

STICKY GUNS

Dear Technoid:

Two questions actually:

1) My Browning Superposed 20 ga. O/U built in around 1963 occasionally won't fire the second barrel. If I give the buttstock a good whack I hear a click and the second barrel will then fire. This is hard to do while grouse hunting. Any thoughts?

2) My AyA No. 1 12 ga sxs (single trigger) sidelock occasionally won't fire at all. I pull the trigger and nothing happens. Sometimes, tilting the gun fore and aft will then allow it to fire.

These are both guns which I shoot well and would like to fix. I do not know any good gunsmiths.

Thanks v. much in advance,

Erik

Dear Erik:

Gun diagnosis at long distance is a risky thing. You don't mention where you live, so I cannot recommend a gunsmith in your area.

There is one thing that I would try with the Browning. Your 1963 gun has inertial triggers, not mechanical. There is a small weight in the rear of the trigger mechanism that flips back and then forward again to select the second trigger after the first has been fired. It sounds as though it is a little sticky. When you slap the back of the stock after the first shot (Is that before or after the grouse goes behind the pine tree?), you give it the little extra jolt that it needs to set. Normal firing should be all the recoil it needs to set and that makes me think that it is a bit gummy and "slow". You should also be able to reset the trigger by flicking the safety on and then off again- the same way that you do when you want to dry fire both barrels.

If you are not mechanical and do not have a gunsmith near you, call Art's Gun Shop, Hillsboro, MO. They absolutely, positively know Belgian Brownings inside and out. There is nothing on that gun that they cannot fix.

If you are mechanically inclined, pull the stock off (you will need to cut some screwdrivers to fit the tang screws), and give the inside of the action, especially the inertia block area, a thorough cleaning. Shooter's Choice or Hoppe's and a toothbrush, then blow it clean with G-96 Gun Scrubber (or similar), let evaporate and then spray on Birchwood Casey's Sheath. There is a good chance that will solve your problem.

As to your AyA sidelock's single trigger problems- I cannot tell from this side of the monitor screen. The better grade AyAs were generally very nice guns, but single trigger sidelocks are always a problem no matter who made them. The Brits never got theirs right and the Spanish

copied the Brits. It took the Americans to do it correctly with the famous Miller trigger. A lot of the best British guns were retrofitted with these and greatly improved thereby, but I doubt if you have to go that far on the AyA. I would strongly recommend a decent gunsmith for the AYA. If it works sometimes, he ought to be able to make it work all the time. However, if you are going to clean your Browning, you might as well do the same thing to the AYA and see if that helps.

Best regards,
Bruce Buck
Shotgun Report's Technoid