

RECOIL REDUCERS

Dear Sirs,

Have you any experience or otherwise with the Isis Recoil Reducer made in England? I have heard very good reports of their efficacy and understand that they sell very well in the USA.

Stephen

Dear Stephen,

Yes, the hydraulic/spring recoil reducers like the Isis, Soft Touch, G-Square and others do sell fairly well in the US. The first reducer of this type I am aware of was the Hydra-Coil from thirty years ago. Today Beretta offers a similar reducer in their factory Kick-Off option.

Most people find this type of hydraulic/spring stock butt reducer very efficient at reducing recoil, but some do not. When set up correctly, these reducers allow about 1/2" (12 mm) of compression. The gunstock must be held firmly against the shoulder to have them work properly. There are only two real problems with this type of reducer: 1) they can add a good bit of weight to the rear of the gun. (Note that Beretta's Kick Off is made of plastic and is a good bit lighter than the others), and 2) on compression they will cause the stock to move somewhat more along the face. This may, depending on the user's shooting style, increase face slap.

The ones that I have used have definitely reduced felt recoil. After a day or so, you won't notice any movement in the stock, but I did find weight an issue. If you shoot with a pre-mounted gun, weight will not be an issue, but for low gun shooting it will add around 3/4 of a pound to the butt of the gun and will upset the balance.

Some makers like Soft Touch and G-Square incorporate an adjustable comb linked to the hydraulic butt. This eliminates any possible face slap, but adds additional weight. Kim Rhode, the three time Olympic medalist uses a G-Square with moving comb on her Perazzi.

Do be aware that due to the length of the hydraulic unit, the stock will have to be substantially cut to install it.

Best regards,
Bruce Buck
Shotgun Report's Technoid