

## PORTED CHOKES

Dear Technoid,

I have a field grade Beretta 686 that has quite a kick with fast loads. In a UK magazine recently, I read an article that described USA made ported chokes by Briley and Rhino, which I thought might reduce the kick a little. I have been able to locate Briley, but not Rhino. I would be most grateful if you could let me know where I can get in touch with Rhino or one of their agents, preferably in the Los Angeles area.

Best regards

Peter

Dear Peter:

Rhino Chokes can be found at [www.rhinochokes.com](http://www.rhinochokes.com). They claim that their "wad stripping design produces more effective patterns by 20%" and that their porting reduces muzzle flip by 15% and also recoil. I have tried them and did not think that they made the slightest difference, other than adding some weight to the front of the gun. Your experience may differ as I have found out through the years that porting is a very, very subjective thing. Works for some people and not for others.

I know that porting works in high power pistol and in high power rifle, therefore it should work in shotgun to some extent. The problem is that the gas pressures are so incredibly much less in a shotgun than in rifle or pistol.

Rhinos ports in the choke are distributed around the circumference of the choke and are angled back. The theory is that the choke will vector the gasses in a rearward direction, thus using the gas jet effect to reduce recoil. That's the theory. One thing that is not theory, is the increase in the noise level to the shooter. I hope that you shoot with ear muffs.

As to Rhino's claim of reducing muzzle jump, I don't see how they possibly could. The ports go all the way around the choke, so the gas jetting would push up as well as down. All other muzzle porting set up to reduce muzzle jump has the holes in the top, or nearly so, of the barrel. This way the gas jetting effect, if there is enough to matter, pushes down. Seminole even goes so far as to offer gas porting cut through the top of the rib and a second row slightly biased for the "handedness" of the shooter.

Not everyone agrees with me about porting. American pigeon shooters seem to just love porting to reduce barrel flip. A great many of them use it. Their guns tend to be light and fast and their shells considerably heavier than standard target loads. I have tried some of these set ups and feel that the light barreled pigeon guns and heavy shells may be just at the point where I can start to detect a slight reduction in muzzle jump by porting. Shooters who use less left hand than I do might notice the difference more quickly. As I said, it is real personal.

As to stripping the wad away to improve patterns- maybe. Dayson Arms sent me some of their new chokes (now marketed by Outers) to test. The chokes featured a series of long slits, parallel to the barrel, around the circumference of the choke. They were supposed to stop the "rotation" of the wad and strip it back a bit from the shot cloud. I never could find any difference in the patterns and just hated the way that they stuck out of the barrel. I want my rib and bead to be at the end of the barrel, not some bright shiny tube.

Retarding the wad so that it does not push into the shot cloud is an old trick. Old time hunters used to intentionally roughen the bores of their guns to achieve this. Lujtic, of anvil-like trap gun fame, regularly scores a couple of circles around the circumference of the inside of the choke to retard the wad. He thinks that it helps. No one else does it.

Your 686 is a light gun and will pound you. There it is. I still feel that the addition of a good recoil pad, like the excellent Kickeez, will do more for recoil reduction than just about anything else other than shooting lighter loads.

If you get the Rhino chokes, please let me know what your opinion of them is.

Best regards,  
Bruce Buck  
Shotgun Report's Technoid