified Boss style boxlocks. The barrels pivot on trunions or stub pins, but it locks up via two side-by-side chopper lumps and a full width lug

projecting from the receiver face *à la* John Browning. This is a tried and true system that has and continues to be very popular with shotgun manufacturers around the world. The chopper lumps nestle into two recesses machined into the bottom of the receiver instead of projecting through the receiver floor. This makes for a nice clean bottom surface for some well-done scroll engraving on the bottom of the receiver. The receiver measures about 2 1/2 inches deep and 2 1/8 inches wide, near average as boxlocks of this design go. The coin-finished receiver is also scroll engraved forward of the scallops, on the top strap, trunion buttons and the top tang. The Lanber name is engraved on both sides of the receiver. The laser engraving is well executed for an entry-level shotgun.

### CNC MACHINED

The receiver is CNC machined out of a solid block of steel. There are very few tool marks evident anywhere on the receiver or for that matter anywhere on the entire shotgun. It shows an attention to detail that is not evident on all entry level shotguns sent to me for evaluation. Metal to metal fit is well done and solid. The safety is automatic, not a good thing for a target gun, and also contains the barrel selector - right for bottom barrel first and left for top barrel first. Both the safety and barrel selector snap into position with a loud click and remain solidly in place. The safety and barrel selector hang from the top strap. When the receiver is closed, the

## LANBER 2097 SPORTING LUX



A REVIEW BY TOM CERETTO

top tang is cocked off to the right which indicates allowance for wear has been taken into consideration.

Two large rectangular steel rods slide in recesses machined into the bottom of the receiver to cock the gun. They are quite hefty and seem to be more than adequate for the job. The ejectors are large and quite sturdy looking and send the empties into the next county. Trigger pull is a little over seven pounds for both barrels, quite high, but trigger pull did not seem onerous when shooting the

gun. There was very little slack in the triggers and they went off briskly.

The 30 inch barrels on my demo were well done and smooth from breech to muzzle. Mike Brown, President of Lanber USA, told me that Lanber takes great pride in the quality of their barrels. That was evident when I measured the bores – they were both exactly .725 inches on the nose. The two flush chokes sent with the gun, modified and full, were 0.021 and 0.035 respectively, right on target

for modified and full. The chokes measured exactly 1 1/2 inches long. I do not have a problem with sending only two chokes with an entry-level gun, but I think a better choice would be improved cylinder and modified or light modified rather than modified and full. It would be best if skeet, IC and modified were included as standard. Camfour has a good supply of chokes on hand and George Trulock makes a full line of chokes for Lanber shotguns.

barrels are joined and at the breech end of the top barrel – a nice touch. The barrel on my demo indicated it had 3 inch chambers even though the specs on the web said it had 2 3/4 inch chambers. Brown told me it is proofed for steel up to modified choke. The 2097 Sporting Lux model that I tested would be a good companion in a duck blind. It is not too heavy at 7.8 pounds for an upland game hunt. Machining on the barrels and monobloc was well done.

The stock and fore-end were of straight-grained walnut with a semi gloss finish. Wood to metal fit was better than any shotgun I have reviewed in this price range. The checkering, which I suspect is done with a laser, was excellent and felt good with and without gloves. Its getting to the point where laser checkering on entry level guns has never been better. It fools me more often than not. The

### VENTED TOP AND SIDE RIB

My demo was equipped with a vented top rib and vented side rib. A vented side rib on a moderately priced sporting clays gun is a nice feature, not seen on most guns that carry a retail price of only \$1,259. Bluing on the barrel and fore-end iron was well done. There is a bit of engraving on the top barrel at the point where the monobloc and



A VENTED SIDE RIB ON A MODERATELY PRICED SPORTING CLAYS GUN IS A NICE FEATURE, NOT SEEN ON MOST GUNS THAT CARRY A RETAIL PRICE OF ONLY \$1,259.

pistol grip is well proportioned. The rubber recoil pad is slightly rounded at the heel for ease of mounting. The length of pull is  $14\frac{5}{8}$ , a good compromise length. Those that want a shorter stock can have it shortened and have their own choice of recoil pad fitted. There is enough meat for tall shooters to lengthen with a thicker butt pad and a spacer or two.

The quality of wood on the fore-end is commensurate with that on the stock, straight grained with a well-filled finish and no pores showing. Of course, the Lux fore-end is the ubiquitous Schnabel, but it does fill the hand nicely. Fore-end length is a full ten inches and should accommodate even shooters with quite long arms.



The fore-end is attached with a modified Deely and Edge fore-end iron. The fore-end attaches snugly to the barrel with absolutely no play side-to-side or fore and aft. Wood to metal fit on the fore-end is well done with no gaps visible anywhere. The stock and fore-end wood is proud of the metalwork.

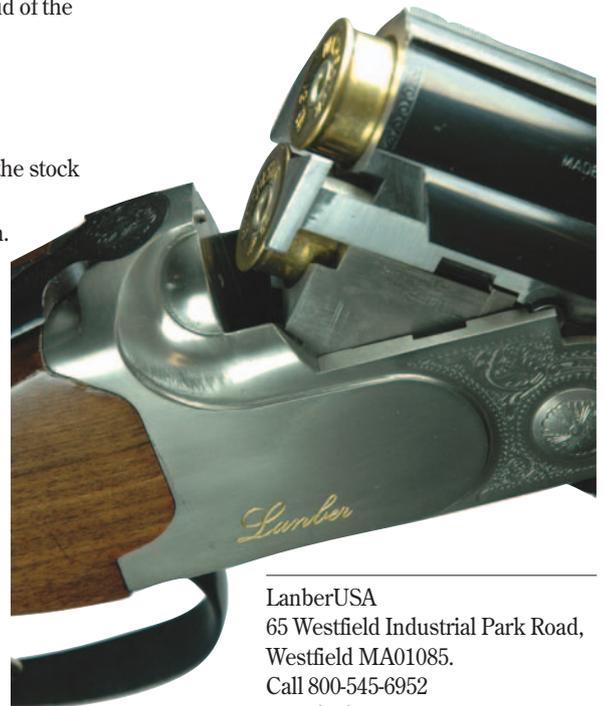
Sporting LUX seems to be a well built entry level sporting clays gun for the price asked. It handles well and I think it is a bargain. That does not mean I do not have issues with it. The manual safety has to go or there may be a lot of dissatisfied customers in all three shotgun disciplines. A wider selection of chokes as standard and lighter trigger pulls would help improve market appeal. Perhaps I am being too hard on a fledgling company and they just have to feel their way in the shooting sports marketplace. I am sure Mike Brown will listen closely to any feedback and make any changes necessary. They have a good product at a fair price and I wish them well. ■

**...ALL-IN-ALL THE 2097 SPORTING LUX SEEMS TO BE A WELL BUILT ENTRY LEVEL SPORTING CLAYS GUN FOR THE PRICE ASKED. IT HANDLES WELL AND I THINK IT IS A BARGAIN.**

**ON TEST**

Gun fit was good, even though the stock was  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch longer than my personal sporting clays shotgun. All who handled it shot it well. On true pairs it went to the second target with ease and alacrity. Needless to say, the modified and full chokes destroyed clay targets. I found the 2097 Sporting LUX a pleasure to shoot. Some who shot it lamented the fact that 32 inch barrels were not available, an option I believe every over and under needs in order to be successful in any shotgun sport.

All-in-all the 2097



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