

MUZZLE MOVEMENT ON A SXS

Good Morning Mr. Buck

I have a Beretta Silver Hawk 471 that I shoot now and then at the skeet and sporting clays clubs. Since the barrel selector has one red dot for the right barrel, I have been shooting that one first. The other day at the SC range I was told, since I am a right shooter, I should be shooting the left barrel first. I was shooting my Browning 425 that day, so I did not get a chance to try out this new advise.

Chris Batha explains the flip-flop and side push of the SxS over the O/U in his Mastering The Double Gun video. Now, is there any advantage of changing my shooting the left barrel first ?

Chuck

Dear Chuck,

Darned if I know whether you should fire the left barrel of your SxS first to keep muzzle jump (Lurch? Lateral arabesque?) to a minimum. On an O/U, it is clear as day that the over barrel, being higher on the recoil axis than the lower barrels, will cause the muzzle to jump higher. This is why everyone shoots the lower barrel first on an O/U. But with a SxS, I simply don't know whether the gun moves more to the side with one barrel than with the other.

If the stock had no cast, I don't see why it wouldn't be the same amount of movement. But with cast (cast off for a right hander), the right barrel would be closer to the center line of the recoil so, in theory, the gun would move less if the right barrel were fired first. You'll see what I mean if you envision a SxS cast off for a right hander with a huge amount of cast. Pretty much everyone does fire the right barrel first on a SxS, so perhaps there is some truth in this.

I've not seen Chris' video, but I'm sure he explains it all more clearly than I. I'll see him this weekend at the Southern SxS shoot and will ask.

Best regards,
Bruce Buck
Shotgun Report's Technoid